

# **LOK SABHA DEBATES**

## **(English Version)**

**Thirteenth Session**  
**(Fourteenth Lok Sabha)**



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*(Vol. XXXII contains Nos. 1 to 10)*

**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT**  
**NEW DELHI**

Price : Rs. 80.00

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## CONTENTS

*[Fourteenth Series, Vol. XXXII, Thirteenth Session, 2008/1929 (Saka)]*

**No. 8, Wednesday, March 5, 2008/Phalgun 15, 1929 (Saka)**

SUBJECT	COLUMNS
<b>REFERENCE BY THE SPEAKER</b>	
Felicitation to the Indian Cricket Team on winning the Commonwealth Bank Tri-Series in Australia ... ..	1
<b>ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER</b>	
(i) Installation of Statue of 'Shaheed Bhagat Singh' in Parliament House Complex ... ..	1-2
(ii) Resignation by Members ... ..	495
<b>RE: QUESTION OF PRIVILEGES ON ACCOUNT OF CERTAIN REPORTED REMARKS AGAINST MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT ... ..</b>	
	2-3
<b>ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS</b>	
*Starred Question Nos. 101, 104, 107 to 110 and 112	3-104
<b>WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS</b>	
Starred Question Nos. 102, 103, 105, 106, 111 and 113 to 120 ... ..	105-154
Unstarred Question Nos. 972 to 1138 ... ..	153-488
<b>PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE ... ..</b>	488-495
<b>ESTIMATES COMMITTEE</b>	
16th Report ... ..	495
<b>COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC UNDERTAKINGS</b>	
25th Report ... ..	496
<b>COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE MEMBERS'</b>	
<b>BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS</b>	
34th Report ... ..	496
<b>JOINT COMMITTEE ON OFFICES OF PROFIT</b>	
5th Report ... ..	498

---

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

## SUBJECT

STANDING COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORT,  
TOURISM AND CULTURE

131st Report ...	...	...	...	...	497
------------------	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE	...				497-502
-----------------------	-----	--	--	--	---------

MOTION RE: FORTY-SIXTH REPORT OF BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE					502
---	--	--	--	--	-----

DEMANDS FOR SUPPLEMENTARY GRANTS (RAILWAYS)-(2007-08)			...		503
--	--	--	-----	--	-----

DEMANDS FOR EXCESS GRANTS (RAILWAYS)-(2005-06)					
Shri Lalu Prasad	...	...	...	...	504

MOTION OF THANKS ON THE PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS					
Dr. Manmohan Singh					<u>504-532</u>

STATUTORY RESOLUTION RE: DISAPPROVAL OF RAILWAYS (AMENDMENT) ORDINANCE, 2008					
---	--	--	--	--	--

RAILWAYS (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2008					
---------------------------------	--	--	--	--	--

RAILWAY BUDGET-(2008-09)-GENERAL DISCUSSION					
---	--	--	--	--	--

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS ON ACCOUNT (RAILWAYS)-(2008-09)					
--	--	--	--	--	--

DEMANDS FOR SUPPLEMENTARY GRANTS (RAILWAYS)-(2007-08)					
---	--	--	--	--	--

AND

DEMANDS FOR EXCESS GRANTS (RAILWAYS)-(2005-06)					
--	--	--	--	--	--

Shri Prabodh Panda			...	...	533
--------------------	--	--	-----	-----	-----

Shri Lalu Prasad				...	533
------------------	--	--	--	-----	-----

Shri Harin Pathak ...					537
-----------------------	--	--	--	--	-----

Shri Nikhil Kumar ...					555
-----------------------	--	--	--	--	-----

Shri Sugrib Singh ...					563
-----------------------	--	--	--	--	-----

Shri Basu Deb Acharia ...					565
---------------------------	--	--	--	--	-----

Shri Shailendra Kumar					579
-----------------------	--	--	--	--	-----

Shri Raghunath Jha					587
--------------------	--	--	--	--	-----

Shri Kashiram Rana					596
--------------------	--	--	--	--	-----



SUBJECT	COLUMNS
Shri Surendra Prakash Goyal ... ..	600
Shri Bikram Keshari Deo... ..	603
Shri N.N. Krishnadas ... ..	604
Shri Anandrao Vithoba Adaul ... ..	608
Shri Kailash Baltha ... ..	611
Shri Ganesh Singh ... ..	617
Shri S.K. Kharventhan ... ..	624

**ANNEXURE-I**

Member-wise Index to Starred Questions ... ..	641-642
Member-wise Index to Unstarred Questions ... ..	642-648

**ANNEXURE-II**

Ministry-wise Index to Starred Questions ... ..	649-650
Ministry-wise Index to Unstarred Questions ... ..	649-652

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## LOK SABHA DEBATES

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### LOK SABHA

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**Wednesday, March 5, 2008/Phalgun 15, 1929. (Saka)**

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*The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock*

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

[English]

#### REFERENCE BY THE SPEAKER

##### **Felicitations to the Indian Cricket Team on winning the Commonwealth Bank tri-series in Australia**

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members, as you all may recall, the House had two days back wished our cricket team success in the ongoing finals of the one-day triangular series Australia.

It is indeed a matter of great happiness that the Indian cricket team, under the Captancy of Mahendra Singh Dhoni, has proved its great merit and has given us another opportunity to celebrate when it defeated Australia in the second finals of the Commonwealth Bank Tri-Series in Brisbane, Australia on 4th March, 2008 and clinched the championship.

They have indeed made us proud. The nation's highest body today rejoices in their spectacular victory. I am sure, the House would enthusiastically join me in again congratulating all the members of the Indian cricket team for their accomplishments and we are sure, they will win many more laurels for the country in the future also.

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11.01 hrs.

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER

[English]

##### **(1) Installation of Statue of Shaheed Bhagat Singh in Parliament House Complex**

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members, there has been a

long-pending demand that a statue of Shaheed Bhagat Singh be installed in Parliament House Complex as a mark of our humble tribute to the great patriotic son of India. The proposal has been accepted by the Joint Committee on Installation of Portraits and Statues of National Leaders in Parliament House Complex. I am happy to inform the House that an 18 feet bronze statue of Shaheed Bhagat Singh will be installed in Parliament House Complex which will be prepared by the renowned sculptor Shri Ram V. Sutar. The cost will be borne by the Lok Sabha Secretariat. The statue will be unveiled in August 2008.

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11.02½ hrs.

##### **RE: Question of Privileges on account of certain Reported Remarks against Members of Parliament**

[Translation]

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV (Patna) : Sir, I have to make a request...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : You have done a good job, why are you behaving in this manner.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV (Jhansi) : The Parliament will function with your permission. The list of business in the Parliament is approved as per the orders of your Secretariat but it becomes a question of privilege if any leader comments on discharging of our parliamentary duties outside the Parliament. Privileges in the Parliament ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : All right, please give notice in this regard.

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV : This sort of comments outside the Parliament by any leader is akin to harming the unity and integrity of the country. The Parliament is a sovereign body and we have got sovereign

right and privilege. We can raise any matter concerning national unity here in the Parliament. By commenting on this question outside the Parliament, what kind of culture is being nurtured in Maharashtra?...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : You please sit-down. Your leader has spoken just now.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Let the House function.

...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER : If anybody has made any comment on our Members' functioning here in the conduct of business in the House, not only we treat that with a contempt that it deserves, but also any action that may be necessary will be taken according to the procedure and well established norms. Certainly, nobody will be spared. But we have the procedure. Please follow that procedure.

*[Translation]*

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV : All right, I move before you a motion of breach of privilege.

*[English]*

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : You are at liberty to do that.

11.02 hrs.

### ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Ramdas Athawale, Q.No. 101.

*[Translation]*

#### Trauma Care Centres

\*101. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government proposes to assist the setting up of specialized trauma care centres in the capital cities of all the States and Union Territories and also to upgrade and modernise the existing centres across the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether all the trauma care centres in Delhi, particularly the one in AIIMS have been provided with modern critical care equipment; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

*[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

(a) and (b) The Central Government under the Scheme 'Assistance for Capacity Building' has been assisting State Governments for upgradation and strengthening of emergency facilities in select State Government hospitals located on National Highways. This Scheme was implemented in the 9th and 10th Five Year Plans. Under the Scheme, financial assistance upto a maximum of Rs.1.50 crores could be provided for the hospital. Total financial assistance of Rs.154.43 crores for 112 trauma centres in 30 States/Union Territories was released as per list at Annexure I.

This Scheme was subsequently evaluated by the Ministry and certain deficiencies were observed like shortage of required man-power, inadequate funding for civil works etc. To rectify these deficiencies, this Ministry has revised the Scheme under the 11th Five Year Plan. Instead of stand alone Trauma Centres, it is now proposed to develop a net work of Trauma Centres along the Golden Quadrilateral, North-South and East-West corridors of the National Highways. The revised project envisages the availability of the life support ambulance every 50 km. along with the National Highway. It also provides for three categories of Trauma Centres viz. L.III, L.II and L.I L.III

centres would be available every 100-150 kms. along the National Highways. L.II Trauma Centres would be available every 300 kms. and there would be one L.I Trauma Centre in the State that would provide the highest level of definitive and comprehensive care of patients with complex injuries. The trauma care network has been so designed that no trauma victim has to be transported for more than 50 kilometers and a designated trauma centre is available at every 100 kilometers. The financial assistance has also been substantially enhanced as compared to the earlier schemes per the detail given below:—

L.III	—	Rs. 4.80 crores
L.II	—	Rs. 9.65 crores
L.I	—	Rs. 16.00 crores

The approved total cost for the project is Rs. 732.75 crores for the 11th Five Year Plan. For 2007-08, Rs. 42.73 crores were provided in Budget Estimate (BE) out of which Rs. 27.10 crores have been sanctioned so far.

While funding for upgradation of hospitals to L.III and L.II levels would be provided from the revised budget, L.I Trauma Centres would be established in those institutions that are being upgraded under the Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana and also in 6 AIIMS like institutions being set up by this Ministry. A list of such institutions is at Annexure-II.

(c) and (d) Trauma Centre at AIIMS is fully functional along with commencement of emergency services and direct patient admission at the centre. Medical instruments like MRI and CT scan are available at the centre.

#### **Annexure-I**

*Statement showing funds released to various States/UTs for "UP-gradation and Strengthening of Emergency facilities in Govt. Hospital located on National Highways"*

Sl. No.	Name of State/UT	Name of the Hospital/File No.	Amount Sanctioned (Rs. in Lakhs)	Year/of sanction
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Assam	Distt. Hospital, Nalbari	150.00	2002-03
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	General Hospital, Pasighat	59.00	2000-01
		General Hospital, Naharlangun	116.97	2001-02
		General Hospital, Naharlangun	30.00	2004-05
3.	Andhra Pradesh	Govt. Hospital, Nellore	150.00	2003-04
		Govt. Hospital, Kurnool	150.00	2003-04
		Govt. Hospital, Kakinada	150.00	2005-06
		King George Hosp. Vishakhapatnam	150.00	2006-07

1	2	3	4	5
		Govt. General Hospital, Vijayawada	150.00	2006-07
		SVRR Govt. General Hospital, Tirupati	150.00	2006-07
		Distt. Hospital, Srikulam	150.00	2006-07
		Distt. Hospital, Rajamundry	150.00	2006-07
		Distt. Hospital, Eluru	113.89	2006-07
4.	Bihar	Patna Medical College Hospital, Patna	53.00	1999-2000
		Indira Gandhi Instt. of Medical Sciences, Patna	150.00	2001-02
		Model Bikram Referral Centre, Patna	150.00	2001-02
		General Hospital, Aunsi, Madhubani	62.00	2001-02
		Sadar Hospital Chhapra, Saran	150.00	2003-04
5.	Chhattisgarh	Pt. JNM Medical College, Raipur	109.00	2002-03
6.	Chandigarh	Govt. Medical College and Hospital Chandigarh	86.00	2004-05
7.	Daman and Diu	Govt. Hospital, Daman	106.00	2004-05
	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	Shri Vinoba Bhave Civil Hospital, Silvassa	150.00	2005-06
8.	Gujarat	General Hospital, Nadiad Distt. Kheda	150.00	2001-02
		Civil Hospital, Ahmedabad	150.00	2002-03
		Pt. Deen Dyal Upadhyaya Hospital, Rajkot	146.00	2003-04
		General Hospital, Palampur, Distt. Banskantha	150.00	2005-06
		New Civil Hospital, Surat	150.00	2005-06
		Guru Gobind Singh Hospital, Jamnagar	150.00	2005-06
		General Hospital, Amreli	150.00	2006-07
		General Hospital, Valsad	150.00	2006-07
		General Hospital, Mehsana	150.00	2006-07

1	2	3	4	5
		General Hospital, Sola, Distt. Ahmedabad	136.11	2006-07
9.	Goa	Hospicio Hospital, Margao	142.00	2002-03
10.	Haryana	General Hospital, Karnal	150.00	1999-2000
		Govt. Hospital, Sirsa	150.00	2003-04
		General Hospital, Rewari	150.00	2004-05
		General Hospital, Yamuna Nagar	150.00	2005-06
		General Hospital, Ambala	150.00	2006-07
11.	Himachal Pradesh	Indira Gandhi Medical College and Hospital, Shimla	147.00	2002-03
		Regional Hospital, Kullu	150.00	2006-07
12.	Jammu and Kashmir	Govt. Hospital, Murgund (Jammu and Kashmir)	150.00	2001-02
		Trauma Hospital, Ramban, Doda	75.00	2004-05
		SNM (District) Hospital, Leh	150.00	2006-07
		Kargil Distt. Hospital, Kargil	150.00	2006-07
		Govt. Hospital, Gund	150.00	2006-07
		Govt. Hospital, Qazigund	150.00	2006-07
		PHC Mahanpur, Kathua	131.38	2006-07
		Emergency Hospital, Thatri	141.75	2006-07
13.	Jharkhand	Distt. Hospital Hazaribagh	150.00	2005-06
14.	Kerala	General Hospital, Emakulam	150.00	2001-02
		Medical College, Kozhikode	142.00	2002-03
		Medical College, Thiruvananthapuram	144.86	2004-05
		Medical College, Kottayam	146.25	2005-06

1	2	3	4	5
		Distt. Hospital, Palakkad	150.00	2006-07
		Taluk Headquarters Hospital, Neyaattinkara	150.00	2006-07
15.	Karnataka	Sajay Gandhi Accident Hospital and Research Institute, Bangalore.	136.50	2002-03
		Sri Jaya Chamarajendra Hospital, Hassan	150.00	2004-05
16.	Madhya Pradesh	Maharaja Yashwant Rao	97.00	1999-00
		Hospital Indore Distt. Hospital Shivpuri	150.00	2003-04
		G.R. Medical College Gwalior	150.00	2004-05
		Madhav Nagar Hospital, Ujjain	101.97	2004-05
		Distt. Hospital, Shahdol	148.83	2005-06
		Distt. Hospital, Ratlam	148.83	2005-06
		Distt. Hospital, Guna	150.00	2005-06
17.	Maharashtra	Distt. Hospital, Nasik	129.00	2004-05
		General Hospital, Vashi	150.00	2006-07
		Mahatma Gandhi Instt. of Medical Sciences, Wardha	150.00	2006-07
18.	Mizoram	Civil Hospital, Lunglei	58.30	2001-02 25.9.2001
		Civil Hospital, Aizawl	74.30	2001-02 25.9.2001
19.	Manipur	JN Hospital, Imphal	149.92	2002-03
		Distt. Hospital, Senapati	112.76	2004-05
20.	Nagaland	Govt. Hospital, Medziphema	144.00	2002-03
		Civil Hospital, Chozuba	143.26	2004-05
		Civil Hospital, Wokha	143.26	2005-06



1	2	3	4	5
		Civil Hospital, Pfitsero	143.26	2004-05
		Tismuniyer CHC Kohima	149.65	2005-06
		Naga Hospital, Kohima	150.00	2006-07
		Police Hospital, Chumkedima, Kohima	149.40	2006-07
21.	Orissa	SCB Medical College Hospital, Cuttack	150.00	2003-04
		VSS Medical College and Hospital, Burla	150.00	2006-07
		MKCG Medical College and Hospital, Berhampur	150.00	2006-07
		Rourkela Govt. Hospital	150.00	2006-07
22.	Pondicherry	General Hospital, Mahe	78.00	2000-01
		Govt. General Hospital, Yanam	150.00	2004-05
		Govt. General Hospital, Karaikal	146.50	2004-05
23.	Punjab	Distt. Hospital, Amritsar	150.00	2006-07
		Distt. Hospital, Jalandhar	150.00	2006-07
		Sub-Distt. Hospital, Pathankot	150.00	2006-07
24.	Rajasthan	Govt. Hospital, Shahapura,	116.80	2003-04
		Kishangarh, Bhim and Sojat city Distt. Hospital, Bharatpur	150.00	2005-06
		Distt. Hospital, Sikar	150.00	2005-06
25.	Sikkim	STNM Hospital, Gangtok	70.00	2000-01
		Distt. Hospital, Singtam	150.00	2004-05
26.	Tripura	Tripura Sundari, Hospital, Udaipur	70.00	2000-01
27.	Tamil Nadu	Distt. Headquarters Hospital, Perambur	105.00	2001-02
		Distt. Headquarters Hospital, Omalur	105.00	2003-04
		Govt. Headquarters Hospital, Villupuram	143.00	2003-04

1	2	3	4	5
		Medical College Hospital, Chengalpattu	150.00	2003-04
		Medical College and Hospital, Thanjavur	150.00	2004-05
		Govt. Hospital, Tambaram	150.00	2005-06
		Govt. Hqrs. Hospital, Melur	150.00	2005-06
		Govt. Hqrs. Hospital, Tensaki	150.00	2005-06
		Govt. Hqrs. Hospital, Padmanabhapuram	150.00	2005-06
		Govt. Hqrs. Hospital, Cuddalore	150.00	2005-06
		Govt. Hqrs. Hospital, Namakkal	150.00	2005-06
		Govt. Hqrs. Hospital, Walajah, Vellore	150.00	2005-06
28.	Uttar Pradesh	King George Medical College, Lucknow	150.00	2000-01
		Distt. Hospital, Raebarell	150.00	2004-05
		Distt. Hospital, Shahjahanpur	150.00	2004-05
29.	Uttanchal	Goverdhan Tiwari Base Hospital, Almora	150.00	2002-03
		Distt. Hospital, Gopeshwar, Chamoli	150.00	2003-04
		Combind Hospital Roorke	150.00	2006-07
30.	West Bengal	SD Hospital Kharagpur (Midnapore)	150.00	2006-07
Total States=30		Total Hospital/institutions=112	Total amount=Rs.154.43 crores	

**Annexure-II**

*List of six AIIMS like institutions to be set up under  
Pradhan Mantri Sawsthya Suraksha  
Yojana (PMSSY)*

1. Bhubaneswar (Orissa)

2. Bhopal (Madhya Pradesh)

3. Jodhpur (Rajasthan)

4. Patna (Bihar)

5. Raipur (Chhattisgarh)

6. Rishikesh (Uttaranchal)

*List of Medical Institutions being upgraded  
under PMSSY*

1. Govt. Medical College, Jammu (Jammu and Kashmir)
2. Govt. Medical College, Srinagar (Jammu and Kashmir)
3. Kolkata Medical College, Kolkata (W.B.)
4. Sanjay Gandhi Post Graduate Institute of Medical Sciences, Lucknow (U.P.)
5. Institute of Medical Sciences, BHU, Varanasi (U.P.)
6. Nizam Institute of Medical Sciences, Hyderabad (A.P.)
7. Sri Venkateshwara Institute of Medical Sciences, Tirupati (A.P.) (50% cost of upgradation will be borne by the TTD Trust)
8. Government Medical College, Salem (T.N.)
9. B.J. Medical College, Ahmedabad (Gujarat)
10. Bangalore Medical College, Bangalore (Karnataka)
11. Grants Medical College and Sir J.J. Group of Hospitals, Mumbai (Maharashtra)
12. Medical College, Thiruvananthapuram (Kerala)
13. Rajendra Institute of Medical Sciences (RIMS), Ranchi

[Translation]

**SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE :** Mr. Speaker, Sir, fatal accidents take place on national highways in our country. That is why in 9th and 10th Five Year Plan, the Union Government had decided to set up trauma care centers. Till now 112 such centers have been set up and an expenditure of Rs.154.43 crore have been spent on that. The Union Government propose to set up similar trauma

care centres of three levels viz. L-III, L-II and L-I during the 11th Five Year Plan also. My question is that how many such centers viz L-III, L-II and L-I level are likely to be set up during 11th Five Year Plan.

[English]

**MR. SPEAKER :** How soon will it come up?

**DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS :** Sir, the hon. Member is right in saying that we had set up a number of Trauma Centres in Ninth and Tenth Plans, but we did not have any personnel or any capacity to handle these victims as these were just standalone Trauma Centres. Now, we are linking all these centres in the Eleventh Plan. This is a very important programme that the Government is initiating today where every five kms. on the National Highways there is going to be a telephone booth and the toll free number for emergency; every 50 kms., there is going to be a fully loaded life-saving support ambulance; every 100 to 150 kms., there is going to be a Trauma Centre; every 300 to 500 kms., there is going to be a specialized L-II Trauma Centre; and every 500 to 700 kms., there is going to be a L-I level Trauma Centre, which is a super-specialty Trauma Centre. Initially, these are going to be linked with the Golden Quadrilateral; East-West and North-South corridors.

In the Eleventh Five-Year Plan, we have planned to upgrade and if there are no upgradations, then to build about 140 Trauma Centres all along the Highways. This is in the initial phase, and subsequently we will go to other Highways as well.

[Translation]

**SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE :** Mr. Speaker, Sir, there are a number of national highways in Maharashtra however, only three trauma centers – District hospital, Nasik, General hospital, Vashi and Mahatma Gandhi Ayurvigyan Sansthan, Vardha are there. I demand that 8-10 such centers should be set up in Maharashtra. Will the hon. Minister consider it.

Secondly, as trauma cases are taking place in large numbers therefore, there is a need for widening of national highways to reduce the number of such incidents. Will the Government consider it? NDA is going to face debacle in the next elections, we have to accomplish that also.

[English]

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS : This is not only for Maharashtra, but the entire country is being linked with it. I have already said that this is a very important programme for the Government. I would like to give you some statistics, which are quite alarming about what our country is going through every year. In fact, in 2006, there were about 3,40,704 accidental deaths inclusive of trauma, suicide and accidental deaths; a total of about 5,96,656 cases of unnatural accidents caused; and the male/female ratio has been 77 per cent male and 23 per cent female.

As regards Maharashtra, which accounts for about 9.3 per cent of the country's population, has reported about 1/5th of accidental deaths due to unnatural causes. There are two phases of our programme after taking into account all these factors. One is to upgrade the Trauma Centres all along the Highways, and second is to provide life-saving ambulance support in the interiors as well, that is, in the first phase provide it all along the Highways and subsequently we are going to develop all the District Headquarters Hospitals. Thereafter, we will move to the Community Health Centres. Therefore, infrastructure is going to be built; equipment is going to be there; blood storage capacity is going to be there; blood banks are going to be provided; and ambulance services are going to be provided.

We believe that we are going to have one toll free number for the entire country. If anybody calls, then within a few minutes the ambulance is going to be there. Today, the problem is that most of the ambulances are only transport vehicles, and they are not ambulatories. Hence, it is a huge programme that we have conceptualized. We are changing the curriculum; training the personnel; training the paramedics who handle the victims; and training the

nurses and doctors. We have started specialized courses under the National Board of Examination and Medical Council Accredited system. Therefore, we are moving ahead with a holistic programme, and we are confident that in the next three years or four years time the entire country will be linked, and we could save a lot of precious lives.

SHRIMATI YASHODHARA RAJE SCINDIA : Sir, I want to ask this from the Minister through your respected office. One of the first Trauma Centres was put up in Shivpuri six years back when the NDA Government was in power, and till date that Trauma Centre has remained a building. We still do not have doctors, and we do not have equipment.

Before you start upgrading all your trauma centres, would it not be better that you first look at and see what are all the trauma centres were put and how you can make them functional? Before you start envisaging a programme of setting up trauma centres all over India, and in order to make the earlier ones successful, I think it will be better to start with ones that are already in place and which have not yet started.

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS : This is precisely why we are starting a different types of programmes even though it is on the same lines. We are dependent on the State Governments for the functioning of the trauma centres. We have allocated earlier about Rs.1.5 crore to each trauma centre in this country, and it covers upgradation, ambulances, equipment and communication network. The doctors and other personnel are to be provided by the State Government, and a lot of States do not provide them. We need specialist care for them. That is why, we are now having a different type of programme where we are linking all these centres and training the personnel. We are going to use the existing centres as well.

SHRIMATI YASHODHARA RAJE SCINDIA : Sir, may I...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Sorry, it is not permitted.

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS : I would like to inform the hon. Member that we will be using even the trauma centre at Shivpuri, and if there are some deficiencies, we will rectify them in the new programme.

SHRI S. AJAYA KUMAR : Earlier, it was decided to set up a trauma centre in every district or parliamentary constituency in the country. But I am surprised that this decision has not yet been implemented in full. Such a trauma centre is yet to be started in my parliamentary constituency or in the district in which my parliamentary constituency falls. I feel that the same fate prevails in other districts or parliamentary constituencies as well. I would like to know whether trauma care centres would be set up in every parliamentary constituency or at the district level.

MR. SPEAKER : Ultimately, yes.

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS : I do not remember having any such programme or plan to set up trauma care centres in all parliamentary constituencies.

MR. SPEAKER : If all 545 Members ask about their constituencies, it cannot be permitted.

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS : But nevertheless, we are trying to establish and upgrade this infrastructure in all the districts across the country.

MR. SPEAKER : Including Kerala.

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS : Definitely, Sir. In fact, Kerala has the highest number of suicides in the country. In fact, not only trauma care, but all emergencies will be taken care of under this. We are talking of not only trauma but also all emergencies including suicide cases, burns or any other victim.

MR. SPEAKER : Let there be brevity on both sides.

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS : Also, under Pradhan Mantri Swastha Suraksha Yojana, we are upgrading each

centre. In every State of the country, we are going to spend nearly Rs.16 crore on upgradation of each centre.  
...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, on the speech delivered in Parliament, Maharashtra  
...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : It is already done. Mr. Prabhunath Singh, you were not here. You were not here. I have made my comments on this. This is not right, Mr. Prabhunath Singh.

[Translation]

You were not here, hon'ble members had raised it.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, my name is there...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : You take action, and we shall see what can be done. I will protect every Member's honour, provided it is done in a manner which is consistent with the procedure.

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : He has mentioned my name. He has written that I have spoken in the Parliament that...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : You please raise the matter in a proper manner. I will definitely protect your reputation.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I said that let us not be too sensitive. Many people may shout, but it is better to treat that with the contempt it deserves. Nobody has a right to dishonour any hon. Member of this Parliament, and we shall not allow it. You please cooperate.

...(Interruptions)

DR. M. JAGANNATH : Mr. Speaker, Sir...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Why are you doing this? It is a bad habit. You would not get it. Dr. Jagannath, you are behaving in a very indisciplined manner how-a-days. What has happened to you?

DR. M. JAGANNATH : I am submitting to you, Sir  
...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Will you take your seat or shall I ask you to go out?

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : There is nothing in it to laugh.

[English]

Do not laugh; you are ridiculing the whole institution. There is nothing to be laughed about.

...(Interruptions)

DR. M. JAGANNATH : Sir, I am asking for your permission.

MR. SPEAKER : Enough is enough; do not teach.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I also

associate myself with the feelings expressed by several hon. Members just now. A trauma center was set up in my parliamentary constituency. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I will not allow it.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV : It is very important. What can be more distressful than it that trauma center is set up there but it is not functional? Hon. Minister has stated that arrangements are being made for it. The trauma center on which crores of rupees have been spent on construction of building and providing equipments is not functional for the last three-four years. Hence the purpose of providing relief to the people by opening a trauma center there is not being served. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether immediate arrangements will be made to make the trauma center functional set up in Vikramganj area of my parliamentary constituency, Patna.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : You tell him that you will look into it.

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS : Definitely, Sir. As I answered earlier, we will definitely take up the centres to which we have allocated money and which are not functional, and we will make it functional in due course of time in consultation and in coordination with the State Governments. Also, Sir, under the National Rural Health Mission, all the District Headquarters hospitals are being upgraded. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : You are not listening to him. He has said that.

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS : All the District Headquarters hospitals will take care of the trauma victims as well as emergency victims in due course of time. We are upgrading all the District Headquarters hospitals, and we are providing blood banks, equipment, ambulances, etc.

MR. SPEAKER : A very exhaustive and a very reassuring answer was given by the Minister. Q. 102: I am sorry, Shri Shrinivas Dadasaheb Patil cannot come today. He rang me up this morning and told me that his son was unwell.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY : Sir, I have given the notice.

MR. SPEAKER : You have not given the notice.

Q. 103. Shri Amitava Nandy – not present; Shri Haribhau Rathod – not present. Well, the people will judge.

[Translation]

#### Anaemia Among Children

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\*104. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR :

SHRIMATI RUPATAI D. PATIL :

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

(a) whether seventy percent small children in the country are suffering from anaemia as per the report of the National Family Health Survey;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the percentage of children suffering from anaemia, State-wise; and

(d) the remedial steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to check the menace of anaemia amongst the children?

[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

(a) and (b) According to the National Family Health Survey III (2005 - 06), 69.5% children in the age group 6-59 months are suffering from anaemia of which 63.0% are in the urban areas and 71.5% in the rural areas.

Anaemia is a multifaceted problem. The important reasons for widespread anaemia are inadequate intake and absorption of iron from cereal based diet, inadequate consumption of green leafy vegetables and citrus fruits, frequent pregnancies with shorter intervals, high prevalence of infections and infestations, faulty feeding practices and lack of dietary diversification. Apart from aforesaid factors, illiteracy, poverty and general economic and social development have a bearing on the incidence of anaemia among people of our country.

(c) The State-wise prevalence of anaemia in children is at Annexure I.

(d) Government has initiated several measures to improve the health and nutritional status including anaemia amongst the people. The various measures are at Annexure II.

#### Annexure-I

##### States-wise anaemia among Children age 6-59 months - NFHS III (2005-06)

Sl. No.	States	Anaemia status by haemoglobin level			
		Mild 10.0 - 10.9 g/dl	Moderate 7.0-9.9 g/dl	Severe <7.0 g/dl	Any anaemia <11.0 g/dl
1	2	3	4	5	6
	All India	26.3	40.2	2.9	69.5
<b>I. Major States (Population &gt; 20 million)</b>					
1.	Andhra Pradesh	23.7	43.5	3.6	70.8

1	2	3	4	5	6
2.	Assam	28.7	38.7	2.2	69.6
3.	Bihar	29.6	46.8	1.6	78.0
4.	Chhattisgarh	24.0	45.2	2.0	71.2
5.	Gujarat	25.0	41.1	3.6	69.7
6.	Haryana	25.8	42.2	4.3	72.3
7.	Jharkhand	29.3	39.1	1.9	70.3
8.	Karnataka	28.6	38.6	3.2	70.4
9.	Kerala	23.5	20.5	0.5	44.5
10.	Madhya Pradesh	27.1	43.6	3.4	74.1
11.	Maharashtra	21.9	39.6	1.8	63.4
12.	Orissa	28.9	34.5	1.6	65.0
13.	Punjab	21.7	38.1	6.6	66.4
14.	Rajasthan	22.8	40.2	6.7	69.7
15.	Tamil Nadu	27.1	34.6	2.6	64.2
16.	Uttar Pradesh	25.4	45.0	3.6	73.9
17.	West Bengal	30.0	29.4	1.5	61.0
<b>II. Smaller States</b>					
1.	Arunachal Pradesh	27.1	29.1	0.8	56.9
2.	Delhi	26.3	30.0	0.7	57.0
3.	Goa	19.5	17.1	1.5	38.2
4.	Himachal Pradesh	25.7	26.8	2.2	54.7

1	2	3	4	5	6
5.	Jammu and Kashmir	25.8	30.4	2.4	58.6
6.	Manipur	25.6	15.2	0.3	41.1
7.	Meghalaya	31.7	31.7	1.0	64.4
8.	Mizoram	23.5	20.0	0.6	44.2
9.	Sikkim	28.9	29.5	0.8	59.2
10.	Tripura	27.5	34.6	0.7	62.9
11.	Uttarakhand	28.4	30.6	2.3	61.4

#### Annexure-II

#### Measures to reduce the nutritional Anaemia

Government has initiated various measures to improve the nutritional status including anaemia in the population. The measures are:

1. The Reproductive and Child Health Programme (RCH-II) provides iron and folic acid tablets to all pregnant and lactating women and preschool children for anaemia control. Now it has been decided that children 6 mths to 5 yrs would be given 20 mgs iron and 100 mcg folic acid supplement in liquid form. Children 6-10 yrs. would be provided with 30 mg iron and 250 mcg folic acid while adolescents in the age group 11-18 yrs would receive the same dose as adults.

A village link worker (ASHA) under NRHM will orient the community on the importance of Nutrition and shall be provider of IFA tablets besides orienting the community on other health related issues.

The States have been advised to organize



monthly **Health and Nutrition days** where anaemia prevention measures are also discussed.

2. **Supplementary feeding** through programmes like **Integrated Child Development services scheme**. Children in the age group 0-6 yrs receive supplementary nutrition, immunization, preschool education etc. Supplementary food to pregnant women/nursing mothers to the extent of 500 Calories and 20-25 g protein per day is also provided along with nutrition and health education. One of the recent steps to increase the effectiveness of services under ICDS is the provision of 50% of Recommended Dietary allowances (RDA) of micronutrients through supplementary food.

Supplementary food is also provided through **National Programme of Nutritional Support to Primary Education** (Mid-day Meal programme) to school going children.

3. A **National Nutrition Policy** was adopted in 1993 and the National Plan Action on nutrition is being implemented through various departments of Government of India. Now a National Nutrition Mission under the Ministry of Women and Child Development has been set up to deal with all nutritional problems through a Mission mode approach
4. **Nutrition Education** to increase the awareness and bring about desired changes in the dietary practices including the promotion of breast feeding and dietary diversification.
5. **Other measures** initiated by the Government to improve the Nutritional Status of the people are:
- Improving agricultural and horticulture produce.

- Improving the purchasing power of the people through income generating schemes.

- Availability of essential food items at subsidized cost through Targeted Public Distribution system and Public Distribution system.

6. Programmes for prevention of Specific Micronutrient Deficiency Disorders other than iron deficiency:-
- (i) Under RCH programme Vitamin A supplements are provided to children till 5 years of age.
  - (ii) National Iodine Deficiency Disease Control Programme (NIDDCP)
7. Pilot initiatives on fortification of micronutrients with atta (Flour), oil etc.
8. As part of filariasis control Hetrazan along with Albendazole are administered as part of filariasis control. Deworming helps improve anaemia.
9. National Malaria Control Programme.

*[Translation]*

SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to urge the hon. Minister that the benefits of funds allocated by the Government for the eradication of malnutrition in children must reach them but the programmes sponsored by the Union Government are not run by the State Governments. I would like to bring one thing to the notice of hon. Minister. Recently we had organized a camp through NRHM in which we found that 85-90 per cent children in our area were suffering from anaemia. The team of doctors from Jawahar Lal Nehru Medical College, Vardha has sent a report to the Government. In spite of a number of programmes being run by the Government, no success has been achieved

regarding the problem of malnutrition and anaemia in children. Are any details taken or review conducted regarding the efforts made by the Government in order to run the said programmes?

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : It is a matter of great concern.

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS : First, I would like to thank the hon. Member for bringing to our notice this very important issue of anaemia. When you see the statistics, the national family survey says that nearly about 69.5 per cent of the children in the age group of 6 to 59 months are anemic. It is a cause of huge concern for the Government. This is not an issue which has just come up suddenly. It has been there throughout the last two decades. The causes of anaemia, most of them, are iron deficiency, nutritional issues, non-absorption, worm infestation or infection, lack of breast-feeding, etc. There are a lot of factors which contribute to this, which include social causes, poverty, illiteracy, etc. A little solace in this is that we have categorized different types of anaemia, that is, severe, mild and moderate. In case of severe anaemia, only 2.9 per cent of the children are severely anaemic; and in case of moderate anaemia, we have 40.2 per cent cases; and in case of mild anaemia, it is about 26.3 per cent. As a whole, we are taking a lot of steps to tackle this problem because the children are going to be the future of our country. Under the National Rural Health Mission, the Government has launched this very innovative programme, issues like nutrition, sanitation, hygiene, disease control, reducing infant mortality and maternal mortality will all be taken care of. This is a holistic programme.

We are supplementing iron and folic acid to these children. Along with the Ministry of Women and Child Development we are coordinating a lot of programmes of nutrition supplementation so that this will be taken care of. I would like to get the report from the hon. Member as well so that we could compile more information. The Prime Minister also has been very focussed on nutritional problems because this is a cause of great concern for us

as a whole when we are developing that we should have the issues of under-nourishment and anaemia in the country. In fact, the most prominent cause of anaemia in the country is nutritional. Anaemia is the most prevalent nutritional problem in the entire world. So, we are giving a very high priority to the problem of anaemia.

I would like to again say that for the children of about six months to five years of age we are supplementing about 20 milligrams of iron and about 100 micrograms of folic acid; for children between six years and ten years we are giving about 30 milligrams of iron and about 250 micrograms of folic acid; and for adolescents between eleven years and eighteen years, especially the girls, we are giving adult doses according to their needs and priorities. Not only for children for women also, especially pregnant women, we have a large scale programme going on under the Reproductive and Child Health Programme. The second programme has been started. We are putting a lot of focus on this issue.

[Translation]

SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR : Sir, hon. Minister has admitted that children suffering from anaemia and malnutrition have been found throughout the country. UNICEF report also says that the condition of such children is very bad in the country. I do not agree that it is the concern of Health Ministry alone. Hon. Minister in his reply has admitted that this would require co-ordination and co-operation from a number of Ministries – like – Ministry of Human Resource, Ministry of Women and Child Development, Ministry of Food, Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution and Ministry of Health. Are the Government considering to constitute a multi-dimensional co-ordination committee with all the said Ministries, which would help in finding one some solution to this problem?

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I thank you for your Question and the Supplementaries.

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS : This is a good suggestion, Sir, and it is well taken. Already the Prime Minister has asked us to meet the Ministries of Women and Child Development, Human Resource Development, Health, Rural Development, and we have met and discussed these issues. We are coordinating with each other on this issue since this is not only a health issue. This is a social problem with poverty, illiteracy and all that compiled together. We are taking cognizance of this very important issue.

Like you said, under the ICDS Programme and the Mid-Day Meal Scheme of Human Resource Development Ministry we are trying to have fortification of food with micronutrients like iron and iodine through salt fortification, iron fortification of *atta*, wheat, oil, so that when they eat they just take them in not only through the precooked food but through the cooked food as well. A lot of awareness campaigns are going on about breastfeeding. Breastfeeding is a very important thing. I could call the breast milk the best antibiotic in the entire world.

We are also creating awareness amongst the general masses, especially the villagers, about the locally available food which has iron and vitamins like drumsticks. Drumsticks are grown in almost all the households and huts in the backyards. That is easily available everywhere. That is a very high source of iron and vitamins. We are asking them to take up these issues for below the poverty line people. So, we are taking up that issue. I would again like to assure the hon. Member that the Government is taking all steps.

MR. SPEAKER : I hope there is regular monitoring!

Shrimati Rupatai D. Patil — Not present.

SHRIMATI MINATI SEN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, according to a recent survey, 70 per cent of the population of India lives with a daily income of Rs. 20; 50 per cent of women are anaemic; 40 per cent of women of the children in India are underweight at their birth. I want to know from the hon. Minister as to what are the proposals of the Government

to combat poverty which is the root cause of this serious manifestation.

MR. SPEAKER : That is a much wider question.

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS : Sir, the entire country knows that the intention of the Government is to focus on the common people. Recently in the Budget also priorities were on the common man, the farmers, the labourers, the women, senior citizens and all that. Everybody knows about that.

The NREGP is a very innovative programme, which has been very successful. The hon. Prime Minister has initiated National Rural Health Mission and other Missions. We are tackling poverty through such Missions.

Coming back to the survey, which shows that anaemia is not only due to poverty, it also shows that the children in the lowest wealth index quintile, the anaemia is about 76.4 per cent, while in the highest wealth index quintile, anaemia was 56 per cent. It is not only a poverty issue, it is also an awareness issue, which we are trying to attend. Children today are eating junk food and leading a sedentary lifestyle. We are tackling all these issues. Massive awareness campaigns have been initiated and we are trying to go through them.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI RANJEET RANJAN : As the hon. Minister has just mentioned now that nearly 63 per cent children in cities are suffering from Anaemia. This includes not just children of poor people, children from good families are also included under this. Is it not a major reason that now the vegetables, milk and fruits contain chemicals, which is causing anaemia in children. The diet they take does not contain the required amount of vitamins. Pulses, vegetables and fruit are not pure and they contain chemicals. Is this also a reason behind that?

[English]

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS : As I mentioned earlier,

even the high quintile health index people are about 56 per cent, who are anaemic are in the affluent society as well. But the suggestion is well taken and we would find out more details on this. I would say that due to the causes of chemicals, anaemia is prevalent there.

MR. SPEAKER : That is a good question.

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS : I would also like to add that the Associated Social Health Activists (ASHA), the village health workers, who is there in every village, have been entrusted the task of giving folic acid, iron to all the children in the villages. Now, we are also going on for deworming. One of the largest causes of anaemia is worm infection. So, we have started a pilot programme of giving Hetrazan, etc. We are providing Albendazole for deworming. This has proven that it would get rid of anaemia.

Health and nutrition day under the National Rural Health Mission is a very important concept. On a particular day, entire village come together – the *Anganwadi* workers, ANMs, ASHAs, village panchayats, and village health and sanitation committees, which we formed, they all come together and then, they have awareness campaigns among themselves. We give them the norms. Till today, in 2006-07, nearly 28 lakh health nutrition days were conducted. In this financial year, till December, nearly 19 lakh days were celebrated. Tablets like folic acid vitamin 'A' supplements etc. are given on those days.

[Translation]

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR : Mr. Speaker, Sir several hon. Members have asked supplementary questions on this subject just now. If we see, we will find that maximum number of children belonging to Scheduled Caste and minorities and those who are living in rural and urban slum clusters are suffering from anaemia. Would hon. Minister conduct an all India Survey in this regard and make arrangements so that these children may be saved from malnutrition?

[English]

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS : Survey had already been conducted under the National Family Health Scheme-III. We have done the first survey earlier. In 1998-99, I think, the second survey had been conducted. In 2005-06, we had done the third survey. In the third survey, which is a very extensive survey, we had gone to the districts and actually tested them for anaemia. Earlier, we were just looking at them. Now, we were actually testing them. As I said, there is a five quintile and we have gone to the lowest strata of society and also the affluent sections of society. We have gone throughout and we have done surveys. We are trying to focus and find out as to where the problem is. Then, we go accordingly.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI JYOTIRMOYEE SIKDAR : According to the survey conducted in the year 2005-2006, 71 percent children in villages and 63 percent children in cities are suffering from anaemia. This has been stated by hon. Minister in his written reply. The reasons given by him for this include insufficient consumption of green leafy vegetables and citrus fruits along with repeated pregnancies at short intervals – we are aware of these reasons. In this August House we are having discussion on the vote of thanks on President's Address. While speaking on this many hon. Members have said that our country is making progress and certain hon. Members have said that the country is not making progress. Now it is not known as to which country is making progress, is it the country, of which 70 percent children in villages are suffering from anaemia.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : It is a matter of concern.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI JYOTIRMOYEE SIKDAR : In the year 1975 i.e. almost 30 years back a programme was launched by ICDS for providing nutritious food to children. It was told that children of our country are given nutritious food under

the Mid Day Meal scheme. The UPA Government had promised in its Common Minimum Programme that the entire survey would be conducted in five years. I would like to ask hon. Minister as to by when this work would be completed in a time bound manner. We have been given the survey report for the year 2005-06, but I would like to ask as to why the survey reports for 2006-07 and 2007-08 have not been made available to us.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : There are a lot of questions in this supplementary.

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS : To conduct a survey, it requires a lot of people or manpower; and we need to go through everything.

The hon. Member is right; earlier we were doing surveys once in every five years. I have now initiated action and said that surveys should be conducted very frequently so that we will know where we are going, where our programme is focused and where our programme is moving so that a lot more focus and priority is given to this and rectification is made, if we are deficient in our programmes.

Comprehensively, as I mentioned earlier, all the Ministries are together in this. I have had several discussions; in fact, recently also, in the Budget, the Finance Ministry has said that there will be more remuneration for the *anganwadi* workers so that it will give more vigour for them to work and then, the *anganwadi* centres, which do not have their own centres, they are going to build centres. So, a lot of things are happening in this sector.

I would like to assure the hon. Member that the Government is taking all steps possible towards achieving our goal of anaemia-free society and anaemia-free India.

Q. 105, Shri K.J.S.P. Reddy – Not present.

Q. 106, Shri Iqbal Ahmed Saradgi – Not present.

MR. SPEAKER : Holidays have started! Q.107, Dr. Laxminarayan Pandey.

[Translation]

### Side Effects of Medicines Containing Kodin

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\*107. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY :  
SHRI CHANDRA MANI TRIPATHI :

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

(a) whether the medicines containing Kodin could be harmful as reported in the 'Hindustan' dated January 8, 2008;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith its side effects on human health;

(c) whether cough syrups containing Kodin are available in the country without medical prescription under several brand names; and

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

[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

(a) to (d) A news item under the caption "Nuksaan Pahuncha Sakti Hai Codein Yukt Dawa" has appeared in the newspaper Hindustan, Hindi Edition on 8.1.2008. This news item apparently is based on U.S. Food and Drug Administration Home Page published under FDA Public Health Advisory.

Medicines containing Codeine can be harmful if these are taken without Doctor's Prescription. Large doses of

Codeine may cause excitement and convulsions. Central effects appear to be limited but are dose related. The Drug can cause effects which may include drowsiness, nausea, urinary retention, constipation, dry mouth, orthostatic hypotension, bradycardia, pruritus, etc. Overdoses may cause acute codeine intoxication and respiratory failure in children.

Codeine is a Schedule H drug (Prescription Drugs) of the Drugs and Cosmetics Rules. Considering the abuse potential of the formulations containing Codeine, the sale of cough syrups and other habit forming drugs is restricted and these drugs available in the pharmacies are sold only against the prescription of a Registered Medical Practitioner.

[Translation]

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY : Mr. Speaker, Sir, as hon. Minister is aware Codeine Phosphate is made of opium and it contains all the ill effects of opium. This is the reason that it is used on large scale in cough syrups or analgesic medicines. You have banned some medicines containing Codeine which were pain killers or meant for headaches or coughs. But, would you ban all the medicines containing Codeine so that people can be saved from the ill effects of the Codeine or opium as well as addiction of drugs?

[English]

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS : In a lot of chemicals and medicines, a lot of ingredients are used to save lives; and some of them are essential medicines, where a lot of ingredients are used.

Coming to Codeine, it is a chemical which is added to other compounds and used as cough syrups, used as pain killers during surgeries and after surgeries, during deliveries and after deliveries, used to stop diarrhoea and also it is used for irritable bowels. Codeine is used in almost all the countries of the world and there is no country in the world which has banned Codeine and it is a part of

ingredients. So, we have to judiciously use this and create awareness about this. Codeine is a Schedule H drug, which could be procured only by prescription and nobody could get it just across the counter.

This issue was raised earlier about the effects of Codeine in lactating mothers, that is after delivery, when the child had some effect of Codeine because Codeine is broken down into Morphine when it is ingested and the effects had gone to the children. So, the USFDA had taken up and said that in future, in all the Codeine products, there should be a warning like 'lactating mothers should avoid this', etc. In India also, discussions are going to be held in the Drug Consultative Committee and the Drugs Technical Advisory Board, DTAB; we will also give a warning in the future saying that in the case of lactating mothers and pregnant women, this could be avoided or taken under the advise of the doctor.

[Translation]

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY : Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is true that Codeine is used and produced on a large scale at international level. Codeine is imported into India for medicinal and other uses. Of late, aphredin has been banned which was being used in cough syrups and also for other purposes. Similarly, Codeine should be used minimally whether it is for Pryn, which is used for headache, or for syrups made from it. There will definitely be benefits if it is banned. Our own indigenous system also uses codeine. Alkalide and opium factories in our country also produce Codeine. Codeine's use should be limited to when there is pain or when it becomes very necessary for a patient.

MR. SPEAKER : Is Codopyrin is caused by it?

[English]

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS : The question of just banning a drug does not arise because it has so much of important uses; it has so much of positive effects. As I said, it has a lot of positive-ness to millions of people.

It acts as a pain killer and also stops diarrhoea. So, the question of banning does not arise. There has been an issue of misuse of Codeine, misuse of cough syrup especially in the Northeastern parts of the country. We have taken a number of steps to prevent its misuse. As I have already said, it is a Schedule 'H' drug and you can get it only on prescription. We have also given instructions to all the Northeast stockers and retailers that they cannot have more than a limited amount of Codeine-prevalent drugs or cough syrups so that its use is restricted and regulated as well. The question of banning Codeine does not arise.

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRA MANI TRIPATHI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon. Minister has replied to part A and B of the question that Codeine can have ill effects and can cause deadliest diseases in children. Hon. Minister has also said that some medicines have been banned and they cannot be sold without a doctor's prescription. But, is the hon. Minister aware that more and more medicines, syrups etc. containing Codeine are being sold at every Medical Store even after the ban? If one goes to a hostel or a public place then he can find cough syrup bottles containing Codeine in the bathrooms. Hon. Minister is silent on the steps taken by him so far in this regard.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to ask the hon. Minister the action being taken by him to check open sale of medicines by medical stores without prescription as mere ban would not suffice?

[English]

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS : I have already said that this could be sold only under the prescription. If not only he but any other Member bring to our notice any instances where these drugs are being sold rampantly without prescription, severe action will be taken. According to law nobody could sell it without a prescription in our country. Even with all these laws there are some exceptions where some people do it clandestinely. We are

going to set up a National Central Drug Authority which is on the line. It has already been introduced in the Parliament. The Standing Committee on Health is going to give the recommendations. Once we set up this Authority, there are going to be a lot of other cascading effects down to the State level to the district level. There is going to be more people overseeing monitoring these functions.

#### Slow Pace of Various Projects of NHDP

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\*108. SHRI SUGRIB SINGH :

SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL :

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

(a) the details of National Highways Development Programme (NHDP) projects under Phase I, II, III, IV and V that are lagging behind the scheduled time along with the reasons therefor, State-wise;

(b) the extent to which cost of each of such projects has increased due to the delay and the details of loss of revenue as a result thereof;

(c) whether the Government has finalised new toll rules in the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the time by which these rules will be implemented; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to expedite the completion of these projects in a time bound manner?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) to (e) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

#### Statement

(a) The details of various projects running behind schedule, phase-wise and state-wise are given in Annexure.

The delays are due to various reasons such as utility shifting, clearances from various departments like railways, forest, environment etc. In addition poor performance of some contractors has also caused the delay. Switching over from cash contract mode to Public Private Participation mode also cause some delays in standardizing the procedures, technical standards etc. in the transition phase.

(b) Increase in cost of the projects where the delays are justified is provided for in the contract by way of escalation as per whole sale price index and therefore, there is no loss of revenue. Where delays have occurred due to contractor's fault, various measures like levying liquidated damages, declaring non-performers and

debaring them and even terminating some of the contracts have been taken.

(c) and (d) New fee rules for National Highways are under consideration of the Government.

(e) Various steps have been taken to expedite the projects such as reviews with State Government's Nodal officers, utility Departments, Railways, Forest, Environment Departments. Regular reviews are carried out with contractors concessionaire and consultants. Reviews are carried out at the level of Ministry and important inter-departmental issues are reviewed by the Committee of Secretaries.

#### Annexure

##### Details of various projects running behind schedule phase-wise and State-wise

S. No.	Stretch	NH No	Total Length (km)	Completed Length (km)	Date of	
					Original Completion	Anticipated Completion
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
<b>NHDP Phase I</b>						
<b>Andhra Pradesh</b>						
1.	Gundla Pochampalli to Bowenpalli Shivarampalli to Thondapalli (NS-23/AP)- Balance Work km 464.00 - km 474.00 and km 9.40 - km 22.30 Andhra Pradesh	7	23.1	7.93	Dec-2006	June-2008
<b>Bihar</b>						
2.	Sasaram - Dehri on-sonne (GTRIP/IV-C) km 110 - km 140 Bihar	2	30	26.3	Mar-2005	Apr-2008



1	2	3	4	5	6	7
3.	Purnea - Gayakota (EW-12/BR) km 447 - km 419 Bihar	31	28	5	Sep-2004	Sep-2008
4.	Purnea - Gayakota (EW/4) km 476.15 - km 470 and km 419 - km 410 Bihar	31	15.15	13.3	Mar-2002	Apr-2008
<b>Delhi</b>						
5.	Eight laning of Haryana/Delhi Border to Mukaraba (NS-18/DL) km 29.3 to km 16.5 Delhi	1	12.9	0	Jun-2007	Sep-2008
<b>Haryana</b>						
6.	Six laning of Panchi Gujran to Kamaspur (Sonapat) (NS-17/HR) km 66.00 - km 44.30 Haryana	1	21.7	0	Jul-2007	Sep-2008
<b>Jammu Kashmir</b>						
7.	Kunjwani to Vijaypur (NS-15/JandK) km 97 - km 80 Jammu Kashmir	1A	17.2	16	Dec-2004	Dec-2008
<b>Jharkhand</b>						
8.	Gorhar - Barwa Adda (TNHP/V-C) km 320 - km 398.75 Jharkhand	2	78.75	71.69	Mar-2005	Sep-2008
<b>Karnataka</b>						
9.	Haveri - Harihar km 340 - km 284 Karnataka	4	56		Contract Terminated	

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
10.	Harthar - Chitradurga km 284 - km 207 Karnataka	4	77			<b>Contract Terminated</b>
11.	Chitradurga Bypass (Balance Work) km 207 - km 189 Karnataka	4	18	3.86	Sep-2008	Sep-2008
12.	Chitradurga - Sira km 189 - km 122.3 Karnataka	4	66.7	66.7	Aug-2004	Mar-2008
13.	Tumkur Bypass km 75 - km 62 Karnataka	4	13	9.7	Dec-2003	Jun-2008
14.	Hubli - Haveri km 404 - km 340 Karnataka	4	64.5	62.52	Dec-2003	Mar-2008
15.	Nandi Hills Cross to Devanhalli and Six laning of Meenukunte to Habbal (NS.24/KN) km 539 - 556 and km 527-km 535 Karnataka	7	25	25	Mar-2004	Mar-2008
16.	New Mangalore Port NH-17 (Suratkal-Nantur Section), NH-48 (Padil Bantwal Section) Karnataka	13, 17 and 48	37	0	Dec-2007	Jun-2008
<b>Kerala</b>						
17.	Cochin Port km 348/382 - km 368 750 Including 5 Major Bridges Kerala	47	10			<b>Contract Terminated</b>
<b>Maharashtra</b>						
18.	Jawaharlal Nehru Port Phase-II SH-54 + Amramarg + Panvel Creek Bridge Maharashtra	SH 54	14.35	0	May-2007	May-2008

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
<b>Orissa</b>						
19.	Bhubaneswar - Khurda (OR-I) km 387.7 - km 418 Orissa	5	26.3	26.3	Jan-2004	Mar-2008
20.	Balasore - Bhadrak (OR-III) km 136.5 - km 199.141 Orissa	5	62.64	35.56	<b>Contract Terminated</b>	
21.	Bridges section (OR-V) km 199.141 - km 61 Orissa	5	11.587	10.046	May-2004	Mar-2008
22.	Ganjam - Icchapuram (OR-VIII) (Balance work) km 284 - km 233 Orissa	5	50.8	3.36	Nov-2008	Nov-2008
23.	Sunakhala - Ganjam (OR-VII) km 338 - km 284 Orissa	5	55.713	21.202	Apr-2004	Dec-2009
24.	Paradip Port NH-5A (km 0 to km 77) Orissa	5A	77	57.56	Feb-2007	May-2008
<b>Tamil Nadu</b>						
25.	Thumpipadi to Salem (NS-26/TN) km 180.00 to km 199.20 Tamil Nadu	7	19.2	18.02	Aug-2003	Jun-2008
26.	Tuticorin Port NH-7A (Tuticorin - Tirunelveli section) Tamil Nadu	7A	47.2	0	Aug-2006	Dec-2009
27.	Chennai - Ennore Express Way TPP Road, Tamil Nadu	SR	9	0	Dec-2007	Jul-2008

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
<b>Uttar Pradesh</b>						
28.	Agra-Shikohabad (GTRIP/I-A) km 199.66 - km 250.50 Uttar Pradesh	2	50.83	49.29	Mar-2005	Jul-2008
29.	Shikohabad-Etawah (GTRIP/I-B) km 250.5 - km 307.5 Uttar Pradesh	2	59.02	55.5	Sep-2007	Apr-2008
30.	Etawah - Rajpur (GTRIP/I-C) km 321.1 - km 393 Uttar Pradesh	2	72.825	72.825	Mar-2005	Mar-2008
31.	Kanpur-Fatehpur (GTRIP/II-B) km 470-483(0) km 0 - km 38 Uttar Pradesh	2	51.5	51	Mar-2005	Apr-2008
32.	Allahabad Bypass Contract-I (Bridge) km 158 km-km 159.02 Uttar Pradesh	2	1.02	0	Mar-2006	Mar-2008
33.	Allahabad Bypass Contract-II km 158 km - km 198 Uttar Pradesh	2	38.987	33.49	Dec-2006	Jun-2008
34.	Allahabad Bypass Contract-III km 198 km - km 242.708 Uttar Pradesh	2	44.708	31.28	May-2007	Jun-2008
35.	Etawah Bypass (Balance Work) km 307.5 - km 321.1 Uttar Pradesh	2	13.6	13.5	Feb-2008	Jun-2008
36.	Fatehpur - Khaga (TNHP/II-C) km 38 - km 1151 Uttar Pradesh	2	77	64.75	Oct-2004	Dec-2008
37.	Handia - Varanasi (TNHP/III-C) km 245 - km 317 Uttar Pradesh	2	72	72	Jul-2004	Feb-2008

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
38.	Lucknow Bypass (EW-15/UP) Connecting NH-25 and NH-28 via NH56 Uttar Pradesh	56A and B	22.85	10	Aug-2004	Dec-2008
39.	Lucknow - Kanpur (EW/3A) km 59.5 - km 75.5 Uttar Pradesh	25	16	14	May-2005	Jun-2008
<b>Uttar Pradesh [55]/Bihar[21]</b>						
40.	Varanasi - Mohania (GTRIP/IV-A) km 317-329(0) km 0 - km 65 Uttar Pradesh [55]/Bihar[21]	2	76	73.97	Mar-2005	Mar-2008
<b>West Bengal</b>						
41.	Bridges section (WB-III) km 17.6 - km 136 West Bengal	6	1.732	0.48	Jan-2004	Jun-2008
42.	Haldia Port NH-41 (from Kolaghat on NH-6 to Haldia) West Bengal	41	53	0	<b>Contract Terminated</b>	
<b>NHDP Phase II</b>						
<b>Assam</b>						
43.	Silchar-Udarband (AS-I) km 309 to km 275.00 Assam	54	32	0	Sep-2007	Jun-2009
44.	Harangajo to Maibang (AS-21) km 165.4.00 to km 190.587 Assam	54	26	0	Jul-2009	Dec-2009
45.	Harangajo to Maibang (AS-22) km 140.70 to km 164.08 Assam	54	24	0	Jul-2009	Dec-2009

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
46.	Harangajo to Maibang (AS-23) km 126.450 to km 140.700, km 164.080 to km. 165.400 Assam	54	16	0	Feb-2009	Dec-2009
47.	Maibang to Lumding (AS-27) km 40.000 to km 60.500 Assam	54	21	0	Apr-2009	Dec-2009
48.	Maibang to Lumding (AS-26) km 60.500 to km 83.400 Assam	54	23	0	Nov-2008	Nov-2009
49.	Maibang to Lumding (AS-25) km 83.400 to km 111.000 Assam	54	28	0	Apr-2009	Dec-2009
50.	Maibang to Lumding (AS-24) km 111.000 to km 126.450 Assam	54	15	0	Nov-2008	Nov-2009
51.	Lanka to Daboka (AS-16) km 22.00 to km 2.4 Assam	54	24	0	Jun-2008	Jun-2009
52.	Daboka to Nagaon (AS-17) km 36 to km 5.5 Assam	36	30.5	0	Jun-2008	Jun-2009
53.	Nagaon bypass (AS-18) km 5.5 (NH-36) to km 262.7 (NH-37) and from km 262.70 to km Assam	37	23	0	Jun-2008	Jun-2009
54.	Nagaon to Dharmatul (AS.2) km 255 to km 230 Assam	37	25	0	Jun-2008	Dec-2009
55.	Dharmatul to Sonapur (AS-19) km 230.5 to km 205 Assam	37	25	0	Jun-2008	Jun-2009

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
56.	Dharamtul to Sonapur (AS-20) km 205.00 to km 183 Assam	37	22	0	May-2008	Dec-2009
57.	Sonapur to Guwahati (AS-3) km 183 to km 163.895 Assam	37	19	0	Jun-2009	Dec-2009
58.	Guwahati to Nalbari (AS-4) km 1121.00 to km 1093.00 Assam	31	28	0	Apr-2008	Jun-2009
59.	Guwahati to Nalbari (AS-5) km 1093.00 to km 1065.00 Assam	31	28	0	Apr-2008	Jun-2009
60.	Nalbari to Bijni (AS-7) km 1040.3 to km. 1013.00 Assam	31	27.3	0	Apr-2008	Jun-2009
61.	Nalbari to Bijni (AS-8) km. 1013.00 to km 983.00 Assam	31	30	0	Jun-2008	Jun-2009
62.	Nalbari to Bijni (AS-9) km. 983.00 to km. 961.5 Assam	31	21.5	0	Jun-2008	Jun-2009
63.	Bijni to Assam/WB Border (AS-10) km. 93.00 to km. 60.00 Assam	31C	33	0	Jun-2008	Jun-2009
64.	Bijni to Assam/WB Border (AS-11) km. 60.00 to km. 30.00 Assam	31C	30	0	Jun-2008	Jun-2009
65.	Bijni to Assam/WB Border (AS-12) km. 30.00 to km. 0.00 Assam	31C	30	0	Jun-2008	Jun-2009

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
66.	Construction of 10 km service road and one 2 lane Flyover on Guwahati Bypass (AS-14A) km 146 to km 156 Assam	37	10	0	Aug-2007	May-2008
<b>Bihar</b>						
67.	Purnea-Forbesganj (BR-1) km 309.0 to km 268 Bihar	57	41	10	Apr-2008	Jun-2009
68.	Purnea-Forbesganj (BR-2) km 268.0 to km 230 Bihar	57	38	0	Apr-2008	Jun-2009
69.	Forbesganj-Simrahi (BR-3) km 230 to km 190 Bihar	57	40	0	Sep-2008	Jun-2009
70.	Simrahi to Ring bund (missing link) (BR-4) km 190 to km 1650 Bihar	57	15	0	Apr-2008	Jun-2009
71.	Ring bunds to Jhanjharpur (BR-6) km 155 to km 110 Bihar	57	45	0	Jun-2008	Jun-2009
72.	Jhanjharpur to Darbanga (BR-7) km 110 to km 70 Bihar	57	40	0	Sep-2008	Jun-2009
73.	Darbanga to Muzzaffarpur (BR-8) km 70 to km 30 Bihar	57	40	0	Jun-2008	Jun-2009
74.	Darbanga to Muzzaffarpur (BR-9) km 30 to km 0 Bihar	57	30	0	Jun-2008	Jun-2009



1	2	3	4	5	6	7
75.	Muzzaffarpur to Mehsi (LMNHP-12) km 520 to km 480 Bihar	28	40	0	Sep-2008	Sep-2009
76.	Mehsi to Kotwa (LMNHP-11) km 480 to km 440 Bihar	28	40	0	Sep-2008	Sep-2009
77.	Kotwa to Dewapur (LMNHP-10) km 440 to km 402 Bihar	28	38	0	Nov-2008	Sep-2009
78.	Deewapur to UP/Bihar Border (LMNHP-9) km 402 to km 360.915 Bihar	28	41.085	0	Nov-2008	Sep-2009
<b>Gujarat</b>						
79.	Deesa to Radhanpur (Package-VI) km 372.60 to km 458.0 Gujarat	14	85.4	75	Nov-2007	Jun-2008
80.	Radhanpur to Gagodhar (Package-V) km 138.80 to km 245.00 Gujarat	15	106.2	102	Nov-2007	Mar-2008
81.	Gagodhar to Garamore (Package-IV) km 245.0 to km 281.3 and km 308.00 to km 254.00 Gujarat	15, 8A	90.3	63	Nov-2007	Mar-2009
82.	Garamore to Bamanbore (Package-III) km 254.00 to km 182.60 Gujarat	8A	71.4	54	Nov-2007	Dec-2008
83.	Jetpur to Bhiladi (Package-II) km 117 to km 52.50 Gujarat	8B	64.5	40	Nov-2007	Sep-2008

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
<b>Gujarat [34]/Rajasthan[42]</b>						
84.	Palanpur to Swaroopganj (Rajasthan-42 km and Gujarat-34 km 264 to km 340 Gujarat [34]/Rajasthan[42])	14	78	0	Mar-2009	Jun-2009
<b>Haryana</b>						
85.	Panipat to Panchi Gujran (Six laning work) (NS-89/HR) km 86.00 to km 66.00 Haryana	1	20	0	Oct-2008	Dec-2008
<b>Jammu Kashmir</b>						
86.	Srinagar Bypass (Road Portion) (NS-30) km 286 to km 303.8 Jammu Kashmir	1A	17.8	1.9	Jun-2006	Sep-2008
87.	Jammu to Kunjwani (Jammu Bypass) (NS-33/JandK) km 0.00 to km 15 Jammu Kashmir	1A	15	0	May-2008	Dec-2008
88.	Vijaypur to Pathankot (NS-34/JandK) km 16.35 to km 50.00 Jammu Kashmir	1A	33.65	0	Mar-2008	Mar-2009
89.	Vijaypur to Pathankot (NS-35/JandK) km 50 to km 80 Jammu Kashmir	1A	30	0	Mar-2008	Mar-2009
90.	Pathankot to Jammu and Kashmir Border (NS-36/JandK) km 110.45 to km 117.6 and km 4.0 to km 16.5 Jammu Kashmir	1A	19.65	0	May-2008	Mar-2009
<b>Madhya Pradesh</b>						
91.	Sagar - Rajmarg Choraha (ADB-II/C-6) km 211 to km 255 Madhya Pradesh	26	44	0	Oct-2008	Jun-2009

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
92.	Lalitpur - Sagar (ADB-II/C-4) km 132 to km 187 Madhya Pradesh	26	55	0	Oct-2008	Mar-2009
93.	Sagar Bypass (ADB-II/C-5) km 187 to km 211 Madhya Pradesh	26	26	0	Oct-2008	Jun-2009
94.	Rajmarg Choraha to Lahknadon (ADB-II/C-8) km 297 to km 351 (Junction with km 544 of NH7 Madhya Pradesh	26	54	0	Oct-2008	Jun-2009
95.	Rajmarg Choraha to Lahknadon (ADB-II/C-9) km 351 to km 405.70 Madhya Pradesh	26	54.7	0	Oct-2008	Jun-2009
96.	Jhansi-Shivpuri (EW-II-MP-2) km 50 to km 15 Madhya Pradesh	25	35	17	Feb-2008	Dec-2008
97.	Shivpuri Bypass and upto MP/RJ Border (EW-II - MP-I) km 15 to km 0 of NH 25 and km 610 to km 579 of NH 76 Madhya Pradesh	25, 76	53	42	Feb-2008	Jun-2008
<b>Maharashtra</b>						
98.	Butibori ROB (NS-29/MH) km 22.850 to km 24.650 Maharashtra	7	1.8	0	Dec-2006	Sep-2008
99.	Borkhedi-Jam (NS-22/MH) km 36.6 - to km 64.0 Maharashtra	7	27.4	0	Dec-2007	Dec-2008
100.	Jam-Wadner (NS-59/MH) km 64 to km 94 Maharashtra	7	30	0	Apr-2008	Mar-2009

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
101.	Wadner-Devdharl (NS-60/MH) km. 94 to km. 123 Maharashtra	7	29	0	Apr-2008	Mar-2009
102.	Devdharl-Kelapur (NS-61/MH) km. 123 to km. 153 Maharashtra	7	30	0	Apr-2008	Apr-2009
<b>Maharashtra</b>						
103.	Kelapur-Pimpalkhatti (NS-62) km. 153 to km. 175 Maharashtra	7	22	0	Nov-2008	Nov-2009
<b>Punjab</b>						
104.	Pathankot to Bhogpur (NS-37/PB) km. 26 to km. 70 Punjab	1A	44	0	May-2008	Sep-2009
<b>Punjab[29]/Himachal Pradesh[11]</b>						
105.	Pathankot to Bhogpur (NS-38/PB) km. 70 to km. 110 Punjab[29]/Himachal Pradesh[11]	1A	40	0	May-2008	Mar-2009
<b>Rajasthan</b>						
106.	RJ/MP Border to Kota (RJ-11) km. 579 to km. 509 Rajasthan	76	70	41	Mar-2008	Jun-2008
107.	RJ/MP Border to Kota (RJ-10) km. 509 to km. 449.15 Rajasthan	76	59.85	26.8	Apr-2008	Dec-2008
108.	RJ/MP Border to Kota (RJ-9) km. 449.15 to km. 406 Rajasthan	76	43.15	10.2	Apr-2008	Mar-2009
109.	Kota Bypass (RJ-4) km. 406 to km. 381 Rajasthan	76	25	0	Nov-2008	Jun-2009

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
110.	Kota to Chittorgarh (RJ-8) km. 381 to km. 316 Rajasthan	76	65	23	Apr-2008	Sep-2008
111.	Kota to Chittorgarh (RJ-7) km. 316 to km. 253 Rajasthan	76	63	34	Apr-2008	Sep-2008
112.	Chittorgarh Bypass (RJ-6) km. 253 to km. 213 Rajasthan	76	40	20.5	Apr-2008	Sep-2008
113.	Gogunda to Udaipur (RJ-3) km. 104 to km. 73 Rajasthan	76	31	10	Jul-2008	Sep-2008
114.	Bakaria to Gogunda (RJ-2) km. 73 to km. 29 Rajasthan	76	44	10	May-2008	Dec-2008
115.	Swaroopganj to Bakaria (RJ-1) km. 29 km. 0 (NH 76) and km. 264 to to km. 249.7 (NH 14) Rajasthan	76, 14	43	0	Jun-2008	Dec-2008
116.	Chambal Bridge (RJ-5) Rajasthan	76	1.4	0	Feb-2010	Sep-2010
<b>Tamil Nadu</b>						
117.	Thopurghat to Thumpipadi (NS-25/TN) km. 163.40 to km. 180.00 Tamil Nadu	7	16.6	0	Nov-2007	Sep-2008
118.	Madurai to km 120 of Madurai - Tirunelveli Section including Madurai Bypass (NS-39) km. 0.000 to km. 42.000 Tamil Nadu	7	42	24	Apr-2008	Oct-2008

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
119.	Madurai-Kanniakumari Section (NS-40/TN) km 42.000 to km 80.000 Tamil Nadu	7	38.86	23	Apr-2008	Oct-2008
120.	Madurai-Kanniakumari Section (NS-41/TN) km 80.000 to km 120.000 Tamil Nadu	7	39.51	18	Apr-2008	Oct-2008
121.	Madurai-Kanniakumari Section (NS-42/TN) km 120 to km 160 Tamil Nadu	7	42.7	17.5	Mar-2008	Oct-2008
122.	km 120 of Madurai - Tirunelveli Section to Panagudi (km 203) (NS-43) km 160 to km 203 Tamil Nadu	7	43	2.5	May-2008	Sep-2008
123.	Kanniyakumari-Panagudi (NS-32) km 203 to km 233.6 Tamil Nadu	7	30.6	6	<b>Contract Terminated. (Recently reawarded)</b>	
124.	Chennai Bypass Phase II Tamil Nadu	45, 4 and 5	32	15.2	Nov-2007	Oct-2008
125.	Improvement of Access of GQ within Chennai City including Construction of 4 grade Seperators Tamil Nadu	205, 4 and 45	4	0	Apr-2007	Mar-2008
126.	Trichy Bypass end to Tovaramkurchi (Package-VII A) km 0 to km 60.95 Tamil Nadu	45B	60.95	6	Aug-2008	Mar-2009
127.	Tovaramkurchi to Madurai (Package-VII B) km 60.95 to km 124.84 Tamil Nadu	45B	63.89	8.5	Aug-2008	Dec-2008

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
<b>Uttar Pradesh</b>						
128.	Gorakhpur-Ayodhya (LMNHP-6) km 251.70 to km 208.00 Uttar Pradesh	28	43.7	0	Oct-2008	Jun-2009
129.	Gorakhpur-Ayodhya (LMNHP-5) km 208.00 to km 164.00 Uttar Pradesh	28	44	0	Oct-2008	Jun-2009
130.	Gorakhpur-Ayodhya (LMNHP-4) km 164.00 to km 135.00 Uttar Pradesh	28	29	0	Nov-2008	Jun-2009
131.	Ayodhya-Lucknow (LMNHP-3) km 135.00 to km 93.075 Uttar Pradesh	28	41.925	0	Nov-2008	Jun-2009
132.	Ayodhya-Lucknow (LMNHP-2) km 93.075 to km 45 Uttar Pradesh	28	47	0	Oct-2008	Jun-2009
133.	Ayodhya-Lucknow (LMNHP-1) km 45.00 to km 8.250 Uttar Pradesh	28	36	0	Oct-2008	Jun-2009
134.	Ganga Bridge to Rama Devi Crossing (UP-6) km 75.0 to km 80.06 Uttar Pradesh	25	5.6	0	Sep-2008	Jun-2009
135.	Orai to Jhansi (UP-5) km 220.0 - to km 170.00 Uttar Pradesh	25	50	0	Mar-2008	Dec-2009
136.	Orai to Jhansi (UP-4) km 170 to km 104.0 Uttar Pradesh	25	66	0	Apr-2008	Aug-2009
137.	Jhansi Bypass (UP-3) km 104.0 - to km 91.0 Uttar Pradesh	25	15	0	May-2008	Apr-2009

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
138.	UP/Bihar Border to Kasia (LMNHP-8) km 360.915 to km 319.8 Uttar Pradesh	28	41.115	0	Dec-2008	Jun-2009
139.	Kasia to Gorakhpur (LMNHP-7) km 319.8 to km 279.8 Uttar Pradesh	28	40	0	Dec-2008	Jun-2009
140.	Hapur - Garhmukteshwar km 58 - 93 Uttar Pradesh	24	35	0	Sep-2007	Dec-2008
141.	Garhmukteshwar - Muradabad km 93-149.25 Uttar Pradesh	24	56.25	0	Sep-2007	Jun-2008
<b>Uttar Pradesh[11]/Madhya Pradesh[30]</b>						
142.	Jhansi-Shivpuri (UP/MP-1) (UP-11 km and MP - 30 km) km 91 to km 50 (UP-11 km and MP-30 km) Uttar Pradesh[11]/Madhya Pradesh[30]	25	41	24	Apr-2008	Dec-2008
<b>West Bengal</b>						
143.	Assam/WB Boarder to Gairkatta (WB-1) km 255.00 to km 223.00 West Bengal	31C	32	0	Nov-2008	Jun-2009
144.	Siliguri to Islampur (WB-7) km 526.00 to km 500 West Bengal	31	26	0	Jul-2008	Jun-2009

SHRI SUGRIB SINGH : I would like to know from the Minister whether his Ministry has made any assessment to identify the loss suffered by the Government due to delay in completion of these projects. The Government is not only suffering from the escalation of cost of these projects but

also losing the collection of toll tax due to such delay in completion of these projects in the scheduled time. If any assessment has been made I would like to know the details in this regard as also the steps taken by the Government to complete such projects on time.



SHRI T.R. BAALU : Sir, as far as Golden Quadrilateral is concerned, we have completed about 96.48 per cent which means about 206 kilometres balance lengths have yet to be completed. We could not complete it because of various reasons like failure of the contractor, non-performing contractor, non-availability of land, legal proceedings, and so on. But due to this, we should not think that there is no link at all for that particular stretch. The link is there and there are no missing links. The traffic is allowed. The only thing is that in that particular place there will be two lanes instead of four lanes. But people think that traffic is not allowed on that particular stretch and that there are missing links. It is not correct to think like that. Out of 25 contracts with balance lengths, 15 will be completed by June-end and ten will be completed in another four to five months time beyond June.

As far as North-South is concerned, we have completed about 1669 kilometres, 4652 kilometres is under implementation and we have to award 821 kilometres.

My friend was asking about tolling. The tolling rates have already been finalised and have been sent to the Ministry of Law. At the same time, partial tolling for the stretches where we have completed, we have already gone for tolling.

MR. SPEAKER : He said that you are losing toll because roads are not ready.

SHRI T.R. BAALU : Sir, it is not like that. Recently, we have taken a conscious decision that even if a particular road is incomplete, we are going for partial tolling.

SHRI SUGRIB SINGH : Sir, I want to know from the hon. Minister the details regarding funds allocated to NH-5 for the Bolangir-Gopalpur-Raipur National Highway in the State of Orissa in the current financial year. I would also like to know whether the Government have fixed any target to complete the work on this national highway. If so, the project-wise details thereof.

SHRI T.R. BAALU : All the Golden Quadrilateral will have six lanes and the targets are fixed. The details

regarding the funds allocated for this project are not available with me. I will pass on the information to him.

[Translation]

SHRI KISHAN BHAI V. PATEL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the ongoing road widening work on Allahabad-Mumbai NH-8 in Gujarat has increased the traffic manifold. This highway runs in my constituency Bulsar and Guvlav Chauraha falls there. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether construction of a bridge there is under his consideration or not?

[English]

SHRI T.R. BAALU : Sir, this matter is receiving attention for some time. The Members of Parliament came to us and we are discussing the matter. There is some opposition to this particular issue. Anyhow, it will be settled amicably in consultation with the Members of Parliament.

DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA (Rajkot) : Sir, the National Highway 8-B East-West corridor from Porbandar starts from Gujarat and goes to Rajasthan. From Porbandar to Rajkot to wankaner chokdi, already four laning was done in some parts by the Government of Gujarat five to seven years ago. Now what we suggest is that service lanes and over-bridges which are not constructed on this line and on other areas where there are only two lanes, the over bridges and service lanes are being constructed. On this road for about 100 kilometres, four laning was done and the over-bridges and service lanes were not constructed.

I earnestly appeal to you to consider four-laning, constructing over-bridges and service lanes so that the total East-West corridor as a whole looks alike.

MR. SPEAKER : That is not a question. It is an appeal to you and you have listened. Mr. Minister, you please sit down.

There is no question in it. It is just an appeal and the hon. Minister has listened to it.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Now, if every hon. Member starts putting a question relating to his or her constituency and about different roads in his constituency, then I think, it is not right. You have made an appeal and the hon. Minister has listened to that appeal.

[Translation]

**Rise in Malaria, Chikungunya and Dengue Cases**

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\*109. SHRI PUSP JAIN :

SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS :

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

(a) whether the number of cases of Malaria, Chikungunya, Dengue and Viral fever is increasing in the country;

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

(c) the number of cases reported and the number of persons died due to these diseases during the last three years and in the current year, State-wise;

(d) whether any study has been conducted regarding the cause of increase in the number of cases of deaths due to these disease; and

(e) if so, the outcome thereof?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) to (e) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

**Statement**

(a) to (e) The situation of vector borne disease like Malaria, Chikungunya, Dengue and Viral fever (Acute Encephalitis Syndrome/JE) in the country are indicated below:-

Year	Malaria	Chikungunya	Dengue	AES/JE
2001	2085484	No case was	3306	2061
2002	1841229	reported	1926	1765
2003	1869403		12754	2568
2004	1915363		4153	1714
2005	1816569		11985	6727
2006	1780777	1930322	12317	2842
2007	1363279	56355	5395	4042
	(upto			
	Dec., 07			

The above data reported by the States indicates the declining trend in case of Malaria in the country. However, increase in malaria cases has been noticed in Chhattisgarh, Goa, Maharashtra, Meghalaya, Nagaland and Andaman and Nicobar Islands. The viral disease such as Dengue, Chikungunya and JE are seasonal and epidemic prone. Chikungunya and Dengue have shown less number of cases in 2007 as compared to the previous year. However, in case of JE the fluctuations are noticed every year. In 2007, more number of cases are recorded as the total cases recorded are for Acute Encephalitis Syndrome (AES) including JE cases.

The disease-wise and state-wise situation of number of cases and number of persons died during the last three years for Malaria, Chikungunya, Dengue and JE are enclosed at Annexure-I to IV.

Regular surveillance and monitoring of disease trend is being conducted in the periphery and the containment measures are taken accordingly. However, since the decline has been noted in malaria cases as indicated above, no separate study has been instituted. Following strategies are being implemented in the country to check the spread of these disease:-

**1. Disease Management**

- Early case detection and complete treatment
- Strengthening of referral Services
- Epidemic preparedness and rapid response.

**2. Integrated Vector Management**

- Indoor residual spraying in selected high risk areas
- Use of insecticide treated bednets
- Use of larvivorous fish
- Anti larval measures in urban areas including biolarvicides.

**3. Supporting Intervention**

- Behaviour change communications
- Public private partnership and inter-sectoral convergence
- Human resource development through capacity building
- Operational Research including studies on drug resistance and insecticide susceptibility.
- Monitoring and evaluation through periodic reviews field visits and web based Management information system.

In addition to the above, Government has taken following initiatives for prevention and control of Japanese Encephalitis:

- Strengthening of AES/JE surveillance through 50 sentinel sites and 12 Apex Referral Laboratories.
- Standard Guidelines for AES/JE surveillance circulated.

— "Vector Borne Diseases Control Surveillance Unit" set up at BRD Medical College, Gorakhpur, UP.

— Sub office, ROH and FW, Lucknow set up in Gorakhpur.

— JE vaccination in age group 1-15 years started in 2006 in 11 districts in 4 states (Assam, Karnataka, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal). In 2007-Expanded to 28 districts in 10 states (Assam, Karnataka, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal and Haryana, Bihar, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, Kerala).

— Training of Microbiologists and Technicians of sentinel centres have been conducted.

— Training courses for Clinicians and Nurses for Uttar Pradesh and Assam States conducted to improve the skills in JE case management.

— Constitutions of Rapid Response Teams.

Similarly for prevention and control of Dengue/ Chikungunya, following additional initiatives have been taken by Government:-

— Long term action plan for early case detection, disease management, vector surveillance, use of adulticides and larvicides were circulated to states for prevention and control activities.

— Guidelines on clinical management of Dengue/ DHF cases sent to the states for wider circulation.

— Identified 13 Apex Referral Laboratories for advanced diagnosis and regular surveillance of Dengue and Chikungunya cases.

— Identified 110 sentinel surveillance hospitals for proactive surveillance for Dengue and Chikungunya.

— IgM – Mc ELISA test kits for detection of Dengue/Chikungunya supplied to Apex Referral Laboratories and Sentinel Surveillance hospitals.

— Contingency grant released to meet the operational cost of the Sentinel Surveillance hospitals and Apex Referral Laboratories.

— Intensified IEC/BCC activities.

#### Annexure-I

##### Year-wise and State-wise Malaria Cases and Deaths

States/UTs	2004		2005		2006		2007 (upto December Provisional)	
	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Andhra Pradesh	35427	2	39099	0	34081	0	27406	2
Arunachal Pradesh	29849	0	31215	0	39182	196	25445	0
Assam	58134	54	67885	113	126178	304	90530	150
Bihar	1872	0	2733	1	2744	1	1451	0
Chhattisgarh	194256	4	187950	3	190590	3	125490	0
Goa	7839	7	3747	1	5010	7	9755	11
Gujarat	222759	89	179023	54	89835	45	66682	43
Haryana	10064	0	33262	0	47142	0	30895	1
Himachal Pradesh	126	0	129	0	114	0	101	0
Jammu and Kashmir	250	0	268	0	156	0	223	1
Jharkhand	143722	40	193144	21	193888	4	164735	10
Karnataka	80961	27	83181	26	62842	32	48415	18
Kerala	2790	12	2554	6	2111	7	1769	5
Madhya Pradesh	132094	36	104317	44	96160	56	90709	0

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Maharashtra	68988	61	47608	104	54420	133	69844	151
Manipur	2736	8	2071	3	2709	8	1194	4
Meghalaya	18080	29	16816	41	29924	167	32577	235
Mizoram	7830	72	10741	74	10644	120	6563	75
Nagaland	2486	1	2987	0	3370	75	4810	26
Orissa	416732	283	396573	255	375907	253	307306	184
Punjab	1643	0	1883	0	1888	0	2017	0
Rajasthan	105022	20	52286	22	99529	50	41087	10
Sikkim	160	3	69	0	93	0	48	0
Tamil Nadu	41732	0	39678	0	28219	0	17748	0
Tripura	17453	16	18008	20	23375	31	17933	40
Uttaranchal	1255	0	1242	0	1108	0	953	0
Uttar Pradesh	87022	0	105303	0	91566	0	83019	0
West Bengal	220871	184	185964	175	159646	203	86132	100
Andaman and Nicobar Islands	745	1	3954	0	2993	1	3973	0
Chandigarh	199	0	432	0	449	0	340	0
Dadra and Nagar Haveli	787	0	1166	0	3786	0	3780	0
Daman and Diu	118	0	104	0	140	0	99	0
Delhi	1316	0	1133	0	928	0	182	0
Lakshadweep	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Pondicherry	43	0	44	0	50	0	68	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>1915363</b>	<b>949</b>	<b>1816569</b>	<b>963</b>	<b>1780777</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1363279</b>	<b>1066</b>

## Annexure-II

## Year-wise and State-wise Status of Chikungunya Fever Cases

State	2008													
	2007 (P)*							2008						
	No. of districts affected	Total Suspected Chikungunya fever cases	No. of samples sent to NIV/ NICD	No. of confirmed cases	No. of deaths	Total fever cases/ suspected Chikungunya fever cases	No. of samples sent to NIV/ NICD	No. of confirmed cases	No. of deaths	Total fever cases/ suspected Chikungunya fever cases	No. of samples sent to NIV/ NICD	No. of confirmed cases	No. of deaths	
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Andhra Pradesh	23	77535	1224	1224	248	0	39	39	11	0				
Karnataka	27	762026	5000	5000	298	0	1705	641	133	0	11	11	8	0
Maharashtra	34	270116	5901	5901	804	0	1752	287	134	0				
Tamil Nadu*	35	64802	648	648	116	0	45	13	10	0				
Madhya Pradesh	21	60132	892	892	106	0	0	0	0	0				
Gujarat	25	75419	1155	1155	225	0	3223	238	122	0	49	23	12	0
Kerala	14	70731	235	235	43	0	24052	4732	909	0	2	0	0	0
Andaman and Nicobar Islands	2	1549	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0				

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
GNCT of Delhi	12	560	560	560	67	0	452	153	134	0				
Rajasthan	1	102	44	24	24	0	1	1	1	0				
Pondicherry	1	542	52	9	9	0	0	0	0	0				
Goa	2	287	75	2	2	0	78	68	18	0				
Orissa	13	6461	171	34	34	0	670	161	43	0				
West Bengal	1	21	0	21	21	0	19138	1135	347	0				
Lakshadweep	1	35	0	0	0	0	5184	10	10	0				
Uttar Pradesh	4	4	4	4	4	0	3	3	3	0				
Haryana		0	0	0	0	0	13	1	1	0				
<b>Total</b>	<b>216</b>	<b>1390322</b>	<b>15961</b>	<b>2001</b>	<b>2001</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>56355</b>	<b>7482</b>	<b>1876</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>0</b>

**Annexure-III****Year-wise and State-wise Dengue Cases and Deaths**

Sl. No.	State	2004		2005		2006		2007		2008	
		C	D	C	D	C	D	C	D	C	D
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
1.	Andhra Pradesh	230	1	99	2	197	17	587	2	2	0
2.	Bihar	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0
3.	Chandigarh	0	0	2	0	182	0	36	0	0	0
4.	Delhi	606	3	1023	9	3366	65	548	1	1	0
5.	Goa	3	0	1	0	1	0	36	0	0	0
6.	Gujarat	117	4	454	11	545	5	570	2	40	0
8.	Haryana	25	0	183	1	838	4	365	1	0	0
8.	Jammu and Kashmir					24	1	0	0	0	0
9.	Karnataka	291	2	587	17	109	7	230	0	2	0
10.	Kerala	686	8	1028	8	981	4	603	11	2	0
11.	Maharashtra	856	22	349	56	736	25	614	21	12	0
12.	Orissa	0	0	0	0	1	0	4	0	0	0
13.	Sikkim	12	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
14.	Punjab	52	0	251	2	1166	6	27	0	0	0
15.	Rajasthan	207	5	370	5	1805	26	531	10	0	0
16.	Tamil Nadu	1027	0	1142	8	477	2	707	2	0	0
17.	Pondicherry	0	0	0	0	0	0	209	0	0	0
18.	Uttar Pradesh	8	0	121	4	639	14	131	2	0	0



1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
19. Dadra and Nagar Haveli		1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
20. West Bengal		32	0	6375	34	1230	8	95	4	0	0
21. Madhya Pradesh						16	0	51	2	0	0
22. Manipur								51	1	0	0
<b>Total</b>		<b>4153</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>11985</b>	<b>157</b>	<b>12317</b>	<b>184</b>	<b>5395</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>0</b>

C : Cases : D = Deaths

**Annexure-IV**

*Year-wise and State-wise J.E. Cases and Deaths*

Sl. No.	Affected States/UTs	2004		2005		2006		2007 (AES/JE Cases)		2008	
		C	D	C	D	C	D	C	D	C	D
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
1.	Andhra Pradesh	7	3	34	0	11	0	1	0	0	0
2.	Assam	235	64	145	52	392	119	424	133	0	0
3.	Bihar	85	28	192	64	21	3	336	164	0	0
4.	Chandigarh	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
5.	Delhi	17	0	6	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
6.	Goa	0	0	4	0	0	0	61	0	0	0
7.	Haryana	37	27	46	39	2	1	86	46	0	0
8.	Karnataka	181	6	122	10	73	3	9	1	0	0
9.	Kerala	9	1	1	0	3	3	0	0	0	0
10.	Maharashtra	22	0	51	0	1	0	0	0	0	0

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
11. Manipur		0	0	1	0	0	0	46	0	0	0
12. Punjab		0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
13. Tamil Nadu		88	9	51	11	18	1	23	0	0	0
14. Uttar Pradesh*		1030	228	6061	1500	2320	528	3024	645	45	14
15. West Bengal		3	1	12	6	0	0	0	0	0	0
16. Nagaland								7	0	0	0
Grand Total		1714	367	6727	1682	2842	658	4017	989	45	14

C = Cases      D= Deaths      P = Provisional

\*Including 331 Cases and 63 Deaths from Bihar and 18 Cases and 5 Death from Nepal in 2007.

[Translation]

SHRI PUSP JAIN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, thousands of people die every year in the country from diseases such as Malaria, Chikungunya, Dengue and Viral Fever. Of late, Chikungunya has spread very fast in many parts of the country. A person affected by it is unable to walk for months and he can not be treated fully. I would like to know from the hon. Minister particularly whether some special research has been conducted for Chikungunya so that its patient is cured and can be vaccinated? Whether some research has been conducted in this regard or not?

[English]

SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI : Sir, vector borne diseases like Malaria, Dengue, Chickenguniya are seasonal and epidemic. Data reported by the States indicate that the percentage is declining as compared to previous years.

[Translation]

SHRI PUSP JAIN : You have not given reply. A lot of aid is received from abroad for eradication of diseases

like Malaria, Chikungunya, Dengue and Viral Fever. Our country has received aid from the United Nations and several other organizations. Has it come to the notice of the Government that the foreign aid worth lakhs of rupees received for eradication of Malaria has been embezzled and not used for eradication of Malaria in the States of the country?

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : There is no proper utilisation of funds.

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS) : Sir, regarding the first question of the hon. Member wherein he asked whether any vaccine for Chickenguniya has been identified or not. Currently, there are no vaccines. There was a vaccine developed for the use of the US Army. But in India there is a different stain. We had got it from the Reunion Island. It has come from there and after 30 to 40 years there has been an outbreak of this disease in the last two years. Experts say that in the next two years also going to occur sporadically in different parts of the country.

We have given a lot of advice and a lot of research has been done. We are upgrading all the apex laboratories to test this. We have asked the NIB, Pune to have more testing kits available and go to various States. We have allocated a sum of nearly Rs. 20 crore to the National Institute of Virology in the State of Kerala.

A lot of things are happening on the preventive aspect. We also have the Village Health and Sanitation Committees under the National Rural Health Mission where a sum of Rs. 10,000 is allocated to each and every village every year for sanitation purposes, for removing water bodies, mosquitoes and also for undertaking activities like fogging etc. All these things are now being done.

Sir, in response to the second part of his question I would like to submit that we are using the funds that have been given to us by different donors. The World Bank, the Global Fund has given us funds. There were some issues recently, but I would like to state that we are trying to make it more transparent. The issues were pertaining to the period between 1997 and 2005. This was much before we had taken over. I would like to say that I could give you a separate answer for that if there is a separate set of questions for that. I would, however, like to assure the House that we have re-structured and rectified a lot of deficiencies which were pointed out. Policies have been made transparent and we have now decentralized it to the States. We are upgrading the capacities of the States for doing these procuring policies. I would like to again assure the House that things are on track and any deficiency being noticed are being rectified and will be rectified.

SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS : Sir, we have discussed in this House in the last year itself regarding the fast spreading of Chickenguniya across the country.

Thousands of people were infected and the infected people, after their complete recovery, are still suffering from post chickenguniya, arthralgia and arthritis. Thousands of people are suffering due to this. Some doctors announced that – it came in the newspapers also – there is now a 100 per cent remedy but some ayurvedic doctors have

declared that, in ayurveda, they are having medicine for complete recovery from post chickenguniya, arthralgia and arthritis. Our hon. Minister for Health and Family Welfare himself is a good doctor. I want to know from the hon. Minister, through you, as to whether there are complete remedial measures in ayurveda identified by the Ministry for post chickenguniya, arthralgia and arthritis which are still continuing.

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS : Sir, I accept the hon. Member saying that post chickenguniya period is a little traumatic where there has been swelling of joints and sometimes, it may go upto three months to six months and a lot of people, specially the senior citizens are affected by this. We have asked our research institution, the ICMR, to take up research on this aspect. But currently, there is no medicine available to cure chickenguniya under the modern medicine concept. But for taking care of the symptoms like pain, arthralgia and all that, there are medicines.

On the question of whether there is cure in the Indian system of medicine including ayurveda or siddha, we are examining that aspect. There are some claims on this aspect and I have asked the ICMR to examine this claim. If there is any particular issue which the hon. Member knows, he may bring it to our notice and I will ask the ICMR to validate these claims.

SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY : Sir, the hon. Minister has already replied to the question which I want to put.

MR. SPEAKER : Then the reply is the same.

SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY : Chickenguniya is a serious type of disease. As per doctors' opinion, no medicine is available in the market or in pharmacy for patients suffering due to this disease. Is the Government seriously considering this aspect to find out preventive measures so that those medicines will be made available in different hospitals in village areas to treat the people suffering from chickenguniya?

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS : Sir, I have already answered this question. [English]

**Extension Period of MBBS Course**

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\*110. SHRI M. SHIVANNA :

SHRIMATI MANORAMA MADHAVRAJ :

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

(a) whether the Government proposes to increase the duration of the MBBS course by one more year from the forthcoming academic session 2008-09;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the general public and the students thereto?

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

**Statement**

(a) to (c) A High Level Committee under the Chairmanship of Additional Director General of Health Services, was constituted to elicit opinion of the students community, medical faculty and other stakeholder on the proposal of this Ministry regarding introduction of one year compulsory rural posting of fresh medical graduates. The Committee has since submitted its report to the Government. The recommendations of the Committee are under consideration of the Central Government.

[Translation]

\*SHRI M. SHIVANNA : Sir, through you, I would like to know from the Hon'ble-Minister whether it has come to his notice that medical students all over the country are holding *dharana* and Agitations against the extension of the MBBS course by one more year. If so what action has been taken by the centre to tackle this problem – kindly give details.

\*English translation of the speech originally delivered in Kannada.

MR. SPEAKER : He has said that in his reply. It is there in the written reply. Please read the reply.

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS : Sir, in answer to a lot of queries by hon. Members of both the Houses about the shortage of doctors and health manpower in the rural areas, a survey is done which shows that 73 to 75 per cent of the rural people in this country do not have much health care access. They have only 25 to 30 per cent of health care provisions and access. So, we have launched the National Rural Health Mission precisely on this aspect. Under the National Rural Health Mission, there are a lot of sub-groups like one for infrastructure, one for capacity-building, one for health care personnel, one for doctors, etc. They have given recommendations saying that these students should undergo a one year mandatory posting in rural areas. That is how we came to the conclusion that students should go to the rural areas. A lot of hon. Members have been putting many queries on lack of health facilities. Once we said that from the coming academic year, they will do it, there was a lot of protest from the student community.

This practice was there about thirty to forty years back. I think, thirty years back the practice in our country was that they had to do one-year or two-year mandatory service. In fact, my leader and my father had done three years of service. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Please be quiet. This meeting may be held outside.

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS : In a lot of countries in the world, there is a mandatory service for two or three years for doctors and also for defence personnel. Moreover, the education is subsidized to a large extent by the State Government and the Central Government for the students. So, I had requested them to take up this to serve the needy poor. But then there were a lot of protests. A lot of Members of Parliament also jointed them, supporting

their cause that it should not be there. Some reasons were also given to that. Based on these issues, I had constituted a Committee under Dr. Sambasiva Rao to go throughout the country, to visit different States, to discuss with students, with doctors; with common people; and with administrators these issues and then give recommendations. He has given us some recommendations and we are examining them.

MR. SPEAKER : I think all the Members of Parliament should sponsor this programme.

[Translation]

\*SHRI M. SHIVANNA : Without extending the duration of the MBBS course the doctors may be asked to render their services in the rural areas. In this connection, will the Government make Rural Service a Compulsory are for all the doctors instead of extending the duration of the course.

[English]

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS : Sir, the Committee has given its recommendations and we are examining them. Then, I will let not only the hon. Members but also the entire country about what we are intending to do.

MR. SPEAKER : Shrimati Manorama Madhwaraj – not present.

DR. K.S. MANOJ : Sir, every year around 28,000 doctors are getting graduated in our country. Still the number of doctors who are serving the rural areas is how. The doctor-population ratio in rural areas is very low. There is an objection on the part of the students for one-year rural service.

MR. SPEAKER : What is your question?

DR. K.S. MANOJ : I would like to know from the hon.

\*English translation of the speech originally delivered in Kannada.

Minister if that is not done, how are we to ensure that the rural population of this country gets adequate medical service?

MR. SPEAKER : You can talk to your community, the doctors.

DR ANBUMANI RAMADOSS : I would like to answer the hon. Members. Let me refer to the National Rural Health Mission. This Programme was launched on 12th April, 2005 by the hon. Prime Minister. I have some statistics to show what was achieved prior to launching of this Programme, that is during post-Independence, and what is the achievement of this Programme. Before the launch of this Programme the number of specialists in the primary health area were approximately 3,500 in the entire country. By specialists I mean physicians, surgeons, anaesthetists, gynaecologists, etc. But within two years of the launch of this Programme, it has risen to approximately 7,000. So, from 3,500 in all these years, it has gone up to 7,000 in these two years. As far as the nurses, the number was about 17,000; now it has gone up to 28,000; in case of doctors it has gone up from 20,000 to 30,000; in case of ANMs, it has gone up from 1,30,000 to 1,70,000. Apart from that, we have a whole lot of ASHAs and link workers. Today, nearly 5,44,000 ASH As and link workers are put in place in almost all the villages in our country to take care of their health needs. To supplement this, we have been asking the doctors to go there. It will be an experience for them also and it will be a service to the nation. Needy people will get adequate medical service by this. Nevertheless, we will consider the recommendations of the Committee and we will take a final decision thereon.

12.00 hrs.

We will take a final decision there on.

MR. SPEAKER : Q. No. 111 – Shri Swadesh Chakraborty – Absent.

Q. No. 112 – Dr. M. Jagannath.

### Launching of Satellites by ISRO

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\*112. DR. M. JAGANNATH :

SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has launched any satellite in the month of January, 2008 under a contract with Israeli Aerospace Industries;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the objectives outlined therefor;

(c) the benefits likely to accrue therefrom including the revenue earned as a result thereof;

(d) whether the launching of the satellite evoked reaction from various quarters inside and outside the country;

(e) if so, the response of the Government thereto;

(f) whether the Government has any plans to launch further more Satellites for various countries in future; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

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

#### Statement

(a) and (b) Yes, Sir. On 21st January 2008, India's Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle, PSLV-C10 successfully launched the 300 kg TECSAR satellite, from Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota. The launch of PSLV-C10 was executed under a commercial contract between Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI) and ANTRIX Corporation.

(c) The successful launch of PSLV-C10, has once again reiterated ISRO's reliability and versatility to launch satellites into various types of orbits and established its

strong footing in the highly competitive international commercial launch services market. With the delivery of the satellite in the desired orbit, the contractual obligations of ANTRIX have been completed. The commercial value of the launch services contract was US \$ 13 Million.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

(f) and (g) In the forthcoming flight of PSLV, in addition to ISRO's primary satellite, the vehicle will also commercially launch nano satellites belonging to University of Toronto, Canada and Cosmos International, Germany. Contracts are also finalized for launching nano satellite of Netherlands and micro satellite belonging to Singapore using PSLV.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : You just answer that. Have you said that?

DR. M. JAGANNATH : Sir, the answer given by the hon. Minister to parts (a) to (g) is not convincing. The question was about the objective of launching of Satellite by ISRO and the benefit that India is going to get out of the launching of the Satellites. But it has not been adequately answered. My question is this. What is the objective of launching of the Satellites and what are the benefits that accrue to India apart from the revenue.

MR. SPEAKER : Question Hour is over. He will send the reply.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : Sir, we want a discussion on this.

MR. SPEAKER : Very well, do it. But this is not the time now to you, Shri Rupchand Pal, to do it.

## WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

*(English)*

### Delegation of Powers to Panchayati Raj Institutions

\*102. SHRI SHRINIWAS DADAGAHEB PATIL : Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) whether all the States have delegated powers to the Local Self-Governments as envisaged in the Seventy-third Constitutional Amendment;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government has studied the functioning of these Local Self-Governments after the delegation of powers; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Government in respect of the States where the powers have not been delegated to the Panchayati Raj Institutions?

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ, MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR) : (a) All 24 States to which the provisions of Part IX of the Constitution applies have enacted Panchayati Raj legislation, which inter-alia, provides for the devolution of powers and responsibilities upon Panchayats at the District, Intermediate and Village levels. However, this formal devolution through State legislation needs to be translated into the actual transfer of activities relating to such devolved functions to Panchayats at different levels through executive orders, instructions and administrative arrangements. Such transfer of powers and responsibilities will need to be matched with the corresponding transfer of funds and functionaries, so that Panchayats can perform their roles as institutions of self-government in the spirit of the 73rd Constitutional Amendment. The position in this regard varies from State to State.

(b) Details are enclosed as statement I, II and III.

(c) and (d) Since Panchayati Raj is essentially a

State subject, the Ministry has worked closely with States to develop and operationalise a national consensus on the measures to be taken to strengthen Panchayati Raj and ensure that Panchayats function as institutions of self-government as envisaged in Part IX of the Constitution. Such a consensus, arrived at through detailed consultations with States through seven Round Tables of State Ministers of Panchayati Raj held between July and December 2004, touches upon the effective devolution of functions, finances and functionaries, planning, empowerment of Gram, Sabhas, issues relating to reservation for SCs/STs, and women, elections, maintenance of accounts and audit, Panchayats vis-a-vis parallel bodies, capacity building and training of elected representatives, preparation of a State of the Panchayats Report and work on Panchayati Raj jurisprudence. The consensus decisions are reviewed through a host of consultations, review meetings and intensive tours to States and Panchayats. The Ministry of Panchayati Raj regularly assesses the ground realities regarding the devolution of powers and responsibilities upon Panchayats through the institutional mechanism of meetings of the Council of State Ministers of Panchayati Raj, the Committee of Chief Secretaries of States and Panchayati Raj Secretaries and the Empowered Sub-Committee of National Development Council on Administrative and Financial Empowerment of PRIs. State-specific road maps for devolution of powers and responsibilities to Panchayats have been arrived at following intensive tours by the Union Minister of Panchayati Raj, in respect of twenty two States and Union Territories. This road map, contained in a Statement of Conclusions jointly signed with the Chief Minister of the State concerned, highlights the key points of action on which the State would move to operationalise the recommendations of the Round Tables with a special focus on devolution of funds, functions and functionaries to Panchayats.

In 2006-07, the Ministry of Panchayati Raj undertook a Mid-term Review and Appraisal of the State of the Panchayats based on information sourced from State Governments/UT Administrations in fulfillment of the commitment made by the Ministry at the Fourth Round Table of Panchayati Raj Ministers held in Srinagar in

October 2004. This Report was tabled in both Houses on 23 November, 2006 and debated in the Lok Sabha in December, 2006.

During 2007-08, the Ministry has entrusted to the Institute of Rural Management, Anand the task of undertaking an independent assessment of the State of Panchayati Raj in States and UTs, which would, inter-alia, contain independent assessments of States in respect of the scope and ambit of empowerment of Panchayats. The Ministry of Panchayati Raj has also commissioned studies by independent agencies on the role and functioning of Panchayats. Three final and two draft reports have been received. These are being examined. The independent Evaluation is likely to be tabled in both Houses during the second half of the current Budget Session.

State laws express the mandate on the functions and activities devolved to the Panchayats in different modes. They might contain elaborate provisions laying out the details of functions assigned to Panchayats, or undertake it through a schedule to the State law, or through a combination of both approaches. This causes some element of non-standardization in the reporting of the devolution of functions by States. While some tend to report a high range of devolution, by counting individual activities assigned under law separately as 'subjects' devolved, others tend to give reports in terms of 'departments' devolved.

It is a common experience that legislative devolution by States often remains on paper and needs to be followed

up with executive orders, which not only mandate the devolution of functions but also devolves requisite finances and place functionaries with the Panchayats for effective performance of the devolved functions. For instance a 'function' may be devolved through the law and activities through activity mapping, which together, on the face of it, may put in place a measure of accountability of the department employees concerned to Panchayats. However, because of no changes being made in long established codes prescribing technical standards and approval processes (such as the PWD code), circulars, OMs, transfer orders etc., implementation might still *defacto* continue to vest with line Departments concerned. It is therefore important, both from a point of view of conceptual clarity as also to permit comparisons between States, to maintain the distinction between 'activities', 'subjects' and 'departments' when analyzing functional devolution. Consequently, the Ministry of Panchayati Raj, in parallel with the preparation of the 'State of the Panchayats Report – an independent assessment', has commenced undertaking a nuanced and critical analysis of functional devolution to Panchayats in States, which is considering all these aspects in detail. This process has been completed for Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal. Comments of States to these detailed assessments are being obtained.

The Ministry has also conceived of a Panchayat Empowerment and Accountability Incentive Scheme, which aims to provide incentives to States to empower Panchayats through the devolution of functions, funds and functionaries.

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*Devolution of Functions*

Sl. No.	State	Transfer of Subjects through Legislation	Subjects Covered under Activity Mapping	Comments
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	17	9	Activity Mapping is under finalisation.



1	2	3	4	5
2.	Assam	29	22.	Activity Mapping has been completed.
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	—	3	Activity Mapping not done.
4.	Bihar	25	25	Committee looking at activity mapping.
5.	Chhattisgarh	29	27	Activity Mapping under preparation, yet to be notified.
6.	Goa	21	18	The Act itself extensively lists out the powers given to the Panchayats. In a sense, this itself constitutes activity mapping, though a separate exercise is also under way.
7.	Gujarat	15	14	Activity Mapping being worked out, but not completed and notified.
8.	Haryana	Zila Panchayat- only advisory, supervision and coordination powers Intermediate Panchayat-27 Gram Panchayat-25	28	In February 2006, detailed activity mapping was issued for 28 subjects. However, the extent of devolution on ground needs to be ascertained. A study by an NGO across 5 districts showed that PRIs were not aware of the activities assigned to them.
9.	Himachal Pradesh	29	26	General notification on devolution of functions issued for 15 departments in July, 1996. However, only 8 of these have further issued notifications.
10.	Jharkhand	No elections held to Panchayats		
11.	Karnataka	Zila Panchayat-26 Intermediate Panchayat-27 Gram Panchayat-25	29	Activity Mapping completed in accordance with the recommendations of the GOI task force, in August 2003.
12.	Kerala	26	26	Responsibility mapping undertaken is now being revisited, 18 departments are covered.
13.	Madhya Pradesh	Zila Panchayat-7 Intermediate Panchayat-17 Gram Panchayat-8	25	18 matters have been devolved to Gram Sabhas. Executive orders have been issued for 25 matters. The State is revisiting activity mapping. Funds and functionaries have been devolved for 19 matters.

1	2	3	4	5
14.	Maharashtra	18	18	Activities devolved to Panchayats are listed in the Act itself.
15.	Manipur	22	22	So far only departments of RD&PR, C&I, Fisheries and Art and culture have issued departmental notifications for devolving funds and functionaries to Panchayats.
16.	Orissa	Zila Panchayat-16 Intermediate Panchayat-5 Gram Panchayat-21	18	Activity Mapping document was issued in October 2005. Information on issue of orders by department concerned in post 2005 period is not available.
17.	Punjab	7	6	Devolution orders were issued in respect of 6 departments in October 2003. Now activity mapping has been completed for 29 matters and awaits government approval.
18.	Rajasthan	Zila Panchayat-22 Intermediate Panchayat-25 Gram Panchayat-26	28	Executive Orders have been issued between 2001 and 2003 for 28 Subjects, however, these have been held in abeyance for one subject, i.e., roads, culverts, bridges waterways and other means of communication. The State Government has revisited the issue and has finalized its report on activity mapping. A final decision is awaited. A study has been commissioned by Ministry of Panchayati Raj on the status of financial assignment to Panchayats.
19.	Sikkim	Zila Panchayat-15 Gram Panchayat-18	18	Activity mapping completed and notified by the Government in November, 2006. Executive orders have been issued for all 29 matters, a number of them for promotional activities.
20.	Tamil Nadu	29	—	Activity Mapping to be undertaken. A high level committee under Chairpersonship of the Minister for Rural Development and local administration set up.

1	2	3	4	5
21.	Tripura	29	21	Government orders devolving functions to Panchayats ready for 12 departments
22.	Uttar Pradesh	12		Functions relating to 12 departments have been transferred to Panchayats. Activity mapping is still under the consideration of the Government
23.	Uttarakhand	14	9	Activity mapping was issued in September 2006, but departments have not issued their notifications yet.
24.	West Bengal	Zila Panchayat-18 Intermediate Panchayat-29 Gram Panchayat-28	28	18 matters have been devolved to Gram Sabhas. Activity mapping completed in November 2005.

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*Status of devolution of functionaries as reported by different States*

Sl.No.	State	Devolution of Functionaries
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	Only General staff given, departmental staff answer to department.
2.	Assam	Activity Mapping Notification issued by the State provides for devolution of functionaries matching to the devolution of functions to Panchayats.
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	Only skeleton staff given.
4.	Bihar	Only General staff given, departmental staff answer to departments

1	2	3
5.	Chhattisgarh	Sahayak Gram Panchayat Adhikari, Gram Panchayat Adhikari, Clerical and Class IV of Education Tribal Health and 7-8 other departments declared as dying cadres and new recruitment to these cadres is undertaken directly by the Panchayats. Chhattisgarh has been particularly successful in recruitment of new Shiksha Karmis at the level of the Janpad Panchayats. More than 30,000 teachers have been so recruited into local level cadres.
6.	Goa	Village Panchayats can appoint employees other than Secretary, or Gram Sevak using Panchayat funds. In ZPs, CEO and Adhyaksha of ZP have full control over ZP staff.

1	2	3
7. Gujarat	2.2 lakh employees devolved to Panchayats, mainly on deputation from State govt. to Panchayat level post, covering 11 departments.	
8. Haryana	Activity mapping of Feb 2006 devolves staff through deemed deputation in respect of 3 departments.	
9. Himachal Pradesh	Staff is with State Govt. Panchayats are appointing authority for 6 types of employees of group C&D category. In addition, Panchayats can report on physical attendance in respect of 2 categories of people.	
10. Jharkhand	No elections held to Panchayats.	
11. Karnataka	Staff of all departments for which functional devolution undertaken, devolved to Panchayats on deputation. GPs can appoint Panchayat staff, except Panchayat secretary. All transfers within the district done by committee headed by CEO of ZP.	
12. Kerala	Staff of 14 departments transferred to Panchayats, with disciplinary control and career review (through CRs) transferred to them.	
13. Madhya Pradesh	All Class III villages level functionaries converted into dying	

1	2	3
		cadres and fresh recruitments undertaken by Panchayats. These include Panchayat Secretaries, primary school teachers, anganwadi workers etc.
14. Maharashtra		All Group III and IV Panchayat level functionaries to be appointed by Zila Panchayats. New amendment in 2003 brings all villages level officials under the Village Panchayats.
15. Manipur		Staff of the Government are posted to Panchayats and continue under the control and superintendence of the government.
16. Orissa		Officials of departments are to report to Panchayats in respect of transferred schemes. Panchayats do not make any appointments of their own.
17. Punjab		Seven departments propose to delegate powers of supervisions to Panchayats. In health department, the powers of outsourcing the running of PHCs has been devolved to Panchayats. Recently, in education department, powers of recruitment of teachers has been given to Panchayats.
18. Rajasthan		Officials of 8 departments placed with each Panchayat through deputation from government.

1	2	3
19. Sikkim	Staff on deputation from the Government. Panchayat secretary elected by the members. Draft Panchayati Raj service rules prepared by the State and is under examination by line departments.	
20. Tamil Nadu	At GP level, part-time clerks can be appointed by the Panchayat president. ZPs and Block Panchayats have no control over line department staff.	
21. Tripura	Staff in respect of 21 departments deputed to Panchayats from the government, with Panchayats exercising powers of payment of salaries, grant of leave, writing of CRs and disciplinary action	
22. Uttar Pradesh	GPs have power of verification of attendance of all villages level workers. Villages level functionaries of some departments were transferred to Gram Panchayats in 1929, but they were subsequently withdrawn.	
23. Uttarakhand	In January 2005, executive orders were issued transferring powers of seeking information and supervision over employees of 14 departments to Panchayats.	
24. West Bengal	EO of the ZP made appointing authority for all posts except group D posts at GP level, for which EO of Panchayat samiti is	

1	2	3
		the appointing authority. This has been done by the WB Panchayat amendment Act 2006. Each GP has 6 sanctioned posts.

10506W6R0ITTT

*Creation of Panchayat Sector in State Budgets*

Seven States, namely, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Rajasthan have provided for a separate Panchayat Sector component in their State budgets. In Goa separate demand heads have been created for 29 items. The Ministry of Panchayati Raj has entrusted three action research projects to undertake budgetary analysis of States of Uttar Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and Orissa so as to ascertain (a) the extent to which the State is assigning funds to Panchayats, (b) the Schemes and line items in the Budget, which ought to be assigned to the Panchayats in the States concerned, in accordance with the legislative assignment of functions and activity mapping in the State.

**Foreign Collaboration in Chandrayan-I Project**

\*103. SHRI AMITAVA NANDY :  
SHRI HARIBHAU RATHOD :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the project Chandrayan-I involves any foreign collaboration;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the details of financial implications thereof; and
- (d) the benefits likely to accrue to the country as a result of launching of Chandrayan-I?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN) : (a) No, Sir. However, out of the eleven scientific instruments to be carried in Chandrayaan-I spacecraft, six are by foreign scientists and institutions. The spacecraft, launch and the mission are implemented with indigenous capability.

(b) The details of the foreign scientific instruments are as follows:-

1. Moon Mineralogy mapper from JPL/NASA, USA: for mineral mapping.
2. Mini SAR from APL/NASA, USA : for mapping ice in Lunar poles.
3. SIR-2 from Max Plank Institute, Germany through ESA : for mineral mapping.
4. SARA - Combinedly developed by Sweden and Japan through ESA : for Chemical mapping and locating magnetic anomaly regions.
5. CIXS - from Rutherford Appleton Lab, UK through ESA Jointly with ISRO : for Chemical mapping.
6. RADOM from Bulgaria : for radiation monitoring.

(c) There is no financial implication. Each scientific experiment is financed by the respective Country/Organisation.

(d) Data from scientific instruments on board Chandrayaan-I will produce a detailed terrain map of lunar surface and mineral and chemical resources of the entire moon with high spatial and spectral resolution. This data base will enable scientific community to study further the evolution of moon and enthuse the young scientists to pursue scientific research on planetary exploration.

#### Setting up of Maritime Boards

\*105. SHRI K.J.S.P. REDDY : Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has set up Maritime Boards in various States of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof, alongwith the names of States where such Boards have been set up;

(c) the functions of Maritime Board and the sources of funding of these Boards; and

(d) the present status of such Boards in the country?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) to (d) Under the Indian Ports Act, 1908, responsibility for development of Non-Major Ports vests in the respective State Government. Maritime Boards are set up and funded by the Maritime State Governments for the development of Non-Major Ports and sectors related thereto. Out of the 9 Maritime States, 4 States viz, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal have so far set up the Maritime Boards.

#### Sankar Committee Report on Coal Sector Reforms

\*106. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Sankar Committee on Coal sector reforms has submitted its report to the Government;

(b) if so, the details of the main recommendations/suggestions made therein;

(c) the recommendations/suggestions which have since been accepted by the Government; and

(d) the steps being taken to implement them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO) : (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. The Expert Committee constituted by Ministry of Coal on Road Map for Coal Sector Reforms under the Chairmanship of Shri T.L. Sankar has submitted Part-I of the Report in December 2005 and Part-II in September 2007.

Action initiated by the government on some of the major recommendation is furnished below.

Sl.No.	Major Recommendations	Action Taken
1	2	3
1.	Augmenting domestic coal production to bridge the gap between demand and supply with emphasis on captive coal mining.	Government has allotted a number of new captive coal blocks, besides taking up a number of new coal projects under coal PSUs to augment coal production to bridge the gap between demand and supply.
2.	As coal shall remain India's primary source of commercial energy supply, a time-bound plan to cover the entire country by regional mapping in 15 years should be prepared by Geological Survey of India, Central Mine Planning and Design Institute and Ministry of Coal, Government of India.	An action Plan has been prepared to cover the balance coal bearing area of 5438 sq. km under regional exploration. It is envisaged to cover an area of 2791 sq. km during XI Plan and the balance there after.  Exploratory drilling capacity of CMPDIL is being doubled.
3.	Coal India Limited (CIL) may be granted the status of Navratna company and the subsidiaries of CIL may be granted the status of Mini Ratna companies in which case only those proposals of such a subsidiary would need government approval wherein the capital expenditure exceeds Rs. 500 crore.	Action already initiated for according Navaratna status to CIL and the proposal is under active consideration of government. Besides this, CIL and 5 of its subsidiary companies (South Eastern Coalfields Ltd.) Western Coalfields Ltd.; Mahanadi Coalfields Ltd.; Northern Coalfields Ltd.; and Central Coalfields Ltd. and Neyveli Lignite Corporation Ltd. have been accorded Miniratna Category-I status.
4.	The environmental issue in respect of coal projects should be taken up on priority consideration by the Government.	The government has issued new Environment notification on 14.9.2006 as per which the proposals of coal mining projects are being processed for environmental clearance.
5.	Planned imports of coal need to be encouraged.	Imports are planned by Power Sector every year in advance keeping in view the requirement.
6.	Increasing proportion of all domestic coal that is not earmarked for Power Sector be brought into the E-auction market over the next 2 to 3 years.	E-auction of coal has already been started.
7.	The current system of linkages feeding the power sector may be replaced with formal long term Fuel Supply and Transport Agreements that include the Railways.	The new coal distribution policy of Government provides for long term fuel supply and transport agreements that include railways.

1	2	3
8.	All possible legal measures should be evolved to cancel the licenses issued earlier if the allottee has not taken adequate steps to bring the allotted mines to production or in setting up the end use units.	On the basis of regular review of the progress of captive blocks, de-allocation of some coal blocks has been done. Regular monitoring is being done to review the progress periodically.
9.	Coal price would need to be regulated in light of the market realities. The regulation of coal price has to be differentiating the pricing of coal for power generation since it consumes 80% of the domestic production and the quality of coal it consumes is not easily saleable to the steel and cement sectors.	The issue of coal pricing is being looked into by a Committee of Planning Commission to evolve guiding principles to fix coal prices. The Committee is yet to submit the report.
10.	Promotion of underground mining.	Action has been initiated by CIL to enhance the level of production from underground mines from around 44 million tonnes achieved in 2006-07 to about 67 million tonnes by 2011-12 mainly by adopting mechanisation of operations, introduction of continuous miner technology and longwall technology.
11.	Improve production and productivity of men machinery with focus on technology up gradation.	Action has been initiated to improve productivity of heavy earth moving machinery (HEMM) in opencast mines mainly by increasing the number of hours of operation and awarding maintenance and repair contracts, streamlining the replacement of old equipment, and deployment of large size equipment. In underground mines, improvement in productivity is being addressed through mechanized coal loading adopting side discharge loaders, load haul dumpers, conveyor belts etc. and introduction of continuous miner technology and longwall technology wherever it is feasible. Shortwall technology on experimental basis has also been introduced. Adoption of Highwall technology is also envisaged in some of the opencast mines.
12.	Switch over to Gross Calorific Value (GCV) based pricing and grading of coal.	In view of the resistance for switching over to GCV based grading of coal by major consumers, it is proposed to first narrow down the existing bands of Useful Heat Value (UHV) based grades of coal.
13.	Promote coal washing.	Government has already taken policy decision to encourage use of washed coal by permitting private entrepreneurs to set up washeries on coal company's land.





Since malnutrition results from interrelated factors cutting across several sectors, the following are the initiatives under different ministries to address malnutrition.

(i) Ministry of Women and Child Development is implementing the following to improve the nutritional status of women and children:-

- Integrated Child Development Scheme.
- The Scheme has been expanded twice in the year 2005-06 and 2006-07 during the Tenth Five Year Plan.
- The Government has developed the financial norms for supplementary nutrition from Rs. 1 to/Rs. 2 per day per beneficiary.
- A central Monitoring Unit (CMU) has been set up at a National Institute of Public Cooperation and Child Development (NIPCCID) to monitor the scheme through independent profession organization, institution in each State / UT. This would be in addition to the monitoring mechanism in place at present.
- A National Level Monitoring Committee has also been constituted under the Chairpersonship of MOS (WCD) to oversee the entire functioning of the Scheme and to ensure that the services are delivered to the target groups in an effective manner and the objectives of the scheme are fulfilled within the overall frame work of the ICDS scheme.
- Constant emphasis on States to ensure regular supply of supplementary nutrition as per the schematic norms.
- National Programme for Nutritional Support to Primary Education (Mid Day Meal

Scheme) [Department of School Education and Literacy].

- Nutrition Programme for Adolescent Girls in 51 districts to provide free foodgrains to undernourished adolescent girls and pregnant and nursing mother.
- Nutrition Education and Training Programmes of Food and Nutrition Board.

(ii) Ministry of Health and Family Welfare in order to effectively control the health sector component of malnutrition, the Ministry under its Reproductive and Child Health II is implementing the following.

- (i) Infant and young Child feeding components of:—
- Early initiation of breast feeding preferably within the first hour of delivery.
  - Exclusive breast feeding till six months.
  - Timely complementary feeding and continued breast feeding till the age of 2 years. Breastfeeding is the single most preventive intervention for child survival.
- (ii) Micronutrient supplementation:- Vit A, Iron and folic Acid and Zinc.

The National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) envisages a holistic approach to health care particularly aimed at reaching the poor and marginalized. The success of NRHM is substantially dependent on effective inter-sectoral coordination and convergence. They include the following:

- To promote synergy between health and non health determinants such as nutrition, safe water, sanitation, road linkages to health facilities, and primary school education;
- To promote efforts aimed at women's empowerment; and
- To achieve the objectives of the NRHM through community involvement and Panchayati Raj Institutions and Municipal Bodies.

The Ministry as part of its 'systems strengthening' is implementing the Indian Public Health Standards (IPHS) defining personnel, equipment and management standards for strengthening of existing Sub Centres, Primary Health Centres, and Community Health Centres, for improved primary health care through out the country. IPHS would ensure acceptable standards for quality health care.

Besides the above the Ministry of Health is in the process of drafting 'The National Urban Health Mission' which proposes to address the health concerns of the urban poor through facilitating equitable access to available health facilities by rationalizing and strengthening of the existing capacity of health delivery for improving the health status of the urban poor. The available gaps are planned to be filled up by partnership with non government providers. This will be done in a manner to ensure well identified facilities are set up for each segment of target population which can be accessed as a matter of right.

[Translation]

#### Assistance for Sports Facilities

\*113. SHRI AJIT JOGI : Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the assistance being given to the States through centrally sponsored sports infrastructure schemes for the creation of sports facilities;

(b) whether State Government are hesitating to invest in costly sports infrastructure development projects;

(c) if so, whether the Government proposes any alternative scheme for the purpose;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ, MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR) : (a) Upto 31.3.2005 the Ministry was supplementing the efforts of the State Governments for the creation of modern sports facilities by rendering central assistance in accordance with the approved pattern under the centrally sponsored sports infrastructure schemes subject to receipt of viable proposals from the State Government/Municipalities/Non-Governmental Organizations/Universities and Colleges/Schools etc. These schemes were transferred to the State sector w.e.f. 1.4.2005 and only committed liabilities were being considered upto 13-3-2007 as per the relaxation given by the Planning Commission. The details of State-wise release of funds for the creation of modern sports infrastructure during the Tenth Five Year Plan is enclosed as Statement-I and II.

(b) This varies from State to State but, in general investment in sports and sports infrastructure has been inadequate. While it is the responsibility of State Governments to invest in major sports infrastructure, the Central Government has been providing financial assistance in the form of Additional Central Assistance to State Plans to host major national and international sports events. The details of such assistance provided under State Plans to various States in recent years is given below:-

Sl. No.	Name of the event	Assistance released by the Planning Commission under State Plan (Rs. in Crores)
1	2	3
1.	National Games at Guwahati held in February, 2007	40.51

1	2	3
2.	National Games to be held at Ranchi (Jharkhand) in 2008	67.00
3.	1st SAF Winter Games to be held in Uttarakhand in 2009.	50.00

(c) to (e) The proposed Panchayat Yuva Krida-Khel Abhiyan and the draft National Comprehensive Sports Policy are designed to address this issue.

**Statement-I**

*State-wise details of Central assistance released under the Scheme of Grants for Creation of Sports Infrastructure from 2002-2003 to 2006-2007 (As on 31.3.2007)*

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl. No.	State/UT	2002-2003		2003-2004		2004-2005		2005-2006		2006-2007	
		Amount released	No. of projects	Amount released	No. of projects	Amount released	No. of projects	Amount released	No. of projects	Amount released	No. of projects
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
1.	Andhra Pradesh	13.74	1	464.52	14	123.75	7	45.00	1	84.82	6
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	156.44	6	191.00	5	27.00	1	71.00	1	480.00	5
3.	Assam	73.50	3	17	2	188.09	8	7.00	1	183.00	4
4.	Bihar	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0.00	0	0.00	0
5.	Delhi	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0.00	0	0.00	0
6.	Goa	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0.00	0	0.00	0
7.	Gujarat	0.00	0	0	0	65.00	2	0.00	0	45.00	1

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
8.	Haryana	1.20	1	40.17	2	118.13	16	32.80	4	47.8065	6
9.	Himachal Pradesh	6.61	3	100.21	8	118.63	10	0.00	0	93.135	8
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	5.02	5	26.82	18	22.50	1	0.00	0	0.00	0
11.	Karnataka	82.20	14	58.7	8	101.3	9	0.00	0	42.60	2
12.	Kerala	0.124	1	13.01	4	1.50	1	0.00	0	8.44	2
13.	Madhya Pradesh	62.40	4	152.27	13	115.40	6	18.00	1	219.265	11
14.	Maharashtra	165.00	7	238.43	13	169.04	9	45.08	2	419.23	10
15.	Manipur	62.50	5	0	0	22.50	3	0.00	0	92.838	6
16.	Meghalaya	0.00	0	100.11	5	234.55	5	0.00	0	0.00	0
17.	Mizoram	57.75	11	136.32	21	30.00	1	59.59	1	0.00	0
18.	Nagaland	194.00	8	962.46	21	115.98	12	45.00	1	1041.01	9
19.	Orissa	15.50	2	0.05	1	0.75	1	0.00	0	10.75	2
20.	Punjab	10.00	1	45.00	1	0	0	0.00	0	0.00	0
21.	Rajasthan	10.71	2	25.00	2	8.72	1	23.00	1	46.293	3
22.	Sikkim	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0.00	0	0.00	0
23.	Tamil Nadu	97.011	8	170.36	22	81.154	13	50.52	2	195.2	9
24.	Tripura	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0.00	0	0.00	0
25.	Uttar Pradesh	16.29	1	46.94	3	69.23	6	83.30	4	68.015	6
26.	West Bengal	28.00	2	20.07	15	49.70	4	0.00	0	0.00	0
27.	Chhattisgarh	0	0	78.50	4	0	0	0.00	0	0.00	0
28.	Jharkhand	0	0	0	0	30.00	1	0.00	0	0.00	0

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
29.	Uttaranchal	0	0	0	0	94.80	5	0.00	0	0.00	0
30.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0.00	0	0.00	0
31.	Chandigarh	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0.00	0	0.00	0
32.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0.00	0	0.00	0
33.	Daman and Diu	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0.00	0	0.00	0
34.	Pondicherry	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0.00	0	0.00	0
35.	Lakshadweep	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0.00	0	0.00	0
Total		1057.99	85	2906.98	182	1787.99	122	480.00	19	3077.4025	90

**Statement-II**

*State-wise details of central assistance released under the Scheme of Grants for Installation of Synthetic Surfaces 2002-2003 to 2006-2007 (As on 31.3.2007)*

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl. No.	State/UT	2002-2003		2003-2004		2004-2005		2005-2006		2006-2007	
		Amount released	No. of projects	Amount released	No. of projects	Amount released	No. of projects	Amount released	No. of projects	Amount released	No. of projects
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
1.	Andhra Pradesh	100.00	1	0.00	0	20.00	1	0.00	0	0.00	0
2.	Haryana	0.00	0	30.00	1	0.00	0	0.00	0	40.00	1
3.	Himachal Pradesh	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0
4.	Jammu and Kashmir	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
5.	Karnataka	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0
6.	Madhya Pradesh	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	100.00	1
7.	Maharashtra	0.00	0	50.00	1	15.00	1	0.00	0	0.00	0
8.	Manipur	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0
9.	Orissa	0.00	0	0.00	0	50.00	1	0.00	0	50.00	1
10.	Punjab	20.67	1	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0
11.	Tamil Nadu	0.00	0	0.00	0	65.00	1	0.00	0	0.00	0
12.	Uttar Pradesh	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	150.00	3	0.00	0
13.	West Bengal	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0
14.	Delhi	0.00	0	20.00	1	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0
15.	Chandigarh	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0
16.	Jharkhand	0.00	0	100.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0
Total		120.67	2	200.00	4	150	4	150.00	3	190	3

[English]

**Joint Venture by Coal India Limited**

\*114. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Coal India Limited proposes to set up a Joint Venture Company using coal-to-liquids technology; and

(b) if so, the details thereof including techno-economic effectiveness of the venture?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise in view of the reply given to part (a) above.

**Proposals for New Course of  
Emergency Care**

\*115. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to start a new course pertaining to emergency care in several medical colleges/hospitals in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which such courses will be introduced?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS) : (a) to (c) The Central Government, on the recommendations of Medical Council of India, has approved for amendment of the Medical Council of India Post Graduate Medical Education Regulations, 2000 for permitting to start M.D. (Emergency Medicine) course in the medical colleges/institutions in the country. On receipt of requisite proposals from the medical institutions for starting the said course, the Government, in consultation with Medical Council of India, would take appropriate decisions.

#### Evaluation of Developmental Schemes

\*116. SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Planning Commission proposes to have a new evaluation method and mechanism to effectively monitor and implement various developmental schemes during the Eleventh Five Year Plan Period; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN) : (a) and (b) Government has been undertaking evaluation of schemes/programmes implemented across sectors to assess the impact of these projects/schemes as well as to derive lessons for improvement in programme design. Over the years, public investment in social sector programmes has increased substantially. The Eleventh Plan has allocated a large share of Budgetary Support to programmes in Education, Health, Agriculture, programmes for weaker sections and programmes for creation of infrastructure, especially in rural areas. A major concern is the quality of programme implementation. In this regard, it is to be stated that Planning Commission is making continuous efforts to improve quality of public expenditure in key result areas and enable its proper monitoring. In the context of

evaluation emphasis has shifted from traditional implementation based approach to output and outcome oriented approach.

The Programme Evaluation Organisation (PEO) of the Planning Commission undertakes evaluation designed to assess the performance of implementation, effectiveness of the delivery systems and impact of programmes/schemes. These studies are diagnostic in nature and identify factors contributing to success and/or failures of various programmes and derive lessons for improving the performance of schemes through mid-course corrections and better design for future programmes. It is proposed to upgrade the capacity of the Programme Evaluation Organisation (PEO) in Planning Commission to meet the increased evaluation requirement of the Government. Emphasis would also be given on networking with evaluation capacity that exists outside government so that robust evaluation findings can be generated. Quality evaluation of various programmes and projects would not only bring improvement in public sector performance but would also address a broad range of issues relating to economy, efficiency, sustainability and relevance of public sector funding and development intervention.

#### Subsidy to Ship Building Industry

\*117. SHRI HARIN PATHAK : Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the norms/criteria fixed for grant of subsidy to ship building industry in the country;

(b) the details of the subsidy granted to various shipyards during the Tenth Five Year Plan, shipyard-wise;

(c) the details of proposals pending with the Government for grant of subsidy and the reasons therefor;

(d) whether there is any proposal to discontinue the grant of subsidy to ship building industry in the country; and



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

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) The Shipbuilding Subsidy Scheme extended on 25th October, 2002 by the Government to all the shipyards, including private sector shipyards, expired on 14th August, 2007. The salient features of the expired scheme notified vide letter No. SY-12025/3/98-SBR dated 25th October, 2002 and guidelines issued vide letter No. SY-12025/3/98-SBR dated 7th March, 2003 are given in Statement-I enclosed.

(b) The details of subsidy granted to various shipyards during the Tenth Plan are given in Statement-II enclosed.

(c) About 35 cases containing Shipbuilding subsidy applications from Central PSU, non-Central PSU and Private Sector Shipyards, for grant of in principle approval for Shipbuilding subsidy are pending. In principle approval could not be granted by the Ministry before the expiry of the scheme for the above mentioned cases due to necessary clarifications, lack of sufficient supporting documents, late response of the Shipyards etc. As per the guidelines, private sector shipyards are eligible for grant of subsidy only after delivery of the vessel, details whereof are to be provided by the Shipyards.

(d) and (e) Proposal for revival of the shipbuilding subsidy scheme is under consideration.

#### **Statement-I**

##### ***The Salient Features of Expired Shipbuilding Subsidy Scheme***

#### **1. Shipbuilding subsidy on domestic order**

Shipbuilding Subsidy of 30% on domestic order is admissible subject to the following conditions:-

- (i) Shipbuilding Subsidy will be payable for domestic orders obtained on global tender basis only.

(ii) Subsidy will be payable only for Ocean going vessel as defined in Section 3(41) of Merchant Shipping Act, 1958. The vessel would be a merchant vessel of minimum 80 metres in length.

(iii) Subsidy will be calculated on the price at which the Indian Shipyard has won a global tender. Fixation of price for domestic order will be in terms of relevant foreign currency and payment at each stage will be made in instalments to the Central and non-Central Public Sector Shipyards at market determined parity rate of foreign exchange prevailing on the date of actual payment. Release of subsidy will be as per stage payments agreed in the contract. Subsidy will be payable on the price at which the tender was won and will not take into account any subsequent escalation. In the case of private sector shipyards, the principle followed will be the same except that the subsidy will be released only after delivery of the vessel.

#### **2. Shipbuilding Subsidy on Export Order**

Shipbuilding subsidy of 30% on export order under the scheme would be admissible on each export order irrespective of type and size of vessel. It will be admissible for orders obtained whether on tender or negotiated basis and it would be admissible subject to the following conditions:-

- (i) Subsidy will be calculated on the price at which the Indian Shipyard has won a global tender.
- (ii) Where the price of the vessel is negotiated, the reasonableness of price would be determined by the Director General (Shipping), Mumbai, according to the procedure laid down in paragraph 2 of Guidelines hereunder. The subsidy would be admissible on the contracted price or the price as certified to be reasonable, whichever is less.

3. In principle approval regarding eligibility of shipbuilding subsidy has to be obtained by Shipyards from the Ministry before claiming subsidy. Defence in case of Defence Yards and Ministry of Shipping in case of other Indian Yards) shall release the subsidy to the Shipyard concerned.
4. Subject to availability of budget provision and satisfying the conditions laid down in the subsidy scheme, the administrative Ministry (Ministry of
5. The Scheme was valid till 14th August, 2007 from the date of notification.

**Statement-II**

*Subsidy granted to various Shipyards during the Tenth Plan*

(Rupees in Crores)

Name of Shipyard	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
Hindustan Shipyard Limited	—	—	—	50.53	40.52
Cochin Shipyard Limited	25.37	10.00	15.00	51.00	70.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>25.37</b>	<b>10.00</b>	<b>15.00</b>	<b>101.53</b>	<b>110.52</b>

[Translation]

**Empowerment of Panchayat Representatives**

\*118. SHRI HEMMAL MURMU :

SHRI RAGHURAJ SINGH SHAKYA :

Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has undertaken various programmes like empowerment of panchayats, training of Panchayat representatives especially women representatives in e-governance etc. in various States of the country, especially in Bihar;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the funds allocated for the purpose, State-wise; and

(d) the details of steps taken by the Government in each State especially in Jharkhand and Bihar as on date?

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 Panchayati Raj has been implementing the Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Yojana for imparting training, including training for e-governance, to Elected Representatives and Functionaries of Panchayati Raj Institutions, including women. Similarly, under the component of Capacity Building of the Backward Regions Grant Fund (BRGF) programme, assistance @ Rs.1.00 crore is provided for Capacity Building and Training to each District covered under the BRGF programme. These programmes are implemented in all States covered under Part IX of the Constitution including Bihar.

(c) There is no specific allocation made for each State under Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Yojana. Funds are released to the States on the basis of proposals received from them. However, priority is given to States who have

conducted elections to Panchayati Raj Institutions during the year. Under BRGF, each district is provided Rs.1.00 crore per annum for capacity building of Panchayats and Urban Local Bodies (ULBs). The State-wise fund released under the training component of Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Yojana and BRGF is given in the Statement-I and II below.

**Statement-I**

**Release of funds under Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Yojana (2006-07)**

Sl.No.	State	Amount (Rs. in lakh)
1.	Andhra Pradesh	400.00
2.	Assam	77.60
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	47.57
4.	Bihar	439.00
5.	Haryana	189.00
6.	Himachal Pradesh	79.50
7.	Kerala	44.00
8.	Karnataka	182.00
9.	Madhya Pradesh	62.50
10.	Sikkim	41.33
11.	Tripura	45.00
12.	Uttar Pradesh	899.80
13.	West Bengal	100.00
14.	Lakshadweep	12.72
15.	Puducherry	3.00
<b>Total</b>		<b>2623.02</b>

**Statement-II**

**Releases of Capacity Building Grant under BRGF in 2006-07 and 2007-08**

Sl. No.	State	Districts	Amount released in 2006-07 (Rs. in lakhs)	Amount released in 2007-08 (Rs. in lakh)
1.	Andhra Pradesh	13	1300.00	1300.00
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	1	50.00	—
3.	Assam	11	912.00	—
4.	Bihar	36	1446.00	—
5.	Chhattisgarh	13	910.00	—
6.	Himachal Pradesh	2	—	200.00
7.	Karnataka	5	—	1000.00
8.	Kerala	2	—	200.00
9.	Madhya Pradesh	24	1496.00	2400.00
10.	Maharashtra	12	619.00	—
11.	Orissa	19	—	1900.00
12.	Rajasthan	12	787.00	—
13.	Sikkim	1	95.00	—
14.	Uttar Pradesh	34	—	2530.00
15.	West Bengal	11	1050.00	—
16.	Jharkhand	21	—	2100.00
<b>Total</b>			<b>8665.00</b>	<b>11630.00</b>

(d) During 2006-07, the financial assistance amounting to Rs. 439.00 lakh was provided to the Government of Bihar under the Training and Capacity Building Component of the Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Yojana but no funds could be provided to the State of Jharkhand for training of functionaries because Panchayat elections have not been held in that State.

During 2006-07, Rs. 1446.00 lakh have been granted to Bihar and during 2007-08 Rs. 2100.00 lakh have been granted to Jharkhand towards capacity building under the BRGF programme.

[English]

**Access to Information under  
RTI Act**

\*119. SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH :  
SHRI NAVEEN JINDAL :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether according to the study conducted by the Society of Participatory Research in Asia, the ordinary Indians do not have an easy/smooth access to information under RTI Act as reported in the *Indian Express* dated January 30, 2008;

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

(c) whether the Government offices are refusing to accept applications under the RTI Act from rural people;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action taken/proposed to be taken to stop such harassment to the applicants from rural areas?

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) According to a study conducted by the Society of Participatory Research in Asia in the States of Andhra

Pradesh, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand, the rural masses have largely not been able to use the RTI Act due to poor awareness.

(c) to (e) The Right to Information Act contains adequate provisions for remedial action in case there is violation of provisions of RTI Act. Any complaint of refusal to accept applications under the RTI Act by any office can be dealt accordingly.

**Teaching of Naturopathy and  
Yogic Therapy**

\*120. SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of recognized colleges imparting education in Naturopathy and Yogic therapy in the country and the amount of grants disbursed to them during the last three years, year-wise and institute-wise; and

(b) the steps taken to standardize the education of Naturopathy and Yogic therapy in these colleges?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS) : (a) There are 11 recognized colleges imparting education in Naturopathy and Yogic Therapy in the country. These Colleges offer degree course in Bachelor of Naturopathy and Yogic Sciences (BNYS). List of these colleges is enclosed Statement-I.

These 11 Colleges are affiliated to 5 Universities as mentioned hereunder:-

- (i) Dr. NTR University of Health Sciences, Gunadala, Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh;
- (ii) Pt. Ravishankar Shukla University, Amanaka G.E. Road, Raipur, Chhattisgarh;
- (iii) Gujarat Ayurveda University, Administrative Bhavan, Jamnagar, Gujarat;

- (iv) Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences, 4th 'T' Block, Jayanagar, Bangalore, Karnataka; and
- (v) The Tamil Nadu Dr. M.G.R., Medical University, 69, Anna Salai Guindy, Chennai, Tamil Nadu.

A total grant of Rs. 144.00 lakhs has been provided during the last 3 years by the Department of AYUSH, Government of India, under Renovation and Under Graduate (UG) components of the Centrally Sponsored Scheme "Development of AYUSH Institutions". Detailed disbursement, year-wise and institute-wise is given in the Statement-II enclosed. In addition, a sum of

Rs. 3.44 lakhs has been released during the last 3 years by the Department of AYUSH under Re-Orientation Training Programme (ROTP) and Continuing Medical Education (CME) component of the Centrally Sponsored Scheme "Development of AYUSH Institutions". Detailed disbursement, year-wise and institute-wise is given in the Statement-III enclosed.

(b) Formulation of syllabi/curricula comes under the purview of the concerned Universities. The concerned Universities have framed suitable syllabi/curricula for the BNYS course. In view of above, no further steps appear to be necessary in this regard.

#### Statement-I

#### List of Colleges Affiliated to University Conducting Graduate and Undergraduate Courses in Yoga and Naturopathy

Sl. No.	Name of the College	University Affiliated Govt. Recognition	Admission Capacity	Estd.
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Govt. Naturopathic Medical College, Ameerpet, Hyderabad-500016 (Andhra Pradesh)	N.T.R. University of Health Sciences, Jijayawada, Andhra Pradesh. Govt. of Andhra Pradesh	30	1970
2.	S.D.M. College of Naturopathy and Yogic Sciences, Ujire-574240 (DK) Karnataka	Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences, Bangalore, Govt. of Karnataka	60	1989
3.	JSS Institute of Naturopathy and Yogic Sciences, Mysore Road, Ootacamund-643001 (Tamil Nadu)	The Tamil Nadu Dr. M.G.R. Medical University, Chennai Govt. of Tamil Nadu	60	1997
4.	Shivaraj Naturopathy and Yoga Medical College, Siddhar Kovil Road, Thumbathulipatty, Salem-636307	The Tamil Nadu Dr. M.G.R. Medical Chennai, Govt. of Tamil Nadu	40	1997

1	2	3	4	5
5.	Govt. Naturopathy and Yoga Medical College and Hospital, Anna Govt. Hospital of Indian Medicine Anna Nagar, Chennai-600106	The Tamil Nadu Dr. M.G.R. Medical Chennai, Govt. of Tamil Nadu	20	2001
6.	S.R.K. Medical College of Naturopathy and Yogic Sciences, Kulasedharam-629161, Tamil Nadu	The Tamil Nadu Dr. M.G.R. Medical Chennai, Govt. of Tamil Nadu	40	2002
7.	Mahavir College of Naturopathy and Yogic Sciences, Pagnura Dist., Durg-491001, Chhattisgarh.	Pt. Ravi Shankar University, Raipur, Govt. of Chhattisgarh.	40	2002
8.	Alvas College of Naturopathy and Yogic Sciences, Moodbidri-574227 (DK), Karnataka	Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences, Bangalore, Govt. of Karnataka	25	2003
9.	K.L.E.S. College of Naturopathy and Yogic Sciences, Shahapur, Belgaum-590003, Karnataka	Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences, Bangalore, Govt. of Karnataka	25	2004
10.	Morarji Desai National Institute of Naturopathy and Yoga, Vadodara-390022, Gujarat	Gujarat Ayurveda University, Jamnagar Govt. of Gujarat	50	2005
11.	Govt. Nature Cure & Yoga College PKTR Hospital, KRS Road Mysore-570002.	RG University of Health Sciences, Bangalore Govt. of Karnataka	25	2006

**Statement-II**

*Grants released to Yoga and Naturopathy Colleges under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme "Development of AYUSH Institutions" during the last three years i.e. 2004-05 to 2006-07*

Sl. No.	Name of College/Institution	Name of State	Name of Sub-Scheme	Amount Sanctioned (Rs. in lakhs)	Financial Year
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	—	—	—	Nil	2004.05

1	2	3	4	5	6
2.	Gandhi Naturopathic Medical College, Begampet, Hyderabad	Andhra Pradesh	UG	62.00	2005.06
3.	Gandhi Naturopathic Medical College, Begampet, Hyderabad	Andhra Pradesh	Renovation	20.00	2006.07
4.	Government Yoga and Naturopathy Medical College, Chennai	Tamil Nadu	UG	62.00	2006.07
Total				144.00	

**Statement-III**

*Grants released to Yoga and Naturopathy Colleges under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme "Development of AYUSH Institutions" during the last three years i.e. 2004-05 to 2006-07*

Sl. No.	Name of College/Institution	Name of State	Name of Sub-Scheme	Amount Sanctioned (Rs. in lakhs)	Financial Year
1.	—	—	—	Nil	2004.05
2.	Government Yoga and Naturopathy College, Chennai	Tamil Nadu	ROTP/CME	0.97	2005.06
3.	Gandhi Naturopathic Medical College, Begampet, Hyderabad	Andhra Pradesh	ROTP/CME	1.50	2006.07
4.	Gandhi Naturopathy Medical College, Begampet, Hyderabad	Andhra Pradesh	ROTP/CME	0.97	2006.07
Total				3.44	

**Memorandum of Understanding with  
M/O Commerce and Industry**

972. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL :

SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA :  
SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO :

Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to  
state:

(a) whether the Ministry of Panchayati Raj has signed any memorandum with the Ministry of Commerce and Industry for exporting products manufactured by the rural industries as published in the *Hindu* dated February 21, 2008;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the number of rural industries set up/proposed to be set up across 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) No, Sir. While, the Ministry of Panchayati Raj has not signed any memorandum with the Ministry of Commerce and Industry as published in *The Hindu* dated February 21, 2008, the Ministry of Panchayati Raj has signed a Memorandum of Cooperation (MOC) with the Export and Import Bank of India (EXIM Bank) on 20 February, 2008 at Nagapattinam in the joint presence of Union Minister of Panchayati Raj and the Union Minister of State for Commerce. The MOC aims at enhancing the export promoting activities of the Ministry of Panchayati Raj through the Rural Business Hubs (RBH) initiative by linking it with EXIM Bank's initiatives in supporting exports from rural India through mutual cooperation on the following activities:—

- (i) Facilitating identification of suitable exporters, especially in the SME sector, willing to organize their decentralized production activities in rural areas;
- (ii) Fostering a mutually beneficial business relation between such exporters and rural producers, availing of the support and facilitation of Panchayats;
- (iii) Providing fee-based consultancy/advisory services by EXIM BANK to respective local/state bodies on the preparation of business plans for the formation of RBHs;
- (iv) Facilitating wider visibility and promotion of identified products of RBHs in international

markets on best effort basis and on mutually agreeable terms and conditions through, inter alia, linking these products to EXIM BANK's rural portal any by displaying such products at the overseas offices of EXIM BANK;

- (v) EXIM BANK, through its network, will help identify products that could be marketed internationally;
- (vi) Assisting companies evincing interest in the RBH concept in undertaking feasibility studies on the prospects of new RBHs;
- (vii) Familiarizing select RBHs with the process of obtaining Ethical Trading, Fair Trade, Organic certification and Social Audit (SA 2000); and
- (viii) Organizing joint workshops, training programmes, seminars, technical sessions and meetings where officials of both organizations and representatives of leading international trade promotional organizations from select countries can participate as faculty/participants;

The fees and expenses, if any, incurred in connection with this MOC shall be paid by the respective parties or shared among them as the case may be.

(c) The role of the Ministry of Panchayati Raj is focused on facilitating but not itself setting up rural industries in the Panchayati-Public-Private-Partnership mode across the country. RBH is an initiative aimed at linking primary production in rural areas to value-addition through industrial processing, that is, promoting inclusive growth through inclusive governance by involving local institutions of representative self government. The initiative follows an integrated approach based on the resource endowments of the area, felt needs of the people and relative absorptive capacity that needs differentiated responses. Through the RBHs, the Ministry of Panchayati Raj is thus attempting to develop and promote Public-Private-Panchayat Partnership wherein the Panchayats will facilitate convergence of extant schemes of State and Central Government, together with initiatives of Panchayats,



financial institutions and promotional bodies. This will help develop a holistic and integrated partnership between decentralized rural production units and larger corporate entities.

The Ministry proposes to help the Panchayats and State Governments to set up at least one RBH in each of the Backward Region Grants Fund districts of the country during the XI Five Year Plan. To identify, develop and refine models for this, an RBH Central Sector Scheme for piloting the RBHs is under way. The Scheme has an approved outlay of Rs. 24.90 crore for the XI Five Year Plan with Rs. 2 crore allocated for the financial year 2007-08. The Ministry proposes to support 25 projects during the current financial year.

To set up RBHs, till date 110 MoUs have been signed across 10 States in such diverse fields as food processing, jatropha plantation, carpet weaving, handicrafts, stone carving, etc. These MoUs are at different stages of implementation.

#### **Proposal for Setting up a Drug Discovery Project**

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

(a) whether the Government proposes to set up a Drug Discovery Project and launch a drug discovery programme by engaging researchers, corporates and health experts for treatment of various diseases; 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) The Pharmaceutical Research and Development Committee (PRDC) was set up under the chairmanship of Dr. R.A. Mashelkar, DG, CSIR to study and identify the measures needed to strengthen R&D base of the Indian pharmaceutical industry. As recommended by the Committee, a Pharmaceutical Research and Development Support Fund (PRDSF) has been set up under the

administrative control of the Department of Science and Technology for the development of new drugs. A Drug Development Promotion Board (DDPB) to administer the utilization of PRDSF has also been set up. The programme *inter alia* includes supporting collaborative R&D projects, arranging soft loans for pharmaceutical industrial R&D projects, making available good quality medicines at reasonable prices, enabling domestic companies to compete internationally by implementing GMP, GLP and other established international guidelines, and to develop India as the preferred global destination for pharmaceutical R&D and manufacturing activities, etc.

#### **Measures to Promote Tourism**

974. SHRI M.K. SUBBA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to allow Air Travel by Government employees, by relaxing Leave Travel Concession rules and guidelines in this regard; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SURESH PACHOURI) : (a) and (b) Government has permitted air journey while traveling on LTC by non-entitled Government employees by national and private airlines subject to re-imburement being restricted to rail fare in entitled class.

#### **Seizure of Animal Skin and other Wildlife Products**

975. SHRI M. APPADURAI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large quantity of animal skins and other wildlife products were seized recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the estimated value of these goods;

(c) the action taken by the Government against the culprits; and

(d) the steps/action proposes to be taken to check the killing of such wildlife animals particularly the endangered species?

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

(a) to (c) Details of recent major seizures of wildlife and wildlife articles as reported by the State/UT Governments are given in the statement enclosed. As these are of illegal nature, economic value of the seized articles cannot be estimated.

(d) The steps taken by the Government of India to protect wildlife and prevent poaching are as under:

1. The Central Government has enacted the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 to deal with the issues of wildlife crime, Stringent penalties are imposed on the offenders for the contravention of the provisions of the Act.
2. A network of National Parks and Wildlife Sanctuaries has been set up across the country to protect wildlife.
3. Wildlife Crime Control Bureau, with a network a five Regional and three Sub Regional Offices, has been set upto control Wildlife crime.

4. Financial support is being provided under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme—*Development of National Parks and Sanctuaries, Project Tiger and Project Elephant*, to State/UT Governments for the conservation and development of wildlife and its habitats including endangered species.
5. 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.
6. India has bilateral arrangements with China and Nepal on combating wildlife crime.

In addition, the State/UT Governments have also taken the following measures to protect wild animals and prevent poaching:-

1. Intensive patrolling in sensitive areas.
2. Coordination with other law enforcement agencies.
3. Provision for arms and ammunition, and communication facilities.
4. Conducting nature awareness campaigns for the public.
5. Soliciting cooperation from the local communities.

#### **Statement**

Sl.No.	State/UT	Particulars of the seizure	Action Taken
1	2	3	4
1.	Manipur	Deer antlers - 304 pieces	Compounded as per the provisions of Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.
2.	Kerala	Tiger Skin - 1, Elephant tusk - 3 pairs, Snake venom - 2.45 ltrs and 30.85 gms.	Accused have been arrested.

1	2	3	4
3.	Karnataka	Tiger Skin-3, Leopard skin-22, Otter skin-43	Legal processes initiated.
4.	Delhi	Mongoose hair bushes – 660 no., ivory miniature paintings – 32 no.	Legal processes initiated.

[Translation]

#### Curb on Misleading Advertisements

976. SHRI RAGHUVVEER SINGH KOSHAL : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has taken any steps to curb the misleading advertisements and propaganda claiming to cure various diseases;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any action has been taken by the Government in this regard; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) and (b) The regulatory control over the misleading advertisements of drugs in certain cases and remedies alleged to possess magic qualities is exercised under the Drugs and Magic Remedies (Objectionable Advertisements) Act, 1954 and Rules made there under by the State Governments.

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

[English]

#### Training for Youth Organizations for Disaster Management

977. SHRI JASUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD : Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has identified some youth organizations to train young volunteers for disaster management;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) if so, the details of such organizations;

(d) the procedure for identifying such youth organizations;

(e) the agencies involved in imparting the training to young volunteers;

(f) the number of such training programmes conducted during the current financial year; and

(g) the number of young volunteers enrolled in such training programmes?

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.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The Ministry of Home Affairs is the nodal Ministry dealing with disaster management and it has identified the Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan (NYKS) and the National Service Scheme (NSS), under the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, to train young volunteers for disaster risk reduction and management.

(d) These youth organizations have been identified by the Ministry of Home Affairs after extensive interaction with these organizations for about two years in disaster management programmes. The main consideration in

seeking their involvement is the extensive outreach of NSS among student volunteers and the grassroots level presence of NYKS among rural youth.

(e) and (f) Training programmes for volunteers of these organizations are conducted at state, district and sub-district level through involvement of their respective nodal departments/organizational set-up. The training programme for their officers have been conducted at the national level also for sensitizing and orienting them to different facets of disaster management. Training on disaster management is imparted in association with the National Institute of District Management (NIDM), the Administrative Training Institutes (ATIs), State Institutes for Rural Development (SIRDs) and other institutions/organizations working on disaster management issues such as YASHADA in Maharashtra. The resource persons trained under the Gol-UNDP Disaster Risk Management Programme and the experts/specialists with some of the State Disaster Management Authorities, especially in the States of Gujarat, Orissa, Uttarakhand etc. are also associated with imparting training. The training programmes are conducted by these organizations and facilitated through the training institutions/organizations mentioned above. Participants for these training programmes are also mobilized by their respective nodal organizations.

(g) The NYKS has organized 8 training programmes on disaster management involving 314 youth. In addition, 5000 National Service Volunteers and 6000 Nehru Yuva Sathis deployed by NYKS were also imparted first hand orientation on disaster management. Similarly, the NSS has held 652 training programmes involving 1,73,220 volunteers on disaster risk rescue and relief operations.

[Translation]

#### **Setting up of Indian Facilitation Centre for NRIs**

978. SHRI RAJNARAYAN BUDHOLIA : Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is considering to set up an Indian Facilitation Centre for the Non-Resident Indians (NRIs);

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the final decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI) : (a) to (c) Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs has established an Overseas Indian Facilitation Centre (OIFC) as a not-for-profit Trust in partnership with Confederation of Indian Industry (CII). The objectives of the Centre are:-

- Promote Overseas Indian investments into India and facilitate Business to Business partnerships.
- Function as clearinghouse for all investment related information.
- Establish and maintain a Diaspora Knowledge Network (DKN).
- Assist States in India to project investment opportunities to overseas Indians in the infrastructure and social sectors.
- Provide advisory services to Persons of Indian Origin (PIOs) and Non Resident Indians (NRIs) on matters such as Consular questions, stay in India, investment and financial issues etc.

The Overseas Indian Facilitation Centre functions as a 'one stop shop' for serving the interests of the Overseas Indian community. The Centre is functional and successfully organized a Market Place during the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas 2008 in January 2008, in which many one - to - one Business meetings were organized on Investment and Infrastructure related Sectors.

### Implementation of Projects Through PRI

979. SHRI BAPU HARI CHAURE :

SHRI SANJAY DHOTRE :

Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) whether Panchayati Raj Institutions can ensure successful implementation of various projects in the rural areas of the country; and

(b) 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) and (b) Yes, Sir. Panchayati Raj Institutions (PIRs) constitute the third tier of administration for local governance in rural India institutionalized by the 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act, 1992 which envisages, *inter alia* implementation and monitoring of various developmental and welfare schemes launched by the Union Government and respective State Governments by the PRIs functioning as "Institutions of Local Self-Government" (Art. 243G). Various measures of empowerment of PRIs, including devolution of functions, functionaries and funds, have been undertaken by State Governments to enable PRIs to implement such developmental and welfare schemes effectively and efficiently. Empowerment of PRIs with emphasis on inclusive growth attendant with inclusive governance is a continuous process and the Ministry of Panchayati Raj is taking the required steps in this regard from time to time in consultation with State Governments.

[English]

#### Central Health Schemes in Karnataka

980. SHRI G.M. SIDDESWARA : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of implementation of the Central

Health Scheme in Karnataka during the last three years, year-wise and location-wise;

(b) the details of new CGHS dispensaries proposed to be opened in the State, location-wise; and

(c) the details of expenditure incurred by the Union Government on various Central Health Schemes during the last three years, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) Bangalore is the only city in Karnataka covered by the Central Government Health Scheme.

The Scheme has been implemented in Karnataka on 16.12.1976 and has not been expanded.

(b) There is no proposal to open any new CGHS dispensary in the State of Karnataka.

(c) The year-wise expenditure for last three years on CGHS is as follows:—

Year	Expenditure (Rs. in thousands)
2004-05	216472
2005-06	181116
2006-07	234407

[Translation]

#### Zoological Parks in the Country

981. SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of Zoological parks in the country, State-wise;

(b) whether the needs of animals kept in these zoological parks are being met properly; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

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

(a) There are 180 recognized zoological parks in the country. The details on the State-wise status of zoological parks is given in the statement enclosed.

(b) and (c) Most zoological parks are managed by the State Governments and other organizations, except the National Zoological Park, New Delhi which is managed by the Central Government. The Central Zoo Authority under Recognition of Zoo Rules, 1992 has prescribed 51 standards and norms for compliance by the zoos that includes meeting the different needs of the animals in the zoos subject to which conditional recognition under Section 38 H of the Wild Life (Protection) Act is granted by the Central Zoo Authority. Central Zoo Authority also provides financial assistance to recognized zoos for betterment of animal upkeep. Central Zoo Authority also carry evaluation of zoos regularly to ensure compliance of all the conditions stipulated while granting recognition.

**Statement**

S.No.	Name of the State	No. of Zoos
1	2	3
1.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	1
2.	Andhra Pradesh	15
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	4
4.	Assam	4
5.	Bihar	1
6.	Chhattisgarh	3
7.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	1
8.	Delhi	2

1	2	3
9.	Goa	1
10.	Gujarat	9
11.	Haryana	8
12.	Himachal Pradesh	6
13.	Jharkhand	6
14.	Karnataka	17
15.	Kerala	10
16.	Madhya Pradesh	3
17.	Maharashtra	14
18.	Manipur	1
19.	Meghalaya	2
20.	Mizoram	2
21.	Nagaland	2
22.	Orissa	8
23.	Punjab	5
24.	Rajasthan	7
25.	Sikkim	1
26.	Tamil Nadu	9
27.	Tripura	1
28.	Uttar Pradesh	11
29.	Uttarakhand	3
30.	West Bengal	23
Grand Total		180

[English]

**Setting up of Global Advisory Council for  
the People of Indian Origin**

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

(a) whether the Government plans to set up a Global Advisory Council for the people of Indian Origin;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith its terms of reference; and

(c) the time by which the Council is likely to start functioning?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI) : (a) to (c) During PBD 2008 held at New Delhi, Prime Minister of India announced the establishment of Prime Minister's Global Council of People of Indian Origin. This Council will comprise of people of Indian Origin from a variety of disciplines who are recognized as leaders in their respective fields, not only in their country of residence but globally as well. The council would serve as a high level platform for the Prime Minister to draw upon the experience, knowledge and wisdom of the best Indian minds wherever they may be based. The council would function as a sounding board and a 'think tank' to (a) effectively address the concerns and problems of Overseas Indians and (b) encouraging the Overseas Indians to share their expertise, experience and (c) to promote an environment for attracting the resources of Overseas Indians for development opportunities in India. The process of establishment of the council is underway and it is expected to start functioning before the next Pravasi Bharatiya Divas.

**Two-child Norm for Panchayat Election**

983. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY : Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to introduce

two-child norm for candidates contesting Panchayat elections in those States who have not so far adopted this principle;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has directed the State Governments in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not the reasons therefor?

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) No, Sir. The Ministry of Panchayati Raj has no proposal to introduce the two-child norm for candidates contesting Panchayat elections in the country.

(c) and (d) On the contrary, the Ministry of Panchayati Raj have requested State Governments that have introduced this provision in their Panchayat Laws to withdraw the same. The Governments of Himachal Pradesh and Haryana have already deleted this provision from their respective Panchayati Raj Acts. The Government of Madhya Pradesh have subsequently modified the provision from a 'two-child' to a 'three-child' norm. The two-child norm for Panchayat polls is still in operation in Andhra Pradesh, Orissa and Rajasthan.

[Translation]

**Introduction of Chiranjeevi  
Yojana in Orissa**

984. SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has launched 'Chiranjeevi Yojana in Orissa;

(b) if so, the date on which it was launched;

(c) the number of persons provided assistance under this Scheme during the last three years; and

(d) the amount allocated and incurred under this Scheme?

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

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

#### **Financial Assistance to NGOs**

985. SHRI JIVABHAI A. PATEL : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has provided any financial and other assistance to the NGOs for implementing health schemes in Gujarat;

(b) if so, the details thereof during the last three years alongwith the amount of said assistance provided, NGOs-wise;

(c) whether the Government has reviewed the functioning of the NGOs in this regard;

(d) if so, the names of NGOs in respect of which short comings have been noticed by the Government during the said review; and

(e) the action taken by the Government against them so far?

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, Gujarat under Reproductive Child Health Programme of the Centre for NGOs.

(b) The Grant-in-aid is disbursed to the NGOs by State Health Society, which keeps their record. Rs.285 lacs have been released to State Health Society, Gujarat during last 3 years for this purpose.

(c) The State Health Society of Gujarat reviews the functioning of the NGO in the State of Gujarat.

(d) No such report has been received from the State of Gujarat.

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

*[English]*

#### **Rank of India in Environmental Pollution**

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

(a) whether India is moving ahead in the rank of environmental pollution in the world;

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

(c) the steps 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) No conclusive reports are available indicating India moving ahead in the rank of environmental pollution in the world. However, as per 2005 Environmental Sustainability Index (ESI), the ranking of India is at 101 position out of 146 countries.

A number of steps have been initiated to mitigate environmental pollution which inter-alia include the following:-

- Notification of general and source specific environmental standards;
- Introduction of cleaner fuels and improved vehicular technologies;
- Implementation of the Charter on Corporate Responsibility for Environmental Protection



(CREP) for seventeen categories of polluting industries; and

- Regular monitoring for environmental compliance.

**Environmental Clearance to  
Projects in Orissa**

987. SHRI GIRIDHAR GAMANG : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the projects recommended by the Government of Orissa for environment and forest clearance during the last three years;

(b) the number of projects cleared so far;

(c) the number of projects still pending;

(d) the reasons for such pendency; and

(e) the action taken/proposed to be taken to expedite the clearance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA) : (a) to (c) A total of 14 projects including one irrigation project, 9 projects under Coastal Regulation Zone Act, 1991 and 4 mining projects have been received from the Government of Orissa. Out of these, 10 projects have been accorded environmental clearance and 4 projects await a decision due to non-submission of the complete information by the project authorities. Similarly, 152 proposals have been received from the Government of Orissa for clearance under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. Out of these, 76 proposals have been approved for final forest clearance and 39 proposals for in-principle clearance. Due to incomplete information, 20 proposals pend.

(d) and (e) The steps taken for early decision include the continuous monitoring of the status, the enhanced duration of the Expert Appraisal Committee meetings and

the appraisal of Category 'B' proposals at State level as per Environment Impact Assessment Notification, 2006

**Recommendations of IEAG on  
Polio Disease**

988. SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Expert Advisory Group which met in New Delhi recently, have expressed optimism about India's chance to get rid of Polio; and

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the recommendations made by the Expert Group in this regard?

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

(b) The meeting of the India Expert Advisory Group on polio (IEAG) was held on 19-20th December, 2007 to review the polio situation. The observations of IEAG are as under:-

- Due to accelerated immunization rounds and use of monovalent oral polio vaccine 1(mOPV1) in 2007, wild polio virus type 1 (WPV1) transmission is at low level.
- The population immunity against WPV1 among children in India is high.
- The 'core' districts of western UP (in Moradabad, Meerut, Muzaffarnagar, Aligarh and Bareilly subdivisions) have not reported WPV1 since November 2006.

**Recommendations—**

- The principal objective of activities in the first half of 2008 should be interruption of WPV1 transmission in the low transmission season,

while maintaining good control of wild polio virus type 3 (WPV3).

- Five immunization rounds in the first half of 2008 and three rounds in the second half as follows:-
  - Two rounds of National Immunization Day (NID) in January and February '08, using mOPV1 in UP, Bihar, Greater Mumbai, Delhi, and other high risk areas, and tOPV in all other areas.
  - Three rounds of Sub National Immunization round (SNIDs) in UP, Bihar and neighbouring areas at risk of virus spread-  
March: using monovalent oral polio vaccine 3 (mOPV3),
    - April: using mOPV1 and May/June: using mOPV3.
- In the second half of 2008 – one SNID round in UP, Bihar and neighbouring areas at risk of virus spread using mOPV1 and 2 SNID rounds in UP, Bihar and neighbouring areas at risk of virus spread using mOPV3.
- Mop ups should be carried out, in response to any WPV1 or WPV3 outside UP and Bihar and WPV1 in UP or Bihar.
- In Bihar special focus and attention should be directed to the high risk clusters of blocks and neighbouring blocks in order to ensure adequate immunisation coverage.
- Efforts to reach mobile populations from UP and Bihar living in Punjab, Haryana, Gujarat, Delhi, and Mumbai, should continue. These populations/areas should be covered alongwith UP and Bihar during planned SNIDs rounds.
- All polio-free states should ensure that routine immunization coverage is maintained at the

highest possible levels to minimize the risk of wild poliovirus spread should there be a re-introduction.

[Translation]

#### Increasing Incidence of GERD Disease

989. SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Gastro Esophageal Reflux Disease (GERD) has been detected in the country;
- (b) if so, the details including details of loss of life; and
- (c) the preventive 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) As stated by India Council of Medical Research, Gastroesophageal reflux disease (GERD) is a clinical condition arising from multi-factorial causation. The various studies on the subject have suggested that GERD is a common problem worldwide. As per the information of the Indian Society of Gastroenterology, a survey made in 33 centres across the country in 4500 subjects, estimates that about 10-20% of the general population suffered from functional bowel disease, including Irritable Bowel Disease (IBS) and Dyspepsia.

Since certain foods and lifestyle are considered to promote GERD, physicians recommend lifestyle modifications when not recommending drug.

#### Setting up of Nyaya Panchayats

990. SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR : Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government proposes to formulate any scheme to constitute Nyaya Panchayats to accord judicial powers to the Panchayats;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith its jurisdiction; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

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 of Panchayati Raj is actively considering a Bill on Nyaya Panchayats in order to provide an alternative decentralized forum of dispute resolution through mediation, conciliation and compromise at the grassroots level with community involvement. A Drafting Committee constituted by the Ministry for this purpose, chaired by the eminent jurist, Professor Upendra Baxi, has submitted its report. One round of consultations with Central Ministries and State Governments/Union Territory Administrations has been completed. A second round of consultation with them is under way. The final picture on the powers and jurisdiction of the Nyaya Panchayats would emerge after consideration of the comments received.

[English]

#### Control of Blindness

991. SHRI TUKARAM GANGADHAR GADAKH : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of programmes undertaken by Blindness Control Society and Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) to control blindness in the country;

(b) the implementation of such programmes particularly in Mumbai and Maharashtra; and

(c) the details of the major NGOs engaged in cataract operation in Mumbai?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) The National Programme for Control of

Blindness (NPCB) is a centrally sponsored scheme being implemented in all States/UTs through State Blindness Control Societies (since merged with State Health and Family Welfare Societies) and District Blindness Control Societies (since merged with District Health and Family Welfare Societies). Funds for implementation of the programme are released to State Health and Family Welfare Societies for further disbursement to District Health and Family Welfare Societies for carrying out various activities of the programme. The major activities of District Health and Family Welfare Societies under NPCB are as under:—

- (1) to assess the magnitude and spread of blindness in district by means of active case finding, village-wise, to be recorded and maintained in Blind Registers;
- (2) to organize screening camps for identifying those requiring cataract surgery and other blinding disorders, organize transportation and conduct of free medical and surgical services including cataract surgery for the poor in Government facilities or NGOs supporting the programme.
- (3) to plan and organize training of community level workers, teachers and ophthalmic assistants/nurses involved in eye care services;
- (4) to procure drugs and consumables including micro-surgical instruments required in the government facilities;
- (5) to receive and monitor use of funds, equipments and material from the government and other agencies/donors;
- (6) to involve voluntary and private hospitals providing free/subsidized eye care services in the district and identify NGO facilities that can be considered for grants under the programme;
- (7) to organize screening of school children for detection of refractive errors and other eye problems and provide free spectacles to poor children;

- (8) to promote eye donation through various media and monitor collection and utilization of eyes collected by eye donation centres and eye banks;

The role of identified NGOs under NPCB is as under:—

- (1) to conduct public and professional awareness on eye donation;
- (2) to provide public response system for eye donation;
- (3) to screen 50+ population in villages/townships allotted to them;
- (4) to identify cases which are fit for cataract surgeries, motivation thereof and transportation to the base hospital; and
- (5) to provide post operative care including management of complications etc.

(b) The approved activities under the programme, as mentioned above, are implemented by the State/District Societies and identified NGOs in Maharashtra including Mumbai.

In addition, it has been informed by the Govt. of Maharashtra that the NGOs in Mumbai organize diagnostic and treatment camps in various parts of city, specially in slums and in densely populated areas. During the camps, the patients are screened for cataract. The Patients who require cataract operations are investigated and suitable schedule is made to operate these patients at various hospitals free of charge.

(c) The following major NGOs are engaged in cataract operations in Mumbai under NPCB:—

- (1) Vision Foundation of India, 5 Babulnath Road, Mumbai-7;

- (2) Haji Bacchoo Ali Charitable Ophthalmic Hospital, Parel, Mumbai-12;
- (3) Dr. C.M. Shah Memorial Charitable Trust Hospital, Borivali (W), Mumbai-12;
- (4) K.J. Sommaya Hospital, Chunabhati, Mumbai; and
- (5) B.S.E.S. MG Hospita, S.V. Road, Opp. Andheri Station (W), Mumbai-58.

**Chinese Protest Over PM's Visit to Arunachal Pradesh**

992. SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR :  
SHRI ANANTA NAYAK :  
SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH "LALAN" :  
MS. INGRID MCLEOD :  
SHRI SURAJ SINGH :  
SHRI SHISHUPAL N. PATLE :  
PROF. M. RAMADASS :  
SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE :  
PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Chinese Government has lodged any protest over the Indian Prime Minister's visit to Arunachal Pradesh recently;

(b) if so, the facts thereof and the response of the Government thereto;

(c) whether the Government to China considers Arunachal Pradesh as their part;

(d) if so, whether the Government has taken up/ proposes to take up the issue with the Chinese Government; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI

PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) to (e) China has raised the matter of Prime Minister's visit to Arunachal Pradesh with Government. The fact that Arunachal Pradesh is an integral part of India has been conveyed to the Chinese side. China disputes the international boundary between India and China and illegally claims approximately 90,000 square kilometres of Indian territory in the state of Arunachal Pradesh. The Special Representatives of India and China are discussing a framework for settlement of the boundary question that is fair, reasonable, mutually acceptable, and based on the Agreement on Guiding Principles and Political Parameters signed in April 2005.

**Smuggling of Norkya Vanaspati  
From the Forest**

993. SHRI PRATIK P. PATIL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether large scale smuggling of medicinal plants such as Norkya has been noticed by the Government in the country particularly from the Chandoli Forests of Maharashtra; and

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise and the action taken against the offenders?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY) : (a) and (b) As per the information received from the States having large concentration of Norkya namely Karnataka, Maharashtra, Kerala and Tamil Nadu, no large scale smuggling of Norkya has been reported. However, few cases of smuggling of Norkya from Chandoli forests of Maharashtra have been reported as per details given below.

During April 2005, fifteen Preliminary Offence Reports (PORs) were registered under various sections of Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, Indian Forest Act, 1927 and Bombay Forest Rules, 1942. Out of the 15 PORs, in seven cases, charge sheets have been filed in the Court. In addition,

six trucks, six tractors with trollies, two jeeps, three motorcycles and ten donkeys have also been seized.

[Translation]

**Supply of Sub-Standard Coal to  
Power Plants**

994. SHRI RAKESH SINGH : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the various Coal companies are supplying sub-standard quality of Coal to the power plants located in Madhya Pradesh;

(b) if so, whether the Government has received any complaints in this regard?

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

(d) steps taken/proposes to be taken to ensure the supply of quality coal to power plants;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO) : (a) to (c) South Eastern Coalfields Limited (SECL), Western Coalfields Limited (WCL) and Northern Coalfields Limited (NCL) are supplying coal, as per linkage, to the thermal power plants located in Madhya Pradesh, for such grades of coal as are produced by the respective coal companies. For quality assurance, joint sampling facility is extended to the thermal power stations for determination of quality of coal actually supplied. Some complaints regarding quality of coal are received from time to time, which are looked into by the respective coal producing companies, to ensure that such complaints are avoided to the minimum. However, neither Coal India Limited (CIL) nor the Ministry of Coal has received any serious complaint on the quality of coal being supplied to thermal power plants located in Madhya Pradesh.

(d) to (f) To ensure improvement in quality of coal being supplied to thermal power plants, CIL has taken the following measures:-

- (i) Selective mining of bands of more than 1 meter thickness.
- (ii) Appropriate positioning of overburden and coal benches to avoid contamination.
- (iii) Scrapping/cleaning of coal benches before blasting.
- (iv) Installation of metal detectors/magnetic separators over running conveyors before coal loading.
- (v) All the major projects having high capacity coal handling plants to dispatch sized and uniform quality of coal to suit the requirement of the consumers.
- (vi) Establishment of well equipped laboratories at all the projects for regular quality assessment.
- (vii) Arrangement for joint sampling and 3rd party sampling with consumers, based on which consumers are compensated.
- (viii) Arranging awareness programmes/imparting training to the personnel involved in production of coal regarding importance of coal quality and need to improve and maintain the same during mining operations.
- (ix) Shale picking, if any, at mine face, stocks sidings and from the wagons.

[English]

#### Decreasing Forest Cover

995. SHRI MADHU GOUD YASKHI :  
SHRI ANIRUDH PRASAD ALIAS SADHU YADAV :  
SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD :  
SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the forest cover is going down dated year by year as reported in the *Live mint* dated February 13, 2008;
- (b) if so, the details of the forest cover in the country at present as compared to year 2000 - 2003;
- (c) the reasons for its downtrend; and
- (d) the corrective measures taken by the Government to maintain the forest cover?

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

(a) No, Sir.

(b) The Forest Survey of India carries out forest cover assessment of the country using remote sensing technology once every two years and publishes the findings in '*State of Forest Report*'. The forest covers of the country as per 2001, 2003 and 2005 assessments are given below:

Assessment Year	2001	2003	2005
Forest Cover (in km <sup>2</sup> )	653,898	677,816	677,088

It can be seen that the forest cover of the country has increased by 23,918 km<sup>2</sup> between 2001 and 2003 assessments, and decreased marginally by 728 km<sup>2</sup> between 2003 and 2005 assessments.

(c) The main reasons for the marginal reduction in forest cover as per 2005 assessment are destruction caused by Tsunami in Andaman and Nicobar Islands in December 2004, submergence of forest land due to construction of dams in Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh and shifting cultivation as well as bamboo flowering in the North-East Region of the country.

(d) The government of India has taken following steps to maintain forest cover:-

1. Under National Afforestation Plan (NAP) Scheme Rs. 1180.72 crores were released to support 729 FDA projects through 24,215 JFMCs for treating a total project area of 9.36 lakh ha.
2. A restructured scheme for Grants-in-Aid for Greening India was launched in 2005-06 to promote production and use of quality planting material in tree planning.
3. As a follow-up of the Mid-Term Appraisal of 10th Five Year Plan, a new scheme for afforestation involving Panchayati Raj Institution for tree planning on non-forest lands is mooted.
4. Establishment of two new Eco-Task Force (ETF) battalions for eco-restoration of degraded areas was mooted by the Ministry, in addition to supporting the existing four ETF battalions.
5. States have been advised to constitute State-level coordination committee under chairmanship of Chief Secretaries for eliciting cooperation of all land-owning Departments for contributing towards increase in forest and tree cover.
6. The Ministry has mooted a Multi-Stake Holder partnership (MSP) framework for forestation.
7. Guidelines have been issued by Government of India on 15-12-2004 to the States for rationalization of regulatory provision about felling and transport of trees grown on private lands.
8. State Government and Union Territories Administrations have been requested to formulate and implement a comprehensive Media Plan to create awareness about tree planting.

**Non-Availing of Medical Facilities  
from Hospitals**

996. SHRI RANEN BARMAN : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the State-wise details of mothers not par taking the medical facilities from hospitals or other recognized medical institutes in the country during 2007;

(b) the percentage of birth cases in the traditional methods without coming to hospitals or other recognized institutes during 2006-07, including that of low-weight births during the said period;

(c) whether Government have identified the sections of women not par taking of medical facilities during pregnancy period; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor and remedial measures contemplated?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) to (d) The administrative reporting system generates data for those individuals that have availed the facilities provided in the health institutions. The data for those not availing these services is captured through periodic large-scale surveys like the District Level Household Surveys (DLHS) and the National Family Health Surveys (NFHS). As per the NFHS (2005-06), the percentage of pregnant women who had availed any antenatal check up from Hospital or other recognized medical institutes in the States is given in the statement enclosed.

According to this Survey, the percentage of women delivered in a health facility was the lowest for mothers having no education or scheduled tribes or those in the Lowest wealth Index interval. Further, as per the National Family Health Survey (2005-2006), the percentage of live births delivered at home was around 61% while around 39% delivered at a health facility. Further, according to the NFHS (2005-2006), 21.5% of the total births were low-weight births having a birth weight less than 2.5 Kg.

The Government of India, with a view to increasing access to quality health care including services to Safe Motherhood, has launched the National Rural Health

**Mission (NRHM)** with special emphasis on improving the health status of rural population throughout the country. The Mission will operate over a period of seven years from 2005 to 2012. Under the NRHM (2005-2012) and the RCH Programme Phase II (2005 to 2010) services are being strengthened through:-

- Janani Suraksha Yojana (JSY), a scheme to promote Institutional Delivery for reducing Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR) and Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) by providing quality maternal care during pregnancy, delivery and immediate post-delivery period with appropriate referral transport system alongwith cash assistance to pregnant women with a special focus on Below Poverty Line (BPL) women. The scheme also covers SC/ST women delivering in the Govt. Health Institutions and accredited Private Institutions.
- Appointment of an Accredited Social Health Activist (ASHA) for every village with a population upto 1000. ASHA will facilitate in accessing of health care services by the community and will have specific responsibility of mobilizing pregnant women for antenatal care, institutional delivery and post-natal check ups and immunization to children.
- Ensuring skilled attendance at every birth both in the community and the Institutions.
- Operationalizing all Community Health Centres as First Referral Units (FRU) for providing Emergency Obstetric and Child Health services.
- Equipping 50% of all Primary Health Centers for providing 24x7 delivery services by 2010.
- Ensuring quality of services by implementing Indian Public Health Standards (IPHS) for Primary Healthcare Facilities, which includes providing Infrastructure, specialized man-power and equipments.

- Training of MBBS Doctors in Life Saving Anesthetic Skills for Emergency Obstetric Care at First Referral Unit.
- Training of MBBS Doctors in Emergency Obstetric Care including Caesarian Section. The programme is being carried out in partnership with Federation of Obstetrics and Gynecological Society of India (FOGSI).
- Strengthening of sub-centres by providing untied fund of Rs. 10,000/- for utilizing at the sub-center to improve the service delivery. The fund shall be operated jointly by the Local Panchayat Representative and ANM.
- Organizing of Village Health and Nutrition Day at Anganwadi center at least once in every month.
- To prevent anaemia among pregnant and lactating women, one tablet of Iron and Folic Acid (100 mg elemental iron) per day is administered to all pregnant women for 100 days and two tablets of Iron and Folic Acid per day to the pregnant women who show clinical signs of severe anaemia for 100 days.

#### **Statement**

*Mothers who has atleast one ANC visit for their 1st birth (%), National Family Health Survey - NFHS (2005-06)*

Sl. No.	States	Any ANC
1	2	3
	All India	76.4
I.	<b>Major States (Population &gt; 20 million)</b>	
1.	Andhra Pradesh	94.3



1	2	3
2.	Assam	70.7
3.	Bihar	34.1
4.	Chhattisgarh	88.5
5.	Gujarat	86.7
6.	Haryana	88.3
7.	Jharkhand	58.9
8.	Karnataka	89.3
9.	Kerala	94.4
10.	Madhya Pradesh	79.5
11.	Maharashtra	90.8
12.	Orissa	86.9
13.	Punjab	88.9
14.	Rajasthan	74.9
15.	Tamil Nadu	98.6
16.	Uttar Pradesh	66.0
17.	West Bengal	91.9
<b>II. Smaller States</b>		
1.	Arunachal Pradesh	52.6
2.	Delhi	88.8
3.	Goa	97.3
4.	Himachal Pradesh	86.4
5.	Jammu and Kashmir	84.6
6.	Manipur	86.3

1	2	3
7.	Meghalaya	67.6
8.	Mizoram	74.3
9.	Nagaland	57.8
10.	Sikkim	89.3
11.	Tripura	78.3
12.	Uttarakhand	69.4

[Translation]

**Percentage Expenditure on  
Medical Services**

997. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH "LALAN" :  
SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH :  
SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN :

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

(a) whether the Government proposes to increase  
the spending on medical services in the country;

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

(c) the percentage of Gross Domestic Product  
(GDP) spent/likely to be spent on medical services during  
the last two years including 2007-08?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF  
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA  
LAKSHMI) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The National Common  
Minimum Programme (NCMP) stipulates inter-alia that  
Government will raise public spending on health to at least  
2-3% of GDP over next five years. The strategy adopted  
is to enhance the levels of public health spending by  
promoting comprehensive primary, secondary health care  
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.

(c) According to the Economic Survey 2007-08, Public spending on health inclusive of social determinants like drinking water and nutrition is 1.36% and 1.39% of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) for the years 2006-07 and 2007-08, respectively.

[English]

#### Irregularities in Health Projects

998. SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP :  
 SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA :  
 SHRI P. MOHAN :  
 SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA  
 SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT "BACHDA" :  
 SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI :  
 MS. INGRID MCLEOD :  
 SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR :  
 SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI :  
 SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA :  
 SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH :  
 SHRI NAVEEN JINDAL :  
 SHRI VIJOY KRISHNA :  
 SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI :

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

- (a) whether the World Bank has alleged irregularities and misappropriation of funds provided by it for various health related projects in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has conducted any inquiry into the said irregularities;
- (d) if so, the outcome thereof and the action taken against the guilty persons;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the effective steps taken by the Government to check such irregularities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) to (f) On the 11th January, 2008, the World Bank has shared with us a report, viz., DIR. This report is based on the review of five health sector projects which were being implemented during periods varying from 1997 till 2006 end. One project was under State health sector.

In this report, the World Bank has mentioned deficiencies relating to procurement, oversight and implementation like collusion, bid rigging, deficiency in civil works, equipments not installed because of lack of staff etc. Majority of the deficiencies reported relate to decentralized procurements at the district level, which are implemented at the State level.

The World Bank report suffers from several infirmities. Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has already conveyed its response on the infirmities in the methodology adopted by World Bank emphasizing that the World Bank did not discuss with any of the programme officers either during the review or before finalizing the review report. These discussions would have clarified most of the issues mentioned in the report. Had this been done most of the inferences would have been different.

Government of India is committed to elimination of any deficiencies or irregularities which are detected. Structural deficiencies which were noted in the earlier programmes have been taken care of in the successor programmes. It has been aware of some irregularities and has taken action, if required in the past. Several criminal, penal and disciplinary actions have been taken such as:-

- (i) Suspended business with two firms viz. M/s. Nestor Pharmaceuticals and M/s. Pure Pharma in July, 2005 on charges of reported collusion.

- (ii) A case was registered by CBI on 21.8.2006 against M/s. Pure Pharma and M/s. Nestor Pharmaceuticals and the case is at an advanced stage of investigation.
- (iii) Two officers (Shri M.P. Gupta of Hospital Services Consultancy Corporation and Shri Vasant Bhat of Hindustan Latex Limited) from the Procurement Support Agencies, who were allegedly involved in procurement irregularities, were suspended in 2006 and continue to be under suspension. Departmental proceedings against them are also at an advanced stage.

The World Bank report has not taken note of any of these actions.

The World Bank report also did not take note of the structural changes which have been initiated post 2005. A very important structural change which has been initiated by Government of India is the launch of National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) in April, 2005. NRHM has initiated the following architectural corrections in the public health delivery system:-

- NRHM has in-built institutional and financial monitoring mechanism, e.g., Programme Management Units (PMUs) at State/District/Sub-district levels consisting of management, financial and IT experts.
- Community ownership, accountability and oversight through Village Health and Sanitation Committees at the village level and Rogi Kalyan Samitis (Patients Welfare Societies) at Sub-district and District Hospital levels consisting of representatives of Panchayati Raj Institutions, civil society and Government health functionaries.
- The Mission emphasises on 'service guarantees' and not merely on the creation of building and purchase of equipments.

- Capacity Building of States for decentralised procurement.
- Electronic transfer of funds from Government of India to States and States to districts and E-Banking for real time financial reporting and monitoring.

In addition, in Centralized procurement, following corrective actions have been taken:-

- (i) Shifted the procurement responsibility from Procurement Support Agencies to the United Nation Office for Project Services for Bank supported operations.
- (ii) Set up an Empowered Procurement wing (EPW) to provide oversight to the procurement handled by Procurement Agents (PA). Developed procurement policies and standards for the health sector; and working on state procurement capacity building.
- (iii) Introduced measures to improve the competition, transparency and quality through the Governance and Accountability Action Plan (GAAP) agreed for all health projects by the Bank in 2006.
- (iv) Prepared a compendium of technical specifications for medical equipment (more than 800) which is uploaded on the Health Ministry's website.
- (v) Created the Financial Management Group (FMG) at the Health Ministry, supported finance staff at State and District levels, developed detailed project specific financial management manuals.
- (vi) Developed detailed guidelines and operational manuals for procurement of NGOs and Public Private partnerships (PPPs) under HIV/AIDS control programme.

- (vii) Developed detailed procurement and financial manuals and trained state personnel.
- (viii) Introduced evaluation of NGO performance by Committee having one external evaluator under HIV/AIDS control programme; and terminated contracts of about 25% NGOs which were non-complaint with the guidelines.
- (ix) Pre-award validation/certification of WHO GMP made mandatory in all cases.

Further, after receipt of the report, following actions have been taken:-

- (i) To address the systemic deficiencies pointed out in the World Bank report relating to procurement, implementation and oversight a Joint Action Plan has been finalised after intensive discussions with the World Bank keeping in mind specific interventions and timelines.
- (ii) Three new cases pertaining to Chhattisgarh and Karnataka referred to CBI for further investigation. One of these was identified through an analysis of the audit report. In a similar case the Government of Orissa has filed a criminal case and initiated departmental proceedings.
- (iii) Government of Orissa has now ordered a full-fledged vigilance inquiry to look into all deficiencies pointed in the World Bank report regarding the State Health System project.

#### **Employees Welfare Societies**

999. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether DoPT is the nodal agency for registered societies set up for the welfare of Government employees and their families;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Kendriya Bhandar as a welfare project is providing consumer quality items at cheaper rates;

(d) whether the Ministry of Urban Development is vacating Government accommodations from Kendriya Bhandar; and

(e) if so, the measures taken 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) Yes, Sir.

(b) The registered societies set up as a welfare measure are as under:-

(i) Central Civil Services Cultural and Sports Board.

(ii) Grh Kalyan Kendra.

(iii) Kendriya Bhandar.

(iv) Civil Services Officers' Institute.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) and (e) The matter regarding General Pool Residential Accommodation (GPRA) and General Pool Office Accommodation (GPOA) for Kendriya Bhandar is under consideration of the Government.

#### **Delay in Issue of Visas by the Indian High Commission in London**

1000. SHRIMATI JHANSI LAKSHMI BOTCHA : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there was an inordinate delay in issuing visas by the Indian High Commission in London;

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

(c) the corrective steps taken to avoid delay in issuing of visas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED) : (a) to (c) Due to a sudden surge of visa applications in the months of September and October, 2007, from approximately 27,000 per month to approximately 50,000 per month and adverse impact of the Royal Mail strike in the United Kingdom on postal visa applications, there was a slight dislocation in the visa services of the High Commission of India, London for a brief period. However, following deployment of additional resources to cope with the surging demand and restoration of the Royal Mail service, the High Commission is now maintaining the following service levels:—

- (i) Visa applications of walk-in applicants are processed within 30 to 45 minutes.
- (ii) Postal visa applications are being returned within a week.

[Translation]

#### Indians Detained/Lodged in Jails Abroad

1001. DR. DHIRENDRA AGARWAL :  
SHRI P. MOHAN :  
SHRI HARISINH CHAVDA :  
SHRI JASUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD :

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

- (a) whether a large number of Indians has been detained/lodged in jails abroad;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) the efforts made by the Government for their release;
- (d) the number of Indians got released from jails abroad as a result thereof; and
- (e) the number of Indians died in harness, country-wise?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI) : (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

#### Adulteration in Edible Oil

1002. SHRI SHISHUPAL N. PATLE : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether edible oils are being adulterated in the country as reported in the 'Dainik Jagran' dated January 28, 2008;
- (b) if so, the details thereof including the States in which such adulterated oils are distributed in large quantity;
- (c) whether any inquiry has been conducted by the Government in this regard;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the concrete steps taken by the Government to check such adulteration in edible oils?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) to (e) No such specific information as reported in "Dainik Jagran" dated 28.1.2008 has been received. The implementation of the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954 and Rules framed thereunder are entrusted with the Food (Health) authorities of the States/ Union Territories who lift samples of all food articles including edible oils sold in the market and take action in the cases where the samples are found to be adulterated/ misbranded or violating the labeling provisions of the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954 and Rules framed thereunder.

[English]

#### Palavaram Irrigation Project

1003. SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has withdrawn the environmental clearance given earlier to the Palavaram Inter-State Irrigation Project involving the States of Andhra Pradesh, Orissa and Chhattisgarh; and

(b) if so, the reasons for withdrawal of clearance for construction of the project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA) : (a) and (b) The Polavaram Inter State irrigation project, involving the States of Andhra Pradesh, Orissa and Chhattisgarh, was accorded environmental clearance on 25th October, 2005. The National Environment Appellate Authority vide its order dated 19th December, 2007 has quashed the environmental clearance on the grounds that public hearing was not conducted in affected areas of Orissa and Chhattisgarh resulting in the denial of access to information and opportunities to the affected people to express their views/opinions etc. on the environmental impact of the project and the consequential violation of principles of Natural Justice.

#### **Attacks on Indian Security Personnel in Afghanistan**

1004. SHRI REWATI RAMAN SINGH :

SHRI KIREN RIJUJU :

SHRI K.S. RAO :

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY :

SHRI CHANDRA MANI TRIPATHI :

SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether some Indian Security personnel were killed and some others were seriously injured in a suicide attack on the convoy of Border Roads Organisation in Afghanistan in January this year;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of Indian workers and security personnel working on different relief and reconstruction projects in Afghanistan;

(d) the details of Indian workers and security men killed by local anti-government forces in Afghanistan each year during the last three years; and

(e) steps taken to ensure safety to security personnel and workers abroad?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) and (b) Yes. On January 3, 2008, a BRO convoy was attacked by militants resulting in the death of two ITBP personnel and injuries to 5 others. Nineteen Afghan civil security personnel and civilians were also killed and more than 15 injured in the attack.

(c) There are about 4000 Indian workers and security personnel working on different relief and reconstruction projects in Afghanistan.

(d) In November 2005, Shri Maniyappan Raman Kutty, an official of the Border Roads Organization (BRO), was abducted and killed by Taliban militants. In February 2006, Shri K. Bharath Kumar, working for US-based company, M/s. Louis Berger Group Inc. was killed in a land mine blast. Shri K. Suryanarayana, working for Baharain-based Al-Moyaed Company was taken hostage and killed in April 2006 by suspected Taliban militants in Ghazni province of Afghanistan. In a terrorist attack on BRO's Project Zaranj personnel on 3 January 2008, 2 Indian security personnel, Shri Manoj Kumar Singh and Shri Desha Singh, were killed.

(e) The Government of Afghanistan have provided local security for our major projects. For Zaranj-Delaram road project, being executed in security-sensitive Nimroz/Helmand province by Border Roads Organization, the Government of India have also deployed ITBP security personnel to supplement local Afghan security provided by the Afghan Government. Indian nationals in Afghanistan are being regularly advised about the prevailing security

scenario in the country through security advisories issued by the Embassy of India, Kabul.

**Civil Disciplines and Orderly Behaviour during Commonwealth Games, 2010**

1005.DR. K. DHANARAJU : Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any arrangements are being made to educate people for maintaining civil disciplines and orderly behaviour with the foreigners when they come to India to watch the Commonwealth Games, 2010; and

(b) the manner in which Government propose to utilize the Media schools and colleges, NSS volunteers, Scouts and Guides for the purpose?

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. A Total requirement of around 25000 volunteers has been projected by the Organizing Committee (OC), Commonwealth Games, 2010 for deployment during the Games. A Committee has been constituted by the OC to select and train a good team of volunteers to be posted at various venues/locations. The services of students from colleges, NCC, NSS, Scouts and Guides and other institutions are proposed to be utilized for this purpose. Out of these volunteers, the services of about 8700 volunteers will be utilized by the Delhi Police for traffic regulation, management of pedestrian flow at and around the venues, security supports, queue formation, help desks, parking assistance, frisking etc. during the Commonwealth Games, 2010. Delhi Police have also envisaged a Special Training Programme for ingraining courtesy and politeness in the police personnel in the discharge of their duties, specially during the Commonwealth Games and a three months' trial class has already been organized successfully in this regard. In the next phase about 40,000 police personnel are proposed to be imparted training under capsule course

of one year, from March 2008 in this regard. The Delhi Traffic Police is organizing training programmes for the personnel working at key locations in association with Delhi Tourism/ITDC. They are also planning to train the relevant stakeholders such as drivers of TSRs, Taxis and Buses etc.

**Setting Up of More National Universities**

1006.SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO :  
SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA :  
SHRI UDAY SINGH :  
SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Knowledge Commission has recommended to setting up of thirty more national universities to cater to the need of the country as reported in 'The Hindu' dated January 17, 2008;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has examined the said recommendation and proposed to set up new national universities;

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

(e) the time period fixed for setting up of these Universities;

(f) the steps taken by the Government on the recommendation of the Commission; and

(g) the total amount estimated to be incurred in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The relevant extract from the recommendations of the National Knowledge Commission is enclosed as statement which gives details thereof.

(c) to (g) Recommendations of the Knowledge Commission are under examination.

**Statement**

*Extracts from the recommendations of National Knowledge Commission: On Higher Education – Compilation of Recommendations on Education*

**Establish 50 National Universities**

NKC recommends the creation of 50 National Universities that can provide education of the highest standard. As exemplars for the rest of the nation, these universities would train students in a variety of disciplines, including humanities, social sciences, basic sciences, commerce and professional subjects, at both the undergraduate and post-graduate levels. The number 50 is a longterm objective. In the short run, it is important to begin with at least 10 such universities in the next three years. National Universities can be established in two ways, by the Government, or by a private sponsoring body that sets up a society, charitable trust or Section 25 company. Since public finance is an integral constituent of universities worldwide, most of the new universities shall need significant initial financial support from the Government. Each university may be endowed with a substantial *allocation of public land*, in excess of its spatial requirements. The excess land can be a subsequent source of income generation. Exceptions need to be made in existing income tax laws to encourage large endowments. There should be no restriction on the utilization of income in any given period or in the use of appropriate financial instruments. These universities should have the autonomy to set student fee levels and tap other sources for generating funds. The National Universities, NKC proposes, will admit students on an all-India basis. They will adopt the principle of *needs-blind admissions*. This will require an extensive system of

scholarships for needy students. Undergraduate degrees in the National Universities, in a three-year programme, should be granted on the basis of completing a requisite number of credits, obtained from different courses. The academic year will therefore be semester-based and students will be internally evaluated at the end of each course. Transfer of credits from one National University to another would also be possible. An appropriate system of appointments and incentives is required to maximize the productivity of faculty in these National Universities. Strong linkages would be forged between teaching and research, universities and industry, and universities and research laboratories. The National Universities shall be department-based and shall not have any affiliated colleges.

**Four Laning of NH from Verna to Mormugao Port**

1007. SHRI FRANCISCO COSME SARDINHA : Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government proposes expansion of four laning of NH from Verna to Mormugao port via Dabolim Airport;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Mormugao Port Trust proposes to fund the project;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the time by which the project is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA) : (a) and (b) At present four laning work from Verna Junction (km. 0.0) to Mormugao Port



(Sada Junction) in a length of 18.3 km. of NH 17B in Goa has been taken up under Port Connectivity Project.

(c) and (d) Mormugao Port Trust (MGPT) partly funds this project, as MGPT is the equity holder in Mormugao Port Road Company Limited, a Special purpose Vehicle for executing this project.

(e) The work of four laning of km. 0.0 to km. 13.1 of NH-17B has already been completed. The balance work on 5.2 km. can be completed within 18 months after getting the land free from encumbrances from Government of Goa.

**Forest Development Agencies Project  
for Gir Forest**

1008. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI :

SHRI BHUPENDRASINH SOLANKI :

SHRI MAHESH KANODIA :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has received any proposal from the State Government of Gujarat for the project of Forest Development Agencies of Gir (East) and Gir (West);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of the funds sanctioned and released for the project; and

(d) the time by which the remaining funds are expected to be released to the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY) :  
(a) to (d) Yes, Sir. Two proposals, namely of Gir (West) and Gir (East) Forest Development Agencies have been received from Gujarat respectively for Rs. 224.86 lakh and Rs. 254.18 lakh during the Tenth Five Year Plan. The Gujarat Forest Department has been requested to provide details of up-to-date wage rates and other requisite

documents. The proposals shall be considered after receipt of requisite documents and suitable proposal from the State subject to availability of funds.

*[Translation]*

**Widening and Re-Surfacing of NH from  
Delhi to Dehradun**

1009. SHRI RASHEED MASOOD :

SHRI J.M. AARON RASHID :

DR. RAJESH MISHRA :

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

(a) whether the work on widening and re-surfacing of National Highway from Delhi-Meerut-Muzaffamagar-Rurki-Haridwar-Dehradun is progressing at slow pace; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA) : (a) and (b) Delhi - Dehradun National Highway has been identified for 4 laning under National Highway Development Project (NHDP) Phase III on Build, Operate and Transfer (BOT) basis. Widening to 4 lane work in Meerut-Muzaffamagar section is in progress and delayed due to initial problem regarding tree cutting and land acquisition and is targeted to be completed by March, 2009. Widening to 4 lane work in Muzaffamagar-Haridwar section could not be awarded as only single bid was received and the same was cancelled. For re-bidding of this section, updation of Detailed Project Report (DPR) as per new Model Concession Agreement (MCA) as decided by Public Private Partnership Appraisal Committee (PPPAC) is in progress. The Haridwar-Dehradun section is passing through Rajaji National Park and clearance is to be obtained from the Central Empowered Committee constituted by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India. After

clearance from Central Empowered Committee and PPPAC, bidding process is to be taken up for award of 4 laning work.

[English]

**Setting up of Women Cell for  
Family Planning**

1010. SHRI RAVICHANDRAN SIPPAPARAI :  
SHRI MADAN LAL SHARMA :

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

(a) whether the Government proposes to set up Women Cell at the Block level to encourage family planning amongst women in the country;

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

(c) the steps taken/being 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. Though there is no such proposal to set up women cell at any level to encourage family planning, however family planning services at grass root level are provided by Auxiliary Nursing Midwives (ANM), assisted by the Anganwadi Workers (AWW) and propagated by female health activists i.e. Accredited Social Health Activists (ASHA). These three women at grass root level form the major protagonist of Family Planning Services.

(b) and (c) To encourage Family Planning through responsible and planned parenthood, voluntary and informed choice of Family Planning method best suited to acceptors have been adopted as envisaged in National Population Policy 2000 and further incorporated in the implementation frame work of National Rural Health Mission/RCH-II. Government has taken various steps to

encourage family planning viz; (i) addressing unmet need for contraception, (ii) Insurance cover to the sterilization acceptors, Indemnity to doctors and (iii) revised package of compensation for loss of wages to persons who undergo sterilization i.e. Vasectomy from existing Rs. 800/- to Rs. 1500/- and Tubectomy from Rs. 800/- to Rs. 1000/- in public facilities and to Rs.1500/- for both vasectomy and tubectomy in accredited private health facilities to all categories in High focus States and BPL/SC/ST in Non High Focus States.

**Development of Chilka Lake**

1011. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK :  
SHRI JUAL ORAM :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has taken cognizance of the growing water pollution in the Chilka lake;

(b) if so, the factors responsible therefor;

(c) the steps taken by the Union Government for abatement of water pollution and development of Chilka lake;

(d) the allocation of funds made by the Union Government to the State Government or the Chilka Development Authority and amount incurred therefrom during the last three years, Year-wise; and

(e) the details of various developmental works undertaken in this regard during the aforesaid year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA) : (a) to (c) Since there are no major industries and urban centres/towns located in and around Chilika lagoon, the lagoon water in general is unpolluted. Chilka Development Authority (CDA) is monitoring the water quality of the lagoon every month from 30 different Stations for various physico-chemical parameters, which are found to be within the permissible limits. No incidence of mass

killing of fish, birds and dolphins due to pollution load has been reported.

(d) and (e) Financial assistance of Rs. 1785.2 lakhs was allocated to the State Government by the Ministry and 12th Finance Commission during the last three years is enclosed statement, out of which an amount of Rs.1306.35 lakhs has been incurred for various developmental works which include catchment area treatment, community development, education awareness, fisheries development, hydrographic surveys, communication network, etc.

#### Statement

*Comparative statement of funds allocated by M/o Environment and Forests and 12th Finance Commission during the last three years and expenditure incurred for various conservation activities carried out in Chilka Lake*

(Amount in Rs. lakhs)

S. No.	Year	MoEF		12th Finance Commission	
		Amount allocated	Expenditure incurred	Amount allocated	Expenditure incurred
1.	2005-06	140.25	140.25	Nil	Nil
2.	2006-07	54.95	54.95	750.00	605.56
3.	2007-08	90.00	41.93	750.00	463.66
Total		285.2	237.13	1500	1069.22

#### Rational Use of Water Resources by China

1012. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL :  
SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA :  
SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the China has assured the protection and rational use of water resources in the trans Himalayan rivers that flow to India from the upper reaches of the Himalayas on the Chinese side as reported in the *Times of India* dated January 15, 2008;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any bilateral understanding has been reached or agreement signed in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) to (d) During Prime Minister's visit to China from 13 to 15 January 2008, he and Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao discussed bilateral cooperation on trans-border rivers. They welcomed the holding of the first meeting of the Expert Level Mechanism in September 2007 in Beijing. Premier Wen conveyed that China has been making efforts to cooperate with India in this area, including in disaster prevention and relief and is prepared to cooperate further in this area. The two Prime Ministers jointly stated, "The two sides also welcome their efforts to set an example on trans-border rivers by commencing cooperation in 2002. The Indian side highly appreciates the assistance extended by China on the provision of flood season hydrological data which has assisted India in ensuring the safety and security of its population along these rivers. The two sides agree that this has contributed positively to building mutual understanding and trust."

An MOU between the Ministries of Water Resources of India and China upon provision of hydrological information of the Yalungzangbu/Brahmaputra River in flood season by China to India was signed in January 2002. In April 2005, an agreement was reached on provision of similar data by China to India during the flood season in respect of River Sutlej.

[Translation]

**Dilapidated Condition of National Highways**

1013. SHRI SRICHAND KRIPLANI :  
SHRI TEK LAL MAHTO :  
SHRI RAGHURAJ SINGH SHAKYA :  
SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD :

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

- (a) whether a number of National Highways and their some stretches are in dilapidated conditions;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, NH-wise;
- (c) the details of repair-works undertaken/proposed to be undertaken on these NH and stretch-wise particularly in U.P., Bihar, Jharkhand including NH from Hajaribagh to Dumka and Ranchi to Barhi in Jharkhand; and
- (d) the funds allocated and spent on the repairs of the National Highways for last three years including the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA) : (a) to (c) The National Highways in the country are being kept in traffic worthy condition within the available resources. However, there have been damages to the National Highways due to overloading, rains, floods etc. Repair of National Highways is a continuous process and the repair works are taken up within the available resources depending nupon the extent of damages, traffic density and inter-se priority of works.

(d) The details of fund allocated and spent on the repairs of National Highways in the last three years including the current year are given below.

*Details of fund allocated and expenditure made for the Maintenance and Repair of National Highways during the last three years including the current year*

(Amount Rs. in crore)

Year	Allocation	Expenditure
2004-2005	745.56	678.95
2005-2006	868.10	838.34
2006-2007	814.38	784.56
2007-2008	1001.68	484.17*

\* Expenditure is upto 31.1.2008.

[English]

**New PG Courses in Homoeopathy and Ayurveda**

1014. SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Union Government has received any proposal from the Government of Kerala for approval of new PG Courses in medicine and Pharmacy in Homoeopathy and Ayurveda;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the time by which it is likely to be approved?

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

(b) The Department of AYUSH has received 3 applications in 2007-2008 from the Government of Kerala to open new post-graduate courses, the details of which are given below:-

- (i) PG courses in Drayaguna, Panchkarma and Swasthavritta in Vaidyaratnam PS Varier Ayurveda College, Kottakal;

- (ii) PG courses in Panchakarma, Rasa-Shastra, Shalakyatantra and Dravyaguna in the Govt. Ayurveda College, Tripunithura; and
- (iii) PG courses in Rachana Sharir in the Govt. Ayurveda College, Kannur.

(c) All the cases are under consideration in the Department of AYUSH. Approval or disapproval of the applications has to be issued by the Department of AYUSH- by 31st March, 2008 in terms of the relevant regulations.

#### **Agreement with Qatar to Protect the Interests of Indian Workers**

1015. SHRI SURESH ANGADI : Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has signed an agreement with Qatar to protect the interests of expatriate domestic workers and to check malpractices by recruitment agents;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to safeguard the interests of Indians in Qatar?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI) : (a) and (b) The Government had signed an agreement with Qatar on the regulation of the employment of Indian manpower on 11-04-1985. An Additional Protocol to this Agreement was signed on 20-11-2007.

The salient features of the Additional Protocol signed with the State of Qatar are the following:-

- (i) It enlarges the mandate of the Joint Committee and provides for a wide range of issues that can be reviewed by the Joint Committee for promotion of emigration from India to Qatar and protection/welfare of Indian workers;

(ii) It stipulates that the Joint Committee would meet twice a year;

(iii) It stipulates that if the State of Qatar decides to repatriate Indian workers prematurely before the expiry of their contracted period, the Government of Qatar will ensure that before their repatriation full wages and other entitlements accruing to them under the contract of employment and the Labour laws of the State of Qatar are paid to them for the entire un-availed period of the contract.

(iv) There is specific provision for the welfare of Indian workers in the unorganised sector.

(v) It provides for appropriate steps to be taken to curb practices detrimental to the welfare of the Indian workers working in or seeking work in the State of Qatar.

(c) Measures have been taken in consultation with Ministry of External Affairs, Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of Women and Child Development, the National Commission for Women and other concerned authorities for the better protection and welfare of our workers, especially the vulnerable sections like women emigrants. These include:-

(i) Installation of a 24/7 Helpline

(ii) Application of the age restriction of 30 years to all women emigrating on ECR stamped passport

(iii) Defining a minimum wage for women domestic workers

(iv) Stipulation of a security deposit of US \$ 2500 per worker from the foreign employer directly hiring any Indian worker

(v) Compulsory attestation of employment documents of all women emigrants with ECR stamped passport

- (vi) Opening of Overseas Indian Workers Resource Centre in host countries to serve as a one-stop service outlet for addressing the information and assistance needs of emigrant
- (vii) Operating shelters for distressed emigrants
- (viii) Exerting diplomatic pressure on host countries to extend the protection of local labour laws to the workers in the informal sector.

The Ministry believes that the ultimate protection of workers depends on their empowerment through skills and awareness. The Ministry has launched a programme for skill upgradation of potential emigrants. The programme is being implemented in partnership with State Governments and Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises. Industry organisations and NGOs will also be involved in its implementation.

The Ministry is planning to introduce a pre-departure orientation programme for emigrants to equip them with the knowledge of laws, language and culture of the host countries before their departure.

The Ministry is setting up a Council for Promotion of Overseas Employment to devise and implement appropriate strategies in order to avail emerging opportunities in the international labour market is also considering a proposal to establish a Welfare Fund for emigrants.

The Emigration Act 1983 is in the process of being amended to safeguard the interests of emigrants.

#### **Funds for Protection of Rhino**

1016. SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) the amount of funds allocated for the protection of Kaziranga National Park in general and its endangered species Rhino in particular during each of the last three years;

- (b) whether the funds have been diverted for other purposes by the State Forest Department;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the Government has ordered any enquiry in the matter;
- (e) if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) the steps taken by the Government to check diversions of Central funds?

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

(a) The details of funds released for the protection and management of Kaziranga National Park, Assam under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme — Development of National Parks and Sanctuaries during the last three years are as below:-

(Rs. in lakhs)		
2004.05	2005.06	2006.07
153.00	83.60	59.15

(b) No, Sir. There is no such report from the State Government.

(c) to (e) Does not arise.

(f) Under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme — Development of National Parks and Sanctuaries, Government of India provides financial assistance to the State/ UT Governments for the conservation and management of Protected Areas on the basis of approved Annual Plans of Operation. The funds are released in different installments, after the receipt of the Utilization Certificates from the State/UT Governments for the money released earlier.

#### **New NH from Delhi to Mumbai**

1017. SHRI KASHIRAM RANA :  
SHRI JIVABHAI A. PATEL :

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

(a) whether Government proposes to construct another National Highways from Delhi to Mumbai via Shamlaji to Vadodara, Rajpipla to Songadh, Virar to Uapi to cover tribal areas;

(b) the length of the existing National Highways No. 8 and the newly suggested National Highway alongwith the towns which would be covered by the new proposed NH; and

(c) the time by which the work would start and finish?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA) : (a) and (b) At present, there is no proposal to construct another National Highway from Delhi to Mumbai. The length of the existing National Highway No. 8 is 1375 km.

(c) Does not arise.

[Translation]

**Female Foeticide**

1018. SHRIMATI BHAVANA PUNDALIKRAO GAWALI :  
SHRI SARVEY SATYANARAYANA :  
SHRI SANJAY DHOTRE :

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

(a) the names of the States in which cases of female foeticide are comparatively very high;

(b) whether the Government proposes to make the rule more stringent to control such cases;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) to (d) The Sex Ratio (SR) (number of females per thousand males) has increased from 927 to 933 from 1991 to 2001. However, the Child Sex Ratio (CSR) has declined from 945 to 927 during the same period.

The Census 2001 figures further reveal that the child sex ratio is comparatively low in the affluent regions, i.e., Punjab (798), Haryana (819), Chandigarh (845), Delhi (868), Gujarat (883) and Himachal Pradesh (896). State/UT-wise Sex Ratio (SR) and Child Sex Ratio (CSR) as per 1991 and 2001 Census is given in the statement enclosed.

The Government has enacted the Pre-Conception and Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques Act, 1994 (PC and PNDT Act) to check female foeticide in the Country. An exercise is on to amend the Act so as to, inter alia, make the penal provisions therein more stringent.

**Statement**

**State/UT-wise Sex Ratio and Child Sex Ratio during 1991 and 2001**

India and State/ Union territory/ District	Sex Ratio		Child Sex Ratio		
	1991	2001	1991	2001	
	1	2	3	4	5
India	927	933	945	927	
Jammu and Kashmir	896	892	NA	941	
Himachal Pradesh	976	968	951	896	
Punjab	882	876	875	798	

1	2	3	4	5
Chandigarh*	790	777	899	845
Uttaranchal	936	962	948	908
Haryana	865	861	879	819
Delhi*	827	821	915	868
Rajasthan	910	921	916	909
Uttar Pradesh	876	898	927	916
Bihar	907	919	953	942
Sikkim	878	875	965	963
Arunachal Pradesh	859	893	982	964
Nagaland	886	900	993	964
Manipur	958	978	974	957
Mizoram	921	935	969	964
Tripura	945	948	967	966
Meghalaya	955	972	986	973
Assam	923	935	975	965
West Bengal	917	934	967	960
Jharkhand	922	941	979	965
Orissa	971	972	967	953
Chhattisgarh	985	989	974	975
Madhya Pradesh	912	919	941	932
Gujarat	934	920	928	883
Daman and Diu*	969	710	958	928
Dadra and Nagar Haveli*	952	812	1013	979

1	2	3	4	5
Maharashtra	934	922	946	913
Andhra Pradesh	972	978	975	961
Karnataka	960	965	960	946
Goa	967	961	964	938
Lakshadweep*	943	948	941	959
Kerala	1,036	1,058	958	960
Tamil Nadu	974	987	946	942
Pondicherry*	979	1,001	963	967
Andaman and Nicobar Islands*	818	846	973	957

Source : Census 1991 and 2001, O/o Registrar General of India.

\*Union Territory.

[English]

**Utilization of Funds for Health Programmes**

1019. PROF. M. RAMADASS :

PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR :

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

(a) whether the funds allocated for various health programmes run by the Union Government are not being utilized properly;

(b) if so, the details of the funds allocated and spent for various health programmes during the last three years, year-wise; 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) and (b) Funds allocated under the various health programmes are generally utilized in accordance with the guidelines laid down therein. During 2006-07, about 84% of the funds allocated have been utilized under various Health and Family Welfare programmes. The allocations made and expenditure incurred during the last three years in respect of major Centrally Sponsored Programmes under National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) and Health, is given in the statement enclosed.

(c) Steps initiated for better utilization of funds include inter-alia:-

- Setting up of a Financial Management Group (FMG) in the Ministry to oversee the release of

funds, monitor Utilization Certificates and Audit Reports;

- Establishing State/District Level Programme Management Units;
- Augmentation of accounting manpower at the level of PHCs;
- Regular monitoring by the Ministry for timely completion of plan activities;
- Issuing guidelines to states to facilitate utilization for funds and proper maintenance of accounts; and
- Conducting of training programmes for skill development and capacity building of personnel.

#### **Statement**

#### *Details of Year-wise Budget Estimate and Expenditure Incurred in Respect of Major Health and Family Welfare Schemes*

(Rs. Crore)

Sl. No.	Name of Scheme/ Programmes	2004.2005		2005.2006		2007.2008	
		Budget Estimate	Expenditure	Budget Estimate	Expenditure	Budget Estimate	Expenditure
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Infrastructure Maintenance	2293.22	2281.81	2277.27	1663.94	1867.70	1249.44
2.	Free distribution of contraceptives	97.70	76.45	172.52	163.61	100.00	91.25
3.	Routine Immunization	259.00	149.23	507.00	162.58	345.00	228.83
4.	Pulse Polio Immunization	1011.70	924.83	877.00	918.07	1049.00	1064.80
5.	IEC (Information, Education and Communication)	116.59	139.39	129.10	122.89	130.10	134.60

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
6.	Flexible Pool for State PIPs	956.69	500.24	955.74	2011.76	3648.90	3496.39
7.	National Vector Borne Disease Control Programme	296.00	212.17	348.45	260.45	371.58	318.13
8.	National P.S. Control Programmes	140.00	133.63	186.00	188.12	202.17	220.62
9.	National Programme for Control of Blindness	88.00	86.64	89.00	92.97	90.00	110.34
10.	National AIDS Control Programme and National STD Control Programme	476.00	404.50	533.50	520.82	705.67	669.49
11.	National Cancer Control Programme (including Tobacco Free initiatives)	60.00	62.85	70.00	71.99	87.00	44.58

### Widening of Jessore Road

1020. SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY : Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is considering widening of Jessore Road, the main connecting road with Bangladesh; and

(b) if so, the details of the Government's plan to widen the road and expected time-frame by which the project will be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA) : (a) and (b) The portion of Jessore Road having a length of 68.4 km. from Netaji Subhash

Chandra Bose International Airport to Indo-Bangladesh Border is with Central Government. It comprises a length of 8.80 km. of NH-34 from the airport to Barasat and entire length of 59.60 km. of NH-35. Government has approved 4-laning of NH-34 and NH-35 under National Highway Development Project (NHDP) Phase-III. Preparation of Detailed Project Report (DPR) has been taken up but progress is hampered severely due to resistance of local people, who are not allowing for carrying out survey. Therefore it is too early to indicate time-frame for completion.

### Age-Relaxation to Central Government Employees

1021. SHRI MADAN LAL SHARMA :  
SHRI RAVICHANDRAN SIPPIPARAI :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Staff Selection Commission permits age relaxation to the Central Government employees for appearing in various recruitment exams conducted by them;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether such age relaxation is not being given to the employees of autonomous bodies; 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) and (b) The Staff Selection Commission (SSC) which conducts recruitment examinations to Group 'B' (Non-Gazetted) and Group 'C' posts, gives age relaxation to Central Government civilian employees who have completed minimum 3 years regular service upto the age of 40 years for Group 'C' posts and a relaxation of 5 years in the prescribed age limit for Group 'B' posts. A further relaxation of 3 years and 5 years in age limit is applicable to Central Government employees of eligible Other Backward Classes (OBC) and SC/ST categories respectively.

(c) and (d) The employees of autonomous bodies are not treated as Central Government employees for purpose of age relaxation.

[Translation]

#### **Commissioning of Damodar River Diversion Area Project**

1022. SHRI TEK LAL MAHTO : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the dislocated/displaced people in Damodar River Diversion Area (DRDA) Project in Jharkhand have been rehabilitated and given employment by the Central Coalfields Limited;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the amount allocated for the implementation of this project alongwith the amount spent therefor;

(d) the reasons for the delay in the commissioning of the said project; and

(e) the time by which the project is likely to be commissioned?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO) : (a) and (b) 96 projects affected families from Chalkari, Jaridih and Phusro villages have been rehabilitated and 631 were given employment by Central Coalfields Limited.

(c) The Advance Action Proposal for Damodar River Diversion was approved by Government in the year 1983 with a capital outlay of Rs. 2 crores and revised cost estimate of Rs. 5.59 crore in the year 1993. The capital expenditure till March-2007 is Rs. 7.69 crores.

(d) and (e) The project has been delayed due to demand of employment by project affected persons, beyond the provision of R and R policy of the company. The initial project report of Damodar River Diversion Corporation Project (DRDP) made by Damodar River (DVC) was also not found viable and Central Coalfields Limited (CCL) too was not in a financial position to invest such an amount at that point of time.

However, in the meantime Ministry of Coal has asked Central Mine Planning and Design Institute Ltd. (CMPDIL)/ CCL to prepare a revised Detailed Project Report. CMPDIL has taken up detailed exploration in the project. CMPDIL has drilled 31 nos of boreholes in DRD block having a total meterage of 8705.7 m. Preparation of Geological report is in progress. Feasibility report of DRD OC is expected to be submitted by CMPDIL in June, 2008 and coal production from the project is expected to start from the year 2010-11 subject to financial viability of the revised project report.

[English]

**Target Fixed and Achieved during  
Tenth Plan**

1023. SHRI NAND KUMAR SAI :

SHRI BRAJÁ KISHORE TRIPATHY :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the targets fixed and achieved in regard to eradication of illiteracy, hunger, poverty, environment ecology and health care are far behind during the Tenth Plan;

(b) if so, whether it will take more time to achieve the targets fixed in this regard as reported in the Hindi daily the Hindustan dated December 23, 2007;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government has made any assessment to find out the factors responsible for lagging behind the schedule fixed for eradication of the same;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN) : (a) to (c) The Tenth Five Year Plan (2002-03 to 2006-07) had set monitorable targets for reducing illiteracy and poverty and for improving health care and environmental quality. For literacy, the Plan aimed at increasing the literacy rate to 75 per cent within the Plan period. As per the National Sample Survey data of the 62nd Round, (Report No. 522(62/10/1) literacy rate among the persons of 7 years and above was 68.3% in 2005-06. No specific monitorable target for eradication of hunger was fixed in the Tenth Plan. As per the latest large sample survey of household consumer expenditure of the 61st Round (July 2004 to

June 2005) of the NSS, 2.4 per cent of the rural households and 0.5 per cent of the urban households reported inadequacy of food for some months of the year in 2004-05. For poverty, the Tenth Plan aimed at reduction of the poverty ratio (i.e., the number of poor as percentage of total population) by 5 percentage points by 2007. Comparing the two latest estimate of the incidence of poverty available for the years 1993-94 and 2004-05, estimated from the large sample survey data on household consumer expenditure conducted by the NSSO in its 50th (July 1993-June 1994) and 61st Round (July 2004-June 2005), the poverty ratio is estimated to decline by 8.5 percentage points during this period. For environment and ecology, the Tenth Plan aimed at increasing the forest and tree cover to 25 per cent by 2007. The existing information on forest/tree cover based on the satellite data of 2002 indicates a green cover of 23.68%. There has been a net improvement of 0.65% between 2000 and 2002. Regarding health the Plan aimed at reducing infant mortality rate (IMR) to 45 per 1000 live births by 2007 and maternal mortality ratio (MMR) to 2 per 1000 live births by 2007. The IMR was 57 per 1000 live births in 2006 and the MMR was 3 per 1000 live births in 2001-2003. Thus it would appear that in some cases the realizations are likely to meet the Tenth Plan targets while in some others the realizations remained less than the targets. The *Hindustan* also mentioned other factors such as out of school children, drinking water supply and sanitation facilities. For these, separate programmes such as Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, Rajiv Gandhi National Drinking Water Mission and Total Sanitation Campaign are in operation.

(d) and (e) Most of these programmes in the area of education, health and anti-poverty programme have monitoring and evaluation mechanisms at different levels of Central and State Governments as part of the programme guidelines. The Planning Commission reviews the implementation of the Plan schemes during the Annual Plan discussions with the State Governments/Union Territories. These are factored into the Eleventh Plan,

which has set monitorable targets for some of these variables for the Plan period (2007-2012). For literacy, the literacy rate (for persons of age 7 years or more) to 85%. For poverty, to reduce the headcount ratio of consumption poverty by 10 percentage points. For environment and ecology, : (i) to increase forest and tree cover by 5 percentage points, (ii) Air quality in all major cities to attain WHO standards by 2011-12. (iii) Treat all urban waste water by 2011-12 to clean river waters. (iv) Increase energy efficiency by 20 per cent by 2016-17. For health care, (i) infant mortality rate (IMR) to reduce to 28 and maternal mortality ratio (MMR) to 1 per 1000 live births. (ii) to reduce malnutrition among children of age group 0-3 to half its present level. (iii) to reduce anaemia among women and girls by 50% by the end of the Eleventh Plan.

(f) The Eleventh Five Year Plan has set the growth target for the economy at 9% per year for the plan period (2007-12) and aims at putting the economy on a sustainable growth trajectory with a growth of approximately 10% by the end of its period. In addition to the benefits of increase in income arising from the general growth process, the Government is implementing a number of programmes in order to eradicate illiteracy and poverty and promote environmental sustainability and better health. The major schemes and programmes in this regard include Sampoorna Grameen Rozgar Yojana (SGRY), Swarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana, Indira Awaas Yojana, National Rural Employment Guarantee Programme, Swarn Jayanti Shahri Rozgar Yojana, Targeted Public Distribution System and Antyodaya Anna Yojana. A number of programmes/schemes have been launched by different Central Ministries/Departments for Social Sector development. Some of these are: National Rural Health Mission, Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, Nutritional Support to Primary Education (Mid-Day Meals Programme), Integrated Child Development Services, Rajiv Gandhi National Drinking Water Mission, Bharat Nirman, etc. The vision of the Eleventh Plan includes a clear commitment to pursue a development process, which is environmentally sustainable.

### Quality Control On NH Project

1024. SHRI CHENGARA SURENDRAN :  
SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA :

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

(a) whether the Union Government has any mechanism to check the quality of construction of National Highways;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the quality of work in construction of NH has been examined during the last 5 years;

(d) if so, the details thereof and outcome thereto, project-wise; and

(e) the 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) Execution of works on National Highways is being done by the implementing agencies of this Ministry viz. National Highways Authority of India (NHAI), State Public Works Departments (PWDs) and Border Roads Organization (BRO). In order to ensure that the execution of works conform to Ministry's specifications and relevant publications of Indian Roads Congress, the implementing agencies have well established quality control system. For ensuring quality during construction, supervision consultants/independent engineers are appointed by NHAI. Test checks are also performed by Project Directors of various field units. In some projects NHAI is also employing technical examiners to confirm the quality. For works handled by State PWDs and BRO, the quality control checks are performed by field officials.

(c) to (e) The Implementing agencies are exercising necessary quality control checks as per norms prescribed during construction. If any defects are observed, the same are got rectified with full quality control and re-tested.

**UNDP Report on Carbon Emission**

1025. SHRI PRABODH PANDA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) report has suggested for reducing carbon emissions by 20% by the end of 2050;

(b) if not, the details thereof and Government response thereto; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to reduce carbon emission in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA) : (a) and (b) The Human Development Report of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has recommended to develop a multilateral framework for avoiding dangerous climate change under the "post 2012 Kyoto Protocol (KP)" that includes interalia:-

- (i) agree to global sustainable emissions pathway aimed at 50 per cent reductions of greenhouse gas emissions by 2050 from 1990 levels.
- (ii) targets under KP implemented by developed countries, with a further agreement to cut greenhouse gas emissions by at least 80 per cent by 2050, with 20-30 per cent cuts by 2020.
- (iii) Major emitters in developing countries to aim at an emissions trajectory that peaks in 2020, with 20 per cent cuts by 2050.

(c) Even though India as a developing country does not have any mitigation commitments, nevertheless, a sustainable development path is being followed through a range of policies and programmes to mitigate climate change and reduce carbon emissions, that include:

- (i) ensuring energy conservation and improved energy efficiency in various sectors as well as setting up of Bureau of Energy Efficiency;

- (ii) promoting use of renewable energy;
- (iii) power sector reforms and active renewable energy programme;
- (iv) Use of cleaner and lesser carbon intensive fuel for transport;
- (v) fuel switching to cleaner energy;
- (vi) afforestation and conservation of forests;
- (vii) promotion of clean coal technologies;
- (viii) reduction of gas flaring;
- (ix) encouraging Mass Rapid Transport systems; and
- (x) environmental quality management for all sectors.

**Setting Up of Automatic Meteorological Stations**

1026. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to set up Automatic Meteorological Stations under extensions programme of ISRO;

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

(c) whether any Indo-Australian workshop on remote sensing was held in the recent past;

(d) if so, the details of various issues discussed therein; and

(e) the manner in which India is likely to be benefited as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. ISRO has developed Automatic Weather Stations (AWS), capable of collecting *in-situ* weather data such as pressure, temperature, humidity, wind and rainfall on an

hourly basis, and transmitting the same to a Central Station through INSAT communication satellites. 360 Automatic Weather Stations have been set up so far covering monsoon regions of South India and disaster-prone regions of North East.

(c) to (e) Yes, Sir. The Indo-Australian Workshop on remote sensing was held at Bangalore in December, 2007 under the aegis of Indian National Academy of Engineering (INAE) and the Australian Academy of Technological Sciences and Engineering (AATSE). The workshop recommended joint working between scientists of the two countries in areas including calibration and validation activities; data assimilation in numerical weather prediction models; and hyperspectral data processing and analysis.

#### Per Capita Calorie Intake

1027. SHRI ABU AYES MONDAL : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any survey has been conducted regarding per capita intake of protein and energy in urban and rural areas in the country;

(b) if so, the details calorie-intake of adults vis-a-vis pre-school children; and

(c) efforts made or being made by the Government to create awareness amongst people in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) and (b) The National Nutrition Monitoring Bureau (NNMB) of ICMR has been conducting Diet and Nutrition Surveys in 9 States namely Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Kerala, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Orissa and West Bengal of the country. The survey conducted during the year 2004-2005 in rural areas indicate the median intake of Calories in preschool children and adults are as below:-

(Energy in Calories)

Age Group	Median intake	RDA
1-3 years children	687	1240
4-6 years children	978	1690
Adult Men (sedentary worker)	1964	2425
Adult Women (sedentary worker)		

(c) The Government in imparting information, Education and Communication activities through various health and nutrition programmes by associating different media to bring about desired changes in dietary practices to improve the nutritional status of the people.

#### Protection of Birds

1028. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has been implementing any project for protection of birds;

(b) if so, the details of the project alongwith the budget allocation for the purpose and the time since it is being implemented alongwith the name of the implementing agencies;

(c) whether an assessment regarding the performance of the said project has been undertaken recently;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY) : (a) and (b) The Ministry is not implementing any dedicated project for protection of birds. However, under various Centrally Sponsored Schemes technical and financial

assistance are provided to the State/UT Governments for conservation and protection of wildlife including birds.

(c) to (e) Does not arise.

**Enhancement of Funds under  
MPLAD Scheme**

1029. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO : Will the Minister of STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal pending with the Government for consideration to enhance annual allocation under MPLAD Scheme;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI G.K. VASAN) : (a) to (c) A proposal to enhance the annual allocation of MPLAD Scheme is under examination in the Ministry.

*[Translation]*

**Per Capita Expenditure on Environment  
and Forests**

1030. SHRI MANSUKHBHAI D. VASAVA :  
SHRI HARISINH CHAVDA :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the per capita expenditure on environment and forests in the country during the last three years, State-wise; and

(b) the State-wise extension of forests cover during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN

MEENA) : (a) and (b) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

*[English]*

**Proposal for Afforestation of Degraded  
Non-Forest Land**

1031. SHRI P.C. THOMAS : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Kerala has submitted a proposal for afforestation of degraded non-forest land involving Panchayati Raj Institutions (Grama Vana Yojana);

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the response of the Union Government thereto?

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

(a) to (c) A Scheme for afforestation on non-forest lands by involving the Panchayati Raj Institutions has been mooted by the Ministry of Environment and Forests. The Scheme has not been approved yet, though the draft guidelines of the proposed Scheme have been circulated to States/Union Territories and concerned Ministries of Government of India for their comments. The Kerala Forest Department has been requested to resubmit the proposal after the scheme is approved and as per the approved Guidelines of the Scheme.

**Healthcare Project In AP funded  
by DFID**

1032. SHRI L. RAJAGOPAL : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state the current status of Healthcare projects in Andhra Pradesh, which are funded by UK's Department for International Developments (DFID)?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : The AP Health Sector Reforms Programme



(APHSRP) was jointly developed by DFID and Government of AP. The programme, which will cost £ 40 million over three years, was approved by DFID in June, 2007 and the exchange of letters with the Department of Economic Affairs was signed in September, 2007. The first tranche of £9.5 million was released to implement the agreed priorities of the AP Health Sector Reforms Strategy and Work-Plan for 2007-08. The Programme is being implemented by the Department of Health, Medical and Family Affairs, Government of Andhra Pradesh. A Technical Cooperation Support Agency is expected to be in place by March, 2008.

The Health Sector Support will be provided over three years (2007/08-2009/10). It aims at increased use of quality Health Services, especially by the poorest people and in underserved areas.

The main outputs will be:

- (a) Improved access to quality and responsive services, especially in remote and interior areas;
- (b) Governance and management of health sector strengthened;
- (c) Institutional mechanisms for community participation and system for accountability in functioning; and
- (d) Financial management systems strengthened and improved public expenditure on health.

#### **Guidelines for BPO Workers**

1033. SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has issued any guidelines for Business Process Outsourcing (BPO) workers;
- (b) if so, the details of the guidelines;
- (c) whether the Government has received any representation opposing such guidelines;

- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the response of the Union Government thereto?

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

#### **Upgradation of Medical Facilities**

1034. SHRI VIJOY KRISHNA : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of major Government hospitals functioning in the country at present;
- (b) whether the Government proposes to upgrade the medical facilities in these hospitals during the Eleventh Five Year Plan; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) to (c) Health is a State listed subject as such no information regarding major Government Hospitals functioning in the country is centrally maintained. In so far as Central Government Hospitals in Delhi are concerned, there are three major hospitals, namely, Dr. R.M.L. Hospital, Safdarjung Hospital and Lady Hardinge Medical College and its associated hospitals. Apart from this, there is an All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), New Delhi.

Under the Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojna (PMSSY), there is a proposal for setting up of six AIIMS like institutions each in the State of Bihar (Patna), Chhattisgarh (Raipur), Madhya Pradesh (Bhopal), Orissa (Bhubaneswar), Rajasthan (Jodhpur) and Uttaranchal (Rishikesh).

Besides, the above, Government has also decided to upgrade 13 existing medical institutions in different states.

**Withdrawal of FDC Drugs**

1035. SHRI J.M. AARON RASHID :  
SHRI PRABODH PANDA :  
DR. RAJESH MISHRA :

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

(a) whether the Government has directed those companies, which were manufacturing Fixed Dose Combination (FDC) drugs, to phase out the production of FDC drugs; and

(b) if so, the details of such drugs withdrawn from the market till December 31, 2007 alongwith the names of the manufacturers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) and (b) The Drugs Controller General of India had issued directions under Section-33(P) of Drugs and Cosmetics Act in November, 2007 to Drugs Controllers of all States/Union Territories to suspend the manufacturing licenses granted for FDCs under question. However, in January 2008, the Drug Manufacturers and their Associations had filed Writ Petitions No. 34777-34781/2007, 35354/07, 35844/07 and 36369/07 in the Hon'ble High Court of Madras at Chennai, and the matter is sub-judice.

**Promotion of Ayurveda**

1036. SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has launched any specific schemes and projects for promotion of Ayurveda;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith allocations of funds for such projects; and

(c) the action taken by the Government for ensuring the teaching standard of Ayurveda in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) and (b) The details of Schemes/Projects launched for promotion of AYUSH System of medicine including Ayurveda are given in the statement enclosed.

(c) Following steps have been taken:—

(i) periodic review of syllabus by Central Council of Indian Medicine.

(ii) regular visitation of colleges by CCIM to ensure that the institutions are following the provisions of IMCC Act 1970.

(iii) grant of permission to those colleges to start UG/ PG courses and increase admission capacity, which fulfill the Minimum standards laid down under provisions of IMCC Act 1970.

(iv) regular review of the IMCC Act to bring amendments in provisions requiring amendments due to the change of time.

(v) strict enforcement of various provision of IMCC Act 1970 and its amendments.

**Statement**

Sl. No.	Scheme Name	Description	Funds allocated
1	2	3	4
1.	Development of AYUSH Clusters	Under the scheme support in the form of grants to special Purpose Vehicle (SPV)	Rs.27.00 Crore has been earmarked for the Scheme during 2007-08.

1	2	3	4
		<p>formed by group of enterprises from AYUSH Sector are granted so as to fill the gaps in AYUSH Sector in the areas of Standardization, Quality Assurance and Control, Productivity, Marketing, Infrastructure and Capacity Building through a cluster based approach.</p>	
2.	<p>Specific component of Multi-media Campaign under IEC scheme</p>	<p>Under the scheme Arogya fairs and National Campaigns on Khasarsutra and Geriatric Health Care through Ayurveda and Siddha were organized.</p>	<p>During the current financial year Rs. 62.55 lakhs was released to 14 State Health Societies for organizing National Campaign on Khasarsutra and Rs.10.00 lakhs to Central Council for Research in Ayurveda and Siddha (CCRAS) for organizing National Campaign on Geriatric Care through Ayurveda and Siddha. Three Arogya Fairs were also organized at Delhi, Dehradun and Indore for promotion and propagation of AYUSH systems including Ayurveda.</p>
3. (a)	<p>Golden Triangle Project</p>	<p>Golden Triangle Project is aimed to set up an Integrated technology mission for scientific validation of classical/classical based Ayurvedic products for the identified disease conditions for which the three apex organizations like Dept. of AYUSH/CCRAS, CSIR and ICMR have joined hands for the above said purpose</p>	<p>A total amount of Rs.7.25 crore has been allocated for both Golden Triangle Project and Extra Mural Research Project during current financial year 2007-08.</p>
3 (b)	<p>Extra Mural Research Scheme launched for promotion of Ayurveda.</p>	<p>This is the Research Project for AYUSH Systems of Medicine, which also include therapies documented and used in these systems for the prevention and cure of various disorders and diseases.</p>	
4.	<p>Scheme for AYUSH Hospitals</p>	<p>(i) Setting up of Speciality Clinics of Ayurveda. Under this component a Grant-in-aid of Rs.10.00 lakhs is sanctioned to State Govts. to set up outdoor treatment centres.</p>	<p>Rs. 62.00 Crores in RE 2007-08.</p>

1	2	3	4
		<p>(ii) Establishment of Specialized Therapy Centres of Ayurveda like Panchakarma and Ksharsutra. Under the component a Grant-in-aid of Rs. 22.00 lakhs is sanctioned to State Govts. and organisations running on no profit basis for setting of Specialized Therapy Centres of Ayurveda like Panchakarma and Ksharsutra.</p> <p>(iii) Setting up of AYUSH Wings in District Allopathic Hospitals of State Governments. Under the component a grant-in-aid of Rs. 35.00 lakhs for each center is sanctioned to state Govts.</p>	
5.	Scheme for AYUSH dispensaries	Under the scheme a grant-in-aid @Rs.25,000/- per each dispensary is released to State Governments for purchase of medicines for its AYUSH Dispensaries.	Rs.33.90 crores in RE-2007-08.
6.	Scheme for Development of AYUSH Institutions.	Under the scheme a grants are provided to AYUSH colleges to achieve minimum standards of education and mandatory infrastructural requirements laid down by the Central Council of Indian Medicine and Central Council of Homoeopathy.	Rs.47.00 crores during 2007-08.
7.	Scheme for Quality Control of Ayurveda, Siddha, Unani and Homoeopathy drugs	Under the scheme, financial assistance to State Governments is provided for strengthening of State Drug Testing Laboratories and Pharmacies and strengthening of enforcement mechanism of ASU Drugs. Assistance to ASU and H manufacturing units is also provided for establishment of in-house quality control laboratories and to upgrade their infrastructure to acquire WHO Good Manufacturing Practices/US FDA/EU Good Manufacturing Practices for export purposes.	Rs.10.00 crores during 2007-08.

[Translation]

**National Highways Accident Relief Scheme**

1037. SHRI SURAJ SINGH :

SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH "LALAN" :

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA :

SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY :

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

(a) whether the Committee on Road Safety and Management has submitted its report to the Government;

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

(c) whether the entire funds for National Highways Accident Relief Scheme (NHARS) have not been utilised during 2006-07;

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

(e) whether the Government provides training to drivers to check the road accident; and

(f) the details of such institutes and the fund allocated for the same, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA) : (a) and (b) The Committee on Road Safety and Traffic Management constituted under the Chairmanship of Shri S. Sundar, former Secretary, the then Ministry of Surface Transport submitted its report to the Government of India on 20.2.2007. The main recommendations of the Committee include creation of National Road Safety and Traffic Management Board through an Act of the Parliament. The Board would have advisory as well as regulatory functions. Under regulatory functions the Board would set standards for the motor vehicles, and set

standards for designing roads. In its advisory role, the Board will assist Central Government in the matters relating to road safety and traffic management and would promote road safety research, road user behaviour strategies, lay guidelines for establishing medical care and rehabilitation etc. Enabling provision has been proposed for creation of similar bodies at State level. The Committee has also recommended earmarking of atleast 1% of the total proceeds of cess on diesel and petrol for road safety fund. A note has been submitted for consideration of Committee of Secretaries (CoS).

(c) and (d) During 2006-07, out of the budget provision of Rs.14.80 crore an amount of Rs.12.16 crore was spent for procurement of cranes and ambulances under the scheme National Highways Accident Relief Service Scheme (NHARSS).

(e) and (f) To improve the driving skills the scheme of Setting up of a Model Training Institute on Driving and Research has been launched in the Tenth Five Year Plan. Under this scheme Central Assistance is provided to State Govts./NGOs for Capital investment for setting up such Institute. So far 13 institutes have been sanctioned out of which 2 institutes at Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh and Sarai Kale Khan, NCT of Delhi have become operational. The details of the sanctioned institutes are as under:-

(Rs. in lakh)

S.No.	Name of the State/NGO	Central assistance
1	2	3
1.	Assam (Betkuchi)	394.00
2.	M/s. KDLOA (Vijayawada)	400.00
3.	Karnataka (Hagaribommanahalli, Bellary Distt.)	269.00
4.	West Bengal (Jessore Road, West Bengal)	328.00

1	2	3
5.	Himachal Pradesh (Jassur)	181.00
6.	Kerala (Edappal)	299.00
7.	IDTR (Sarai Kale Khan), NCT of Delhi	325.00
8.	Uttaranchal (Dehradun)	325.00
9.	Uttar Pradesh (Allen Forest, Kanpur)	339.00
10.	Orissa (Chandikhole, Jajpur)	336.00
11.	Nagaland (Dimapur)	354.00
12.	Madhya Pradesh (Indore)	393.96
13.	Haryana (Bahadurgarh)	400.00
Total		4343.96

[English]

#### Backward Region Grant Fund Scheme

1038. SHRI SARVEY SATYANARAYANA : Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is ensuring that additional assistance was given to Andhra Pradesh for all-round development of tribal and backward areas under the special category for implementing Backward Region Grant Fund Scheme; and

(b) if so, the details thereof during the last 3 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) and (b) 13 districts of Andhra Pradesh are included in the Backward Regions Grant Fund (BRGF) Programme. 10 of these districts were also covered under the Rashtriya Sam Vikas Yojana, which has now been subsumed into the BRGF Programme. Rs. 322.50 crore has been released to Andhra Pradesh under RSVY from 2003-04 till 29.2.08. Rs. 301.88 crore has been released to all 13 districts as development grant under BRGF during 2007-08. Rs.13 crore each has been released to the State in 2006-07 and 2007-08 respectively for the capacity building of elected representatives and officials of Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs). Details of releases made to Andhra Pradesh are enclosed as statement.

#### Statement

Abstract of Release to the State-Andhra Pradesh under RSVY-BRGF (As on 29.02.2008)

(Rs. in crore)

Sl No	Name of District	Release under RSVY			Development Grant 2007-08	Remarks
		2003-04 to 2006-07	2007-08	Total released Amount		
A	B	C	D	E	F	G
1	Anantapur	30	7.5	37.5	28.32	

A	B	C	D	E	F	G
2.	Adilabad				23.89	Non RSVY (New BRGF District)
3.	Chittoor	22.5	7.5	30	26.1	
4.	Cuddapah				23.85	Non RSVY (New BRGF District)
5.	Karimnagar	30	15	45	23.32	RSVY Completed
6.	Khammam	22.5	7.5	30	24.08	
7.	Mahbhoobnagar	15	7.5	22.5	27.5	
8.	Medak	22.5	15	37.5	20.37	
9.	Nalgonda	15	7.5	22.5	24.35	
10.	Nizamabad	22.5	7.5	30	18.63	
11.	Rangareddy				20.87	Non RSVY (New BRGF District)
12.	Vijainagaram	15	7.5	22.5	17.01	
13.	Warangal	37.5	7.5	45	23.59	RSVY Completed
Total		232.5	90	322.5	301.88	

**Component-wise Releases to the State-Andhra Pradesh**

Rs. in Crore

1.	RSVY	322.5
2.	Development Grant	301.88
3.	Capacity Building Grant released to the State during 2006-07 and 2007-08	26
4.	Advance for preparation of District Plans released to the State during 2007-08	1.3

**Grand Total**                      **651.68**

**Guidelines on Assisted Reproductive  
Technology**

1039. SHRI K. SUBBARAYAN : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the guidelines provided by the Indian Council of Medical Research on Assisted Reproductive Technology; and

(b) the details of monitoring mechanism to ensure implementation of these guidelines?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) and (b) Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has developed National Guidelines for Accreditation, Supervision and Regulation of Assisted Reproductive Technology (ART) Clinics in India which have been accepted by the Government. These guidelines have been circulated to all the States by the Department of Family Welfare, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Govt. of India with the request to follow them in their States. However, to implement these Guidelines in the country, the Govt. of India also requested ICMR to develop an ART Bill. The Council has developed a Draft ART Bill, which also includes the issue of surrogate mother and is under experts' evaluation.

A State Accreditation Authority will be set up by the State Governments through its Departments of Health and/or Family Welfare to oversee all policy matters relating to Accreditation, Supervision and Regulation of ART Clinics in the States in accordance with the National Guidelines. Also, a National Advisory Committee headed by the Secretary, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare will be set up to advise the Central Government on Policy matters relating to regulation of ART clinics.

**Study on Contents of Cosmetic Items**

1040. SHRI ANIRUDH PRASAD ALIAS SADHU YADAV :  
SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA :

SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD :  
SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE :  
SHRI MADHU GOUD YASKHI :

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

(a) whether most of the branded companies are using lead, copper and other chemicals more than the specified quantity in various cosmetic items such as lipstick, talcum powder, deo, hair dye and shampoo etc. which causes various diseases including cancer as per the study conducted by Delhi Institute of Pharmaceutical Sciences and Research;

(b) if so, whether the Government has any agency for monitoring the cosmetics manufacturing companies to control quality;

(c) if so, the details thereof alongwith the action taken by the Government in this regard; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) to (d) As per Rules 138 of Drugs and Cosmetics Rules, 1945, State Licensing Authorities are empowered to grant or renew license to manufacture any cosmetics for sale in the country. Under the provisions of section 18 of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940, State Government by way of Notification can prohibit the manufacture for sale or for distribution or sell or stock or exhibit or offer for sale or distribute any cosmetics which is not of standard quality or is misbranded or spurious or harmful or unsafe.

**Coal Deposits in Singareni Collieries  
Company Ltd. (SCCL)**

1041. SHRI G. NIZAMUDDIN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:



(a) the estimates of coal deposits available with Singareni Coal Mines, Andhra Pradesh, at present;

(b) the number of open cast/underground mines in operation at present in Singareni Coal Mines of Andhra Pradesh; and

(c) the present workforce engaged in these mines?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO) : (a) The Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL) is operating in Godavari Valley coal field and its mines are spread across 4 districts of Andhra Pradesh, viz. Adilabad, Karimnagar, Warangal and Khammam.

The details of proved, indicated and inferred coal resources available in Godavari Valley Coal field are given below:--

As on 1.4.2007 (in Mt.)

Proved	Indicated	Inferred	Total
8791.12	6265.58	2657.75	17714.45

(b) As on 1.4.2007, SCCL is operating 13 Opencast and 42 Underground mines in 4 districts of Adilabad, Karimnagar, Warangal and Khammam in the state of Andhra Pradesh.

(c) The work force of these mines as on 31.1.2008 is 75,830.

#### Growth In Healthcare Sector

1042. SHRI K.S. RAO : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to declare health sector as an industry and extend all facilities accordingly by creating low-cost high quality facilities in the health sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of growth in healthcare sector and medical tourism recorded each year during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) At present there is no proposal to confer industry status to the health sector in the country.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) According to the Economic Survey 2007-08, Public spending on health inclusive of social determinants like drinking water and nutrition is 1.27%, 1.36% and 1.39% of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) for the years 2005-06, 2006-07 and 2007-08, respectively.

No centralized data is maintained on medical tourist traffic to India. However, several initiatives have already been initiated to promote Medical Tourism through wider dissemination of health related materials, films, brochures etc.

[Translation]

#### Environment Clearance to Pending Irrigation Projects in Maharashtra

1043. SHRIMATI RUPATAI D. PATIL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has given environmental clearance to the pending irrigation projects of Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of proposals pending for environmental clearance from Maharashtra alongwith the reasons therefor; and

(d) the time by which all the projects are likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA) : (a) and (b) Seven river valley and hydro electric projects from Maharashtra have been accorded environmental clearance under the Environment Impact Assessment Notification of 2006.

(c) and (d) As on date, only one irrigation project, namely Jihe Kathapur Lift Irrigation Scheme in Satara District, Maharashtra is pending for environment clearance due to non submission of information by the project proponent. Generally, the final decision on projects is to be taken within 105 days after receipt of complete information.

[English]

**Peripheral Ring Road Airport Expressway  
in Bangalore**

1044. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI : Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Central team has held discussions with the Karnataka Government on the new airport expressway and peripheral ring road projects in January, 2008; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and outcome of the discussion?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir, a decision has been taken for construction of new airport expressway and peripheral ring road projects under National Highway Development Project (NHDP) phase-VII on Built, Operate and Transfer (BOT) basis and to be implemented by National Highways Authority of India (NHAI).

**Environmental Clearance to Irrigation Projects  
in Karnataka**

1045. SHRI G.M. SIDDESWARA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Irrigation projects including lift irrigation and power projects in Karnataka are pending for environmental clearance;

(b) the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to expedite the clearance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA) : (a) No irrigation project, including lift irrigation and hydro electric power projects, from Karnataka is pending with the Ministry for environmental clearance.

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

**Rise in Cases of Tiger Poisoning**

1046. SHRI M.K. SUBBA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the cases of Tiger poisoning in Assam and in other North Eastern States are on the rise;

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

(c) the number of Tigers in the North Eastern hills and forests declined during the last three years, year-wise;

(d) the number of culprits brought to book during the said period; and

(e) the number of years after which periodic census of tiger and wildlife population is undertaken?

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

(a) and (b) Reports relating to poisoning of wild tiger, at times, are received from States. However, no definite trend can be inferred from such figures. The State (Assam) has reported mortality of three tigers on account of suspected poisoning (In Rajiv Gandhi Orang National Park and Hatikhuli Tea Estate near Kaziranga National Park). However, no confirmation in this regard has been received.

(c) Details of tiger mortality in the North Eastern Region within the last three years, and change in forest

cover status, in and around tiger reserves upto a radial distance of 10 km. during 2000-2002, are given in the statement enclosed.

(d) Action is taken by the Courts of Law having jurisdiction over the respective area within the concerned State, as per legal provisions against offenders prosecuted by the enforcement agencies for poaching. Details of individual cases in this regard are not collated at the Government of India level.

(e) All India Estimation of tiger is done once in every four years.

#### Statement

*Tiger mortality during the last three years in the North Eastern Region, as reported by States*

Sl.No.	Place	Date of incidence	2005	2006	2007
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Kaziranga National Park, Assam	1.11.05 (PM* awaited)	1 Tiger	—	—
2.	Rajiv Gandhi Orang National Park, Assam	14.11.2005/15.11.2005 (PM* awaited)	1 Tiger	—	—
3.	Rajiv Gandhi Orang National Park, Assam	2.10.2007 (suspected poisoning)	—	—	1 Tiger
4.	Rajiv Gandhi Orang National Park, Assam	4.10.2007 (suspected poisoning)	—	—	1 sub-adult
5.	Hatikhuli Tea Estate near Kaziranga National Park, Assam	27.12.2007 (suspected poisoning)	—	—	1 Tigress (cub)
Total			2		3

\*PM : Post Mortem

**Forest cover and changes therein in Tiger Reserves**

(As per comparative appraisal of forest cover status in and around tiger reserves, upto a radial distance of 10 km, undertaken by the Project Tiger Directorate in collaboration with the Forest Survey of India).

Tiger Reserve	Geog. Area	2000	2002	Change (2000-2002)
Dampa	500	479	478	-1
Manas	2,840	1,559	1,555	-4
Namdapha	1,985	1,858	1,858	0
Nameri	344	178	169	-9
Pakhui (Pakke)	862	846	844	-2

**Forest cover and changes therein in Outer Surround in Tiger Reserves**

(As per comparative appraisal of forest cover status in and around tiger reserves, upto a radial distance of 10 km, undertaken by the Project Tiger Directorate in collaboration with the Forest Survey of India).

Tiger Reserve	Geog. Area	2000	2002	Change (2000-2002)
Dampa	810	754	750	-4
Manas	3,236	452	452	0
Namdapha	1,421	1,223	1,220	-3
Nameri	1,265	583	572	-11
Pakhui (Pakke)	1,828	1,682	1,682	0

**Rural Health Schemes in Tamil Nadu**

1047. SHRI K.C. PALLANI SHAMY : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of developmental works undertaken under the rural health schemes in the State of Tamil Nadu and the benefits derived from them so far;

(b) whether some of the schemes have not been successful in the State;

(c) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(d) the steps taken for the successful implementation of the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) to (d) The National Rural Health Mission [NRHM] has been launched all over the country including Tamil Nadu with the objective of providing accessible, affordable, accountable, effective and reliable primary health care facility especially, to the poor and vulnerable section of the population. It further aims to provide overarching umbrella to the existing programmes of Health and FW including RCH II across the country including Tamil Nadu State. The other National Disease Control programmes include Malaria, Blindness, Iodine deficiency, Filaria, Kala Azar, Tuberculosis, Leprosy and Integrated Disease Surveillance. The preventive and curative health care is being provided through a three tier network of 8683 Sub Centres, 1181 Primary Health Centres and 236 Community Health Centres in Tamil Nadu. The funds are released to States/UTs Government for upgradation/establishment of new SCs, PHCs and CHCs. The States/UTs Governments are however required to incorporate their funds requirement under their annual NRHM Programme Implementation Plans.

Tamil Nadu is one of the Non High Focus States under NRHM. During the Financial Year 2007-08 an amount of Rs. 78.46 Crores has been released under RCH Flexi pool and Rs.. 110.11 Crores has been released under Mission Flexi pool upto December, 2007. The performance of the programme was reviewed by Minister Health and Family Welfare in Chennai on 1st March, 2008 and the progress was satisfactory.

### Business Summit at Bangkok

1048. SHRI NAVEEN JINDAL : Will the Minister of DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Business summit called "North East India Investment Opportunities week" was held in October, 2007 at Bangkok to highlight the rich potential of North East Region;

(b) if so, whether Thai authorities and companies have evinced any interest in the region since then;

(c) if so, the details thereof alongwith Thai Investment made in the region so far;

(d) whether the Government proposed to hold such summits in other countries also;

(e) 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) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The 'North East India Trade and Investment Opportunities Week' in Thailand concluded on a promising note with 10 MOUs being sealed, and encouraging talks of future business tie-ups and collaborations. The Thai authorities and companies evinced keen interest in the region in Agriculture, Food processing, Hydro-electricity, Dams, Inland water transport, Road construction, Horticulture products, Agriculture produce, Tea, Bamboo, Tourism and Hospitality, among other sectors/areas. One of the significant gains of the event was the North-Eastern Development Finance Corporation Ltd. (NEDFi)'s MoU with the India-Thai Business Forum. The seven-point (MoU talks about exploring and facilitating trade and investment opportunities by creating a dedicated facilitation desk, source markets and create investment technology parks, co-ordinate with state governments for policy initiatives,

assist in joint ventures, meet once in six months for roadshows, seminars, meets and make such other efforts to strengthen bilateral business relations. 42 proposals for Thai-North East trade cooperation in investment and trade are being actively pursued by the Indian Chamber of Commerce, Kolkata.

With this event, a significant beginning has been made and a platform for stronger bilateral economic relations and better economic understanding and exchanges between the two countries has been created.

Subsequently, the Deputy Minister of Industry of Thailand, who is also Chairman of the Thai Board of Investment, led a Thai delegation comprising representatives from the Thai Board of Investment, the Thai Office of Commercial Affairs in Delhi and Thai Companies in food, construction, banking and steel industry, to visit three North Eastern States of India (Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh and Assam) from January 9-12, 2008 to follow up the earlier visit to Tripura, Assam and Meghalaya of the Thai Minister of Commerce in June 2007, which comprised representatives from the Thai Government – Department of Trade Negotiations, Department of Export Promotion, Board of Investment of Thailand, Tourism Authority of Thailand, Department of Trade Promotion, Department of Export Promotion, Department of Business Development, Department of Foreign Trade, Representatives of Business Houses – Federation of Thai Industries, India Thai Business Forum, India Thai Chamber of Commerce, Ch. Kamchang Public Company Ltd., Electricity Generation Authority of Thailand, Siam Cement Group, Thai Orchid Exporters Association, Aqua Culture Promotion Co. Ltd. and Precious Shipping Co. Ltd. besides India Office in the Ministry of Commerce and the Board of Investment.

(d) and (e) Discussions are being initiated with Australia, Singapore, ASEAN and UAE. There is an on-going initiative with NRIs of North East Region in the US. It is essential that NER be projected as an attractive FDI and trade destination world-wide and specifically under the Look East Policy.

### Setting up of Skin Banks

1049. SHRI PRATIK P. PATIL : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is considering to setting up Skin Banks on the line of Blood Banks; 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) There is no such proposal at present under consideration of central government.

### Development of Lakes

1050. SHRI JUAL ORAM : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government's plan for conservation of lakes will remain continue during the Eleventh Five Year Plan;

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

(c) the conservation and development plan drawn up, lake-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA) : (a) to (c) The Ministry is implementing the scheme of National Lake Conservation Plan (NLCP) since June, 2001 for conservation and management of polluted and degraded lakes in urban and semi-urban areas. Under this Plan, the Ministry has so far, sanctioned 35 projects for conservation of 52 lakes at an estimated cost of Rs. 687.52 crore.

The National Lake Conservation Plan is presently continuing and an outlay of Rs. 63.21 crore (Revised Estimate) has been earmarked for the first year of the XI Plan i.e., Annual Plan 2007-08, for the NLCP projects. For the financial year 2008-09, the out lay (Budget Estimate)

for implementation of the NLCP projects is Rs. 80 crore. Based on the response of the State Governments on prioritization of lakes and submission of proposals for their conservation, a requirement of Rs. 800 crore for ongoing and new projects had been estimated for the NLCP during the XI Plan.

The proposals for new lakes are considered for sanction subject to their admissibility as per NLCP guidelines, pollution status, prioritization and availability of funds under the Plan.

[Translation]

### Reconsideration of Indo-US Civil Nuclear Deal

1051. SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the defence analysts and nuclear scientists while expressing concern on the Indo-US nuclear deal have requested the Government to reconsider it; and

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

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) and (b) Government have seen various opinions on the proposed civil nuclear co-operation between India and the USA as per the understandings of July 2005 and March 2006. While most defence analysts and nuclear scientists have been strongly in favour of the proposed co-operation, a few have expressed some concerns. Government take due note of the issues raised and proceeds in the best interests of the country.

[English]

### Withdrawal of Special Dispensation to Kendriya Bhandar

1052. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for withdrawing the special dispensation given to Kendriya Bhandar as per the DoPT O.M. dated 14.7.1981 regarding local purchase of stationery and other articles;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the GFRs-2005 has not yielded any results in bringing any economy in public expenditure in procuring goods;

(d) if so, the proposal to redispensate the Kendriya Bhandar

(e) if not, the reasons therefor;

(f) whether there is any proposal to make it mandatory for Government departments to make local purchase of stationery and other general items from Kendriya Bhandar; and

(g) 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) The OM dated 14.7.1981 of the Department of Personnel and Training regarding local purchase of stationery and other articles was no longer in force after the issue of the General Financial Rule, 2005 by the Ministry of Finance w.e.f. 1st July, 2005. The matter, however, was reviewed by the Government and it decided to adopt a special dispensation in making purchases from the Kendriya Bhandar etc. keeping in view the avowed objectives of the cooperative movement to ensure supply of goods and services to the consumers at the most economical and competitive prices. Accordingly, the Government has issued an O.M. dated 5.7.2007 for local purchase of stationery and other items by Government Departments etc.

(f) No, Sir.

(g) Does not arise.

#### Holy Water from Mecca

1053. SHRIMATI JHANSI LAKSHMI BOTCHA : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Haj pilgrims are yet to receive their share of Zam Zam (holy water) even after returning from Mecca;

(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 EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED) : (a) While a majority of pilgrims on return have received their container of Zam Zam, around 18,000 pilgrims are yet to receive it.

(b) An arrangement has been in place with the airlines transporting the pilgrims viz. Air India and Saudi Arab Airlines to supply Zam Zam to the pilgrims at disembarkation points in India. This year, due to seasonal shortage of Zam Zam locally, both the airlines faced difficulties in obtaining Zam Zam for supplying it to the pilgrims which as led to this shortfall.

(c) The matter has been taken up by the Consulate General of India, Jeddah with the Saudi authorities to allow Air India to carry the backlog of about 18,000 cans of Zam Zam to India for distribution to the pilgrims concerned and this is under active consideration of the Saudi authorities.

#### Bio-Diversity Board

1054. SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has decided to set up

a Bio-Diversity Board under the Ministry of Agriculture in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any request has been received from any State Government or any other organizations to set up such a Board; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA) : (a) to (d) No, Sir. There is no proposal to set up a Bio-Diversity Board under the Ministry of Agriculture, and no request has been received by them from any State Government or any other organizations to set up such a Board.

However, under the Biological Diversity Act, 2002 enacted by the Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of India, a National Biodiversity Authority has been set up, and State Biodiversity Boards (SBBs) are to be constituted by all the State Governments. So far 18 states have set up SBBs. These are: Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Goa, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Manipur, Mizoram, Nagaland, Punjab, Sikkim, Uttar Pradesh, Uttaranchal, West Bengal.

[Translation]

**Sale of Imported Food Items after  
expiry date**

1055. SHRI JIVABHAI A. PATEL :  
SHRI HARISINH CHAVDA :

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

(a) whether imported food items are being sold in the country even after their expiry date;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) to (c) No such specific complaint regarding sale of imported food items after their expiry date has been received.

The implementation of the PFA Act, 1954 and Rules framed thereunder are entrusted with the Food (Health) Authorities of the States/U.Ts. They have been instructed to lift samples of imported food articles sold in the market and take action including prosecution of offenders in the cases where the samples are found to be adulterated/misbranded or violating the labeling provisions of the PFA Act, 1954 and Rules framed thereunder.

Further, as a preventive measure, the Department of Commerce has issued a Notification under Section 5 of the Foreign Trade (Development and Regulation) Act, 1992 that all edible/food products, domestic sale and manufacture of which are governed by Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954 shall also be subject to the condition that at the time of importation, the products are having a valid shelf life of not less than 60% of its original shelf life. Accordingly All Port/Airport Health Officers and Custom Collectors at Ports/Airports have been advised to ensure that all the imported food articles comply with all the provisions including labeling requirement of the PFA Rules, 1955 and having a valid shelf life not less than 60% of its original shelf life before the same are released into the country for human consumption.

[English]

**Development of Ports in Myanmar  
by India**

1056. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:



(a) whether the Government proposes to develop certain ports in Myanmar; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Government of India proposes to develop Sittwe Port in Myanmar as part of the 'Kaladan Multi Modal Transit Transport Project' in Myanmar. The above project has provision for (i) Construction of Sittwe Port terminal, (ii) dredging of approach Channel to Sittwe Port and (iii) providing of buoys in the approach channel. The Kaladan Multi-Modal Transit Transport Project envisages to connect Mizoram State of North Eastern region with Kolkata/Haldia Ports through coastal route from Kolkata/Haldia to Sittwe Port in Myanmar and then through riverine route up the Kaladan river upto Kaletwa and from there by road to Mizoram. It provides an alternate route for transport of goods to North-East India.

[Translation]

#### Shortage of Medicines in CGHS Dispensaries

1057. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is an acute shortage of medicines in the CGHS dispensaries;

(b) if so, the reasons therefore; and

(c) the measures being taken by the Government to make the medicines available in the CGHS dispensaries in time?

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

(b) and (c) Question does not arise.

#### Treatment of Stone Disease by Electroscopic Laser Rays

1058. SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the stone disease is being treated in the Government hospitals with the help of electroscopic laser rays;

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

(c) the total number of hospitals in the country, particularly in Rajasthan where treatment of stone disease is done with said technique?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) to (c) Health being a state subject, such information is not maintained centrally. In so far as Central Government Hospitals in Delhi are concerned, facility to treat stone disease with Holmium laser is available.

[English]

#### Allocation of MPLAD Funds to SC and ST Population

1059. SHRI SHRINIWAS DADASAHEB PATIL : Will the Minister of STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is mandatory to spend 22.5 per cent of MPLAD funds on SC and ST population out of the annual allocation of fund for each constituency;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether these guidelines also apply to the constituencies where there is less percentage of SC and ST population;

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

(e) whether the proportional percentage of fund is being allocated and spent on SC and ST population in all the constituencies;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI G.K. VASAN) : (a) to (d) The MPLADS Guidelines envisages special attention to infrastructural development of SC/ST areas. The MPs are expected to recommend every year such works amounting to at least 15% of their MPLADS fund for areas inhabited by Scheduled Caste population and 7.5% for areas inhabited by Scheduled Tribe population. These provisions are applicable to all Constituencies irrespective of percentage of SC and ST population.

(e) and (f) As the MPLAD Scheme is implemented by District Authorities, the entire details of all MPLADS works including those pertaining to SC/ST and the funds allocated/expenditure incurred are maintained and available with them.

(g) Adequate provision in this regard already exists in the Guidelines.

#### **Accidents in Coal Mines**

1060. SHRI AMITAVA NANDY : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has conducted any survey/study on the factors responsible for most of the coal mines disasters/accidents occurred during the last three years;

(b) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(c) the steps taken or being taken to prevent recurrence of such accidents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) During last three years 2 major accidents have taken place in underground coal mines. One was caused due to inundation of water and the other due to methane gas explosion. Analysis of other accidents revealed that the major cause of fatal accidents in underground mines is roof and side fall whereas that in opencast mines is movement of dumpers and trucks.

(c) In addition to complying with the statutory provisions related to safety in coal mines the following broad steps have been taken to prevent recurrence of accidents in coal mines:-

1. Coal companies have established a structured multi-disciplinary Internal Safety Organisation (ISO) to assist the line management at various levels in matters related to Safety.
2. Coal companies have introduced Risk Assessment based Safety Management Plan for its mines to mitigate potential dangers.
3. Safety Audit is being conducted regularly for all mines. Recently two stage Safety Audit system has been introduced, in which in the first stage the deficiencies, if any, in the Safety System are detected and remedial measures suggested and in the second stage compliance of the suggested measures is checked through the Audit.
4. For prevention of Disaster following steps are taken by the coal companies:-
  - (a) Inundation : Thrust on Safety Audit, Check Survey, Trials of Geo-physical Methods for; detection of water bodies and proving of parting etc.
  - (b) Fire in mines : Adoption of Panel

(sectionalized) system of working so that in case of fire the same can be isolated immediately, strengthening of isolation stoppings and use of the retardant sealant etc.

- (c) Explosion : Early Gas detection through modern gadget, Continuous Gas monitoring for highly gassy and fiery mines.

5. For reduction of Roof and Side fall accident : Roof/Side fall accident is one of the major cause of fatal accident in underground mines. Coal companies give priority for ensuring roof support management through:-

- Adoption of systematic Support Plan based on Rock-mass-rating (RMR) of over-lying roof strata.
- Greater use of Roof Bolting Stitching methods of roof support.
- Introduction of mechanized drilling by roof bolting machines.
- Emphasis on development of indicators for impending load on roof.

6. For reduction of fatalities in Opencast Mines and at Surface of Mines the following measures are being taken:-

- Adoption of Mine specific Traffic Rule.
- Following Code of Practices for HEM operators, Maintenance staff and others.
- Conducting Risk Assessment and developing Safety Management Plan.
- Training of Contractor's Workers involved in outsourced jobs.

[Translation]

### Raising Higher Education Fees

1061. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Knowledge Commission has recommended for raising the fees for higher education;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has made any assessment of the likely impact on the education sector/ students;

(d) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(e) the proposed action plan of the Government in the light of the recommendations made by the Commission?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The relevant extract from the recommendations of the National Knowledge Commission is enclosed as statement which gives details thereof.

(c) to (e) The recommendation is under examination.

### Statement

*Extracts from the recommendations of National Knowledge Commission: on Higher Education – Compilation of Recommendations on Education*

**Under Section 5 : Rationalization of fees:** On an average, fees constitute less than 10 per cent of total expenditure in our universities. And, in most universities, fees have remained unchanged for decades. In theory, universities have the freedom to decide on fees. In practice, however, universities have not exercised this freedom in part because of some

genuine concerns about access but in larger part because of the rhetoric and populism in the political process. The problem has been compounded by the UGC method of providing grants-in-aid to bridge the difference between income and expenditure. Consequently, there is no incentive for universities or colleges to raise income through higher fees as that sum would be deducted from their UGC (or State government) grants. The low fees in public universities, without any means test, have meant unquantifiable benefits for unintended beneficiaries. But private players and foreign institutions have not been restrained in charging fees that the market can bear. The time has come to rethink, as we have no choice but to rationalize fees. It is for universities to decide the level of fees but, as a norm, fees should meet at least 20 per cent of the total expenditure in universities. In addition, fees need to be adjusted every two years through price indexation. Such small, continuous, adjustments would be absorbed and accepted far more easily than large, discrete changes after a period of time. This rationalization of fees should be subject to two conditions: first, needy students should be provided with a fee waiver plus scholarships to meet their costs; second, universities should not be penalized by the UGC for the resources raised from higher fees through matching deductions from their grants-in-aid.

[English]

**De-linking of Vadinar Area from  
Kandla Port**

1062. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI :

SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR :

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

(a) whether the Government proposes to de-link the Vadinar area from the Kandla Port limit;

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

(c) whether the Union Government is considering to include the Vadinar area in the Gujarat State;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) If not, the compensation likely to be awarded to the State Government of Gujarat?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) No, Sir.

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

(c) No, Sir.

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

(e) Vadinar, which was earlier a part of the minor port of Salaya, was included in the limits of Kandla Port—a major port, by a Gazette Notification No. PGK.44/74.11 dated 1.5.1978, issued by the Government of India, Ministry of Shipping and Transport, in exercise of powers conferred by clause (a) of sub-section (1) of sub-Section (2) of Section (4) of the Indian Ports Act, 1908, with full agreement of the Government of Gujarat to establish an Offshore Oil Terminal at Vadinar within and under the jurisdiction of the Kandla Port Trust. The Government of Gujarat also through Notification dated 1.5.1978, published by the Public Works Department in Para IV-A of the Government Gazette dated 11.5.1978 accordingly altered and declared the revised limits of the Ports of Salaya. By these two Notifications, the Government of India and the State Government of Gujarat had vested the jurisdiction of Vadinar with the Major Port of Kandla authority, i.e. the Kandla Port Trust without any precondition. The Kandla Port is fully empowered to enter into agreement with any other party within the provisions of Indian Ports Act and Major Port Trusts Act and therefore any compensation to the State Government of Gujarat in this regard does not arise.

[Translation]

**Spurious Medicines**

1063. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY :

SHRI HEMMAL MURMU :

SHRI RAGHURAJ SINGH SHAKYA :

SHRI VIJOY KRISHNA :

MS. INGRID MCLEOD :

SHRIMATI RUPATAI D. PATIL :

SHRI CHANDRA MANI TRIPATHI :

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

(a) whether according to the latest report of ASSOCHAM, the trade of spurious medicines worth more than Rs. 300 crores is running in the National Capital Region (NCR) as reported in the 'Dainik Bhaskar' dated February 11, 2008;

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

(c) whether spurious medicines have also been seized in other parts of the country, particularly in Bihar;

(d) If so, the details thereof;

(e) The action taken against the guilty persons involved in such trade; and

(f) if so, the details of laboratories for testing spurious drugs, location-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) and (b) The authenticity of the said report of ASSOCHAM is being verified.

(c) to (e) As per reports available, counterfeit / fake medicines were seized in UP and Orissa. Statements containing report in respects of action taken in these two

states are enclosed Statement-I. Though the Central Government has not received any report in respect of the State of Bihar, the relevant status has been sought from that State which is still awaited.

(f) Lists of Central and States drug testing laboratories are given in the enclosed Statement-II.

**Statement-I**

**Action Taken by State Governments**

**Uttar Pradesh**

State Government has issued instructions on 4.06.2007 and 31.07.2007 to carry out drive against manufacture and sale of sub-standard, spurious, and misbranded drugs and to take strict action against manufacturers and dealer of sub-standard and spurious drugs under the Drugs and Cosmetic Act and Rules and the IPC. Between 20.07.2007 and 2.08.2007 raids were carried out in the Districts of Meerut, Behraich, Lucknow, J.P. Nagar, Bijnor, Bulandshahar, Faizabad, Rampur, Moradabad, Agra Muzzafarnagar, Sultanpur, Ghaziabad and Saharanpur. During the drive, 122 sales premises were raided and 238 samples were drawn, 10 FIR were filed and 17 persons arrested. Grant of all new wholesale and retail licences in the State of UP have been suspended by an order dated 24.07.2007, till further orders. The Drugs Controller of UP and the Drugs Inspector of Meerut have been suspended and necessary disciplinary actions have been started against them.

**Orissa**

Manufacture of fake / spurious medicines in one particular place namely Kantabanjhi in Bolangir district of the state has come to the notice of the State Government. The case was handed over to state crime branch and 4 persons have been arrested and put behinds bar. Basing on intelligence report the state

police at Kantabanji in Bolangir district of the State conducted raids at the premises of Shri Sankarlal Agarwal situated at Kantabanji district Bolangir. The state police sealed the premises of Shri Agarwal along with about 40 premises at nearby places of Bolangir, Kalahandi and Nuapada districts and informed this to the Directorate to take further action in the matter. The accused along with his son and two workers have been arrested. The Drugs Inspector under whose jurisdiction this has been detected has also been arrested. The Govt. has started a crack down on the medicine selling outlets also to detect fake medicines which may have created a scare amongst a drugs seller.

Govt. has formed a Task Force at the state level headed by the Chief Secretary with Principal Secretary (Home), Principal Secretary (Health and Family Welfare) and others as members to review the progress on check and vigilance activities. At District level; also a Task Force has been formed headed by the Collector of the District with Superintendent of Police, Chief District Medical Officer and Drugs Inspector as the members to conduct through checking of drug selling outlets. The District and state level task force Committee conducted state wise raids for detecting of manufacture of alleged Allopathic, Spurious/Fake drugs as on 14.08.2007, 822 premises were raided, 2424 samples have been drawn, 89 from 15 for freezing of stocks issued and 27 form 16 (seizure memo) were issued.

#### Statement-II

##### List of Central Drug Testing Laboratories

S.No.	Name
1	2
1.	Central Drugs Testing Laboratory, Thane, Mumbai-400804

1	2
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2. Central Drugs Laboratory, Calcutta-700016
3. Central Indian Pharmacopoeial Laboratory, Ghaziabad, UP
4. Central Drugs Testing Laboratory, Chennai-600003
5. Regional Drugs Testing Laboratory, Guwahati, Assam
6. Central Research Institute, Kasauli (Himachal Pradesh)
7. A Regional Drugs Testing Laboratory has been set up at Chandigarh which will be functional soon.

##### List of States' Drug Testing Laboratories

1. Combined Food and Drugs Laboratory, Delhi-35
2. Drugs Control Laboratory Drugs Control Administration Hyderabad-500038 (AP)
3. Drugs Control Laboratory Drugs Control Administration Vijayawada-520008 (AP)
4. Drugs Laboratory, Bihar, Patna
5. Combined Food and Drugs Laboratory Directorate of Food and Drugs Administration Panaji, Goa-403001
6. State Food and Drugs Laboratory Baroda (Gujarat)
7. Drugs Testing Laboratory, Bangalore-560001 (Karnataka)
8. State Drugs Control Laboratory, Mumbai-400051
9. State Drugs Control Laboratory, Aurangabad-400051
10. State Drugs Testing Laboratory, Rajasthan, Jaipur (Rajasthan)

1	2
11.	State Drugs Control and Research Laboratory, 2 Convent Lane, Calcutta-700015
12.	State Govt. Testing Laboratory Food and Drugs Administration Idgah Hills, Bhopal-462001 (M.P.)
13.	State Drugs Laboratory, Haryana, Chandigarh
14.	Food and Drugs Administration, Raipur, Chhattisgarh
15.	Dte. General of Health Services, Dehradun, Uttaranchal
16.	State Drugs Controller Cum Chief Licensing Authority, Ranchi, Jharkhand
17.	Food and Drugs Administration, Pondicherry-605011
18.	State Drugs Testing Lab., Agartala-799006, Tripura
19.	Drugs Testing Lab., Solan Himachal Pradesh
20.	State Drugs Testing Laboratory, Lucknow, U.P.
21.	State Drugs Laboratory, Jammu, J and K.
22.	Drugs Testing Laboratory, Srinagar, J and K.
23.	Drug Testing Laboratory, Shillong, Meghalaya
24.	Drug Testing Laboratory, Kohima, Nagaland.

[English]

**Road Connectivity with Nepal,  
Bhutan and Bangladesh**

1064. SHRI SUGRIB SINGH :

SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL :

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

(a) whether the Government has approved road connecting project to connect India with Nepal, Bhutan and Bangladesh as reported in 'Hindustan' dated 4 January, 2008;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether some changes has been made in the route as suggested by United Nations Area and Pacific Economic and Social Commission;

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

(e) the present status and the benefits likely to accrue as a result of the said project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA) : (a) to (e) At present, the Asian Highway (AH) route AH-2 near Siliguri passes through Banglabandha-Siliguri-Kakarbhitta. Further AH-48 presently extends from Thimphu-Phuentsholing-Border of India. The Government has approved in February 2008 the proposal for proposing to the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific of the United Nations (UNESCAP) amendments to the above mentioned AH routes. The amendment to AH-2 involves inclusion of 'Phulbari' between the route passing through Banglabandha and Siliguri and defining the route of AH-2 at this location as "...Banglabandha-Phulbari-Siliguri-Kakarbhitta...". The other amendment includes providing link to Bhutan by extending route of AH-48 from "Thimphu-Phuentsholing-Jalgaon-Hasimara-Jalpaiguri-Phulbari", and consequently connect with AH-2 at Phulbari in India.

This is envisaged to be of help in improving the international travel for trade and tourism among India, Bangladesh, Nepal and Bhutan. This is also envisaged at providing connectivity to the Capital of Bhutan, i.e. Thimphu, with India through the Asian Highway route.

[Translation]

**Allocation of Funds for Vector-Borne Diseases**

1065. SHRI PUSP JAIN :

SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS :

SHRI CHENGARA SURENDRAN :

SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN :

SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA :

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

(a) the funds allocated to the State Governments for eradication of Malaria, Chikungunya, Dengue and Viral fever during the last three years, State-wise, year-wise;

(b) whether UN or any other foreign agency has granted funds for eradication of these diseases in the country;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the effective steps taken by the Government to check the aforesaid diseases in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) Under National Vector Borne Disease Control Programme, Cash and Kind assistance is provided to the states for prevention and control of vector borne diseases. The consolidated statement since 2004-05 is as below:

Year	Allocation		Releases	
	Cash	Kind	Cash	Kind
1	2	3	4	5
2004-05	50.01	190.50	45.34	148.63
2005-06	56.85	265.72	82.67	161.25

1	2	3	4	5
2006-07	107.11	241.12	111.48	177.96
2007-08*	137.39	223.69	90.72	166.22

\*Releases upto January 2008.

The funds allocated to the State Governments in last three years, state-wise and year-wise are enclosed as statement.

(b) and (c) For prevention and control of malaria, the external assistance has been received from Global Fund for AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (GFATM) to the tune of US\$ 63 million. This GFATM assisted intensified Malaria Control Project (IMCP) is being implemented in North-Eastern States and in some districts of West Bengal, Jharkhand and Orissa. Government of India is also in the process of negotiating with the World Bank for a new project of 200 million US\$ for Malaria Control and Elimination of Kala-azar.

(d) Government of India is taking effective steps to check the spread of these diseases and the following strategy is being implemented in the country:-

**1. Disease Management**

- Early case detection and complete treatment.
- Strengthening of referral Services
- Epidemic preparedness and rapid response

**2. Integrated Vector Management**

- Indoor residual spraying in selected high risk areas.
- Use of insecticide treated bednets
- Use of larvivorous fish



- Anti larval measures in urban areas including biolarvicides.

### 3. Supporting Intervention

- — Behaviour change communications
- Public private partnership and inter-sectoral convergence
- Human resource development through capacity building
- Operational Research including studies on drug resistance and insecticide susceptibility.
- Monitoring and evaluation through periodic reviews field visits and web based Management information system.

In addition to the above, Government has taken following initiatives for prevention and control of Japanese Encephalitis:-

- Strengthening of AES/JE surveillance through 50 sentinel sites and 12 Apex Referral Laboratories.
- Standard Guidelines for AES/JE surveillance circulated.
- "Vector Borne Diseases Control Surveillance Unit" set up at BRD Medical College, Gorakhpur, UP.
- Sub office, ROH and FW, Lucknow set up in Gorakhpur.
- JE vaccination in age group 1-15 years started in 2006 in 11 districts in 4 states (Assam, Karnataka, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal). In 2007- Expanded to 28 districts in 10 states (Assam, Karnataka, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal and Haryana, Bihar, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, Kerala).

- Training of Microbiologists and Technicians of sentinel centres have been conducted.
- Training courses for Clinicians and Nurses for Uttar Pradesh and Assam States conducted to improve the skills in JE case Management.
- Constitutions of Rapid Response Teams.

Similarly for prevention and control of Dengue/Chikungunya, following additional initiatives have been taken by Government :-

- Long term action plan for early case detection, disease management, vector surveillance, use of adulticides and larvicides were circulated to states for prevention and control activities
- Guidelines on clinical management of Dengue/DHF cases sent to the states for wider circulation.
- Identified 13 Apex Referral Laboratories for advanced diagnosis and regular surveillance of Dengue and Chikungunya cases.
- Identified 110 sentinel surveillance hospitals for proactive surveillance for Dengue and Chikungunya.
- IgM – Mc ELISA test kits for detection of Dengue/Chikungunya supplied to Apex Referral Laboratories and Sentinel Surveillance hospitals.
- Contingency grant released to meet the operational cost of the Sentinel Surveillance hospitals and Apex Referral Laboratories.
- Intensified IEC/BCC activities.
- Supply of additional logistics like larvicides and adulticides in affected states.

**Statement****Allocation and Expenditure from 2004-05 to 2007-08**

Sl. No.	States/UTs	2004-05						2005-06					
		Allocation			Releases			Allocation			Releases		
		Cash	Kind	Total	Cash	Kind	Total	Cash	Kind	Total	Cash	Kind	Total Exp.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
1.	Andhra Pradesh	80.44	742.50	822.94	80.44	514.69	595.13	225.94	1757.64	1983.58	498.00	521.25	1019.25
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	152.00	312.71	464.71	152.00	347.38	499.38	152.00	253.44	405.44	226.03	258.63	484.66
3.	Assam	550.00	1684.40	2234.40	550.00	1438.29	1988.29	550.00	1414.82	1964.82	443.37	916.69	1380.06
4.	Bihar	1209.11	3170.14	4379.25	908.83	2595.13	3501.96	1330.02	4231.58	5561.60	549.29	2334.12	2883.42
5.	Chhattisgarh	513.12	1335.58	1848.70	513.11	1265.22	1778.33	569.42	1473.03	2042.45	633.53	1427.38	2060.91
6.	Goa	0.00	16.15	16.15	0.00	9.65	9.65	0.00	26.85	26.85	37.42	1.22	38.64
7.	Gujarat	0.00	345.09	345.09	310.62	397.71	708.33	333.82	1410.97	1744.79	420.20	320.33	740.53
8.	Haryana	310.62	95.33	405.95	0.00	91.49	91.49	0.00	266.43	266.43	44.64	24.58	69.22
9.	Himachal Pradesh	0.00	16.00	16.00	0.00	13.52	13.52	0.00	20.90	20.90	15.48	2.64	18.12
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	0.00	70.23	70.23	0.00	27.63	27.63	0.00	45.13	45.13	15.83	1.68	17.51
11.	Jharkhand	156.59	1690.15	1846.74	136.74	1035.97	1172.71	233.84	1504.66	1738.50	380.65	1366.06	1746.71
12.	Karnataka	0.00	453.96	453.96	0.00	316.77	316.77	0.00	372.25	372.25	164.44	356.29	520.73
13.	Kerala	0.00	78.00	78.00	0.00	109.71	109.71	0.00	158.45	158.45	211.96	70.64	282.60
4.	Madhya Pradesh	343.54	1366.24	1709.78	343.54	720.27	1063.81	414.45	2408.48	2822.93	527.31	905.36	1432.67
15.	Maharashtra	218.38	866.48	1084.86	218.38	374.86	593.24	196.60	1821.98	2018.58	444.54	370.57	815.11

2006-07						2007-08					
Allocation			Releases			Allocation			Releases (upto January, 2008)		
Cash	Kind	Total	Cash	Kind	Total Exp.	Cash	Kind	Total	Cash	Kind	Total Exp.
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
678.64	1231.71	1910.55	620.56	599.20	1209.76	843.06	1130.79	1973.85	714.26	955.17	1669.43
281.63	343.67	625.30	200.76	279.82	480.58	306.2	571.88	878.08	224.35	50.52	274.87
893	2470	3363	595.00	1384.85	1979.85	1084	2257.9	3341.9	542	2230.84	2772.84
809.26	1824.05	2633.31	473.87	1448.40	1922.27	990.37	1076.13	2066.5	631.24	919.86	1551.1
448.34	1733.45	2181.79	572.18	2007.25	2579.43	660.11	1568.75	2228.86	330.05	1212.07	1542.12
30.74	26.12	56.86	19.82	7.58	27.40	166.46	11.99	178.45	108.09	7.41	115.5
469.19	882.36	1351.55	716.70	343.10	1059.80	683.35	1019.46	1702.84	683.36	543.09	1226.47
33.38	161.62	195	4.61	279.35	283.96	35	107.84	142.84	10	134.25	144.25
13.68	32.67	46.35	0.00	0.00	0.00	12	5.8	17.8	0	5.3	5.3
13.78	33.13	46.91	4.06	2.43	6.49	12	6.6	18.6	0	4.14	4.14
778.85	2573.61	3352.46	505.64	2357.00	2862.64	871.42	2103.66	2975.08	410.71	1195.72	1606.43
186.81	396.75	583.56	319.42	374.25	693.67	514.88	396.27	911.15	116.7	209.39	326.09
238.8	170.78	409.58	383.44	48.00	431.44	259.44	38.48	297.92	630.94	160.68	791.62
495.76	1578.26	2074.02	1087.97	481.20	1569.17	712.36	1466.77	2179.13	534.27	910.79	1445.06
652.83	871.01	1523.84	1005.22	268.79	1272.01	680.44	1025.41	1905.85	663.31	849.28	1512.59

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
16. Manipur	56.78	133.28	190.06	0.00	73.39	73.39	64.99	111.78	176.77	164.61	105.05	299.66	
17. Meghalaya	49.00	386.89	435.89	49.00	241.81	290.81	49.00	249.30	298.30	182.56	240.10	422.67	
18. Mizoram	32.00	248.57	280.57	32.00	121.17	153.17	176.99	137.94	314.93	218.40	169.47	387.87	
19. Nagaland	58.15	364.15	422.30	58.15	220.38	278.53	158.95	221.00	379.95	205.31	227.10	432.41	
20. Orissa	550.40	2121.21	2671.61	550.40	1744.92	2295.32	382.71	4367.96	4750.67	678.57	2125.90	2804.47	
21. Punjab	0.00	63.16	63.16	0.00	45.85	45.85	0.00	104.79	104.79	39.19	21.22	60.41	
22. Rajasthan	157.64	1043.75	1201.39	157.65	858.32	1015.97	207.64	1382.10	1589.94	207.64	709.20	917.04	
23. Sikkim	8.00	8.30	16.30	0.00	10.00	10.00	8.00	16.27	24.27	20.95	4.21	25.16	
24. Tamil Nadu	0.00	270.23	270.23	0.00	310.20	310.20	0.00	355.81	355.81	284.12	63.19	347.31	
25. Tripura	105.45	413.97	519.42	105.45	284.58	390.03	160.35	322.89	483.24	201.86	446.58	648.44	
26. Uttar Pradesh	61.87	808.27	870.14	46.40	910.03	956.43	68.06	1140.14	1208.20	730.99	2207.64	2938.63	
27. Uttaranchal	0.00	48.20	48.20	0.00	31.06	31.06	0.00	53.01	53.01	32.87	33.95	66.82	
28. West Bengal	149.62	709.03	858.65	112.22	495.63	607.85	164.02	710.67	874.69	297.60	730.23	1027.83	
29. Delhi	0.00	55.62	55.62	0.00	144.07	144.07	0.00	62.39	62.39	22.47	53.27	75.74	
30. Pondicherry	1.46	29.92	31.38	0.00	19.70	19.70	1.46	33.42	34.88	32.66	6.94	39.60	
31. Andaman and Nicobar Islands	177.00	48.71	225.71	177.00	47.11	224.11	177.00	51.29	228.29	216.49	81.13	297.61	
32. Chandigarh	26.00	23.78	49.78	13.00	18.67	31.67	26.00	22.70	48.70	31.08	21.16	52.24	
33. Dadra and Nagar Haveli	19.00	21.09	40.09	9.50	22.41	31.91	19.00	27.35	46.35	42.39	1.32	43.71	
34. Daman and Diu	9.00	5.17	14.17	9.00	2.42	11.42	9.00	19.59	28.59	24.14	0.01	24.15	
35. Lakshadweep	6.00	4.35	10.36	3.00	3.02	6.02	6.00	15.53	21.53	20.23	0.06	20.29	
<b>Total</b>	<b>5001.17</b>	<b>19050.62</b>	<b>24051.79</b>	<b>4534.43</b>	<b>14863.03</b>	<b>19397.46</b>	<b>5685.46</b>	<b>26572.54</b>	<b>32256.00</b>	<b>8297.03</b>	<b>16125.17</b>	<b>24392.20</b>	

15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
242.47	246.14	488.61	189.19	177.96	367.15	263.37	424.92	688.29	133.18	70.59	203.77
218.28	475.33	693.61	165.39	330.69	496.08	245.83	463.91	709.74	122.91	163.9	286.81
257.45	292.23	549.68	224.33	282.72	507.05	227.46	408.26	685.72	138.73	25.67	164.4
274.04	473.96	748	241.22	454.06	695.28	298.56	491.46	790.02	0	0	0
915.72	3710.22	4625.94	953.31	2623.96	3577.27	1327.31	2414.52	3741.83	876.7	2883.28	3759.98
26.68	88.19	114.87	0.00	40.98	40.98	29.5	67.43	96.93	11.16	45.55 <sup>o</sup>	56.71
370	814.22	1184.22	379.76	497.60	877.36	495	1401.29	1896.29	247.5	1259.5	1507
18.7	15.27	3397	8.71	4.22	12.93	16	4.61	20.61	4	0.98	4.98
307.99	288.72	596.71	421.19	332.30	753.49	299.69	307.1	606.79	453.1	247.94	701.04
247.38	483.69	731.07	192.02	476.27	668.29	277.96	580.36	858.32	138.97	433.28	572.25
833.14	1104.2	1937.34	625.20	1534.12	2159.32	1118.7	1032.8	2161.5	671.03	691.14	1562.17
21.02	31.99	53.01	0.00	29.12	29.12	181	29.59	210.59	3.51	9.44	12.95
584.8	1553.37	2138.17	476.54	956.66	1433.20	708.75	1804.92	2513.67	279.37	1071.59	1350.96
34.08	88.77	122.85	170.50	79.25	249.75	29.5	127.17	156.67	25.5	130.45	155.95
24.39	27.07	51.46	140.65	14.14	154.79	18.15	21.93	40.08	14.81	0.02	14.83
200.79	46.6	247.39	354.00	75.42	429.42	52.7	0.4	53.1	275.06	0	275.06
31.58	25.71	57.29	26.00	14.13	40.13	27.95	0	27.95	31.42	0	31.42
35.42	20.59	56.01	39.48	2.49	41.95	16.4	0.2	16.6	30.15	0	30.15
23.52	3.39	26.91	19.86	0.50	20.36	12.73	0.2	12.93	13.21	0.76	13.97
18.55	0.31	18.86	12.35	0.30	12.65	11.32	0.2	11.52	2.8	0	2.8
10710.96	24118.74	34829.70	11148.93	17796.11	28945.04	13739.00	22369.00	36106.00	9072.41	16622.60	25695.01

[English]

### Launch of ERMED Consortium

1066.DR. M. JAGANNATH : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has recently "Electronic Resources in Medicine Consortium" (ERMED) for making online journal literature available to medical scholars; 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) The Central Government through National Medical Library, New Delhi has launched ERMED – India e-journal consortium for 39 medical colleges/institutions working under Directorate General of Health Services, Indian Council of Medical Research and All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi. This is to improve effective health care through free flow of knowledge and information at a low cost. The consortium enables each member to access over 1500 journals for their medical fraternity.

### Assistance to Haj Pilgrims

1067. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN :  
SHRI MILIND DEORA :  
SHRI G. NIZAMUDDIN :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of Indians actually performed Haj Pilgrimage during 2007 through Haj Committee and various travel agencies, State-wise;
- (b) whether a number of Indian Haj pilgrims died during the above pilgrimage;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and

- (d) the steps taken by the Government to provide adequate assistance to the ailing Haj pilgrims and the kins of the deceased?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED) : (a) The State-wise figures of 110,415 pilgrims, who performed Haj-2007 through Haj Committee of India, are given in the enclosed Statement-I. Around 47,000 pilgrims performed Haj during Haj-2007 through various Private Tour Operators. The State-wise figures of quota allocated to Private Tour Operators for Haj 2007 is given in the enclosed Statement-II.

(b) and (c) During Haj-2007, a total number of 290 pilgrims (191 male and 99 female) expired in Saudi Arabia. Of this, 212 went through the Haj Committee of India and remaining 78 went through different private tour operators. 11 deaths occurred due to road traffic accidents and the remaining 279 deaths were due to natural causes.

(d) The Government of India made the following arrangements for the welfare of the Haj pilgrims during 2007:-

- (i) A total number of 115 doctors and 141 paramedics were deputed to Saudi Arabia by the Government.
- (ii) Arrangements were made to provide 75-bedded admission facility in Makkah and 15-bedded admission facility in Madina for Indian pilgrims. Apart from a 30-bedded hospital in Makkah, 12 branch dispensaries were set up in Makkah and 6 branch dispensaries were set up in Madina. Three medical teams were available at Jeddah Airport to provide medical care round the clock. 17 ambulances were pressed into service of Haj pilgrims. Medicines costing approximately Rs 128 crores were sent by the Government from India and medicines costing approximately Rs. 4.2 lakhs were procured locally.

- (iii) Pilgrims who went through the Haj Committee of India and who died due to unnatural causes such as traffic accidents etc., the admissible compensation to their next of kin is provided by the insurance company through the accident compensation scheme of the Haj Committee of India. The Private Tour Operators who are registered with the Ministry are also required to insure their pilgrims against accident, on the lines of the accident compensation scheme of the Haj Committee of India and compensate the next of kin of such pilgrims who die due to unnatural causes like accidents.

**Statement-I**

*Haj Committee of India State-wise Utilisation of Quota for Haj 2007*

States/Union Territories	Pilgrims for Haj 2007
1	2
Andaman and Nicobar (UT)	75
Andhra Pradesh	6992
Assam	2599
Bihar	3260
Chandigarh (UT)	45
Chhattisgarh	680
Dadar and Nagar Haveli (UT)	23
Daman and Diu (UT)	33
Delhi (UT)	1909
Goa	113

1	2
Gujarat	4585
Haryana	1303
Himachal Pradesh	108
Jammu and Kashmir	8102
Jharkhand	1631
Karnataka	6576
Kerala	7811
Lakshadweep (UT)	292
Madhya Pradesh	3789
Maharashtra	10487
Manipur	249
Orissa	573
Pondicherry (UT)	205
Punjab	580
Rajasthan	4783
Tamil Nadu	3447
Tripura	54
Uttar Pradesh	29639
Uttaranchal	1081
West Bengal	5634
Government Quota	3797
<b>Total</b>	<b>110415</b>

**Statement-II***List of Private Tour Operators who have been registered for Haj 2007*

Sl.No.	Name of the Private Tour Operator	State	Quota Allotted by MEA for Haj 2007
1	2	3	4
<b>Assam</b>			
1.	Madinah Haj Tours and Travels Agency, Bargaigan	AS	50
<b>Andhra Pradesh</b>			
2.	Alton Travels and Cargo, Hyderabad	AP	150
3.	Ark Enterprises Travel Agency Hyderabad	AP	85
4.	Sharife Tours and Travels, Hyderabad	AP	100
5.	Al Hira Tours and Travels, Hyderabad	AP	150
6.	Razzak Enterprises (Deccan Haj Group), Hyderabad	AP	100
7.	Al- Yaseen Tours and Travels, Hyderabad	AP	250
8.	Golden Travels, Hyderabad	AP	225
9.	Royell Travel and Cargo Service, Hyderabad	AP	50
10.	Madina Tours and Travels, Hyderabad	AP	80
11.	Badsha Tours and Travels, Kadapa	AP	100
12.	Ateeq Haj Tours and Travels, Kadiri	AP	150
13.	Arfath Tours Haj and Umrah Group, Hyderabad	AP	100
14.	Al Azam Tours and Travels, Hyderabad	AP	50
15.	Hajir Tour and Travels, Secunderabad	AP	60
<b>Delhi</b>			
16.	Ashiyana Tours and Travels, Delhi	DL	200
17.	United Travels Services, New Delhi	DL	300



1	2	3	4
18.	Anam Tours and Travels, New Delhi	DL	135
19.	Sultanjee Enterprises (P) Ltd., Delhi	DL	100
20.	El Barq Travels, New Delhi	DL	200
21.	A.S. Enterprises, Delhi	DL	300
22.	Nawab Travels Ltd., Delhi	DL	50
23.	Ahlan Haj and Umrah Service, New Delhi	DL	50
24.	Faisal Tours and Travels, Tolstory Marg, Delhi	DL	50
25.	Iftekhhar Travels Services, Delhi	DL	150
<b>Gujarat</b>			
26.	Tawakkal Tours and Travels, Ahmedabad	GJ	150
27.	Sanjar Travels, Ahmedabad	GJ	100
28.	Hazrat Khwaja Garib Nawaj Haj Tours, Ahmedabad	GJ	225
29.	Razzak and Son, Ahmedabad	GJ	200
30.	Zam Zam Tours and Travels, Ahmedabad	GJ	175
31.	Khwaja Garib Nawaz Tours and Travels, Himmatnagar	GJ	130
32.	Al - Hashim Haj Tours, Ahmedabad	GJ	90
33.	Al - Minar Tours and Travels, Ahmedabad	GJ	125
34.	Safar Haj Tours, Ahmedabad	GJ	100
35.	Al - Aksha Tours and Travels, Ahmedabad	GJ	100
36.	Jigar Tours and Travels, Ahmedabad	GJ	130
37.	Adenwala Tours and Travels, Ahmedabad	GJ	125
38.	Alif Tours and Travels, Ahmedabad	GJ	50
39.	Noble Tours and Travels, Ahmedabad	GJ	75
40.	Al - Mansur Tours and Travels, Ahmedabad	GJ	50

1	2	3	4
41.	Akbari Tours, Ahmedabad	GJ	100
42.	The Vafadar Tours, Himmatnagar	GJ	75
43.	Al - Khizer Tours, Vadodra	GJ	80
44.	Tashkent Tours and Travels, Surat	GJ	80
45.	Labbaik Haj Tours and Travels, Navsari	GJ	50
46.	As-Saud Tour, Navsari	GJ	100
47.	Tawakkal Tours, Vadodra	GJ	215
48.	Darvesh Tours and Travels, Ahmedabad	GJ	175
49.	Suez International, Navsari	GJ	180
50.	Bilal Haj and Umrah Tours and Travels, Bharuch	GJ	80
51.	Gujarat haj Tours, Ahmedabad	GJ	300
52.	Mohammedia Tours and Travels, Ahmedabad	GJ	200
53.	Al - Faruqui Haj Umrah Tours-IDAR, Sabarkantha	GJ	125
54.	Molvi Haj and Umrah Tours and Travels, Bharuch	GJ	100
55.	Aman Tours and Travels, Anand	GJ	70
56.	Al - Hijaz Tours and Travels, Bharuch	GJ	350
57.	Relief Travels and Tours, Godhra	GJ	150
58.	Masoom Tours and Travels, Bharuch	GJ	50
59.	Surat Haj Tour, Surat	GJ	80
60.	Arfat Haj Tours Viramgam, Ahmedabad	GJ	100
61.	Al - Farid Tours and Travels, Navsari	GJ	125
62.	As Safa Haj Tour, Navsari	GJ	175
63.	Peerzada Travels, Ahmedabad	GJ	100

1	2	3	4
<b>Jammu and Kashmir</b>			
64.	Global Tours and Travels, Srinagar	Jammu and Kashmir	50
65.	Al Khuddam Hajj and Umrah Services, Srinagar	Jammu and Kashmir	150
<b>Karnataka</b>			
66.	Saaheb Haj Services, Gulbarg	KT	100
67.	Syedina Tours and Travels, Bangalore	KT	225
68.	J.S. Tours and Travels, Bangalore	KT	50
69.	Baitullah Tours International, Bangalore	KT	350
70.	Ghouse Tours and Travels, Ballary	KT	150
71.	Haj Corporation of India, Bangalore	KT	100
72.	Muqaddas Tours and Travels, Bangalore	KT	100
73.	Seair Haj Services, Bangalore	KT	200
74.	Al Syed Tours International, Bangalore	KT	200
75.	Labbaik Tours and Travels, Bangalore	KT	225
76.	Karnataka Haj Group, Bangalore	KT	100
77.	Tawakkal Tours and Travels, Bangalore	KT	100
78.	Al Madina Tours and Travels, Bangalore	KT	100
79.	Allahu Akbar Tours and Travels, Bangalore	KT	100
80.	Al Taiyba Tours and Travels, Bangalore	KT	100
81.	Al Manasik Tours International, Bangalore	KT	100
82.	Al Rahman Haj Tours and Travels, Bangalore	KT	80
83.	Bismillah Tours and Travels, Bangalore	KT	70
84.	Madani Haj Group, Gulbarga	KT	175

1	2	3	4
<b>Kerala</b>			
85.	Al-Haramainy Haj Group, Malappuram	KL	300
86.	Al-Tawaf Haj Umra Travel and Tourism, Kollam	KL	150
87.	Akbar Travels and Tours, Malappuram	KL	450
88.	Al Amal Haj Umra Service, Errakulam	KL	100
89.	S.Y.S. Haj Group, Malappuram	KL	200
90.	Indian Haj Service Corporation, Trivandrum	KL	150
91.	Aslam Haj Tours and Travels, Malappuram	KL	150
92.	Alhind Tours and Travels, Pvt. Ltd., Calicut	KL	1700
93.	P.K.M. Travels, Punnathal	KL	150
94.	Zam Zam Haj Service, Calicut	KL	150
95.	Ummulkhura Haj Service, Malappuram	KL	150
96.	S.Y.S. Haj Cell, Calicut	KL	700
97.	Al Rifai Haj Umra Service, Palakkad	KL	100
98.	Al Irshad Haj Group, Palakkad	KL	250
99.	Nusrath Haj Service Travels and Tours, Malappuram	KL	285
100.	Mabrook Haj Group, Punnathala	KL	175
101.	Hijra Haj Group, Malappuram	KL	200
102.	Malabar Haj Group Service, Malappuram	KL	300
103.	Najath Khidmathul Hujjaj, Palakkad	KL	350
104.	Al Jami'h Haj Group, Malappuram	KL	130
105.	Al Falah Travels and Hajj Group, Malappuram	KL	600
106.	Kerala Islam Haj and Umrah Service, Calicut	KL	575
107.	Al Farooq Haj Service, Feroke	KL	200

1	2	3	4
108.	Al Hussam India Hass and Umrah Service Management, Kochi	KL	395
109.	Al Mabrook Haj Group (Social Tours and Travels), Malappuram	KL	170
110.	Al Hidayah Haj Service, Palakkad	KL	100
111.	Arafath Haj Group, Malappuram	KL	220
112.	The Great India Tour Company Pvt. Ltd., Trivandrum	KL	50
113.	Air Travel Enterprises India Ltd., Trivandrum	KL	95
114.	Al Haramain Haj Umra Travels, Kollam	KL	100
115.	Fadhil Group Tours and Travels, Kannur	KL	50
116.	Altima Tours and Travels, Trivandrum	KL	400
117.	Bakkah Haj Umrah Service, Malappuram	KL	50
118.	Alban Haj Umra Service, Kochi	KL	200
<b>Maharashtra</b>			
119.	Hameediya Tour and Travels, Mumbai	MH	300
120.	Hijaz Tours and Travels, Mumbai	MH	50
121.	Fly International, Mumbai,	MH	100
122.	Kokan Tour Corporation, Thane	MH	100
123.	Fayz-E-Husayni Trust, Mumbai	MH	2300
124.	Shukriya Travels, Mumbai	MH	250
125.	Creative Tours and Travels Pvt. Ltd., Mumbai	MH	185
126.	Zam Zam Haj tours and Travels, Mumbai	MH	100
127.	Alifya Tours and Travels, Mumbai	MH	150
128.	3 N Travels and Tourist Bureau, Mumbai	MH	250
129.	Bismillah Haj Tours and Travels, Pune	MH	100

1	2	3	4
130.	Haadi Tours Haj Umrah, Malagaon	MH	80
131.	Classic Tours and Travels, Mumbai	MH	180
132.	Khadin Tours and Travels, Mumbai	MH	200
133.	Darul Haram Tours and Travels, Mumbai	MH	120
134.	Dayar-E-Habib Tours and Travels, Mumbai	MH	225
135.	Dayar-E-Haram Tours and Travels, Mumbai	MH	80
136.	Labbaik Tours and Travels, Mumbai	MH	150
137.	Rehbar Tours and Travels, Mumbai	MH	100
138.	Alliance International Tours and Travels, Mumbai	MH	100
139.	Qiblah Haj Umrah Service, Mumbai	MH	50
140.	Al-Husami Haj and Umrah Tours, Thane	MH	50
141.	Al Akram Haj Tours, Mumbai	MH	60
142.	Al-Tours and Travels, Mumbai	MH	125
143.	Al-Madeena Haj Umrah Tours, Malagaon	MH	50
144.	Al-Kabeer Tours and Travels, Mumbai	MH	150
145.	Kotwala Tours and Travels, Mumbai	MH	100
146.	Saudi Tours and Travels, Mumbai	MH	50
147.	Muslim Tours Corporation, Mumbai	MH	400
148.	Cosmic Travels, Mumbai	MH	365
149.	Bakhla Tours and Travels, Mumbai	MH	225
150.	Atlas Tours and Travels Pvt. Ltd., Mumbai	MH	800
151.	Merchant Tour Services Pvt. Ltd., Mumbai	MH	100
152.	Al Mehdi Tours, Mumbai	MH	350
153.	Al-Khalid Tours and Travels, Mumbai	MH	350

1	2	3	4
154.	Arfa Tours and Travels, Mumbai	MH	200
155.	Tamboli Tours and Travels, Ahmednagar	MH	400
156.	Makkah Haj Corporation, Mumbai	MH	300
157.	Al-Irfan Tours Travels, Mumbai	MH	200
158.	Regal Tour Service, Mumbai	MH	100
159.	M.K. Travels, Mumbai	MH	250
160.	Al Haafiz Tours and Travels, Dhule	MH	100
161.	Arafat Travel Service, Thane	MH	85
162.	Al Safa Tours, Pune	MH	180
163.	Air Flot Travels, Mumbai	MH	100
164.	Welcome Tours and Travels, Mumbai	MH	75
165.	Shafi Haj and Umra Tours, Ahmednagar	MH	100
166.	Bakhla International, Mumbai	MH	180
167.	Hajpir Haj Tours, Mumbai	MH	150
168.	Tawaf-E-Makkah Tours and Travels, Mumbai	MH	250
169.	Asian Tours and Travels, Mumbai	MH	250
170.	Al Hamza Travels, Mumbai	MH	50
171.	Al Hamd Haj and Umrah Tours, Mumbai	MH	150
172.	Marshal Travels, Mumbai	MH	100
173.	Sky Ship International Pvt. Ltd., Mumbai	MH	300
174.	Arabian Tours and Travels, Mumbai	MH	160
175.	Al Waha Haj Tours, Mumbai	MH	75
176.	Azeem Tours and Travels, Mumbai	MH	140
177.	Rumani Enterprises, Mumbai	MH	100

1	2	3	4
178.	Muqaddas Haj Corporation, Thane	MH	100
179.	Ikram Haj Corporation, Mumbai	MH	125
180.	Al Hasan Travels, Mumbai	MH	100
181.	Kadri Haj and Umrah Tours Org., Ahmdnagar	MH	90
182.	Arabia Tours and Travels, Pune	MH	200
183.	Al-Ikhlis Haj Corporation, Pune	MH	50
184.	Imman International, Mumbai	MH	100
185.	Mahulana Tours Corporation (Regd.), Mumbai	MH	125
186.	Al-Ameen Haj Corporation, Raigad	MH	75
187.	Al-Akbar Tours, Mumbai	MH	100
188.	Meezab-E-Rahmat Haj Umrah and Ziyarat Tours, Nasik	MH	130
189.	Multazam Tours Pvt., Ltd., Mumbai	MH	200
190.	Momin Haj Umrah Tours, Mumbai	MH	150
191.	Ansaar Tours and Travels, Pune	MH	150
192.	Al Aquib Travels Service, Thane	MH	100
193.	Khandesh Haj Corporation, Jalgaon	MH	125
194.	Multazim Haj Corporation, Thane	MH	50
195.	Poona Tours and Travels, Pune	MH	100
196.	Indian Haj Corporation, Thane	MH	80
197.	Ashraf Haj Umrah Tours, Amravati	MH	90
198.	Assalam Haj Umrah Tours, Akola	MH	100
199.	Ruby Tours and Travels, Pune	MH	140
200.	Akbar Travel of India Pvt. Ltd., Mumbai	MH	600
201.	Al Zoabi International Mumbai	MH	150



1	2	3	4
202.	Master Travels, Pune	MH	120
203.	Mukhlis Haj and Umrah Tour, Thane	MH	50
204.	Mahdi Tours and Travels, Mumbai	MH	150
205.	Delta Tours and Travels, Mumbai	MH	600
206.	Al Habeeb Tours, Mumbai	MH	100
207.	Al Hidayat Tours and Travels, Mumbai	MH	80
208.	Benzy Tours and Travels, Mumbai	MH	600
209.	Al Madni Tours and Travels, Mumbai	MH	50
210.	Kolapur Haj Corporation, Kolhapur	MH	70
211.	Al-Multazim Haj Tour and Travels, Thane	MH	50
212.	Mateen Tours and Travels, Mumbai	MH	100
213.	Meera International Tour and Travels, Ahmed Nagar	MH	50
214.	Al Arafat Haj and Umrah Tours, Nagpur	MH	75
215.	Al Multazim Haj and Umrah Service, Mumbai	MH	50
216.	Al Ansar Haj Umrah Organizer, Mumbai	MH	100
217.	Aman Tourism Haj Umrah, Kolhapur	MH	90
218.	Creative Enterprises, Mumbai	MH	395
219.	As Serat Tours, Mumbai	MH	150
220.	Al Jamil Haj Tours, Mumbai	MH	125
221.	Al Attar Haj Corporation, Mumbai	MH	75
222.	Al Umair Tours and Travels, Mumbai	MH	150
223.	Marhaba Haj Umrah Tours, Mumbai	MH	50
224.	Marhaba Muqaddas Umrah Haj Tours, Mumbai	MH	50
225.	Reliable Haj Umrah Tours, Thane	MH	75

1	2	3	4
226.	Al-Quba Tour and Travels, Pune	MH	70
227.	Roshan Haj Umrah Tours and Travels, Thane	MH	50
228.	Asfahan Tours and Travels, Mumbai	MH	100
229.	Tawakkal Tourism Corporation, Nagpur	MH	90
230.	Akola Haj Tours, Akola	MH	200
231.	Huda Haj Tours and Travels, Mumbai	MH	75
232.	As Safaa Tours and Travels, Mumbai	MH	50
233.	Rapid Travels and Tours, Mumbai	MH	185
234.	Rabita Haj Umrah Tours, Aurangabad	MH	150
235.	Al Aziz Tours and Travels, Nashik	MH	50
<b>Madhya Pradesh</b>			
236.	Haj Tours Corporation, Indore	MP	100
237.	Kaazi Sarkar Travels, Neemuch	MP	60
238.	Avliya Haj Tour, Indore	MP	50
239.	Al-Burahan Tours and Travels, Burhanpur	MP	100
240.	Travel House, Bhopal	MP	50
241.	Mariyam Haj Tours, Indore	MP	110
242.	Quadri Haj Service, Jabalpur	MP	85
<b>Orissa</b>			
243.	Metro Tours and Travels, Cuttack	OR	50
<b>Rajasthan</b>			
244.	Ajmeri Tour and Travels, Bhilwara	RJ	150
245.	Samrat Tour and Travels, Jaipur	RJ	300
246.	Raza Tours and Travels, Bhilwara	RJ	100

1	2	3	4
247.	Sarkar Travels, Bhitwara	RJ	100
248.	Al Meraj Tours and Travels, Jodhpur	RJ	100
<b>Tamil Nadu</b>			
249.	Moulana Haj Service, Chennai	TN	100
250.	Al-Misbah Haj and Umra Services, Chennai	TN	50
251.	Al-Hudha Haj Service (P) Ltd., Coimbatore	TN	75
252.	Richway Tours and Travels, Coimbatore	TN	75
253.	Al-Safa Haj Service, Pudukkottai	TN	115
254.	Bushra Haj Service, Chennai	TN	75
255.	Kalanthar Haj Travels, Pudukkotai	TN	100
256.	Fathimagani Haj Service, Ramanathapuram	TN	100
257.	Al Madeena Haj Service, Chennai	TN	50
258.	Trichy Sunshine Haj Service, Trichirappalli	TN	100
259.	Salamath Haj Service, Mayiladuthrui	TN	80
260.	Sha Haj Service, Coimbatore	TN	100
261.	Al-Fathah Haj Services (P) Ltd., Kayalpatnam	TN	150
262.	Al Hussam Travel and Tours India (P) Ltd., Chennai	TN	300
263.	Al Haramine Haj Service (P) Ltd., Chennai	TN	150
264.	Al Amanath Haj Service India Pvt. Ltd., Chennai	TN	395
265.	Millath Haj Service, Chennai	TN	150
266.	Afzal Haj Tour and Travels Pvt. Ltd., Chennai	TN	100
267.	AL Noor Haj Service (India) Pvt. Ltd., Thanajavur	TN	250
268.	Dheen Haj Service, Chennai	TN	395

1	2	3	4
<b>Uttar Pradesh</b>			
269.	Mehdi Tours and Travels, Lucknow	UP	50
270.	United Tours and Travels, Allahabad	UP	75
271.	Islamic Tour and Travel, Lucknow	UP	100
272.	Heena Travels Service, Lucknow	UP	50
273.	Mirza Tour and Travels, Lucknow	UP	120
274.	Shaheen Haj Tours and Travels, Bareilly	UP	100
275.	Al Uqba Tours and Travels, Kanpur	UP	100
276.	Sagar Tours and Travels, Gorakhpur	UP	70
277.	Faiz Travels, Meerut	UP	150
278.	Al Ameen Tours and Travels, Kanpur	UP	80
279.	Al Junaid Haj Umra Company, Meerut	UP	200
280.	G.B. Tours and Travels, Lucknow	UP	120
281.	Madani Travels, Varanasi	UP	50
282.	Chishti Travel and Tour, Kanpur	UP	100
283.	Jannat Tours and Travels, Faizabad	UP	75
<b>Uttarakhand</b>			
284.	Noor Ul Haram Tours and Travels, Roorkee	UT	50
285.	Al Haram Tours and Travels, Roorkee	UT	300
<b>West Bengal</b>			
286.	Hamdaan Travel Services, Kolkata	WB	100
287.	Modern Tours and Travels, Kolkata	WB	75
288.	Al-Aqsa Tour and Travels, Kolkata	WB	100
289.	M.K. Haj and Umrah Travels, Kolkata	WB	100
290.	M.G. Tours and Travels, Parganas	WB	60

1	2	3	4
291.	Al-Bouraque Tours and Travels, Kolkata	WB	50
292.	Taj Tours and Travels, Kolkata	WB	125
293.	Kolkatta Tours and Travels, Kolkata	WB	50
Total			46980

[Translation]

### Melting Glaciers of Himalayas

1068. SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the glaciers of Himalayas are melting at an alarming pace;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) the details of the likely changes in the environment and threats to the ecological system; and
- (d) the effective steps being 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) The Government is aware of the melting of the Himalayan glaciers. Compilations of the data on secular movement of glaciers have revealed that the majority of the glaciers of the Himalayan region are passing through a phase of recession, which is a worldwide phenomenon. No abnormal rate of recession has been reported by Geological Survey of India (GSI). Even in the Himalayan region, the rate of recession in different climatic zones is found to be variable on average and in year to year basis. The retreat parameters of 35 glaciers show that 43% of the glaciers in the Himalayan region are retreating in the range of 10 to 20m/yr. The causative factors for this variable retreat may be subnormal snowfall, higher

temperature during summer, less severe winter or a combination of all of them. It could also be attributed to the phenomenon of rise in temperature, global warming, a topic which is still under debate.

(c) No specific studies have been undertaken with regard to melting glaciers impact on environment and threats to the ecological system.

(d) Recession of the glaciers is a process which cannot be checked in absolute terms. The Geological Survey of India has carried out few pilot studies on retardation of ice melting. However, the thick supra-glacial morainic cover on majority of the Himalayan glaciers may not yield desired results. Thus artificial reduction in melting rate may not be possible because of its economic feasibility, scale of operation and pollution hazards.

However, the Government of India has identified the possible measures for reducing the recession of glacier which include conservation activities such as afforestation, removal of garbage, restriction on human interference on glaciers and promotion of sustainable eco-tourism.

[English]

### Vadodara-Mumbai Expressway

1069. SHRI HARIN PATHAK : Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has taken up construction of Expressway between Vadodara and Mumbai;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the progress of work till date;

(c) the funds likely to be incurred on the project; and

(d) the time-frame fixed for completion of the project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA) : (a) The Government has taken up the construction of expressway between Vadodara to Mumbai under National Highways Development Project (NHDP) Phase-VI.

(b) The process of appointment of consultant for finalization of alignment study is likely to be completed by July, 2008.

(c) The approximate cost of the project is Rs. 6672 crore.

(d) The project has been targetted for completion by December 2015.

*[Translation]*

**Need for Revamping of AIDS  
Awareness Campaign**

1070. SHRI HEMMAL MURMU :

SHRI ANANTA NAYAK :

SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY :

SHRI RAGHURAJ SINGH SHAKYA :

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

(a) whether the Government proposes to revamp the awareness campaign for controlling the growing number of AIDS/HIV cases in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the role of NGOs in this regard;

(c) the extent of success achieved in containing the number of AIDS/HIV cases in the country as a result of awareness campaign;

(d) the funds allocated and spent therefrom for the purpose during the said period, State-wise; and

(e) the efforts made by the Government to provide a dignified social life for AIDS/HIV affected persons?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) and (b) The communication strategy in the third phase of National AIDS control Programme aims at promoting safe behaviours among high risk groups and vulnerable population directed at increasing the uptake of preventive and care and support services, condom promotion, and reduction of stigma and discrimination associated with HIV/AIDS. There is increased emphasis on inter-personal channels of communication to reach the women and youth living in rural and semi-urban areas. NGOs are also involved in dissemination of information on HIV/AIDS to target populations.

(c) The results of the Annual Sentinel Surveillance Survey, show marginal declining trend of HIV prevalence from 0.45% in 2002 to 0.36% in 2006.

(d) The state-wise fund allocated and expenditure are enclosed as statement.

(e) The Government is providing free Antiretroviral Therapy and care and support services to People Living with HIV/AIDS (PLHA) to improve their general health and promote welfare. Advocacy and sensitization programmes are carried out for health care providers, community leaders, Panchayati Raj Institutions, other government departments, civil society and corporate sector for addressing issue of stigma and discrimination attached to HIV/AIDS.

**Statement****IEC Financial Expenditure by State AIDS Control Society**

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl. No.	Name of the SACS	2004-2005		2005-2006		2006-2007	
		Alloc	Spent	Alloc	Spent	Alloc	Spent
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Arunachal Pradesh	40	29.6	100	81.82	110	138.52
2.	Himachal Pradesh	60	28.05	170	144.34	80	130.64
3.	Punjab	100	18.19	120	60.95	112	141.52
4.	Jharkhand	75	23.68	120	57.69	50	139.22
5.	Rajasthan	150	74.71	272	190.98	185	175.73
6.	Chandigarh	35	21	39.2	38.47	50	46.37
7.	Daman and Diu	15	10.75	23.9	22.07	43	27.85
8.	Mumbai	150	131.68	250	238.62	200	213.39
9.	Mizoram	70	74.55	100	105.34	150	115.99
10.	Delhi	150	143.88	557	327.16	500	344.93
11.	Goa	60	25.41	125	45.56	65	48.62
12.	Haryana	100	32.55	100	54.99	50	30
13.	Meghalaya	30	4.83	60	2.98	120	4.57
14.	Gujarat	200	51.54	585	172.87	605	312.81
15.	Sikkim	23	20.61	45.6	38.04	50.4	21.04
16.	Karnataka	250	154.13	300	181.05	419	245
17.	Assam	150	175.27	443.54	350	450	577.16
18.	Pondicherry	20	18.85	30	35.57	70	70.67

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
19.	Orissa	107.7	28.8	257	197.2	159.89	94.63
20.	Tripura	30	50.2	60	47.97	80	51
21.	Uttar Pradesh	400	218.37	424.5	355.76	700	330
22.	Ahmedabad MC	41	35.27	50	42.84	45	21
23.	Chennai MC	60	14.99	200	146.85	150	85.95
24.	Uttarakhand	50	17.77	50	68.12	120	105.82
25.	Andhra Pradesh	300	160.45	3000	1555.39	1800	1445.67
26.	Madhya Pradesh	200	120.66	340	104.89	250	224.34
27.	Nagaland	150	206.39	315	364.35	362	329.06
28.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	10	3.47	6	5.98	10	5.59
29.	Kerala	150	99	306	95.65	250	268.5
30.	Maharashtra	300	277	530	512.14	700	397.74
31.	Manipur	120	127	200	430.03	600	918.92
32.	Tamil Nadu	300	328	620	767	400	473
33.	Bihar	150	67.88	310	370.77	500	180
34.	West Bengal	250	293.09	700	872.56	1200	1422.97
35.	Andaman and Nicobar	20	15.39	20	15.04	56	11.22
36.	Lakshadweep	15	1.03	15	1.35	10	2.5
37.	Jammu and Kashmir	70	32.66	74	65.4	90	51.79
38.	Chhattisgarh	70	51.89	250	201.93	30.5	51.67
Total		4471.7	3188.6	11168.7	8369.72	10822.8	9255.4



[English]

**Need for More Investment on  
Health Care**

1071. SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India needs urgently to invest more in health care, particularly in rural areas with a special focus on primary-care providers according to the latest report by various agencies like World Health Organization and International Advisory Panel of the National Rural Health Mission etc.;

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

(c) the effective 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) the Government of India has implemented National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) throughout the country to provide accessible, affordable, accountable, effective and reliable primary health care facilities especially to the poor and vulnerable sections of the population. Recently International Advisory Panel of NRHM led by Prof. Jeffery Sachs reviewed the progress of NRHM, in which it was concluded that the NRHM is the most ambitious public health programme in the world and its success is crucial for replication in other parts of the world especially in the year of the 30th anniversary of the Alma Ata declaration "Health for All". Further, Hon'ble Union Health and family Welfare Minister has enumerated the measures already being undertaken by the Ministry/ States in areas of content of ASHA training providing pregnancy kit in ASHA drug kit, Trauma Centres, importance of mothers milk, replication of best practices, focus on nutritional issues by the ASHA and AWW, introduction of new vaccines, efforts towards quality immunisation through cold chains/AD syringes, legislation for setting up of Tobacco Regulatory Authority etc.

**Trauma Care Centre on National  
Highways**

1072. DR. K. DHANARAJU : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has allocated funds to strengthen and develop Trauma Care Centres in the District Head Quarter Hospitals on National Highways; and

(b) if so, the details of funds allocated and spent therefrom alongwith the reasons for unspent amount during the last three years, State-wise and location-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) Yes.

(b) The details of funds allocated and spent during the last three years:—

Year	Funds allocated (BE) (Rs. in crore)	Funds spent (Rs. in crore)
2004-05	20.00	24.19
2005-06	32.00	35.87
2006-07	42.00	42.73

**Budgetary Outlay for Indian  
System of Medicines**

1073. SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to increase budgetary outlay for the Indian System of medicines in the Eleventh Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government is considering to set up

new Institutions to upgrade studies of Indian System of Medicines and Health Care Centres; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. the budet outlay during the 11th Plan has been increased substantially as compared to the 10th Plan as indicated below:-

(Rs. in Crores)

Plan Period	Outlay
10th Five Year Plan	775
11th Five Year Plan	3988

(d) The following two institutes have been sanctioned for setting up in the 11th Five year Plan for study of Indian System of Medicines.

1. Indian Institute of Ayurveda, New Delhi.
2. North Eastern Institute of Folk Medicine, Pasighat.

**Supply of Coal by Mahanadi  
Coalfields Ltd. (MCL)**

1074. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Mahanadi Coalfields Ltd. (MCL) is allocating coal to the Industrial units set up in the Orissa on priority basis;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether MCL is not supplying coal according to the demand of the local units in the State;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to regulate supply of coal from MCL to the units set up in Orissa?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO) : (a) to (e) Coal is a natural resource and occurs in some States only. It is prudent and fair that this resource is shared by consumers in all the States. Thus, coal is allocated to consumers located anywhere in the Indian Union, in accordance with the provisions under extant coal distribution policy. Out of total despatches of 68.70 million tonnes during April, 2007 to January, 2008, Mahanadi Coalfields Limited (MCL) has supplied 37.38 million tonnes to industrial units located within the State of Orissa. In addition, MCL has allocated 2.50 lakh tonnes of coal to the State nominated agency namely Orissa Small Industries Development Corporation for distribution to small and medium consumers in Orissa and 1.10 lakh tonnes to National Co-operative Consumer Federation (NCCF) during April, 2007 to January, 2008 for distribution to small and medium industries. However, against this allocation, only a quantity of 0.59 lakh tonnes and 0.01 lakh tonnes respectively, was lifted by the State nominated agency and NCCF. Under electronic booking/electronic auction also conducted by MCL during April, 2007 to January, 2008, against the total offer of 8 million tonnes, a quantity of 7.3 million tonnes was booked by various consumers, including those located in Orissa.

**Sale of CGHS Medicines in  
Open Market**

1075. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL :

SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA :

SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO :

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

(a) whether the medicines procured for the dispensaries of Central Government Health Scheme (CGHS) are being sold in the open market as reported in 'The Times of India' dated January 20, 2008;

- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has conducted any inquiry in this regard;
- (d) if so, the findings thereof; and
- (e) the action taken by the Government against those found guilty in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) to (e) None of the investigating agencies have informed about involvement of the CGHS or its employees in selling of medicines, as reported.

The CGHS has an inbuilt mechanism to monitor procurements, distribution and consumption of drugs much before the expire date.

[Translation]

#### Growth Rate of Agriculture Sector

1076. SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO :  
SHRI JIVABHAI A. PATEL :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the growth rate of agriculture Sector has suffered a severe setback due to inaccurate assessment of the Planning Commission;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the corrective steps taken by the Government in this regard; and

(d) the success achieved as a result therefrom during the last two years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN) : (a) to (d) No, Sir. The annual rates of growth of GDP at factor cost at 1999-2000 prices in Agriculture and Allied Sectors for the last few years are given in the following table:-

Year	Annual Growth in Agriculture and Allied Activities (In per cent)
2002-03	-7.2
2003-04	10.0
2004-05	0.0
2005-06	5.9
2006-07	3.8
Tenth Five Year Plan average	2.5
2007-08	2.6

Source: Economic Survey, 2007-08, Government of India New Delhi.

The 11th Five Year Plan has projected the annual growth rate in Agriculture and Allied Activities to increase to around 4%. To achieve this growth rate the GBS allocation to Agriculture and Irrigation Sectors has been projected to increase to Rs. 1,21,556 crore (at 2006-07 prices) in 11th Five Year Plan from the 10th Five Year Plan actual allocation of Rs. 50,639 crore.

[English]

#### Review of Bharat Nirman Yojana

1077. SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has reviewed the progress of Bharat Nirman Yojana for building rural infrastructure; and

(b) if so, the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Bharat Nirman programme is being reviewed by the respective Ministries, Planning Commission and

Committee on Rural Infrastructure. Based on the performance of the various components, two components housing and telephone would achieve their targets set under Bharat Nirman. For other components, the bottlenecks identified during the review are addressed for expediting their progress.

**Programme for Prevention of Diabetes and Cardiovascular Diseases**

1078. SHRI M. APPADURAI :  
SHRI L. RAJAGOPAL :

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

(a) whether the Government proposes a programme in the Eleventh Five Year Plan for prevention and control of diabetes and cardiovascular diseases;

(b) if so, the details of the programme including the funds earmarked for the purpose;

(c) whether the programme will start on pilot basis in some selected States;

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the names of such States; and

(e) the time by which such programme is likely to be launched?

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

(b) to (e) The pilot phase of the National Programme for Prevention and Control of Diabetes, Cardiovascular Diseases and Stroke has already been launched in 9 Districts of 9 States in 2008 as indicated below:-

State	District
1	2
Assam	Kamrup

1	2
Punjab	Jalandhar
Rajasthan	Bhilwara
Karnataka	Shimoga
Tamil Nadu	Kancheepuram
Kerala	Thiruvananthpuram
Madhya Pradesh	Jabalpur
Sikkim	East District of Sikkim
Andhra Pradesh	Nellore

The objectives of the programme are (i) to assess the prevalence of risk factors for Non-Communicable diseases, (ii) Risk reduction for prevention of Non-Communicable diseases (Diabetes, Cardio-vascular Diseases and Stroke) and (iii) Early diagnosis and appropriate management of Diabetes, Cardio-vascular Diseases and Stroke. The strategies for achieving the objectives of the programme are (a) Surveillance of risk factors of Non-Communicable Diseases, (b) Health Promotion for the General Population and (c) Disease Prevention for the High Risk groups.

The Planning Commission has provided tentative allocation of Rs. 1620.50 crores for the programme in the XIth Five Year Plan. The budget provision for the pilot phase is Rs. 5 crores.

[Translation]

**Panchayat Training Centres**

1079. SHRI SRICHAND KRIPLANI : Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Panchayat Training Centres in Rajasthan at present, location wise;

(b) whether the Government proposes to establish more training centres in Rajasthan;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the amount released by Union Government for the establishment of new Panchayat Training Centres in Rajasthan since 2005-2006, till date?

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 Indra Gandhi Panchayati Raj and Gramin Vikas Sanathan (I.G.P.R. and G.V.S.) has been established as the State Institute of Rural Development (S.I.R.D.) and made the umbrella organization for providing technical support to three Panchayat Training Centres (PTCs) for the training of Elected Representatives and Functionaries of Gram Panchayats located at Ajmer, Dungarpur and Mandore (Jodhpur).

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

[English]

#### Forest Academy in Kerala

1080. SHRI P KARUNAKARAN :  
SHRI P.C. THOMAS :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the government of Kerala has submitted a proposal to establish a forest academy in Kerala;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the response of the Union Government thereto?

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

(a) Yes, Sir. A proposal for establishment of Kerala Forest Academy has been received.

(b) The objective of the proposed academy is to act as an umbrella organisation for all basic training needs of the Kerala Forest Department. It is proposed that the academy will conduct Refresher Training Courses for in-

service frontline forest staff, Orientation Training for "to be promoted" officers, Executive Management Programmes for senior officers, Professional Training and Training of Trainers. The proposal envisages capital expenditure of Rs.13.75 crore and recurring annual expenditure of Rs. 4.35 crore.

(c) The Ministry of Environment and Forests does not have a scheme to support the proposed activity.

#### Vacant Posts of Forest Personnel

1081. SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI :  
SHRI K.C. PALLANI SHAMY :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether posts of forests personnel are lying vacant in the country;

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

(c) The steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to fill-up these posts; and

(d) The time by which the said posts are likely to be filled-up?

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

(a) to (d) The Forestry personnel of Indian Forest Service are recruited by Union Public Service Commission every year through direct recruitment under direct recruitment quota and also through promotion from State Forest Service into Indian Forest Service. The vacancy position in respect of Indian Forest Service is enclosed as statement. The filling up of vacancies in promotion quota is linked to court cases/holding of Departmental Promotion Meetings in consultation with Union Public Service Commission.

As regards to the other Forest Personnel, the State Governments have been requested to fill up all the vacant posts. The State wise information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

**Statement**

*Statement showing cadre-wise information in respect of the  
Indian Forest Service as on 01.01.2007*

Sl.No.	Cadre	Total Strength	Existing Strength	Existing Vacancy	Remarks
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	AGMU	156	140	16	—
2.	Andhra Pradesh	139	141	—	Excess
3.	Assam-Meghalaya	118	112	6	—
4.	Bihar	58	42	16	—
5.	Chhattisgarh	131	117	4	—
6.	Gujarat	107	104	3	—
7.	Haryana	69	66	3	—
8.	Himachal Pradesh	102	106	—	Excess
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	106	95	11	—
10.	Jharkhand	130	129	1	—
11.	Karnataka	164	158	6	—
12.	Kerala	94	83	11	—
13.	Madhya Pradesh	270	274	—	Excess
14.	Maharashtra	185	172	13	—
15.	Manipur-Tripura	87	84	3	—
16.	Nagaland	33	28	5	—
17.	Orissa	127	113	14	—
18.	Punjab	58	47	11	—
19.	Rajasthan	112	109	3	—
20.	Sikkim	30	25	5	—

1	2	3	4	5	6
21.	Tamil Nadu	148	139	9	—
22.	Uttar Pradesh	199	157	42	—
23.	Uttaranchal	84	69	15	—
24.	West Bengal	112	106	6	—
Total		2819	2616	203	—

### Six-laning of Entire GQP

1082. SHRI JASUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD :

SHRI RAMPAL SINGH :

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

(a) whether the Government proposes to launch a mega project of Rs. 1,75,000 crore for six-laning of the entire Golden Quadrilateral network on BoT basis;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the State-wise details of the total length of the North-South Corridor and Golden Quadrilateral Project of National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) and funds allocated for the same;

(d) the State-wise details of the length of roads under these projects on which work has been completed and pending thereunder, State-wise; and

(e) the action taken/being taken to complete the remaining work in time?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA) : (a) Government has approved 6-laning of 6,500 km of National Highways comprising 5,700 km of Golden Quadrilateral and 800 km of other section on Build, Operate and Transfer basis at an estimated cost of Rs. 41,210 crore under National Highways Development Project (NHDP) Phase-V.

(b) Seven contracts have been awarded under NHDP Phase-V. The details are enclosed as Statement-I.

(c) and (d) The details are as Statement-II and Statement-III.

(e) Projects are regularly reviewed by National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) and by Government to address various bottlenecks in implementation.

### Statement-I

#### Concessions Awarded under National Highways Development Project Phase-V

Sl.No.	Name of the Project	NH No.	Length (in kms.)	Remarks
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Vadodara-Bharuch	8	83.00	Work in progress through BOT concessionaire.

1	2	3	4	5
2.	Bharuch-Surat	8	65.00	Work in progress through BOT concessionaire.
3.	Chennai-Tada	5	43.40	Concession awarded by 21.02.2008
4.	Gurgaon-Kotputli-Jaipur	8	225.60	-do-
5.	Surat-Dahisar	5	239.00	-do-
6.	Chilikaluripet-Vijayawada	5	82.50	-do-
7.	Panipat-Jalandhar	1	291.00	-do-
Total			1029.50	

**Statement-II***Completed Project : GQ*

Sl. No.	Stretch	NH No.	Length (km)
1	2	3	4
<b>GQ</b>			
<b>Andhra Pradesh</b>			
1.	Srikakulam-Champawati (AP-1) (Balance work) km 97-km 49	5	48.00
2.	Chilikaluripet-Ongole (AP-13) km 357.9-km 291	5	66.00
3.	Ichapuram-Korlam (AP-4B) km 233-km 200	5	33.00
4.	Ongole-Kavali (AP-12) km 291-km 222	5	72.00
5.	Korlam-Palasa (AP-4A) km 200-km 171	5	29.00

1	2	3	4
6.	Tuni-Dharmavaram (AP-16) km 300-km 253	5	47.00
7.	Bridges section (AP-6) km 233-km 98	5	0.00
8.	Palasa-Srikakulam (AP-2) km 171-km 97	5	74.00
9.	Bridges Section (AP-20) km 80-km 162	5	0.00
10.	Kavali-Nellore (AP-11) km 222-km 178	5	43.80
11.	Dharmavaram-Rajahmundry (AP-15) km 253-km 200	5	53.00
12.	Divancheru (near Rajahmundry)- Gowthami (AP-17) km 200-km 164.5	5	34.95
13.	Bridges Section (AP-19) km 162-km 200	5	2.45



1	2	3	4
14.	Champawati-Vishakhapatnam (AP-3) km 49-km 2.8	5	48.20
15.	Ankapalli-Tuni km 359.2-km 300	5	58.95
16.	Nellore Bypass km 178.2-km 161	5	17.17
17.	Gowthami - Gundugolanu (AP-18) km 164.5-km 80	5	81.08
18.	Nellore - Tada (AP-7) km 163.6-km 52.8	5	110.52
19.	Bridges section (AP-5) km 49-km 97	5	0.00
20.	Vijayawada - Chilkaluripet Package I km 355-km 380	5	25.00
21.	Vijayawada - Chilkaluripet Package II km 380-km 396.8	5	32.00
22.	Vijayawada - Chilkaluripet Package III km 408-km 420.5	5	23.78
23.	Vijayawada - Chilkaluripet Package IV km 10.8-km 13.68	5	2.88
24.	Vijayawada - Rajamundry Section (near Eluru) km 75-km 80	5	5.00
25.	Eluru-Vijayawada Package V km 75-km 3.4	5	72.00

1	2	3	4
26.	Vishakhapatnam - Ankapalli km 397-km 359	5	38.00
<b>State Total%</b>		1015.77 km	
<b>Biher</b>			
27.	Aurangabad - Barachatti (TNHP/V-A) km 180-km 240	2	60.00
28.	Mohania - Sasaram (TNHP/IV-B) km 65-km 110	2	45.00
29.	Dehri - on-Sone-Aurangabad (TNHP/IV-D) km 140-km 180	2	40.00
<b>State Total:</b>		145.00 km	
<b>Biher [10]/Jharkhand [70]</b>			
30.	Barachatti - Gorhar (GTRIP/V-B) km 240 - km 320	2	80.00
<b>State Total:</b>		80.00 km	
<b>Delhi [12]/Haryana [74]/Uttar Pradesh [59]</b>			
31.	Delhi-Mathura km 0-km 145	2	145.00
<b>State Total:</b>		145.00 km	
<b>Delhi [13]/Haryana [23]</b>			
32.	Delhi-Gurgaon km 0-km 36	8	36.00
<b>State Total:</b>		36.00 km	

1	2	3	4
<b>Gujarat</b>			
33.	Himatnagar - Chlodra (Near Ahmedabad) (UG-IV) km 443-km 495	8	52.00
34.	Surat (Chalthan) - Atul km 263.4-km 343	8	79.60
35.	Ahmedabad-Vadodara Exp.Way Phase-II km 43.3 (Nadiad-Dakor SH) - km 93.302		50.00
36.	Atul - Kajali km 343-km 381.6	8	38.60
37.	Ratanpur - Himatnagar (UG-III) km 388-km 443	8	54.60
38.	Ahmedabad-Vadodara Exp.Way Phase-I km 0.0-km 43.4	8	43.40
39.	Ahmedabad bypass km 495-km 510	8	15.00
40.	Vadodara - Surat	8	152.00
<b>State Total:</b>			<b>485.20 km</b>
<b>Haryana[55]/Rajasthan[71]</b>			
41.	Gurgaon - Kotputli km 36-km 162	8	126.00
<b>State Total:</b>			<b>126.00 km</b>
<b>Jharkhand</b>			
42.	Barwa Adda - Barakar km 398.75-km 442	2	43.00
<b>State Total:</b>			<b>43.00 km</b>

1	2	3	4
<b>Karnataka</b>			
43.	Belgaum - Dharwad Km 495 - km 433	4	62.00
44.	Belgaum Bypass km 515 - km 495	4	18.00
45.	Sira - Tumkur km 116.4-km 75	4	41.40
46.	Maharashtra Border-Belgaum km 592-km 515	4	77.00
47.	Tumkur - Neelmangala km 62-km 29.5	4	32.50
48.	Sira Bypass km 122-km 116	4	5.80
49.	Dharwad - Hubli km 433-km 404	4	29.00
50.	Neelmangala - Bangalore km 30-km 0	4	30.00
51.	Bangalore - Hathipalli km 0-km 33	7	33.00
<b>State Total:</b>			<b>328.70 km</b>
<b>Maharashtra</b>			
52.	Katraj - Sarole (PS-3) km 825.5-km 797	4	28.50
53.	Katraj Realignment (PS-4) km 825-km 30 of Bypass	4	9.00
54.	Satara - Kagal km 725-km 592.24	4	133.00

1	2	3	4
55.	Sarole - Wathar (PS-2) km 797-km 760 excluding km 773-km 781	4	29.00
56.	Wathar - Satara (PS-1) km 760-km 725	4	35.00
57.	Kajali - Manor km 381.6-km 439	8	57.40
58.	Westerly Diversion km 0-km 34.25	4	34.25
59.	Mumbai Pune Expressway	4	10.00
60.	Mumbai Pune Expressway km 958-km 878	4	80.00
61.	Manor - Baseeim-Creek Section km 439-km 496	8	58.00
62.	Khambakti Ghat km 772-km 781	4	9.00
63.	Baseeim-Creek Bridge - Dhaishar	8	2.00
64.	Dhaishar - Mumbai	8	4.00
<b>State Total:</b>			<b>489.15 km</b>

**Orissa**

65.	Laxmannath - Baleshwar (OR-4) km 0-km 53.41	60	53.41
66.	Bridges Section (OR/WB-I) km 0-km 119.275	60	0.00
67.	Khurda - Sunakhala (OR-VI) km 388-km 338	5	52.06

1	2	3	4
68.	Bhadrak - Chandikhole (OR-II) km 61-km 136	5	75.50
69.	Chandikhole - Jagatpur km 28-km 61	5	27.80
70.	Jagatpur - Bhubneshwar km 0-km 28	5	28.00
<b>State Total:</b>			<b>236.77 km</b>

**Rajasthan**

71.	Jaipur Bypass Phase II km 221 of NH-8 km 246 of NH-11	8	34.70
72.	Mahapura (near Jaipur) - Kishangarh (6 Lane) km 273.5-km 363.885	8	90.38
73.	Mangalwar - Udaipur (KU-VI) km 172-km 113.825	78	58.18
74.	Kesariaji - Ratanpur (UG-II) km 340-km 388.4	8	48.40
75.	Gulabpura - Bhilwara Bypass (KU-III) km 70-km 120	79	50.00
76.	Bhilwara Bypass - Chittorgarh (KU-IV) km 120-km 183	79	66.00
77.	Kishangarh - Nasirabad (KU-I) km 363.9 (NH-8) - Km 15 (NH-79)	79A	36.23
78.	Nasirabad - Gulabpura (KU-II) km 15-km 70	79	55.87

1	2	3	4
79.	Chittorgarh - Mangalwar (KU-V) km 220-km 172	76	48.00
80.	Udaipur - Kesariaji (UG-I) km 278-km 340	8	62.00
81.	Jaipur Bypass Phase I km 283-km 297	8	14.00
82.	ROB at Kishangarh	8	1.00
83.	Kotputli - Amer km 162-km 248	8	86.00
State Total:			650.76 km

**Tamil Nadu**

84.	Kanchipuram - Poonamalee km 70.2-km 13.8	4	56.40
85.	Vaniyambadi - Pallikonda (KR-2) km 49.0-km 100.0	46	51.00
86.	Pallikonda - Ranipet and Walahjapet (KR-3) km 100.0-km 145.0	46	45.00
87.	Tada - Chennai (TN-1) km 52.8-km 11	5	41.80
88.	Krishnagiri - Vaniyambadi (KR-1) km 0.0-km 49.0	46	49.00
89.	Hosur - Krishnagiri km 48.6-km 94.0	7	45.40
90.	Valelapet - Kanchipuram km 106.4-km 70.2	4	36.20
91.	Hathipali - Hosur km 33-km 48.6	7	16.00
State Total:			340.80 km

1	2	3	4
<b>Uttar Pradesh</b>			
92.	Sikandara-Bhaunli (TNHP/II-A) km 393-km 470 through MDR route 16 km	2	62.00
93.	Khaga - Kokhraj (TNHP/III-A) km 115-km 158	2	43.00
94.	Mathura - Agra km 145-km 199	2	54.00
State Total:			159.00 km.

**West Bengal**

95.	Vivekananda Bridge and Approach	2	6.00
96.	Dhankuni - Kolaghat (WB-I) km 17.6-km 72	6	54.40
97.	Kharagpur - Laxmannath (WB-IV) km 53.41-km 119.275	60	65.86
98.	Palsit - Dankuni km 581-km 646	2	65.00
99.	Panagarh - Palsit km 517-km 581	2	64.46
100.	Kolaghat - Kharagpur (WB-II) km 72-km 132.45	6	60.45
101.	Raniganj - Panagarh km 475-km 517	2	42.00
102.	Barakar - Raniganj km 442-km 475	2	33.00

1	2	3	4
103.	Dankuni - NH-2/NH-6 Junction near Kolkata	2	5.00
State Total:			396.17 km
Total:			4677.31 km

**Completed Projects: NS-EW**

Sl. No.	Stretch	NH No	Length (km)
1	2	3	4
<b>Andhra Pradesh</b>			
1.	Thondapalli to Farukhanagar (NS/9) km 22.3-km 34.8	7	12.50
2.	Kalkallu village to Gundla Pechampali (NS-B) km 447-km 464	7	17.00
3.	Bowenpalli (Hyderabad city) to Shivarampalli km 0.00-km 9.200	7	9.20
State Total:			38.70

**Assam**

4.	Guwahati Bypass (EW-14/AS) km 156.00 to km 146.00	37	10.50
5.	Guwahati bypass (EW/7) km 163.895-km 156	37	8.00
State Total:			18.50

1	2	3	4
<b>Delhi</b>			
6.	Eight Lining of Mukarba Chowk to Mall Road (Delhi) (NS3/DL) km 16.2-km 8.2	1	8.50
State Total:			8.50

**Gujarat**

7.	Bhiladi to Porbandar (Package-I) km 52.50 to km 2.00	8B	50.50
8.	Palanpur - Deesa (EW-11/GJ) km 350.00 to km 372.70	14	22.70
9.	Ribda to Gondal section (EW-10/GJ) km 160-km 143	8B	17.00
10.	Abu Road Deesa Section near Palanpur (EW/1) km 340-km 350	14	10.00
11.	Bamnabarr - Rajkot km 216-km 185	8B	31.00
12.	Rajkot - Ribda km 175-km 160	8B	15.00
State Total:			146.20

**Completed Projects : NS-EW**

**Haryana**

13.	Six lining of Kamaspur to Haryana/Delhi Border (NS/2) km 44.3-km 29.3	1	15.00
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1	2	3	4
14.	Ambala-Panipat km 212-km 96	1	116.00
<b>State Total:</b>			<b>131.00</b>
<b>Karnataka</b>			
15.	Avathi village to Nandi Hills cross and Six laning of Devanhalli - Meenukunte (NS-km 524-km 527 and km 535-km 539)	7	7.00
<b>State Total:</b>			<b>7.00</b>
<b>Kerala</b>			
16.	Angamali to Aluva (NS-28/KL) km 332.6 to km 316.70	47	16.60
17.	Thrissur - Kochi Section km 332.0-km 349.0	47	17.00
<b>State Total:</b>			<b>33.60</b>
<b>Madhya Pradesh</b>			
18.	Morena - Rairu (Start of Gwalior bypass) (NS-21/MP) km 85.00 to km 103.00	3	18.00
19.	Sarai Cholla to Morena (NS-20/MP) km 70.00 to km 85.00	3	15.00
20.	MP/RAJ border to Sarai Cholla (NS/6) km 61-km 70	3	9.00
<b>State Total:</b>			<b>42.00</b>

1	2	3	4
<b>Maharashtra</b>			
21.	Chinchbhuvan-Butibori - Borkhedi (NS-7) km 9.2-km 22.85 and km 24.65-km 36.6	7	25.60
22.	Nagpur-Chinchbhuvan km 0.00-km 9.200	7	9.20
<b>State Total:</b>			<b>34.80</b>
<b>Punjab</b>			
23.	Phagwara Junction on NH-1 (Flyover on existing 4-lane road)	1	1.00
24.	Bhogpur to Jalandhar (NS-16/PB) km 26-km 4.23	1A	21.77
25.	Jalandhar Bypass (NS/1) Km 387.1 of NH-1-km 4.23 of NH-1A-km	1	14.40
26.	Jalandhar-Ambala km 372.7-km 212	1	160.70
<b>State Total:</b>			<b>197.87</b>
<b>Rajasthan</b>			
27.	Mania - Dholpur (NS/5) km 41-km 51	3	10.00
<b>State Total:</b>			<b>10.00</b>
<b>Tamil Nadu</b>			
28.	Bangalore - Salem - Madurai (NS-27/TN) km 248.0-km 259.6	7	8.40

1	2	3	4
29.	Salem bypass (NS/12) km 199.2-km 207.6	7	8.40
30.	4 laning of Karur Bypass including additional bridge across river Amarawati	7	9.36
31.	Construction of Karur ROB	7	0.84
32.	Thopurghar section (NS/14) km 156-km 163.4	7	7.40
State Total:			34.40
<b>Uttar Pradesh</b>			
33.	Lucknow-Kanpur section (EW-8/UP) km 21.80-km 44.00	25	22.20
34.	Lucknow-Kanpur section (EW-9/UP) km 44-km 59.5	25	15.50
35.	Lucknow-Kanpur section (EW-2) km 11.38-km 21.8	25	10.42

1	2	3	4
36.	Agra - Raj/UP Border (NS-4) km 8-km 24	3	16.00
State Total:			64.12
<b>Completed Projects : NS-EW</b>			
<b>Uttar Pradesh[7]/Rajasthan [10]</b>			
37.	Raj/UP border to Mania (NS-19/UP/RJ) km 24-km 41	3	17.00
State Total:			17.00
<b>West Bengal</b>			
38.	Dalkola Islampur Sub section 2(EW/6) km 500 to km 476.15	31	23.85
39.	Dalkola - Islampur (EW/5) km 470-km 447	31	23.00
State Total:			46.85
Grand Total			830.54

**Details of Projects Under Implementation : GQ**

Sl.No.	Stretch	NH No.	Total Length (km)	Length Completed (km)
1	2	3	4	5
<b>Bihar</b>				
<b>GQ</b>				
1.	Sasaram - Dehri on-sone (GTRIP/IV-C) km 110-km 140	2	30	26.3

1	2	3	4	5
<b>Jharkhand</b>				
<b>GQ</b>				
2.	Gorhar - Barwa Adda (TNHP/V-C) km 320-km 398.75	2	78.75	71.69
<b>Karnataka</b>				
<b>GQ</b>				
3.	Hubli - Haveri km 404-km 340	4	64.5	62.52
4.	Haveri - Harihar km 340-km 284	4	56	46.85
5.	Harihar - Chitradurga km 284-km 207	4	77	62.92
6.	Chitradurga Bypass km 207-km 189	4	18	3.86
7.	Chitradurga - Sira km 189-km 122.3	4	66.7	66.7
8.	Tumkur Bypass km 75-km 62	4	13	9.7
<b>Orissa</b>				
<b>GQ</b>				
9.	Balasore - Bhadrak (OR-III) km 136.5-km 199.141	5	62.64	35.56
10.	Bridges section (OR-V) km 199.141-km 61	5	11.587	10.046
11.	Bhubaneswar - Khurda (OR-I) km 387.7-km 418	5	26.3	26.3
12.	Sunakhala - Ganjam (OR-VII) km 338-km 284	5	55.713	21.202



1	2	3	4	5
13.	Ganjam - Icchapuram (OR-VIII) (Balance work) km 284-km 233	5	50.8	3.36
	<b>Uttar Pradesh</b>			
	<b>GQ</b>			
14.	Agra-Shikohabad (GTRIP/I-A) km 199.66-km 250.50	2	50.83	49.29
15.	Shikohabad-Etawah (GTRIP/I-B) km 250.5-km 307.5	2	59.02	55.5
16.	Etawah Bypass (Balance work) km 307.5-km 321.1	2	13.6	13.5
17.	Etawah - Raipur (GTRIP/I-C) km 321.1-km 393	2	72.825	72.83
18.	Kanpur-Fatehpur (GTRIP/II-B) km 470.483(0) km 0-km 38	2	51.5	51
19.	Fatehpur - Khaga (TNHP/II-C) km 38-km 115	2	77	64.75
20.	Allahabad Bypass Contract-I (Bridge) km 158 km - km 159.02	2	1.02	0
21.	Allahabad Bypass Contract-II km 158-km - km 198	2	38.987	33.49
22.	Allahabad Bypass Contract-III km 198 km - km 242.708	2	44.708	31.28
23.	Handia - Varanasi (TNHP/III-C) km 245 - km 317	2	72	72
	<b>Uttar Pradesh [55]/Bihar [21]</b>			
	<b>GQ</b>			
24.	Varanasi - Mohania (GTRIP/IV-A) km 317.329(0) km 0-km 65	2	76	73.97

1	2	3	4	5
<b>West Bengal</b>				
<b>GQ</b>				
25.	Bridges section (WB-III) km 17.6-km 136		1.732	0.48
<b>Total Length</b>			<b>1170.212</b>	<b>965.10</b>
<b>Andhra Pradesh</b>				
<b>NS</b>				
1.	Islam Nagar to Kadtal (NS-2/BOT/AP-7) km 230 to km 278	7	48	0
2.	MH/AP border to Islam Nagar (NS-2/BOT/AP-6) km 175 to km 230	7	55	0
3.	Kadloor Yellareddy to Gundla Pochampalli (NS-2/BOT/AP-2) km 367 to km 447	7	85.74	0
4.	Kadal to Armur (NS-2/BOT/AP-8) km 278 to km 308	7	31	0
5.	Gundla Pochampalli to Bowenpalli Shivarampalli to Thondapalli (NS-23/AP)- Balance Work km 464.00-km 474.00 and km 9.40-km 22.30	7	23.1	7.93
6.	Farukhanagar to Kottakata (NS-2/AP-3) km 34.140 to km 80.050	7	46.162	0
7.	Farukhanagar to Kottakata (NS-2/AP-4) km 80.050 to km 135.469	7	55.74	0
8.	Hyderabad Bangalore section (NS-2/BOT/AP-5) km 135.469 to km 211	7	74.65	0
9.	Hyderabad Bangalore section (ADB-11/C-10) km 211 to km 251	7	40	0

1	2	3	4	5
10.	Hyderabad Bangalore section (ADB-11/C-10) km 251 to km 293.4	7	42.4	0
11.	Hyderabad Bangalore section (ADB-11/C-12) km 293.4 to km 336	7	42.6	0
12.	Hyderabad Bangalore section (ADB-11/C-13) km 336 to km 376	7	40	0
13.	Hyderabad Bangalore section (ADB-11/C-14) km 376 to km 418	7	42	0
14.	Hyderabad Bangalore section (ADB-11/C-15) km 418 to km 463.6	7	45.6	0
<b>Delhi</b>				
<b>NS</b>				
15.	Eight laning of Haryana/Delhi Border to Mukaraba Chowk (NS-18/DL) km 29.3 to km 16.5	1	12.9	0
<b>Haryana</b>				
<b>NS</b>				
16.	Panipat Elevated Highway km 96.00 to km 86.00	1	10	0
17.	Panipat to Panchi Gujran (Six laning work (NS-89/HR) km 86.00 to km 66.00	1	20	0
18.	Six laning to Panchi Gujran to Kamaspur (Sonepat) (NS-17/HR) km 66.00 to km 44.30	1	21.7	0
<b>Jammu Kashmir</b>				
<b>NS</b>				
19.	Srinagar Bypass (Road Portion) (NS-30) km 286 to km 303.8	1A	17.8	1.9

1	2	3	4	5
20.	Srinagar Bypass (Bridge Portion) (NS-30A) km 286 to km 303.8	1A	1.23	0
21.	Jammu to Kunjwani (Jammu Bypass) NS-33/J&K km 0.00 to km 15	1A	15	0
22.	Kunjwani to Vijaypur (NS-15/J&K) km 97-km 80	1A	17.2	16
23.	Vijaypur to Pathankot (NS-34/J&K) km 16.35 to km 50.00	1A	33.65	0
24.	Vijaypur to Pathankot (NS-35/J&K) km 50 to km 80	1A	30	0
25.	Pathankot to Jammu and Kashmir Border (NS-36/J&K) km 110.45 to km 117.6 and km 4.0 to km 16.5	1A	19.65	0
<b>Karnataka</b>				
<b>NS</b>				
26.	AP/Karnataka border - Nandi Hill crossing and Devenhalli to Meenu Kunte Village km 463.6 to km 527 and km 535-km 539	7	61.38	0
27.	Nandi Hills Cross to Devanhalli and Six laning of Meenukunte to Habbal (NS-24/KN) km 539.556 and km 527-km 535	7	25	25
<b>Kerala</b>				
<b>NS</b>				
28.	Thrissur to Angamali (KL-1) km 270.000 to km 316.70	47	40	0
<b>Madhya Pradesh</b>				
<b>NS</b>				
29.	Gwalior Bypass (NS-1/BOT/MP-1) km 0 to km 42.033	75.3	42	0

1	2	3	4	5
30.	Lalitpur - Sagar (ADB-II/C-4) km 132 to km 187	26	55	0
31.	Sagar Bypass (ADB-II/C-5) km 187 to km 211	26	26	0
32.	Sagar-Rajmarg Choraha (ADB-II/C-6) km 211 to km 255	26	44	0
33.	Sagar-Rajmarg Choraha (ADB-II/C-7) km 255 to km 297	26	42	0
34.	Rajmarg Choraha to Lakhnadon (ADB-II/C-8) km 297 to km 351 (Junction with km 544 of NH7	26	54	0
35.	Rajmarg Choraha to Lakhandon (ADB-II/C-9) km 351 to 405.7	26	54.7	0
36.	Lakhnadon to MP/MH Border (NS-1/BOT/MP-2) km 547.4 to km 596.75	7	49.35	0
37.	Lakhnadon to MP/MH Border (NS-1/BOT/MP-3) km 596.75 to km 653.225	7	56.475	0
<b>Madhya Pradesh [1]/Rajasthan [9]</b>				
<b>NS</b>				
38.	Dholpur - Morena Section (including Chambal bridge) NS-1/RJ-MP/1 km 51 to km 61	3	10	0
<b>Madhya Pradesh[58.5]/Uttar Pradesh [11.5]</b>				
<b>NS</b>				
39.	Gwalior - Jhansi km 16 to km 96.127	75	80	0
<b>Maharashtra</b>				
<b>NS</b>				
40.	Butibori ROB (NS-29/MH) km 22.850 to km 24.650	7	1.8	0

1	2	3	4	5
41.	Borkhedi-Jam (NS-22/MH) km 36.6-km 64.0	7	27.4	0
42.	Jam-Wadner (NS-59/MH) km 64 to km 94	7	30	0
43.	Wadner-Devdhari (NS-60/MH) km 94 to km 123	7	29	0
44.	Devdhar-Kelapur (NS-61/MH) km 123 to km 153	7	30	0
45.	Kelapur-Pimpalkhatti (NS-62) km 153 to km 175	7	22	0
<b>Punjab</b>				
<b>NS</b>				
46.	Pathankot to Bhogpur (NS-37/PB) km 26 to km 70	1A	44	0
<b>Punjab [29]/Himachal Pradesh [11]</b>				
<b>NS</b>				
47.	Pathankot to Bhogpur (NS-38/PB) km 70 to km 110	1A	40	0
<b>Tamil Nadu</b>				
<b>NS</b>				
48.	Krishnagiri to Thopurghat (NS-2/TN1) km 94.000 to 156	7	62.5	0
49.	Thopurghat to Thumpipadi (NS-25/TN) km 163.40 to km 180.00	7	16.6	0
50.	Thumpipadi to Salem (NS-26/TN) km 180.00 to km 199.20	7	19.2	18.02
51.	Salem to Karur (NS-2/TN-2) km 207.050 to km 248.625	7	41.55	0

1	2	3	4	5
52.	Salem to Karur (NS-2/TN-3) km 258.645 to km 292.6	7	33.48	0
53.	Karur to Madurai (TN-4) km 305.6 to km 373.275	7	68.125	0
54.	Karur to Madurai (TN-5) km 373.275 to km 426.6	7	53.525	0
55.	Salem to Kerala Border Section (TN-6) km 203.96 on NH-7 to km 53.00 on NH-47	47	53.525	0
56.	Salem to Kerala Border Section (TN-7) km 53.000 to km 100	47	48.51	0
57.	Madurai to km 120 of Madurai - Tirunelveli Section including Madurai Bypass (NS-39) km 0.000 to km 42.000	7	42	24
58.	Madurai-Kanniyakumari Section (NS-40/TN) km 42.000 to km 80.000	7	38.86	23
59.	Madurai-Kanniyakumari Section (NS-41/TN) km 80.00 to km 120.00	7	39.51	18
60.	Madurai-Kanniyakumari Section (NS-42/TN) km 120 to km 160	7	42.7	17.5
61.	km 120 of Madurai - Tirunelveli Section to Panagudi (km 203) (NS-43) km 160 to km 203	7	43	2.5
62.	Kanniyakumari-Panagudi (NS-32) km 203 to km 233.6	7	30.6	6
<b>Uttar Pradesh</b>				
<b>NS</b>				
63.	New 4 laning Agra Bypass (NS-1/UP-1) km 176.8 of NH2 to km 13.03 of NH-3	2,3	32.8	0

1	2	3	4	5
64.	Jhansi to Lalitpur (NS-1/BOT/UP-2) km 0 to km 49.79	25,26	49.7	0
65.	Jhansi to Lalitpur. (NS-1/BOT/UP-3) km 49.7 to km 99	26	49.3	0
66.	Lalitpur Sagar (ADB-II/C-3) km 94 to km 132	26	38	0
<b>Assam</b>				
<b>EW</b>				
67.	Silchar-Udarband (AS-1) km 309 to km 275.00	54	32	0
68.	Harangajo to Maibang (AS-21) km 165.4.00 to km 190.587	54	26	0
69.	Harangajo to Maibang (AS-22) km 140.70 to km 164.08	54	24	0
70.	Harangajo to Maibang (AS-23) km 126.450 to km 140.700, km 164.080 to km 165.400	54	16	0
71.	Maibang to Lumding (AS-27) km 40.000 to km 60.500	54	21	0
72.	Maibang to Lumding (AS-26) km 60.500 to km 83.400	54	23	0
73.	Maibang to Lumding (AS-25) km 83.400 to km 111.000	54	28	0
74.	Maibang to Lumding (AS-24) km 111.000 to km 126.450	54	15	0
75.	Lumding to Daboka (AS-15) km 40.00 to km 22.00	54	18.5	0
76.	Lanka to Daboka (AS-16) km 22.00 to km 2.4	54	24	0



1	2	3	4	5
77.	Daboka to Nagaon (AS-17) km 36 to km 5.5	36	30.5	0
78.	Nagaon bypass (AS-18) km 5.5 (NH-36) to km 262.7 (NH-37) and from km 262.70 to km 255	37	23	0
79.	Nagaon to Dharmatul (AS-2) km 255 to km 230	37	25	0
80.	Dharamtul to Sonapur (AS-19) km 230.5 to km 205	37	25	0
81.	Dharamtul to sonapur (AS-20) km 205.00 to km 183	37	22	0
82.	Sonapur to Guwahati (AS-3) km 183 to km 163.895	37	19	0
83.	Brahmputra Bridge (AS-28) km 1126.00 to km 1121.00	31	5	0
84.	Guwahati to Nalbari (AS-4) km 1121.00 to km 1093.00	31	28	0
85.	Guwahati to Nalbari (AS-5) km 1093.00 to km 1065.00	31	28	0
86.	Nalbari to Bijni (AS-6) km 1065.00 to km 1040.3	31	25	0
87.	Nalbari to Bijni (AS-7) km 1040.3 to km 1013.00	31	27.3	0
88.	Nalbari to Bijni (AS-8) km 1013.00 to km 983.00	31	30	0
89.	Nalbari to Bijni (AS-9) km 983.00 to km 961.5	31	21.5	0
90.	Bijni to Assam/WB Border (AS-10) km 93.00 to km 60.00	31C	33	0

1	2	3	4	5
91.	Bijni to Assam/WB Border (AS-11) km 60.00 to km 30.00	31C	30	0
92.	Bijni to Assam/WB Border (AS-12) km 30.00 to km 0.00	31C	30	0
<b>Bihar</b>				
<b>EW</b>				
93.	Purnea - Gayakota (EW/4) km 476.15-km 470 and km 419-km 410	31	15.15	13.3
94.	Purnea - Gayakota (EW-12/BR) km 447 to km 419	31	28	5
95.	Purnea - Forbesganj (BR-1) km 309.0 to km 268	57	41	10
96.	Purnea - Forbesganj (BR-2) km 268.0 to km 230	57	38	0
97.	Forbesganj-Simrahi (BR-3) km 230 to km 190	57	40	0
98.	Simrahi to Ring bund (missing link) (BR-4) km 190 to km 165	57	15	0
99.	Kosi Bridge including approaches and Guide Bond and Afflux Bond (BR-5) km 115 to km 165	57	10	0
100.	Ring bunds to Jhanjharpur (BR-6) km 155 to km 110	57	45	0
101.	Jhanjharpur to Darbhanga (BR-7) km 110 to km 70	57	40	0
102.	Darbhanga to Muzzaffarpur (BR-8) km 70 to km 30	57	40	0
103.	Darbhanga to Muzzaffarpur (BR-9) km 30 to km 0	57	30	0

1	2	3	4	5
104.	Muzzaffarpur to Mehsi (LMNHP-12) km 520 to km 480	28	40	0
105.	Mehsi to Kotwa (LMNHP-11) km 480 to km 440	28	40	0
106.	Kotwa to Dewapur (LMNHP-10) km 440 to km 402	28	38	0
107.	Deewapur to UP/Bihar Border (LMNHP-9) km 402 to km 360.915	28	41.085	0
<b>Gujarat</b>				
<b>EW</b>				
108.	Deesa to Radhanpur (Package-VI) km 372.60 to km 458.0	14	85.4	75
109.	Radhanpur to Gagodhar (Package-V) km 138.80 to km 245.00	15	106.2	102
110.	Gagodhar to Garamore (Package-IV) km 245.0 to km 281.3 and km 308.00 to km 254.00	15, 8A	90.3	63
111.	Garamore to Bamanbore (Package-III) km 254.00 to km 182.60	8A	71.4	54
112.	Rajkot Bypass and Gondal Jetpur (Package-VII) km 117.00 to km 143.00 and km 175.00 to km 185.00	8B	36	35
113.	Jetpur to Bhiladi (Package-II) km 117 to km 52.50	8B	64.5	40
<b>Gujarat [34]/Rajasthan [42]</b>				
<b>EW</b>				
114.	Palanpur to Swaroopganj (Rajasthan - 42 km and Gujarat-34 km) km 264 to km 340	14	76	0

1	2	3	4	5
<b>Madhya Pradesh</b>				
<b>EW</b>				
115.	Jhansi-Shivpuri (EW-II - MP-2) km 50 to km 15	25	35	17
116.	Shivpuri Bypass and upto MP/RJ Border (EW-II - MP-I) km 15 to km 0 of NH 25 and km 610 to km 579 of NH 76	25, 76	53	42
<b>Rajasthan</b>				
<b>EW</b>				
117.	RJ/MP Border to Kota (RJ-11) km 579 to km 509	76	70	41
118.	RJ/MP Border to Kota (RJ-10) km 509 to km 449.15	76	59.85	26.8
119.	RJ/MP Border to Kota (RJ-9) km 449.15 to km 406	76	43.15	10.2
120.	Kota Bypass (RJ-4) km 406 to km 381	76	25	0
121.	Chambal Bridge (RJ-5)	76	1.4	0
122.	Kota to Chittorgarh (RJ-8) km 381 to km 316	76	65	23
123.	Kota to Chittorgarh (RJ-7) km 316 to km 253	76	63	34
124.	Chittorgarh Bypass (RJ-6) km 253 to km 213	76	40	20.5
125.	Gogunda to Udaipur (RJ-3) km 104 km to km 73	76	31	10

1	2	3	4	5
126.	Bakaria to Gogunda (RJ-2) km 73 to km 29	76	44	10
127.	Swaroopganj to Bakaria (RJ-1) km 29 km 0 (NH 76) and km 264 to km 249.7 (NH 14)	76, 14	43	0
<b>Uttar Pradesh</b>				
<b>EW</b>				
128.	UP/Bihar Border to Kasla (LMNHP-8) km 360.915 to km 319.8	28	41.115	0
129.	Kasla to Gorakhpur (LMNHP-7) km 319.8 to km 279.8	28	40	0
130.	Gorakhpur Bypass km 251.7 to km 279.8	28	32.6	0
131.	Gorakhpur-Ayodhya (LMNHP-6) km 251.70 to km 208.00	28	43.7	0
132.	Gorakhpur-Ayodhya (LMNHP-5) km 208.00 to km 164.00	28	44	0
133.	Gorakhpur-Ayodhya (LMNHP-4) km 164.00 to km 135.00	28	29	0
134.	Ayodhya-Lucknow (LMNHP-3) km 135.00 to km 93.075	28	41.925	0
135.	Ayodhya-Lucknow (LMNHP-2) km 93.075 to km 45	27	47	0
136.	Ayodhya-Lucknow (LMNHP-1) km 45.00 to km 8.250	28	36	0
137.	Lucknow Bypass (EW-15/UP) Connecting NH-25 and NH-28 via NH56	56A and B	22.85	10

1	2	3	4	5
138.	Lucknow - Kanpur (EW/3A) km 59.5 to km 75.5	25	16	14
139.	Ganga Bridge to Rama Devi Crossing (UP-6) km 75.0 to km 80.06	25	5.6	0
140.	Bara to Orai km 449 to 422 on NH-2 and km 255 to km 220	2, 25	62.8	0
141.	Orai to Jhansi (UP-5) km 220.0 to km 170.0	25	50	0
142.	Orai to Jhansi (UP-4) km 170.0 to km 104.0	25	66	0
143.	Jhansi Bypass (UP-3) km 104.0-km 91.0	25	15	0
<b>Uttar Pradesh [11]/Madhya Pradesh [30]</b>				
<b>EW</b>				
144.	Jhansi-Shivpuri (UP/MP-1) (UP-11 km and MP - 30 km) km 91 to km 50 (UP-11 km and MP-30 km)	25	41	24
<b>West Bengal</b>				
<b>EW</b>				
145.	Assam/WB Border to Gairkatta (WB-1) km 255.00 to km 223.00	31C	32	0
146.	Silliguri to Islampur (WB-6) km 551.00 to km 526.00	31	25	0
147.	Silliguri to Islampur (WB-7) km 526.00 to km 500	31	26	0
<b>Total Length</b>			<b>5490.037</b>	<b>839.65</b>

**Balance for award : NS-EW**

S. No.	Stretch	NH No.	Length (km)
1	2	3	4
<b>Andhra Pradesh</b>			
1.	Armur to Kadloor Yellareddy (NS-2/AP-1) km 308 to km 367	7	60.25
State Total:			60.25
<b>Assam</b>			
2.	Udarband to Harangajo (AS-14) km 275.00 to km 244.00	54	31.00
State Total:			31.00
<b>Jammu and Kashmir</b>			
3.	Srinagar-Khanbal-Banihal (Plain) - NS-88/J&K km 286 to km 256	1A	30.00
4.	Srinagar-Khanbal-Banihal NS-92/J&K km 256 to km 220	1A	30.00
5.	Srinagar-Khanbal-Banihal (only tunnel)-NS-93A/J&K km 220 to km 188	1A	7.00
6.	Srinagar-Khanbal-Banihal (Except Tunnels) - NS-93/J&K km 220 to km 188	1A	32.00
7.	Udhampur - Banihal - NS-94/J&K km 171 to km 188	1A	17.00

1	2	3	4
8.	Udhampur - Banihal - NS-95/J&K km 151 to km 171.00	1A	20.00
9.	Udhampur - Banihal - NS-96/J&K km 130 to km 151	1A	21.00
10.	Udhampur - Banihal - NS-97/J&K km 67 to km 89	1A	21.00
11.	Udhampur - Banihal - (only tunnel) - NS-99A/J&K km 90 to km 130.00	1A	9.00
12.	Four laning of Jammu - udhampur section from km 15 to km 19 of Jammu Bypass including Tawi Bridge and Nagrota Bypass (NS-101/J&K) km 15 to km 20.4/9.2 to 9.9/0 to 24.4/18.8	1A	20.10
13.	Four laning of Jammu - Udhampur section (NS-102/J&K) km 27.5 to km 53.3	1A	15.48
14.	Four laning of Jammu - Udhampur section (Including Three Tunnels) (NS-102A/J&K) km 20 to km 27.50	1A	8.50
15.	Four laning of Jammu - Udhampur section (NS-103/J&K) km 53 to km 67	1A	33.86
State Total:			264.94

1	2	3	4
<b>Kerala</b>			
16.	Six lanning of Vadakkancherry - Thrissure section km 240 to km 270	47	30.00
17.	Four lanning of Walayar - Vadakkancherry section km 182.000 to km 240.000	47	58.00
State Total:			88.00
<b>Maharashtra</b>			
18.	Four lanning from MP/Maharashtra border to Nagpur I/C Kamptee Kanoon and Nagpur bypass km 689 to km 723	7	95.00
State Total:			95.00
<b>Tamil Nadu</b>			
19.	Salem to km 100 & Salem - Combatore - Kerala Border Section km 100 to km. 182	47	82.00
State Total:			82.00
<b>West Bengal</b>			
20.	Ghoshukur (km 351 of NH 31) to Salsalabari (km 226 of NH 31C) via Fulbari-mainagnri-Dhumpgiri - Falkata (3 Packages)	31,	201.00
State Total:			201.00
Grand Total		822.19	0.00

**Statement-III**

*Statement of State-wise Expenditure Incurred on  
GO/NS/EW Projects Under NHDP  
upto January, 2008*

Sl. No.	State concerned	Commulative Expenditure incurred upto January, 2008 (Rs. in crore)		
		Golden Quadrilateral	North-South corridor	East-West corridor
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	4781.16	1625.87	0.00
2.	Assam	0.00	0.00	877.82
3.	Bihar	1107.96	0.00	1415.45
4.	Delhi	0.00	118.67	0.00
5.	Gujarat	1690.17	0.00	2146.46
6.	Haryana	0.00	427.19	0.00
7.	Jammu and Kashmir	0.00	682.51	0.00
8.	Jharkhand	1037.29	0.00	0.00
9.	Karnataka	3029.51	332.06	0.00
10.	Kerala	0.00	186.25	0.00
11.	Madhya Pradesh	0.00	966.78	0.00
12.	Maharashtra	1660.00	277.08	0.00
13.	Orissa	1796.14	0.00	0.00
14.	Punjab	0.00	325.84	0.00
15.	Rajasthan	2993.90	115.45	1925.89



1	2	3	4	5
16. Tamil Nadu	1743.60	1800.63	0.00	
17. Uttar Pradesh	4426.16	236.87	1956.31	
18. West Bengal	3447.17	0.00	365.74	
<b>Total</b>	<b>27713.06</b>	<b>7095.00</b>	<b>8687.67</b>	

**Ecosystems Overburdened with  
Environmental Pressures**

1083. SHRI RANEN BARMAN :  
SHRI JOACHIM BAXLA :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the ecosystems are overburdened with environmental pressures from commercialization, excessive use of resources and indiscriminate dumping of industrial and agricultural wastes; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and 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) The developmental activities are generally accompanied with use of natural resources and generation of waste if the environmental management measures are not integrated at the planning and design state. To harmonize development with conservation and protection of environment, various legislative, regulatory and policy measures have been put in place, which include the following:-

- Notification of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 and other related Environment Legislations including the Hazardous Waste (Handling and Management) Rules, 1989 and its amendment.
- Notification of industry specific environmental emission and effluent standards;

— Notification on Environment Impact Assessment, 2006 for prior environmental clearance.

— Adoption of the National Environment Policy, 2006, Conservation Strategy and Policy Statement on Environment and Development, 1992 and Policy Statement on Abatement of Pollution, 1992 etc.

[Translation]

**Collection of Toll on NH**

1084. DR. DHIRENDRA AGARWAL :  
SHRI JIVABHAI A. PATEL :

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

(a) whether the Government proposes to start toll collection on two-lane National Highways and expressways in the country;

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

(c) the details of stretches of NH in Kilometre on which the toll is collected/proposed to be collected;

(d) the details of toll revenue of the country at present and likely to be increased by adding two lane highways;

(e) the percentage of toll revenue incurred on upgradation of National Highways in the country, State-wise;

(f) whether the toll is collected from farmers for carrying their agricultural products;

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

(h) the steps taken to exempt the farmers for paying the toll?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) it is under consideration of the Government.

(c) All the National Highways under development under National Highways Development Project (NHDP) are to be tolled and details of stretches of National Highways under tolling as on 28.02.2008 are enclosed as statement.

(d) At present, there is no levy of user fee on 2-lane sections of National Highways and therefore, the question of increase of revenue of this account does not arise. The details of fee collected on the National Highways stretches during the current year upto January, 2008 is as under:-

By National Highways Authority of India on NHDP

Public Funded Projects Rs.1146.61 crore

BOT/SPV Project Rs.401.66 crore

By States Rs.6254.55 lakhs

(e) The toll revenue is not directly applied for upgradation of National Highways. It forms a part of the general revenue of the Government. The development works of National Highways is funded separately by the Central Government through budgetary support.

(f) The user fee is levied on the vehicles using National Highways and not on the product being transported.

(g) and (h) Do not arise.

#### **Statement**

#### *List of Stretches of National Highways Under NHDP Presently under Collection of Fee as on 28.02.2008*

Sl.No.	Section	Kms. of Tollable Reach	NH	Length in Kms.
1	2	3	4	5
<b>NHDP Phase I</b>				
<b>I Golden Quadrilateral</b>				
<b>A Delhi - Mumbai</b>				
<b>(a) Public Funded Projects</b>				
1.	Gurgaon-Kotputli	Km 42.0-Km 162.5	8	120.500
2.	Kotputli-Chandwazi	Km 162.5-Km 220	8	57.500
3.	Jaipur Bypass Phase I and II	Phase I taking off at Km 246.00 of NH 11 and Joining at Km 273.50 of NH 8 length 13.70 Km and Phase II taking Off at Km 220.00 of NH 8 and joining at Km 246.00 of NH 11 length 34.70 Km)	8 and 11	48.400

1	2	3	4	5
4.	Kishangarh - Village Kavalias (Bhilwara)	Km 0.00-Km 35.00 and Km 15.00 - Km 81.00	79 and 79A	101.000
5.	Bhilwara - Chittorgarh	Km 81.00 - Km 163.900	79	82.900
6.	Village Rithola-Udaipur	Km 213 - Km 113.830	76	99.170
7.	Udaipur-Kherwara	Km 278.00 - Km 348.00	8	70.000
8.	Kherwara-Ratanpur	Km 348.00 - Km 388.180	8	40.180
9.	Ratanpur - Himatnagar	Km 388.180 - Km 443.00	8	54.820
10.	Himatnagar-Chiloda	Km 443.00 - Km 495.00	8	52.000
11.	Chalthan (Surat) - Waghaldhara	Km 263.4 - Km 318.6	8	55.200
12.	Waghaldhara-Kajali	Km 318.60-Km 381.60	8	63.000
13.	Kajali - Manor	Km 381.6 - Km 439.0	8	57.400
14.	Manor-Baseen Creek Dahisar	Km 439.00 - Km 502.00	8	63.000
<b>Total (a)</b>				<b>965.070</b>
<b>(b) SPV Projects</b>				
15.	A V Expressway Phase I	Km 0.00-Km 43.4	NE-1	43.40
16.	A V Expressway Phase II	Km 43.40-Km 93.302	NE-1	49.902
<b>Total b</b>				<b>93.30</b>
<b>(c) BOT Projects</b>				
17.	Jaipur - Kishangarh	Km 273.50-Km 363.885	8	90.385
<b>Total (c)</b>				<b>90.385</b>
<b>Total A (a+b+c+d)</b>				<b>1148.757</b>

1	2	3	4	5
<b>B Mumbai - Chennai</b>				
<b>(a) Public Funded Projects</b>				
18.	Westerly Diversion, Katraj Realignment and Katraj - Sarole	Km 2.80 - Km 30.0 and Km 834.50 - Km 781.00	4	80.70
19.	Khandala - Satara	Km 772.00 - Km 725.00	4	47.000
20.	Maharashtra Border - Belgaum	Km 592.24 - Km 537	4	55.240
21.	Hattargi - Hirebagewadi	Km 537.00 - Km 483.60	4	51.60
22.	Hirebagewadi - Dharwad	Km 483.60 - Km 433.10	4	50.50
23.	Tavarakere - Anthrasnahally	Km 132.00 - Km 72.00	4	60.00
24.	Hosur-Krishnagiri	Km 34.00 - Km 89.00	7	55.000
25.	Krishnagiri - Ambur	89.00 to 92.380 and Km 0.00 to 70.00	7 and 46	73.380
26.	Ambur - Walajahpet	Km 70.00 - Km 145.352	46	78.201
27.	Walajahpet - Kanchipuram	Km 107.200 - Km 60.100	4	47.115
28.	Kanchipuram - Chennai	Km 60.10 - Km 13.80	4	46.300
<b>Total (a)</b>				<b>645.036</b>
<b>(b) BOT Projects</b>				
29.	Neelmangla - Tumkur	Km 29.5 - Km 62.0	4	32.5
30.	Satara - Kagal	Km 592.240 - Km 725.00	4	132.76
<b>Total (b)</b>				<b>165.260</b>
<b>Total (b) (a+b+c)</b>				<b>810.296</b>
<b>C Delhi - Kolkatta</b>				
<b>(a) Public Funded Projects</b>				
31.	Badarpur-Kosi	Km 18.8 - Km 108.9	2	90.100

1	2	3	4	5
32.	Koel-Agra	Km 108.9 - Km 199	2	90.100
33.	Sikandara - Bhaunli (Kanpur)	Km 393.0 - Km 470.00	2	61.000
34.	Fatehpur - Khokharaj	Km 100.00 - Km 158.00	2	58.000
35.	Barun - Barachetti	Km 140.00 - Km 240.00	2	100.000
36.	Barwa adda - Panagarh	Km 398.75 - Km 515.236	2	116.486
37.	Budbud-Palsit	Km 525.853 - Km 587.853	2	62.000
38.	Palsit - Dhankuni	Km 587.853 - Km 651.602	2	63.749
Total (a)				641.435
<b>(b) BOT Projects</b>				
39.	IInd Vivekananda Bridge and Approach		2	6.00
Total b				6.00
Total C (a+b)				647.435

**D Kolkatta - Chennai****(a) Public Funded Projects**

40.	Dhankuni - Kolaghat	Km 18.50 - Km 72.00	6	53.500
41.	Kharagpur - Dantan	Km 69.450 - Km 119.737	60	50.287
42.	Dantan - Balasore	Km 69.450 - Km 0.00	60	69.450
43.	Bhubaneshwar-Cuttack- Jagatpur	Km 00 - Km 27.8	5	27.800
44.	Jagatpur - Chandikhole-	Km 27.8 - Km 61.0	5	33.200
45.	Icchapuram-Nandigam	Km 226.15 - Km 160.00 (New Chainage Km 477.054 - 543.204)	5	66.150
46.	Nandigama - Srikakulam	Km 160.00 - Km 97.00 (New Chainage Km 543.204 - Km 606.204)	5	63.000
47.	Srikakulam - Champavati	Km 97.00 - Km 49.00	5	48.000

1	2	3	4	5
48.	Champavati/Kopperla - Visakhapatnam	Km 49.00 - Km 2.837 New chainage from (Km 700.544 - Km 654.204)	5	46.340
49.	Vishakhapatnam - Ankapalli	Km 2.837 - Km 0.00& Km 395.870 - Km 358.00	5	40.707
50.	Ankapalli - Tuni	Km 358.00 - Km 272.00 New chainage from (Km 830.535 - Km 741.255)	5	89.270
51.	Tuni - Rajamundry (Bumuru)	Km 272.000 - Km 187.600 new chainage from (Km 914.883 - Km 830.525)	5	84.400
52.	Bomuru - Gundugolanu	Km 187.6 - Km 81.6	5	107.611
53.	Gundugolanu - Vijayawada - Including Eluru bypass	Km 81.60 - Km 42.5	5	39.100
54.	Gundugolanu - Vijayawada - Including Eluru bypass	Km 42.50 - Km 3.4	5	39.100
55.	Vijayawada - Chilakaluripet	Km 354.775 - Km 434.150	5	83.000
56.	Chilakaluripet - Ongole	Km 358.00 - Km 291.00	5	67.664
57.	Ongole - Kavali	Km 291.00 - Km 222.00	5	72.059
58.	Kavali - Nellore	Km 222.000 - Km 161.034	5	60.963
Total (a)				1141.601
<b>(b) BOT Projects</b>				
59.	Tada - Nellore	Km 52.8 - Km 163.6	5	110.517
Total (b)				110.517
Total D (a+b)				1252.118
Total IG Q (A+B+C+D)				3858.606
<b>E North - South Corridor</b>				
<b>(a) Public Funded Projects</b>				
60.	Panipat-Ambala	Km 96 - Km 206	1	110.000

1	2	3	4	5
61.	Ambala-Khanna	Km 206 - Km 272	1	66.000
62.	Khanna-Jalandhar	Km 272 - Km 372	1	100.000
63.	Agra-Dholpur	Km 8.00 - Km 51	3	43.000
64.	Morana - Gwalior	Km 61.00 - Km 103.00	3	42.000
Total E (a)				361.000
<b>b BOT Projects</b>				
65.	Gondal - Rajkot	Km 143.00 - Km 175.00	8B	32.000
Total b				32.000
Total E (a+b+c)				393.000
<b>F Port Connectivity Projects</b>				
66.	Samakhiali-Gandhidham	Km 306 - Km 362.16	8A	58.160
67.	Jawahar Lal Nehru Port Connectivity Project (Phase-I) (on SPV basis)	Km 5.000 to Km 26.987 (A1-E Section) and Km. 0.00 to Km 4.400 (D-G Section) and from Km. 106.000 to Km 109.500	4B and 4	30.000
Total F				86.160
<b>G Other Projects</b>				
<b>(a) Public Funded Projects</b>				
68.	Ghaziabad-Hapur and Hapur Bypass	Km 27.643 - Km 48.638 and Bypass 11.250 Km	24	32.245
69.	Tambaram-Tindivanam	Km 28.00 - Km 74.50	45	46.500
70.	Tambaram-Tindivanam	Km 74.50 - Km 121.00	45	46.500
71.	Cable Stayed Bridge at Naini and its approach	Km 0.00 - Km 5.410	27	5.410
Total E (a)				130.655
<b>(b) BOT Projects</b>				
72.	Nandigama - Vijayawada	Km 217.00 - Km 265.00	9	48.00

1	2	3	4	5
73.	Delhi - Gurgaon	Km 14.30 - Km 42.00	8	27.70
	Total (b)			75.700
	Total G			206.355
	Total Phase I			4544.121
<b>H East - West Corridor Phase II</b>				
<b>(a) Public Funded Projects</b>				
74.	Porbander - Bhiladi -	Km 2.00 - Km 52.50	8 B	50.500
	Total Phase II			50.500
<b>I NHDP Phase III</b>				
75.	Pune - Khed	Km 12.190 - Km 42.00	50	30.000
	Total Phase III			30.000
	Grand Total (Phase I+II = III)			4624.621

[English]

**NHDP Project in Assam**

1085.DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA :

SHRI SARBANANDA SONOWAL :

SHRI M.K. SUBBA :

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

(a) the details of the schemes and the projects for improvement and upgradation of National Highways in Assam;

(b) the fund allocated and released for implementation of the same;

(c) whether the Government proposes to convert the National Highway into four-lane upto Dibrugarh;

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the present status of the work;

(e) whether the Government proposes to extend the four-laning work from Dibrugarh onward; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA) : (a) Improvement and upgradation of National Highways in Assam is carried out under National Highway Development Project-II (NHDP-II), Special Accelerated Road Development Programme for North East Region (SARDP-NE) and National Highways (Original) Schemes. Four-laning of 678 km of National Highways from Silchar to Srirampur (Assam/West Bengal Border) in Assam is being executed as part of East-West Corridor by National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) under NHDP-II. Under Phase 'A' of SARDP-NE, improvement and upgradation of



1049 km National Highways stretches to four-lane/two-lane with/without paved shoulders in Assam has been approved by Government. Improvement and upgradation under NH (O) is a continuous process and works are undertaken by BRO and Assam PWD every year depending on availability of funds under Annual Plans.

(b) Funds allocated to NHA are not State specific. During 2007-08, an amount of Rs.8777.06 crore has been allocated to NHA under GBS(BE) for the country as a whole. State specific allocation is not made to BRO also. During 2007-08, an amount of Rs.150 crore has been allocated to BRO under NH(O) and Rs.450 crore under SARDP-NE for North-Eastern region as a whole. An amount of Rs.150 crore and Rs.100 crore has been allocated to Assam PWD under SARDP-NE and NH(O), respectively during 2007-08. Releases are made by the executive agencies linked to progress of works.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Four-laning of 315 km of NH-37 from Nagaon to Dibrugarh has been approved on BOT(Annuity) basis to be implemented by NHA. NHA has initiated action to prepare detailed project reports and obtain statutory clearances etc.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

[Translation]

#### Rehabilitation of Projects affected Families

1086. SHRI TEK LAL MAHTO : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the families of displaced persons due to coal mining have been resettled and rehabilitated in the state of Jharkhand;

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

(c) the list of displaced persons awaiting employment and rehabilitation company-wise; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government in this regard and the time by which the work related to resettlement and rehabilitation is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Company-wise details are as indicated below:-

(i) **Eastern Coalfields Limited (ECL)** : Total 1344 eligible displaced families have so far been rehabilitated in the State of Jharkhand.

(ii) **Bharat Coking Coal Limited (BCCL)** : Out of 1852 eligible displaced families, 1730 have been provided with houses at rehabilitation sites and balance 122 families have been provided with company quarters as a temporary arrangement.

(iii) **Central Coalfields Limited (CCL)** : All 1837 displaced families have been fully resettled.

(c) Company-wise details of pending cases are as under:-

**BCCL** : Out of 465 employments recently sanctioned for displaced persons, 24 employments have so far been released. For balance 441 persons, title documents are awaited.

**CCL** : No pending cases at present.

(d) Resettlement and rehabilitation of PAFs is a continuous process depending on the requirement of the mine projects. In this regard, families to be displaced have been identified and rehabilitation plans for each project have been drawn. The same is being implemented/will be implemented in a phased manner as required during the life time of the individual project.

[English]

#### Phase-VII of NHDP

1087. SHRI NAND KUMAR SAI :  
SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH :

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

(a) whether the Government has approved Phase-VII of the National Highways Development Project;

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

(c) the estimated cost of Phase-VII and the manner in which the funds are likely to be mobilized for the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government has approved the project of National Highways Development Project (NHDP) Phase-VII in December, 2007. The list of projects identified for stand alone Ring Roads, Bypasses, Elevated Roads, Grade Separated Intersections and Flyovers, is given in the enclosed statement. Out of these, projects will be taken up in view of the inter-se priority and readiness of the state government for providing requisite assistance.

(c) The estimated cost of NHDP Phase-VII is Rs.16,680 crore (Rs. 6,302 crore from Government and Rs. 10,378 crore from private sector). The projects are to be executed on Build, Operate and Transfer (BOT) (Toll) basis.

**Statement**

*List of Projects identified for stand along Ring Roads, Bypasses, Elevated Roads, Grade Separated Intersections and Flyovers*

Sl. No.	Name of City/Project	State/Union Territory
1	2	3
1.	Ring road/bypass for Hyderabad	Andhra Pradesh
2.	Ring road/bypass for Tirunelveli	Tamil Nadu

1	2	3
3.	Ring road/bypass for Kanpur	Uttar Pradesh
4.	Grade Separated Intersection/ Flyover at Ranchi on NH-75	Jharkhand
5.	Ring road/bypass for Tiruchchirappalli	Tamil Nadu
6.	Ring road/bypass for Nasik	Maharashtra
7.	Grade Separated Intersection/ Flyover at Solapur at junction of NH-9 and NH-211	Maharashtra
8.	Ring road/bypass for Chennai	Tamil Nadu
9.	Ring road/bypass for Jaipur	Rajasthan
10.	Ring road/bypass for Amritsar	Punjab
11.	Grade Separated Intersection/ Flyover at Padalsingi and at Gandhi Junction of NH-211 and 222	Maharashtra
12.	Ring road/bypass for Madurai	Tamil Nadu
13.	Ring road/bypass for Patna	Bihar
14.	Ring road/bypass for bypass Thiruvanthapuram	Kerala
15.	Ring road/bypass for Surat	Gujarat
16.	Ring road/bypass for Aligarh	Uttar Pradesh
17.	Ring road/bypass for Bangalore	Karnataka
18.	Grade Separated Intersection/ Flyover at Alephata at Junction of NH-50 and NH-222	Maharashtra

1	2	3
19.	Ring road/bypass for Ahmedabad.	Gujarat
20.	Ring road/bypass for Vishakhapatnam	Andhra Pradesh
21.	Ring road/bypass for Jammu and Srinagar cities.	Jammu and Kashmir
22.	Ring road/bypass for Kolkata	West Bengal
23.	Elevated link road to Chennai Port	Tamil Nadu
24.	Ring road/bypass for Meerut	Uttar Pradesh
25.	Ring road/bypass for Coimbatore	Tamil Nadu
26.	Ring road/bypass for Bhopal	Madhya Pradesh
27.	Ring road/bypass for Salem	Tamil Nadu
28.	Ring road/bypass for Nagpur	Maharashtra
29.	Ring road/bypass for Indore	Madhya Pradesh
30.	Ring road/bypass for Lucknow	Uttar Pradesh
31.	Ring road/bypass for Imphal	Manipur
32.	Ring road/bypass for Pune	Maharashtra
33.	Ring road/bypass for Varanasi	Uttar Pradesh
34.	Ring road/bypass for Dhanbad	Jharkhand
35.	Ring road/bypass for Ranchi	Jharkhand
36.	Grade Separated Intersection/ Flyover Near Ratangiri at Junction of NH-17 and NH-204	Maharashtra

### District Planning Committees

1088. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY : Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the States that have constituted District Planning Committees; and

(b) the extent of benefits that have accrued as a result 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) Of the 24 States to which the provisions of Parts IX and IX-A of the Constitution apply, 18 States, namely, Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Goa, Himachal Pradesh, Haryana, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Manipur, Orissa, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Tamil Nadu, Tripura and West Bengal have constituted District Planning Committees (DPCs) in accordance with Article 243 ZD of the Constitution.

(b) Article 243ZD of the Constitution mandates that there shall be constituted in every State at the district level a District Planning Committee to consolidate the plans prepared by the Panchayats and the Municipalities in the district and to prepare a draft development plan for the district as a whole.

The establishment of District Planning Committees and the consolidation of draft district plans by DPCs in conformity with Article 243ZD of the Constitution is the "sine qua non" of the Backward Regions Grant Fund (BRGF). The Planning Commission has issued guidelines on 25th August 2006 for the preparation of participative district plans, which form part of the BRGF guidelines. The State-wise details of funds released during 2006-07 and 2007-08 against participative district plans that have been consolidated by DPCs is enclosed as statement.

**Statement****Release of Developmental Grant Against Participative District Plans Consolidated/Approved by DPCs**

S. No.	State	Amount released in 2006-07 (Rs. in crore)	Amount released in 2007-08 (Rs. in crore)
1.	Andhra Pradesh	Nil	301.88
2.	Assam	Nil	46.90*
3.	Chhattisgarh	Nil	223.15
4.	Karnataka	Nil	84.47
5.	Kerala	Nil	9.25
6.	Madhya Pradesh	20.04	378.42
7.	Orissa	Nil	251.21
8.	Rajasthan	Nil	300.81
9.	West Bengal	Nil	187.75
10.	Bihar	Nil	511.39
Total		20.04	2295.23

\*This excludes Rs.13.08 crore released to Kokrajhar district of Assam which is covered under the Sixth Schedule to the Constitution and is not required to have DPC

**Evaluation of Panchayati Raj Institutions**

1089. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO : Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Institute of Rural Management at Anand (IRMA), which was commissioned to undertake independent evaluation of Panchayati Raj Institutions, has been submitted its report; and

(b) if so, the details of the findings 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) No, Sir. The results of the independent evaluation are not expected to be available till April 2008.

(b) Does not arise.

[Translation]

**Appointment on Fake Caste Certificate**

1090. SHRI MANSUKHBHAI D. VASAVA ;  
SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of persons have been appointed on the basis of fake caste certificate of Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribes in Government departments and subordinate offices;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of cases detected by the Government during the last three years till date;

(d) the procedure for verification of Caste/Tribe certificates after such appointments;

(e) whether the prescribed procedure is not being followed; and

(f) 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) Some complaints of appointment on the basis of fake caste certificates have come to the notice of the Government.

(b) and (c) Information is not centrally maintained.

(d) The caste status of the candidates claiming to belong to Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe is verified at the time of initial appointment as well as at the time of every important upturn of employee's career.

(e) No instance of non-verification of caste status of the candidates appointed against reserved vacancies has come to the notice of the Government.

(f) Does not arise.

*[English]*

#### **Rights of Fishermen Living in Coastal Area**

1091. SHRI P.C. THOMAS : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Kerala has submitted any proposals regarding Coastal Regulation Zone and the need to preserve some rights of fishermen living in Coastal area;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the response of the Union Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA) : (a) and (b) As per the information received from the Science and Technology Department, Government of Kerala and the Kerala State Coastal Zone Management Authority, no proposals regarding the Coastal Regulation Zone and the need to preserve some rights of fishermen living in coastal areas have been received by the Government.

(c) Does not arise in view of the reply given in parts (a) and (b) above.

#### **Pravasi Bhartiya Diwas**

1092. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAIISI :

SHRI KIREN RIJJU :

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY :

SHRI CHANDRA MANI TRIPATHI :

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

(a) whether Pravasi Bhartiya Diwas was held recently in Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the number of delegates, country-wise;

(c) whether the Government has identified any areas in the Social Sector to be funded by NRIs;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the conference discussed the issues related to problems faced by Indian abroad; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and the strategy chalked out in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI) : (a) The sixth Pravasi Bhartiya Diwas conference was organized at New Delhi on 7-9 January, 2008.

(b) The event was organized in partnership with the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi and the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII). The theme for this year's PBD was "Engaging the Diaspora: the way forward". The Conference included plenary sessions on 'Social Development Challenges in India: Health and Education', 'Investment and Infrastructure', Trade and Business Opportunities', 'Developmental Challenges of States: Partnership Opportunities', 'Diaspora Philanthropy: Empowerment of Rural Women'. Concurrent Sessions on 'Knowledge Economy', 'Culture' and 'Challenges in Women Empowerment and Leadership' and Regional Working

Sessions on 'Gulf', 'Asia-Pacific', 'Africa', 'Americas' and 'Europe' were also held as part of the Conference.

In all, 1500 people participated in the conference. A list indicating the number of registered participants, country-wise, is enclosed as statement.

(c) and (d) Yes Sir, a highlight of the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas 2008 was a plenary session on 'Diaspora Philanthropy: Empowerment of Rural Women'. It was for the first time the potential of overseas Indian engagement through innovative schemes such as extension of micro-credit through self help group of women for their empowerment was discussed. The direct outcome of this session is a proposal to establish and promote an 'India Development Foundation' as an autonomous not-for-profit Trust. The foundation will serve as a credible institutional mechanism to lead overseas Indian philanthropic propensities into human development efforts in India. The Foundation will assist overseas Indians to contribute to the cause of education, health and rural development in their erstwhile home villages, districts or states in partnership with credible NGOs and philanthropic organizations engaged in the social development sector in the country.

(e) Yes, Sir.

(f) Problems relating to Overseas Indians from around the world including issues relating to overseas Indian marriages, investment difficulties, cultural issues and issues relating to Overseas Citizens of India and People of Indian Origin were discussed in particular, problems faced by Indian workers in Gulf including poor living conditions, air fares, unscrupulous recruiting agents, ill treatment by sponsors, etc. were discussed in the Gulf session. The Ministry has launched several initiatives including an Overseas Workers Resource Centre (OWRC) that includes a helpline, an Orientation-cum-skill upgradation training programme for potential emigrants, bilateral MOUs for the protection and welfare of workers with various Gulf countries, a nation-wide awareness campaign for legal and organized migration, compulsory attestation of employment

documents and other on site welfare measures with the help of Indian Missions abroad.

**Statement**

*Number of Registered Participants, Country-wise for PBD 08*

Country	Number of registered Delegates
1	2
Australia	4
Bahrain	5
Canada	29
China	1
Fiji	9
France	5
Germany	7
Hong Kong Special Administration	2
India	163
Ireland	4
Japan	2
Kenya	5
Kuwait	12
Malaysia	141
Mauritius	36
Mozambique	2
Netherlands	11

1	2
New Zealand	6
Nigeria	2
Oman	6
Portugal	4
Qatar	3
Saudi Arabia	9
Serbia and Montenegro	3
Seychelles	4
Singapore	15
South Africa	30
Sweden	7
Taiwan Province of China	1
United Arab Emirates	28
United Kingdom of Great Britain	34
United States of America	133
Switzerland	2
Thailand	2
Brunei Darussalam	1
Guyana	2
Israel	3
Reunion Islands	4
South Africa	17
Trinidad and Tobago	5

1	2
Sri Lanka	3
Finland	2

#### **More Powers to Panchayats**

1093. SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA : Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received any representation from Panchayati Raj Institutions in Andaman and Nicobar Islands demanding more rights and allocation of financial resources for implementing schemes pertaining to matters listed in the Eleventh Schedule of the Constitution;

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

(c) the action taken by the Government 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) : (a) to (c) The Ministry of Panchayati Raj has not in the last few months received any such representation from PRIs in Andaman and Nicobar islands. However, when the Union Minister of Panchayati Raj undertook a Panchayati Raj Tour of Andaman and Nicobar in March 2007, several oral and written representations were made to him in respect of the devolution of functions, finances and functionaries to Panchayati Raj Institutions. These were examined and drafted into a joint Statement of Conclusions signed by the Union Minister of Panchayati Raj, on the one hand, and the Union Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs, on behalf of the UT Administration, on the other. The roadmap outlined in the joint Statement is being monitored in a regular basis. A copy of the joint Statement is enclosed.

### Statement

#### Joint Resolution for Andaman and Nicobar Islands

Joint Statement of conclusions arrived at between the Union Minister for Panchayati Raj and Youth Affairs and Sports and the Union Minister of State for Home Affairs on 16th March, 2007 following the joint visit of the Union Minister for Panchayati Raj and the Union Minister of State for Home to Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

#### I. Panchayati Raj in Andaman and Nicobar: Current Status

- After the 73rd Constitutional Amendment, the Andaman and Nicobar Islands (Panchayats) Regulation 1994 came into force, so as to establish Panchayats as institutions of local self Government in the letter and spirit of Part IX of the Constitution. The steps taken in Andaman and Nicobar to institutionalize people's participation through Panchayati Raj stand testimony to its sustained commitment towards Panchayati Raj. The areas notified as reserved area under Sub-Section (1) of Section 3 of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands (Protection of Aboriginal Tribes) Regulation 1956 have been excluded from the application of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands (Panchayats) Regulation 1994.
- The steps taken so far by the Administration of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands for the empowerment of the Panchayats at the Gram, Block and District levels include the following:-
  - (a) The Panchayats have been legally vested with power and responsibilities under the Andaman and Nicobar Islands (Panchayats) Regulation 1994 to enable them to function as institutions of self government.
  - (b) Panchayats are legally made responsible for preparation of plans and their execution for economic development and social

justice also with regard to the matters specified in the second, fifth and sixth schedule of the Regulation.

- (c) The Panchayats have been legally authorized to levy, collect appropriate taxes, duties, tolls, cess and fees.
- (d) The Regulation provide for making grants-in-aid to the Panchayats from the consolidated fund of the UT.
- (e) The Regulation enables the State to transfer funds, functions and functionaries to the PRIs in respect of the subjects listed in the XI schedule of the Constitution of India.
- (f) The Pradhan of a Gram Panchayat has been vested with power to accord Administrative approval and Expenditure Sanction for works up to Rs.10 lakh, Pramukh of a Panchayat Samiti has power up to Rs. 25 lakh, while the Adhyaksh, Zilla Parishad has powers up to Rs. 75 lakh.
- (g) DRDA (Andamans) is functioning under the Administrative control of the CEO, Zilla Parishad.
- (h) CEO, Zilla Parishad has been vested with the power of appointment authority of Group 'C' and 'D' posts created for Zilla Parishad by the Administration.

#### I. Activity Mapping

Although the devolution of functions to the three tiers of PRIs has been provided for in the Andaman and Nicobar Panchayati Raj Regulation, substantive operationalisation on the ground of devolved activities requires acceleration through the preparation and implementation of a detailed Activity Map comprising all 29 subjects listed in the Eleventh Schedule. Such



an Activity Map has now been prepared (see Annex) through a systematic exercise involving the line departments and taking into account the Administration's assessment of the existing capacity of the three tiers in discharging the responsibilities. To this end the Administration undertake to issue the required notifications, rules and guidelines to ensure the smooth and rapid implementation of the Activity Map. It further undertakes to publish in all the languages used in PRIs, a comprehensive manual of all government orders and circulars designed to promote the devolution of Functions, Functionaries and Finances. The Administration further undertakes to systematically generate awareness Among elected Panchayati Raj representatives of the activities devolved to them as also to systematically build up their capacity to undertake additional responsibilities. For its part the Union Ministry of Panchayati Raj pledges to provide financial and technical assistance for capacity building.

In recognition of the need to base the devolution of functionaries all the same pattern as the devolution of the activities, a total of 545 functionaries have so far been transferred to the PRIs by the line departments and another 312 posts have been provided for by the Administration. The process of devolving, technical and administrative staff to all three tiers will continue with deliberate speed to enable the PRIs to fully discharge the duties devolved to them. Moreover, the process of progressively further refining the Activity Map in consultation with the Union Ministry of Panchayati Raj will remain a continuing exercise. The CEO, Zilla Parishad, Executive Officer, Panchayat Samiti; and the Secretary, Gram Panchayat have the following control over the staff transferred to the PRIs:—

- (1) Controlling Officer for tour diaries, attendance and annual reports.
- (2) To call for reports/returns.
- (3) Distribution of work in accordance with their

qualification, experience and expertise and in keeping with the needs of work at the level of PRI.

- (4) To recommend leave.
- (5) Prescribe field duties, approve tour programme etc.
- (6) Reporting a performance of the Staff to their authorities in respect of their performance of duties.

However, the role of the PRI representatives, in supervising the work of the above staff is yet to be specified and the Administration undertakes to do so within the shortest possible time.

**J. Formulation of DPC :** The District Planning Committee was constituted in the year 1996 with Adhyaksh, Zilla Parishad as the Chairman and CEO, Zilla Parishad as its Secretary. The DPC has been entrusted with the task of consolidating the draft plans prepared by the PRIs, Municipal Council and the Tribal Councils and to prepare draft Development plan. The matters in which the PRIs have the power to prepare plan, the procedures to be followed by the PRIs for preparation of plan and the Rules for conduct of DPC meetings have been notified. The District Planning Committee has to meet before 10th October each year to finalise the consolidated plan and submit its recommendations to the Administrator.

## **II. Plan of Action : Administration of Andaman and Nicobar**

### **Devolution of powers and functions:**

A fresh national impetus has been given to devolution of powers and responsibilities through the Seven Round Tables of State Minister of Panchayati Raj, which arrived by consensus at 150 recommendations pertaining to

18 dimensions of Panchayati Raj. The Andaman and Nicobar Islands have initiated implementation of the recommendations of the Round Tables that apply to it. The Administration of Andaman and Nicobar is in broad agreement with these recommendations.

### III. Sustaining the Pace of Reform

The challenges before Andaman and Nicobar in sustaining the pace of reform will require effective support and close coordination with the Central Government. In this endeavour the Administration of Andaman and Nicobar is in broad agreement with these recommendations.

- Opening of Panchayat sector windows in the UT Budget for each of the line departments concerned. For effective devolution of powers and for proper implementation of different functions entrusted to the 3 tier PRIs under the Andaman and Nicobar Islands (panchayats) Regulations 1994, a separate budget head has been opened under the sectors of Roads, Water Supply, Minor Irrigation, Education, Agriculture, Fisheries, Panchayat, Forestry etc. Separate budget head will also be opened, wherever necessary, for devolution of funds pertaining to the matters devolved to Panchayats.

#### — Parallel Bodies

The need for separate committees, societies or other parallel bodies for sectorial programmes such as the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, National Rural Health Mission and the Joint Forest Management Programme will be reviewed in the list of any revised guidelines received (or to be received) from the Centre with a view to ensuring that through the exercise of powers devolved to the Panchayats, these are handled by the PRIs through their own Standing Committees.

### IV. Plan of Action : Govt. of India

In order to strengthen Panchayati Raj in the Union Territory of Andaman and Nicobar Islands the Union Ministry of Panchayati Raj would take the following steps:-

1. The Union Ministry of Panchayati Raj agrees to support the Administration of Andaman and Nicobar with Technical assistance in undertaking further Panchayati Raj reform for fiscal devolution and guidelines for devolution of functionaries.
2. The Ministry of Panchayati Raj undertakes to support and assist the endeavour of the Administration of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands and secure funding assistance for strengthening delivery mechanisms of Panchayats.
3. The Union Ministry of Panchayati Raj will pursue the establishment of a capacity and infrastructure development scheme-Gram Swaraj-so as to provide support to Panchayats to strengthen their administration.
4. The Union Ministry of Panchayati Raj shall assist the Administration of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands in capacity building and training of elected representatives and officials of Panchayats. This could include support for training faculty, providing resource for training and exposure visits for Panchayats members.
5. The Union Ministry of Panchayati Raj will assist the Administration of Andaman and Nicobar to set up a distance learning facility for Panchayati Raj elected representatives and officials through satellite communication.
6. The Union Ministry of Panchayati Raj undertakes to assist the Administration of Andaman and Nicobar in creating awareness about the significance of Panchayati Raj among the youth and the student community, women, aspirants to office in Panchayati Raj Institutions and elected representatives. To this end, MoPR would assist in conducting orientation and training of persons aspiring to posts in Panchayats, particularly youth and women.

7. The Union Ministry of Panchayati Raj shall support the development of Rural Business Hubs (RBH) through Public-Private-Panchayat-Partnership, so as to upgrade local skills, identity and promote products, and locate markets for these products. Strenuous efforts will focus on RBHs in the sectors of rural tourism, organic farming, food processing, handicrafts, horticulture, floriculture, biodiesel, micro-hydel and other renewable energy technology.
8. The Union Ministry of Panchayati Raj agrees to support initiatives in computerization and e-governance in Panchayats in Andaman and Nicobar Islands, as part of the National e-governance Action Plan.
9. The Union Ministry of Panchayati Raj undertakes to provide technical assistance to Administration of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands to build the capacity of Panchayats to undertake the obligations of recording and preserving a biodiversity in their areas, as mandated by the National Biodiversity Act. Capacity building will also cover environmental and spatial planning at the Panchayat level.
10. The Union Ministry of Panchayati Raj assist through guidelines the UT Administration in the modalities of maintaining a database of Panchayat bank accounts and monitoring the transfer of funds from the State Treasuries to these accounts without delay or diversion.
11. The Union Ministry of Panchayati Raj will assist and support the Yuva Shakti Abhiyan to be undertaken by the Administration by providing funding support and will link the same to the Yuva Shakti Abhiyan at the National level.
12. The Union Ministry of Panchayati Raj will assist and support the Mahila Shakti Abhiyan to be undertaken by the Administration by providing funding support and will link the same to the Mahila Shakti Abhiyan at the National level.

13. The Union Ministry of Panchayati Raj will pursue the creation of Panchayat Empowerment Incentive and Accountability Fund through which it undertakes to provide additional funds to the UT Administration, based on the progress in the areas of Activity Mapping, District Planning through DPCs after necessary amendment to the relevant provisions of the Constitution of India and devolution of functionaries to Panchayats. The funds will also be given as incentives to the best performing Panchayats to follow transparent procedures of audit, monitoring, Gram Sabha approval and social audit so as to strengthen the accountability of Panchayats at all level.

(Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar)  
Union Minister for Panchayati  
Raj, Youth Affairs and  
Sports and DONER

(Shri S. Regupathy)  
Union Minister of State  
for Home Affairs

#### Resurfacing of National Highways

1094. SHRI HARIBHAU RATHOD : Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the length in kilometers of National Highways taken up for resurfacing in the country, during the last three years;

(b) the fund allocated and incurred till date for the same; and

(c) the details of proposal from the State Governments pending for approval for resurfacing?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA) : (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

#### Doctor-Patient Ratio

1095. SHRI K. SUBBARAYAN : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the doctor-patient ratio is consistent with the international standards;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) to (c) The doctor-patient ration varies from case to case depending upon various factors like the type of disease, nature of specialization, type of patient-care required i.e. indoor/outdoor. As per Medical Council of India, the total number of registered allopathic doctors in the country is 6,83,582. Thus, the allopathic doctor-population ratio works out to 1:1634. In addition, there are more than 6 lakhs practitioners of Indian Systems of Medicine and Homoeopathy in the country. Taking all these numbers together, the doctor-population ratio comes to 1:870. There are 271 medical colleges in the country with annual intake of 31,172 students who add up to the existing medical manpower. The National Rural Health Mission has been operationalised with the main aim of providing accessible and reliable primary health care facilities especially to the poor and the vulnerable sections of the population.

#### **Funds for Health Sector**

1096. SHRI VIJOY KRISHNA : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the funds allocated for Health Sector during Eleventh Plan Period in general and National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) in particular; and

(b) the action taken by the Government to upgrade the health care facilities in the country, particularly in the State of Bihar?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) Out of an allocation of Rs.1,36,147 crore

for the Department of Health and Family Welfare during the 11th Five Year Plan, Rs. 89,478 crore has been earmarked for implementation of various programmes under National Rural Health Mission (NRHM). Additionally, Rs. 625 crore will be contributed by the Deptt. of AYUSH to make a total of Rs. 90,103 crore for NRHM.

(b) In order to provide effective healthcare to the rural population throughout the country with special focus on 18 States, with poor health indicators and weak health infrastructure, the Government launched the National Rural Health Mission in April, 2005. Bihar is one of the high focus States identified under the Mission.

The Mission adopts a synergistic approach by relating health to determinants of good health and the main objective is to provide accessible, affordable, accountable and reliable health care especially to the poor and vulnerable sections of the population. Further, the gaps in the existing scenario of rural health care are being addressed through involvement of the community, the Panchayati Raj Institutions and other non-governmental organizations. An Accredited Social Health Activist (ASHA) will act as a link between the community and the healthcare system.

In order to bring about a reduction in MMR, the Government of India is also implementing the following key interventions all over the country including Bihar:-

- Janani Suraksha Yojana (JSY), a cash benefit scheme to promote Institutional Delivery with special focus on Below Poverty Line (BPL) and SC/ST pregnant women;
- Appointment of ASHA for every village to facilitate accessing of health care services by the community;
- Operationalising Community Health Centres as First Referral Units (FRU) and 50% of all Primary Health Centres (PHC) for providing 24X7 delivery services by 2010;

- Augmenting the availability of skilled Manpower by means of different skill based trainings such as Skilled Birth Attendant;
- Training of MBBS Doctors in Life Saving Anesthetic Skills and Emergency Obstetric Care including Caesarian Section;
- Prevention and treatment of Anaemia by supplementation with Iron and Folic Acid tablets;
- Organizing Village Health and Nutrition Day at Anganwadi Centre;
- Supplementary nutrition to pregnant and lactating women under ICDS scheme and strengthening of sub-centres by providing each with an untied fund of Rs.10,000/- to improve service delivery.

#### Treatment of Kidney Diseases

1097. SHRI MADHU GOUD YASKHI : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the study conducted by the All India Institute of Medical Sciences funded by the Indian Council of Medical Research regarding the treatment of Kidney diseases;

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

(c) the response of the Government thereto; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government on the findings of such study?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) and (b) The All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) has informed that as per the study conducted in AIIMS 0.78%, adults in Delhi were found to

have more than stage-3 Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD). There are five stage of CKD and if we take all the stages, then prevalence of CKD will be much more than this. Of the cases of CKD, diabetes was most common cause of CKD followed by hypertension. After extrapolation of the direct results of the study, the conclusion arrived at is that nearly 1.5 lakh new patients of stage-5 CKD (also called end stage kidney disease) would require treatment like dialysis/kidney transplantation. Current estimate is that 1 out of 10 Indian adults will be having some degree of CKD.

Though it was not the conclusion of the study directly, but in India it is well known that nearly 5-7% of stage-5 CKD, who require life long dialysis and/or kidney transplant actually get these regular therapy. Rests of the patients are not able to get definite treatment of stage-5 CKD.

(c) and (d) Government is planning to launch National Organ Transplant Programme as well as facilities for stand alone dialysis units for life long maintenance dialysis. CKD prevention programme is likely to be part of national programme for transplantation.

#### Committee on Better Functioning of Government Hospitals

1098. SHRI K.C. PALLANI SHAMY : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has constituted a Committee to ensure cleanliness and better functioning of the Government hospitals in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which its Report is likely to be submitted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) to (c) Sanitary conditions in the Central

Government Hospitals in Delhi are monitored from time to time by the Monitoring Committees constituted for this purpose by the hospital authorities and these committees do also suggest remedial measures to further strengthen the sanitation services in these hospitals.

**Expenditure on Health Sector in  
Rural Areas**

1099. SHRI PRATIK P. PATIL : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) the percentage of National Income spent on the Health Services particularly in the Rural Areas;
- (b) whether the Government is considering to increase the expenditure on health services; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) According to the Economic Survey 2007-08, Public spending on health inclusive of social determinants like drinking water and nutrition is 1.39% of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in 2007-08. It is not possible to categorize health expenditure specifically in terms of rural and urban areas as health programmes/schemes are area neutral and the amounts spent depend on the disease burden status and the local requirements.

(b) and (c) The National Common Minimum Programme (NCMP) has mandated that the Government will raise public spending on health to at-least 2-3% of GDP over the next five years with focus on primary, healthcare. The strategy adopted in the 11th Plan is also aimed at enhancing the levels of public health spending as a % of GDP by promoting comprehensive primary and secondary health care 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.

**Welfare Schemes for India-bound NRIs**

1100. SHRI JUAL ORAM : Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has any proposal to introduce some welfare schemes for the India-bound Non Resident Indians (NRIs);
- (b) if so, whether the modalities of such schemes have been worked out;
- (c) if so, the details of such schemes; and
- (d) the time by which such schemes are likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI) : (a) to (d) There is no proposal to introduce a welfare scheme for India-bound Non-Resident Indians (NRIs) under consideration of the Government at present. However, an important constituent of the NRIs is the Overseas Indian Workers whose emigration is regulated under the Emigration Act 1983. There are about 4.5 million such workers mostly in the Gulf countries and Malaysia. The Government is considering a proposal to establish a welfare fund for the benefit of such workers. The Fund envisages provision of welfare services to the emigrants at all stages—financial support to meet emigration expenses at the pre-emigration stage, need based on site welfare during their stay abroad and need based rehabilitation services after their return to India. The Welfare Fund is likely to be established during the financial year 2008-09.

*[Translation]*

**Development of New Waterways  
for Tourism**

1101. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR : Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to develop new waterways for promotion of water tourism in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has also identified special tourist spots in this regard;

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

(e) the funds allocated and spent therefrom for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) to (e) No waterway is exclusively developed for promotion of tourism. However, when a waterway is declared as a National Waterway, it is provided with necessary infrastructural facilities which help in the movement of inland vessels which can be used for cargo transportation as well as for passenger/tourist movement.

[English]

#### Methodology Adopted for Poverty Estimates

1102. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Chief Ministers of some States expressed their concern over the methodology adopted for determining the extent of poverty in the country during their meeting in National Development Council;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the matter was referred to the Expert Group headed by the Economists;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government has received the report of the Expert Group;

(f) if so, the main suggestions/recommendations made therein; and

(g) the details of the proposed action taken by the Government for implementing the important suggestions made by the Expert Group?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN) : (a) and (b) In the 54th meeting of the National Development Council held on 19th December 2007, Chief Ministers of some States mentioned about the differences between the official estimates of poverty made by the Planning Commission and the number of poor identified by the State Governments.

(c) and (d) The matter is currently under consideration by an Expert Group under the Chairmanship of Professor Suresh D. Tendulkar, the Chairman of the National Statistical Commission.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) and (g) Do not arise.

#### Rehabilitation of Affected People of Raniganj Coalfield

1103. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has received any proposal from the State Government of West Bengal for rehabilitation of affected people of Raniganj Coalfield areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO) : (a) Yes, Sir. A Master plan dealing with fire, subsidence and rehabilitation of affected people of Raniganj coalfield prepared by Coal India Ltd. was referred to the West Bengal Government seeking their concurrence to the proposed R&R package

under the Master plan. The Government of West Bengal has conveyed their acceptance to the Resettlement and Rehabilitation (R&R) package proposed in the Master plan with some modifications;

(b) The master plan comprises of rehabilitation of 33196 affected houses/families involving 1,80,263 persons at an estimated capital cost of Rs. 2256.82 crore spread over a period of ten years in two phases, diversion of roads/pipelines/railway lines etc. from unstable locations with an estimated capital cost of Rs. 7.72 crore covering seven areas and dealing with fires in seven areas with an estimated capital cost of Rs. 35.88 crore.

(c) The Master/action plan dealing with fire, subsidence and rehabilitation of affected people for Raniganj Coalfield areas is under active consideration of the Government.

[Translation]

#### **Polio Test Centres**

1104. SHRI HEMMAL MURMU : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Polio Surveillance Project India and other organisations under the World Health Organisation conduct tests for detection of polio virus among the polio affected children;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the total number of Medical Institutes for conducting polio test in the country alongwith the details of their performance;

(d) whether the Government is contemplating to set up centres for polio test in various parts of the country, particularly, in Jharkhand; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The National Polio

Surveillance Project (NPSP) assists with the surveillance for detection of poliovirus. NPSP supports the field surveillance system that is linked with WHO accredited and supported network of eight national and global specialized polio laboratories across India.

Two stool samples are collected from each child with acute flaccid paralysis. These samples are tested for poliovirus in these WHO accredited laboratories.

(c) There are eight institutes (laboratories) where the test for poliovirus is conducted.

The names of these laboratories and the number of samples tested by them during the last two years are as below:-

Lab Name	2006	2007
BJMC, Ahmedabad	8450	9168
NIV, Bangalore	1525	3381
ERC, Mumbai	3960	5265
IOS, Calcutta	8906	10197
PII, Coonoor	440	279
CRI, Kasauli	1738	2205
KIPM, Chennai	13871	16476
SGPGI, Lucknow	23328	31239

(d) and (e) No, Sir.

[English]

#### **Construction of Rooftop Hellpad at Commonwealth Games Village**

1105. SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:



(a) whether the All India Institute of Medical Sciences has approached the Ministry of Civil Aviation for seeking approval for construction of Rooftop Helipad at Commonwealth Games village at Delhi to meet emergency situation during Olympic Games; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government there to?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) and (b) All India Institute of Medical Sciences has not approached the Ministry of Civil aviation for seeking approval for construction of Rooftop Helipad at Commonwealth Games Village at Delhi.

#### Coal Based Power Projects

1106. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL :  
SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA :  
SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Coal India Limited (CIL) and its subsidiaries have developed a number of mines solely to supply coal to power projects as reported in the *Times of India* dated 29.1.2008;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of power projects being fed by the Coal India Limited and its subsidiaries across the country;

(d) whether any proposal to give incentives to Coal India Limited (CIL) and its subsidiaries is under the consideration of the Government; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO) : (a) and (b) Despatch of coal to power utilities accounted for more than 72% of total production of Coal India Limited (CIL) during

2006-07. Generally coal is supplied from a basket of mines. There are many power plants, coal requirement of which is taken care of by more than one mine. There are some mines which have been exclusively developed by CIL to meet the requirement of power plants. Such mines are Rajmahal Opencast (OC) in Eastern Coalfields Limited (ECL); Piparwar OC, K.D. Hesalong OC, Urimari OC in Central Coalfields Limited (CCL); Amlohri Expansion OC, Bina Expansion OC, Dudhichua Expansion OC, Jayant OC, Jhingurdah OC, Kakri OC, Khadia OC, Nighahi Expansion OC in Northern Coalfields Limited (NCL); Adasa underground (UG); Kolgaon OC, Bhatadih Expansion OC, Durgapur Expansion OC, Junad Expansion OC, Waghoda UG, Gouri Deep OC in Western Coalfields Limited (WCL); Gevra OC and Dipka OC of South Eastern Coalfields Limited (SECL) etc.

(c) Out of the 78 (seventy eight) coal based power stations, CIL and its subsidiaries are supplying coal to seventy four power stations.

(d) and (e) There is no such proposal under consideration of the Government.

[Translation]

#### Diplomatic Relations

1107. SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO :  
SHRI TUKARAM GANPAT RAO RENGE PATIL :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of countries with which India does not have diplomatic relations;

(b) the reasons therefor;

(c) the steps taken by the Government to establish friendly and diplomatic relations with those countries; and

(d) the success achieved by the Government as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) to (d) India has diplomatic relations with all the countries that India recognises.

[English]

**Deployment of Doctors in Night-shift in CGHS Dispensaries**

1108. SHRI M. APPADURAI : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any proposal to depute one doctor on duty in night shift for emergency in all the CGHS dispensaries, particularly in the metropolitan cities;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) Question does not arise.

**Collection of Emigration Fee**

1109. SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS :  
SHRI CHENGARA SURENDRAN :

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

(a) whether the Government charges any emigration fee from the job seekers going abroad;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the funds collected so far till December 31, 2007;

(c) whether the funds collected so far were utilized for the Welfare of these workers abroad; and

(d) if so, the amount spent for this purpose during the last 3 years?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. An emigrant worker is required to pay a fee of Rs. 200/- as processing/service charges for grant of emigration clearance in the office of Protectors of Emigrants (POEs). The fee so collected is deposited in the relevant Revenue Head under the Consolidated Fund of India. During the period 2005 to 2007 an amount of Rs. 42.12 crore (approx) has been collected as the Emigration Fees by POE offices for processing of emigration clearance.

(c) No, Sir. Since the fee charged is for the processing/service being provided by the Government of India to the emigrant worker, and forms the part of the Government's revenue, the same is not used for expenditure on any purpose by this Ministry.

(d) Does not arise.

**Decrease in Employment Opportunity in Agriculture Sector**

1110. SHRI NAND KUMAR SAI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether unemployment in rural areas of the country is increasing every year;

(b) if so, whether Planning Commission has pointed out that there has been a decrease in the employment opportunities in agriculture Sector in the country as reported in the Hindi daily the 'Hindustan' dated December 14, 2007;

(c) if so, the percentage of work force engaged in agriculture sector during the Tenth Five Year Plan as compared to the Ninth Five Year Plan period;

(d) the details of employment opportunities the Government proposes to generate in the Eleventh Five Year Plan in agriculture sector; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN) : (a) to (e) As per quinquennial surveys on employment and unemployment, unemployment rate on Current Daily Status basis in rural areas of the country increased from 5.61% in 1993-94 to 8.28% in 2004-05.

The employment opportunities in absolute term in agriculture sector increased from 191.58 million to 200.40 million during 1993-94 to 2004-05 whereas percentage share of work force engaged in agriculture sector decreased from 61.03% in 1993-94 to 56.64% in 1999-2000 and further to 52.06% in 2004-05 in the total work force.

Eleventh Five Year Plan document approved by NDC has projected no increase in employment opportunities in Agriculture Sector. The projections of employment in 11th Plan indicate that 58 million employment opportunities will be created in the Eleventh Plan period. It states that additional employment opportunities in the future will be generated mainly in the services and manufacturing sectors, in particular, labour intensive manufacturing sectors such as food processing, leather products, footwear, and textiles, and service sectors such as tourism and construction.

#### **Extradition Treaty with Egypt**

1111. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether India and Egypt have proposed to sign an extradition treaty;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the time by which the said treaty is likely to be signed and implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED) : (a) to (c) Yes. The Extradition Treaty with Egypt has been initialled in May

2007 during the visit of Indian delegation to Cairo, Requisite approvals have been obtained for signing the treaty. It is ready to be signed at the next major Ministerial meeting between the two countries which is expected within a few months and the dates for which are under discussion.

#### **Panchayat Yuva Khel Abhiyan**

1112. SHRI P.C. THOMAS : Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether any financial assistance has been given to local bodies in Kerala under Panchayat Yuva Khel Abhiyan project;
- (b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the amounts allocated or proposed to be allocated local body-wise;
- (c) whether there is pending applications from any local bodies from the State;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the details of State-wise allocation 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) : (a) to (e) As the Panchayat Yuva Krida Aur Khel Abhiyan (PYKKA) is yet to be approved by Government for implementation, the question for allocation of funds to Kerala or any other State or any local body under this Scheme does not at present arise.

#### **Recommendations on Urban Health**

1113. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAIISI : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the status of health in Urban areas is worse than the rural areas as reported in the 'Times of India' dated January 14, 2008;

- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Task Force to advise the National Rural Health Mission on Urban health was constituted in June, 2005;
- (d) if so, the detailed recommendations made by the said Task Force; and
- (e) 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) Does not arise.
- (c) Yes, Sir.
- (d) A statement is enclosed.
- (e) Government of India proposes to launch National Urban Health Mission (NUHM) to address health needs of urban poor.

#### **Statement**

##### *Salient Features of Proposed National Urban Health Mission "A Snapshot View"*

- Seeks to address health needs of urban population of the country, with focus on slum (listed and unlisted) populations and other disadvantaged vulnerable sections.
- Proposes one Primary Level Health Facility (Urban Health Centre) per 50,000 population.
- Proposes one First Referral Level Health Facility (Zonal Hospital) per 2,50,000 population, with provision for establishment of new born care units.
- Envisages an active and socially committed slum level woman as "Link Volunteer" for a slum population of 1500-2000.
- Mandates regular outreach health services, directed at the Slum Population and other urban based vulnerable groups to proactively reach out to and address the problems of low access to health services by these sections.
- Supports training of Link Volunteers and Women's Health Committees to carry out community health promotion activities in slums and also enhance capacity of the community better demand and access health care services.
- Encourages enhanced role of Urban Local Bodies in provisioning of health care services in urban areas in the light of 74th Constitutional Amendment.
- Focuses on effective integration amongst Health and all Health related departments viz. Women and Child Development, Water and Sanitation, Urban Development/Urban Employment and Poverty Alleviation, Municipal Affairs, Nutrition, Education etc. and programmes like National Aids Control Programme.
- Proposes defined Institutional mechanisms and management systems for ensuring accountability at national, State, District and sub-district levels.
- Recommends decentralized city-specific planning, project formulation and implementation.
- Encourage optimal exploitation of Public Private Partnership (PPP) for expanding health services and strengthening linkages between the service providers and the community, especially the vulnerable sections thereof.

#### **National Highway Projects in Karnataka**

1114. SHRI G.M. SIDDESWARA : Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of National Highway projects under implementation in Karnataka till date, project-wise;
- (b) the status of each project; and
- (c) the funds allocated and spent on each project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA) : (a) and (b) Ministry is implementing National Highways projects under NH (O) scheme through State PWD and under National Highway Development Project (NHDP) through National Highways Authority of India (NHAI). At present, 85 number of National Highway works are under progress in the State of Karnataka. Out of which, 76 works pertains to NH (O) scheme and 9 works to NHDP.

(c) For NH (O) scheme, Ministry has allocated Rs. 92.00 crore to the State Government of Karnataka for the current financial year and the entire amount has been spent. NHAI has spent about Rs. 1328 crore on NHDP works till date on the above mentioned 9 works in the State of Karnataka.

#### **Shortage of Training Equipments for Sports**

1115. SHRI NAVEEN JINDAL : Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether several National Sports Federations have complained regarding the shortage of training equipments for sports;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the reasons leading to shortage of training equipments just six months before Beijing Olympic Games 2008;
- (d) whether the Long Term Development Plan (LTDP) covering training and procurement of required equipments has failed in its objectives;

(e) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the steps taken by the Government to overcome the shortage of training equipments for the forthcoming Olympics?

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) While there have been no complaints from National Sports Federations (NSFs) as a whole regarding any shortage of training equipment in general, a few Federations have reported a shortage of consumables for the training of sportspersons. Specific complaints were received from the National Rifle Association of India (NRAI) and the Badminton Association of India (BAI) regarding the shortage of ammunition and shuttle cocks, respectively. This matter was duly examined in the Ministry and a considered view was taken to decentralize the procurement process by allowing recognized NSFs to procure consumables on their own, following due procedure, on a reimbursement basis. The procurement of consumables by recognized NSFs as per entitlement under their respective Long Term Development Plans (LTDPs) is, therefore, the responsibility of the NSFs concerned.

(c) Barring the disciplines mentioned above, no short supply of sports consumables for the preparation of athletes has been reported. Moreover, the Government has been providing significant support to both NRAI and the BAI for the preparation of high performing athletes. During the current financial year, NRAI has been provided support amounting to Rs. 5.93 crores and the Badminton Association of India Rs. 1.05 crore, which is essentially meant for the training and competition exposure of high performing athletes. In addition to this, the Sports Authority of India has provided support for the procurement of ammunition of national coaching camps for shooting, amounting to Rs. 2.39 crores during the last three years. Similarly, for Badminton, they have provided consumables worth Rs. 54 lakh. Over and above this, the Government

have been providing liberal financial support for medal probable for the forthcoming Olympics under the National Sports Development Funds Scheme. Specifically, 9 renowned shooters are currently being supported under the Scheme.

(d) to (f) No, Sir. The LTDPs cover various aspects of the development of the sports, which includes training requirement, the requirement of equipment and consumables, coaching requirements, sports medicine requirements and infrastructure requirements. The NSFs are responsible for the implementation of the LTDPs and SAI plays the role of facilitator. Overall, the implementation of the LTDPs has been in conformity with what has been planned.

#### **Funds to Panchayats for Developmental Works**

1116. SHRI HARIBHAU RATHOD : Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal is under the consideration of Government for providing financial assistance directly to the Panchayats for roads and other developmental works; and

(b) 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) and (b) No Sir. There is no proposal under the consideration of Government for allocating funds directly to Panchayats. In furtherance of the commitment in the National Common Minimum Programme of the Government that funds going to the Panchayats are neither delayed nor diverted, the Ministry of Panchayati Raj constituted a Committee on Feasibility of Rapid Fund Transfer to Panchayats through Banking Channels. This Committee submitted its report in May, 2005. Taking into consideration the recommendations of this Committee, the Ministry of Panchayati Raj supports the

position that financial inflows meant for Panchayats should first flow into the Consolidated Fund of State Governments, but should then be speedily transferred directly to the Panchayats through banking or treasury channels "without delay or diversion". At present, funds released under the Backward Regions Grant Fund Programme and funds released on the basis of recommendations of Twelfth Finance Commission conform to this pattern of fund flow. These funds are being utilized in various developmental works at the Panchayat level, which would include expenditure on roads.

#### **Facility for Invitro Fertilisation**

1117. SHRI K. SUBBARAYAN : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the facility for Invitro Fertilisation is available in the Government Hospitals run by the Union Government; and

(b) if so, the details of the hospitals that provide the facility?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Invitro Fertilisation Unit has been started in:-

- (1) All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi;
- (2) Postgraduate Institute of Medical Education and Research, Chandigarh; and
- (3) Army Hospital, i.e. R&R Hospital, Pratap Chowk, Delhi Cantt., Delhi.

#### **International funds for Eradication of TB**

1118. SHRI VIJOY KRISHNA : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state the details of funds obtained from various international bodies/donor agencies for eradication of T.B. and the amount spent therefrom during the last two years, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : The reimbursements received from different international bodies/donor agencies for eradication of TB in the last two years is as follows:

(Amounts in lakhs)

Donor Agencies	Year 2005-06	Year 2006-07
World Bank	8489.81	4318.29
DANIDA	197.27	194.31
DFID	1309.99	428.95
USAID	400.00	524.50
GFATM	2445.73	5386.80

In addition drugs worth Rs. 600 lakhs (2005-06) and Rs. 3500 lakhs (2006-07) were received as commodity assistance from DFID.

#### **New Initiatives to Assist Indian Workers Abroad**

1119. SHRI MADHU GOUD YASKHI : Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is considering to launch new initiatives to assist Indian workers abroad;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to implement the same?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The following initiatives have been taken by Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs to assist the Indian workers abroad:-

(i) A Nation-wide skill upgradation training

programme for potential migrant workers. This will help create a strong cadre of highly skill workers to fill the large labour supply gaps. Ministry is launching this Scheme in diverse sectors such as construction, engineering, manufacturing, nursing, IT and household services etc. The Scheme is being implemented in partnership with the State Governments, the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME), as well as Apex Industry Associations, Non Governmental Organizations etc. A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has already been signed between Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs and MSME.

(ii) Setting up of Overseas Workers Resource Centre (OWRC) to provide all relevant information and assistance to potential migrant workers. Prime Minister has launched the Overseas Workers Resource Centre (OWRC) during Pravasi Bharatiya Divas-2008 as a Helpline for rendering assistance to Indian workers abroad and those who are desirous of going abroad for employment. The helpline has a toll free number 1800 11 3090 accessible from anywhere in India. At present, the Helpline is functioning in seven languages viz Hindi, English, Tamil, Malayalam, Punjabi, Kannada and Telugu from 10.00 am to 10.00 pm, seven days a week.

(iii) Setting up of a Council for Promotion of Overseas Employment (CPOE) to serve as a strategic think-tank. Cabinet has approved the setting up of the Council. The Ministry is in the process of registering the Council as a not-for-profit Society. The completion of all procedural formalities may take some time.

(iv) The Government is considering a proposal to establish a welfare fund for the benefit of emigrants. The Fund envisages provision of welfare services to the emigrants at all stages-

financial support to meet emigration expenses at the pre-emigration stage, need based on-site welfare during their stay abroad and need based rehabilitation services after their return to India. The Welfare Fund is likely to be established during the financial year 2008-09.

[Translation]

**Indian Doctors in Britain Facing  
Unemployment**

1120. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR : Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Indian doctors in Britain are facing the problem of unemployment;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether any steps have been taken by the Government in this regard; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI) : (a) and (b) A large number of Indian doctors in UK have not been able to find employment, after the implementation of new immigration and employment regulations in UK in March 2006, since UK/EU doctors are given preference in recruitment. As per information made available by British Association of Physicians of Indian Origin, 5,000 unemployed Indian doctors have left UK since the introduction of the new rules. However, exact data is not available.

(c) and (d) The above issue was taken up with concerned UK authorities from time to time including during the visit of Minister of Health to UK in February 2005 and in January 2008, with Madam Rosie Winterton, then UK Minister of State for Health in June 2005, during Joint Economic and Trade Committee (JETCO) meetings in 2007 and 2008 and during the visit of the then Chancellor of Exchequer, Gordon Brown to India in January 2007. The

Indian High Commission has also been taking up the issue with the concerned British authorities from time to time.

In view of the above, the UK Department of Health has confirmed that approximately 6000 Indian doctors have succeeded in getting jobs in 2007.

**Cases of Death Due to Meningococemia**

1121. SHRI HEMMAL MURMU :  
SHRI UDAY SINGH :  
SHRI RAGHURAJ SINGH SHAKYA :

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

- (a) whether cases of death due to meningococemia have come to the notice of the Government as reported in the 'Dainik Jagran' dated February 15, 2008;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the effective measures 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) Yes, Sir. Dainik Jagran dated 15th February, 2008 has reported 48 cases and 8 deaths due to meningococemia disease in the capital.

As per the MCD report, 49 probable and 9 confirmed cases and one death due to meningococcal disease have been reported from Delhi from 1st January to 27th February, 2008.

(c) In the wake of reporting of meningococcal disease in Delhi and surrounding areas in NCR region, the Directorate General of Health Services, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare convened the meeting of an expert group on 13th February, 2008 to review the situation. The Expert group comprised of National Institute of Communicable Diseases (NICD), Indian Council for Medical Research (ICMR), Medical Superintendent of major



hospitals of Delhi, MCD, NDMC and Delhi Government. It was observed that all the major hospitals are fully equipped to manage the cases of this illness, having sufficient stock of medicines and laboratory reagents. All the hospitals have been directed to ensure regular and timely reporting of cases to MCD, which has been identified as the nodal agency to coordinate all the activities.

MCD has already initiated IEC measures and chemoprophylaxis is being given to high risk personnel such as health care/laboratory worker and close contacts of the cases.

NICD is providing referral diagnostic services. NICD has tested 44 clinical samples received from different hospitals from 1st January to 27th February, 2008. Out of 44, 8 (18.2%) samples were found positive for serotype-A meningococci.

To monitor the situation of the disease on day to day basis and to know the trend of the disease, the information on the meningococcal disease is being collected regularly from the control room, established at MCD office. Epidemiological analysis is being carried out by the NICD and the weekly report is being sent to the MCD for taking further necessary action.

NICD also provides technical guidelines to States neighbouring Delhi to prevent and control meningococcal diseases, including training and laboratory support to hospitals.

[English]

#### **Eradication of Small Pox**

1122. SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether cases of Small Pox were detected in the certain parts of the country recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government for eradication of this disease?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) to (c) No smallpox case has been detected in any part of the country in the recent past.

As per information available from WHO/SEARO, the last case of small pox in India was detected in the year 1975. Thereafter no further case has been reported.

#### **Proposal to Build and Upgrade Roads in Afghanistan**

1123. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to build and upgrade roads in Afghanistan;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the estimated funds the Government proposes to invest in Afghanistan for such road projects; and

(d) the details of terms and conditions entered into with Afghanistan in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) to (d) Yes. The Government of India (GoI) are providing assistance of Rs.746.79 crores for upgradation/construction of the 215 km. long road from Zaranj to Delaram in Nimroz Province in Afghanistan. The project is being executed by the Border Roads Organisation (BRO). The project commenced in July 2004 and is expected to be completed by December 2008. The GoI are undertaking this road project at the request of the Government of Afghanistan. The Government of Afghanistan have provided cooperation and support with regard to various aspects of the project such as acquisition of land, extraction/collection of natural construction materials, facilitation of movement of Indian personnel etc. As the project is being undertaken in a security-sensitive area, the

Government of Afghanistan have provided local security for the project, which has also been supplemented by police personnel (ITBP) from India.

**Relocation of People Residing in  
Wyanad Wildlife Sanctuary**

1124. SHRI P.C. THOMAS : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Union government has received any proposal from the State Government of Kerala for voluntary relocation of human settlements residing in Wyanad Wildlife Sanctuary; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the response thereto?

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

(a) and (b) Yes Sir. Government of India has received a proposal from Government of Kerala for relocating 983 families in Wyanad Wildlife Sanctuary at a cost of Rs. 85 crores. Such proposals are processed by the Central government subject to the availability of funds, conformity of the proposal to the guidelines in *vogue* and fulfillment of necessary legal and administrative requirements.

**Subsidizing Sports Goods**

1125. SHRI G.M. SIDDESWARA : Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any plan for subsidizing sports goods for training and practice of certain categories of sports;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the total amount of subsidy spent by Government during the last three years, sports-wise?

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ, MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI

MANI SHANKAR AIYAR) : (a) No, Sir. The Government has no plan to subsidize any sports goods for any sports category.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

**Experts' View of Avian Flu**

1126. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the experts have suggested ways to minimize the effect of avian flu on human as reported in 'The Hindu' dated, December 18, 2007;

(b) if so, the details thereof including recommendation received from Influenza Foundation of India; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to implement those recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) to (c) The media reports dated 18th December, 2007 has stated about the alert issued by World Health Organisation (WHO) on spread of avian influenza infection in number of countries including Germany, Pakistan and Myanmar and urging the nations to be vigilant in identifying and reporting cases in both birds and humans. Government of India has adopted WHO recommended guidelines on Avian Influenza management and pandemic preparedness. The strategy as followed now for minimizing the human exposure is stamping out the disease in poultry, putting the human population in the affected zone under active surveillance to detect case early and to manage them.

No recommendations from Influenza Foundation of India has been received by the Government of India.

**Maternal and Infant Mortality Rate**

1127. SHRI K. SUBBARAYAN : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the present maternal and infant mortality rate; and

(b) the rank of India *vis-a-vis* other countries in the world in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) As per the latest survey report of Registrar General of India (RGI-SRS 2001-03) published in the year 2006, the Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR) for India is 301 per 100,000 live births. As per the latest SRS estimates (2006), the IMR for India is 57 per 1000 live births. MMR and IMR for India and state-wise are enclosed as Statement-I and Statement-II respectively.

(b) As per the "Estimates of Maternal Mortality developed by WHO, UNICEF, UNFPA and World bank, in the publication, 'Maternal Mortality in 2005' 45 countries have an MMR high than that of India. A list of these countries alongwith their MMR is enclosed as Statement-III.

As per the UNICEF publication "State of the World's Children, 2008" 51 countries have an IMR higher than that of India. A list of countries with ranking as per their IMR is enclosed as Statement-IV.

**Statement-I**

*Maternal Mortality Ratio*

*India and State-wise*

(Source: RGI, (SRS), 1997-98, 1999-01, 2001-03)

Major State	MMR (1997-98)	MMR (1999-01)	MMR (2001-03)
1	2	3	4
India Total*	398	327	301
Assam	568	398	490

	1	2	3	4
Bihar/Jharkhand		531	400	371
Madhya Pradesh/ Chandigarh		441	407	379
Orissa		346	424	358
Rajasthan		508	501	445
Uttar Pradesh/ Uttaranchal		606	539	517
Andhra Pradesh		197	220	195
Karnataka		245	266	228
Kerala		150	149	110
Tamil Nadu		131	167	134
Gujarat		46	202	172
Haryana		136	176	162
Maharashtra		166	169	149
Punjab		280	177	178
West Bengal		303	218	194
Others		—	276	235

\*Includes Others.

**Statement-II**

*Infant Mortality Rate*

Sl. No.	State	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	All India	63	60	58	58	57
1.	Andhra Pradesh	62	59	59	57	56

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
2.	Assam	70	67	66	68	67
3.	Bihar	61	60	61	61	60
4.	Chhattisgarh	73	70	60	63	61
5.	Gujarat	60	57	53	54	53
6.	Haryana	62	59	61	60	57
7.	Jharkhand	51	51	49	50	49
8.	Karnataka	55	52	49	50	48
9.	Kerala	10	11	12	14	15
10.	Madhya Pradesh	85	82	79	76	74
11.	Maharashtra	45	42	36	36	35
12.	Orissa	87	83	77	75	73
13.	Punjab	51	49	45	44	44
14.	Rajasthan	78	75	67	68	67
15.	Tamil Nadu	44	43	41	37	37
16.	Uttar Pradesh	80	76	72	73	71
17.	West Bengal	49	46	40	38	38
18.	Himachal Pradesh	52	49	51	49	50
19.	Jammu and Kashmir	45	44	49	50	52
20.	Arunachal Pradesh	37	34	38	37	40
21.	Delhi	30	28	32	35	37
22.	Goa	17	16	17	16	15

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
23.	Manipur	14	16	14	13	11
24.	Meghalaya	61	57	54	49	53
25.	Mizoram	14	16	19	20	25
26.	Nagaland	NA	NA	17	18	20
27.	Sikkim	34	33	32	30	33
28.	Tripura	34	32	32	31	36
29.	Uttaranchal	41	41	42	42	43
30.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	15	18	19	27	31
31.	Chandigarh	21	19	21	19	23
32.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	56	54	48	42	35
33.	Daman and Diu	42	39	37	28	28
34.	Lakshadweep	25	26	30	22	25
35.	Pondicherry	22	24	24	28	28

Source : Sample Registration System, Registrar, General, India, 2006.

**Statement-III**

*Countries with Maternal Mortality Ratio Higher than India*

*(Estimates of Maternal Mortality developed by WHO, UNICEF, UNFPA and World Bank, in the publication, 'Maternal Mortality in 2005')*

S.No.	Country	MMR
1	2	3
1.	Afghanistan	1800

1	2	3	1	2	3
2.	Angola	1400	24.	Kenya	560
3.	Bangladesh	570	25.	Lao People's Democratic Republic	660
4.	Benin	840	26.	Lesotho	960
5.	Burkina Faso	700	27.	Liberia	1200
6.	Burundi	1100	28.	Madagascar	510
7.	Cambodia	540	29.	Malawi	1100
8.	Cameroon	1000	30.	Mali	970
9.	Central African Republic	980	31.	Mauritania	820
10.	Chad	1500	32.	Mozambique	520
11.	Congo	740	33.	Nepal	830
12.	Cote d'Ivoire	810	34.	Niger	1800
13.	Djibouti	650	35.	Nigeria	1100
14.	Democratic Republic of the Congo	1100	36.	Papu New Guinea	470
15.	Equatorial Guinea	680	37.	Rwanda	1300
16.	Ethiopia	720	38.	Senegal	980
17.	Gabon	520	39.	Sierra Leone	2100
18.	Gambia	690	40.	Somalia	1400
19.	Ghana	560	41.	Togo	510
20.	Guinea	910	42.	Uganda	550
21.	Guinea-Bissau	1100	43.	United Republic of Tanzania	950
22.	Guyana	470	44.	Zambia	830
23.	Haiti	670	45.	Zimbabwe	880

**Statement-IV****Ranking of Countries by Infant Mortality Rate  
(IMR) (Per 1,000 live births)**

Ranking according to IMR	Country	1990	2005
1	2	3	4
1.	India	82	57
2.	Lao People's Democratic Republic	120	59
3.	Gabon	60	60
4.	Sudan	74	61
5.	Bhutan	107	63
6.	Sao Tome and Principe	65	63
7.	Madagascar	103	72
8.	Azerbaijan	84	73
9.	Myanmar	91	74
10.	Tanzania (United Republic of)	102	74
11.	Yemen	98	75
12.	Ghana	76	76
13.	Malawi	131	76
14.	Mauritania	85	78
15.	Pakistan	100	78
16.	Uganda	93	78
17.	Congo	67	79

1	2	3	4
18.	Kenya	64	79
19.	Senegal	72	60
20.	Haiti	105	60
21.	Cambodia	185	65
22.	Zimbabwe	52	68
23.	Togo	88	69
24.	Azerbaijan	84	73
25.	Ethiopia	122	77
26.	Gambia	100	84
27.	Djibouti	116	86
28.	Cameroon	85	87
29.	Benin	111	88
30.	Coted' Ivoire	105	90
31.	Botswana	45	90
32.	Mozambique	158	96
33.	Guinea	139	98
34.	Rwanda	106	98
35.	Nigeria	120	99
36.	Lesotho	81	102
37.	Zambia	101	102
38.	Burundi	114	109
39.	Swaziland	78	112
40.	Central African Republic	114	115
41.	Mali	140	119

1	2	3	4
42.	Guinea-Bissau	142	119
43.	Burkina Faso	123	122
44.	Equatorial Guinea	103	124
45.	Chad	120	124
46.	Congo (Democratic Republic of the)	129	129
47.	Niger	191	148
48.	Angola	154	154
49.	Liberia	157	157
50.	Sierra Leone	169	159
51.	Afghanistan	168	165

Source : State of the World's Children, 2008-UNICEF Publication.

[Translation]

#### Dental Diseases Among Children

1128. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR :

SHRI RAMESH DUBE :

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

(a) whether 90 per cent of children in the country are suffering from dental diseases;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has taken any decision to start a scheme for spreading awareness and providing treatment in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith dentist-patient ratio in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. As per the Multicentric Oral Health Survey report 2007 (WHO-GOI Collaborative Programme), above 49% of 12 year olds and 54% of 15 year old children were found to be suffering from Dental caries in seven sites studied. However, the gum diseases were prevalent in 45% of children in both the age groups.

(c) and (d) Health awareness and education campaign to educated the public about oral hygiene and service component from a part of the National Health Programme. The dentist population ratio as per Dental Council of India records as on 31.8.2007 is 1: 2943 for the whole country.

[English]

#### Proposal for Confering More Powers to Local Bodies

1129. SHRI K. SUBBARAYAN : Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to bring in a constitutional amendment to confer more powers to the local bodies; and

(b) if so, the details of the findings 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) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

#### XDR-TB In HIV Positive Cases

1130. SHRI K.C. SINGH "BABA" : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of cases of XDR-TB have been reported from amongst persons suffering from HIV;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the preventive and remedial measures being 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. As per HIV survey amongst new TB patients in 2007, the HIV positivity ranged from 1% to 13% in different parts of the country. The magnitude of extensive Drug Resistant (XDR) pattern of TB amongst the HIV positive is not know. The diagnosis of XDR-TB is laboratory based requiring specialized quality assured laboratories and Revised National TB Control Programme has accredited only Tuberculosis Research Centre (TRC), Chennai for the diagnosis of XDR-TB. A study carried out by this institute on 66 Multi Drug Resistant TB(MDR-TB) patients during the period of 2000 to 2005, only 1 XDR-TB case was detected. The study did not assess HIV status of the patients.

(c) National AIDS Control Programme (NACP) and the Revised National TB Control Programme (RNTCP) are

jointly implementing HIV/TB collaborative activities, which include intensified screening for TB amongst HIV positive individuals and HIV amongst TB patients attending centres providing HIV testing, counseling, care and support and treatment and TB microscopy centers. Such cross referral helps in identifying dual infection and in initiating anti TB treatment and Anti Retroviral Treatment.

#### **Homoeopathic Treatment Facilities**

1131. SHRI S. AJAYA KUMAR : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether homoeopathic treatment facilities are not available in various government hospitals and dispensaries in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith 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) A statement of the Homoeopathic treatment facilities available in the country is enclosed.

#### **Statement**

##### **Statewise Distribution of Hospitals, Beds and Dispensaries in Homoeopathy by Management Status as on 1.4.2007**

S. No.	States/UTs/ Others	Number of Hospitals				Number of Beds				Number of Dispensaries			
		Govt.	Local Body	Others	Total	Govt.	Local Body	Others	Total	Govt.	Local Body	Others	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
1.	Andhra Pradesh	6	*		6	300			300	286			286
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	1		1	2	50		50	100	44			44



1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
3.	Assam#	3			3	105			105	75			75
4.	Bihar#	2		9	11	70		440	510	179			179
5.	Chhattisgarh	1		3	4	30		100	130	52			52
6.	Delhi#	2			2	150			150	59	37	2	98
7.	Goa			1	1			25	25	3			3
8.	Gujarat			16	16			873	873	216			216
9.	Haryana			1	1			50	50	20			20
10.	Himachal Pradesh			1	1			25	25	14			14
11.	Jharkhand#			2	2			82	82	54			54
12.	Karnataka#	10		10	20	135		761	896	42			42
13.	Kerala	31		2	33	970		160	1130	525	20	35	580
14.	Madhya Pradesh	4		18	22	120		1131	1251	146			146
15.	Maharashtra#	1		44	45	30		3075	3105				
16.	Manipur#	1			1	10			10	9			9
17.	Meghalaya	7			7	70			70	10			10
18.	Mizoram#									1			1
19.	Nagaland#	1			1	10			10	7			7
20.	Orissa	4		2	6	125		60	185	560	26	17	603
21.	Punjab#	1		4	5	10		230	240	107			107
22.	Rajasthan	2		7	9	10		222	232	147		1	148
23.	Sikkim									1			1
24.	Tamil Nadu	1		8	9	50		410	460	46			46

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
25. Tripura		1			1	10			10	93			93
26. Uttar Pradesh	7			1	8	300		50	350	1482			1482
27. Uttaranchal#				1	1			50	50	60			60
28. West Bengal	4			8	12	200		430	630	545	675		1220
29. Andaman and Nicobar Islands	1				1	10			10	8			8
30. Chandigarh				1	1			25	25	5			5
31. Dadra and Nagar Haveli										1			1
32. Lakshadweep#										1			1
33. Pondicherry										7			7
34. CGHS										34			34
35. CCRH	6				6	85			85	40			40
36. Ministry of Railways										129			129
37. Ministry of Labour										29			29
38. Ministry of Coal													
Total		97	0	140	237	2850	0	8249	11099	5037	758	55	5850

Note—

#Information for the current year has not been received hence repeated for the latest available year.

Source : State Governments and concerned agencies.

**Vector Control Research Centre**

1132.DR. K.S. MANOJ : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Council of Medical Research proposal to establish a Vector Control Research Centre (VCRC) at Alappuzha, Kerala; 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) Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has a Vector Control Research Centre at Pondicherry. It has no plan to set up another centre in Allapuzha, Kerala. However, Government of India have approved the establishment of ICMR's National Institute of Virology (NIV) Field Station at Alappuzha, Kerala for 'Arboviruses and Enteroviruses Associated with Fevers/ Encephalitis'. NIV, Pune is in the process of procuring land from the State Government for construction of the Field Station. This Field Station will be actively involved in Vector surveillance studies and Insecticide susceptibility studies for these vectors. Based on the prevalent factors, their indices and insecticidal resistance, the recommended control measures will be communicated to the State Health authorities.

#### Implementation of Projects by India in the Neighbouring Countries

1133. SHRI PRABODH PANDA : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether some mega projects are being executed by India in the neighbouring countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether these projects are suffering from cost and time over runs;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps taken or likely to be taken by the Government to expedite the progress?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI ANAND SHARMA) : (a) Yes.

(b) The details are enclosed as statement.

(c) and (d) Some projects have suffered time and cost overruns due to factors like increase in the scope of work, rise in prices of commodities and raw materials, prevailing political situation and deteriorating security environment and harsh climatic conditions in recipient countries and time-lag between preparation of initial cost estimates and commencement of work after obtaining necessary clearances.

(e) Government have taken necessary steps through bilateral mechanisms to monitor these ongoing projects for their expeditious implementation.

#### Statement

S.	Country	Details of Projects
1	2	3
1.	Afghanistan	<p>1. <b>Food Assistance Scheme:</b> India has committed food assistance of 1 million tonnes of wheat to Afghanistan, a part of which is being converted into high protein biscuits for their School Feeding Programme for supply through World Food Programme.</p> <p>2. <b>Transmission Line Project :</b> India is constructing a 220 KV Double Circuit Transmission Line from Pul-e-Khumri to Kabul and a 220/110/20 KV sub-station at Kabul. Power Grid Corporation of India is executing the project.</p> <p>3. <b>Zaranj-Delaram Road Project :</b> India is executing the 218 km. road project in south-western Afghanistan, which will provide Afghanistan an outlet to Iran and also improve internal connectivity</p>

1	2	3
		in Afghanistan. Border Roads Organisation is executing the project.
		4. <b>Salma Dam Power Project :</b> India is reconstructing the Salma Dam Power Project in Herat Province. It will provide 42 MW of power besides irrigation facilities to Herat Province. Water and Power Consultancy Services (India) Ltd. is executing the project.
2.	Bhutan	1. <b>Tintibi-Trongsa-Bumthang Transmission Line:</b> India is setting up the 37-km 132 KV Tintibi-Yurmoo transmission line, 37 km 66 KV Yurmoo-Bumthang transmission line, 33 KV sub-stations at Yurmoo, Trongsa and Bumthang alongwith staff quarters and 33 KV tower line from Yurmoo to Trongsa in Bhutan.
		2. <b>Expansion of Jigme Dorjee Wangchuk National Referral Hospital :</b> The project envisages setting up of a National Referral Hospital and to upgrade existing bed strength to 350.
		3. <b>Pasakha-Manitar Road :</b> The 34-km road project designed as a diversion to avoid the unstable area at Sorchen on Thimphu-Phuentsholing Highway has been completed and handed over to Royal Government of Bhutan in February 2008.

1	2	3
3.	Nepal	<b>Emergency and Trauma Care Centre :</b> India is setting up a 200-bed Emergency and Trauma Care Centre as part of Bir Hospital expansion project in Kathmandu.
4.	Maldives	<b>India-Maldives Faculty of Hospitality and Tourism Studies :</b> India is setting up the India-Maldives Faculty of Hospitality and Tourism Studies, a hotel management training institute in the Maldives. The project will comprise of classrooms, laboratories, faculty apartments, applied training centre besides hostel for students.
5.	Myanmar	<b>Tamu-Kalewa-Kalemio Road Project :</b> Border Roads Organisation has been entrusted with the maintenance, resurfacing, repairs of bridges and monsoon damages relating to the Tamu-Kalewa-Kalemio Road Project.

#### Attacks on Indians in Kenya

1134. SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL :

SHRI SUGRIB SINGH :

SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN :

SHRI MILIND DEORA :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of Indians have been attacked in violence in Kenya;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the loss of life and property;

(c) whether the Government has taken up the issue with the Government of Kenya; and

(d) if so, the details of the steps taken to ensure the safety of lives and property of the Indians living there?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI ANAND SHARMA) : (a) and (b) In the violence and looting that followed the announcement of election results in Kenya on 30 December 2007, shops and establishments of some members of the Indian community were affected. There was, however, no loss of life of any member of the Indian community.

(c) and (d) All appropriate steps were taken by the Government to ensure the safety and security of Indians in Kenya, including issue of emergency travel documents and visas. Local Indian banks and insurance agencies were asked to provide all possible assistance for the rehabilitation of the affected Indians. Indian Missions in the region were instructed to provide humanitarian assistance where necessary.

[Translation]

#### Time-limit for Issue of Passport

1135. SHRI KASHIRAM RANA :

DR. DHIRENDRA AGARWAL :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any official has been punished for non-issuance of passport within the prescribed time-limit;

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

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED) : (a) to (c) There are several reasons for non-issuance of passports within the time target. These include: Delays in receipt of Police Verification Reports (PVRs) and adverse/incomplete PVRs; incomplete information and/or documents furnished by the applicants. Rapidly growing workload of the Passport Offices is also contributing to pendencies. The Government take suitable disciplinary action in case delay in issuance of passports is found to be the result of negligence of duty on the part of any employee.

[English]

#### Urban Health Care for Poor People

1136. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state the concrete measures taken by the Government to improve the Urban Health Care facilities for the poor people residing in the cities in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : As per census, 28.6 crores people are living in urban areas, out of which 3.26 crores lived in slum areas of the cities/towns having population of 1 lakh and above, which is expected to reach 5.01 crores by 2007-08, thus putting greater strain on urban health infrastructure which already had serious deficiencies.

During the 11th Five Year Plan period Government of India proposes to launch National Urban Health Mission (NUHM) to address primarily health needs of urban slum population in cities/towns having a population of one lakh people and above alongwith capital cities of all the states and UTs.

#### Seizure of Fishing Boats by PMSA

1137. SHRI HARIN PATHAK : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is contemplating to provide financial assistance such as insurance or loan for the replacement of the boats of Indian fishermen seized/captured by Pakistan Marine Security Agency (PMSA); and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) and (b) Yes. The Finance Ministry is to work with the Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA) and the Department of Animal Husbandry to develop a suitable soft loan package for the replacement of fishing boats.

#### MoU with Malaysia

1138. SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR :

SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA :

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

(a) whether the Malaysian Government has imposed certain specific conditions and restrictions on Indians seeking employment in Malaysia;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto;

(d) whether any MoU has been signed between the two countries for safeguarding the interest of the Indian workers working in Malaysia;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the steps taken by the Government to expedite the signing of MoU between the two countries?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI) : (a) to (c) No. Sir. As per the report received from the High Commission of India in Kuala Lumpur the Minister of Home Affairs of Malaysia has categorically denied any move to limit the intake of workers from India. However, it has been informed that all foreign

priests have to now go through more stringent checks. The Malaysian Minister of Home Affairs has denied that Indian temple priests were being prevented from coming to Malaysia.

(d) No MoU has yet been signed between the two countries.

(e) and (f) Steps are afoot for signing a bilateral Memorandum of Understanding on Labour and Manpower Development between Malaysia and India, which will provide for an institutional framework to facilitate employment, protection and welfare of Indian workers in Malaysia. Negotiations have been completed and the MoU has been finalized. The MoU will be signed after completing the internal procedure by both countries.

12.00 hrs.

[English]

#### PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : I beg to lay on the Table:—

(1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Inland Waterways Authority of India, Noida, for the year 2006-2007, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) Copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Inland Waterways Authority of India, Noida, for the year 2006-2007.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 8155/2008]

(2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

(3) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:-

- (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Central Inland Water Transport Corporation Limited, Kolkata, for the year 2006-2007.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Central Inland Water Transport Corporation Limited, Kolkata, for the year 2006-2007, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

(4) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (3) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 8156/2008]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED) : I beg to lay on the Table:-

- (1) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Research and Information System for Developing Countries, New Delhi, for the year 2006-2007.
- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 8157/2008]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA) : 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. 1921(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 13th November, 2007 regarding acquisition of land for building, maintenance and operation of National Highway No. 2 (Delhi-Agra Section) in the National Capital Territory of Delhi.

(ii) S.O. 1791(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 22nd October, 2007 regarding acquisition of land for building, maintenance and operation of National Highway No. NE-II (Eastern Peripheral Expressway) (Baghpat Section) in the State of Uttar Pradesh.

(iii) S.O. 2087(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 4th December, 2007 regarding acquisition of land for building, maintenance and operation of National Highway No. NE-II (Eastern Peripheral Expressway of Delhi) (Gautam Budh Nagar Section) in the State of Uttar Pradesh.

(iv) S.O. 2182(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 26th December, 2007 authorizing Additional District Magistrate, Sant Ravidas Nagar Bhadohi, Uttar Pradesh as the competent authority to acquire land for building, maintenance, management and operation of Toll Plaza on National Highway No. 2 in the State of Uttar Pradesh.

(v) S.O. 2146(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 18th December, 2007, regarding acquisition of land for building (widening/four-laning etc.), maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 21 (Kuruli-Kiratpur Section) in the State of Punjab.

[Shri K.H. Muniyappa]

- (vi) S.O. 116(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 21st January, 2008 regarding acquisition of land for building (widening/four-laning, bypasses etc.), maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 34 (Dalkola Bypass Section) in the State of West Bengal.
- (vii) S.O. 2145(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 18th December, 2007 regarding acquisition of land for building (widening/four-laning etc.), maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 200 (Sukinda-Bhuban Section) in the State of Orissa.
- (viii) S.O. 2147(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 18th December, 2007 authorizing officers mentioned therein to acquire land for building (widening/four-laning etc.), maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 6 (Sambalpur-Bargarh-Orissa/Chhattisgarh Border) in the State of Orissa.
- (ix) S.O. 1852(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 30th October, 2007 regarding acquisition of land for building maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. NE-II (Eastern Peripheral Expressway) (Faridabad Section) in the State of Haryana.
- (x) S.O. 2097(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 5th December, 2007 regarding acquisition of land for building (widening/four-laning etc.), maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 60 (Balasore-Laxmannath Section) in the State of Orissa.
- (xi) S.O. 2148(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 18th December, 2007 authorizing the Additional District Magistrate, Land Acquisition, Ghaziabad to acquire land for building (widening/four-laning etc.), maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 91 (Ghaziabad-Aligarh Section) in the State of Uttar Pradesh.
- (xii) S.O. 2149(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 18th December, 2007 authorizing the Additional District Magistrate, Land Acquisition, Gautam Budh Nagar to acquire land for building (widening/four-laning etc.), maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 91 (Ghaziabad-Aligarh Section) in the State of Uttar Pradesh.
- (xiii) S.O. 2150(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 18th December, 2007 authorizing the Additional District Magistrate, Land Acquisition, Bulandsahar to acquire land for building (widening/four-laning etc.), maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 91 (Ghaziabad-Aligarh Section) in the State of Uttar Pradesh.
- (xiv) S.O. 2151(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 18th December, 2007 authorizing the Additional District Magistrate, Land Acquisition, Aligarh to acquire land for building (widening/four-laning etc.), maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 91 (Ghaziabad-Aligarh Section) in the State of Uttar Pradesh.
- (xv) S.O. 2158(E) published in Gazette of



- India dated the 18th December, 2007 containing corrigendum (in Hindi version only) to the Notification No. S.O. 1971(E) dated 15th November, 2006.
- (xvi) S.O. 2159(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 18th December, 2007 containing corrigendum (In Hindi version only) to the Notification No. S.O. 2015(E) dated 24th November, 2006.
- (xvii) S.O. 2115(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 28th December, 2007 regarding acquisition of land for building (widening), maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 31 in the State of West Bengal.
- (xviii) S.O. 2090(E) and S.O. 2091(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 5th December, 2007 regarding acquisition of land for building (widening/four-laning etc.), maintenance, management and operation of different stretches of National Highway No. 3 (Indore-Khalghat Section) in the State of Madhya Pradesh.
- (xix) S.O. 2199(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 28th December, 2007 regarding acquisition of land for building (Widening/four-laning etc.), maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 75 (Gwallior-Jhansi section) in the State of Madhya Pradesh.
- (xx) S.O. 2165(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 19th December, 2007 regarding acquisition of land for building (four-laning), maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 3 (Pimpalgaon-Dhule section) in the State of Maharashtra.
- (xxi) S.O. 2126(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 (Satara-Pune section) in the State of Maharashtra.
- (xxii) S.O. 2135(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 17th December, 2007 regarding acquisition of land for building (four-laning), maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 3 (Vadpe-Gonde section) in the State of Maharashtra.
- (xxiii) S.O. 2166(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 19th December, 2007 regarding acquisition of land for building (four-laning), maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 3 (Pimpalgaon-Dhule section) in the State of Maharashtra.
- (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 8158/2008]
- THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA) : I beg to lay on the Table:-
- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Central Pollution Control Board, Delhi, for the year 2006-2007, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Central Pollution Control Board, Delhi, for the year 2006-2007.

[Shri Namo Narain Meena]

- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 8159/2008]

[English]

12.02 hrs.

**ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER—Contd.**

**(ii) Resignation by Members**

MR. SPEAKER : I have to inform the House that I have received letters dated 3rd of March, 2008 from Sarvashri K. Chandrashekar Rao, Madhusudan Takkala Reddy, Ravinder Naik Dharavath and B. Vinod Kumar elected Members from Karimnagar, Adilabad, Warangal and Hanamkonda (Parliamentary Constituencies, respectively, of Andhra Pradesh resigning from the membership of Lok Sabha with immediate effect.

I have accepted their resignations with effect from 3rd of March, 2008.

12.02¼ hrs.

**ESTIMATES COMMITTEE**

**16th Report**

[English]

SHRI C. KUPPUSAMI (Madras North) : I beg to present the Sixteenth Report (Hindi and English versions) of Estimates Committee on the 'Ministry of Culture—Maintenance of Monuments by Archaeological Survey of India'.

12.02½ hrs.

**COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC UNDERTAKINGS**

**25th Report**

[English]

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (Hooghly) : I beg to present the Twenty-fifth Report (Hindi and English Versions) of the Committee on Public Undertakings on Chapter III of C&AG's Report (Commercial) No. 9 (Performance Audit) of 2007 regarding review of performance of Engine Division of Bharat Earth Movers Limited.

12.03 hrs.

**COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS**

**34th Report**

[English]

SHRI CHARNJIT SINGH ATWAL (Phillaur) : I beg to present the Thirty-fourth Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions.

12.03¼ hrs.

**JOINT COMMITTEE ON OFFICES OF PROFIT**

**5th Report**

[English]

SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH (Farrukhabad) : I beg to present the Fifth Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Joint Committee on Offices of profit.

12.03½ hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORT,  
TOURISM AND CULTURE

## 131st Report

*[Translation]*

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY : I beg to lay on the Table a copy of One hundred and Thirty-first Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Transport, Tourism and Culture on the 'Closure of Bangalore and Hyderabad Airports and matters related thereto'.

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER : Your Hindi is as good or as bad as mine!

12.04 hrs.

## BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

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, with your permission, I rise to announce that Government Business during the week commencing Monday, the 10th of March, 2008, will consist of:-

1. Consideration of any item of Government Business carried over from today's Order Paper.
2. Discussion and Voting on:-
  - (a) Demands for Grants on Account (Railways) for 2008-09
  - (b) Supplementary Demands for Grants (Railways) for 2007-08
  - (c) Demands for Excess Grants (Railways) for 2005-06.

MR. SPEAKER : You can lay it on the Table of the House.

SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE : Yes, Sir. I will lay it.

3. \*Introduction, consideration and passing of the Appropriation Bills relating to various Demands for Grants (Railways).
4. Discussion on the Statutory Resolution seeking disapproval of the Railways (Amendment) Ordinance, 2008 and consideration and passing of the Railways (Amendment) Bill, 2008.
5. General Discussion on Karnataka Budget for 2008-09.
6. Discussion and Voting on:—
  - (a) Demands for Grants on Account (Karnataka) for 2008-09
  - (b) Supplementary Demands for Grants (Karnataka) for 2007-08.
7. Introduction, consideration and passing of the Appropriation Bills, relating to Karnataka Demands for Grants.
8. Discussion on the Statutory Resolution seeking disapproval of the Sugar Development Fund (Amendment) Ordinance, 2008 and consideration and passing of the Sugar Development Fund (Amendment) Bill, 2008.
9. General Discussion on General Budget for 2008-09.
10. Discussion and Voting on:—
  - (a) Demands for Grants on Account (General) for 2008-09
  - (b) Supplementary Demands for Grants (General) for 2007-08.

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\*...\* Laid on the Table.

[Shri B.K. Handique]

11. Introduction consideration and passing of the Appropriation Bills relating to various Demands for Grants (General).

DR. K.S. MANOJ (Alleppey) : The following items may be included in the next week's agenda:—

1. Need to establish a new Flag Station at Medical College Hospital at Vandanam, Alappuzha District, Kerala State along Alappuzha-Kayamkulam Railway line.
2. Need to provide funds for the construction of Two Rail Over Bridges along Alappuzha Bye-Pass of NH-47.

[Translation]

SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA' (Almora) : Sir, the following items may be included in the next week's List of Business:—

1. Need to declare the whole Himalayan region of the country, particularly the hilly region of Uttarakhand, as most backward region on the basis of its difficult geographical location and economic backwardness.
2. Need to grant exemption from Forest Conservation Act, 1980 for the public works like construction of roads, drinking water, irrigation, canals, electrification, schools and hospital buildings in the whole hilly region of the country as the provisions thereof do not allow such works.

SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR (Chandrapur) : Sir, the following items may be included in the next week's List of Business:—

1. Need to take immediate effective steps to free all the farmers who are still in the grip of the

moneylenders after the announcement of loan waiver for the marginal and small farmers by the Government.

2. No action has been taken till date to give lease rights to the forest dwellers even after passing of the Recognition of Forest Land Rights Act by the Central Government. The Government should, therefore, take appropriate action to give lease rights.

[English]

SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS (Paighat) : The following items may be included in the next week's agenda:—

- (1) The foodgrains quota to Kerala State has been drastically reduced. Eighty two per cent of the quota has been reduced. This situation has created serious foodgrains shortage and price hike in the State. So, this quota may be restored at the earliest.
- (2) A survey report has been made by Indian Railway to construct a new Railway line from Kollengode to Trichur in Paighat Division of Southern Railway. But the construction is yet to be started. Sufficient funds may be included in the Budget for its construction.

[Translation]

DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA (Ujjain) : Sir, the following two items may be included in the next week's List of Business:—

1. Common people in the country are reeling under rising prices. The government should take effective measures to check the rising prices of foodgrains, oil, sugar, consumable goods and cooking gas and also address the scarcity of these items.
2. The government should provide enough grants

to the states for providing clean drinking water in the rural as well as urban areas and those facing shortage of water.

[English]

DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA (Rajkot) : The following items may be included in the next week's agenda:—

- (1) Discussion regarding policy for secondary and higher education alongwith technical faculties looking into the urgent need for job-oriented entrepreneurship development for the youth.
- (2) Discussion regarding water harvesting, water conservation and management throughout the country considering urgent fall in the ground-water level and shortage of water for irrigation and other purposes.

[Translation]

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA (Jaipur) : Sir, the following items may be included in the next week's List of Business:—

1. Need to provide financial package for laying new water pipe line in place of the old water pipe line in Jaipur.
2. Need to provide financial package for systematic rehabilitation of slums in Jaipur.

MR. SPEAKER : You want whole lot of funds for Jaipur

[English]

SHRIMATI KIRAN MAHESHWARI – Not present.

DR. KARAN SINGH YADAV (Alwar) : The following items may be included in the next week's agenda:—

- (1) Need to expedite the legal and other administrative process to implement reservation of OBC

students in AIIMS, IIMs and other Central institutions and universities.

- (2) To give reservation to OBC students in CPMT (Central Premedical Test).

[Translation]

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR (Chail) : Sir, the following items may be included in the next week's List of Business:—

1. A comprehensive inquiry should be conducted regarding National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme in the country because the funds allocated there-under have been misutilised on a large scale. There are also complaints regarding not giving job cards to the people. They have not been given 100 days employment.
2. The LIC officers and employees are being discriminated against in the country. They are not getting justice due to anomalies in promotion, salary and honorarium.

12.09 hrs.

MOTION RE: FORTY-SIXTH REPORT OF  
BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

[English]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND  
MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING  
(SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI) : I beg to move:

"That this House do agree with the Forty-sixth Report of the Business Advisory Committee presented to the House on the 4th March, 2008."

MR. SPEAKER : The question is:-

[English]

"That this House do agree with the Forty-sixth Report of the Business Advisory Committee presented to the House on the 4th March, 2008."

You please read English correctly.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 8160/2008]

*The motion was adopted*

12.10½ hrs.

12.10 hrs.

DEMANDS FOR SUPPLEMENTARY GRANTS  
(RAILWAYS) (2007-08)

[English]

[English]

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI LALU PRASAD) :  
Sir, I beg to present a statement (Hindi and English versions) showing the Supplementary Demands for Grants in respect of the Budget (Railways) for 2007-08.

[Translation]

[Translation]

Mr. Speaker, Sir isn't my English strong?

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : It sounds almost like English.

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY (Puri) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is something in the List of Business and the hon. Minister is presenting something else. He is presenting the demands which are not there in the List of Business. The Demands for Excess Grants is for 2005-06, but he is presenting them for 2007-08.

MR. SPEAKER : Well, give him that liberty. He has gone a year in advance.

[Translation]

SHRI LALU PRASAD : These are supplementary demands.

DEMANDS FOR EXCESS GRANTS (RAILWAYS),  
(2005-06)

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI LALU PRASAD) :  
Sir, I beg to present a statement (Hindi and English versions) showing the Demands for Excess Grants in respect of the Budget (Railways) for 2005-06.

[Translation]

Now is it correct or not?

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : No translation is needed. It can sound both Hindi and English.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 8161/2008]

12.12 hrs.

MOTION OF THANKS ON THE PRESIDENT'S  
ADDRESS – *Contd.*

[English]

THE PRIME MINISTER (DR. MANMOHAN SINGH) :  
Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to join all the Members of this august House in conveying our sincere thanks to the hon. President of India for her inspiring Address.

Sir, in the 60th year of our Republic it is a matter of

pride for us to have as the first lady of the State a very distinguished woman and it was our privilege to listen to her inspiring Address.

Sir, in the 60th year of our Republic it is a matter of pride for us to have as the first lady of the State a very distinguished woman and it was our privilege to listen to her inspiring Address.

Sir, it is also a matter of satisfaction that over the last three days we have had a fascinating debate on the issues covered in the Rashtrapatiiji's Address. While some of the hon. Members have expressed their satisfaction at the performance of the Government on many fronts, there have been others who have found fault with us on some counts. This, for me, is the essence of democracy. Democracy is about debate, about argument and constructive criticism. Democracy is about acknowledging the existence of multiple view points, about tolerance for dissent and diversity, about respecting the opinions held by others without necessarily agreeing with them. The debate we have witnessed is in the best traditions of parliamentary democracy. This is what makes our nation unique and makes me hopeful for our collective future. I sincerely hope that we will have more of such debates and less disruption which has become a sad feature of our parliamentary democracy.

Sir, as I listened to the various Members of this House, I drew considerable satisfaction from the fact that the vision of inclusive growth spelt out in the hon. President's Address is something about which there is unanimity on both sides of the House. That we need strong resurgent growth to get rid of chronic poverty, ignorance and disease which still characterize millions of our people in our country, is universally accepted. The fact that our growth rate now takes us to the ranks of some of the fastest growing economies in the world is a matter of pride for all Indians.

Sir, growth is a necessary condition for inclusive growth. But we have always recognised that growth by itself need not get rid of vast poverty unless there are strategies

in place to empower the most disadvantaged sections of our community. The President's Address spells out of that vision which has guided the work of our Government in the last four years.

What is that vision? First of all, as I said, we need strong, resurgent growth. We need growth to create more jobs, we need strong resurgent growth to get more revenues for public finances so that we can spend more money on social inclusion, on education, on health, rural development, on improving rural and urban infrastructure. The fact that the last four years have witnessed a record growth rate, therefore, is a matter of satisfaction.

But our Government, and our Common Minimum Programme, recognise that growth by itself does not necessarily ensure that the fruits of growth will be equitably distributed and therefore, it is the duty of any popular Government to address that question, to empower the poorest sections of our society so that they can become active participants in the processes of growth and that is what we have done.

First of all, we are all agreed on both sides of the House that we need strong growth in agriculture. We must also ensure that our farmers, particularly, small and marginal farmers, do get good remunerative prices, their productivity increases, that they do become partners in processes of agricultural growth.

Second, it is also agreed by both sides of the House that in a country where 90 per cent of our people are in the unorganised sector, where institutions of social security are inadequate, we must maintain a reasonable control on prices because inflation is a tax which hurts the poor much more than the rich. So, that is agreed on both sides.

The third thing, which I believe, also is generally agreed on both sides of the House is that for inclusion, we need that all our children should have the advantage or the benefit of equality of opportunity. It cannot be done overnight, but education is the biggest single means of

[Dr. Manmohan Singh]

empowering our children to lead a life of dignity and to become partners in the processes of growth and therefore, we need strong commitment to the expansion of education. Not only primary education and elementary education, but also a strong commitment to the expansion of tertiary education because we live in knowledge intensive world economy and unless India's tertiary education sector grows in accordance with the need for a skilled manpower, we will be left behind. Sir, that is what the President's Address spells out, what we are planning or what we have done in the field of education.

Hon. Health Minister, when he was replying to the questions a few minutes ago, listed the achievements of this Government in taking of health care to the poorer sections of our society. I am not saying that we have succeeded in reducing infant mortality rates or maternal mortality rates to what they should be. This is not a short-term process. It will take time.

But the number of doctors, the number of nurses, the number of specialists that are now in place, I think, is much larger than what it was four years ago. So, I am convinced that if we follow this process, we will see a distinct improvement in the health status of our children, in the health status of our women. That is as it should be.

We also know that in our agriculture there are a large number of landless workers who are very vulnerable. Also, although agriculture offers employment for utilisation of labour, there are times of the year when no work is available in agricultural operation. Therefore, we need some mechanism to supplement employment opportunities, to soften the harsh edges of extreme poverty in rural areas. That is the case for having a nation-wide employment guarantee for hundred days, that is now in place. I am not saying that this one Act can abolish poverty, but if implemented honestly, if implemented efficiently, it can soften the harsh edges of extreme poverty. The Central Government now has raised the minimum wage rate to

above Rs. 80 per day. If work for hundred days is available, each family, even if it has only one earning member, would have an entitlement of Rs. 8000 per annum. I say that this will help to ameliorate the conditions of those who belong to the lowest rung of social and economic strata.

Also, we all agree that if the fruits of development have to accrue to all sections of population, it is essential to recognise that the Dalits, the Scheduled Tribes and minorities have not benefited adequately from the processes of growth. Therefore, we have put strategies in place. Some were there earlier. We have expanded those. In expanding health care, in expanding education, we are paying particular attention to the needs of areas which have a high concentration of Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribe and minority populations.

The hon. Leader of the Opposition talked about this as the appeasement of minorities. I do not plead guilty to that charge. It is a process of empowerment of all disadvantaged sections of our population. I take pride in saying that our Government has the courage to recognise that our minorities have not benefited appropriately from the processes of growth, and therefore the time has come to pay a little more attention to their needs of education, of health. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : He is not yielding. If you have anything to say, if you agree, at the end I can allow.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Let us at least show respect to the Prime Minister of the country! As the hon. Leader of the Opposition is entitled to full respect, he is also entitled to full respect.

DR. MANMOHAN SINGH : Therefore, what we are trying to do is to reduce the inequalities of opportunity, the gap that exists between regions, the gap that exists between classes, the gap that exists between urban and rural areas. This is a part of the process of empowerment. It is the essence of the process of inclusive growth. When



I listened to the debate, there may have been some problems with regard to the treatment of minorities. But, by and large, all sections of this House agreed that inclusive growth is the essence of a participatory democracy; it is an integral part of the value system that is embedded in our magnificent Constitution. And the fact that our Government has advanced the cause of inclusive growth, I think is some matter of satisfaction for all of us.

Sir, I would be the last one to say that everything is rosy in the Garden of Eden. We have increased allocations for infrastructure, for rural infrastructure under Bharat Nirman. We have increased massively the allocations for education, for rural health, for urban infrastructure under the Jawaharlal Nehru Urban Renewal Mission. But one has to recognize that the Central Government can only increase allocations. It can give guidelines to States. But India lives in States and, therefore, it is the joint responsibility of the Centre and the States to work in all sincerity to implement the agenda of this inclusive growth that we all feel our nation should be and is committed to implementing. Therefore, today, we have a situation where there are various Parties represented in this House, they are ruling in the States. So, it can be easily said that without more active collaboration and cooperation between political parties across the spectrum of this House, I think, we cannot succeed in carrying forward the process of inclusive growth that this country needs. Therefore, I appeal to all segments of this House to recognize the great opportunities that India has. I have often said that shortage of resources is not today a problem for our country. We have shown in these last four years how tax revenues can become buoyant and I compliment my colleague, the hon. Finance Minister for that. We have, therefore, been able to spend lot more money on education, on health and on rural development. We have also shown that where there is a will we can improve the functioning of the public sector system and I compliment my colleague, the Railway Minister for the magnificent way he has managed the Railway finances.

Sir, I, therefore, appeal to all segments of this House

that at least when it comes to issues of development, we should forget our Party differences. Today, it is possible to abolish poverty in the life of a single generation. If our economy grows at the rate of nine to ten per cent per annum, then we would be doubling our national income in a period of about seven to eight years. If along with growth promotion strategies, we have in place programmes for improving the educational status of our children and improving the health status of our women, then there will be a definite positive impact on poverty. This is a historic opportunity and we must make full use of it to realize this vast latent potential of our great country.

Sir, I started by saying that all of us have agreed that the interest of our farmers and the state of our agriculture is a prime determinant of whether we are moving towards inclusive growth or not. I will be the last one to say that everything is rosy with the state of agriculture. When we came to power in 2004, agriculture was in a state of distress. We had to restructure agricultural debt both in 2004 and once again for the distressed districts in 2006. Why has this happened? If you look at the statistics from 1980-81 to the year 1996-97, Indian agriculture grew at the rate of about 3.5 per cent per annum.

After 1996-97 and till the year 2003-04, a large number of years were NDA years, the rate of growth of agriculture fell to 2.3 per cent...*(Interruptions)* There was a fall during the NDA period in the share of national income, which went into investment in agriculture.

Today, our colleagues from that side talk about the interest of farmers. I look at what were they doing in providing more incentives to our farmers. During the Congress regime from 1991 to 1996, the terms of trade increased year after year in favour of agriculture. During the NDA regime, the terms of trade and the prices to farmers deteriorated. What was the concern for the farmers? You look at procurement prices. The NDA, in five years, increased procurement prices by a pittance of Rs. 50 in four or five years. Look at the record of our Government.

[Dr. Manmohan Singh]

Therefore, I thought, I would mention some of these data, because Shri Anant Geete referred to this problem. In 1999-2000, the Minimum Support Price for wheat was Rs. 580 per quintal. The previous Government, that is, the NDA Government, raised it by Rs. 50 in years at a small incremental rate of Rs. 10, which over a period of five years was 8.6 per cent only. Compare this with the last four years of our Government. We have raised the Minimum Support Price for wheat by Rs. 370, a rise of 56 per cent in four years. I expect Mr. Dhindsa, at least, to applaud ...*(Interruptions)*

In the case of paddy too, we have raised the Minimum Support Price by 33 per cent in four years as compared to a small pittance of 12 per cent in five years by the NDA Government.

Gross Capital Formation in agriculture as a proportion of GDP has improved under our regime from a low of 10.2 per cent in the year 2003-04 to 12.5 per cent in the year 2006-07. After many years, agricultural growth touched almost four per cent last year. Those who neglected the welfare of farmers, depressed the Minimum Support Prices and the term for trade for agriculture, those who exported our food surpluses away at a loss, have no right to be advocating welfare of the farmers.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, our Government is convinced that India cannot prosper if our farmers do not prosper. I recall from my childhood the words of Oliver Goldsmith:

"Ill fare the land, to hastening ills a prey,  
Where wealth accumulates, and men decay;  
Princes and Lords may flourish, or may fade;  
A breath can make them, as a breath has made;  
But a bold peasantry, their country's pride,  
When once destroyed can never be supplied."

Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is the distress of this bold peasantry that brought the UPA to office when the NDA was talking about 'Shining India'. This distress is the legacy of the NDA

rule, a rule during which, policies were anti-farmer, anti-agriculture...*(Interruptions)* Low Minimum Support Prices impoverished our farmers. Mr. Dhindsa should know it...*(Interruptions)*. They needed a fresh flow of credit. The tripling of agricultural credit flow by us did not address the problems of past debt.

The debt relief, we have now announced is our attempt to finally remove the burden of the NDA period from our farmers' shoulders. We are determined to end agricultural distress. We will not stop till we have wiped the tears from the eyes of all farmers...*(Interruptions)*

That, Mr. Speaker, Sir, is why our Government took the historic initiative to waive farmers' loans on an unprecedented scale. A debt relief of this magnitude has never been conceived or attempted before. It is an income transfer on an unparalleled scale. If bankruptcy is a permissible form of business outcome in industry, what is irrational about this waiver? It will allow a fresh flow of institutional credit to farmers. It will clean up banker's balance-sheets; it will stimulate economic activity in rural India and I do not make any apology...*(Interruptions)*

The Finance Minister...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : This is not right, Kindly listen to him.

...*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi) : Where are those 60,000 crore rupees?...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER : This is not fair. Let him reply. He is entitled to reply.

...*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

MR. SPEAKER : Please sit down. You may speak when there is a discussion on the budget.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Please show respect to the Prime Minister.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : You may raise it in the discussion on the Budget. That was done in the Budget, you may raise it in the discussion on the Budget.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : You should raise it in a proper manner so that there may be a reply.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Do not record anything except the hon. Prime Ministers. Unless he yields, nobody would be allowed to speak.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Please sit down. Nothing is being recorded.

...(Interruptions)\*

MR. SPEAKER : What is this going on? You are disturbing your Prime Minister.

...(Interruptions)

DR. MANMOHAN SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Finance Minister has mentioned that the total cost of the debt relief will be around Rs. 60,000 crore. This covers

\*Not recorded.

all Scheduled, Commercial Banks, Regional Rural Banks and Cooperative Banks. It covers both production and direct investment credit. It is not just about non-performing assets. It is also about overdues. And, it will benefit about four crore farmers. The debt relief will be a simple exercise, which we will complete by June. It will not be a long drawn out affair.

I agree that there will be farmers outside the pale of institutional credit, who do not benefit from this waiver. For them, we have operated since 2004, a programme of financial inclusion so that each and every farmer has a bank account and is able to access institutional credit.

Hon. Members would remember that in the year 2004, nearly a month after we come to office, we adopted a scheme under which, those farmers who are indebted to moneylenders can swap their debt by going to the Commercial Banks and substitute the debt of moneylenders by institutional credit. That scheme still operates. And, many farmers in Andhra Pradesh have benefited by it.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Ananth Kumar, this is very unfortunate. I will not allow.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Do not record anything. Nothing will be recorded.

...(Interruptions)\*

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI) : Do not do like that.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : No, this is not fair. You cannot have a running commentary now. I am sorry. Please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

\*Not recorded.

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : If it is misleading, give a privilege notice. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I request that this is not fair. You cannot go on asking him questions. Please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Do not do that. He has not conceded. He has not yielded.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing is being recorded. Do not record anything.

...(Interruptions)\*

MR. SPEAKER : What is this going on? You cannot go on asking running questions here. No, I will not allow this.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Athawale, please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Do not record it.

...(Interruptions)\*

MR. SPEAKER : I request the hon. Members on all sides to cooperate.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Why are you talking? You cannot ask questions like that. You are here for long. You cannot ask questions.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Then, the Prime Minister will end his speech. What is this going on? It is very unfair, Shri Anath Kumar. I can only say this.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : What is this going on? Please take your seats.

...(Interruptions)

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA : First make their shouting brigade sit down. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : First, you keep quiet.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : You sit down please.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Do not stand there.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Why are you shouting?

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : This is the way! I am very sorry. It is a very sad moment.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR (Bangalore South) : We are only saying that the hon. Prime Minister is misleading the House. ...*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

MR. SPEAKER : Please take you seats.

...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Shri Ananth Kumar, you see the Rule Book. If he is misleading, give the privilege notice. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : He will not go on answering your questions. You have no right to ask, not in this manner. I do not allow.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : No, I do not allow. Then, you go on shouting.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR : Sir, we are not shouting. ...*(Interruptions)* What is this?...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : This is very unfortunate.

...*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

MR. SPEAKER : You also sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Athawale, will you sit down?

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : I will ask you to go out.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Very well. Then the Prime Minister may conclude his speech and go away.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : This is not the way to function. You are a senior Member. You are behaving in this way.

...*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Babbar, please sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER : It is a matter of great sorrow.

Mr. Prime Minister, please continue.

DR. MANMOHAN SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the sheer size of our gesture shows our commitment to our farmers, our determination to improve their lot and our desire to see agriculture restored to its rightful place in the Indian economy.

Sir, Shri Advani and some other Members have asked where the money is going to come from. Doubts have been raised about the resources required for this write off. Before I answer that, let me remind the Leader of the Opposition that what we have done is nothing more than picking up the unpaid distress bills which the NDA Government left behind. I would like to assure the hon. Members of this House that this package will be well-funded. Whereas farmers will see the benefits of the relief package immediately, banks will be compensated as and when the loans become due. The details are being worked out. I believe that the dues to the banks, including production and investment credit, will materialise over a period of three to four years. ...*(Interruptions)*

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA : You will not be there by that time. ...*(Interruptions)*

DR. MANMOHAN SINGH : We will make adequate provisions from tax and non-tax revenues over this period to fund this package. ...*(Interruptions)* Let there be no doubt that the banking system will not be constrained in any manner, and there will be no contraction in liquidity. ...*(Interruptions)*

As the Finance Minister has requested this House, we need the unstinted support of the entire House to help implement this decision. We should not grudge farmers their due. ...*(Interruptions)*

Mr. Speaker, Sir, several Members referred to the problem of inflation. I do agree that it is the bounden duty of any Government in this country to worry about inflation if the rate of inflation exceeds the limits of tolerance of 4 to 5 per cent. ...*(Interruptions)* I would like to submit to this august House that our Government has worked sincerely to contain the rise in prices compared with the background and the environment, which we face. When the NDA Government. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR : Sir, NDA is compared for everything. What is this? ...*(Interruptions)* He is misleading the House. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : This is your opinion. You must express it, but not now. You can express it later on.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : The discussion on the Budget is coming up in the House. You can say this at that time.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Please let him conclude.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Let us hear him first.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Obviously, there cannot be unanimity on this, but this is not the way to express your views.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : I earnestly request you that let us please hear him.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : We should give full hearing and uninterrupted hearing when the distinguished Prime Minister or the distinguished Leader of the Opposition is speaking. This is what both of them are entitled to in the House. I am requesting you for it.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR : We are only requesting that he should not mislead the House. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : This is not the way to do it. Mr. Ananth Kumar, you are a senior Member, and you know it.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : What is going on in this House?

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Would the Prime Minister not be allowed to speak in this House?

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR : He is referring to NDA. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : It is his job, and you can reply to it. You have criticized the UPA.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Please sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Do not do this. I am very unhappy.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Only the Prime Minister's observations will be taken down and others, without leave, would not be recorded.

...(Interruptions)

DR. MANMOHAN SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I was merely describing the background of why inflation rates differ from one period to another. International oil prices were at an all-time low when the NDA Government was in office.

We came to office in 2004, and the oil price per barrel was US \$ 36; today it is close to US \$ 100. The NDA maintained a modicum of price stability by depressing the prices payable to our farmers. We do not want to follow that course. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : This is very strange. What are you doing? I am appealing to the Leader of the Opposition because this is not the way.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I can only say that this is extremely unfortunate. I do not know what has happened to you, Mr. Ananth Kumar.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : What is happening to you? I am surprised at what you are doing today.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Do not record one word of the interruptions.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : This is most unfortunate.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Well, I have to ask you now not to disturb. If you are not prepared to listen to his speech, you need not remain here; you may leave.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seat. Do not add to it. Why are you adding to it?

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : You are not behaving properly.

...(Interruptions)

DR. MANMOHAN SINGH : We are committed to reasonable price stability, but we will not be a party to maintain so-called price stability by neglecting the prices that are to be payable to our farmers. Our commitment to reasonable price stability should be obvious from what I am going to say. The prices of petroleum products have more than tripled in the last four years, but we have not increased the price of kerosene. We have made only a marginal addition to prices of diesel and prices of petrol. We have not changed in these four years the prices payable by our farmers for their fertilizers. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Then, nobody will be allowed to speak. If they disturb, what shall I do? What can I do then? You always object, if somebody raises questions, and then you will not reciprocate.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : What is wrong in his statement. You may speak when you get a chance.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

DR. MANMOHAN SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, in these four years, despite rising costs, we have not changed the prices payable by our farmers for fertilizers. We have not increased ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : I do not know how you want this House to function. It is one of the most important debates of the Parliamentary system on which the reply is being given by the Head of the Government. You are not prepared to listen and go on making running commentary asking him to explain to you every sentence. This is not the way to function in this House. If you do not want to hear the Prime Minister, I will request him to conclude.

...*(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : They cannot dictate like this.

MR. SPEAKER : The running commentaries should be stopped.

DR. MANMOHAN SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, we have paid handsomely the prices to our farmers, but as a measure of our commitment to the welfare of the weaker sections, we have not changed in these last four years the prices payable under the Public Distribution System either by people Above the Poverty Line or people Below the Poverty Line. This is an unparalleled record which I think cannot be equalled. This itself in should be a convincing evidence of our Government's deep and abiding commitment to price stability and to the welfare of the weaker sections of our community.

The House has my assurance that we are committed to maintaining reasonable price stability despite an adverse international environment. Today commodity prices are rising; prices of imported vegetable oils are skyrocketing; prices of imported foodstuffs are increasing. Even then we will take effective measures to ensure that weaker sections

of our population are not hurt by these adversities coming from abroad.

Sir, Mr. Advani referred to the Women's Reservation Bill and I should like to comment on that. It is a matter of deep regret to me that we have not been able to move forward on this front. Our Government's commitment is sincere to the reservation of seats for women in State Legislatures and Parliament. There should be no doubt about that. We have made, in the last three years, efforts to evolve a broad-based consensus. The hon. Leader of the Opposition knows some of the consultative mechanisms that we have adopted. We have not succeeded. I admit that this is a commitment in our Common Minimum Programme. Now that the Leader of the Opposition also spoke; now that our CPI(M) colleagues also spoke, I will once again make another attempt to evolve a broad-based consensus so that we can move forward on this also. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Do not record anything.

...*(Interruptions)\**

MR. SPEAKER : Please keep silence.

DR. MANMOHAN SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Shri L.K. Advani and some other Members raised the issue of internal security. Advaniji has made some critical remarks about our Government's performance in dealing with terrorism and terrorist groups of different kinds. I have no intention to score points against the Opposition on this issue. National security is too serious a matter for any kind of Political one-upmanship. I would like to assure this House that our commitment in the fight against terrorism is absolute. India has remained in the crosshairs of terrorists for a long time. I do not need to remind this House about a dark day in 2001 when, but for the fact that fate intervened and our vigilant Watch and Ward Staff, our Parliament would have been the scene of a great deal of.

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\*Not recorded



bloodshed. I am not scoring points here against the failure of the NDA Government. I only wish to remind Members that we face a dangerous. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Please sit down. Nothing is being recorded. Why are you saying this? Please keep silence in the House.

DR. MANMOHAN SINGH : I only wish to remind Members that we face a dangerous enemy in terrorism and that we must maintain a constant vigil to prevent terrorists from succeeding in its nefarious designs.

Some hon. Members and Shri L.K. Advani wanted details on the progress made in some of the recent terror attack cases. In the Mumbai blasts, which he referred to, 13 persons have been arrested. In the cinema blast in Ludhiana, ten persons have been apprehended. Arrests have also been made in the Rampur attack on the CRPF camp and in the UP Court blasts.

13.00 hrs.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I can detail many more cases. I can give details of attacks that have been foiled, including one on the RSS headquarters in Nagpur. Our Government is resolute, as indeed any democratic Government should be, in defeating the forces of extremism and terrorism. Our multi-faceted strategy has produced significant results. In Jammu and Kashmir there has been a significant decline in terrorist violence and an upswing in economic and political activities. I wish to state that the battle against terror will be a long drawn out one. We strongly believe in 'zero tolerance' of terror. Some Members have said that we have provided an easy legal regime for terrorists. This lie must be nailed once and for all. Legal regimes do not prevent terror. If that had been the case, there would have been no attack on Akshardham or on the Raghunath Mandir. Draconian laws could not prevent the IC-814 hijack. In fact, the signal that went out in this case was that if the terrorists were determined enough, the Government would merrily succumb to them. We had the shameful sight of the then External Affairs Minister escorting dreaded terrorists to their freedom.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, sabre rattling does not prevent terror. It requires efficient, effective policing and intelligence gathering. The morale of our security agencies is high and we will ensure that they are adequately equipped to meet their challenges. ...*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR : You tell about Afzal. ...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER : Your comment first, he will tell you later.

*[English]*

DR. MANMOHAN SINGH : Sir, I should say a few words about some matters of foreign policy. Our foreign policy has sought to promote an environment of peace and stability in our region. The challenge before us is to create an external environment that is conducive to our long-term and sustained economic development. We want mutually beneficial relations with all our neighbours, with all major powers and with all our economic partners. It is with this perspective that we have engaged the world and sought partnerships across the world.

I should say a few words about the Civil Nuclear Energy Cooperation with the USA and other countries. We continue to make efforts to make this possible in a manner in which we can maximise the use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes. We are presently engaged in negotiations with the International Atomic Energy Agency for an India-specific safeguards agreement. We also continue to seek the broadest possible consensus within the country to enable the next steps to be taken. I believe that such cooperation is good for us for our energy security and for the world.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I was very happy some days ago that the former National Security Advisor, Shri Brajesh Mishra came out openly in defence of the Nuclear

[Dr. Manmohan Singh]

Cooperation Agreement. Also, Sir, we had seen in this country Mr. Strobe Talbot, who negotiated on this issue with the NDA Government saying that NDA Government was prepared to swallow even 50 per cent of the deal that would be enough. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : I will not stop you. At the appropriate time, you can raise the issue.

*...(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : You may comment. I will not stop you.

*...(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : You can do it at the appropriate time.

*...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : This will not go on record. Do not take down anything.

*...(Interruptions)\**

DR. MANMOHAN SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I should say a few words about our policies towards our neighbours. Our top priority remains our neighbourhood. We want peace, stability and prosperity in South Asia.

I want to begin by congratulating the people of Pakistan who have shown that, like us, they want to choose the democratic path. I am sure, the House will join me in conveying to them our warmest good wishes as they consolidate democracy in this country. A great daughter of Pakistan had to sacrifice her life in the process. We mourned with profound sadness, the death of Benazir Bhutto. The people of Pakistan have paid their tribute to her memory in their own way.

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\*Not recorded

Sir, I would like to assure the newly elected leadership in Pakistan that we seek good relations with Pakistan. India want to live in peace with Pakistan. The destinies of our two nations, I have often said, are closely inter-linked. We need to put the past behind us; we need to think about our collective destiny, our collective security and our collective prosperity.

In their first pronouncements after the elections, the leaders of the main political parties in Pakistan have also spoken of their interest in developing close relations and working with us to bring about a durable peace. Indeed, the dialogue that we have resumed with the Government of Pakistan over the last few years was started when the late Benazir Bhutto and Shri Rajiv Gandhi were the Prime Ministers.

The most courageous steps to build peace were taken by Prime Ministers Nawaz Sharief and Atal Bihari Vajpayee. We have continued the process with President Musharraf. I have said before that I have a vision for the future of India and Pakistan. I believe that in both countries, there is a consensus that we must have close and cooperative relations and a framework for enduring peace.

I hope that the newly elected leaders in Pakistan can quickly move forward with us on this. I am sure that this House will want me to say that we would welcome this and meet them half-way.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Leader of the Opposition said that this Government is a faceless and a directionless Government, that it needs to be determined and decisive. I do not understand the context in which our Government is being decorated with such colourful adjectives. Shri Advaniji also predicted that our Government will not complete its full term. This is not the first time that he had made such predictions; he had been proved wrong. To him, I would like to say.

[Translation]

They can neither lift dagger nor sword, I have fathomed out the strength of these arms.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Put it in English for people like us!

DR. MANMOHAN SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the direction in which we have moved the country in the last four years is well laid out in the Rashtrapati's Address. It is in the direction of inclusive growth; it is in the direction of empowering the poor and marginalized sections of society. It is in the direction of unleashing the enterprise and creativity that is inherent in every citizen of this great country so that she or he can live up to her full potential. It is in the direction of taking everybody along and working to eradicate poverty, ignorance and disease. It is in a direction to enhance our citizens' security. I hope the direction is now clear for all to see.

Of course, I am aware that some Members have been wishing that this Government falls and this has been their wish since the day we came into Office. To their misfortune, and to the good fortune of the nation, this has not happened. But Sir, such fond dreams do not die easily. Therefore, they continue to see visions where none exist.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the future beckons India. I seek from the Leaders of all national Parties a long term vision that will enable us to widen our development options. I seek a commitment to the nation's best long term interests. Let us not divide ourselves by adopting narrow perspectives on important national policies. It is this perspective that informs the President's Address this year. I am, therefore, happy to express my sincere gratitude to Rashtrapati for her Address to Parliament. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : It is for the Prime Minister to decide to respond. Since the hon. Leader of the Opposition wants to ask something, I am allowing him to speak.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seats. If it is possible, you can speak one-by-one.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI (Gandhinagar) : Sir, I am tempted to ask a number of questions on the basis of what has just been said. But I think many issues raised by the Members from the Opposition have not even been touched.

More than that, I think that the comments made about the performance of the NDA Government have been absolutely false and baseless, particularly in respect of farmers, dealing with internal security and containing inflation. You are attributing the success of the NDA Government to a step which never before in all these six-eight years has anyone even suggested. Apart from that, a crucial issue relating to internal security is the question as to how this Government has handled the master mind behind the attack on Parliament. He said not a word about Afzal. Why the Supreme Court's judgement has not been honoured. Therefore, in protest against this speech of the Prime Minister, I would like the Opposition to walk out.

13.13 hrs.

*At this stage, Shri L.K. Advani and some other Hon. Members left the House*

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI) : Sir, it is very unfair that the Leader of the Opposition has run away. When he started by saying that he is tempted to ask, I feel at this age temptation is not good...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seats.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE (Ratnagiri) : Mr. Speaker. Sir, I would like to ask a question to the hon' Prime Minister...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : You may ask. You keep quiet I cannot compel him to reply.

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE : Mr. Speaker, The cotton growers of Vidarbha in Maharashtra, where suicide caused a countrywide agitation and at last the government was compelled to waive off the loans. For that loan-waiver...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : There will be a discussion on budget, you may speak then.

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, now hon. Prime-Minister is sitting in the House. The cotton grower farmers of Vidarbha are not getting the benefit of loan-waiver package declared. Mr. Speaker, Sir, Shri Vilas Muttemwarji, who is from Vidarbha is also sitting here.

...(Interruptions)\*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing will be allowed. Nothing to be recorded now.

...(Interruptions)

13.16 hrs.

*Shri Anant Gangaram Geete and some Other  
Hon. Members then left the House*

MR. SPEAKER : A number of amendments have been moved by the Members to the Motion of Thanks. Shall I put all the amendments to the vote of the House together or does any hon. Member want any particular amendment to be put separately?

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : What can I do if all of you speak together? All of you are speaking together and you expect me to sit here. I would not allow this.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I shall now put all the amendments together to the vote of the House.

*All the amendments were put and negatived.*

...(Interruptions)

\*Not recorded.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura) : Sir, since no assurance has been given on our demands, we are walking out...(Interruptions)

13.16½ hrs.

*At this stage, Shri Basu Deb Acharia and some other hon. Members left the House.*

MR. SPEAKER : I shall now put the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address to the vote of the House. The question is:

"That an Address be presented to the President in the following terms:—

"That the Members of the Lok Sabha assembled in this Session are deeply grateful to the President for the Address which she has been pleased to deliver to both Houses of Parliament assembled together on February 25, 2008'."

*The motion was adopted.*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : The House stands adjourned to meet again at 2.00 p.m.

13.17 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned for Lunch till  
Fourteen of the Clock.*

14.06 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha re-assembled after Lunch at  
six minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.*

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER in the Chair]

STATUTORY RESOLUTION RE: DISAPPROVAL  
OF RAILWAYS (AMENDMENT) ORDINANCE,  
2008

RAILWAYS (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2008

RAILWAY BUDGET (2008-2009) – GENERAL  
DISCUSSION

\*DEMANDS FOR GRANTS ON ACCOUNT  
(RAILWAYS) – (2008-2009)

\*DEMANDS FOR SUPPLEMENTARY GRANTS  
(RAILWAYS) – (2007-2008)

AND

\*DEMANDS FOR EXCESS GRANTS  
(RAILWAYS) – (2005-2006)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The House will now take up combined discussion of item Nos. 16, 17 to 21 in the Supplementary List of Business.

Shri Mohan Singh – not present. Shri Prabodh Panda may move the Statutory Resolution.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Prabodh Panda, you may move the Resolution first.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRABODH PANDA (Midnapore) : I beg to move:

"That this House disapproves of the Railways (Amendment) Ordinance, 2008 (No. 2 of 2008) promulgated by the President on 31 January, 2008."

...(Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI LALU PRASAD) :

Sir, I beg to move:

\*Moved with the recommendation of the President.

"That the Bill further to amend the Railways Act, 1989, be taken into consideration."

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Motions moved:

"That this House disapproves of the Railways (Amendment) Ordinance, 2008 (No. 2 of 2008) promulgated by the President on 31 January, 2008."

"That the Bill further to amend the Railways Act, 1989, be taken into consideration."

"That the respective sums not exceeding the amounts shown in the third column of the Order Paper be granted to the President of India out of the Consolidated Fund of India, on account, for or towards defraying the charges during the year ending the 31st day of March, 2009, in respect of the heads of Demands entered in the second column thereof against Demand Nos. 1 to 16."

**Lok Sabha**

*Demands for Grants on Account (Railways) for 2008-09  
submitted to the Vote of the Lok Sabha*

No. of Demand	Name of Demand	Amount of Demand Grants on Account submitted to the vote of the House (Rs.)
1	2	3
1.	Railway Board	22,10,17,000
2.	Miscellaneous Expenditure (General)	80,52,83,000
3.	General Superintendence and Services on Railways	527,67,79,000
4.	Repairs and Maintenance of Permanent Way and Works	901,28,32,000

1	2	3
5.	Repairs and Maintenance of Motive Power	428,41,60,000
6.	Repairs and Maintenance of Carriages and Wagons	905,89,27,000
7.	Repairs and Maintenance of Plant and Equipment	493,08,57,000
8.	Operating Expenses-Rolling Stock and Equipment	673,37,70,000
9.	Operating Expenses - Traffic	2381,87,62,000
10.	Operating Expenses - Fuel	2278,31,54,000
11.	Staff Welfare and Amenities	386,38,65,000
12.	Miscellaneous Working Expenses	402,30,25,000
13.	Provident Fund, Pension and Other Retirement Benefits	1617,62,48,000
14.	Appropriation to Funds	4731,12,33,000
15.	Dividend to General Revenues, Repayment of loans taken from General Revenues and Amortization of Cover-Capitalisation	4,28,12,000
16.	Assets-Acquisition, Construction and Replacement	
	Revenue	10,00,00,000
	<b>Other Expenditure</b>	
	Capital	4989,80,82,000
	Railway Funds	4339,91,67,000
	Railway Safety Fund	216,65,00,000
	<b>Total</b>	<b>25390,64,73,000</b>

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Motion moved:

"That the supplementary sums not exceeding the amounts shown in the third column of the Order Paper be granted to the President of India, out of the Consolidated Fund of India, to defray the charges that will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 2008, in respect of the heads of Demands entered in the second column thereof against Demand Nos. 10, 12, 14, 15 and 16."

**Lok Sabha***Supplementary Demands for Grants (Railways) for 2007-08 submitted to the Vote of the Lok Sabha*

No. of Demand	Name of Demand	Amount of Supplementary Demands for Grants to the vote of the House (Rs.)
1	2	3
10.	Operating Expenses-Fuel	10,59,75,000
12.	Miscellaneous Working Expenses	43,57,58,000
14.	Appropriation of Funds	1606,15,54,000
15.	Dividend to General Revenues, Repayment of loans taken from General Revenues and Amortization of Over-Capitalisation	309,58,00,000
16.	Assets-Acquisition, Construction and Replacement	
	<b>Other Expenditure</b>	
	Capital	365,00,00,000
	<b>Total</b>	<b>2334,90,87,000</b>

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Motion moved:

"That the respective excess sums not exceeding the amounts shown in the third column of the Order Paper be granted to the President of India, out of the Consolidated Fund of India, to make good the excess on the respective grants during the year ended the 31st day of March, 2006, in respect of the heads of Demands entered in the second column thereof against Demand Nos. 4, 6, 10, and 16."

**Lok Sabha**

*Demands for Excess Grants (Railways) for 2005-06  
submitted to the Vote of the Lok Sabha*

No. of Demand	Name of Demand	Amount of Demand for Excess Grants submitted to the vote of the House (Rs.)
1	2	3
4.	Repairs and Maintenance of Permanent Way and Works	10,12,01,942
6.	Repairs and Maintenance of Carriages and Wagons	27,74,14,978
10.	Operating Expenses—Fuel	95,14,29,679
16.	Assets-Acquisition, Construction and Replacement	
	Capital	2184,17,21,520
	<b>Total</b>	<b>2317,17,68,119</b>

[Translation]

SHRI HARIN PATHAK (Ahemdabad) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, thank you. I am having a bad throat.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : It will get cured gradually.

SHRI HARIN PATHAK : Sir, hon. Laluji has presented the Railway Budget, 2008 in the House and before the nation in his own inimitable style. Personally, I have very cordial relations with him. He has got a distinct style. For the past several decades he has been fighting for the sake of the poor people.

Everyone was impressed when the budget was presented. People were all praising, even the Prime Minister was happy. Unfortunately, some of our journalists also came under its spell. However, after 28th people could know the craftiness he has applied in it. If you go through the newspapers of next day, you will find them full of such news like "Das Sal Mein Dam Tod Degi Bhartiya Railway." I will not name the person but the ex-chairman of Railway Board made a statement – "Safar hoga thora Mehnga, Dainik Yatriyon ko Angutha Dikhaya." I am going to say the same thing. I have been doing ground work about it for the last 20-25 days. I had also requested my party to give me an opportunity to speak on this issue and I am thankful that I got the chance. I met the people, I travelled in the trains and visited the stations. After undertaking this exercise. I am going to present some facts before you. Perhaps, I may have some wrong information, or I may have been given some incorrect information, or I could have failed to understand it, then the hon. Minister of Railways can correct me.

Merely making announcements will not help Railways. Laluji, first of all, I would appeal to you in this regard only. I was hopeful, that is why I said a few sentences in your honour. Like us, you are also associated with downtrodden and have been fighting in the interest of farmers and middle class people for the past many year. It seems that your officers have misled you in this regard. I will talk about it later on. On the same night I was watching your interview on a T.V. Channel. The time period for reservation has been increased from two to three months. I will tell you its effects later on. At that time you straight way denied having any information in this regard and stated that it would be checked. This provision of getting reservation 90 days in advance has been made to extract money from the pockets of the people.

[Shri Harin Pathak]

Secondly, Mr. Minister, what is our objective after all? All the figures are before you, we make arguments on them. Certain services in the country are not run for profit, these are to facilitate the common man. These are not multi-national companies. Be it state transport, subsidy to farmers or railways, their objective is to provide maximum facilities to common man. Railways is meant for the common man to move from one place to another. Hon. Minister, your officers have misled you during the last 3-4 years. We have deviated from our objective. First, 7 thousand crore, then 14 thousand crore in 2005-06 and then 25 thousand crore, railways is not meant for earning profits...*(Interruptions)* If you ask, I will sit down.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please do not make running commentary. You and another hon. Member of your party are yet to speak.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : He is praising Lalaji.

SHRI HARIN PATHAK : Sir, mere making announcements will not serve the purpose, these should be implemented. Two years back, he had announced that tea would be served in Kullahars at Railway stations and in the trains as it will help the poor potters earn their livelihood. However, I have never seen Kullahars at any station or train. Somebody has told me that the Kullahars are in the cabin of the Hon. Minister. That scheme has not been implemented till now. Please implement it now.

The third announcement was that Khadi cloth, which is manufactured by rural weavers will be used for bed sheets and curtains in trains to promote Khadi. I do not think there are any such curtains in the trains. If he continues to make announcements only and will not check his officials, announcements will remain mere announcements. This time he has stated that he would do it later on. It is good and I welcome it. For the first time there is a mention to provide jobs to the coolies and I wholeheartedly support it.

Around 20-22 years ago, transport was being provided under Ahmedabad Corporation like we have Delhi Transport. It was AMTS there. First thing I did there was to provide livelihood to poor people. About 500 people earned their livelihood through my efforts. He has considered it but I have an apprehension in my mind. Please try to remove it. We have 16 thousand 6 hundred manned and 18 thousand 2 hundred unmanned level crossings. My submission is that in four years, Railways has earned a profit of 7 thousand, 14 thousand crore and 20 thousand crore respectively. Had due attention been paid on unmanned level crossings, accidents which have been increased from 15% in 2001 to 37% in 2006-07 would have been prevented. Life of many people could have been saved. You are boasting about the surplus funds that Railway has earned a profit of 20 thousand crore... *(Interruptions)* 25 thousand crores this year. Had it been done earlier, the toll of accidents would not have reached to 37%. It can be done now. Better late than never. I welcome it. I would like to draw your attention towards a point that Gangmen are being made Gatemen. Many vacancies of Gangmen are lying vacant. I am not a railway worker but as per my knowledge work of Gangman is a technical one. He has to check the railway tracks, fishplates and bolts etc. Work of Gateman is also of technical nature. Please listen attentively. I just want to make some improvements in the project. Coolies can be made Gangman or Gateman but there is no provision for their training in the scheme. These poor coolies carry the load, now they are supposed to do the new job of receiving telephones for closing of railway level crossings, if they are made Gangman or Gateman. Gateman has many responsibilities involving technical aspects. I would like that the coolies be given training also apart from the job otherwise they would not understand their responsibilities properly. This is my request to you.

The second thing that I would like to tell you is that our objective is to serve people. Railway stations and passenger trains are so dirty that it is difficult for a person to travel by train. I would like to say in light humour that



terrorism is gripping the trains. I have faced that. Rathwaji these terrorists are never caught, they run away in trains. Who are these terrorists? These terrorists are rats. Last year I had a by-pass surgery. The doctor advised me to avoid air travel as that would increase my blood pressure and to travel by train. I travelled by the Rajdhani train 5-6 times with my family and attendant. There was a rat in my 1st AC coach...*(Interruptions)*. It was also travelling without ticket. Those people were looking for it but could not find. I kept awake all the night out of fear of rat biting ...*(Interruptions)*. The rats go into the godown, eat whatever is there. Jhaji will get annoyed with me if I speak any more. The rats get into the godowns and eat everything... *(Interruptions)* How far can I keep a cat with me. I am a simple teacher. Whatever I am saying is true. They must pay attention towards cleanliness. But they are unable to do that.

Now, I am going to talk about their cleverness, Rathwaji, the officials have misled you. I would like to have the support of the entire House. I am not playing politics in saying so. Today the entire House will know as to how the common man is being exploited from the back door by the railways for the last two years, I am going to give an example of that. He may stop me if I am wrong. I am not leveling any personal allegations. Hon. Minister may not be aware of it. That train is called Garib Rath. We have made them travel by Garib Rath. The common man used to travel by sleeper class, we have made it possible for him to travel in 3rd AC. We have reduced its fare to lower than that of the fare of routine 3rd AC. Is the House aware that the coach capacity of Garib Rath is the same? Earlier there were 64 berths. Now in the same coach and in the same width and length there are 82 berths, which means 18 berths have been increased. The poor passengers have to travel overnight stuffed like hens in the coaches. Now the coach remains the same, but there are 82 berths in place of 64 berths. Now they say that they have made the poor people travel in AC trains. There are only four toilets there. They have been so clever. I did not expect it from him because he is connected to the poor people. The journey is of a day and a half and 82

persons are travelling in place of 64...*(Interruptions)* I am not pointing to you...*(Interruptions)* This is wrong. If I say that facility must be provided...*(Interruptions)* Goelji, you are feeling hurt, so I will not give any speech on the day you become Minister of Railways. There is no one on the Treasury Benches. Rathwaji, please appoint him as Minister of State for Railways in your place, so that he does not feel bad...*(Interruptions)* You please listen to me. You have increased the number of berths in the Garib Rath. The second thing which I want to mention is there in the newspaper. *[English]* You have converted all Express and Mail Trains into Super Fast Trains. *[Translation]* Basu Deb Achariaji is well aware of this. This is the other trick... *(Interruptions)*. They are not doing any thing else but craftiness. The boards of all the mail trains have been changed. Now the place, destination, distance, stoppage and coaches are the same. Announcements are made for reducing the time by half or half and a quarter hour, but trains have never been on time in the country. The trains get delayed by two hours to twenty four hours, but they have made them superfast trains. In this manner the fares were also increased. The fares were increased by Rs.150 in sleeper class to Rs. 300-350 in AC coaches. Now they say that they are earning profit. No one paid attention towards this, not even he. They are still getting praised. Even the Prime Minister did not pay attention towards the actual number of trains. I have figures with me to which I will come later, there are almost 200 trains. The fares have automatically been increased by Rs. 10 in general coaches, Rs. 20 in sleeper coaches and Rs. 25 to 50 per passenger in AC coaches whereas the journey and destination remains the same. What is happening to the country? The entire House is being misled. This thing is mentioned nowhere. He has merely reduced the fares by 2-3 per cent. I will come to this later. Now the House must know as to how the fares were reduced. In that also the common man and the Members have been cheated. They have taken out money from their pockets. What is this? The common man's pockets were emptied in the name of changing the boards of the trains as well as their names, whereas there is nothing in the name of facilities.

[Shri Harin Pathak]

The other thing is very serious. Basu Deb Acharia and my other colleagues will speak on this in detail – It is the Tatkal Scheme. Hon. Minister, Sir, please do not do this to show profits. I have earlier reminded you of the objective. What is the purpose of Indian Railways? We have written that thought when we board the train, there is a greeting written wishing passengers a happy and safe journey. Now, is the journey likely to be happy? How far is it appropriate to accommodate 82 people in a place meant for 64? There are no proper arrangements for toilets in that train. In this manner they are digging into the pockets of the common man. Now comes the Tatkal Scheme. Tatkal scheme means that a man is able get a ticket in case of emergency.

[English]

Somebody has an emergency to go.

[Translation]

Earlier the Tatkal scheme was introduced for merely a day or so which means a ticket could be bought within 24 hours. If a little extra money is paid then one can have a confirmed ticket. You must be surprised to know that earlier the booking period was one day, but, since January, I would like to draw the attention of this August House towards this, 30 to 40 per cent coaches have been reserved for Tatkal. See how cleverly this has been made out. Let us presume that there are 100 seats, then 40 seats out of those would be reserved for Tatkal for which a common man will have to pay extra money. Second thing is that the booking time for Tatkal ticket has been increased from one day to five days. I fail to understand as to whether something can be Tatkal if there is five days time at hand. Further, it has an unlimited waiting list. They must not loot common man's money like this, in my view, if they are charging extra money in the name of Tatkal then there should not be any waiting list in that and even if it is there then it must not be unlimited. Under the Tatkal scheme

one has to pay Rs. 150 extra for the sleeper class reservation and Rs. 300 for the AC class, irrespective of whether the ticket is confirmed or not...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA (Bettiah) : Those who are paying have not problem and you are having problem with that.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please, do not give running commentary.

SHRI HARIN PATHAK : Jha Saheb, belongs to a rich family but I come from a poor one. The people facing difficulty have themselves told me. But, if you feel happy in looting the people then keep on doing so. Make it 10 days instead of 5 days.

Thus, 30 seats out of every 100 seats have been reserved for the Tatkal quota. Even then, there is no guarantee that one will get a confirmed ticket. If you have booked a normal wait listed ticket, not a Tatkal ticket, then you can get refund of an unused ticket in case you miss the train. But, this is not the case with Tatkal ticket. Please, listen carefully and everyone will understand this Budget, I will give one more example of Tatkal—the Second AC fare from Delhi to Lucknow is Rs. 830 but under Tatkal, it is Rs. 1130. We have not come to the Parliament for getting this increase approved. Reduction of 3-4 per cent was applauded. But, nobody knows about this increase. Even the PM is not aware as to how the people of the country are being looted. The Second AC fare from Delhi to Lucknow is Rs. 830 but it is Rs. 1130 under Tatkal, which is 40 per cent higher. Similarly, Third AC fare is Rs. 604 but it is Rs. 904 under Tatkal, which is 70 per cent higher. Sleeper class fare from Delhi to Lucknow is Rs. 235 but it is Rs. 485 under Tatkal, which is 100 per cent higher. This loot is going on for the last 2 years. This money is being taken away from the pockets of the common man and he is being looted. I want to give another example. The Second Sleeper fare from Delhi to Dehradun is Rs. 166 while it is Rs. 316 under Tatkal, which means one has to pay 90% more. When Railways was introduced then,

I do not think its objective was to rob the people. The objective of the Railways should be to provide facilities to the common man. For two days, we have discussed in the House the facilities being extended and the problems being faced by the common man. We have said that our country is one, whether it is Ahmedabad or Delhi or Mumbai or any other place and all people can go from one place to another and live there. People come from villages to these big cities while very few people go from cities to villages. When these people go to their homes then it is our primary duty that we should not look for our benefit rather we should look for their facilities. It is also their right as citizens which we have snatched from them.

Now, I want to say one more important thing. Basudebji will tell in detail what else has been done under Tatkal. I want to tell about charging for destination to destination in Railways. A train from Jodhpur to Bandra runs via Ahmedabad. If I sit from Ahmedabad, then I will have to take a ticket from Jodhpur to Mumbai.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED) : There is a profit of Rs. 24,000 crore...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI HARIN PATHAK : Keep on looting the people like this. Such schemes suit you only Ahmed Saheb, so, keep on looting the country like this and feel happy and continue thumping the tables. Keep on looting the poor man...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Nothing should be recorded.

...(Interruptions)\*

[Translation]

SHRI HARIN PATHAK : Truth is always bitter and after a long time it is coming on the surface. Many other hon. Members are yet to speak on this. Looting has started Luluji has gone and since he also uses to recite poetry, I want to quote a film song...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA : You wanted to privatize the Railways.....(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Nothing should be recorded.

...(Interruptions)\*

[Translation]

SHRI HARIN PATHAK : We never spoke about privatization of the Railways....(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : No running commentary.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI HARIN PATHAK : May be that my Hindi is not so good but yours is fine...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : No running commentary. Nothing will go on record.

...(Interruptions)\*

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Goyalji, please take your seat.

\*Not recorded.

\*Not recorded.

SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA (Dhandhuka) : If they speak like this then we will have to say that "Hemlein toh loot liya milkar UPA walon ne, Laluji ne our Rathwaji ne"...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Nothing should be recorded.

...(Interruptions)\*

[Translation]

SHRI HARIN PATHAK : Goyalji, if my words have hurt you, then I feel sorry...(Interruptions) chewing of Pan is not allowed here. You should go out to chew Pan...(Interruptions)

SHRI SURENDRA PRAKASH GOYAL (Hapur) : I am not chewing Pan.

SHRI HARIN PATHAK : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir Laluji had rightly said that day when he was facing camera and answering the questions of the people...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Nothing should be recorded.

...(Interruptions)\*

[Translation]

SHRI HARIN PATHAK : A child had asked Laluji if he was aware that reservation period had been increased to 90 days from 60 days. To this, he said that he would get it examined. I want to say that 90 days reservation period is very long. If one wants to travel, then he will have to plan 90 days in advance. And cancellation charges will also be higher if one wants to get the ticket cancelled. Earlier, this period was 60 days but in January, it was

\*Not recorded.

increased to 90 days suddenly. You had rightly so assured to look into it...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Nothing should be recorded.

...(Interruptions)\*

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI LALU PRASAD) : There is no compulsion that you must do it. You are associated with RSS.

SHRI HARIN PATHAK : I admit that RSS is my parent organisation. I am proud of being its member. ....(Interruptions)

[English]

I am proud to be RSS Swyamsevak...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You should behave in a proper way. I feel sorry for that.

[Translation]

SHRI HARIN PATHAK : Whatever I have learnt, I have learnt from RSS and I am proud of that. ....(Interruptions)

SHRI LALU PRASAD : That's very good. But we are the opponents of RSS. The whole world has acknowledged the reality with regard to the railways. Don't you agree with the positive comments made by the RSS, a fundamentalist organization, in the editorial of its paper 'The Organiser'. They have heaped praises on us in the editorial and acknowledged the reality.

SHRI HARIN PATHAK : Laluji, I have congratulated you for your good work but at the same time I have urged you to address the shortcomings, whatever are still there.

\*Not recorded.

SHRI LALU PRASAD : They have heaped praises on us and you, despite being a RSS swyameśwak, are contradicting that.

SHRI HARIN PATHAK : After heaping praises on you, I would like to draw your attention to the shortcomings. I have already praised you very much. But you should remove the shortcomings or weaknesses.....*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : He has the right to speak on the Railway Budget.

...*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

SHRI HARIN PATHAK : If we do not address our shortcomings, the people will not be able to know the truth. You had stated in your speech that you would look into it. I repeat that today. For example, 'Tatkal' reservation is now available five days before the date of journey. Look into it as to how much loss a common man is suffering on account of tatkal reservation. You announced a rebate of 7 percent in First Class AC, 4 percent in Second Class AC, of one rupee in fare upto 300 kms. three rupees in fare from 300 to 600 kilometres, and four rupees in fare upto 700 kilometres. It does not include reservation charges and development surcharge. I pray to you to point out my shortcomings when you give your reply. I have been told that all these rebates of 7 percent, 4 percent, etc. will not be provided in popular trains or during peak season or the rebate will be lesser. The period from 15 July to 15 September is a lean period. What is the truth, you tell the House and how much rebate people would get during the remaining ten months – I leave it to you. How much rebate would people get during a whole year as per your announcement? There are 450 popular trains. Please tell in your speech as to whether this rebate would be available in these trains and whether the rebate would be 7 percent or 2 percent. The Times of India and Indian Express have written, *[English]* "As fare cut has a rider. You pay less

only for three months". *[Translation]* Many articles have been published on this subject but you should clarify whether the rebate is for the whole year or for only two months and I will be satisfied.

The Hon. Minister should endeavour for increasing facilities for the common people in the trains and ensure that the number of general coaches are not reduced because as of now people are compelled to travel in sleeper coaches instead of general coaches. Their number has not increased much. I do not want to go into economic survey but I will speak about it during the budget speech if I get a chance. You are not responsible for that. But please consider these three or four things regarding reservation, Tatkal scheme and the sufferings of the people in Garib Rath. I have also been told that the rebate announced by you will be available in new coaches only. You should give a clarification in this regard as well. As of now there are 225 or 226 new coaches. More coaches will be manufactured after three-four years. The hon. Minister should tell the House whether the rebate would be available in all the coaches or only in 225 or 226 new coaches.

I hail from Gujarat. Gujarat has played a significant role in the development of the country. More than 90 percent of Gujarat falls in Western Zone. The figures of the railways will show that out of all the zones in the country, the west zone has earned the maximum income every year and this year west zone has earned an income of Rs. 5700 crore. No other zone has generated so much income. Ahmedabad division has earned Rs.1885 crore. Even then injustice is being meted out to Gujarat.

I have three-four big demands. I will lay the remaining demands on the table of the House in order to save time for other Members. More than 90 percent of western railway lies in Gujarat, therefore, its headquarters should be shifted to Ahmedabad or Gandhinagar. Shri Rathwaji knows it and perhaps you also know that Ahmedabad is a sector generating the maximum income. You have given an air conditioned train. My demand was that a train should be

[Shri Harin Pathak]

introduced from Ahmedabad to Amritsar. A train should be introduced from Ahmedabad to Allahabad and Lucknow. You have introduced a train from Ahmedabad to Mumbai but that is a centrally air-conditioned train meant for the rich people.

I will request you to make Ahmedabad station, which fetches an income of Rs. 1885 crore, a world class station having all the facilities on the pattern of the four world class stations you want to make because people from all the parts of the country live in and travel to Ahmedabad. I have dropped the issues relating to Bharuch, Dahej, Rupantar, Delhi and Mumbai. We have conducted a survey of a third track. Budgetary provisions were also made. The railways will earn huge revenue. You should think about laying a third track between Mumbai and Ahmedabad. A survey has already been conducted. You should implement it.

I shall be thankful to you if you accept these petty demands relating to Ahmedabad, Gandhinagar, Sabarmati and Maninagar. Without taking much time I would like to say that you should pay more attention to the facilities for common people and improve the condition of the stations instead of introducing Garib Rath, Tatkal scheme for reservation and upgrading the trains from mail to superfast through back door. I would like to ask you as to how many people travel in first class AC. Either MPs or senior officers of the railways travel in first class AC and very few people travel in first class AC on their own expenses.

The number of general coaches should be increased as the poor people travel in general or sleeper coaches. Trains with more general coaches should be introduced. You hail from a village. The frequency of inter-state trains connecting rural areas with urban areas should be increased. He has ignored suburban train services. 40 percent of the train services are connected with suburban areas. If anyone from Ghaziabad wants to catch a train to Virar, Bandra, Borivali, Kandivali, Maninagar, Vatra or Mehsana, he will first have to catch a local train to Delhi

and then from Delhi he will have to board the main train to his destination. Attention should have been paid to suburban services in the budget. Suburban network should be strengthened by providing better facilities and by introducing more number of trains.

At the end, my submission is that attention should be paid to my demands. I have expectations from him as he has a rural background. There is no harm in railways earning profit or the hon. Minister visiting IIMS or going abroad for lectures. It is a matter of pride for us. But the budget should not be anti-poor. If railways is put on the right track and is well managed, the hon. Minister will earn appreciation throughout the world.

He still has a very long innings to play; And the people will decide his fate...*(Interruptions)* He has to sit in the opposition also...*(Interruptions)* He will either be in power or sit in opposition...*(Interruptions)*

Please pay attention to my suggestion regarding railways.

*[English]*

Sir, with your permission, about some of the demands and requests of the people of Gujarat and Ahmedabad, I lay the remaining speech on the Table of the House mentioning these demands.

*[Translation]*

With your leave, I am laying these demands on the Table so that these are delivered to Laluji in detail.

*[English]*

\*With your permission I wish to lay on the Table of the House some of the genuine demands and requests for the development of Railway facilities in the State of Gujarat:

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\*...\* This part of the speech was laid on the Table.

1. Broad Gauge linkages to minor ports of Gujarat i.e. Hazira, Dahej, Bedi and Porbandar.

RITIES has prepared a report and made recommendations to the Ministry of Railway.

2. Gauge conversion of Bharuch - Dahej railway line.

3. Gauge conversion of Ahmedabad - Udaipur railway line - kindly allocate substantial funds for the development.

4. Surat - Hazira new railway line.

5. Gauge conversion of rail lines - (i) Ankleshwar-Rajpipla, (ii) Surendranagar - Dhangadhara, (iii) Ahmedabad - Mehsana - Taranga - Ambaji (Ahmedabad) - Mehsana is Broad-gauge), (iv) Bhavnagar - Mahuva, (v) Patan - Bhiladi, (vi) Bhavnagar - Dhora - Surendranagar, (vii) Dhasa - Jetalsar, (viii) Vankaner - Bhuj - Nalla and (ix) all Narrow gauge railway lines under the jurisdiction of Vadodara Railway Division.

6. Construction of new railway lines - (i) Viramgam-Sankheshwer, (ii) Daman - Nasik, (iii) Nadiad - Tarapur - Kheda - Matar, (iv) Godhra - Dahod-Indore - Devas, (v) Tarapur - Mahemdavad, (vi) Ahmedabad - Khedbhurma - Ambaji, (vii) Mahesana - Harij - Radhanpur, (viii) Vejalpur - Botad, (ix) Rajkot - Jaipur - Marwad and (x) Porbandar - Porbandar Port.

7. Gauge conversion to Bhiladi - Samdari railway line.

8. Construction of missing link between Patan and Bhiladi (Broad Gauge Line)

9. Development of rail linkages for DMIC:-

**Doubling of Broad Gauge rail line:** (i) Bharuch-Samni - Dahej, (ii) Surendranagar - Botad -

Dhasa - Rajula - Pipavav, (iii) Surendranagar - Mehsana - Viramgam and (iv) Palanpur - Bhildi - Samakyali - Gandhidham - Mundra.

**Gauge Conversion of existing MG/NG rail line;**

(i) Dahej, Samni - Bharuch, (ii) Ahmedabad - Botad - Bhavnagar, (iii) Viramgam - Samakhyali, (vi) Navlakhi - Malia - Rajkot, (v) Mehsana - Viramgam, (vi) Viramgam Surendranagar, (vii) Samakyali Gandhidham - Kandla and (viii) Gandhidham - Anjar - Mundra.

**Gauge Conversion of existing MG/NG rail line;**

(i) Bhavnagar - Adhelal - Dholera - Vataman - Petlad, (ii) Dholera - Bhimnath and (iii) Khambhat to Khambhat Port.

10. Providing facility of Double Stack Container on Kandla - Bhatinda railway line.

11. Augmentation of facilities of trains/increase in coaches in various railway lines.

12. Maninagar (Ahmedabad - Rly. Station)

The following trains must be given stoppage:

1. 9309/9310 — Shanti Express
2. 9059 — Intercity
3. 2934 — Karmava Express
4. 9031 — Kutch Express
5. 2942 — Okha-Gauhati Express
6. 9570 — Banaras Express
7. 2474 — Sarvodaya Express
8. 9005 — Saurashtra Express
9. 9110 — Gujarat Queen at Vatva Station\*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Before I request the next hon. Member to speak, to be very frank, I have a list of more than 60 names of the hon. Members. *[Translation]* If 60-65 Members are given opportunity to speak I think we won't be able to conclude in 4-5 days. Therefore my requests is that *[English]* those hon. Members who want to give their written speeches, they can lay the speech on the Table of the House. I am requesting Laluji.

...(Interruptions)

*[Translation]*

SHRI LALU PRASAD : Laying of written speech goes on record.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Will you consider it?

SHRI LALU PRASAD : The Members who speak orally, I take brief notes of their speech. It would be better if he gives in writing.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : It is my second request that Members should not take as long time as half-an-hour. It would be better if they give brief suggestion in 5-7 minutes. It is for all, not for Shri Nikhil Kumar alone. I have requested everyone and not Nikhil Kumar alone. It is my duty to apprise the House of its actual problem so that you can find a solution to it.

SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR (Aurangabad, Bihar) : I will bear your suggestion in mind and would try not to take more time.

*.[English]*

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, as I speak today on the Rail Budget, I cannot but feel that there is a certain environment of happiness in the whole country. There is an environment of happiness, a feel good environment as you could see from the statement made by the hon. Foreign Minister the other day about our relations with other countries, especially our neighbours. This morning too, our worthy and hon. Prime Minister referred to our relations with other

countries and particularly made a mention to our extreme and earnest desire to have peaceful and friendly relations with Pakistan.

Sir, our Prime Minister also referred this morning to the General Budget that was presented the other day by our hon. Finance Minister and almost the entire country is over-joyed at the provisions made under it to waive the debts of farmers and this debt-waiver is going to cost us Rs. 60,000 crore. Questions were raised as to where this amount is to come from. I cannot do better than recall the hon. Prime Minister's clarification this morning and he made a superb clarification which must have satisfied everyone.

There is an unmistakable impression that this country is marching along. There is a different feeling all over the country that Indians are becoming assertive. They will remain polite and courteous, they will remain civilised and they will be gentle and civil, but not when they encounter boorish behaviour, when they encounter uncultured behaviour, and this was most ably demonstrated by the performance of our sportsmen, whether it is in the field of tennis, whether it is in the field of football or, most importantly, whether it is in the field of cricket. Only the other day the junior Team India won the World Cup in cricket and became world champion and yesterday the senior Team India beat those who are the world champions and who had hitherto remained unbeaten on their own home-ground. I pay tribute to our cricketers, especially one of them who has borne the brunt of the most uncivil conduct and abusive behaviour and what not. I refer to Harbhajan Singh. He ultimately had the last laugh.

I am saying all this only to illustrate that this country is changing, this country is marching along and this is because of the economic health of the country and this economic health of the country today was best reflected in our General Budget.

*[Translation]*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Lalu Prasadji, he has said it in your presence.



[English]

SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR : This has been reflected best in our General Budget about which a question was raised where the Government is going to find Rs. 60,000 to waive the debts of farmers.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Are you speaking on Rail Budget or General Budget?

SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR : Sir, I will come back. Kindly give me a couple of minutes.

It is against this background, Sir, that our Railway Minister presented his Budget for the next financial year. I was hearing Shri Harin Pathak.

[Translation]

He has said a lot. He has praised but criticized also.

15.00 hrs.

But I will only praise hon. Laluji. I do not agree with the criticism made by Shri Harin Babu. But, why it is so? At present, I have Laluji's address. The present Budget is 'all inclusive' one and 'all inclusive' term is commonly used these days. Today, morning, our hon. Prime Minister said that if we want our country to progress we will have to strive for it's all inclusive development. Laluji has given importance to each sector, section in the Budget. For example, I will take up only two things, a good measure for student, i.e. free monthly season ticket for students, and fifty percent concession for ladies, senior citizens and also to Ashok Chakra Awardees. In addition it, he has also addressed health related issues. He has paid attention to AIDS affected persons and mother-child health. He has also paid attention to appointments of SCs, STs and OBCs. He has made a provision in the Budget for creation of a minority welfare cell. But, why did he do this all? He did it because policy of the UPA Government envisages for an all inclusive development. Our hon. Minister has cared for all sections while preparing an all inclusive budget. He has given importance to all that. And that is why I congratulate him and also praise him.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it was about social issues. So for as operation of railway is concerned, we will have to see whether the hon. Minister has paid attention to it or not.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Stop for a minute.

SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR : Sir, please listen to me.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You stop for a minute.

SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR : Sir, I am the first speaker.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : First listen to what I want to say.

SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR : Often you used to stop me. I thought again you are asking me to wait.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Nikhil Kumar, please wait for a minute.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Mr. Pallam Raju, I feel sorry to mention this, but you are reading newspaper in the House, which is not permissible. I would request the hon. Members that they should not sit in the House and read newspaper.

...(Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI M.M. PALLAM RAJU) : Sir, I apologize, but it was something related to the Railway Budget.  
...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Nikhil Kumar, now you can continue your speech.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You can quote.

SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR : As far as operation of Railways is concerned, the issue relating to security of the trains

[Shri Nikhil Kumar]

is an issue on which the Ministry of Railways has not paid the desired attention and the case of the unmanned railway crossings is no different. I was listening to the speech of Laluji with rapt attention as he was presenting the Railway Budget. He quoted the figures and from those figures it has been found that there are huge number of unmanned railway level crossings witnessing frequent rail accidents. The provisions made in this budget to check these accidents are a welcome step and I must appreciate him. I appreciate this budget also because the freight rates are generally increased in every Railway Budget and the whole world is aware that great importance is being given to infrastructure in India today. Wide roads are being built. Prime Minister's Golden Quadrilateral Road project is going on in the whole country. Freight transport would improve once these roads are built and would pose a challenge to the Railways. But, the Railways have taken challenge in its stride and have therefore slashed the freight rates and, in a sense, it is a miracle. Laluji said that he had read a few lines last year that he had swung the magic wand or something like that. But this time he is doing something else then it is the speciality of this budget and I appreciate him for that.

I also applaud him for introducing new trains and extending trains at many places and most importantly he has ordered survey of some rail lines for laying new rail tracks. I hope that new trains would run on these lines after completion of the survey work. He has included all these things in his budget. We also know that only Laluji did not raise the train fares last year while other Railway Ministers had always increased the fares giving varied justifications. Not only that, instead of increasing fares, he has been able to reduce them and I congratulate him for this. How has he performed this miracle – only he and his Ministry knows. He deserves Kudos for reducing the fares. Hariji, you had not praised him for this, therefore, I have done so on your behalf.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Let there be no running commentary please.

[Translation]

SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR : You have said that I should not speak for long. So, I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Railway Minister on three issues and I have full confidence that he will pay attention to these three issues and would accept our requests. One of them is about the Railways Amendment Bill wherein he has stated:

[English]

"The amount of compensation shall be based on market value of land. In addition to the market value, solatium at the rate of 60 per cent shall invariably be paid to the land owners in consideration of... etc., etc."

[Translation]

This amendment Bill is praiseworthy as I am directly related to it. About 18-19 years ago, the then Chief Minister of Bihar had thought of a 2200 mw power project in my area of Navinagar. No work was done on the project for many years. Lot of hard work was done and initiative was taken to start work on it in 1999 when 13th Lok Sabha was constituted. By the time 13th Lok Sabha was dissolved, it had been decided that it will be a joint venture between the Railways and the Ministry of Power. But, memorandum of understanding could not be signed between them. We understood that the next Government would do that. We formed the next Government and Laluji became the Railway Minister. We had confidence in him that he would remove the obstacle and he really removed it. Last year, in February, 2007 the deadlock between the Ministry of Railways and Ministry of Power came to an end. Though initially 2200 MW project was proposed but in the end the Central Government agreed to set up a 1000 MW Super Thermal Power Project at Navinagar, Aurangabad. Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs gave its approval

for it and we congratulate the Central Government and Laluji for implementing the MOU. Now, what is its connection with the law? Actually, thousands of acres of land has to be acquired for this purpose in this budget. This land required to be acquired has some residential land and some agricultural land. Now, this land has to be acquired and we have seen so many things happening in Bengal with regard to acquisition of land. There was blood bath and unpleasant incidents took place in Singur and Nandigram too. A similar situation was about to be created in Navinagar. The farmers constituted a Sangharsh Samiti which stated that they should get proper compensation for their land to be acquired. If proper compensation will be paid to them, then they would agree.

I, therefore, support this Railway (Amendment) Bill to be brought by Laluji which will have provisions for acquisition of land for the joint venture between the Railways and the Ministry of Power. Though, I am speaking on the Railway Budget but I have been told that this Bill has also been introduced and therefore I am expressing my views on it also. I support the Bill and request the House to support it and pass it. I believe that not only Navinagar but also other places, where Ministry of Railways will acquire land, will also benefit. The provision relating to 60% in this Bill is a unique provision and I think that the whole country should accept it and support it as it is beneficial for all.

Secondly, some unpleasant incidents took place in Mumbai and other places in Maharashtra against the North Indians especially from Bihar or Eastern Uttar Pradesh leading to their exodus from there. I have myself seen them and met them at the Patna Railway Junction and the problems and difficulties narrated by them has hurt us deeply.

We request the Maharashtra Government to give an assurance that proper safety arrangements will be made for these people on their return. I would like to tell Shri Laluji that a number of people, not one or two, rather lakhs of people from Bihar are still living there and are earning

their livelihood. These people usually visit their hometown during vacations or on some special occasions and these people prefer a special train namely 'Rajendra Nagar Express' which originates from Victoria Terminal i.e. Chhattarpati Shivaji terminal, Mumbai and terminates at Rajendra Nagar terminal, Patna. I request him to extend this train upto Darbhanga. It would be beneficial to people of North Bihar living in Mumbai and other parts of Maharashtra. It will be a great service to these people. I have also written a letter to him in this regard. If he has not received this letter. I would send a copy of it to him but please pay attention to it. Another thing is that my Parliamentary constituency Aurangabad in Bihar is affected by extremism. None can understand it better than Shri Laluji. Trains on the Grand Card line ply in night only. Therefore, the passengers of those trains who deboard at night at Rafiganj station used some conveyance or go on foot to their homes. It is entirely a rural area and is affected by extremism. My submission is that a halt should be provided at Basartpur-Godiha for which I have written a letter to Shri Laluji. I remind him of my request and once again request him to accede to my request.

Please provide a halt at Basaratpur – Godiha. It would facilitate the rural people and remove the feeling of insecurity from their minds. Only two minutes halt is required at the station. I would like to assure the hon. Minister that he would be praised for this step and we would be thankful to him.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, hon. Minister would be remembering that he had laid foundation stone of new rail line last October. I had also written to him to carry out a survey for Dohri-aun-Soan to Behata railway line. He acceded to my request and survey for the line was conducted for which I am thankful to him. But till date no action has been taken thereon after laying of foundation stone. I have come to know that as per Railway Board this railway line between Aurangabad to Behata would be constructed but Rail Budget has no mention of it. I urge him to take action in regard to this section also as he had taken care of other places. He would be praised for it.

[Shri Nikhil Kumar]

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, finally I would like to make a point in respect of farmers. Fertilizer is transported from Gaya but in the absence of rate points at Anugrah Narayan station, problems are caused to farmers. My request is to provide the rate points there to facilitate the farmers. Hon. Minister of Railways is familiar with the ground realities of that area and I hope he will pay attention to my request.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I once again thank the hon. Minister of Railways and UPA Government for presenting such a magnificent railway budget this time.

[English]

\*SHRI SUGRIB SINGH (Phulbani) : Sir, I rise here against the Budget presented by the Hon'ble Minister for Railways because Orissa had been neglected by the Railway Minister that is why they have made a budgetary allocation of only Rs. 972 crore against the demand of Rs. 1330 crore raised by the state. Out of the above allocation the major portion of the funds allocated for the railway in the state was meant for electrification and doubling of inter-state railway lines and aimed at earning more revenue while only a token amount of money was allocated for the completion of ongoing projects like - only Rs. 32.4 crore has been allocated for the Khurda - Bolangir railway line against the requirement of more than Rs. 700 crore similar treatment has been given to Lanjigarh - Junagarh railway line and only Rs. 35 crore has been allocated against the requirement of Rs. 120 crore.

Our state govt., has submit a number of projects for incorporation in the Railway Budget but not a single proposal has been considered by the Ministry of Railways. I am unable to understand why Orissa had been neglected in the pre and post independence ear in the Railway and the present Hon'ble Railways Minister has repeated the same. Sir, my state is generating a revenue of more than Rs. 6000 crores per annum for the Railways. The South

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\*....\* Speech was laid on the Table.

East Central and East Cost Railways are two leading profitable railway zones but when considering the railway density in route kms. per one thousand sq km figures the state of mine are among the states with low rail densities. This indicates that the Indian Railways is not only using profit earned from zones in tribal areas to subsidize various other zones and has discriminated against the areas from which it makes the most profit.

Railway have always played an important role in the economic development and rapid social transformation in the country but has forgot the poor and backward state like Orissa. The KBK region had been neglected and the demand of the state to link naxal affected areas like Jaypore, Malkangiri, Nuapada, Gunupur, Kandhamal and Therubali had been ignored. The Railway Ministry did not accept the proposal to link even the district headquarter of Phulbani (Kandhamal), Kendrapara and Malkangiri with rail link and to run some new trains. I have also several time requested the Hon'ble Minister from different platforms that Khandmal District is not going to get the benefit of Khurda - Bolangir railway line and requested to please link Khandmal with Berhampur and approve the same. I do not understand the reasons as to why Indian Railways is not giving special attention to the tribal areas of Orissa and KBK project as it plans to in regard to the frontier areas of North east and JandK. This area is farther from the mainstream of India than even most of North east and JandK, shares many attributes such as remoteness and presence of extremism, is among the most backward economically and yet contributes a lot to the Railway earning.

I may also mention here that the announcements made in the last year budget by the Hon'ble Ministry in regard to Orissa are not even completed so far. The Ranchi - Bhubaneswar Grib rath announced in the last budget have yet to be introduced by the Indian Railway. I not only hope but confident that Hon'ble Ministry will definitely fulfill his announcements in regard to New Trains made, in last year and also in the current Budget in respect of Orissa.

Sir, I once again request the Hon'ble Railway Minister

to change their old policies and kindly allocate at least a sum of Rs. 500 crore for new ongoing Khurda - Bolangir railway line and allocate at least Rs. 100 crore for Lanjigarh - Junagarh railway line and also consider the setting up of new link to Khandmal (Phulbani) with Berhampur and approve the same for survey in the current financial year.\*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Basudeb Acharia, please be very brief.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura) : I will get my party's time.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I agree with that.

[Translation]

Achariaji, yesterday members of other parties were complaining of time. Therefore, please keep time limit in mind.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : I will not speak if you do not allow.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You may use your party's time, I do not have any objection provided that members of your party do not compell. 5 members of your party have given their names. Your party has been allotted 56 minutes.

[English]

From my party, I have only two Members.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : But out of those 5, 2 are not present here.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I have five names from your party. The time allotted is 56 minutes.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : They will come on Monday. They would speak on Monday or Tuesday because the time of the House would be extended further.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I agree with you.

[Translation]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, please allow me the time allocated to our party.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I wanted to felicitate Shri Laluji but now I can not. It is the last Railway budget of UPA Government during its term of 5 years. After this I will not get the chance as there would be no budget in February...(Interruptions)

SHRI SURENDRA PRAKASH GOYAL : Then vote on Account will be there.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Vote on Account will be presented then and Railway Budget will be presented later on.

[English]

He has not increased the passenger fare in the Budget. There is some reduction, a nominal reduction rather. But what is happening is, even after the presentation of Budget, in the media review, every time - this is our experience - for changing the classification, the freight rate is also revised. Very recently, this year in January, on 2nd, the classification in the case of cement clinker and iron ore has been changed. Thereby, the freight rate has been increased.

This happened last year also in the case of steel and coal - by changing the classification, the freight rate is also changed. This has been mentioned by Shri Harin Pathak and the Standing Committee on Railway also strongly recommended this. When 200 Express Trains were upgraded to Superfast Trains, only nomenclature was changed and there was no improvement in the services.

The criterion which was fixed 25 years back; if the average speed of the Express Train is 55 KM per hour, then that train will be declared as a Superfast Train. When was it fixed? 25 years back. During these 25 years, there have been lots of improvements. All the wooden sleepers.

[Shri Basu Deb Acharia]

steel sleepers were replaced by concrete sleepers. The tracks had also been replaced; track renewal had also been done. So, what we had recommended is this — in order to declare an Express Train as a Super Fast Train, the minimum speed should be 75 KM per hour. But that has not been agreed to.

The relief was given only to the daily commuters. After we took up this issue, the relief was given only to the daily commuters. There has not been any change in the departure and the arrival time of the trains; there were no passenger amenities that have been improved, but the passengers ought to pay more for travelling in Super Fast Trains. The nomenclature was only changed.

Similarly, in 2001-02, safety surcharge was levied, when SRSF was created with Rs.17,000 crore. Out of this amount of Rs.17,000 crore, Rs.12,000 crore came from the Central Exchequer and Rs. 5,000 crore came from the passengers, by levying safety surcharge. This safety surcharge was for five years during the Tenth Five Year Plan. So, for five years, safety surcharge was levied. After the expiry of five years in 2006-07, this safety surcharge was converted as developmental surcharge — from Rs.1 to Rs.100. That is the surcharge, whereas after the expiry of five years, this safety surcharge should have been withdrawn.

Eighty five per cent of the common passengers travel in second class. They could have got much relief much more than what Shri Laluji has announced as relief to the passengers by reducing the fare nominally.

Sir, it is indeed a fact that after many-many years because of taking certain innovative measures the Railway Ministry is earning surplus. But the surplus which has been announced is not the real surplus. You have to deduct the dividend and liability. There is also a change in the accounting system. The lease charge is now not shown in the ordinary expenses thereby it has an impact on the operating ratio. The operating ratio has also been reduced

to 76 per cent. But there is a surplus. Why there is a surplus. The question is whether it will sustain or not.

For the last three years about 9 to 10 tonnes, more than the carrying capacity, is being allowed to be carried by the freight train. A Committee was constituted which examined whether it has any impact on the permanent rake and the rolling stock. It has its impact on the permanent rake. So, the gain which we have today with the same number of rake, with the same rolling stock, we are getting more revenue. We are carrying more freight. This is not a temporary gain. It will have impact on the track condition and in future you will have to face problem. That aspect has to be taken care of.

More thrust has been given to public-private partnership. Left Parties have our principle stand. This as also the earlier budget is not isolated from the policy of economic reform which has been pursued by this Government. The Railway Minister in his speech has stated that for the 11th Five Year Plan, the Railways need Rs. 2,50,000 crore for modernisation. We also want that railway system should be modernised. We have a number of age old signalling systems today. Even after spending thousand crores for replacement and modernisation of signalling system we find age old signalling system in some sections. All the signalling systems have not been replaced by the modern signalling system. We need money but whether the Railways also has the potentiality to increase its surplus, to increase its revenue. The thrust in the Tenth Five Year plan was to increase the market share of the Railways. Where do we stand today? The market share of the Railways during Tenth Five Year Plan has not been increased as it was expected. Today, the market share in case of freight train is only 35 per cent. The bulk traffic is coal, iron ore and steel. Iron ore means ore for the export mainly and also for the steel plant.

Today, 89 million tonnes of iron ore is being exported. There is a demand for ban on the export of iron ore. Out of 89 million tonnes of iron ore, the Railways share is about 40 million tonnes in one Railway, i.e., South-Eastern

Railway. In spite of that, the Railways would surpass its target of 785 million tonnes. The Railways are expected to reach 790 million tonnes. In spite of that, market share has not increased. There is scope to increase the market share by increasing Railways own share. The Railways can earn money therefore there is no need for inviting private sector in the Railways. What is happening today? The container traffic is the cream traffic. A substantial percentage of container traffic is now going to the private sector. The Railway Minister, Shri Laluji has announced that the number of trains to be operated during 2008-09 by the private parties will be increased substantially. So, the percentage of container traffic also will be increased. Now four stations would be modernised and upgraded to the world class standard by spending Rs.15000 crore. What will be the role of the private sector? I would like to know whether these stations fall under the core activities of Railways or not. It is because station means not only the building and the platform but also the operation of the Railway system. So, should we agree to hand over the core sector of the Railways to the private sector or not?

Prior to 2003-04, at least, 70 per cent of the catering system including departmental catering was with the Railways. Now the internal catering system has been privatised. The IRCTC was created to privatise the catering system. They took it over and handed it over to the private sector. The catering system in the Railways was started as a passenger amenity activity. Now there is a commercial outlook. The Railways want to earn money out of catering system by handing over the entire catering system to the private sector. What is happening now? If Rs.25,000 was the licence fee, now it has been increased to Rs.2 lakh and from Rs.50,000 to Rs. 5 lakh. There is no justification. What is happening is that the workers who were engaged by the private contractor are getting only Rs.20 or Rs.25 or Rs.30. They are not even getting the minimum wages. The erstwhile workers who were engaged by the old contractor, all are thrown out of their jobs. Even the departmental employees who even did not opt to become the employees of IRCTC were deemed to the employees of IRCTC and now they have no place in the Railways. Such is the happening.

The Railways have 16 good printing presses. Now the Ministry of Railway has decided to close down all the 16 printing presses. Out of these 16 presses, six are located in the State of West Bengal. During NDA regime, the Central Government decided to close down 13 printing presses. When there was a change in the Government and the UPA Government came to power, the decision to close down 13 printing presses of Central Government was reversed and all the printing presses are now being modernised.

What will happen now? The printing work will be handed over to private printing presses and there are 5000 employees engaged in printing presses who will be declared as surplus.

There are a large number of vacancies. The Railway Minister has admitted it and during his period also, there has been reduction in the staff strength. Today, we have 14,6400 employees in the Railways putting together 'A', 'B', 'C' and 'D' grade employees. Even in the safety category, there are a large number of vacancies. In every zonal railway, in the case of running staff, shortage is to the extent of 30 per cent to 40 per cent. What is happening? Drivers and assistant drivers who are called as pilots and assistant pilots are to work for more than 16 to 17 hours whereas Shri Lalu Prasad Yadav does not know the situation in each and every zonal railway.

There was an agreement long back, in 1973, when Shri Lalit Narayan Mishra was the Railway Minister that the duty hours of running staff, from sign on and sign off, should be ten hours. This has been blatantly violated. The regulation regarding hours of employment is violated in the Railways. If the drivers are to work for more than 16 to 17 hours, there will be human failure. He has said that human failure has to be eliminated including the upgradation of technology thus reducing mechanical failure also.

I welcome the decision to recruit licensed porters.

[Translation]

The decision to employ the licensed porters in Railways

[Shri Basu Deb Acharia]

is a good decision. It was a long pending demand that coolies should be taken on Railways rolls. However, the problem likely to generate in this regard should also be well addressed. A good step has been taken for the licensed porters, but in August 2004, I had received a letter from Shri Laluji mentioning that similar steps would be taken for coal and ash workers. The language used in the letter was similar to that used by him in his speech. On telephone he told me that he has taken step for the poor people. I was very happy. Letters were also issued to them. A screening of 300-400 workers was also done. But later on he started saying that the number of workers run into thousands. It would be difficult to absorb all of them. I told him that they would not be more than 200-300 in number. Moreover, it would be inappropriate if his own orders are not implemented. A very praiseworthy step has been taken.

[English]

Licensed porters will be given a chance to become railway employees and the cases of erstwhile coal and ash workers should also be considered alongwith licensed porters.

Now, I was saying as to how we can improve our market share. There are certain bottlenecks. Even after modernisation, even after spending Rs. 17,000 crore, our average speed in the case of freight trains is 24 kilometres.

15.39 hrs.

[SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN *in the Chair*]

In the case of passenger trains, it is 42 kilometres per hour. If we can increase it by 10 per cent, we can release the capacity. What is happening today? Even after track renewal, after replacement of concrete sleeper, the average speed is not being increased.

As a result of that the capacity which is required to be augmented is not being done. I am saying this because

railways will face challenges. When we achieved independence in 1947, we had 53,000 kilometres of railway track. After sixty years of our Independence, our achievement is only 10,000 kilometres of railway track. Today, we have only 63,000 kilometres of railway track. China, in 1949, had 11,000 kilometres of railway track only. Today, they have 46,000 kilometres. Every year they are constructing 1,000 kilometres. They are adding new lines. But in our country, for the year 2007-08, the addition is only 186 kilometres. Although the projection of the Tenth Five Year Plan for new line is 1,310 kilometres, at the end of the Tenth Five Year Plan the addition is only 920 kilometres. That means per year, our achievement is less than 1,000 kilometres.

The same is the case with doubling. Doubling is required for capacity augmentation. When a new line is constructed it is a single line. It is called "One Engine Line". When the traffic increases, when it reaches the saturation point, there is a need to convert it to double line. But the target for doubling also has not been achieved. Then, how will we be able to increase the capacity and thereby increase our market share? This year also, the allocation for new line has been slashed. The allocation of money for new line has been reduced. Last year, in 2007-08, it was Rs. 2,681.21 crore. For this year, it has been reduced to Rs.1,700 crore.

We have a large number of pending projects. More than 200 projects are pending. A White Paper was presented to this House. Under Remote Sampark Yojana, some projects were identified for connecting the remote areas with railway infrastructure. Why is railway line needed? Why do we demand expansion of railway network? Economic development and industrialisation are closely connected with railway infrastructure. Where there is no railway line, CD ratio is much less. We need world class stations. But what should be our priority? Our priority should be towards expansion of railway network. The remote areas should be connected. If the allocation for expansion of railway network and for new lines is reduced, then what are we going to do with the surplus which is



being generated every year to the tune of Rs. 8,000 crore or Rs.13,000 crore or Rs.20,000 crore? What will you do with the surplus money if that money is not utilised for the expansion of railway network?

We need a railway network. Recently, I visited one place which is a centre of iron-ore. It is Barbil-Barsuan. You will be surprised to know the plight of the passengers. I boarded a train at quarter past five of the clock. In the early morning when I came to the Station, there was no platform. I was told that in one station, in one siding, the earning is Rs.242 crore. I told the General Manager of South-Eastern Railway that he should spend at least rupees one crore each year for the development of that station. There is no platform. There is no passenger shed.

Sir, he stated that there are four or five categories of platforms like A, B, C, D, E and F. Now, the hon. Railway Minister has decided to raise the platforms of A and B categories. Why should there be four categories of platforms? We recommended that there should be two categories of platforms – high level and low level ones.

Passengers are passengers. Passengers may be of E or F category. But the basic minimum passenger amenities should be provided to all the passengers. You will see that in the E or F category, there is no passenger shed. Only a tree is planted. Every year, the branches are cut. There is cemented platform, they are calling it passenger shed, passenger amenities. After track renewal, the track level becomes higher than the platform. So, there should be another category of platform whose level should be lower than the track. Low level and high level categories should be there. There should be the fourth category of platform lower than the track. Because of the concrete sleeper, the track level becomes higher than the platform. My suggestion is that enough money should be allocated for the new lines. Some time-bound programme should be taken up to complete all the pending projects. These are very much necessary.

The State of Orissa, four years back, used to get Rs.325 crore. Only the year before last, it was doubled

to Rs.600 crore. This year also, the same allocation has been made. There has not been any increase. We recommended Rs.1200 crore but out of that Rs.1200 crore, we got only Rs.687 crore.

[Translation]

Laluji has doubled it. Earlier not more than Rs.300-350 crore were allocated for Orissa. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI B. MAHTAB (Cuttack) : It was 90 crore during the congress regime.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Yes, 90 crore. Puri is a very important place. It is connected with a single line! It is being converted in to double line, the work is going on since long but it is not being completed. Laluji, you are sleeping, you are not paying attention to it...*(Interruptions)* Please pay attention do it. This project is important for people from every place...*(Interruptions)*

I had been to Puri also. I like Puri. There is a village Chitrapat Raghurajpur adjacent to Puri.

[English]

I like Puri very much. This is why. I mention about Puri and Barbil.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You have taken thirty minutes.. Please conclude.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : I have not come to my State as yet.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You are the Chairman of the Standing Committee on Railways. You can put in all your ideas in the Report. There is always a chance of doing that. That will be taken into consideration.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Let me come to my State. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : He has been given thirty minutes. Why do you stand up?

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : From Barbil, to reach the district headquarters of Keonjhar, it takes about seven hours. Laying 20 km. of railway line will serve the purpose ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Only 12 hours have been allotted. There are 60 hon. Members to speak.

*[Translation]*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : What is the problems is 60 members have to speak.

*[English]*

This is Railway Budget.

Sir, now I will come to my State. We had a meeting when we found that in this year's Budget, West Bengal has been ignored. There are only two or three proposals for doubling and that too will depend on contribution from Haldia Port. Then there is a fourth line for which we have been asking for the last 20 years line. It is the Panakura-Kharagpur line. We have been asking for that for the last 20 years. Laluji has sanctioned this year only the fourth line and two weekly trains mainly for West Bengal. Now, Kolkata suburban has daily passenger traffic of 28 lakhs together in Sealdah and Howrah. For the last seven or eight years, the suburban services had not been increased. This year, I am happy that he has announced 300 services for Mumbai suburban. We also that. I have also written to him. But, why should Kolkata not get more rakes? Why Kolkata still has 9 car rake? Eighty per cent of the rakes in suburban areas are 9 car rakes, whereas eighty per cent of rakes in Mumbai are 12 car rakes.

Why has Kolkata only 3 terminals? Earlier, there were two terminals. After we put pressure on the Government, another terminal was sanctioned for Kolkata. Laluji inaugurated that terminal. I also went along with him. It is a very good terminal. But, in South-eastern Railways, they do not have their own terminal. There is an additional platform in Howrah station that has been constructed

exclusively for the South-eastern Railways. Shalimar which was conceived in 1980s to be a full-fledged terminal with 12 platforms, has got only 2 platforms today. So there is a proposal to have a terminal either at Majerhat or Satrarache. So, the State Government will be consulted when the location will be there. There is a proposal to have a separate terminal for suburban Mumbai. Suburban Mumbai has a separate terminal, namely, Church Gate. Similarly, Kolkata also should have a separate terminal at Solgura near Howrah. Then the problem of Kolkata suburban can be addressed properly. Kolkata metro's extension up to Gorlah is taking place and we are expecting that by 2009, it would be completed and it would be open for traffic. For extension from Dumdum to Dakshinashwer, for that the Report has been submitted. We want that the State Government's share because the State Government has agreed to share the cost of construction of the extension of metro. So that should also be sanctioned. No new line projects have been sanctioned for the last four years in West Bengal, not a single new line. Sir, take for instance Jhargram-Purulia. Purulia is in my district, but Jhargram is in West Midnapore. Then, there is Bankura. After delimitation, that area will come in my constituency. From Jhargram to Purulia, the entire belt is tribal. There are extremist activities also bordering Orissa and Jhargram. Laluji had visited this area several times, he is aware of it.

So, that line will solve the purpose of backward areas. The rate of return is - 6 per cent. For the expansion of railway network we should not be very strict on the rate of return that it should be 14 per cent. When the interest rate is 7 per cent, why should the rate of return should be 14 per cent in the case of railways? Then there is another consideration that if the project is not remunerative, it should be socially desirable. Otherwise, in the North East, in certain areas no project can be taken up if we go strictly by the rate of return. Laluji will also agree with me on this point.

Sir, a large number of industries are coming up in our area. The capacity of steel production will reach 29 million

tonnes in the steel plants. Power generation will reach 6,000 MW by the end of the 11th Five Year Plan. There are cement plants in West Midnapore, Purulia and Bankura. So, if this is updated, then I am sure that this project would be remunerative because in 2005 the survey was updated. At that time the rate of return was – 6 per cent, now it will be plus. Then, there is a small single line section between Burnpur and Aasonsol. ISSCO is being expanded and its capacity will reach 2.5 million tonnes. The capacity of Durgapur Steel Plant is being augmented to 3 million tonnes. But in between there is a single line section for which survey has been completed and the report has been submitted. The rate of return for this line is 54 per cent, but it has not found place in the Railway Budget. I would request the Railway Minister that this should also be considered.

Sir, when Laluji went to Krishnanagar to inaugurate the Krishnanagar-Lalgola section electrification, he made an announcement.

MR. CHAIRMAN : There are 9 speakers from the CPI (M) and it has been allotted 56 minutes out of which you have already taken 40 minutes. So, please be brief and conclude soon.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Sir, I will finish within five minutes.

MR. CHAIRMAN : There are nine speakers from your party.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : And that includes your name also and that is why you are asking me to conclude!

Sir, Laluji announced the running of Hazaar Dwari Express in Murshidabad. As you know, Murshidabad is famous for Siraj-ud-daula. Last year was the 250th year of the War of Plassey. In the memory of Siraj-ud-daula who fought for the independence of our country, we requested Laluji to announce the running of Hazaar Dwari Express. He also agreed and he announced it.

[Translation]

It would not be in the name of any person, that is why he announced the train in the name of Hazaar Dwari. House was in session at that time. Therefore, he asked me whether it was in his jurisdiction. I said as it was not a policy matter so, he could do it. so it was done but in the budget it was announced as a weekly train though we had requested for a daily one. What is being done for the tourists...*(Interruptions)* He has stated that it would run as a daily train.

[English]

Sir, during the freedom struggle, there was the Tewaga Peasant Movement in West Bengal. He inaugurated a train-Kolkata-Balughat-Tivaya Express. That train also runs only three days a week. From the district headquarters, there is only one train coming to Kolkata and that too it runs only for three days in a week. That means, the people from Dakshin Dinajpur will get a chance to come to Kolkata only for three days in a week. I would request the Railway Minister that this train should be made a daily train.

Then, Jalpaiguri is not only a district headquarters but it is also a divisional headquarters and a Circuit Bench of the Kolkata High Court also will be inaugurated soon at Jalpaiguri. There is no direct train from Jalpaiguri to Kolkata, three or four coaches come to a station, another set of four coaches come to another station and then they are all attached to another train and that comes to Sealdah. I am not asking for a new train. There is a Superfast Train from Sealdah to New Jalpaiguri. So, I would request the hon. Railway Minister to extend it up to Haldibadi so that the demand of the people of Jalpaiguri district can be met.

16.00 hrs.

He has assured that he would definitely examine it.

There is no electrification project in this. We have asked for two electrification projects. One is from Rampurhat to Khana and another is from Pandeshwar to

[Shri Basu Deb Acharia]

Sathia. If the survey is completed then the electrification process can be done.

Lastly, I would like to say that he will be the first Railway Minister who took initiative for the democratic functioning of the unions in the Railways.

[Translation]

They told me that they wanted to introduce the secret ballot system. I said that it would be very good because we were demanding this in all the budgets for the last many years. [English] I used to demand the introduction of secret ballot for recognition of unions. [Translation] He took the initiative. [English] Railway has production units, CLW, DLW, RCF, ICF, etc. These are factories [Translation] Laluji, there is a factory there and there is no recognized union there. Kolkata Metro has no recognized union. You have done a lot of commendable jobs therefore, the production units, [English] where there is no recognized union, they had to go to the court. [Translation] Those people had to approach the court as they wanted to know as to what was their mistake. They said that they were also a part of the railways. This case has been going on for 15-20 years. It was stated in that matter that it was a project, a construction company. Sir, I would like to urge that a union should be there also because you have taken many commendable steps.

[English]

I sincerely hope that Laluji will definitely extend the secret ballot system to all the production units. I would like to know why the workers of the production units and Metro Railway should be deprived of the democratic rights to have their recognized union. Thank you, Sir, for giving me time to speak a few words on this Budget.

[Translation]

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR (Chail) : Sir, I would like

to thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak on the Railway Budget 2008-09.

First of all, I would like to thank and congratulate Lalu Prasad ji for presenting the Railway Budget for fifth time during this tennure as Minister of Railways and for presenting a budget showing the profit of Rs.25,000 crore. Today, the Supplementary Demands for the year 2005-06, 2007-08 and General Demands for 2008-09 along with the Bill for making amendments in the Railway Act, 1979 have all been taken up together for discussion. By looking at the Supplementary Demands, it seems that we will not be able to see the next budget because at that time we will be busy with the elections. Lalu Prasadji has stated in the rail budget that trains will fall the planes. Right now both the State Ministers of Railways are present here, I would like to tell them that if they want the plane's to be outperformed by trains, then they will have to pay attention towards the railway tracks of the entire country.

In my opinion, there are many such tracks, which were laid during the British era, pre-independence times and our trains are still running on them. There is a need to repair and look after them. Similarly, there are a number of bridges and small culverts on these tracks, on which trains run at a fast speed, there is a need to repair them as well. Besides, a number of railway lines have not been electrified so far. Electrification of these railway tracks is also necessary, so that the consumption of diesel could be reduced and the trains can run at the higher speed. This will also reduce the number of accidents. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now the House is in session; there should be no discussion between Members. That will amount that it is a market place; that cannot be.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR : Railway Minister has

stated on thing — "Musafir hoga Rail ka Raja." I would like to say that a lot of announcements have been made by him in the Rail budget. What is required is to increase the number of general bogies in all the express trains because 60-70 percent people who travel by train travel in general bogies i.e. general category. There are 2 to 4 or maximum 6 AC coaches in each Express train and the rest are general coaches. Therefore, the number of general bogies in all the mail and express trains should be increased further, this will reduce the burden and the condition of railways would improve.

He has mentioned about Garib Rath in his Rail Budget. I believe that this train is not for poor people, because all these trains have AC 3rd coaches and their fares are 25 percent more than the general category. He has mentioned about introducing ten new similar trains. What would be more important is that he should run second class and general coaches trains in a large number so that maximum number of people may be benefited. *...(Interruptions)* This makes it more convenient for the second-class passenger to get reservation done.

I would like to thank hon. Minister of Railways for not increasing the passenger fares as well as freight rates this time also, whereas the fares for AC 1st and 2nd class have been reduced by 15 to 20 percent. At the same time he has not made any reduction in the fares of general category. That should have been done so. It would have benefited 70 percent people travelling by trains.

This is our demand and if possible, he may kindly announce the same in his reply. In his Rail Budget he has also mentioned about allotting booking agencies to the education unemployed persons. The UPA Government has announced a number of schemes for providing employment to the unemployed people and has also enacted the Nation Rural Employment Guarantee Act. I would like to say those educated unemployed persons to who are going to be allotted Booking agencies, should get enough commission to be able to meet the requirements of their families. He will have to do this much.

Hon. Minister has also mentioned about providing catering and bedding facility in all the Express trains. The Prayagraj train runs at night from Allahabad to New Delhi and from New Delhi to Allahabad, Maximum passengers sleep during the journey. There should be a pantry car in the train so that people can at least get tea. In the previous Rail budget, he had talked about serving tea in 'Kulhad' but that is not seen anywhere. Similarly he had talked about providing 'Khadi' bedding also but again that is also missing. He must pay special attention towards this. If 'Kulhad' and 'Khadi' are strictly introduced, then those people who are neglected and who are engaged in such work, will be directly benefited. He has also mentioned about running the Lucknow - Shatabdi train at the speed of 150 kilometers per hour. My submission is that the speed of train may be increased to 200 instead of 150 KMPH but the tracks and the culverts enroute will have to be repaired and brought upto the required standard. *...(Interruptions)* There is an urgent need to repair old culverts. The hon. Minister has stated that 800 new ticket booking centers will be opened. I would urge the hon. Minister to open computerized reservation centers at Manoli, Sirathu, Khaga and Kunda stations falling under my constituency Pratapgarh. It will be immensely beneficial to the commuters.

He has announced introduction of 55 new trains. I have observed that Uttar Pradesh has been ignored in this regard. On being asked the hon. Minister said that since all the trains pass through U.P., hence there is no need of new trains for the said State. I would like to tell Vijay Bhai that in a new train would be deemed to have been introduced only if it has been started from terminating point in the State. He should accept that Uttar Pradesh has been ignored and he should consider the demands of the hon. Members in this regard. *...(Interruptions)* He has made a mention of 24 trains. It is to be seen as to how many trains out of these 24 trains will have stoppages in Uttar Pradesh and in how many trains the State will have reservation quota. He will have to accept that he has ignored U.P. since he has not enhanced reservation quota. He has announced that the railways would provide more bogies

[Shri Shailendra Kumar]

in 190 trains. In this regard my submission is that as 70-75 per cent passengers travel in second-class, therefore, the number of second class bogies should be increased.

If we visit platform number – 1 on any of the station, we find the platform clean and ceremoniously decorated, whereas the condition of rest of the platforms on the same station remains shabby. The hon. Minister will have to accept it. The platform number one is kept clean because the offices of Ticket Collector, SS, SM, etc. and even offices of RP and GRP are located there. Well, no doubt it should be decorated, but at the same time other platforms should also be expanded, kept clean, should be provided with sitting facility and tea-stalls etc. We find length of several platforms lesser than the length of trains and the passenger from AC bogies have to get down on the ground without platform. There is a need to construct platform at such stations.

I would like to thank him for having made special provisions in the budget for women and students. I would urge the Minister of State to provide concessional tickets to the educated unemployed irrespective of their qualification, such as high school, inter, graduate, or post graduates. Then only our budget can be termed as a good budget.

He has provided for creation of Ministry welfare cells in zonal railways. But no details have been provided in this regard. I would like the hon. Minister to throw light on the creation of said cells in his reply.

The hon. Minister has addressed longstanding demand of license holder coolies by appointing them on the post of Gangman II (Group-D).

I urge the hon. Minister to implement it soon so that it does not remain a mere announcement. They should be provided better salary so that they could lead a dignified life and feed their family. There has been long standing

demand that no crossing should remain unmanned. Unmanned railway crossings result in accidents as large number of two wheelers and four wheelers cross the track.

Second thing, I would like to bring to the notice of the hon. Railway Minister is regarding inadequate allocation for railway network under North Central Railway, i.e. from Mugal Sarai to Delhi. I would urge him to allocate adequate funds for it so that more facilities can be provided for the passengers.

The present budget appears to be a run up to privatization of railways. Our budget should not pave way for its privatisation. There is a need to check it. So far as on line reservation is concerned, there is a need to evolve mechanism for surrendering the tickets purchased through e-ticketing. In my view hon. Minister has indirectly burdened passengers through e-ticketing. It should also be cleared.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, Kanpur is 156 kms. away from Bharvay under my parliamentary constituency Manori Bharvay. My submission is that the railways should charge Rs. 150, 160 and 170 for MST and central state Government employees and officers, businessman or industrialists who travel from Allahabad to Pratapgarh or Kanpur should be allowed to purchase their MST from the station of their choice. It will not only facilitate the passengers but will also generate revenue for railways. I have already urged him to provide more bogies in Jansadharan and Express trains. Further, my submission is that a train should be started from Allahabad-Yashwantpur. The frequency of Tulsī Express should be increased to seven days a week, a daily train should be introduced between Banda-Kanpur as Kanpur is an industrial city. Further, there is a need to start a passenger train between Kanpur-Mahoba. Mahoba under Bundelkhand is quite backward area and also drought prone. The condition of farmers in this area is very poor and they are compelled to commit suicide, therefore, this train should be given priority. At present, there is no train from Allahabad to Bangalore. As whereas, large number of

passengers go to south Indian including Bangalore from here. A large number of IT students go to Bangalore and they have been demanding for the said train. It is very difficult to get reservation in Allahabad – Delhi Prayagraj Express, the train started by the hon. Minister. Therefore, there is a need to start one more train on this route. Kanpur-Jhansi route should be immediately electrified as its electrification has been pending for long. There is only one AC First bogie in Prayagraj Express and since there is a high court in Allahabad, judges also travel and because of that our Members do not get place in AC bogie, though trial of an extra bogie has also been conducted. I would urge that one more first class bogie should be added to Prayagraj Express (No. 2417 and 2418) from both the sides.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to tell one very important thing that complaints of drugging of passengers are being received. Newspapers are full of such complaints.

Passengers become victim of drugging while going to their homes after disembarking from train. Two to four dead bodies are found on our railway tracks almost every day. People kill passengers and their dead bodies are thrown out of the train. Passengers are even pushed out of running train. I think that you gave two forces namely RPF and GRP. You are going to recruit five thousand persons in RPF. Drugging of passengers should be checked. The dead persons found on the railway tracks are also someone's son, brother, husband, head of the family etc. There is need to take it seriously. The distance between Allahabad and Lucknow in 200 kms. but people prefer to go by bus. I would request that the railway track of this route should be repaired. Allahabad, and Lucknow are important cities with Lucknow being not only the capital but also has various headquarters and a bench of High Court too. Therefore, more people travel there. There is need to pay attention to them seriously.

MPs should be given priority in guest houses and retiring rooms at-least. There are many stations without lighting and drinking water facilities. When train halts there

at night, there is complete darkness. Incidents of robbery, dacoity and snatching take place there. Whether it is a small station or a big one, lighting and drinking water facilities should be there. The condition of the Railway colonies is even more bad. Railway employees live there. Facilities of electricity, drinking water and children's education should be provided there.

Railway crossing at Bharwari in my constituency remains jammed. Funds of Rs. 6 crore for construction of Rohi bye pass is still lying unused under the Rashtriya Sam Vikas Yojana. Uttar Pradesh Government wants to give it even today. I want that an overbridge should be constructed there so that the people can visit the headquarters of Kaushambi district Mangalpur easily. The stations at Bharwari, Seratu and Kaushambi junction should be made bigger stations. Since it is a new district, prominent trains should be provided halt there. Since Khajuraho, Chitrakoot and Kaushambi have religious importance, therefore, a new railway track should be constructed from main line Mughalsarai so that foreigners can also go there.

*[English]*

MR. CHAIRMAN : You can lay it on the Table of the House. Please conclude.

*[Translation]*

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR : There is Chinkula railway crossing in district Pratapgarh. An overbridge has been sanctioned there. I want that you should get its foundation stone laid. You have extended the new train between New Delhi and Raebareilly to Pratapgarh. I want that you should inaugurate it soon. With this, I conclude.

*[English]*

MR. CHAIRMAN : About the local issues and all these matters you can give it in writing.

*[Translation]*

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR : I would particularly like to thank the hon'ble Railway Minister for presenting the Railway Budget. I support it.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : I now call Shri Raghunath Jha to speak. Shri Jha, please be brief. About the local issues, you can give it in writing.

[Translation]

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA (Bettiah) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I feel proud that the leader of our party hon'ble Lalu Prasadji had presented fifth Budget in the House. It is his charismatic leadership and style of working that in all the previous four budgets he did not increase the fares and freight rates rather he has reduced them and the Railways has made profit of Rs. 25000 crore. For this, I heartily welcome the Railway Budget and the leadership of Laluji.

Sir, I have worked with Laluji for 20 years. My association with him spans back to politics of Bihar also. When Janata Dal was formed in Bangalore in 1988, people from different parties like Janata Party and Lok Dal joined it including the late leader Biju Patnaik also. When Janata Dal was formed, the people of Bihar voted for the son of a poor in the elections in 1990 and the whole world has seen as to how the elite class opposed him when he started taking steps for the poor. This son of poor put behind bars anyone who worked against the law and order of the country, constitution and unity and integrity of the country. This was the reason why he was implicated in different cases in Bihar. He was the very person who took forward the vast Railways empire for the last four years, earned a name for himself in the world, enabled the country to make profit of Rs. 68,000 crore in the last 4 years and made all round progress of the country but the rich people in Bihar tried to obstruct us. He is the one who creates his own world and not the one who is created by the world. He has achieved success through hard work. Though eradication of Zamindari was done in Bihar but it has remained a feudal society. It is also true that Bihar is the most poor state in India today. In today's speech of mine, I want to tell that the Central Government has also been responsible to a large extent for this. We could not develop

because we were deprived of our share in our minerals, mines, forests, large scale industries, whether in private or public sector, by making their headquarters in Kolkata, Mumbai or Delhi when Jharkhand was not a separate state. But, the most important issue is that of the rivers coming from Nepal. Here, north Bihar incurs losses every year due to these rivers. Thus, it is not an ordinary thing to run such a complex state. Railways have an important role in giving impetus to the development of that state. Hon. Minister of Railways has expanded the network of railways throughout the country, set up new factories for manufacturing wagons and Bihar has got its share and we welcome this. Hon'ble Minister of Railways is not here at present but the Minister of State for Railways and officers are sitting here and I would like to point out that Champaran the "Karmbhumi of Gandhiji", which have given four Lok Sabha seats to you, Sheohar and Sitamarhi are the most backward areas.

You have introduced ten Garib Rath but even a single is not available for us-why? The people of that region are waiting impatiently for their leader to introduce a Garib Rath to Delhi via Muzaffarpur, Bettiah, Bagha, Motihari, Gorakhpur, Kanpur as they have given four Lok Sabha seats to him. This is their demand.

Sir, I would like to request hon. Minister of Railways to introduce a Garib Rath for that region as he has given priority to new trains and wagons in the railway budget and introduced as many as 10 Garib Raths. The people of North Bihar are the poorest. Therefore, please give one Garib Rath for them.

I had gone to Gujarat in connection with a committee meeting. Hon. Members of Gujarat are sitting here. At that time, Shrimati Bhavnaben Devrajibhai Chikhaliya was the chairperson of Railway Connection Committee. I was also a member of that committee...(Interruptions) Ranaji is the leader of that area. When he introduced me to the people of Gujarat, they told me that the birthplace of Mahatma Gandhi and his Karmbhoomi Champaran from where he led the national movement were not connected by rail. They



further told me that the Minister of Railways was from my state and requested me to urge him to connect the Karmbhoomi with the birthplace. I would like to congratulate the Minister of Railways for changing the name of Motihari station to Bapudham Motihari station and installing a statute of Mahatma Gandhi on platform no. 2 where Mahatma Gandhi, known as Mohandas Karmchand Gandhi at that time, alighted to go to Champaran to meet with the farmers who had been victims of atrocities. The Minister of Railways ordered to introduce a weekly train from Bapudham Motihari to Porbandar on that very day and the train is running now...*(Interruptions)*

DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA (Rajkot) : Ask them to run the train two days a week.

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA : I am asking for a daily train ...*(Interruptions)*. You are asking for two days a week whereas I am asking for a daily train. That train travels a longer route to reach Delhi, please shorten the route of this train...*(Interruptions)* via Lucknow, Kanpur to Delhi ...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mr. Jha, you do not have time to respond to him. Therefore, do not answer him.

...*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA : It will not work if it runs from here to there.

*[English]*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Hon. Member, Mr. Jha, please address the Chair.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please look at me and speak.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : If you look here and there, then you will stray away from our points. Therefore, you should face me and speak. Please do not look at them. If you look straight and speak, then you will not be in trouble.

...*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA : Introduce daily trains from Gorakhpur to Delhi via Kanpur and Lucknow and from Delhi to Porbandar. These train should have stoppage at Bagha, Ramnagar, known as Harinagar station and Chanpatia station in my area. Bapudham train goes to Maduadih, Varanasi. At present this train runs on three days a week. We demand that this train should also be made a daily train because most of the people of that region go to Varanasi for studies and treatment. This train does not stop at Bagha, Harinagar and Chanpatia, so we demand that this train should stop at these stations.

Sir, I was going back to my constituency on 29th February when the budget was presented. Hon'ble Member Adityanathji was also with me, though he is not here at present. Adityanathji got down at Gorakhpur and I proceeded towards Bettiah, my Lok Sabha constituency. All the coolies poured colour and 'abir' on me from Narkatiyaganj station to Bagha and Bettiah as the Minister of Railways had announced to appoint them as class IV employees. "Yahan to na parcha hai, na kharcha hai our gaon-gaon me charcha hai, ghar-ghar me charcha hai." One thing hurts me much. I have been also leading a public life for long time.

Sir, I am not praising myself. But I have been a member of Legislative Assembly and Member of Lok Sabha as well as Minister during the last 37-38 years. We as well as the opposition members have been raising the matters relating to loan-waiver for the farmers, providing facilities in the trains and help to the poor but when the Minister of Railways was making announcement, all the people watched his face and facial expressions. Similarly when the Finance Minister was delivering his speech I wondered

[Shri Raghunath Jha]

at his facial expressions and thought whether he was not aware that the public in the country was watching on television. But these people feel uncomfortable. Today hon. Prime Minister was replying to the question on the basis of facts and figures. Members often disturbed him. I want to say that you will get your turn. If you have facts, you can counter that but disturbing the Prime Minister and Leader of Opposition goes on. So I would like to say that this kind of interruption should not take place.

Therefore, not only we but people all over the country welcome the decision to bring the licensed porters under the category of class IV employees.

Besides, representation for minorities and urdu speaking people in group 'D' services, Recruitment Board and in other railway Committees is also a praiseworthy decision. But the mere mention of minorities enrages the people. They comprise 14% of the total population of the country. It is impossible to do politics by ignoring them. They are a part of the society and they should not be deprived of their share. Therefore, we would like to congratulate the Minister of Railways for taking this step.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please conclude now. I am helpless because there is a long list of speakers. Please conclude now.

[Translation]

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA : Sir, hon'ble Railway Minister himself represents Chhapra constituency. The distance from Sewan, Gopalganj and Chhapra to Hajipur is 40 km. and DRM office is situated in while this Banaras zone is stretched upto 300 kms. It is a part of Bihar and is very close to...*(Interruptions)* The Minister of State in the Ministry of Railways may please note it down as the Minister of Railways is not present here. My submission is that Chhapra, Sewan and Gopalganj should be brought

under Hajipur zone. Had the Minister of Railways been present here, he would have noted it down. Katihar comes under Guwahati zone. Malada is division but Guwahati is zone. Inter-city runs from my area but there is no train with better facilities available for MPs and MLAs to visit Patna. There are 20 MLAs who visit Patna. AC Chaircars were available for the common people but AC chair car coaches are attached to trains on Friday, Saturday and Sunday—the days on which Parliament and Assembly remain closed. These are the days on which we visit our constituencies and State headquarters, hence we are deprived of this facility. Should we cover the 300 kms. by road? If possible this facility may be withdrawn on other working days.

Now I am coming to my demand. Saptkranti Express originates from Muzaffarpur at twelve noon. Vaishali Express also starts at 12 O'clock. It reaches Gorakhpur via Chhapra but Saptkranti reaches there via Bettiah. Vaishali Express has nine stoppages from Gorakhpur to Delhi but Saptkranti has no stoppage. It has to follow Vaishali Express from Gorakhpur onwards. As a result it always reaches here late by 3-4 hours. Earlier its departure time was 5 O'clock but now its departure time has been changed to 6.00 O'clock.

I visited Bettiah recently. The train which was supposed to reach there at 10 O'clock but it reached there at 1.30. That is why we have been making repeated demands to advance the departure of Saptkranti train to 4 O'clock from here so that passengers could reach Muzaffarpur by 11 O'clock. Similarly Vaishali Express may also be rescheduled. At present Saptkranti train has 10 berths of 1st class including one coupe and two cabins. This train starts from Muzaffarpur from where four MPs come. Coupe has been given under Gorakhpur quota. When the train starts from Muzaffarpur, coupe should be given from tune itself. Out of four seats in the cabin, two berths should be reserved for Gorakhpur not the coupe. One coupe, one cabin and two berths in the other cabin should be reserved from Muzaffarpur.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, normally 200-250 person remain on

waiting list of Saptkranti train. You may get it checked. I have been demanding for a long time to attach AC-II tier in this train. Instead of AC-III tier, a general coach should be attached to facilitate the people. Similar demand has been made for Madvadh-Bapudham. Raksaul Narkatiyaganj ...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. CHAIRMAN : You can place it on the Table.

*[Translation]*

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA : I am concluding.

*[English]*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Kashi Ram Rana.

*[Translation]*

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA : Mr. Chairman, Sir, a shuttle train should be introduced between Narkatiyaganj and Sugauli as there is no train service between 8 A.M. to 6 P.M...*(Interruptions)\**

*[English]*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Nothing will go on records.

*[Translation]*

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA : A Garb Rath should be introduced from Muzaffarpur to New Delhi via Narkatiyaganj.

*[English]*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Kashi Ram Rana, you start speaking. He will not stop.

*[Translation]*

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA : Doubling of Railway line

*\*Not recorded.*

from Muzaffarpur to Gorakhpur via Narkatiyaganj should be done as it was announced in the last railway budget.

*[English]*

MR. CHAIRMAN : The train will stop but he will not stop.

*[Translation]*

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA : Bapudham-Motihari Porbandar train should run daily and it should have stoppage at Bagha, Harinagar and Chainpatia...*(Interruptions)\*\**

*[English]*

MR. CHAIRMAN : It is not going on records. Why are you reading it? Place it on the Table.

*[Translation]*

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA : A new railway line should be constructed between Muzaffarpur and Sitamarhi...*(Interruptions)\*\**

*[English]*

MR. CHAIRMAN : You need not read it. You place it on the Table.

Thank you, at least you stopped.

*[Translation]*

\*SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA : Gauge conversion of the railway line between Darbhanga-Narkatiyaganj via Sitamarhi should be done. Chief Engineer there is against this work, he creates problems. Please remove him without any delay.

Foundation stone of the railway line between Motihari-Sitamarhi via Shivhar has been laid. Please initiate the work on this line after conducting survey.

*\*Not recorded.*

*\*...\** This part of the speech was laid on the table.

[Shri Raghunath Jha]

A washing pit should be constructed at Narkatiyaganj-Motihari junction for broad gauge. Washing pit for metergauge is already functional there.

The passenger train from Raksaul via Motihari – 523 up starts at 6.15. Just after it inter-city starts after half an hour. There is a gap of only thirty minutes between these two trains. It is requested that 523 may rescheduled and started at 8 O'clock from Raksaul.

Chamua halt should be converted into a crossing station.

A halt should be provided at Pachrurivaya between Narkatiyaganj and Bhikhnadhori and another at Tedhukueya in Harinagar.

Express trains should be provided stoppage at Dheng station between Sitamarhi and Raksaul.

Approval has been granted to extend 5227 and 5228 Yashvantpur-Muzaffarpur train upto Raksaul but it has not been extended yet. What is the reason for the delay?

Sir, through you, I would like to request the hon'ble Minister of Railways to take serious note of the problems of the said area raised by me and these problems should be solved in public interest.

A railway line should be constructed from Islampur to Bodhgaya via Manpur to provide railway connectivity to Bodhgaya.

Doubling of Bakhtiyarpur Rajgir line should be done to facilitate the commuters travelling to Pavapuri, Nalanda and Rajgir.

A third line from Patna to Kiul and Patna to Buxar should be laid. Sugarcane growers of Nakardai, Adapur, Chhauradano and Bankatva between Raxaul-Sitamarhi send their produce to Reega sugar mill through goods trains. But due to shortage of wagons their crop is drying up in the fields.

Therefore, please make available the required member of wagons in goods trains for the sugarcane farmers.\*

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA (Surat) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am thankful to you for giving me an opportunity to speak on railway budget.

While presenting the rail budget for 2008-09, the hon'ble Minister Shri Lalu Prasadji said that the railways is likely to earn a profit of Rs. 25 thousand crore during the current fiscal.

Not only this, he has announced introduction of several new trains, extension of several trains and also increase in frequency also. I welcome it. I would have welcomed and at the same time thanked him if it was a balanced budget. If justice was done to all the states with regard to the train facilities the hon'ble Minister of Railways would have certainly deserved thanks. But when I go through the budget I find partial approach in it with Bihar or any other State. Some States have been gifted with more trains, more extension of trains and also increase in frequency, whereas, the hon'ble Minister has failed in doing so where there was actual need. He has announced three new trains for Gujarat, i.e. Surat-Muzaffarpur-Chhapra, A/C train for Ahmedabad-Mumbai, Kamakhya-Gandhi Dham. But out of these, two trains will start only after gauge conversion. And how much time the said gauge conversion will take, either Shri Laluji or God knows it. Shri Harin Bhai has already said that in view of accelerated pace of industrialization in Gujarat and migration of large number of labours to the State seeking jobs in Ahmedabad and Surat, required level of railway facilities have not been provided there. He means enough has not been done. Though there was scope for providing more facilities, yet, these have not been provided. I would reiterate that if a state like Gujarat which provided adequate revenue to the railways, is not justly treated, I do not think the railway will be in a position to earn a good image despite its huge profit of Rs 25 thousand crore.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, we have to appreciate the hon'ble Minister of Railways for his cleverness. He has presented

the budget in such a way that a common man can hardly judge as to how much extra burden he will have to bear. In last year's budget he upgraded certain trains to superfast without increasing their speed and levied superfast charges. Passengers realized it later on. Harin Bhai has very rightly said that the passengers are being looted in the name of Tatkal. I would like to draw his attention to a very serious issue. Maximum profit to the railways has come from the increased wagon load. Earlier 20.3 metric tonne load was allowed in a wagon. Now it has been increased by 8 tonne. What shall be its disadvantage. No doubt it will increase our profit but will surely have some disadvantage. CAG, in its report of 14 May, 2007 has indicated that so much load in the wagons leads to cracks in the tracks. It will break the welded-joints and will crack the tracks. It will damage the tracks laid during British period. I feel, Rs. 5000 crore less profit will not matter much, but the increased load will damage the tracks, endanger the safety and security of passengers as well.

Therefore, my submission is that I have no objection to the railways earning profit if it is earned through efficient operation. At the same time, I would also urge him to refrain from earning profit by putting railway safety at risk and the life of passengers in danger by increasing the wagon load in this way.

Sir, several announcements have been made. I have come through a recent report that very few announcements are translated into action. Many newly announced trains fail to see the light of the day. Four new trains announced last year are yet to be stated. 296 projects involving an estimated cost of Rs. 61487 crore are still pending. These projects were announced but no steps have been taken to execute them. Therefore, I would urge the hon'ble Minister to announce only those projects which can be implemented. For example there is no idea as to when the already announced projects of Rs. 61 thousand crores are likely to be implemented. I hope the hon'ble Minister would immediately implement the pending projects without any further delay.

Sir, I would like to cite an example. In the budget for the year 2008-09, a target has been set for doubling of 1000 kms long railway line. It includes our Ujana-Jalgaon stretch also. Most of the trains run late on this line because of single track and a number of trains ply on this route. Irregularity and delay has rendered these trains useless.

Sir, announcements have been made for upgrading some station to the world class level. Earlier, some stations were declared as model stations and many stations out of these are yet to be made model stations. Surat is one of the examples. It has a population of forty lakh and its industrial development has been very fast. It was declared a model station. It should have been developed to the world class level but it has not been done so. First the announcement of making it a model station should be implemented. It will benefit the passengers and facilitate the development of the city...*(Interruptions)* Navsari under my constituency is a diamond hub. Navsari station was also declared as a model station but it remained a mere declaration like 296 pending projects. It should be immediately made a model station. During his visit to Ujana station, the hon'ble Minister of State in the Ministry of Railways had announced that Ujana station would be converted into a terminal station. But nothing has been done in this regard so far. I hope the hon'ble Minister would implement it expeditiously.

Sir, lakhs of Sikhs live in Surat and South Gujarat. Very soon, tri-centenary festival of Guru Granth Saheb is going to be celebrated in Nanded. Hon. Minister of Railways has announced special trains in his rail budget. Before this, we had demanded that a special train or a permanent train should be run from Surat to Nanded where the tri-centenary festival of Guru Granth Saheb is to be celebrated. But so far, nothing has been done in this regard. Although an announcement has been made that the Manmaad and Madurai track would be extended upto Okha, and I am not aware if Nanded has been covered under the same. If it is so, then please inform me also about it, I shall be very grateful to you.

[Shri Kashiram Rana]

Sir, I would like to say two more similar things which are related to railways and to my constituency Surat. It is a really good thing that we have introduced Garib Rath trains for poor people. But for those poor people who travel by this, there is not even a pantry car in this Garib Rath. Ashram Express runs from Ahmedabad, it runs over night but there is no pantry car in that also. Pantry car should be added to that. Not only this, handicapped people should be given concession in this train so that they can also avail its benefits. Concessions have been given in other trains but not in Garib Rath trains. Such provision should also be made for these trains.

Sir what kind of railways is this? What kind of a joke has been played upon the people? Advertisements have been put on the windows of Shatabdi Train, which runs between Ahmedabad and Mumbai. When we travel by air, announcements are made that we should remove curtains from our windows so that we can see the outside view clearly. But advertisements have been placed on all the windows of the Shatabdi Express due to which we are unable to see as to which station has arrived. Such advertisements which have been put up for earning small profits should be removed.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Sampark Kranti Express should be provided a stoppage at Surat. Not only this, there should be stoppages at all the main stations from where the Sampark Kranti passes. Lakhs of Keralities and South Indian people live in Surat, which is why there should be a stoppage at Surat for the trains running between Trivendrum and Nizamuddin.

Sir, there are lakhs of people in Surat who belong to different states. Sufficient railway services are not available for them, for example, lakhs of people from Rajasthan live there but there is only one train running for them. A train should be run for the people of Andhra to Vijayawada and Hyderabad. This will facilitate people. A direct train from Surat to Delhi should be run for Northern India. Not only this, a new train should be introduced from Surat to Mehsana-Palanpur for the people of North Gujarat. This

train should be run one hour after the departure of Gujarat Queen. It will be a great convenience to the passengers.

In the end, I would like to say that the Dada Bhagwan Sansthan is there at platform no. 3 at Surat which is of international fame. The saint associated to this organization had attained enlightenment at platform number 3 at Surat. I would like to urge that a small bookstall be opened at that platform. I hope that my demands would be fulfilled. I would like to thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak.

17.00 hrs.

SHRI SURENDRA PRAKASH GOYAL (Hapur) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak on the Rail Budget. I rise to support the Rail Budget.

Further, I would like to give heartiest congratulations to the hon'ble Minister of Railways, Shri Lalu Yadavji, his deputies and 14 lakh railway employees and officials for presenting a historic budget. No work, whether it is small or big, can be completed without the help of our colleagues. This historic budget has further increased the profits of previous years of 2005, 2006, 2007 to the tune of Rs.25 thousand crores. Every category of people in the country has appreciated this. He has provided government jobs to those people who have carried our baggage for centuries.

Just now some of the members from N.D.A. were levelling certain allegations. I do not know where Mr. Panda ji has gone, he was analyzing this in a very interesting manner. I would like submit that the hon. Minister of Railways has done a great job by giving employment to all the coolies. New coolies will work in their place and the gatemen will get their own place. I would like to thank the hon'ble Railway Minister for announcing to fill up all the backlog vacancies of all the backward, Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes categories.

I was pleasantly surprised that when the hon'ble Railway Minister was reading his Rail budget speech, the

people of opposition were interrupting him. They were doing that because the hon'ble Railway Minister has presented a historic rail budget while being in the UPA Government and under the leadership of hon'ble Manmohan Singhji and Smt. Sonia Gandhiji. They were uncomfortable with such a historic budget presented by the hon'ble Railway Minister.

17.03 hrs.

[SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV *in the Chair*]

In the end, they left the House in frustration. But our hon'ble Railway Minister read out his budget speech and made it clear to the world that he has done a remarkable job in the history of the world. Today, people not only from our country but also from foreign countries visit here to get some knowledge from hon'ble Railway Minister, which is a historic step in itself. Without increasing either the passenger fare or the freight, he has increased the income of railways with the help of his colleagues.

I would also like to congratulate him for allocating much needed funds for increasing the number of trains, laying new tracks, raising the platforms, replacing old signals, construction of foot-overbridges and road-overbridges which were the long standing demands of the people.

A new employment opportunity has been provided to the unemployed youth by allotting railway reservation agencies being operated through mobile in a street or mohalla or at a petrol pump.

This initiative taken in order to curtail the long queues on railway reservation counters certainly deserves appreciation. At the same time, the announcement regarding setting up escalators and lifts on the railway stations is likely to obviate the problems of senior citizens and make their journey easier. One more epoch-making work has been done by giving free railway passes to such boys upto class 12th and to girls upto Graduation who could not go to the towns or cities as their parents could not afford the

train fare. Though free education is available at many places, the government is also providing free education under Sarv Siksha Abhiyan but the children could not reach the educational institutes for want of money. Hon. Minister of Railways and his colleagues have done an unprecedented work. I congratulate hon. Minister of Railways for giving concession and free passes to them. The decision to increase the concession to lady senior citizens from present 30 per cent to 50 per cent is also a historical decision.

Sir, just now Pandaji and one of my friends were asking as to what was need to bring the railways in profit. The government of India is giving 11 percent and 89 percent is being mobilized from its own resources. On one hand we demand facilities, as just now Rana Saheb was asking for stoppage of trains, introduction of new trains, raising of platforms, provision of signals and world class stations and all the people were putting their demands but on the other, they ask as to why the income is increased. People want the money to be spent but they do not want income. Hon. Minister of Railways has presented an example by balancing the income and expenditure. He has provided lots of facilities to the people—be it providing Garib Raths or raising of platforms or providing new sanitary equipments or new engines or increase in production of wagons, diesel engines and electric engines. Neither Lalujji nor other two ministers and employees of railways are taking the income of railways to their homes. All the income is being reinvested for providing various facilities in the railways as railways itself is a great facility for the people.

Sir, I would like to present few demands concerning my parliamentary constituency. My parliamentary constituency Hapur is adjacent to Ghaziabad and Delhi. Thousands of people come from Garh to Delhi daily. My demand is that a DMU, which is lying unused, should be introduced on daily basis so as to provide people easy connectivity to Delhi.

Hon. Minister of Railways had introduced an E.M.U. from Sahibabad to New Delhi from 1st July 2007 but that

[Shri Surendra Prakash Goyal]

train does not run from the other side. That train must be standing in Delhi for rest of the day and again comes in the morning to take the people back to Delhi, therefore, I request you to run this train from both ends. I demand more new trains from Ghaziabad and Sahibabad. A road overbridge should be provided at gate no. 8A-3T near Banthala railway station on Shahdara-Saharanpur railway line. Similarly, the railway level crossing at Hafiz baitha has been closed on account of a pipeline from Muradnagar causing great inconvenience to lakhs of people. So I request you to get a road overbridge constructed at Hafiz-baitha also.

I request that a road overbridge at Hanumanpuri, underpass at Sahibabad station, Radhakunj, Brajvihar, Modinagar, and Brajghat and foot overbridges at Bhupendrapuri and Simbhawali be constructed for the benefit of the people at large.

With these words once again I extend my heartiest congratulations to the hon. Minister of Railways and the UPA Government.

[English]

\*SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO (Kalahandi) : At the outset, I would thank Shri Lalu Prasadji as a just administrator as he has brought a turn around in the Railways and now the Railways is running with substantive profit which stands at a whopping Rs.25,000 crores.

But I would like the Hon'ble Minister to recollect his first speech in the beginning session of the 14th Lok Sabha, where he had promised to take Railways to the far uncovered area, of which KBK region is a classical example in the State of Orissa.

The Indian Railways is the largest Railway in the world with the largest Railway Network, in the meantime a lot

\* Speech was laid on the Table.

of modernization has taken place, but the speed of the Train has not gone up. The Khanna Report on modernization of Bridges is a long cry and old BNR Bridges should be replaced.

Orissa is a State with a lot of mineral wealth predominantly Iron Ore and Bauxite but twice the rate of Iron Ore freight has gone up, thereby creating a situation in growth of Steel Industry. So this should be reduced.

Though passenger amenities are being upgraded, the security of the passengers is a prime responsibility of the Railways though R.P.F. and other agencies. But this has failed, as robbery and snatching in stations is happening more frequently.

Private Sector may be encouraged but they should also participate in improving the infrastructure in stations, and passenger amenity facility.

I also thank the Hon'ble Minister for sanctioning two survey projects name Junagarh to Ambagura and Kantabanji to Navrangpur in the KBK area. I request adequate funds may be granted for the same so that the survey could be completed within a year, so that funds could be placed in ensuing financial years.

The doubling of line from Titlagarh to Raipur and Titlagarh to Sambalpur, will become one of the highest earning projects when completed linking 6 Steel Plants and 3 Aluminum Smelters in the port connectivity at Vizag Port and Gopalpur Ports.

My only request would be to make Train No.2807-2808 (Samota Express) a daily from Nizamuddin to Visakhapatnam, and providing SLIP Coaches AC III Tier and two General, one SL with Inter City Express Bhubaneswar to Raipur, or Inter City Express Bhubaneswar to Bolangir in the East-Coast Railways, as this will link the entire KBK with State Capital Bhubaneswar.

SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS (Palghat) : Sir, I rise to support the Budget proposals made by the hon. Minister



of Railways for the year 2008-09. At the outset, I must express my gratitude to hon. Minister of Railways, Shri Lalu Prasad, his colleagues and the officers for proposing a new coach factory in Kerala. The hon. Chief Minister and the people of Kerala have already conveyed their gratitude to them.

Hon. Members who spoke before me have already covered the important points. The general approach of my Party has already been put forth by our leader Comrade Basudeb Acharia in his speech. Due to time constraint I am straightaway coming to some other important matters. I welcome certain proposals made by the hon. Minister in his Budget speech regarding concessions for senior citizens, girl students, soldiers, etc.

Indian Railways is a great symbol of our national unity and integrity. It should express its appreciation to the artists and writers by giving concessions to them. I would request the hon. Minister to give concessions to the performing artists who are having national accreditation and writers who have won national level awards. It is because cultural groups are playing a crucial role in our national unity and integrity by their performance. They are moving across the country. They are performing through music and dance cutting across all the differences and barriers. So, they should be encouraged to increase their activities. The Indian Railways should provide the maximum concessions to them. I think some concessions are there. But it should be increased because, as I said, the Indian Railways is a symbol of our nation's unity and integrity.

Now, let me come to certain points related to development projects in my State of Kerala. I had already expressed my hearty congratulations and gratitude to the Railway Ministers. The Government of Kerala had already identified thousand acres of land for setting up of the proposed coach factory in Palghat, which is my constituency. I would request the hon. Minister to speed up the process for making it a reality at the earliest. For this purpose, I would request the Ministry to send a team immediately to visit the land proposed by the State

Government, prepare the DPR, make the feasibility study and also the MoU with the State Government for setting up this project at the earliest.

Railway infrastructure is more important. New lines have to be constructed to develop the rail network. We are proud of our rail network. It is the biggest rail network in the world. To meet the increasing demand, we should construct new lines. Several surveys for construction of new lines are announced in the Budget proposals.

In our State also, several surveys have been completed but no one has seen the reality. For example, there is a proposal. A survey has been conducted to construct a new railway line from Kollangodu to Thrissur in the Palakkad Division of Southern Railway. The survey proposal is there. I do not know how it is happening. I am asking the two hon. Railway Ministers of State who are here to take note of this thing. According to the survey report, 59 kms is the distance to be covered. Rs.303.76 crore is the cost for the construction of this railway line. The funny thing is about its return. The return will be minimal in the initial stages. How can we expect it? What is the methodology or modality for making the feasibility study? How can we assume, before the construction of a railway line, what would be the return in this particular line? I will take another ten minutes only.

MR. CHAIRMAN : No. Other hon. Members want to speak. How can I given you more time?

SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS : Let met continue my speech. This is the thing.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You can lay the rest of your speech on the Table of the House.

SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS : I am formulating a very important point. As everybody knows, in the Cochin Port, there is an International Container Terminal which is under construction. It is expected that it will be completed by 2009. After completing the Cochin International Container Terminal, there should be a special traffic corridor from

[Shri N.N. Krishnadas]

Cochin to Tuticorin, from Cochin to Chennai. This connection will be made between Thrissur and Kollangodu. This rail route will connect important pilgrim centres like Guruvayoor, Palani, Madurai and Rameswaram; and important tourist centres of Nelliampathy, Parambikulam wild life sanctuary and Kodaikanal. We can utilize this as a special traffic corridor through Thrissur-Chennai-Tuticorin also. So, at any cost, this line should be feasible and sufficient funds may be allotted in this particular Budget itself for the construction of that line.

The second point is about gauge conversion. I will take only two minutes. Gauge conversion from Pollachi to Palakkad in the Palakkad Railway Division may be adopted and sufficient funds may be allotted for this gauge conversion in this particular Budget itself.

A proposal is there for the electrification from Shoranur to Mangalore which is the northern part of Kerala. For the electrification project, the feasibility study should be included. There must be speeding up of the feasibility study. You should make it a reality. Electrification between Shoranur and Mangalore may be done at the earliest.

Survey for a new line from Nilambur to Nanjangodu is there. Actually, a proposal was there in the last Budget itself. Survey has been started. Unfortunately, without any reason, this survey was stopped. So, that may be included.

The other thing is about some Multiple Electrical Engine Units. It is feasible between Coimbatore and Cochin, Trivandrum to Cochin, Calicut and Mangalore. It will be a Diesel Multiple Unit because electrification is not possible. That is the thing.

Next, I come to ROBs. About 60 ROBs are under construction for the last ten years in different parts of Kerala. I am particularly pointing out LC 49, 50 and 159. This also may be completed within the stipulated time.

This is my last point. I am concluding with this. During

the time of setting up of the Salem Division, there was an understanding that there would be no compulsory transfer of employees to the Salem Division from the Palakkad Division. But now some orders are coming making compulsory transfer. So, the hon. Railway Ministers and the officers concerned may note this point. Do not do this compulsory transfer. This is deadly against the understanding arrived at while setting up of the new Railway Division at Salem. So, this also may be considered.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please take your seat now.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS : There is a Railway hospital in Palghat Division. But, no facility is provided there.

Now, my last point is regarding railway staff quarters. They were built years back during the British period itself. Now, they are in dilapidated condition. They may also be taken care of. With these words, I conclude my speech. Thank you.

[Translation]

SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL (Buldhana) : Sir, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak. I would like to thank the Railway Ministry for construction of many new railway routes, introduction of new trains, extension of some trains, introduction of Garib Raths. But, the best thing is that even after this, fares have not been increased for which both the hon. Railway Minister and Railway Ministry deserve applause.

Sir, I want to give a proposal for an important railway route here. This route is from Solapur in Maharashtra to Burhanpur in Madhya Pradesh. If this route is constructed, then Solapur of South East Railway will get connected with South Central Railway at Jalna, with Central Railway at Malkapur and with Northern Railway at Burhanpur in Madhya Pradesh. Thus, this railway route will connect four major railway routes. This area consists of seven districts

and it sends eight Lok Sabha Members and 42 MLAs. This area consists of two parts of district Solapur-USmanabad, Beed, Jalna, Buldhana and Burhanpur. If passengers have to travel from Solapur to Delhi, then their route is Solapur, Daund, Nagar, Manmad to Burhanpur via Bhusaval. But, if this new route is constructed then areas of Tayalwadi, Tuljapur, Usmanabad, Airasi, Kalamb, Kej, Meknur, Imampur, Beed, Ghevrai, Ambad, Jalna, Deulgaonraja, Chikhli, Buldhana, Multana, Malkapur and Burhanpur will get connected. The distance of 700 kms. between Solapur and Burhanpur will be reduced by upto 250 kms. Unfortunately, these seven districts are backward and drought hit districts having no major industry. If this railway route is constructed then industries will come up there and unemployed people will get jobs, Furthermore, some religious and tourist spots of the area too will get developed automatically as a result of this railway route. The railway passengers will get facility and their travel cost will decrease due to this route. Passengers travelling from South to North will be able to travel in lesser time and expenses. Going to some pilgrim centre or tourist place would become easier for the people. There are religious places in and around Solapur like Ekruk, Nannaj, Ujani, Vallapur and tourist places like Bale, Barshi, Pandharpur, Mangalvedha, Aran, Akkalkot, Kudal, Varkute, Dahigaon, Najhare, Shivpuri, Vadval, Chikalthand and Usmanabad. People will be able to reach other pilgrim centres like Nagjhari, Ramling, Andoor, Sonari, Domgaon, Tuljapur, Ramling Bhoom, Kunthalgiri, Yermala, Siddheshwar, Ramkund Parda, Naldurg comfortably. Similarly, there are Sautada and Naygaon in district Beed which have tourist and pilgrim centres like Rakshabhuvan, Dharur, Beed, Ambajogai, Parli Baijnath, Kej, Ghevrai Dharur etc. where people would be able to go comfortably. I come from a place called Buldhana which has tourist centres like Singhraja and Lonar. There are 5 craters and the third crater falls under Lonar. If Garadgar, Nagjhari, Thal, Deulgaonraja, Mehkar, Sailani Darva are connected with railway route then the whole area would get developed as a tourist centre and people will also get the facility to visit religious places there. With the railway route in place,

small industries will come up there which will help in reducing the unemployment. Thus, this railway route will prove to be helpful in development this backward area.

Both the Ministers of State in the Ministry of Railways are present here. I request them to pay attention to it. Railway route there will not only reduce the distance but will provide the transport facility also. Besides, people travelling to Delhi from South will have to spend less money. That is why I am presenting this new proposal before you.

I would like to say 2-3 things more. You have extended 16 trains in this Railway Budget. I had already made two proposals before you in this regard. This time too, I would like to bring to your notice that if the passenger train from Nasik to Bhusaval is extended upto Bandera or Amravati then it will become much convenient for the people. Similarly, if the passenger trains running between Surat-Bhusaval and Bandera is extended upto Amravati or Bandera, then the poor people living within the 100 kms. area of my constituency would be benefited. The average train fare between two stations is rupees six only, while the bus fare for the same distance is Rs.25. The difference is too big. That is why I want to say that one passenger train is not sufficient. If two passenger trains are extended upto Bandera then the common man living within the 150 kms. area between Bhusaval and Bandera will be benefited.

In the end, I want to speak about safety, which gets mentioned a lot, I have already put a proposal before you in this regard and am putting it once again today. The railway crossing at Nandura remains crowded with a large number of vehicles causing a lot of inconvenience to the people. It would be more convenient if an RoB is constructed there.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please, conclude now.

SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL : I will conclude in two minutes. The construction work of the railway line from Amravati to Narkhed is going on for the last five years.

[Shri Anandrao Vithoba Adsul]

A provision of Rs.234 crore was made for it and Rs.134 crore have been spent so far. This line would be completed if the balance amount of Rs.100 crore is received. Completion of this line will benefit people of Amravati and Narkhed and also the people going towards Gujarat.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, though you, I request the hon. Railway Minister to pay attention to the issues raised by me here.

SHRI KAILASH BAITHA (Bagaha) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to speak on the behalf of my party on the Rail Budget presented by Shri Lalu Prasadji, hon'ble Minister of Railways of the UPA Government. This is a completely populist budget in which many things that were said in the last four budgets have been repeated.

This budget has been prepared keeping in view the upcoming General and Assembly elections in various states. Hon'ble Railway Minister has himself described his own budget as numerical jugglery, whereas he called his previous budget a black magic. Now I come to the drawbacks of the Rail Budget presented in the House.

Hon'ble Railway Minister has not paid any attention towards the safety of rail passengers. Accepting the poor security measures in the previous budget he had also mentioned about installing door frames, metal detectors, screening system, disposal equipments and bomb detecting machines at railway stations, but nothing was implemented and the same things have been repeated in this budget as well. The safety of passengers is being put at risk by running trains on old railway tracks and dilapidated bridges-culverts.

17.32 hrs:

[SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN *in the Chair*]

15 percent accidents took place on railway crossings in the year 2000-2001, whereas in the year 2006-2007, the number of accidents rose to 40 percent. Not a single

FATAK has been put at any railway crossing during the last two years. Whereas, such more is proposed in each budget.

Incidents of theft and dacoity take place in the trains almost every day. No concrete measure has been taken in the budget to check this.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, as far as employment is concerned, it was promised in the previous budget that in order to run the railway operations smoothly, 18 thousand vacant posts will be filled up very soon in railways but so far only nine thousand recruitments have been made.

In order to win over women, hon'ble Railway Minister has talked about providing 5 to 10 percent reservation in railway jobs to women, whereas the women population is 50 percent. In view of this women should be provided 20 to 25 percent reservation.

Our Government in Bihar has given the state a new direction by granting 50 percent reservations to women in Panchayats and recruitment of teachers. For the first time in the country, rail budget has been prepared on communal basis. The Minorities have been appeased in this budget. They may be given priority in employment but it is not justified to set up a cell in Railways in the name of community. Railways has earned a lot of revenue but the general public does not seem to be benefitted by that. The condition of cleanliness, drinking water and toilets at the railway stations is very poor. Nothing has been said in the Rail budget for improving the quality of food being served in important trains.

Pantry car facility is not available in many of the important trains and cleanliness is also not up to the mark. No solution has been found to get rid of long queues for general ticket at railway stations. For the last many budgets much is being talked about doing away with the problems of ticket reservation, touts and waiting for long.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : You can place it on the Table.

[Translation]

SHRI KAILASH BAITHA : Sir, nothing has been said in the budget about platform tickets, availability of drinking water on platforms and in bogies, alongwith proper lighting at small stations and those in small towns during night time.

While presenting his first Rail Budget, hon'ble Railway Minister had said certain things and claimed himself to be a person attached to grassroots, all the things like Kulhad, Khadi, Lassi, Silvata Masala etc. are missing from stations as well as trains.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Hon'ble members, you can place it on the Table so that the time can be saved.

[Translation]

SHRI KAILASH BAITHA : Mr. Chairman, Sir, please co-operate with the new Member.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : My dear friend, you can place it on the Table.

[Translation]

SHRI KAILASH BAITHA : Hon'ble Railway Minister has misguided the people by announcing reduction in fares. Fares for daily commuters between Delhi and Gurgaon have not been reduced and no additional trains have been introduced for them. A concession of mere one rupee has been given on the fare upto Rs. 50 for the general category passengers, whereas considerable concession has been given on fare of AC coaches. No respite has been given to the sleeper class passengers.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : You need not read; you can place it on the Table so that the time can be saved.

[Translation]

SHRI KAILASH BAITHA : Slight concession has been provided to them in new design coaches. Eight seats have been increased in the newly designed coaches and the revenue earned from them has been adjusted through two percent concession. In the special coaches of the IIIrd AC, two per cent concession has been given. Whereas trains having special coaches are very few in number and the common public is not even aware of them.

E-ticketing for passengers is like falling into a trap. They have to pay more fare and if, for any reason, passengers want to get their ticket cancelled then there is no provision for that.

This budget is purely a contractual budget in which financial condition of railways has been compromised with. The populist decisions of the Government will increase the expenditure in the year 2008-09 and this will put next Government in disadvantage. During previous year, the railway earned a profit of Rs. 20 thousand crore and the said profit may come down this year.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, hon'ble Railway Minister has talked about the profits earned by the railways but at the same time, he has kept a minimum target of laying 350 kilometers of new railway track, gauge conversion of 2150 kilometers of railway line and doubling of 1000 kms. of railway line only in this budget despite availability of adequate resources.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please conclude.

Shri Kailash Baitha, you can lay the rest of your written speech on the Table. Now, you please take your seat.

Shri Ganesh Singh.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Kailash Baitha, I have already told you that you can lay the rest of your written speech on the Table.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

\*SHRI KAILASH BAITHA : No new project has been provided for the people of Punjab, Haryana, Jammu and Kashmir and Himachal Pradesh in the rail budget. In case of Bihar also, new budget has been provided only for this constituency. Bengal has also been neglected consequently our Leftists colleagues for Bengal had to boycott the budget presented by the Government supported by themselves.

A meagre provision of only Rs. 70 lakh has been made for national capital Delhi despite poor state of civic amenities. The estimated cost of development of Delhi Main Station is Rs. 7 crore 92 lakh, whereas, only Rs. 20 lakh have been provided for this purpose. The estimated cost of construction of the building of Delhi station is Rs.36 crore 53 lakh, whereas, a provision of only Rs. 6 crore has been made. No concrete measures have been taken for extension of routes.

In the last year's budget it was stated that the couplets of Kabir will be written on the station buildings. It has not been done so far. The projects announced by the previous Minister of Railways Shri Nitish Kumar have been put in cold storage and now announcements are made every other day implementation of which is quite doubtful. The progress on Hajipur-Sugoli rail line, an ambitious project in Bihar, is very slow. I doubt if any train the country runs as per schedule.

Some of the announcements made by the hon. Minister such as more concession in fare for senior citizens, patients suffering from serious ailments and free monthly season tickets for students going to schools and colleges are praiseworthy.

In the end, I would like to make a mention of some problems of my constituency and I would urge the hon. Minister to address them in the supplementary budget.

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\*...\* This part of the speech was laid on the Table.

The approval for construction of fly over bridges on Bagaha, Narkatiaganj and Harinagar level crossings was granted last year but the work has not been started so far. The said overbridge should be constructed expeditiously in public interest.

The issue of providing a washing pit at Narkatiaganj comes up in each budget discussion but it has not attracted the attention of the hon. Minister.

For political reasons, Maruwadih Bapudham Express has not been provided stoppage at Bagaha and Ramnagar, whereas, both the stations are important. Therefore, I strongly demand for stoppage of the said train at Bagaha and Ramnagar.

A token-less system should be in place upto Balmiknagar Kaparpura so that the trains can run on time. At the same time, Muzaffarpur-Gorakhpur via Balmiknagar line should be doubled so that the movement of trains can be facilitated.

The progress on laying of Panihava-Chitoni-Tamkuni Road railway line; gauge conversion work of Jainagar-Narkatiaganj and Narkatiaganj-Gaunaha-Bhikhnathodi lines is not satisfactory. The work on these lines should be accelerated.

There is a need for starting a Garib Rath between Muzaffarpur-Gorkhpur via Narkatiaganj.

Passenger sheds on all the stations between Balmiknagar-Betiah are inadequate. The passengers face a lot of problems during rainy season so there is a need to expand them. Also, there is a need to provide passenger amenities, such as drinking water, toilets, light etc. concluding my speech, I would like to thank you, Sir, for giving me an opportunity to speak.\*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Nothing will go on record.

...(Interruptions)\*

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\* Not recorded.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now, Shri Ganesh Singh.

[Translation]

SHRI GANESH SINGH (Satna) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, at the outset, I would like to thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak on rail budget. The hon. Minister was very happy while presenting his fifth budget in a row but he was, perhaps, unaware that the M.Ps. of several states were unhappy over what the budget has provided for their states. The M.Ps. from West Bengal, Kamataka, M.Ps. from Orissa, Bihar, Andhra Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Maharashtra opposed the budget presented by him. For the first time, I felt that the budget is totally imbalanced. All the regions have not been taken care of. New announcements have been made for the areas for which facilities were already provided during the last four budgets. It is true that railway network has expanded. Railways have 14 lakh employees who manage more than 11 thousand trains carrying one-and-a-half crore passengers daily. On one hand, the railways promise new trains of most modern technology, whereas contrary to it, a large number of old coaches, very old lines are in operation and condition of stations is also dilapidated. Over 70 per cent stations have no drinking water, no seating facilities, no foot over bridges and have only one platform. I think while preparing the budget, the hon. Minister has not taken care of the necessary things. The hon. Minister has said that for the fifth consecutive year, he has presented a budget of profit. I agree that the profit has soared to Rs. 25 thousand crore, but he said that the previous Minister did not manage the things properly. Railways was facing a financial crisis, but the hon. Minister in none of his budgets has stated as to what was the financial condition of railways at that time? He has blamed his predecessor Minister that he had made mess of it and now he has managed the things well. I do not agree with him.

Sir, he has stated that parcels, advertisements and land-lease are the sources of revenue for railways. I agree that railways have large area of land and if it makes commercial use of it will always earn huge profits. A saying

is popular in villages that if a son sells his ancestral property and says that I have become rich is not fair. A son who earns money through hard work or some other sources and becomes rich is alright. But the present case is just reverse. In railway's case, the Government is leasing out its land for commercial use. The income earned from that is being shown as the profit earned by the Railways. I agree that train fares have not been hiked but surcharge has been levied on the new 200 trains which have been introduced as superfast and facilities have not been upgraded in them. I can tell you the names of many such Superfast trains. The condition of the coaches of the Superfast train Maharashtra Express, running from my area Rewa to Delhi, is so bad that a major accident can occur at any time. While entering the toilet one feels that the feet will slip down the floor. One can not leave children free if they want to move in the train alone. There is so loud noise inside the train that one cannot sleep. We are going to make such trains number one in the world. Regarding catering facilities, the less said is better. Nowhere, will one find as many illegal vendors as in a train. Railway stations have become a place for advertisement hoardings of big companies due to which people forget their way. I can tell names of many big cities where people lose their way due to the big advertisement hoardings put up there. Packed items are being sold in plastic packings in the trains today. What happened to the slogans of Lalaji that promised kulhads and pillow covers and bedsheets of khadi? One feels like vomiting on seeing the curtains in trains with cockroaches, bed bugs and rats using them as their place. Just leave your food item in the night and after a while it will vanish but you will not know where it vanished. Such is the situation. There are 14 lakh employees in Railways today but what is the condition of the field employees? They work alone in night in the jungle and hills. They get kidnapped by the dacoits or threatened by goons but there are no arrangements for their security. They somehow spend the night under trees as they have not been provided houses so far. We can make the railway station in Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai or Kolkata as 'A' class stations which is proper but we are

[Shri Ganesh Singh]

not accepting the reality. Why time bound programmes can not be introduced for these reforms? Hon. Minister is saying that all the facilities would be provided through privatisation. You can do so but just have a look at the facilities which have been privatised — quality control has totally collapsed there and work is being done with the profit motive only. But, the Railways was not set up only for making profits. It is a huge organisation uniting the country. Our whole country is connected by the Railways but it will not be called a success if it turns a blind eye to providing facilities and indulges in profiteering. Now, the Supreme Court has also ruled that the goods weighing more than 30 or 35 tonnes should not be transported through roads. One of our hon. Members was telling in his speech that overloading is being done in goods trains to benefit the Railways which will definitely take its toll on the tracks which are 100 or 150 years old and have not been modernised. On the one hand, the Supreme Court is saying that overloading of the trucks on road should be stopped while on the other hand the Railways is resorting to overloading. How can such double standards be accepted? That is why, I say that Laluji should think very seriously on these issues.

I will conclude by saying few things regarding my area. I can, today, say that we have to meet officials for petty issues of our area; we had resorted to stopping of train to pressure demand and have also requested the hon. Railway Minister several times but nothing could be done. We have the pilgrim centre Chitrakoot where Bhagwan Ram lived for 12 years and there is Shakti peeth of Sharda Mata at Mehar. Millions of people visit these two pilgrim centers throughout the year. We had demanded a small DMU train but it has not been started yet. I had asked to change the time of the train running from Rewa to Delhi, which runs 8-10 hours late, so that it reaches at 9 a.m. Similarly, I had asked for the change of time of Mahakaushal Express running between Jabalpur and Nizamuddin so that it reaches Delhi at 8 or 9 a.m. but this also has not been done. Now he has introduced a

train. We had demanded that it should run from Rewa-Satna to Mumbai but it has been started from Jabalpur. I welcome it but it should run from Satna because Satna is a very big industrial area involving everyday travel to and from Mumbai. Mumbai is a medical centre and a trade centre also for as. I want that the train from Jabalpur-Mumbai, as announced, should run from Satna. Similarly, the former Railway Minister, Shri Nitish Kumar had announced at a large gathering in Satna that he will extend the train from Rajkot to Katni upto Satna. But, we have not got the trains till date while it remains stationed at Katni for about 10 hours. Satna is such a place that all the trains, whether they are from Kolkata or Patna and Bihar or Varanasi, pass through Satna for going towards south. But, though these trains remain stationed here and take water and oil from there, the reservation quota and VIP quota for our passengers have been cancelled from here in all these trains. I do not know why it happened? It is, therefore, my demand that all these reservation quotas should be restored in both up and down directions.

Sir, I want to urge that I constantly keep fighting for facilities of drinking water, toilets, seating arrangements, foot over bridges at the railway stations in my Lok Sabha constituency but none of them have been provided so far. I want to tell that a railway line crosses at NH in Mehar. Last time also, I had requested you but construction of overbridge was not approved even though provision was made in the budget. But, I thank the Shipping, Road Transport and Highways Ministry which has given approval for its construction on BOT basis. I want to urge that the Railways should give its approval for the construction of an underbridge at Mehar on its own expenses. I had asked for a railway crossing at Gowraon More near Lagargawa. You say that you are posting guards at the crossing and that you are going to get the crossings constructed. But, the land of this village is on the other side of the crossing and the railway line is so high that the people have to travel 30 kms. around to go there. I had told that a crossing can be made if an underbridge is not possible there. People have been demanding it for quite long.



I would like to submit that only cement and limestone worth more than seven thousand crore rupees is transported from Satna. An income of seven thousand crore rupees is generated annually for Railways from our area. However, they have not provided us any facility. We have never expected such a step motherly treatment of our state from Railways. I have requested Laluji personally several times that Madhya Pradesh is the heart of our nation. Trains from all over the country pass through this State. Perhaps only the State Government of Madhya Pradesh provides maximum security to railway tracks. I would like to request that step motherly treatment to Madhya Pradesh should be stopped especially in my Parliamentary constituency Satna. I will give it in writing also. Since there is paucity of time, I will explain the problems and demands of my area in writing also. I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak.

\*Passenger amenities are being outsourced through Private Companies leading to deterioration in quality.

Laluji had mentioned to provide employment to the people by promoting indigenous goods. However, the Kullhars, khadi curtains and bedsheets, buttermilk etc. are never put to use.

Private companies are allowed to sell the poly packed food items at stations and in trains. It is affecting the business of small vendors.

Last year 40 and this time 63 trains have been introduced but most of these routes are the same on which trains are introduced every year.

I am not against any particular state but I am just mentioned that Madhya Pradesh has been neglected regularly.

My demand for a train from Rewa to Mumbai via Satna has not been conceded to. I demanded a D.M.U. also

\*....\* This part of the speech was laid on the Table.

between Chitrakoot and Mehar where large number of pilgrims visit for many years but this demand was also rejected.

Rajkot Express remains standing at Katni for 10 hrs. I had demanded to extend it by 100 kms. upto Satna but that has not been done.

Doubling and electrification of railway lines between Katni and Allahabad and from Rewa to Manikpur Jhansi is long pending demand but it has not been fulfilled.

There was a demand to construct over-bridge in Mehar. Railway did not do that but the Department of Surface Transport granted approval last year to construct it under B.O.T. scheme.

Now I demand from the Railways to construct an under-bridge at N.H. crossing in Mehar.

The demand to construct railway level crossing at Gevaraon Mor near Lagargavan between Satna and Mehar and at ward-10 Karya Pani railway crossing of Mehar has not been considered till now.

Jabalpur-Mumbai Garib rath should start from Rewa and it should run three days a week.

A new D.M.U. should be introduced between Rewa and Allahabad.

Earlier all up and down trains from Satna had VIP reservation quota in all classes. But that has been abolished and now that has been given from Jabalpur. It should be resumed from Satna.

The trains between Durg-Gorakhpur and Durg-Kanpur should run daily.

The trains from Rewa to New Delhi should be rescheduled to reach Delhi by 9 A.M.

Mahakaushal Express running from Jabalpur to Hazrat Nizamuddin should also be rescheduled and reach Delhi by 9 O'clock.

[Shri Ganesh Singh]

The Express train between Rewa and Bhopal should be extended upto Habibganj.

A fourth platform and a pedestrians pathway should be constructed at Majhgava Jaitwara Satna Mehar. The platforms at Khurha, Lagargavan and Madanpur should be raised.

The intercity running between Rewa and Jabalpur should be given stoppage at Uchehara, Akahara and Mukethi; Khanna express at Panjari; Howrah express at Jaitwara and Kamayni express at Vaghal.

A new railway line should be constructed from Satna to Mirzapur via Rewa.

Laluji has used the word 'garib' to the maximum in the last 5 years but the 'garib' has not got anything.

As many as 200 Express trains have been declared as super fast trains but facilities are not upto the mark rather its fare has been increased. Coaches of these trains are outdated.

Concessional railway passes should be given to the families of the GRP personnel meant for railway safety.

The Court has ordered to check over loading of vehicles on the roads. But Laluji has increased the load on goods trains. It should also be checked.

The iron sleepers used in the railway tracks have not been replaced with cement sleepers. A large scale corruption has been involved in the selling of scraped iron sleepers. It should be investigated.

The surcharge of Rs. 15 levied on return reservation last year has not been withdrawn. The hon'ble Minister of Railways has claimed to give concessions to passengers but this surcharge has not been withdrawn.

Providing concession to the girl-students, women, Urdu

knowing persons, AIDS patients is a welcome step but it is wrong to deprive male students.

In addition to the AIDS patients, cancer patients, kidney, heart patients and also people suffering from eye ailments should be provided 50 per cent concession.

The newspapers have reported that 70 percent announcements are yet to be implemented and the hon. Minister has saved himself from criticism by not effecting any hike in passenger fare. There has been no respite so far as railway accidents are concerned. Loot and cases of sedating of passengers has become a common thing. There is a need to ensure cleanliness, safety and arrangement of good catering in trains.\*

*[English]*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Sir S.K. Kharaventhana to speak now. The time allotted to you will end at 6 p.m. Please be brief. I have given you time.

SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN (Palani) : Thank you, Sir. I will finish within 6 O'clock.

First of all, I want to thank the Chair for giving me this opportunity to participate in the discussion on Railway Budget 2008-2009 and also with respect to the Railways (Amendment) Bill, 2008. First of all, I want to thank our hon. Minister of Railways Shri Laluji and also the hon. Minister of State for Railways Shri Veluji for sanctioning a new project in my constituency connecting Erode and Palani and also Dindigul-Villupuram doubling and electrification and allocating sufficient funds for gauge conversion of Dindigul-Coimbatore line.

My friend hon. Shri Ganesh Singh who spoke before me, elaborately criticized this Budget. I want to put forth certain facts before this August House.

Due to the hard work put forth by our hon. Ministers, we had a cash surplus. In the year 2005 it was only Rs. 9,000 crore. In the year 2006 it raised to Rs.14,000

crore and in 2007 it raised to Rs. 20,000 crore. In the year 2008 it is Rs. 25,000 crore. Also, the operating ratio has increased to 78 per cent.

Furthermore, I want to submit that Gross Traffic Receipt (GTR) was Rs. 10,000 crore in the year 1988-89. During those days, it was highly appreciated by the Railway officials. The GTR for 2007-08 would be Rs. 72,755 crore and for the year 2008-09, it is put at Rs. 81,901 crore. It is a great achievement of our Railway Minister and also the Railway authorities.

For your information, I may also tell that the Railways are earnings by carrying freight traffic in goods trains. During the NDA regime in the year 2003-04, the Railways carried 557.39 MT of freight traffic. For the year 2004-05, the figure is 602.10 MT; for 2005-06, it is 666.51 MT; for 2006-07, it is 727.75 MT; and for the year 2007-08, it would be 790 MT. It is another great achievement. In the year 2007-08, the Railways would be carrying freight traffic of 790 MT and passenger traffic of 7,058 crore. So, the Railways are providing all the services for the poor masses of this country. During 1950-51, the number of coaches was 13,109 while in the year 2006-07, the figure stood at 39,896. It is a great achievement of this Government.

Further, in this year's Rail Budget, the hon. Minister has allocated Rs. 1,730 crore for new lines, Rs. 2,489 crore for gauge conversion and Rs. 626 crore for electrification. He has allocated Rs. 650 crore of metropolitan transport projects alone. On the social security side, the Railway Minister has given 50 per cent concession to ladies aged 60 or above, and to all senior citizens. He has also given free monthly season tickets for girls up to degree course and boys up to 12th class. He has also provided 50 per cent concession for AIDS patients. He has reduced the passenger fares by 7 per cent in AC-I class and 4 per cent in AC-II class.

At this juncture, I want to mention certain facts about the important schemes, more particularly for Tamil Nadu. Sriperumpudur is one of the important towns neighbouring

Chennai. It is hub for the car industries and cellphone industries. There is also a famous Vardharajan Temple there. It is also the birthplace of Saint Ramanujar. Moreover, it is a place where our great leader Shri Rajiv Gandhi was unfortunately assassinated. There is a long-pending demand to connect Avadi and Sriperumpudur. The survey for the new line was ordered on 27.12.1995 and the survey report was submitted on 34.1997. It runs about 25.6 kilometres only and would cost Rs. 60.11. The rate of return is 14.05 per cent. In this regard, I would also like to mention that in the year 1992, the Railway Board had fixed the benchmark for sanctioning a new line at 14 per cent. I would submit that it is not possible for a new line to reach 14 per cent. This condition for sanctioning a new line has to be totally scrapped. They are following the 1992 system. It cannot be implemented.

Further, Dindigul is one of the famous places in South India. Dindigul-Coimbatore line is connecting in-between Pollachi and Palghat in Kerala also. It is connecting two States also. During 2007, only an amount of Rs. 30 crore was allocated for gauge conversion and now an amount of Rs. 65 crore has been allocated. This will not be sufficient. So, more money has to be allocated.

Another important project connecting Karnataka and Tamil Nadu is Chamrajnagar-Sathyamangalam line. That is pending. So, that project is also to be cleared.

Now, I want to mention certain facts in respect of my constituency Palani. In my constituency, Erode-Palani is an important route. There is one Engiyur Bridge. This railway over-bridge was ordered three or four years back. Ninety per cent of the construction work is over and only 10 per cent work is pending. Due to that, people are not able to cross that railway line. A large number of people are going to Palani Hill Temple. There are other temples also. So, this work has to be completed immediately.

Near Chennimalai, there is SIPCOT industry. Nearly 2,500 industries are there. Coimbatore-Salem line is going in-between SIPCOT industries and Chennimalai.

[Shri S.K. Kharventhan]

Thousands of people are going to factories by crossing the railway line. There, the railway over-bridge has to be sanctioned.

18.00 hrs.

I am asking for another new survey as Tirupur is the hub of hosiery industry. Every year, the Government of India is getting benefited to the tune of Rs. 11,000 crore by way of exports.

Karur is another textile city. It is having thousands of powerloom industries. On the way, there are famous places called Kangeyam and Vellakoil. A new survey has to be sanctioned connecting Tirupur, Kangeyam, Vellakoil and Karur.

Dindigul, my district headquarters, is the hub of textile mills having 132 textile mills. Another important town nearby Rameshwaram is Karaikudi. Karaikudi and Dindigul have to be connected by a new Railway line, and it has to be sanctioned. These are all important matters concerning my constituency.

On behalf of the people of Tamil Nadu, I want to thank our hon. Railway Minister Shri Lalu and Shri Velu for allocating Rs. 903 crore for Tamil Nadu; Rs. 51 crore for new main-lines; Rs. 475 crore for gauge conversion; and Rs. 231 crore for doubling.

I once again request the hon. Minister Shri Lalu and Shri Velu to allocate sufficient funds for completion of the Erode-Palani new projects, and immediately take up the location survey and land acquisition.

I once again thank the hon. Railway Minister Shri Lalu, Shri Velu and Shri Rathwa for taking effective steps for the success achieved by the Railways. They have also introduced the Railway Amendment Bill, 2008. This would make it easier for land acquisition instead of following the old Act. Therefore, we welcome this amendment.

With these words, I am thanking you and concluding my speech.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Hon. Members, it is 6 O'clock now. This discussion will continue on Monday also.

If the House agrees, then I will take up Zero Hour now.

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS : Yes, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I would be permitting the Members to speak only for one minute each. Shri M.P. Veerendra Kumar.

SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR (Calicut) : Thank you, Mr. Chairman, Sir. I would like to place some pertinent issues before the House in the light of today's Parliament March organized by the Field Workers of LIC.

The development cadre amounting to 21,000 has a legitimate complaint that the proposal of Growth Oriented Incentive Bonus Scheme (GOIBS 2004) was unilaterally implemented. The scheme resulted in a drop in incentives by 50 per cent to 90 per cent, and denial of marketing expenses. The market share of LIC has plummeted from 88 per cent in 2004 to 64 per cent in December 2007 impairing the performance of this institution. They are further disappointed that the promise made to them by the Finance Minister on the floor of this House – that is, the incentive scheme essential for motivation, especially, in a competitive scenario would be subject to review after 2005 fiscal – has not been honoured. Moreover, the MoU, which was an agreement between the NFIFWI and LIC of India regarding the work norms of the officers is being proposed for alteration unilaterally.

To compound these, the current focus on selling stock market-oriented ULIP policies—which lacks social security since the whole risk is borne by the policy holders—has resulted in shrinking of funds for infrastructure development. These have grave implications for the future of a time-honoured institution like the LIC.

SHRIMATI P. SATHEEDEVI (Badagara) : Sir, I would request you to associate my name with the issue raised by Shri M.P. Veerendra Kumar.

[Translation]

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am thankful to you for having given me an opportunity to raise a matter of urgent public importance during Zero Hour.

Today employees and officers of LIC are on a dhama throughout the country including at Ram Lila Ground and at Jantar-Mantar in Delhi. Members of Parliament, be it from the treasury benches or opposition know that injustice is being meted out to the staff of LIC. There is a lot of disparity in their pay and promotion. It is wrong. I would like it to bring to the notice of the hon. Minister of Finance that respecting the sentiments of officers and employees of LIC, the Government should consider their demands.

SHRI GANESH SINGH : I would like to associate myself with the point raised by Shri Shailendra Kumarji.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer) : I also associate myself with the point raised by Shri Shailendra Kumarji.

[English]

SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN : Sir, from time immemorial, throughout the country, a large number of poets, scholars, and devotees have written lyrics and poems praising Lord Shiva and Lord Vishnu in their respective languages. The four most revered Shaivate Saints—Appar, Sundarar, Sambandar and Manikkavasagar – and other Nayanmars have composed and written a number of poems praising Lord Shiva. Devaram and Thirvasagam are part of important Tamil literature. Recently, Tamil Oduvars tried to sing Devaram and Thiruvagasam at Sri Chidambaram Natarajar Temple, where the above hymns written on palm leaves were supposed to be found 1000 years back by famous ruler Raja Raja Chola. During that time, nine persons were arrested including eight advocates. At the

same time, the Oduvars and devotees are not against the present system of singing songs in other languages.

I urge upon the Government to take steps to protect the Oduvars and devotees who sing Devaram and Thiruvagasam in Sri Chidambaram Natarajar Temple. I also urge that all those arrested persons should be released immediately.

[Translation]

SHRI BHANU PRATAP SINGH VERMA (Jalaun) : Sir, my area Bundelkhand is facing drought. Apart from Bundelkhand, Oraiya, Kanpur Dehat and Fatehpur are also in its grip. The farmers over there are not able to face it and animals are dying without water. The crops sown by the farmers are on the verge of destruction and in absence of water the farmers are facing dual loss. Therefore, in view of it, I urge the Government to construct a dam on river Yamuna between Musanagar and Ghatampur in Kanpur Dehat. If the dam is constructed the farmers of not only Bundelkhand but also of Fatehpur to Allahabad, Kanpur Dehat, Oraiya, Etawah will get adequate water for irrigation and they will be able to tackle the drought.

[English]

SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN (Kasargod) : I wish to draw the attention of the Government with regard to some of the problem being faced by the freedom fighters of our country. Earlier also, I raised this issue in this House, and the Chair has positively responded to that, but the Government has not taken any decision on that. This is the Sixty-first year of our Independence. We are forgetting the freedom fighters who have sacrificed their lives for the freedom of this country. The Central Government has already recognized the various freedom struggles that took place in various parts of our country. It is on the basis of this assessment that the State Government concerned has formed the Monitoring Committee, and these Monitoring Committees have assessed or identified the deserving persons who would get the pension under the

[Shri P. Karunakaran]

State scheme. Almost all the States have taken the decision, and also the Central Government has given pension to some of the freedom fighters. However, many of the freedom fighters are denied this pension and there is no valid reason for the rejection. The freedom fighters who have approached the High Courts and the Supreme Court are getting it, but it is not possible for those persons who are on the sick-bed or in the twilight years of their lives to approach the High Courts or the Supreme Court as they are not financially well off. You will find that they took part in freedom struggles in Kayyur, Karivalur, Punnapura Vayalar in Kerala; in West Bengal, in Thebaga; in Andhra Pradesh, in Telangana; and in many other struggles. If you take, for example, Goa, the RIN Mutiny was also considered as a part of the freedom struggle, but only a few people were given the pension. There is no justification on the part of the Government for not giving any consideration to these people even in these times. The Government is spending crores and crores of rupees on many things. These freedom fighters are very few in number. So, I would request the Government to take urgent action on this issue.

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN (Trichur) : Sir, I associate with what he has stated.

DR. K.S. MANOJ (Alleppey) : Sir, I also associate with him.

SHRIMATI C.S. SUJATHA (Mavelikara) : Sir, I also associate with him.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The Members can associate themselves.

[Translation]

SHRI GANESH SINGH : I would like to draw attention of the Government to drought and famine. Several states are facing famine due to severe water crisis because of scanty rainfall. M.P. has been reeling under drought for

the last three years. 164 tehsils in 39 districts out of total 48 districts in the states are in the grip of severe drought. The farmers are totally frustrated and debt ridden and therefore they have no alternative other than committing suicide. Entire area is facing hunger and people are migrating to other places. The quota of ration being distributed by the Central Government to BPL families has also been reduced. All the sources of water have dried up. In keeping with the assurance of the hon. Chief Minister, drinking water for the Satna region is being supplied from Ban Sagar dam, located 110 kms. away from here.

Sir, the state government has demanded a package of Rs. 24,242 crore for providing relief to drought affected people. Meanwhile a Central Study Team visited the trouble torn area, but, unfortunately not a single penny has been released by the centre so far. The amount of Rs. 269.29 crore made available by the Centre for 2007-08 has been utilized upto the month of January itself.

Sir, my submission is that entire loan of the farmers of affected area should be waived. At the same time, an amount of Rs. 24,244 crore, as sought by the State government may immediately be provided for providing relief in the affected areas.

[English]

SHRIMATI C.S. SUJATHA : Mr. Chairman, Sir, Kerala has made significant progress in the field of elementary and secondary education. It is the most literate State in the country. Though the State leads in the literacy, it lags behind most other States in terms of higher education. There is urgent need to make substantial increase in higher education to cope with the emerging knowledge economy to the development of the State. There is dearth of institutions of national importance in the State for higher education. The State has been requesting the Central Government for setting up of an IIT. The location and required land have been identified and the same has been communicated to the Centre. However, so far no action has been taken in this regard by the Central Government.

I urge upon the Government to concede the demand and take urgent steps so that the long cherished dream for an IIT is fulfilled without further delay.

SHRIMATI JHANSI LAKSHMI BOTCHA (Bobbili) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, a runway of 10,000 feet; night-landing facilities; and instrument landing systems have been commissioned at Visakhapatnam Airport as part of up gradation of the airport. Work on many more facilities like new integrated terminal complex, aero bridges, baggage belts, airline counters and parking areas is in progress. A-320 aircraft have also started landing at Visakhapatnam. At present, the approved operational hours of the airport are only from 0800 hrs. to 2000 hrs.

There has been a considerable increase in activities in Visakhapatnam during the last few years due to factors like expansion of Vizag Steel Plant, establishment of Greenfield refinery of HPCL, establishment of BARC, Naval Base, Gangavaram Port, Textile Parks, Pharma City, SEZs, major IT companies and professional colleges. It is expected that the number of passengers using Visakhapatnam Airport will touch one million by 2008. Many more regional, domestic and international airlines are showing keen interest to operate late evening flights to and from Visakhapatnam. In view of this, it is essential to have round the clock operations at Visakhapatnam airport.

It is requested to separate the proposal of additional manpower at Visakhapatnam Airport from the other requirements of the Indian Navy and the Finance Ministry should approve it at the earliest. To meet the growing demand of traffic and effective utilization of facilities at Visakhapatnam Airport the proposal be cleared immediately so that the Vizag Airport becomes operational for 24 hrs.

[Translation]

DR. KARAN SINGH YADAV (Alwar) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, five crore Rajasthanis living in Rajasthan and three crore Rajasthanis living elsewhere in India and abroad are aggrieved over the fact that though 60 years have elapsed since India became independent yet Rajasthani language

has not been included in eighth schedule of the Constitution. I am among those unfortunate MPs who can't express their views in the Parliament in their mother tongue. Rajasthani is a rich language. It has emerged out of Mewati, Marwadi, Dhundhadi and Hadoti. It has very old literature. The hon. Members have raised this issue in the House. The hon. Minister of Home Affairs had assured the House during monsoon session that a Bill will be introduced to include Rajasthani along with Bhojpuri in the Eighth Schedule of our Constitution. But I am sad to say that even winter session is over but the said Bill has not been introduced so far. Through you, in view of expectations of eight crore Rajasthanis I would urge the Government to bring a Bill in the House in Budget session itself for inclusion of Rajasthani language in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution.

[English]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer) : I want to associate with the matter the hon. Member raised just now.

MR. CHAIRMAN : All right.

Dr. Manoj, your matter has already come up thrice. Today itself, it has been mentioned by two Members.

SHRI K.S. MANOJ (Alleppey) : I have some more points to state. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : It is about the demands of the insurance employees. This matter has been raised by many Members of Parliament. You can associate with them. Or else, just mention your point.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI K.S. MANOJ : Today, the Development Officers of LIC have staged a *dhama* near Parliament under the aegis of the National Federation of Insurance Field Workers of India demanding for safe and protect LIC. Because of the new economic policies, the stand taken by the IRDA and the Government of India is leading to destabilisation of LIC. LIC is a major public sector undertaking in the

[Shri K.S. Manoj]

country. It not only insures crores of people in our country but it also gives funds for various developmental activities. Hence, it is one of the major public sector undertaking. It should be maintained as a national public sector company. But steps are being taken by the Government to destabilise it. In order to bring private companies, not only domestic but also foreign companies into this field and in order to bring level playing field, certain steps have taken. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : It is very unfortunate. I am sitting here for hours.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI K.S. MANOJ : I would then limit to the demands. The demands are that LIC should be retained as a public sector undertaking; stop FDI hike in insurance sector; protect sovereign guarantee for LIC policies; and also to restore the withdrawn benefits and incentives given to the Development Officers, who have been given more workload. These are the major issues. So, they staged a *dhama*. Previously, they were holding discussion with the Finance Ministry when certain assurances were given to them but the same were not fulfilled. Hence, I urge upon the Government to look into the demands of these Development Officers and LIC Agents and retain LIC as a public sector company.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Abu Ayes Mondal. You want to raise the issue of LIC. You can associate with them.

SHRI ABU AYES MONDAL (Katwa) : While associating with them, I want to say a few words.

While associating with the issue, I want to raise a burning problem which Shri Virendra Kumar and some other hon. Members have already raised. I may recall that the issue was also discussed in the House as 'Calling Attention' on 10.12.2004, but despite the assurance of the Finance Minister to review the scheme of incentives, nothing has been done so far.

So, I urge upon the Finance Minister to take the issue on a war-footing and ask the LIC management to settle this crisis of work norms and refrain from the incentive policies for the welfare of the agents and development officers to correct the stand to save and protect LIC without any delay.

DR. BABU RAO MEDIYAM (Bhadrachalam) : Thank you, Mr. Chairman, Sir.

This is an issue on illegal bauxite mining in Visakhapatnam District. Bauxite mining permissions were given to two private mining companies – ZSWA Limited, and RAS AL Khaimah, without contemplating any procedure as per the Constitution. There was no environment impact study was done and there was no public hearing that was held. There was no survey also taken up by the GSI.

Bauxite is present at Jerrela Block, Gallikonda, Rakhakonda and Chittingonda which falls within the Fifth Schedule of our Constitution. As per the PESA Act of 1996, it is unconstitutional and illegal to mine in the area without conducting Gram Sabhas. The mining will create environmental pollution besides displacing hundreds of tribal villages.

Hence, I urge upon the Ministry of Mines and the National Pollution Control Board to take up the following measures: (1) cancel the MoU with two private companies as it undermines all legal procedures. (2) stop the construction of Aluminium refinery at Makavarapalem and Boddavara. (3) conduct the environment impact assessment survey in a scientific manner and (4) consult and discuss with local people's representatives including Gram Sabha. Thank you.

*[Translation]*

SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR (Chandrapur) : Hon. Chairman, Sir, four workers' unions of western unit of Coal India i.e. WCL in Chandrapur region are on strike since 4th of March. The coal production has come to a standstill



on account of this strike. The management there has started coal outsourcing against the demands of the unions as well as the policy of Coal India. As a result, many workers are not getting any work and the machines are lying idle. The agreement signed between the Seventh Wages Board and all the trade unions of Coal India provides that there would be no outsourcing of coal. The policy of CIL also provides that there will be no outsourcing of coal. Despite that CMD and Technical Director of Nagpur unit of WCL have allotted the work of outsourcing to another company. It has outraged the workers and labourers. ...*(Interruptions)*

It is an important matter. I would like to request the government, through you, to stop this outsourcing immediately as non-production of coal since 4th of March is causing national loss and it is adversely affecting the lives of the workers. The Government should immediately take steps to stop this outsourcing and notice should be issued to the concerned CMD in this regard.

SHRI HARIBHAU RATHOD (Yavatmal) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, today the people of nomadic tribes and 'banjara' community were sitting on 'dharna' at Jantar-Mantar. They were demanding those facilities for the nomadic tribes and Banjara all over the country as are available in Maharashtra. The Constitution should be amended for this purpose. Every 'Banjara Tanda' in the country should be treated as revenue village and they should have a gram panchayat. Seven crore people of banjara community, who speak 'Gaur' dialect, should be included in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution and budgetary provisions should be made for these people as is done for scheduled castes and scheduled tribes.

I would like to tell you about an incident which took place there. Today a horrible incident has taken place. There is Mavalankar Hall at Rafi Marg which is the property of this august House. Today when these people assembled there they did not get even drinking water. There was no arrangement of drinking water. There were no chairs on the stage. On being asked, they were told that water was

not available there.\* I would like to say that there are 15 crore such people living in the country but till now Government has not paid any attention towards them. We have been drawing the attention of the govt. towards them time and again.

Sir, I am the only Member of Parliament belonging to denotified nomadic tribes group. Shri Lal Bahadur Shastriji had provided for government scholarship for these people after doctorate but this government has even withdrawn that scholarship.

*[English]*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Nothing, except Prof. Rasa Singh Rawat will go on record.

...*(Interruptions)\*\**

*[Translation]*

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : Sir, Ajmer is city situated in the center of Rajasthan having historical, cultural, religious, archaeological and educational importance. This city is famous for the communal harmony. The holy 'dargah' of well known Sufi Saint Khwaja Muinuddin Chisti is situated in Ajmer where lakhs of people from all over the country come to perform 'j'iyarat'. Pushkar, a famous place of pilgrim and center of religion and culture is also situated nearby Ajmer. Every year lakhs of people visit Pushkar for 'darshan' and taking holy bath.

Ajmer has been the capital of Chauhan dynasty. During Vishaldev Chauhan's regime there was a famous Sanskrit University here which is now called 'Dhai din ka jhopada'. During the Mughal period also, great emperors of Hindustan like Alkbar, Jahangir and Shahjahan visited Ajmer. Ajmer retained its existence during the British rule and was a union territory till 1956.

Sir, Ajmer is a famous center of education. Here

\* Not recorded as ordered by the Chair.

\*\* Not recorded.

[Prof. Rasa Singh Rawat]

education is being imparted from primary level to university level. Here there are several colleges — namely Mayo College where the students from all over India come for studies, Government college, which caters to seven thousand students and the biggest and oldest college of Rajasthan, Dayanand College, Sofia College, Savitri College, Regional College, T.T. College but there is no central university in Ajmer. It is a matter of great pleasure that the government has planned to set up central universities in the country. I would like to demand that a central university should be set up in Ajmer so that the standard of education could be raised. Hence a central university should be set up in Ajmer.

SHRI VIJOY KRISHNA (Barh) : Sir, I would like to draw your attention to the crimes being committed often in various jails in the country. The security in various jails in the country has been breached, prisoners have committed suicide and the circumstances in the jails are compelling someone to commit suicide everyday. The famous Tihar jail is in the worst condition. More than six

people have been compelled to commit suicide there during the last three months. Everyday the prisoners are beaten, subjected to torture and transferred from wards. Shri Pappu Yadav, M.P. alongwith several other political prisoners and women are also in this very jail. There have been incidents of misbehaviour with the women and it has become a center of sexual exploitation. The Superintendent of this jail should be transferred immediately so as to avoid any untoward incident in Tihar. The hon. Minister of Home Affairs should interfere in this matter.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : The House stands adjourned to meet at 11.00 a.m. on Monday.

18.28 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the  
Clock on Monday, March 10, 2008/  
Phalguna 20, 1929 (Saka).*

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**Annexure-I****Member-wise Index to Starred Questions**

Sl.No.	Member's Name	Question Number
1	2	3
1.	Shri Acharia, Basudeb	114
2.	Shri Ahir, Hansraj G.	104
3.	Shri Athawale, Ramdas	101
4.	Shri Chakraborty, Swadesh	111
5.	Dr. Jagannath, M.	112
6.	Shri Jain, Pusp	109
7.	Shri Jindal, Naveen	119
8.	Shri Jogi, Ajit	113
9.	Shri Kharventhan, S.K.	115
10.	Shri Krishnadas, N.N.	109
11.	Smt. Madhavaraj, Manorama	110
12.	Shri Meghwal, Kailash	116
13.	Shri Mollah, Hannan	119
14.	Shri Murmu, Hemlal	118
15.	Shri Nandy, Amitava	103
16.	Shri Owaisi, Asaduddin	112
17.	Dr. Pandey, Laxminarayan	107
18.	Shri Patel, Kishanbhai V.	108
19.	Shri Pathak, Harin	117
20.	Smt. Patil, Rupatai Diliprao Nilangakar	104
21.	Shri Patil, Shrinivas Dadasaheb	102

1	2	3
22.	Shri Rathod, Haribhau	103
23.	Shri Reddy, K.J.S.P.	105
24.	Shri Saradgi, Iqbal Ahmed	106
25.	Shri Shakya, Raghuraj Singh	118
26.	Shri Shivanna, M.	110
27.	Shri Singh, Sugrib	108
28.	Shri Tripathi, Chandra Mani	107
29.	Shri Veerendrakumar, M.P.	120

**Member-wise Index to Unstarred Questions**

Sl. No.	Member's Name	Question Number
1	2	3
1.	Shri "Baba", K.C. Singh	1130
2.	Shri "Bachda", Bachi Singh Rawat	998
3.	Shri Aaron Rashid, J.M.	1009, 1035
4.	Shri Acharia, Basudeb	998, 1056, 1103
5.	Shri Adaul, Anandrao Vithoba	972, 1012, 1075, 1106, 1126
6.	Dr. Agarwal, Dharendra	1001, 1084, 1135
7.	Shri Ahir, Hansraj G.	1061, 1101, 1120, 1128
8.	Shri Ajay Kumar, S.	1131
9.	Shri Angadi, Suresh	1015
10.	Shri Appadurai, M.	975, 1078, 1108

1	2	3
11.	Shri Athawale, Ramdas	1057
12.	Shri Barad, Jasubhai Dhanabhai	977, 1001, 1082
13.	Shri Barman, Ranen	996, 1083
14.	Shri Baxla, Joachim	1083
15.	Shri Bhakta, Manoranjan	1033, 1093
16.	Shri Bishnoi, Kuldeep	982
17.	Shri Budholiya, Rajnarayan	978
18.	Shri Chakraborty, Ajoy	1020
19.	Shri Chaure, Bapu Hari	979
20.	Shri Chavda, Harisinh	1001, 1030, 1055
21.	Smt. Deo, Sangeeta Kumari Singh	984, 1076, 1107
22.	Shri Deora, Milind	1067, 1134
23.	Dr. Dhanaraju, K.	1005, 1072
24.	Shri Dhotre, Sanjay	979, 1018
25.	Shri Francisco, Cosme Sardinha	1007
26.	Shri Gadakh, Tukaram Gangadhar	991
27.	Shri Gadhavi, P.S.	1008, 1062
28.	Shri Gaikwad, Eknath Mahadeo	995, 1040
29.	Shri Gamang, Giridhar	987
30.	Smt. Gandhi, Maneka	998, 1016, 1081
31.	Shri Gangwar, Santosh	1051, 990
32.	Smt. Gawali, Bhavana P.	1018

1	2	3
33.	Dr. Jagannath, M.	1066
34.	Shri Jain, Pusp	1065
35.	Smt. Jayaprada	998, 1006, 1040
36.	Shri Jha, Raghunath	998, 999, 1024, 1037, 1052
37.	Shri Jindal, Naveen	998, 1048, 1115
38.	Shri Joshi, Pralhad	1036
39.	Shri Kanodia, Mahesh	1008
40.	Shri Karunakaran, P.	1014, 1080
41.	Shri Khaire, Chandrakant	1028
42.	Shri Khanna, Avinash Rai	1065
43.	Shri Kharventhan, S.K.	1067, 1134
44.	Shri Koshal, Raghuveer Singh	976
45.	Shri Kriplani, Srichand	1013, 1079
46.	Shri Krishna, Vijoy	998, 1034, 1063, 1096, 1118
47.	Shri Krishnadas, N.N.	1054, 1065, 1109, 1122
48.	Shri Kumar, Nikhil	992, 998, 1138
49.	Smt. Lakshmi, Jhansi Botcha	1000, 1053
50.	Smt. Mahajan, Sumitra	981, 1065
51.	Shri Maharia, Subhash	989, 1058
52.	Shri Mahto, Tek Lal	1013, 1022, 1086
53.	Smt. Mane, Nivedita	995, 1040

1	2	3
54.	Dr. Manoj, K.S.	1132
55.	Shri Masood, Rasheed	1009
56.	Ms. Mcleod, Ingrid	992, 998, 1063
57.	Shri Meghwal, Kailash	1068
58.	Dr. Mishra, Rajesh	1009, 1035
59.	Shri Mohan, P.	998, 1001
60.	Shri Mollah, Hannan	1071
61.	Shri Mondal, Abu Ayes Mondal	1027
62.	Shri Murmu, Hemlal	1063, 1070, 1104, 1121
63.	Shri Nandy, Amitava	1060
64.	Shri Nayak, Ananta	992, 1011, 1070, 1074
65.	Shri Nizamuddin, G.	1041, 1067
66.	Shri Oram, Jual	1011, 1050, 1100
67.	Shri Owaisi, Asaduddin	998, 1092, 1113
68.	Shri Pallani Shamy, K.C.	986, 1047, 1081, 1098
69.	Shri Panda, Prabodh	1025, 1035, 1133
70.	Dr. Pandey, Laxminarayan	1004, 1063, 1092
71.	Shri Parste, Dalpat Singh	992
72.	Shri Patel, Jivabhai Ambalal	985, 1017, 1055, 1076, 1084
73.	Shri Patel, Kishanbhai V.	1064, 1134

1	2	3
74.	Shri Pathak, Harin	1069, 1137
75.	Shri Patil, Pratik P.	993, 1049, 1099
76.	Smt. Patil, Rupatal Dillprao Nilangakar	1043, 1063, 1043
77.	Shri Patil, Shrinivas Dadasaheb	1059
78.	Shri Patle, Shishupal N.	992, 1002
79.	Shri Prasad, Anirudh <i>Alias</i> Sadhu Yadav	995, 1040
80.	Shri Prasad, Harikewal	1013, 1090
81.	Shri Rajagopal, L.	1032, 1078
82.	Prof. Ramadass, M.	992, 1019
83.	Shri Ramesh Dube	1128
84.	Shri Rana, Kashiram	1017, 1135
85.	Shri Rao, K.S.	973, 1004, 1042
86.	Shri Rao, Rayapati Sambasiva	1029, 1089, 1136
87.	Shri Rathod, Haribhau	1094, 1116
88.	Shri Ravichandran, Sippiparai	1010, 1021
89.	Shri Reddy, G. Karunakara	983, 1037, 1070
90.	Shri Renge Patil, Tukaram Ganpatrao	1107
91.	Shri Rijiju, Kiren	1004, 1092
92.	Shri Sai Prathap, A.	998, 1077
93.	Shri Sai, Nand Kumar	1023, 1087, 1110

1	2	3
94.	Shri Saradgi, Iqbal Ahmed	998, 1044, 1102
95.	Dr. Sarma, Arun Kumar	1085
96.	Shri Sathyanarayana, Sarvey	1018, 1038
97.	Shri Scindia, Jyotiraditya M.	988, 1004, 1138
98.	Shri Shakya, Raghuraj Singh	1013, 1063, 1070, 1121
99.	Shri Sharma, Madan Lal	1010, 1021
100.	Shri Shivajirao, Adhalrao Patil	972, 1006, 1012, 1075, 1106
101.	Prof. Shiwankar, Mahadeorao	992, 1019
102.	Shri Siddeswara, G.M.	980, 1045, 1114, 1125
103.	Shri Singh, Chandra Bhushan	997, 998, 1087
104.	Shri Singh, Rakesh	994
105.	Shri Singh, Rampal	1082
106.	Shri Singh, Rewati Raman	1004
107.	Shri Singh, Sugrta	1064, 1134
108.	Shri Singh, Suraj	992, 1037
109.	Shri Singh, Uday	1006, 1121
110.	Shri Singh, Rajiv Ranjan "Lalan"	992, 997, 1037

1	2	3
111.	Shri Solanki, Bhupendrasinh	1008
112.	Shri Sonowal, Sarbananda	1085
113.	Shri Subba, M.K.	974, 1046, 1085
114.	Shri Subbarayan, K.	1039, 1095, 1117, 1127, 1129
115.	Shri Suman, Ramji Lal	997
116.	Shri Surendran, Chengara	1024, 1065, 1109
117.	Smt. Thakkar, Jayaben B.	1062
118.	Shri Thomas, P.C.	1031, 1080, 1091, 1112, 1124
119.	Shri Tripathi, Chandra Mani	1004, 1063, 1092
120.	Shri Tripathy, Braja Kishore	1023, 1026, 1088, 1111, 1123
121.	Shri Vasava, Mansukhbhai D.	1030, 1090
122.	Shri Verma, Ravi Prakash	972, 1006, 1012, 1075, 1106
123.	Shri Yaskhi, Madhu Goud	995, 1040, 1097, 1119
124.	Shri Yerrannaidu, Kinjarapu	1003, 1073, 1105

**Annexure-II****Ministry-wise Index to Starred Questions**

Prime Minister	
Atomic Energy	
Coal	106, 114
Development of North Eastern Region	
Environment and Forests	
External Affairs	
Health and Family Welfare	101, 104, 107, 109, 110, 111, 115, 120
Overseas Indian Affairs	
Panchayati Raj	102, 118
Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions	119
Planning	116
Shipping, Road Transport and Highways	105, 108, 117
Space	103, 112
Statistics and Programme Implementation	
Youth Affairs and Sports	113.

**Ministry-wise Index to Unstarred Questions**

Prime Minister	
Atomic Energy	
Coal	994, 1022, 1041, 1060, 1074, 1086, 1103, 1106
Development of North Eastern Region	1048
Environment and Forests	975, 981, 986, 987, 993, 995, 1003, 1008, 1011, 1016, 1025, 1028, 1030, 1031, 1043, 1045, 1046, 1050, 1054, 1068, 1080, 1081, 1083, 1091, 1124

External Affairs	992, 1000, 1004, 1012, 1051, 1053, 1067, 1107, 1111, 1123, 1133, 1134, 1135, 1137
Health and Family Welfare	973, 976, 980, 984, 985, 988, 989, 991, 996, 997, 998, 1002, 1010, 1014, 1018, 1019, 1027, 1032, 1033, 1034, 1035, 1036, 1039, 1040, 1042, 1047, 1049, 1055, 1057, 1058, 1063, 1065, 1066, 1070, 1071, 1072, 1073, 1075, 1078, 1095, 1096, 1097, 1098, 1099, 1104, 1105, 1108, 1113, 1117, 1118, 1121, 1122, 1126, 1127, 1128, 1130, 1131, 1132, 1136
Overseas Indian Affairs	978, 982, 1001, 1015, 1092, 1100, 1109, 1119, 1120, 1138
Panchayati Raj	972, 979, 983, 990, 1038, 1079, 1088, 1089, 1093, 1116, 1129
Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions	974, 999, 1021, 1052, 1090
Planning	1006, 1023, 1061, 1076, 1077, 1102, 1110
Shipping, Road Transport and Highways	1007, 1009, 1013, 1017, 1020, 1024, 1037, 1044, 1056, 1062, 1064, 1069, 1082, 1084, 1085, 1087, 1094, 1101, 1114
Space	1026
Statistics and Programme Implementation	1029, 1059
Youth Affairs and Sports	977, 1005, 1112, 1115, 1125.

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Published under Rules 379 and 382 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha  
(Eleventh Edition) and Printed by The Indian Press, G.T. Kamal Road, Delhi-110033.

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