

LOK SABHA DEBATES

(English Version)

Thirteenth Session
(Fourteenth Lok Sabha)



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LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Wednesday, March 19, 2008/Phalguna 29, 1929 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

[*English*]

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Members, please take your seats. I would listen to you later.

...(Interruptions)

11.0¹/₂ hrs.

OBITUARY REFERENCES

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Members, I have to inform the House of the sad demise of five former colleagues, Shrimati T. Lakshmi Kanthamma, Shri Wangcha Rajkumar, Shrimati Mafida Ahmed, Dr. Jayantilal Narbheram Parekh and Shri Balbir Singh.

Shrimati T. Lakshmi Kanthamma was a Member of the Third, Fourth and Fifth Lok Sabhas from 1962 to 1977 representing the Khammam Parliamentary Constituency of Andhra Pradesh.

Shrimati Lakshmi Kanthamma was also a Member of the Andhra Pradesh Legislative Assembly from 1957 to 1962 and from 1978 to 1983.

An able parliamentarian, Shrimati Lakshmi Kanthamma was a Member of the Business Advisory Committee from 1963 to 1964. She was a Member of the House Committee in 1966 and a Member of the Committee on Public Undertakings from 1967 to 1968. Shrimati Lakshmi Kanthamma was a Member of the Indian Parliamentary delegation to Australia in 1967.

A committed social and political worker, Shrimati Lakshmi Kanthamma was actively associated with a number of social welfare organizations. She was member,

National Council for Women's Education and the Central Social Welfare Board. She also served as a Member of the Tirumalai Tirupati Devasthanam Board of Trustees.

A person with a spiritual and scholarly bent of mind, she was also an accomplished author and has to her credit books in English and Telugu languages.

Shrimati T. Lakshmi Kanthamma passed away on 13 December, 2007 at Vijayawada at the age of 83.

Shri Wangcha Rajkumar was a Member of the Eleventh to Thirteenth Lok Sabhas from 1996 to 2004 representing the Arunachal East Parliamentary Constituency of Arunachal Pradesh.

Earlier he was a Member of the Arunachal Pradesh Legislative Assembly from 1995 to 1996.

An able parliamentarian, Shri Rajkumar was a Member of the Committee on Food, Civil Supplies and Public Distribution and Consultative Committee of the Ministry of Power during the Eleventh Lok Sabha. He was a Member of the Rules Committee and Consultative Committee of the Ministry of Home Affairs during the Twelfth Lok Sabha; During the Thirteenth Lok Sabha he was a Member of the Committee on Home Affairs and the Consultative Committee of the Ministry of Home Affairs.

A widely traveled person, Shri Rajkumar worked tirelessly in the service of the people by promoting mutual understanding among diverse communities.

Shri Wangcha Rajkumar passed away under tragic circumstances on December 23, 2007 at Deomali, District Tirap at the age of 42.

Shrimati Mafida Ahmed was a member of the Second Lok Sabha from 1957 to 1962, representing the Jorhat Parliamentary Constituency of Assam.

During the Second Lok Sabha, Shrimati Mafida Ahmed was a member of the House Committee from 1961 to 1962.

A committed social and political worker Shrimati Mafida Ahmed was actively associated with the Red Cross Society, Jorhat from 1946 to 1949.

She strove for the upliftment of marginalized sections of our society particularly for the women. She served as the Assistant Secretary, Tezpur District Mahila Samiti from 1951 to 1953 and was also associated with several other organizations working for the uplift of the women.

A gifted writer, Shrimati Mafida Ahmed has to her credit several publications in Assamese.

Shrimati Mafida Ahmed passed away on 17 January, 2008 at Jorhat at the age of 87.

Dr. Jayantilal Narbheram Parekh was a member of the First Lok Sabha from 1952 to 1957, representing the Zalawad Parliamentary Constituency of erstwhile Saurashtra Province (new in Gujarat).

Earlier, Dr. Parekh was a member of the Saurashtra Constituent Assembly and the Legislative Assembly from 1948 to 1951. As a member of the Saurashtra legislative Assembly he served as Chairman, Public Accounts Committee and Member, Estimates Committee.

A Medical Practitioner and Banker by profession, Dr. Parekh was a Member, Governing and Executive Body of Seth Khusaldas J. Mehta T.B. Hospital, Amarnagar; he was the Vice-President, Red Cross Society, Morvi and a member of the All India Medical Association, Morvi Branch and Family Planning Association of India, Mumbai.

A well-known social worker, Dr. Parekh was a Member of the Working Committee, Saurashtra Division of All-India Manufacturers Organisation, Bhavnagar; he was the Adviser and Member, Morvi Cotton Merchants Association and a Member of the Working Committee, Morvi Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

Dr. Jayantilal Narbheram Parekh passed away on 10 February, 2008 at Mumbai at the age of 96.

Shri Balbir Singh was a member of the Thirteenth Lok Sabha from 1999 to 2004, representing Jalandhar Parliamentary Constituency of Punjab.

Earlier, Sardar Balbir Singh was a member of the Rajya Sabha from 1992 to 1998. He was also a member of the Punjab Legislative Assembly from 1972 to 1977. Shri Singh served as a Minister of State (Department of Health and Family Welfare and Medical Education, Sports and Defence Welfare) in the Government of Punjab from 1973 to 1977.

Sardar Balbir Singh was a member of the Committee on Transport and Tourism from 1999 to 2001. He was a member of the Committee on Commerce from 2002 to 2004 and the Committee on Members of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme from 2000 to 2004.

An advocate by profession, Shri Singh was the President, Law Graduates Association of Punjab. He was the President of the Governing Council of Lyallpur Khalsa College for Boys. He was the Chairman of Shaheed Babu Labh Singh Memorial Trust, Jalandhar and the Senior Vice-President, Indian Council of World Affairs, New Delhi. Shri Singh was also a member of the Syndicate and Senate of the Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar.

A sports enthusiast, Shri Balbir Singh served as a Member, Punjab State Sports Council and the Vice President Punjab Olympic Association.

Shri Balbir Singh passed away on 13 February, 2008 at Jalandhar at the age of 69.

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

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

11.09 hrs.

The Members then stood in silence for a short while.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Ferozabad): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV (Jhansi): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I had raised this issue earlier also. Now the same type of incident has taken place in Manipur. Hindi speaking people are being massacred continuously. I would like to request the Central Government and the Prime Minister to ensure the safety of life and property of our people. Sir, incidents are continuously taking place...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please sit down now.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.

...(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please listen to me first. Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I do not want to suspend Question Hour nor it is good for us.

[English]

After the Question Hour, I will try to look into this matter and I will try to accommodate you.

11.11 hrs.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now Q. No. 281—
Shri Shrinivas Dadasaheb Patil.

Acquisition of Land for Six-Laning

*281. SHRI SHRINIWAS DADASAHEB PATIL: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has initiated action for acquisition of land for six-laning of the roads under the Golden Quadrilateral (GQ) Project;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the quantum of land required and acquired for the purpose; and

(d) the time by which the required land is likely to be acquired?

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

Statement

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) So far concessions for six sections of Golden Quadrilateral have been awarded. The land requirement

for two of these sections (Vadodara-Bharuch and Bharuch-Surat on NH-8) have been assessed as 43.5893 hectare and notification under Section 3D of National Highways Act, 1956 vesting the land in the Central Government has been issued for 37.835 hectare. The balance four sections (Surat-Dahisar and Gurgaon-Jaipur on NH-8, Chennai-Tada and Chilkaluripat-Vijayawada on NH-5) were awarded on 21st February, 2008 and action for land acquisition is being initiated. For other sections, action will be initiated after award of the projects.

(c) Land for these projects to meet the contractual requirements for award of concession is already available. Some additional land would be required for facilities like interchanges, acceleration/deceleration lanes, entry-exist ramps, etc., and this requirement would depend on the finalization of the design of the project, to be done by the concessionaire under Design, Build, Finance and Operate (DBFO) pattern in Public Private Partnership (PPP) mode, and same would be acquired.

(d) Since these projects are at various stages of implementation, it is too early to give time-frame for acquisition of entire land at this stage.

SHRI SHRINIWAS DADASAHEB PATIL: I would like to know from the hon. Minister, through you, Sir, whether the Government would relax the norms of land acquisition in order to complete the work of land acquisition in a given time.

SHRI T.R. BAALU: Sir, there is no necessity, as of now, to relax the norms of land acquisition. As far as NH-5 is concerned, we are going to develop six-laning in all the four-lane Golden Quadrilateral with other seven stretches of 825 kilo metres of new four-lane roads. So, I do not think that there will be any necessity of relaxing the norms that could be considered.

SHRI SHRINIWAS DADASAHEB PATIL: Sir, it is found that land acquisition is delayed generally. I would like to know whether the Government would initiate the policy of encouraging the Land Acquisition Department, especially the Revenue Department of the State Governments, particularly by giving them facilities like vehicles, machines, and also offer money to meet office expenses to complete land acquisition in time so as to save increasing costs of land acquisition due to delay, which would have taken place otherwise.

*Not recorded.

SHRI T.R. BAALU: The National Highways Authority of India has already acquired all these things. It has already acquired 90.96 per cent of the acreage of land. I do not think that there is any necessity to relax the rules and regulations.

SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR: Sir, I compliment the hon. Minister for taking up the six-laning of the Highways. But, Sir, I wish to very humbly submit to the hon. Minister that the National Highway No. 2 passes through some very busy habitations and this creates very serious accident situations. Would the hon. Minister be kind enough to provide some kind of either a by-pass or an under-pass to these habitations particularly in a place called 'Madanpur' in my constituency, Aurangabad in Bihar?

SHRI T.R. BAALU: This Question pertains to land acquisition for six-laning.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: His question does not relate to it.

[English]

SHRI T.R. BAALU: As far as this particular issue is concerned, if the hon. Member comes and meets me, I shall see whether anything can be done and I shall try to sort it out.

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Golden Quadrilateral project was started during the regime of NDA Government to give shape to the vision of hon'ble Atal Bihari Vajpayee and at that time hon'ble Baalu Saheb was also the part of that Government. Once the U.P.A. Government come in power, the pace of implementation of Golden Quadrilateral project has slowed down. Consequently, now the project is not being completed within the stipulated time and its pace is gradually declining in phases.

Through you, I would like to know the main reason of this slowdown. I would also like to know the progress regarding the acquisition of land for the construction of six lanes road between Jaipur and Gurgaon and from Kishangarh by pass to Rajasthan border under the said project and the time by which the process of acquisition of land will be completed.

[English]

SHRI T.R. BAALU: Sir, as far as the Golden Quadrilateral Project is concerned, it has been identified and started in the NDA period only. Nobody is fighting. We are not telling you anything against Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee or the NDA Government which had envisaged identifying the Golden Quadrilateral. There is no fight in between. At the same time, the hon. Member should know that this particular Golden Quadrilateral Project has been identified and the target was kept as 2001-02 in the NDA period, in our period only. In fact, rather it was not properly identified. The land acquisition as well as execution periods were kept as 2001-02. Without any land acquisition, you had entered into the scheme. Even without having a proper proposal, CCEA approved; the Government had gone and jumped into the scheme. That is what I want to say because I never hesitate to call white as white whether they are my former friends or present friends.

But at that point of time, they wanted to have a GQ (Golden Quadrilateral) suddenly and immediately. Within 10 days, it had been approved even without going through the pre-feasibility, reconnaissance survey or X,Y, Z survey and all these things. Without going into the details, they had set 2001-02 as the target. In your period itself, a number of projects had not been awarded. So, we have inherited all these problems—good things as well as bad things. But as of now, we have completed almost the entire Golden Quadrilateral, except 196 kilometres. These 196 kilometres are pending for want of some contractors who have not come up to the level. So, at the initial stage, the pre-qualification was not proper. In India, it was the first time wherein the four-lane activities were taken up...*(Interruptions)*

At the same time, 196 kilometres are there only to be completed. That will be completed as quickly as possible within another six or seven months.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: The problem in regard to land acquisition for making the national highways into six-lanes or four-lanes is that there is no rehabilitation and resettlement package. That is why, people are resisting and they are not ready to give their land. Thereby, the land acquisition is delayed. May I known from the Minister whether, as it has been suggested in a Bill that is being now scrutinized by the Standing Committee, proper rehabilitation and resettlement package will be given to the land losers for their rehabilitation and resettlement?

SHRI T.R. BAALU: Actually, my friend was telling something about the social problems because the land is being acquired by the NHA but they are not providing any R and R package. That is what, the hon. Member has said. I am very sorry to say that in his State only I am facing a lot of problem. I am very sorry to state this. He is my old friend. He is not only my friend but also that particular State is ruled by a very close friend to mine. I have also met him twice. In spite of proper negotiation with the State Government and interaction between the officers, even to survey the particular land area people are not allowing. People are not allowing them. I am very sorry to say that a very highly esteemed senior Cabinet colleague of mine has interfered. In spite of it, nothing could be done.

That is my problem. I request hon. Member Shri Basu Deb Achariaji to kindly intervene.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, he is talking of a particular State. The problem is much more in other State also...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please sit down.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: The delay in acquisition is there in other States also. Why are you referring my State? ...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Achariaji, please sit down. I have already allowed you...(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: It is a general problem...(Interruptions)

SHRI T.R. BAALU: Sir, this problem is everywhere. But there it is too much. That is what I want to explain. It is unbearable. For the past six months, we are trying. I am sorry to say this...(Interruptions) In spite of our best efforts we could not achieve...(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Satisfactory progress is not there in other places also...(Interruptions)

SHRI T.R. BAALU: Hon. Minister of External Affairs has also interfered. Hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs

has interfered. In spite of all this, nothing could be done. I am only requesting all my friends...(Interruptions) I am only requesting all my friends to come together and let us put our heads together and see that something is done so that I can go for survey at least, I could do the survey. Then we will sit and work it out...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: His only question is that the land from the owners has been acquired and you may please compensate them. This is the only question.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI T.R. BAALU: Sir, R & R is also the most important thing. Unless we provide R & R, we are not acquiring the land. That is what I want to impress upon the hon. Members.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, my question was social; he made it political. It is not a political question but it is a social question...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI REWATI RAMAN SINGH: Sir, the hon'ble Minister stated that difficulties are coming in the way of acquisition of land in the States. I would like to know whether the Government will find out any ways and means to acquire land by talking to the State Governments or whether they will get an act passed to remove difficulties coming in the way of land acquisition.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The reply of this question has already been given.

[English]

Hon. Minister, do you want to give the answer?

SHRI T.R. BAALU: Sir, time tested legal procedures are there in acquiring anybody's land. We give three or four notices. The notifications will be published in the Gazette and also in the newspapers of regional languages and also the national language. If there is any problem, they have to address the particular State Government only. We only deposit the money in the exchequer of a particular State. Whatever money they need for R & R, we deposit the money. That is all. R & R is the responsibility of the particular State Government depending upon the social need.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Sir, recently he gave approval for the construction of several roads in Bihar, it created a wave of enthusiasm all over Bihar, however, I feel that as on date there is not even a single road in Bihar on which work has been started. The reason is that funds have not yet been allocated. All these work are lying pending. The current Financial Year is also going to be over but nobody knows whether they will start work or not. Out of these roads there is one very important road passing through my parliamentary constituency Patna to Munger *via* Mokama and approval has been given for this. However, even after the approval, land acquisition for the said road has done only in few areas and in some areas the same has not been done. I would like to know as to what efforts will be made by the Government for the construction of the said Patna-Mokama-Munger road for which approval has been given. I would also like to know as to how much money will be allocated for the said purpose, so that the dream of the people of this area could be translated into reality.

[*English*]

SHRI T.R. BAALU: Sir, usually the NHAI gives six month's time to the entrepreneur, the concessionaire to acquire finance and other things and to negotiate. Sir, the hon'ble Member is saying three months only... (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Sir, the construction work has not yet been started even on one road over there.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Ram Kripal Yadav, the hon. Minister is replying to your question. Please sit down.

SHRI T.R. BAALU: Sir, after the award we used to extend the time to six months. It is all in the concession agreement. Within six months time he has to start the work. I do not know which State my friend is referring to. He said about Munger, Bihar. If anything is there over and above six months, definitely I will try to address the problem.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you.

Locations for International Size Shipyards

*282. †SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:
SHRI HARIN PATHAK:

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

(a) whether the Union Government has invited proposals from the maritime States for locating the sites where two shipyards of international size and standards could be set up as reported in 'The Hindu' dated January 08, 2008;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the response of the maritime States thereon alongwith the locations suggested by them;

(c) the action taken by the Union Government thereon; and

(d) the time by which the locations are likely to be finalised?

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

Statement

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Maritime States were requested by this Ministry to identify suitable location for setting up of international size shipyards, one each on the East Coast and West Coast of India respectively. The following basic requirements for setting up of an international size shipyard were communicated:

- (i) The minimum land requirement of 1000-1500 areas and waterfront 2.5 Kms in length;
- (ii) Water draft of 10 to 12 metres;
- (iii) The site location for the proposed shipyards to have good rail and road connectivity;
- (iv) Contiguity to a Major Port situated within the State.

In response, the following locations have been suggested by the Maritime States:

Sl.No.	Name of State	Site Proposed
1.	Government of Karnataka	Tadri Port (Kundle Beach) and Honne Beach under Belekeri Port
2.	Government of Kerala	Poovar in Thiruvananthapuram District on Kerala-Tamil Nadu Border
3.	Government of Orissa	(i) Nuagarh (Astaranga) Distt. Puri (ii) Palur, Distt. Ganjam (iii) Gopalpur Port at Arjipalli, Chatrapur, Distt. Ganjam (iv) Bahuda Muhana (Sonepur), Distt. Ganjam
4.	Government of Andhra Pradesh	Vodarevu in Prakasam District
5.	Government of West Bengal	No specific site proposed as yet.
6.	Government of Gujarat	Government of Gujarat has proposed a few stretches such as Salaya, Jodiya, Mundra, Chanch and Pipavav and Tuna.

(c) Upon receipt of the proposals from the State Governments, further information/clarifications have been sought by the Ministry from the respective State Governments.

(d) The nodal agencies viz. Ennore Port Limited and Mumbai Port Trust have been authorized to appoint Consultants with clear terms of reference who, inter alia, would identify 3 or 4 alternative sites each for setting up of shipyard on West Coast and East Coast of India respectively and also suggest optimal location with detailed justification. The process for appointment of Consultants has been initiated by the nodal agencies.

SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, India has lost competitive edge in shipbuilding internationally. Ninety per cent of the India's trade by volume and 70 per cent by value move by waterways. While setting priorities for the development of industry and infrastructure, shipping has received a step-motherly treatment. Due to lack of Government support, high cost of financing, high inputs, high cost of material, rigid labour and unfriendly regulation, India has lost competitive edge in shipbuilding internationally. I would like to know from the hon. Minister what steps the Government proposes to take for making the shipping industry of world standard.

SHRI T.R. BAALU: Sir, some time back, the UPA had decided to establish two international size shipyards—one in East Coast and another in West Coast. For that purpose, we had identified two nodal agencies. Mumbai

Port Trust has been identified the probable bidders in the West Coast and Ennore Port Limited has been identified to identify the people who are interested in establishing international shipyard in East Coast. The Chairmen of both these organizations have called for Expression of Interest. Many people have applied and shown keen interest.

As far as Mumbai is concerned, three enterprises have evinced keen interest. These are STX Corporation, Mumbai, a reputed Korean Shipyard; Bharati Shipyards Limited, Mumbai; and Larsen and Toubro Limited, Mumbai. All the three enterprises have shown keen interest in their Expressions of Interest.

As far as Eastern Coast port is concerned, Ennore Port Limited has received Expressions of Interest from IMC Limited, Chennai; Essar Construction Limited; Larsen and Toubro Limited, Mumbai; McNulty Offshore Construction Limited, UK; Goodearth Maritime Limited, Chennai; ABG Shipyard Limited, Mumbai; Apeejay Shipping Limited, Kolkata; STX Shipbuilding Company Limited, Seoul, Korea; and Shapoorji Pallonji and Co. Limited, Mumbai. All the nine enterprises' people have shown keen interest in Eastern Coast to establish a shipyard. These things are in the process.

At the same time, the consultancy services are needed to arrive at a proper conclusion and to identify a suitable stretch on the particular water-front and also to prepare the tender documents and other things. This process is going on.

SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL: Sir, for the purpose of international standard shipbuilding, the budgetary provision has been made by the Minister in 'trust' portfolio. By which time will it be completed?

SHRI T.R. BAALU: Sir, bids have been called for consultancy services. As and when the bids are received and finalized, we will go for the process. We will go for bidding and proper entrepreneur will be identified. They will build maybe on BFO Design-Build, Finance and Operate-Model.

SHRI HARIN PATHAK: Sir, to identify suitable location for setting up international size shipyard, a Committee was constituted under the Chairmanship of Shri B. Budhiraja. As per the recommendations made by the Chairman, Shri B. Budhiraja, they had recommended two locations in West Coast, that is, Pipavav and Mundra in Gujarat. Subsequent to the correspondence by the hon. Minister and the reply by Chief Minister of my State, Gujarat, on 7.1.08, we have already sent a proposal and identified Mundra as a location for setting up international size shipyard.

I would like to know this, through you, from the hon. Minister. Are you going to consider this proposal? If so, by which time this proposal will be considered by the Government of India?

SHRI T.R. BAALU: As advised by the hon. Prime Minister, we have taken some proactive measures. I have personally written to all the seven Maritime Chief Ministers, and I have received responses from almost all the Chief Ministers. The Chief Minister of Gujarat has also written to me. The Government of Gujarat has proposed a few stretches like Salaya, Jodiya, Mundra, Chanch, Pipavav and Tuna, but he has not offered any free land. As per the Budhiraja Committee Report, the minimum requirement for an international shipyard is that we have to establish 3 lakh DWT capacity...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI HARIN PATHAK: You wrote on 14 November 2007, and my Chief Minister wrote his reply as was required on 7 January 2008. What is the necessary information that is needed to be sent to you?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, the question is of land.

SHRI HARIN PATHAK: Sir, we are ready for it.

SHRI T.R. BAALU: Sir, my reply to my old friend is this. Which particular port is to be developed? He has mentioned about so many ports. Which ports are to be developed, and to what extent? We require a minimum of about 2.5 kms. of waterfront; between 1,000 acres and 1,500 acres of land; a minimum depth of between 10 metres and 12 metres; the particular port should have proper connectivity with rail network and highways; and it should have connectivity to major ports. All these issues are there.

The following issues have not been identified by your Chief Minister. How much land will be extended to the Government? What is the latitude and longitude of the particular land that is identified for it? Which port has been identified? I want to be very precise in this matter...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please listen to him.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI HARIN PATHAK: There is a proposal, and our Chief Minister is ready and Gujarat is ready for it...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI T.R. BAALU: How can I accept your proposal? Which is the area identified for it? Which port has been identified for it? ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI HARIN PATHAK: We have already submitted our proposal...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Harin Pathak, please listen to him first.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Harin Pathak, please listen to the hon. Minister first.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI T.R. BAALU: I have received the letter from your Chief Minister. If anything could be done, then definitely we will consider it for Gujarat. But as regards the exact time for it, we will have to look into all the issues related to it. We will collect all the information of all the ports.

We have sent letters to the Chief Ministers of all the seven Maritime States. Except the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh, no other Chief Minister came forward to extend land free of cost. Andhra Pradesh is the only State that has almost identified the place, and they were ready to give the particular piece of land free of cost.

SHRI NAVEEN JINDAL: I would like to compliment the hon. Minister for the good progress being made on all the ports and shipyards in the country.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: It will be better if you put the Question to the hon. Minister.

SHRI NAVEEN JINDAL: Yes, Sir. India is a very large country, and very important Questions have been asked by the hon. Members. It will be good for the country if as many States as possible develop the ports.

This Question pertains only to two ports. Would the Government consider making as many ports as possible? I am asking this because there are lots of companies interested in development of the ports. Would the Government consider building ports wherever ports are possible?

SHRI T.R. BAALU: My dear friend, this particular Question pertains to shipyards, but my friend has asked about all the ports. All the major ports are being developed. We have identified about 276 port projects, and almost all the projects are on the anvil. Some of the projects are under process stage; some of the projects are under execution stage; and some of the projects are in the awarding stage.

As far as the major ports are concerned Government of India is developing all of them. At the same time, if any State wants to develop any particular port on their own, we will definitely extend the support for the consultancy services.

ADV. SURESH KURUP: Sir, I would like to know from the Minister if there is any plan at present for the expansion and development of Cochin Shipyard because once the Vallarpadem Container Terminal comes into being, the importance of Cochin Shipyard is going to increase much more. What are the plans for the development of Cochin Shipyard?

SHRI T.R. BAALU: Sir, the Cochin Shipyard has come out of the red and for two years has paid dividend to the Government of India. At the same time, due to paucity of land, we are having problem with the expansion of this particular Shipyard. At the same time, if there is any piece of land available contiguous to this particular Shipyard, definitely we will consider it because that is the best place to be considered for improvement and to be made into an international size and standard shipyard.

Vallarpadem is receiving a lot of attention and it will be completed by 2009 within the construction period.

DR. P.P. KOYA: These are the days of ships and shipyards. Ship-building is in high demand all over the world. It is a good thing that the Minister has put up a proposal to have ship-building of international size and standard. My question is whether this shipyard will be contiguous to the Maritime University that will be set up.

SHRI T.R. BAALU: Which shipyard?

DR. P.P. KOYA: There is already a proposal to put up a Maritime University.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: He is talking about the Maritime University.

DR. P.P. KOYA: Will the Maritime University be contiguous to the proposed National Shipyard?

SHRI T.R. BAALU: The Maritime University does not require this particular facility.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Sir, there is a proposal from the Kerala Government regarding an international shipyard at Poovar on the Tamil Nadu border. Poovar in Thiruvananthapuram District is on Kerala-Tamil Nadu border and that place was suggested by the Government of Kerala. It is very near or adjacent to Vizhinjam Harbour. The Vizhinjam International Harbour is now on global tender. The Kerala Government has already taken it and global tenders have been invited. There were some difficulties because some Chinese firms also bid and on security reasons, those steps were broken. Even Shri Baalu did not take a considerate attitude, I know that, but that is another matter. You are interested in some other matters. But the thing is that the Kerala Government took the initiative and the global tender was invited, and the tender has been accepted. This Vizhinjam Harbour is very close or adjacent to, just one or two kilometres away, Poovar. Shri Baalu's State is also very near, which is one or two kilometres away from this place. He must take special interest because it is located on the Tamil Nadu border.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, put your question.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Now, you have appointed two nodal agencies, and the nodal agencies will appoint the consultants. But this has not been done.

All the requirements suggested by you are available in Poovar, like 100 acres, nearness to international developing port and communication facilities, etc. All the requirements which you have asked are available in this Poovar Shipyard. So, without any prejudice, I think you will sincerely do all that is possible to see that the Shipyard is constructed at Poovar on the Tamil Nadu-Kerala border. We two are interested in the same State.

All the natural facilities are there. So, you understand me.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Your suggestion has come. Please sit down now.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: All the facilities are there; it is very near to Nagarcoil.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You may please sit down now.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: It is very near to Thiruvananthapuram and all the facilities are there. There is an international airport also nearby. You may please see that it is sanctioned.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: He has given the suggestions and he has not demanded any answers.

SHRI T.R. BAALU: When my friend asked this question, I am reminded of a Tamil couplet-*yaadum oore yavarum keller* which means every place is my place and all are my kith and kin. So, it does not mean that Kerala belongs to Shri Radhakrishnan and Tamil Nadu belongs to me. We are all Indians. In Indian Parliament, I am answering the Indian Parliamentarians...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: No. Nothing should be recorded. No. Please sit down.

*(Interruptions)**

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing should be recorded except Shri Baalu.

*(Interruptions)**

SHRI T.R. BAALU: We are all friends. In spite of political affiliations, cutting across Party lines, we are all friends, kith and kin.

At the same time, I want to reply to my friend, Shri Radhakrishnan. He has asked about Poovar. Hon. Chief Minister of Kerala has written to me about Poovar, which is in Thiruvananthapuram District. It is in Kerala-Tamil Nadu border. He wanted to make it a shipyard. That is correct, but at the same time, he has not identified any land or any stretch of water front, etc. How to go about it? ...*(Interruptions)* The particular State has to write to me at what cost it is to be done. Whether it is free or on cost basis, what is the draft of the water, what is the water front available, whether it is connected to the nearby railway station or railway line or national highway, etc. These are in the initial stages; I am sorry, my friend Shri Radhakrishnan, do not get upset, but this is the fact.

Establishment of wildlife Corridors

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*283. SHRI P.C. THOMAS:
SHRI MILIND DEORA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has received proposals from the State Governments to establish wildlife corridors in order to minimise the interface between the humans and the Wildlife:

(b) if so, the details of the wildlife corridors, State-wise;

(c) the reaction of Union Government thereto?

(d) whether the Union Government proposes to purchase private land for establishing such corridors in the country; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY):
(a) to (e) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) Ministry has received only one proposal from Government of Kerala for establishment of elephant corridors in the State. The total cost of the project is Rs. 789 lakhs and the period is 2008-09 to 2012-13.

The following corridors have been identified by the State Government:-

- (i) Brahmagiri-Tirunelli corridor (between Brahmagiri Sanctuary and North Wayanad Division).
- (ii) Periya Corridor
- (iii) Pakranthalam Corridor
- (iv) Pallivayal-Tattur corridor

In the first phase 131.5 ha of land is proposed for acquisition in Periya corridor.

(c) All such proposals are considered by the Ministry as per the existing guidelines and availability of the fund.

(d) There is no proposal in the Central Government to directly purchase private lands for establishing such corridors.

(e) Question does not arise.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS: We are moving from ship to elephant!

Sir, conservation of wildlife including elephant is of prime importance for ecological reasons and also for the sake of environment. As far as elephants are concerned, tamed elephants are very much of use for men also. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government is taking steps to conserve elephants in a very big way and to bring down or minimize the interface between the humans and the wildlife including elephants.

SHRI S. REGUPATHY: Corridors are the areas which facilitate movement of wildlife from one habitat to the other. Corridors are also relevant for the wildlife, but they have special importance in the case of elephants which are long-ranging animals. We are taking steps. At the same time, we have received proposal only from the Kerala Government, for which they have identified four sites to help them to have the elephant corridors.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS: The Government of India has got a good scheme and the Government of Kerala has given a proposal. It appears that it is the only proposal.

But I asked a question as to the response of the Government to that proposal. It is unfortunate that just like we find in some answers, a general statement has

been made, that everything will be considered on the basis of guidelines, etc. That was not my question. My question was with regard to that specific proposal. The hon. Minister said that it is only the Kerala Government which has given the proposal. I am very happy that the Government of Kerala has given a proposal like that because elephants are quite dense in the forests of Kerala, just like people are quite dense in Kerala.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: What is your question?

SHRI P.C. THOMAS: I would like to know the response of the Government with regard to this particular project, which is for 135 hectares of land and for a corridor or a conventional pathway for elephants to travel, especially from the wildlife areas in Wayanad District and Kannur District of Kerala to Tamil Nadu and Karnataka. This is very important for preservation and conservation of elephants.

So, I would like to have a specific answer with regard to this particular project rather than the regular guidelines.

SHRI S. REGUPATHY: The proposal of the State Government is for acquiring private lands along with the migratory routes which are traditional elephant routes so as to reduce the man-animal interface minimum. The State has identified following corridors as sensitive:

1. Brahmagiri-Tirunelli corridor
2. Periya Corridor
3. Pakranthalam Corridor
4. Pallivayal-Tattur Corridor.

In the first phase, the following settlements in the Periya Corridor are proposed to be acquired. In Kottur, we have to relocate 34 families and in Periya 171 families are to be relocated. In Kottur area we will have to acquire 36.5 hectares and 95 hectares in Periya. The Government has asked Rs. 6 lakh as compensation per hectare. The total cost of the project is Rs. 788 lakh and the period of the project is for five years from 2008-09 to 2012-13. Conservation and development of corridors is one of the main objectives of the Project Elephant. However, due to budgetary constraints it is not possible to meet the full requirement of all the States. So, the proposal has been sent to the Planning Commission with the request for additional funding for the corridor development.

[Translation]

CHAUDHARY LAL SINGH: Sir, the Government have received proposals from several States. There is a beautiful wild life sanctuary known as Jasauta in my State Jammu and Kashmir. It is located in Kathua district. I would like to know whether the Government propose to invite any proposal from the State Government for the said sanctuary. I would also like to know whether I can do anything in this regard. Animals are there in the wild life sanctuary but there is encroachment in it and a big area of land is getting ruined on account of this. I would like to know whether the Government want to do anything in this regard.

[English]

SHRI S. REGUPATHY: We request the State Government to send us the proposal. We will then consider it.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Milind Deora-Not present.

DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Sir, due to depletion of wildlife habitation in the North-Eastern regions, there is a large scale migration of wild elephants to the human habitation areas resulting in human-animal conflict. There are also more incidents of Rhino poaching. One-horned rhino is a famous animal seen only in the Kaziranga National Park. In recent times there have been large instances of poaching of one-horned rhino. I would specifically like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government of India on its own take up creation of animal corridor, which is specifically required for Assam to protect the one-horned rhino as also elephant. I would also like to know from the Minister whether the Government will include the poaching of rhino along with the tiger, which is a new mission of the Government of India.

SHRI S. REGUPATHY: In India the Ministry has identified 138 State corridors, 28 inter-State corridors and 70 international corridors covering an area of nearly 1600-2000 sq. kms. For rhinos and other animals if any proposal comes to convert it as a corridor, we will consider it.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Government will consider it.

SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI: According to the Minister's answer only one State has asked land for a corridor and even that the Government has not been able to provide because it muddled it up with the Planning Commission's permission and more money. Project Elephant has several hundred crores in it every year. Project Tiger has got even more money. Why are you waiting for the States to apply?

Surely, you have a vision here in which you can decide which land is needed for a corridor and actually go ahead and do it *suo motu*.

Secondly, to be specific I would give an example. Abohar is the last home of the blackbuck. The blackbuck exists because 13 villages of Bishnoi families are there and they look after the blackbuck. Over the years, in Abohar everybody has reduced his land holdings and they started fencing two acres to three acres of land. As a result, the blackbuck have nothing to eat, nowhere to go and they are at the mercy of the poachers. Is it not possible to buy 2000 acres of land there and make it a sanctuary for the blackbuck? Now this is a very simple procedure. So, why is it that you do not do anything *suo motu*?

SHRI S. REGUPATHY: Sir, under the national parks, project tiger and project elephant, we have allotted money to all the States which have tiger States or elephant corridors. But this is a new proposal that they want to buy private land for the elephant corridor. If all the States come forward with the same request, we can request the Planning Commission to consider the proposal. Otherwise, under the project elephant, tiger project and national parks, money has been allotted to all the States. But that is not sufficient to purchase land.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: She wants to know whether you can do anything *suo motu*.

SHRI S. REGUPATHY: Sir, we cannot do anything *suo motu*. But we are allotting money and if the State Governments wish to buy land, they can do so.

SHRI SUNIL KHAN: Sir, one tiger project has been taken up in the border areas of Jharkhand as also in Bankura and Midnapore districts of West Bengal but due to non-completion of that project, elephants are moving towards paddy fields, as a result of which, the farmers are being killed by the elephants. I would like to know whether the Government is ready to complete that project so that the elephants are rehabilitated.

SHRI S. REGUPATHY: Sir, forest comes under Concurrent List. So, the responsibility is of the Centre as well as the States. At the same time, under the tiger project, compensation for re-location of the people have been increased to Rs. 10 lakh. As regards other schemes also, we are trying to increase it.

SHRI SANSUMA KHUNGGUR BWISWMUTHIARY: I would like to know from the hon. Minister concerned whether the State Government of Assam has sent any proposal to create animal corridors in the Indo-Bhutan border as well as in the Assam-Arunachal Pradesh border. A big conflict is going on between human beings and elephants because of the rapid shrinkage of the forest areas. Most of the elephants used to come down to the peripheral areas from the hills and forests and roam around in the plain areas. A good number of people have already been killed but nothing has been done by the Government. Within my Bodoland area, there is a world famous heritage site called-Manas Sanctuary and another wild sanctuary called 'Rajiv Gandhi Wild Sanctuary' also exists within Bodoland. Not much more has been done for the development of these two sanctuaries. So, I would like to know from the Government as to what kind of policy decisions you are going to take.

SHRI S. REGUPATHY: Sir, in the beginning itself, I have told that there are 138 State corridors, 28 inter-State corridors and 17 international corridors. In the Indo-Bhutan area, there are 4 corridors; in Indo-Bangladesh-6 corridors; in Indo-Myanmar-4 corridors; and in Indo-Tibet-3 corridors.

As regards man-animal conflict, wild elephants and leopards are the main animals involved in the conflict. So, apart from the leopards, elephants and other animals are also involved in it. The increase in human-animal conflict is due to various reasons and important amongst them are increase in population, loss of habitat, disturbances in the corridors due to the developmental activities, change in cropping pattern, increase in human population, etc. These are the reasons and bunds are provided to the sanctuaries.

Warnings on Tobacco Products

*284. †SHRI M. APPADURAI:
SHRI M. SHIVANNA:

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

(a) whether it is mandatory for the tobacco products to carry a health warning alongwith a logo of danger sign on the exterior of the packings;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether some products of tobacco have been exempted from this legal requirement;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to bring all tobacco products under this regulation?

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

Statement

The Section 8 of the "The Cigarette and Other Tobacco Products (Prohibition of Advertisement and Regulation of Trade and Commerce, Production, Supply and Distribution) Act, 2003" provides for specified warnings on every package of cigarette or any tobacco products. The legal provisions envisage specified health warnings shall be:

(a) Legible and prominent.

(b) Conspicuous as to size and colour.

The Cigarette and other tobacco Products (Packaging and labeling) rules, 2006 was notified on 5th July, 2006, and the provisions were to come into effect on 1st February, 2007. An amendment of the said Act and the rules was carried out vide notification G.S.R. 633 (E) dated 29.09.07 whereby the, mandatory depiction of skull and bone was made optional and the rules were revised accordingly. The revised rules have been notified on 16th March, 2008. The decision regarding the date of implementation of the rules is pending as matter is subjudice in the Hon'ble Shimla High Court and will be decided during the next date of hearing i.e. 24th March, 2008. No tobacco product is exempted from the pictorial warning.

[Translation]

*SHRI M. APPADURAI: Hon'ble Deputy Speaker Sir, in the reply given by Hon. Health and Family Welfare Minister I do not find details pertaining to my question.

*English translation of the speech originally delivered in Tamil.

Though we have been saying that smoking is injurious to health, we find cigarettes and Bidis still being sold in the open in every Pan shop all over the country. The union government came with a legislation in 2006 and they modified it in the first part of 2007 and was further modified in the second part of 2007. Only bidis were segregated to have the skull and bone logo on the bidi packets. All kinds of cigarettes and bidis are available in the market. I would like to know from the government what are the steps being taken to effectively curb the menace of smoking, when you claim that smoking is injurious to health. Pan products are being sold by several companies claiming that tobacco is not there in the ingredients which is contrary to the truth. Hence I would like to know from the government steps being taken in this regard.

*DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: Hon'ble Deputy Speaker Sir, in order to promote health and healthy habits among the people the government are taking various steps and the measures taken to discourage smoking and using tobacco products. In 2003, we have enacted a law to ban smoking in public places. We have also curbed both direct and indirect inducements and advertisements luring people to smoke. We have also implemented the measures to avoid tobacco advertisements near places of worship and academic institutions. Such hoardings should be kept 100 mtrs away from such places and that has been mandatory. In this regard several resolutions and measures have been evolved. It has also been stated that all the tobacco products shall bear the statutory warning that smoking and consumption of tobacco is injurious to health. On the 18th of this month a memorandum has been issued in this regard and we expect the compliance in next two-three months all over the country. We are hopeful that there would be a vast change in the situation. Henceforth all the tobacco products will have statutory warnings printed on them.

*SHRI M. APPADURAI: Deputy Speaker Sir, these statutory warnings about smoking could be seen in some TV channels and some of the newspapers. I would like to know whether steps would be taken to ensure that all the TV channels and newspapers carry such warnings uniformly. It is also stated that drinking is injurious to health but the government itself is selling liquor to the people. I would like to know from the government whether

steps would be taken to wipe out the menace of drinking also along with smoking which is injurious to health.

*DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: Hon'ble Deputy Speaker Sir, there is a law in place in the country to curb direct and surrogate advertisements. TV channels and newspapers have been impressed upon to uphold this law to discourage smoking and drinking and avoid advertisements promoting tobacco products and liquor. In addition to it our ministry has taken up with Information and Broadcasting ministry on 24th February based on which the I & B Ministry has also issued a circular impressing upon the media to avoid both direct and surrogate advertisements.

We can rest assured that there would be no advertisement promoting these products and surrogate advertisements would be controlled.

**SHRI M. SHIVANNA: Sir, "Better late than never". Even though it has been delayed for a long time at least now the Government should act. Therefore, I would like to know from the Hon'ble Minister whether he is going to make this logo mandatory with immediate effect. If so, kindly give details.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[Translation]

Central Road Fund

*285. SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN:
SHRI ALOK KUMAR MEHTA:

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

(a) the total funds collected under the Central Road Fund (CRF) for development of State roads during each of the last three years;

*English Translation of the speech originally delivered in Tamil.

**English Translation of the speech originally delivered in Kannada.

(b) whether the States are not being given their share from this Fund in proportion to the cess collected on petrol and diesel from each State;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the total length of roads constructed/developed in the country by utilizing the aforesaid Fund, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) The cess collected on petrol and diesel is utilized for the development and maintenance of National Highways, development of rural roads, development and maintenance of other state roads including roads of interstate connectivity and economic importance, construction of roads either under or over the railways by means of a bridge and erection of safety works at unmanned rail-road crossings and disbursement in respect of such projects as may be prescribed under the Central Road Fund Act, 2000 (the CRF Act, 2000). Out of the total allocation from CRF the allocation of funds for development of State Roads for each of the last three years is as under:-

(Rupees in crore)

Year	Allocation for development of State Roads
2004-05	868.00
2005-06	1533.36
2006-07	1535.46

(b) and (c) Allocation of funds from the Central Road Fund to each State is made on the basis of 60% of consumption of petrol and diesel and 40% on geographical area of the respective State.

(d) A statement showing State-wise total length of roads approved for development in the country during the last three years from CRF is enclosed.

Statement

Sl.No.	Name of the State	Total approved length during the last three years, i.e. 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1280.00
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	123.13

1	2	3
3.	Assam	180.75
4.	Bihar	0.52*
5.	Chhattisgarh	272.55
6.	Goa	29.95
7.	Gujarat	2036.42
8.	Haryana	292.43
9.	Himachal Pradesh	130.98
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	190.50
11.	Jharkhand	223.99
12.	Karnataka	4156.82
13.	Kerala	308.39
14.	Madhya Pradesh	1170.51
15.	Maharashtra	1993.30
16.	Manipur	31.50
17.	Meghalaya	21.60
18.	Mizoram	24.56
19.	Nagaland	57.00
20.	Orissa	295.53
21.	Punjab	448.12
22.	Rajasthan	3858.71
23.	Sikkim	7.11
24.	Tamil Nadu	1660.33
25.	Tripura	0.00
26.	Uttar Pradesh	1343.00
27.	Uttarakhand	**
28.	West Bengal	319.42
	Sub-Total	20457.12
29.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0.00
30.	Chandigarh	***

1	2	3
31.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0.00
32.	Daman and Diu	0.00
33.	Delhi	82.91
34.	Lakshadweep	0.00
35.	Puducherry	9.34
Sub Total		92.25
Total		20549.37

* Bridge

** DPR of Himalayan Highway

*** Improvement of junction

[English]

Selection of Additional Backward Districts

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

(a) whether the Government proposes to conduct a survey to select more districts in the country to be covered under the Backward Region Grant Fund (BRGF) scheme;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the criteria followed; and

(c) the time by which such districts are likely to be identified and benefited under the scheme?

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 Backward Regions Grant Fund (BRGF) Programme includes 250 districts in 27 States. A State wise list of districts is given in the enclosed statement. The list of 250 districts includes.

- (i) All 200 districts covered by the National Rural Employment Guarantee Programme (NREGP) in 2006-07 and
- (ii) 170 districts identified as backward by the Inter-Ministry Task Group (IMTG) on Redressing Growing Regional Imbalances, constituted by the Planning Commission in August 2004.

The list of 200 districts covered by the NREGP includes:

- (i) All the 147 districts covered by the Rashtriya Sam Vikas Yojana (RSVY) as well as
- (ii) The 150 districts covered by the National Food for Work Programme (NFFWP). Most of these districts were identified on the basis of an index of backwardness comprising three parameters with equal weights to each, namely, value of output per agricultural worker, agricultural wage rate and percentage of SC/ST population of the district.

The list of 147 RSVY districts included 115 backward districts and 32 districts affected by left wing extremism. It was decided that Goa, Pondicherry, Delhi and other Union Territories would not be covered under the programme. State capitals, districts with an urban agglomeration of over a million plus and districts, which had major cities of the States, were also excluded. Out of 115 districts, 20 districts were reserved for special category States. The remaining 95 districts were distributed among the non-special category States. The number districts per State, in case of non-special category State and Assam, was worked out on the basis of incidence of poverty. The allocation of districts among special category States, excluding Assam, was made on the basis of the total population as per 2001 census. The list of backward districts of non-special category States and Assam was finalized through an exercise taken up to rank the districts on an index of backwardness on the basis of criteria mentioned above. The special category States (excluding Assam) were requested to indicated their backward districts for coverage under the programme, as the data for these criteria was not available.

The IMTG identified 170 districts as backward on the basis of 17 socio-economic variables, which are as follows:

- (i) Economic status parameters:
 - (a) preponderance of agricultural labourers in the population, (b) the level of agricultural wages, (c) the level of agricultural output per agricultural worker, (d) per capita credit and (e) per capita deposits
- (ii) Health status parameters:
 - (a) infant mortality rate, (b) crude death rate, (c) full immunisation and (e) institutional delivery

(III) Educational status parameters:

- (a) female literacy rate, (b) gross enrolment ratio and (c) availability of secondary schooling facilities.

(iv) Infrastructural inadequacy parameters:

- (a) non-access of households to electricity (b) non-access to drinking water facilities within 500 metres and (c) percentage of households not availing banking facilities.

(v) Parameters portraying overall regional backwardness for capturing low levels of human development:

- (a) the percentage of Scheduled Caste and (b) the percentage of the Scheduled Tribe population

Out of 170 IMTG districts, 120 districts were already covered in the list of 200 NREGP districts. The remaining 50 districts, not covered in the list of 200 NREGP districts, were added to the list, thus taking the total number for coverage under the BRGF to two hundred and fifty (250) districts. The programme also covers any new districts that may have been carved out of these 250 districts after 2001 with the proviso that the existing allocation for the parent district will be shared by the new district/districts.

Since the original selection of backward districts under the BRGF programme was based on several comprehensive exercises as detailed above and the programme came into implementation in August 2006, the Government currently has no proposal under consideration to conduct a survey to select more districts to be covered under the programme.

Statement***Backward Region Grant Fund-List of Districts*****Andhra Pradesh**

1. Adilabad
2. Anantpur
3. Chittoor
4. Cuddappah
5. Karimnagar
6. Khammam
7. Mahbubnagar
8. Medak
9. Nalgonda

10. Nizamabad

11. Rangareddy

12. Vizianagaram

13. Warangal

Arunachal Pradesh

1. Upper Subansiri

Assam

1. Barpeta
2. Bongaigaon
3. Cachar
4. Dhemaji
5. Goalpara
6. Hailakandi
7. Karbi Anglong
8. Kokrajhar
9. Marigaon
10. North Lakhimpur (Laksha)
11. North Cachar Hills

Bihar

1. Araria
2. Aurangabad
3. Banka
4. Begusarai
5. Bhagalpur
6. Bhojpur
7. Buxar
8. Darbhanga
9. Gaya
10. Gopalganj
11. Jamui

12. Jehanabad
13. Kaimur/Bhabua
14. Katihar
15. Kishanganj
16. Khagaria
17. Lakhisarai
18. Madhepura
19. Madhubani
20. Munger
21. Muzaffarpur
22. Nalanda
23. Nawadah
24. Patna
25. Pashchim Champaran
26. Purba Champaran
27. Purnia
28. Rohtas
29. Saharsa
30. Samastipur
31. Saran
32. Sheikhpura
33. Sheohar
34. Sitamarhi
35. Supaul
36. Vaishali

Chhattisgarh

1. Bastar
2. Bilaspur
3. Dantewada
4. Dhamtari
5. Jashpur

6. Kanker
7. Kawardha
8. Korba
9. Koriya
10. Mahasamund
11. Raigarh
12. Rajnandgaon
13. Sarguja

Gujarat

1. Banaskantha
2. Dangs
3. Dahod
4. Narmada
5. Panch Mahals
6. Sabarkantha

Haryana

1. Mohindergarh
2. Sirsa

Himachal Pradesh

1. Chamba
2. Sirmaur

Jammu and Kashmir

1. Doda
2. Kupwara
3. Poonch

Jharkhand

1. Bokaro
2. Chatra
3. Deoghar

4. Dhanbad
5. Dumka
6. Garhwa
7. Giridih
8. Godda
9. Gumla
10. Hazaribagh
11. Jamtara
12. Kodarma
13. Latehar
14. Lohardagga
15. Pachhim Singhbhum
16. Pakaur
17. Palamu
18. Ranchi
19. Sahibganj
20. Saraikela
21. Simdega

Karnataka

1. Bidar
2. Chitradurga
3. Davangere
4. Gulbarga
5. Raichur

Kerala

1. Palakkad
2. Wynad

Madhya Pradesh

1. Balaghat
2. Barwani
3. Betul
4. Chhatarpur
5. Damoh
6. Dhar
7. Dindori
8. Guna

9. Jhabua
10. Katni
11. Khandwa
12. Mandla
13. Panna
14. Rajgarh
15. Rewa
16. Satna
17. Seoni
18. Shahdol
19. Sheopur
20. Shivpuri
21. Siddhi
22. Tikamgarh
23. Umaria
24. West Nimar

Maharashtra

1. Ahmednagar
2. Amravati
3. Aurangabad
4. Bhandara
5. Chandrapur
6. Dhule
7. Gadchiroli
8. Gondia
9. Hingoli
10. Nanded
11. Nandurbar
12. Yavatmal

Manipur

1. Chandel
2. Churachandpur
3. Tamenlong

Meghalaya

1. Ri Bhoi
2. South Garo Hills
3. West Garo Hills

Mizoram

1. Lawngtlai
2. Saiha

Nagaland

1. Mon
2. Tuensang
3. Workha

Orissa

1. Bolangir
2. Boudh
3. Debagarh
4. Dhenkanal
5. Gajapati
6. Ganjam
7. Jharsuguda
8. Kalahandi
9. Keonjhar
10. Koraput
11. Malkangiri
12. Mayurbhanj
13. Nabrangpur
14. Nuapada
15. Phulbani
16. Rayagada
17. Sambalpur
18. Sonapur
19. Sundargarh

Punjab

1. Hoshiarpur

Rajasthan

1. Banswara
2. Barmer
3. Chittaurgarh
4. Dungarpur
5. Jaisalmer
6. Jalor
7. Jalawar
8. Karoli
9. Sawai Madhopur
10. Sirohi
11. Tonk
12. Udaipur

Sikkim

1. Sikkim North

Tamil Nadu

1. Cuddalore
2. Dindigul
3. Nagapattinam
4. Sivagangai
5. Tiruvannamalai
6. Villupuram

Tripura

1. Dhalai

Uttar Pradesh

1. Ambedkar Nagar
2. Azamgarh
3. Bahraich
4. Balrampur
5. Banda
6. Barabanki
7. Basti
8. Budaun

9. Chandauli
10. Chitrakoot
11. Etah
12. Farrukhabad
13. Fatehpur
14. Gonda
15. Gorakhpur
16. Hamirpur
17. Hardoi
18. Jalaun
19. Jaunpur
20. Kaushambi
21. Kushinagar
22. Lakhimpur Kheri
23. Lalitpur
24. Maharajganj
25. Mahoba
26. Mirzapur
27. Pratapgarh
28. Raebareli
29. Sant Kabir Nagar
30. Shravasti
31. Siddharthanagar
32. Sitapur
33. Sonbhadra
34. Unnao

Uttarakhand

1. Chamoli
2. Champawat
3. Tehri Garhwal

West Bengal

1. Bankura
2. Birbhum

3. Dakshin Dinajpur
4. Jalpaiguri
5. Malda
6. Midnapur East
7. Midnapur West
8. Murshidabad
9. Purulia
10. South 24 Parganas
11. Uttar Dinajpur

**Financial Assistance for Development of Roads in
Naxalite Affected States**

*287. SHRIMATI MANORAMA MADHAVRAJ:
SHRI RAMESH DUBE:

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

(a) whether the Union Government has received any proposals from the Naxalite affected State for financial assistance for the development and repair of roads in the respective States;

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

(c) the action taken by the Union Government thereon;

(d) the funds allocated and released therefrom in this regard, State-wise; and

(e) the measures taken by the Union Government to ensure better road connectivity in Naxalite affected State?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) This Ministry is primary responsible for the development and maintenance of National Highways. Apart from this, the Ministry is also funding the State Governments for improvement of State roads from the Central Road Fund (CRF). At present, this Ministry has no separate schemes for development and repair of roads in Naxal affected States.

However, the Government of Orissa had proposed in the year 2005 for construction of a National Highway

from Vijayawada to Ranchi, passing through the extremist affected areas in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Orissa and Jharkhand. The total length from Vijayawada to Ranchi is 1632 km having 598 km length of National Highways (NH) and 1034 km length of State Roads. The State-wise distribution of the length of the Vijayawada-Ranchi route is given below:-

Name of State	Length in km		Total Length (km)
	National Highways (NH)	State Roads	
Andhra Pradesh	236	-	236
Orissa	239	980	1219
Jharkhand	123	54	177

(c) and (d) The Government of Orissa and Jharkhand have been requested to submit Detailed Project Reports (DPRs)/ Cost Estimates for development of State Roads for working out financing plan by the Government. The Ministry has, however, approved the proposal for improvement of 13 km stretch of Hata-Tiring State Road in Jharkhand, falling on the Vijayawada-Ranchi section, costing Rs. 9.18 crore under the Central Road Fund Scheme. As regards the development of NH portion aggregating to 598 km length of the Vijayawada-Ranchi section in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Orissa and Jharkhand, improvement works have been taken up in phased manner as per availability of funds, which is allocated State-wise and not NH wise.

(e) Action has been initiated by the Ministry to prepare road requirement plan for the Naxalite affected states.

Setting up of AIIMS-Like Institutions

*288. SHRI VIJAY BAHUGUNA:
SHRI ARJUN SETHI:

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

(a) the details of the reasons for delay in setting up of the proposed six new medical institutes on the pattern of All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS);

(b) the details of the projects regarding their commissioning so far, Institution-wise;

(c) the funds allocated for each Institution and spent therefrom during the last three years; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to expedite the establishment of these Institutions?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) to (d) The proposal for setting up of AIIMS-like institutions was approved by CCEA on 16.3.2006. The initial bid process for selection of Project Consultant proved to be unresponsive. The offer of shortlisted Architectural Design Consultant for preparing enlarged concept design was rejected due to the exorbitantly high price quoted by the selected designer. Therefore, the whole process had to be initiated de novo in December, 2006. Several methodological changes were made to ensure progress keeping in mind the complexity of building 6 such institutions simultaneously and lack of capacity for taking the whole project as one. Therefore, it was decided that each AIIMS site would be taken as a separate and independent project instead of clubbing all six together. The construction of housing complex was also separated from that of Hospital and Medical College.

The Design-DPR consultants have been selected for each site through an open competitive bidding. The layout/master plans for the AIIMS sites at Bhopal, Bhubaneswar, Jodhpur Raipur and Rishikesh have been approved. Approval of layout/master plan for Patna site is expected this month. The Consultants are in the process of preparing architectural design which is expected to be finalized by May, 2008. The detailed project report (DPR) would be ready by May-June 2008. Thereafter, tenders would be invited for selection of contractor for civil construction work.

In so far as construction of residential complex (housing and hostel) is concerned, bids were invited for selection of turn-key Developers. However, bid process was successful only for Jodhpur site and work has been awarded to M/s. Rajasthan State Road Development Corporation, a PSU of Government of Rajasthan. Work is in progress. The work relating to construction of residential complex at Rishikesh and Patna has been entrusted to HLL and for Bhubaneswar and Raipur to HSCC. Tender process has been initiated for selection of contractors for Bhubaneswar and Raipur sites by HSCC. For Bhopal site, housing complex work is being awarded alongside the hospital-medical college complex.

The work of residential complexes is likely to be completed by 2009 and the hospital-medical college complexes by 2010.

The details of funds allocated for the PMSSY and expenditure thereon during the last three years are as under:-

(Rs. in crores)

Year	Funds allocation at BE Stage	Funds allocation at RE stage	Expenditure
2004-05	60.00	10.00	6.15
2005-06	250.00	6.00	2.52
2006-07	75.00	10.00	6.36
2007-08	150.00	90.00	52.00 (approx) (till date)*

*Allocation will be fully utilized.

Project Management Consultant for each site is also being selected for expeditious execution of the work. Ministry has initiated steps to set up dedicated project cell at each site comprising medical expert, engineers and administrative support staff. Each of the projects is being closely monitored by the Ministry to ensure that there is no slippage or delay at any of the sites.

Community-based Health Insurance Scheme

*289. SHRI NAND KUMAR SAI:
SHRI SUGRIB SINGH:

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

(a) whether the Government has launched a community-based health insurance scheme in the country;

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

(c) whether the Government contributes towards the annual premium for the families living Below Poverty Line (BPL);

(d) if so, the details of the contribution made by the Government during 2006-07 and 2007-08 and the number of families covered so far under the said scheme, State-wise; and

(e) the extent to which the scheme has been able to achieve its aims and objectives so far?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) to (e) Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, under the National Rural Health Mission [NRHM], has prepared a framework for introducing health insurance scheme. The States have been requested to prepare need based, community oriented, innovative and flexible insurance policies for implementation on pilot basis. Government of Andhra Pradesh has started the Health Insurance Scheme for the BPL families in 8 districts and Rajasthan has started the pilot project in five districts.

Under NRHM, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare subsidizes the cost of the annual premium up to 75%, subject to a maximum of Rs. 300/- per BPL Family.

The pilot project in the State of Andhra Pradesh was started in the year 2007-08 and an amount of Rs. 10 Crores was agreed to as share of the Union Government during the year 2007-08 as the scheme was deviating from the framework provided to the State Government and the number of BPL families covered was not in accordance with Planning Commission norms. A total of 73.50 Lakh BPL Population is covered under the Health Insurance Scheme in the State of Andhra Pradesh.

An amount of Rs. 23.64 Crores was agreed to as share of the Union Government during the year 2007-08, covering a total of 787886 BPL Families residing in five districts of Rajasthan where the scheme was introduced from 08.12.2007.

It will be too early to assess the achievements of the Scheme. However, a total of 378066 patients were

screened and 37558 cases referred for admission in the State of Andhra Pradesh. While in the State of Rajasthan, 5200 BPL patients were given treatment under the scheme from 8th December 2007 to 29th February, 2008.

Women Representatives in Panchayats

*290. SHRI SARVEY SATYANARAYANA: Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has conducted any evaluation about the role of women representatives in the panchayats and also about the utilization of the quota reserved for them;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the measures proposed to make their participation effective?

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) In order to gain a scientific understanding of the progress made and the challenges still to be overcome regarding the representation of women in Panchayati Raj institutions in the country, the Ministry of Panchayati Raj has commissioned AC Nielsen ORG-MARG to carry out a nationwide survey on this subject under the guidance of Prof. Niraja Gopal Jayal of the Jawaharlal Nehru University and an Academic Advisory Committee comprising intellectuals, Secretary, Panchayati Raj and a representative of the National Institute of Rural Development, Hyderabad. The compilation of the survey findings and preparation of the report is in progress. The report is expected to be tabled in Parliament in April.

Since 1993, when the Constitution (73rd Amendment) Act, 1992 came into effect, 1/3rd of the seats and leadership positions at all three tiers of Panchayats have been reserved for women, in consonance with the provisions of clauses 2 and 3 of Article 243 D given below:

Article 243 D:

(2) Not less than one-third of the total number of seats reserved under clause (1) shall be reserved for women belonging to the Scheduled Castes or, as the case may be, the Scheduled Tribes.

(3) Not less than one-third (including the number of seats reserved for women belonging to the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes) of the total number of seats to be filled by direct election in every Panchayat

shall be reserved for women and such seats may be allotted by rotation to different constituencies in a Panchayat.

However, it is seen that the actual representation of women in Panchayats has progressively increased over the three rounds of elections since the 73rd Amendment came into force and often exceeds the mandatory 1/3rd proportion. According to the latest available information received from the states, the total number of elected representatives is 28,20,707 and of these 10,37,621 i.e. 36.79%, are women, as detailed in enclosed statement. Women have contested and won a significant number of unreserved seats. In Karnataka, it is seen that the percentage of women elected amongst SCs, STs and even in the general category is higher than their mandated share. Of the SC representatives elected to the Gram Panchayats, 46.2% are women and amongst the STs they are 65%. Overall, women comprise 43% of the elected representatives in this State. Some States have also mandated reservation for women in excess of the 1/3rd proportion prescribed in Article 243 D of the Constitution. For instance, Bihar and Madhya Pradesh have reserved 50% seats for women in all the three tiers of Panchayats, while Sikkim has reserved 40% of the seats. The states of Himachal Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Uttarakhand and Rajasthan have recently announced their decisions to enhance the reservation for women in the Panchayati Raj Institutions to 50%.

Women representatives face both gender neutral problems faced by all Panchayat elected representatives as also special problems on account of their gender. The special problems faced by women elected representatives include: (a) lack of experience in political administration and knowledge of Panchayati Raj Act and Rules. Illiteracy compounds the problem; (b) gender prejudice from predominantly male officials and staff of PRIs as also male elected representatives, who often obstruct women from effective participation; (c) given lingering prejudices against women in society, the greater likelihood of being treated as representatives who are proxy for male relatives; (d) limitations in mobility and articulation, as compared to men; (e) work environment not being conducive for women with non-existent Panchayat Ghars, lack of toilets and other facilities.

The Ministry is working with State Governments to ensure that in the Panchayats and Gram Sabha steps are taken to ensure the meaningful empowerment of women. These include: (1) formation of Mahila Sabhas (or equivalent) to facilitate women's concerns and priorities being raised in meetings of Gram Sabhas and Ward Sabhas; (2) having separate quorum for women's participation in Gram Sabhas and sub-Gram Sabhas; (3) building linkages between Panchayats and women's

Self Help Groups (SHGs); (4) provision of women's component plans in the budgets of the PRIs; (5) extending the reservation cycle for women to more than one term; (6) removing the discriminatory condition of two child norm applicable in some States.

Recognizing the need for training of EWRs in order to improve their capacity for effective performance, the Ministry has extended financial support to the States for holding training programmes. As per available data from states, 89,570 women representatives of PRIs have been trained in 2004-05, 96,800 women in 2005-06 and 1,46,505 women representatives in 2006-07.

To further support the empowerment of elected women representatives, a Central Sector Plan Scheme titled Panchayat Mahila Evam Yuva Shakti Abhyan has been launched by the Ministry of Panchayati Raj. Panchayati Mahila Shakti Abhiyan that is one of the components of the Scheme and includes the following:

- (i) State level, divisional and district level sammelans of EWRs that provide a platform for the EWRs to articulate their concerns and highlight their problems. After deliberations during the Sammelan, the EWRs formulate a charter of issues to be mainstreamed into policy and

advocacy support in their State so that these are addressed by the process of development in State;

- (ii) training and sensitization programmes for EWRs to equip them with the knowledge and skills required for effectively discharging their functions. These training programmes would cover aspects like participatory and leadership skills, record-keeping and accounts, information about government schemes and procedures, legal rights etc;
- (iii) Funding of State Support Centres, to support the elected associations of EWRs which would serve as knowledge support and resource institutions.

(c) The States of Rajasthan, Punjab, Karnataka, Uttranchal, Manipur, Goa, Sikkim, Chhattisgarh, West Bengal, Arunachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra (Vidarbha Region) and Bihar have already organized the State Sammelan of Panchayat Mahila Shakti Abhiyan (PMSA). The other States are likely to hold the same in the near future. Chhattisgarh and Haryana have also held District level Sammelans. States where the PMSA Sammelans have already been held will shortly commence training programmes for EWRs.

Statement

Number of Panchayats and Elected Representatives in the three-tiers of Panchayats in States/UTs as per the latest available information

Sl.No.	State/UT	No. of Panchayats (District, General intermediate (Non-SC/ST) and village) categories		Panchayats at all levels: No. of Elected Representatives						
				SC		ST		Total	Women	
				No.	%	No.	%	No.	No.	%
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
1.	Andhra Pradesh	22945	172136	34025	15.19	17842	7.97	224003	74019	33.04
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	1789	0	0	0	8260	100.00	8260	3183	38.54
3.	Assam	2431	23206	1344	5.284	886	3.48	25436	9903	38.93

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
4.	Bihar	9040	109767	19440	14.94	884	0.68	130091	70400	54.12
5.	Chhattisgarh	9982	76062	17553	10.93	66933	41.89	160548	54159	33.73
6.	Goa	191	844	0	0	181	11.61	1559	534	34.25
7.	Gujarat	14068	83982	7970	6.98	22235	19.47	114187	38068	33.34
8.	Haryana	6325	36578	7724	11.07	0	0.00	69805	25503	36.53
9.	Himachal Pradesh	3330	16793	8724	31.99	1753	6.43	27270	9128	33.47
10.	Jharkhand	3979	0	0	0	0		0	0	
11.	Karnataka	5833	67920	17859	18.59	10311	10.731	96090	41210	42.89
12.	Kerala	1165	10629	2005	10.85	226	1.22	18482	5614	30.38
13.	Madhya Pradesh	23412	231246	59106	14.91	106350	26.82	396516	136196	34.35
14.	Maharashtra	28277	176874	25269	11	27597	12.01	229740	76581	33.33
15.	Manipur	169	1556	39	2.247	41	2.36	1736	758	43.66
16.	Orissa	6578	52333	16007	17.31	24114	28.08	92454	33630	36.37
17.	Punjab	12604	62614	28349	31.17	0	0.00	90963	31809	34.97
18.	Rajasthan	9457	22858	25385	21.16	21415	17.85	119975	42434	35.37
19.	Sikkim	258	483	57	5.781	446	45.23	986	394	39.96
20.	Tamil Nadu	13031	91958	23653	20.31	877	0.75	116488	39364	33.79
21.	Tripura	540	3914	1509	26.32	310	5.41	5733	1986	34.64
22.	Uttar Pradesh	52890	578984	191950	24.87	727	0.09	771661	299025	38.75
23.	Uttarakhand	7335	44450	11077	19.26	1973	3.43	57500	21517	37.42
24.	West Bengal	3713	37434	17112	29.09	4282	7.28	58828	21351	36.29
Union Territories										
25.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	75	856	0	0	0	0.00	856	296	34.58
26.	Chandigarh	19	153	34	18.18	0	0.00	187	62	33.16
27.	Dadara and Nagar Haveli	12	7	3	2.4	115	92.00	125	49	39.2
28.	Daman and Diu	15	81	2	2.062	14	14.43	97	37	38.14
29.	Lakshadweep	11	4	0	0	106	96.36	110	41	37.27
30.	Puducherry	108	784	237	23.21	0	0.00	1021	370	36.24
Total		239582	1904506	516433	18.31	317878	11.27	2820707	1037621	36.79

Source: Compiled from data provided by the States and Union Territories.

Note: General (Non-SC/ST) categories, Males and Females.

ST: Scheduled Caste Males and Females.

SC: Scheduled Tribe Males and Females.

Women: Combined SC, ST and General categories.

Road Infrastructure in the Himalayan Region

*291. SHRI CHHEWANG THUPSTAN: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken to improve road conditions and to construct new roads in the State contiguous to the Himlayas in the last three years; and

(b) the quantum of funds allocated by the Centre to assist this work in the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) This Ministry is primarily responsible for the development and maintenance of National Highways (NHs). In addition, funds are also provided from the Central Road Fund (CRF) for development of state roads. The State-wise details of funds allocated in the States *viz.* Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Sikkim, West Bengal and Arunachal Pradesh contiguous to the Himalayas in the last three years for the development and maintenance of roads including NHs is given in Statement--I.

In addition the Border Roads Organization (BRO) is also spending funds for road development in the above mentioned states as given in statement II.

Apart from the above, Government has taken up separate programme namely Special Accelerated Road Development Programme for North-Eastern Region (SARDP-NE) which includes improvement of 3,351 km of roads in the Arunachal Pradesh and Sikkim which are contiguous to the Himalayas.

Government has taken up a scheme under the Prime Minister's package for road development in Jammu and Kashmir which includes up gradation/improvement of about 795 km length of National Highways and 297 km length of state roads.

Further, proposal for undertaking construction of 27 road links having a total length of about 608 km in the border area along the Indo-China border in the State of Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Sikkim and Arunachal Pradesh has also been approved by the Government.

Statement I

The funds allocated in the States contiguous to the Himalayas in the last three years for the Development and Maintenance of Roads

Amount in Rs. Crore		
Sl.No.	State	Funds allocated during the last three years (2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07)
1.	Jammu and Kashmir	386.87
2.	Himachal Pradesh	205.69
3.	Uttarakhand	213.81
4.	Sikkim	21.43
5.	West Bengal	1507.75
6.	Arunachal Pradesh	76.27

Statement II

State-wise details of funds spent by Border Roads Organization (BRO) in the States contiguous to the Himalayas in the last three years for the improvement and construction of roads.

Amount in Rs. Crore		
Sl.No.	State	Funds allocated during the last three years (2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07)
1.	Jammu and Kashmir	915.83
2.	Himachal Pradesh	103.81
3.	Uttarakhand	221.00
4.	Sikkim	100.50
5.	Arunachal Pradesh	413.61

Eleventh Plan Outlays for Development of Inland Waterways

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

(a) whether the Eleventh Plan outlays for the development of Inland Waterways Transport (IWT) Sector have been finalized and approved;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of the achievements made during the Tenth Plan Period, project-wise; and

(d) the details of the projects likely to be taken up during the Eleventh Plan?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. An allocation of Rs. 615.00 crore (at current prices) has been earmarked for Inland Water Transport (IWT) sector in the 11th Plan.

(c) Some of the important achievements in respect of IWT sector by Inland Waterways Authority of India during 10th Plan are as under:-

- (i) Construction of low level jetty one each at Patna and Pandu (Guwahati) terminal completed. Work awarded for the construction of high level jetty one each at Patna and Pandu terminal. Construction of seven permanent terminals in National Waterways-3 completed.
- (ii) Maintenance of Fairway of 2 m depth undertaken for about 300 days in a year in Patna-Haldia stretch of NW-1, Dhubri-Dibrugarh stretch of NW-2, and Kochi-Thakazi jetty stretch of NW-3.
- (iii) Provision of 24 hrs. navigational aids between Tribeni and Farakka in NW-1 (364 km), between Dhubri to Pandu (255 km) in NW-2 and between Kochi to Allapuzha in NW-3 (100 km).
- (iv) Memoranda of Understanding (MOU) for 6 joint venture projects signed by IWAI for construction/operation/management of 3 jetties in NW-1 and acquisition/operation/management of barges in NW-2 for private sector participation/investment in IWT sector.
- (v) Six cargo vessels and two passenger vessels completed under Inland Vessel Building Subsidy Scheme (IVBSS).
- (vi) Overall cargo movement through IWT went up from 1.63 billion tonne km (32.48 million tons) in 2003-04 to 3.38 billion tonne km (55.82 million tons) in

2006-07. Regular cargo movement was established between Haldia and Patna for the first time. Movement of fly ash, clinker and gypsum from Haldia/Kolkata to Bangladesh increased substantially in last 3 years from 2,18,124 tonnes in 2002-03 to 7,99,347 tonnes in 2006-07.

(vii) 35 projects of 15 States costing Rs. 107 Cr sanctioned under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS),

(viii) Bills for declaration of three more waterways as National Waterways introduced in the Parliament. These are (i) Kakinada-Puducherry Canals along with Godavari and Krishna rivers (1095 km), (ii) East Coast Canal along with Brahmani river and Mahanadi delta (623 km) and (iii) River Barak (121 km).

(d) Major projects for IWT sector identified by the working group for 11th plan are given in enclosed Statement. The projects which will finally be taken up during the Eleventh Plan will depend on approved Plan outlay for the sector.

Statement

Sl.No.	Projects
1	2

Ongoing

1. Grants to IWAI for taking up project of (a) Fairway development (b) Navigational aids (c) Terminals on:-
 - (i) National Waterway 1
 - (ii) National Waterway-2
 - (iii) National Waterway-3
 - (iv) Indo-Bangladesh Protocol Routes
2. IT related activities
3. NINI and setting up of SCTCs
4. IWT promotion activities
5. Joint Ventures (PPP projects)
6. Technical Studies and R & D
7. Inland Vessel Building Subsidy Scheme
8. Centrally Sponsored Scheme/Central Sector Scheme for NE/other States

1	2
---	---

New

1. New National Waterways
 - (i) National Waterway-4 (Kakinada-Pondicherry canal along with rivers Godavari and Krishna)
 - (ii) National Waterway-5 (East Coast Canal along with rivers Brahmani and Mahanadi delta)
 - (iii) National Waterway-6 (River Barak-NE Area)
 - (iv) Other New Waterways
 2. Incentive for IWT Operators
 3. Mechanization of country crafts (Bhut-bhuties)
 4. Vessel Leasing Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV)
 5. Dedicated IWT Development Fund (JV for vessel acquisition)
 6. Funding for composite transportation projects.
-

Norms for Allotment of Toll Barriers

*293. SHRI A. PRATHAP: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether different norms have been adopted for allotment of toll barriers;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reasons for not adopting uniform norms in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (c) The allotment of toll plaza for collection of user fee for the Public funded projects competed under National Highways

Development Project (NHDP) phase I and II is made to ex-servicemen agencies sponsored by the Director General Resettlement (DGR), Ministry of Defence. Recently NHAI has been asked to adopt Operation, Maintenance and Transfer (OMT) system for improving toll collection.

At present, the policy of the Government for the projects under NHDP III to VII is to build road infrastructure on Public Private Partnership (PPP mode). Toll collection for such projects is the responsibility of the concessionaire and, therefore, toll plaza is to be managed by the concessionaire.

In non-NHDP projects, the user fee shall be collected by the State Government concerned departmentally or through private contractors on the basis of competitive bidding. Allotment of toll barrier depends on the choice of mode of collection of user fee.

[Translation]

Sanctuaries for Rhinoceros

*294. SHRI MOHAN SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the national parks/reserves/sanctuaries for Rhinoceros in the country;

(b) the total number of Rhinoceros in all the national parks/reserves/sanctuaries in the country as on date, park/reserve/sanctuary-wise; and

(c) the steps taken/being taken by the Government for their upkeep and protection?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) and (b) The details of the Protected Areas in the country where rhinoceros are present and their estimated population is as under:

State	Protected Area	Estimated population and year of estimation
1	2	3
Assam	Kaziranga National Park	1855 (2006)
Assam	Manas National Park	4 (2008)
Assam	Orang National Park	68 (2006)

1	2	3
Assam	Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary	81 (2006)
Assam	Laokhowa Wildlife Sanctuary	1 (2006)
West Bengal	Jaldapara Wildlife Sanctuary	108 (2006)
West Bengal	Gorumara National Park	27 (2006)
Uttar Pradesh	Dudhwa National Park	27 (2008)

(c) The steps taken by Government of India to protect wildlife and prevent poaching of wildlife including rhinoceros 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 of five Regional and three Sub Regional Offices, has been set up to control wildlife crime.
4. Financial support is being provided under the Centrally Sponsored Schemes-*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 those of rhinoceros.
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 Governments have also taken the following measures to protect wild animals and prevent poaching of rhinoceros:

1. Intensive patrolling in sensitive areas and filling up of vacant posts.
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.

[English]

Supply of Uranium by Australia

*295. SHRI PRABODH PANDA:
SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government of Australia has agreed to supply uranium to India;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Union Government has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Australia to supply uranium to India; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Preparation for Beijing Olympic Games, 2008

*296. PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT:
SHRI C. KUPPUSAMI:

Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the events in which India has decided to participate in the Beijing Olympic Games 2008 alongwith details of preparation make thereto including training etc., event-wise;

(b) the reasons for the poor performance of the Indian sports persons in the last Olympic Games;

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

(d) the amount of funds earmarked by the Government for preparation/training of sports persons for Beijing Olympic Games 2008 alongwith the amount spent therefrom during the last three years, year-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) 25 sportspersons belonging to 7 disciplines viz. shooting, athletics, archery, boxing, swimming, wrestling, table tennis have qualified so far to participate in Beijing Olympic Games 2008. The discipline-wise break-up is as follows:

Shooting	9
Atheletics	6
Archery	4
Boxing	2
Swimming	1
Wrestling	1
Table Tennis	2

More players are likely to qualify. The final number of sportspersons belonging to different disciplines will be known after all qualifying rounds are over.

The Sports Authority of India (SAI) and the National Sports Federations (NSFs) have identified medal probables in 6 of the 12 disciplines in which India is likely to participate in Beijing Olympics 2008 and are implementing their training programme in terms of coaching, international exposures, scientific and equipment support and engagement of foreign coaches. On the basis of the training given and the current performances of the players, India is estimated to hold promising medal prospects in the disciplines of Shooting, Archery, Wrestling, Boxing, Athletics and Tennis.

(b) and (c) Our overall performance in the international sporting events including last Olympic Games held at Athens in 2004 has not been satisfactory in the past mainly because of the narrow pool of talented athletes from which our talent is drawn compared to the overall strength of our youth population. Talent on a vast scale has to be spotted, nurtured and trained to eventually and exponentially expand our medal prospects. With a view to addressing this issue, the Government have recently approved the Panchayat Yuva Krida Aur Khel Abhiyan, which is aimed at providing basic sports infrastructure and promoting sports competitions at the grassroots level. Apart from broad-basing of sports, in the long run, this will result in exponential growth in the identification of gifted and talented athletes who can then be groomed in to high performing athletes and thus lead to increased medal prospects at the international level. The Ministry has also prepared a Draft Comprehensive National Sports Policy 2008, which, apart from addressing the deficiencies in the system, aims at generating a positive attitude towards sports in the country thus facilitating the emergence of India as a leading sporting nation.

(d) There is no separate budget allocated for preparation/training of sportspersons for Beijing Olympic Games 2008. Preparations for winning more medals in all major international events, including the Beijing Olympics, is an on-going process and is based on the Long Term Development Plans (LTDP) prepared by the NSFs. Government provides assistance to the NSFs for various activities such as holding national/international sports events in India, the participation of Indian sportspersons/teams in international sports events abroad, the engagement of national and international coaches and the procurement of equipment and consumables.

To address the specific coaching/training requirements of identified medal prospects, individual sportspersons are also assisted directly by the Ministry for purchase of equipment, provision of scientific support and training and participation within country and abroad, under the 'Scheme relating to Talent Search and Training' and through the 'National Sports Development Fund'. The details of amount spent by Government under these schemes during the last three years are given below.

(Rs. in crores)

Sl.No.	Name of the Scheme	Amount released in		
		2005-06	2006-07	2007-08 (till Jan 08)
1.	Scheme of Assistance of NSFs	38.67	34.08	49.10
2.	Scheme relating to Talent Search and Training	0.50	2.8	3.0
3.	National Sports Development Fund	0.46	0.96	1.63 released (Total sanctioned Rs. 2.20 cr)

Conservation of Medicinal Plants

*297. SHRIMATI KIRAN MAHESHWARI:
SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA:

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

(a) the details of the steps taken by the Union Government for the conservation of medicinal plants in the country during the last three years and in the current year; and

(b) the financial assistance provided to the State Governments and the Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) for the conservation of medicinal plants during the said period and expenditure incurred thereon, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) and (b) The Central Government through the Ministry of Environment and Forests under its National Forest Policy, 1988, the forest and wild life acts provides a regulatory framework for conservation and protection of forests and wildlife which include medicinal plants. The National Bio-diversity Act, 2002, regulates access to forest resources including medicinal plants. There are also guidelines notified to conserve specific medicinal plants listed under either CITES and the negative list of exports notified by Government of India. There are also schemes for supporting projects on conservation of some specific medicinal plants by setting up Medicinal Plants Conservation Areas (MPCAs) which are primarily located in forest areas. The medicinal plants present in the protected areas like national parks and sanctuaries are also accorded protection under the Wild Life (Protection Act), 1972. The Botanical Survey of India carries out

floristic surveys and also conserves rare and threatened medicinal plants in its gardens. The developmental schemes of the Ministry provide financial assistance for raising of non timber forest produce (NTFP) including medicinal plants.

Medicinal Plants Board has been set up to coordinate with concerned departments/organisations/states, UTs and formulate and implement schemes for development of medicinal plants sector. The Board has been supporting scheme for conservation of medicinal plants with the main activities as under:-

- Survey, inventorisation and documentation of medicinal plants resources and identification of medicinal plants of conservation concern for appropriate management interventions.
- In-situ conservation of medicinal plants.
- Ex-situ conservation of medicinal plants through creation of herbal gardens and vanaspati vans
- Raising of quality planting material for cultivation of medicinal plants.
- Conservation and sustainable resource development of rare, endangered and threatened species of medicinal trees, perennials and herbs which are in high demand.
- Support for cultivation to farmers/growers of commercially important identified plants so as to reduce pressure on forests and create livelihood options for farmers.
- Assessment at the national level of demand and supply of medicinal plants.
- Collection and dissemination of updated information regarding marketing of medicinal plants.

- Supporting promotional activities like School Herbal Gardens and Home Herbal Gardens to create awareness about usage of medicinal plants for healthcare.
- Training and capacity building programmes for collectors, tribals, farmers on Good Agriculture and Collection Practices.

- Development of agro-techniques for domestication of medicinal plants sourced from the forests.

The details of projects sanctioned and financial assistance provided to the State Government and Non-Government Organisations for key activities relating to Conservation of medicinal plants during the last three years and the current financial year, are given in the enclosed Statement-I and II.

Statement I

National Medicinal Plants Board

Department of AYUSH

Details of financial assistance provided to State Government Organizations for Conservation during 2004-05 to 2007-08 under Promotional Scheme

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl.No.	State/UTs	2004-05			2005-06			2006-07			2007-08		
		No. of projects	Amount		No. of projects	Amount		No. of projects	Amount		No. of projects	Amount	
			Sanctioned	Released		Sanctioned	Released		Sanctioned	Released		Sanctioned	Released
1.	Andhra Pradesh	0	0.00	0.00	1	30.00	10.00	0	0.00	0.00	0	0.00	0.00
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0	0.00	0.00	3	60.00	34.94	1	20.00	8.00	0	0.00	0.00
3.	Assam	0	0.00	0.00	0	0.00	0.00	1	30.0	12.0	0	0.00	0.00
4.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0	0.00	0.00	0	0.00	0.00	0	0.00	0.00	1	30.00	15.00
5.	Gujarat	1	20.00	15.00	0	0.00	0.00	3	78.00	38.00	4	1328.00	431.20
6.	Himachal Pradesh	0	0.00	0.00	3	35.00	25.00	0	0.00	0.00	0	0.00	0.00
7.	Jammu and Kashmir	1	20.00	8.00	0	0.00	0.00	0	0.00	0.00	0	0.00	0.00
8.	Jharkhand	0	0.00	0.00	0	0.00	0.00	1	25.00	12.00	0	0.00	0.00
9.	Karnataka	0	0.00	0.00	2	60.00	29.93	3	54.00	23.00	2	115.00	55.00
10.	Madhya Pradesh	0	0.00	0.00	1	5.50	5.50	0	0.00	0.00	1	230.00	92.00
11.	Manipur	0	0.00	0.00	0	0.00	0.00	1	25.00	10.00	0	0.00	0.00
12.	Mizoram	0	0.00	0.00	1	15.00	7.00	2	53.00	20.00	0	0.00	0.00
13.	Nagaland	0	0.00	0.00	0	0.00	0.00	2	60.00	27.00	0	0.00	0.00
14.	Orissa	1	20.00	17.25	0	0.00	0.00	0	0.00	0.00	0	0.00	0.00
15.	Rajasthan	0	0.00	0.00	0	0.00	0.00	0	0.00	0.00	1	694.00	200.00
16.	Tamil Nadu	1	30.00	10.00	0	0.00	0.00	0	0.00	0.00	1	295.40	80.00
17.	Tripura	0	0.00	0.00	2	49.00	20.00	1	30.00	12.00	1	143.00	40.00
18.	Uttar Pradesh	1	10.00	7.00	0	0.00	0.00	0	0.00	0.00	0	0.00	0.00
	Total	5	100.00	57.25	13	254.50	132.37	15	375.00	162.00	11	2790.40	913.20

Statement II**National Medicinal Plants Board****Department of AYUSH**

Details of financial assistance provided to Non-Government Organizations for Conservation during 2004-05 to 2007-08 under Promotional Scheme

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl.No.	State/UTs	2004-05			2005-06			2006-07			2007-08		
		No. of projects	Amount		No. of projects	Amount		No. of projects	Amount		No. of projects	Amount	
			Sanctioned	Released		Sanctioned	Released		Sanctioned	Released		Sanctioned	Released
1.	Delhi	1	20.00	10.00	0	0.00	0.00	0	0.000	0.000	0.00	0.00	0.00
2.	Tamil Nadu	3	34.00	24.00	0	0.00	0.00	0	0.000	0.000	0.00	0.00	0.00
3.	Andhra Pradesh	0	0.00	0.00	0	0.00	0.00	0	0.00	0.00	1	10.00	5.00
4.	Chhattisgarh	0	0.00	0.00	0	0.00	0.00	0	0.00	0.00	1	10.00	5.00
5.	Himachal Pradesh	0	0.00	0.00	0	0.00	0.00	0	0.00	0.00	1	20.00	8.00
6.	Jharkhand	0	0.00	0.00	0	0.00	0.00	0	0.00	0.00	1	16.90	8.00
7.	Karnataka		0.00	0.00	0	0.00	0.00	0	0.00	0.00	1	10.00	5.00
8.	Tamil Nadu	0	0.00	0.00	0	0.00	0.00	0	0.00	0.00	2	17.00	10.00
9.	Uttarakhand	0	0.00	0.00	0	0.00	0.00	0	0.00	0.00	4	86.65	36.00
	Total	4	54.00	34.00	0	0.00	0.00	0	0.00	0.00	11	170.55	77.00

*[English]***Poverty in India**

*298. SHRI MADHU GOUD YASKHI:
SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether eighty percent of India's population live on less than 2 US dollars a day as per the World Bank estimates;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government in this regard;

(c) whether India has also achieved less than half the target to cut hunger in half according to a recent study by a US based international food policy research institute;

(d) if so, whether the United Nations as part of the Millennium Development Goals (MDG) has fixed any target for India to remove poverty;

(e) if so, the details thereof and the targets achieved so far; and

(f) the steps taken or being taken by the Government to achieve the targets under MDG?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN):(a) and (b) According to the World Development Indicators 2007, brought out by the World Bank, 80% of India's population lived below \$ 2 a day in the year 2004-05. These estimates of the percentage of people living below the international poverty line of two US dollar a day, measured at 1993 international price and adjusted to local currency using PPP (Purchasing Power Parity) conversion factor are computed by the World Bank in order to monitor progress in reducing poverty worldwide. This measure of

poverty by the World Bank has several well-known deficiencies. These are: (i) it does not allow for cost-of-living differentials within countries; (ii) it does not distinguish between transient and chronic poverty; (iii) it only values goods and services delivered through the market; (iv) it does not consider intra-household allocation of expenditure; and (v) it deals in only a rudimentary fashion with differences in household size and composition. Given the method of computation, there is no certainty that the international poverty line will be able to measure the same degree of need or deprivations across countries. The Government of India does not use the estimate, since it does not distinguish between rural and urban areas or between different States of the country.

(c) to (e) According to the Global Hunger Index (GHI) 2007, prepared by the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), India's GHI score is 25.03 in 2007 as compared to 33.73 in 1990. GHI 2007 does not specifically mention a target for reduction in hunger for India. The United Nations as part of the Millennium Development Goals (MDG) has not specified target for India to remove poverty. However, in MDG there is a global target for poverty reduction according to which the proportion of people whose income is less than one dollar a day is to be halved, between 1990 and 2015. As per the Planning Commission estimates, using two latest comparable estimates based on the large sample survey data on household consumer expenditure conducted by the National Sample Survey Organization (NSSO) in its 50th Round (July 1993-June 1994), and 61st Round (July 2004-June 2005), the proportion of people living below the poverty is observed to decline from 36 percent in 1993-94 to 27.5 percent in 2004-05.

(f) The Government has not drawn any separate programme to meet the Millennium Development Goals. However, the Millennium Development Goals are quite similar to the objectives and targets laid down in the Five Year Plans. In fact, some of the targets as specified in the Eleventh Five Year Plan relating to poverty alleviation are more ambitious than the ones specified in the Millennium Development Goals. To achieve these, 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. The objectives of faster and inclusive growth in the Eleventh Plan are encapsulated in a set of monitorable socio-economic targets in the areas of income

and poverty, education, health, women and children, environment, infrastructure, etc. The government has been implementing a number of programmes which are essentially related to MDG goals and targets. In alleviating poverty, the major schemes and programmes include Sampoorna Grameen Rozgar Yojana (SGRY), Swarnjayatni Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY), Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY), National Rural Employment Guarantee Programme (NREGP), Swarn Jayanti Shabri Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY), Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) and Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY). The Government is also implementing a number of programmes to improve the nutrition status of the population. These are Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS), Mid-day Meal Scheme, etc. For health, National Rural Health Mission is being implemented. For education, Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan is being implemented. For water supply and sanitation, the Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP) and Total Sanitation Campaign, respectively are being implemented. For rural and urban infrastructure, Bharat Nirman, Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission respectively have been launched. These programmes are being implemented in collaboration with the State Governments.

[Translation]

Proposed Restructuring of Sports Federations

299. SHRI KASHIRAM RANA:
DR. DHIRENDRA AGARWAL:

Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any proposal to restructure the sports federations;

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

(c) the names of the federations which have failed to give effective results in sports events and the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to make these federations effective?

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 (d) The Government give recognition to National Sports Federations (NSFs) in terms

of 'Guidelines for Assistance to National Sports Federations.' The NSFs seeking recognition have to apply to the Ministry and the Ministry consider their proposal after examining.

- The current legal status of the organization
- Recognition by the International and Asian Federations
- Recognition by Indian Olympic Association
- Its undisputed status an Apex Body in India for the sports concerned
- Its all India spread
- The role and contribution of the organization in promoting and developing Sports in India
- Its internal financial and management practices and standards
- Its electoral practices
- Its protection and promotion of players interests and welfare.

The Ministry reserves the right to suspend or withdraw the recognition of NSF, in the even of serious irregularities being detected in their internal functioning. In case the Government feels that the federation is not functioning in the best interest of development of sport for which it was granted recognition, the Government may withdraw the recognition granted by it to the federation.

The primary responsibility for the development and promotion of various sports disciplines vests in the National Sports Federations concerned. The Government supplements their efforts by providing financial assistance for holding national/international events in India, procurement of equipment, training and participation of Indian sportspersons/teams in international sports events abroad, training/coaching in India under both Indian and foreign Coaches with requisite technical and scientific back-up as per their agreed Long Term Development Plan.

To decide the quantum of financial assistance, the Ministry has divided the recognized NSFs in the following three categories based on Dynamic categorization based on their performances in Olympic/Asian/Commonwealth Games and World Championships:

- Priority
- General
- Others

This categorization was last reviewed by the Ministry in April-May, 2007 and based on performance in the Commonwealth/Asian Games, 2006 and World Championships, the category of the following sports disciplines was revised:

Sports Disciplines	Existing Category	Changed Category
Hockey (Men)	Priority	General
Squash	General	Priority
Volleyball	General	Others
Taekwondo	Priority	General
Karate	General	Others
Football	Priority	Others
Cycling	Priority	Others
Swimming	Priority	General
Kayaking and Canoeing	General	Priority
Fencing	General	Others
Wushu	Others	Priority
Winter Games	General	Others

The NSFs are autonomous bodies having their own Memorandum of Association and Articles of Associations and the Government does not interfere with their internal working. However, the Ministry is in the process of finalizing a Comprehensive National Sports Policy, which inter-alia calls upon the NSFs to reform and modernize themselves to meet the challenges of modern day sport. The policy also aims at establishment of an independent sports arbitration and mediation mechanism based on international best practices, to resolve disputes between or within NSFs or between an individual NSF and the players.

[English]

Perspective Plans for Major Ports

*300. SHRI ABU AYES MONDAL: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether international consultants have been engaged by the Government to prepare perspective plans for the development of major ports in the country; and

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

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) Consultants, selected through the international competitive bidding process, were engaged by the 12 Major Ports for preparation of Business Plans with a 20 year perspective for each port. The names of the consultants engaged by the 12 Major Ports are as follows:

Sl.No.	Name of the Port	Name of the Consultant
1.	Kolkata Port Trust	M/s Royal Hanskonging and CRISIL
2.	Paradip Port Trust	M/s Transcare Logistic and Pharas B.V.
3.	Vishakhapatnam Port Trust	M/s Rotterdam Maritime Group and Tata Consultancy Services
4.	Chennai Port Trust	M/s Deloitte Touch
5.	Ennore Port Ltd.	M/s Hamburg Port Consultancy and Consulting Engineering Services
6.	Tuticorin Port Trust	M/s Transcare Logistic and Pharas B.V.
7.	Cochin Port Trust	M/s Transcare Logistic and Pharas B.V.
8.	New Mangalore Port Trust	M/s Rotterdam Maritime Group and Tata Consultancy Services
9.	Mormugao Port Trust	M/s Halcrow Consulting and Ernst and Young
10.	Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust	M/s KPMG, Meyrick Associates and Sai Techno Consultants
11.	Mumbai Port Trust	M/s KPMG, Meyrick Associates and Sai Techno Consultants
12.	Kandla Port Trust	M/s KPMG, Meyrick Associates and Sai Techno Consultants

[*Translation*]

Medical Usefulness of Cow-Urine

2732. SHRI RAGHUVeer SINGH KOSHAL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of medicinal usefulness of cow-urine;

(b) whether there is any reference to this medicinal usefulness of cow-urine in the Indian System of Medicine;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether any research has been conducted to ascertain the medicinal usefulness of cow's urine; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Cow's urine is being used as ingredient in various ayurvedic formulations since centuries. "Panchgavya" is a mixture of five cow products namely dung, urine, milk, curd and ghee is used in Ayurvedic medicines.

(d) and (e) A team of scientists working on new bioactivities (bioprospection) at CIMAP, Lucknow through bioavailability evaluation studies found that cow urine distillate (Kamdhenu Ark) obtained from Go Vigyan Anusandhan Kendra, Nagpur (which is sold in packed bottles by the Centre) had a biological activity of a bioenhancer for commonly used antibiotics and anticancer drugs. In these experiments, it was found that the cow urine distillate at very low concentration enhanced the activity of Rifampicin and Ampicillin against Gram negative and Gram positive bacteria. Further, the activity of

anticancer drug Taxol (Paclitaxel) was also found to be enhanced in the presence of this cow urine distillate.

Operation of Coal Mines Lying Closed

2733. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of coal mines in the country alongwith the number of mines which are being operated and the number of mines lying closed, company-wise;

(b) whether the Government proposes to restart the operation of coal mines lying closed; and

(c) if so, the details thereof, company-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO): (a) The number of working coal mines in different subsidiaries of Coal India Limited (CIL) as on 01.10.2007 is 472. After nationalization many units/mines were regrouped/amalgamated. Some of the nationalized units/mines have since been closed on account of exhaustion of reserve in the working seams, on safety and techno-economic ground etc. Thus it is now difficult to exactly specify the number of mines closed. However, as per available records, 191 mines/units are closed in CIL since nationalization.

Neyveli Lignite Corporation Ltd. (NLC) is operating four lignite mines and no mine has been closed so far.

The number of mines in operation in Singareni Collieries Co. Ltd. (SCCL) is 55 and number of mines closed is 41. However, some of the closed mines of SCCL have been converted into open cast mines.

(b) and (c) The opening and closure of the mines is an activity which is done in a careful and systematic manner. In other words, planning is a continuous process in a coal mining company.

Coal mining is site specific and passes through different phases of project life cycle as initial, peak and final. The mines get closed due to

1. Exhaustion of reserves
2. Adverse geo-mining conditions
3. Un-economical operation.

It is possible sometimes, to reopen closed underground mines where reasonable amounts of coal are available in the form of barriers, partition thin seams, etc., and work with opencast methods.

[English]

Centrally Sponsored Health Scheme

2734. SHRI G.M. SIDDESWARA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the Centrally Sponsored Health Schemes/Programmes in operation in various parts of the country, especially in Karnataka;

(b) the details of financial assistance extended to each State for the same during each of the last three years;

(c) whether these schemes/programmes have been helpful in controlling various diseases in the States;

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

(e) the steps taken or being taken by the Union Government to implement the health related schemes/programmes vigorously?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) The Major Centrally Sponsored Health and Family Welfare Programmes including inter-alia, National Cancer Control Programme (NCCP), National AIDS Control Programme, National Programmes relating to Vector Borne, Blindness Control, Leprosy Eradication, Tuberculosis Control and other programmes under National Rural Health Mission (NRHM), are under implementation in various states of the country including Karnataka.

(b) Information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The success achieved in respect of the above major programmes is given in the enclosed statement.

(e) Initiating steps to improve the pace of implementation of Centrally Sponsored Schemes relating to Health and Family Welfare is an on-going process. Some of the steps taken in this direction include inter-alia.

- Promoting access to improved healthcare at household level through the female health activist (ASHA);
- Strengthening of existing Primary Health Centres (PHCs) through providing requisite manpower;
- Preparation and implementation of an inter sector District Health Plan prepared by the District Health Mission, including drinking water, sanitation, hygiene and nutrition;
- Integrating vertical Health and Family Welfare programmes at National, State, District and Block levels;
- Technical support to National, State and District Health Mission, for public health management;
- Promotion of public private partnerships for achieving public health goals.
- Mainstreaming AYUSH-revitalizing local health traditions;
- Effective and visible risk pooling and social health insurance to provide health security to the poor by ensuring accessible, affordable, accountable and good quality hospital care etc.
- Involvement of medical colleges, general hospitals NGOs. and private practitioners in implementation of various disease control programmes;
- Increasing coverage of population under the revised strategy in the TB Control Programme;
- Extensive awareness drive, targeted interventions for people with high risk behaviour, creation of facilities for prevention of parent to child transmission etc. under the AIDS Control Programme;
- Review and Monitor and supervision of various Health Programmes in the States.

Statement

The achievement respect of major Health and Welfare Family Welfare Programme

S.No.	Health and Family Welfare Programmes under implementation	Achievements
1	2	3
1.	National Rural Health Mission (NRHM)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • By December, 2007, 5.48 lakh ASHAs/Link Workers have been selected and over 4.62 lakhs trained. • Rogi Kalyan Samitis have been established in 551 District Hospitals, 4066 Community Health Centres/Sub-Divisional Hospital and in 12983 Primary Health Centres. • 188 Mobile Medical Units have become operational in 2007-08. • 1.24 lakh Sub-Centres have been made more effective through utilization of united funds, • Upgradation work commenced in 1161 CHCs. • 8756 Primary Health Centres have been made operational on 24x7 basis. • To fill in the gap of human resources at this level, 4279 doctors, 2471 Specialists and 13864 Staff Nurses appointed on contract basis.

1	2	3
2.	Revised National Tuberculosis Control Programme (RNTCP)	All districts in the country are covered by DOTS since March 24, 2006. The cure rate has been consistently above the global target of 85%.
3.	National Leprosy Eradication Programme	Achieved the principal goal of elimination of leprosy as a public health problem, defined as less than 1 case per 10,000 population, at the National Level in the month of December 2005.
4.	National Programme for Control of Blindness;	The prevalence of blindness has come down to 1% as against the target for the 10th Plan of 0.8% by 2007.
5.	National Vector Borne Disease Control Programme (NVBDCP)	Malaria: Over the years, the incidence of malaria has been brought down to below 2 million annually. Filaria: In pursuit to achieve the goal of Elimination of Lymphatic Filariasis by the year 2015, the coverage of target population was 72.6% in 2004, 79.8% in 2005, 84% in 2006 and 87% in 2007. Kala-azar: Elimination of Kala-azar by 2010 has been envisaged as National Health Policy Goal. Govt. of India has accelerated the Kala-azar elimination efforts.
6.	National AIDS Control Programme	As per the results of annual sentinel surveillance, the prevalence rate of HIV infection in adults has stabilized. The prevalence rate in 2004 was 0.41%, 0.39% in 2005 and 0.36% in 2006.
7.	National Cancer Control Programme (NCCP):	The objective of the programme is prevention, early diagnosis and treatment of Cancer. Under the programme financial assistance is provided for modernization of three Regional Cancer Centres.

[Translation]

Construction of National Highways

2735. SHRI RAJNARAYAN BUDHOLIA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 1651 dated November 28, 2007 and state:

(a) whether the information has since been collected;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the time by which the information is likely to be collected?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The length of National Highways constructed/proposed to be constructed during the current year are given in the statement-I. The funds allocated sanctioned for the same, State-wise are given in the enclosed statement-II. The details of major road projects undertaken for the last three years, State-wise, and the present status of the ongoing projects are given in the enclosed statement III. Two New National Highways have been declared during the current year 2007-08. The details are given in the enclosed statement-IV.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Statement I*Scheme-wise Physical target and achievement during the current year 2007-08*

S.No.	Scheme	2007-08	
		Target	Achievement (Upto 31.01.2008)
1.	Ministry		
	(i) Improvement of low grade section (Kms.)	00.00	8.08
	(ii) Widening to four lanes (Kms.)	33.00	19.00
	(iii) Strengthening of existing weak pavement (Kms.)	571.00	682.48
	(iv) Widening to two lane (Kms.)	736.00	606.84
	(v) Improvement of riding quality programme (IRQP) (Kms.)	1372.00	1084.33
	(vi) Construction of Bypasses (nos.)	3	2
	(vii) Construction of Missing link (kms.)	15.00	22.85
2.	NHA		
	(i) Widening to four lanes (Kms)	2885.00	989.73
	(ii) Construction of Bypasses (nos.)	11	1
3.	BRDB		
	(i) Improvement of low grade section (Kms.)	25.00	11.06
	(ii) Widening to four lanes (Kms.)	1.00	0.00
	(iii) Strengthening of existing weak pavement (Kms.)	6.00	3.09
	(iv) Widening to two lanes (Kms.)	183.00	96.29
	(v) Improvement of riding quality programme IROP (Kms.)	230.00	65.14
	(vi) Construction of Missing link (Kms.)	7.00	4.89

Statement II*Allocation of Funds for Development of National Highways During the Current Year 2007-08*

Rupees in crore		
Sl.No.	Name of States/ Union Territory	Development NH (O)
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	73.00
2	Arunachal Pradesh	8.00

1	2	3
3.	Assam	100.00
4.	Bihar	90.00
5.	Chandigarh	2.00
6.	Chhattisgarh	47.00
7.	Delhi	11.50
8.	Goa	15.00
9.	Gujarat	62.00

1	2	3	1	2	3
10.	Haryana	80.00	21.	Orissa	130.00
11.	Himachal Pradesh	57.00	22.	Puducherry	8.50
12.	Jharkhand	53.00	23.	Punjab	78.90
13.	Karnataka	92.00	24.	Rajasthan	96.00
14.	Kerala	54.00	25.	Tamil Nadu	90.00
15.	Madhya Pradesh	72.00	26.	Uttar Pradesh	130.00
16.	Maharashtra	125.00	27.	Uttarakhand	47.00
17.	Manipur	25.00	28.	West Bengal	61.00
18.	Meghalaya	40.00	29.	NHAI*	17880.00
19.	Mizoram	15.00	30.	BRO*	600.00
20.	Nagaland	15.00			

*Funds to National Highways Authorities of India (NHAI) and Border Road Organisation (BRO) are not allocated State-wise.

Statement III

Major Projects (Costing More than Rs. 20 crore) Undertaken During Last Three Years (2004-07) and present Status of the Ongoing Projects

(Rs. in Crore)

Sl.No.	Name of States/ Union Territory	Projects undertaken during last three years		Projects completed during last three years		Projects in progress	
		Nos.	Amount	Nos.	Amount	Nos.	Amount
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	14	4223.80			14	4223.80
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	3	78.45	1	24.90	2	53.55
3.	Assam	27	5308.09			27	5308.09
4.	Bihar	13	3768.28			13	3768.28
5.	Chhattisgarh	2	654.00			2	654.00
6.	Gujarat	10	4572.88	1	276.07	9	4296.81
7.	Haryana	2	379.00			2	379.00
8.	Himachal Pradesh	1	20.76			1	20.76
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	5	605.39			5	605.39

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
10.	Karnataka	6	2081.31			6	2081.31
11.	Kerala	2	336.66			2	336.66
12.	Madhya Pradesh	14	3551.67	1	46.00	13	3505.67
13.	Maharashtra	14	3020.53			14	3020.53
14.	Manipur	3	89.23			3	89.23
15.	Meghalaya	1	29.12			1	29.12
16.	Punjab	6	1402.70			6	1402.70
17.	Rajasthan	13	4946.00			13	4946.00
18.	Sikkim	0	0.00			0	0.00
19.	Tamil Nadu	30	10828.72			30	10828.72
20.	Tripura	1	20.12			1	20.12
21.	Uttar Pradesh	24	7155.08			24	7155.08
22.	Uttarakhand	1	25.32			1	25.32
23.	West Bengal	4	668.82			4	668.82

Statement IV*National Highways Declared During 2007-08*

Sl.No.	State	National Highway No.	Description of National Highway
1.	West Bengal	31D	The highway starting from NH-31 near Siliguri and joining NH-31 C near Salasalabari via Fulbari, Mainaguri, Dhupguri Falakata and Sonapur
2.	Kerala	47C	The highway starting from NH-47 near Kalamassery, crossing NH-17 and terminating at Vallarpadam

*[English]***Passenger-Cargo from Goa to other Countries**

2736. SHRI SUNIL KHAN: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to open passenger-cargo from Goa to other foreign countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the time-frame fixed for the same;

(c) whether the Port will be extended for the purpose;

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

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (d) Generally, the industrial cargo is being moved from Mormugao Port by the freight forwarders and very negligible

personal/passenger unaccompanied cargo is being moved through the Port. Further, there are no demands for sending such cargo from the Mormugao Port to other foreign countries.

Non-Lapsable Central Pool of Resources

2737. SHRI HITEN BARMAN: Will the Minister of DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount sought for by each N.E. State under Non-Lapsable Central Pool of Resources projects during the years 2006-07 and 2007-08 and the amount sanctioned during the same period, State-wise;

(b) the names of the projects proposed by the State Government of Sikkim and Tripura during 2006-07 and 2007-08 along with the funds sanctioned and the names of those projects approved by the Government; and

(c) the reasons for non-release of funds against certain accepted projects 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) The State Governments of North Eastern Region submit Lists of Prioritised Projects for funding under Non Lapsable Central Pool of Resources (NLCPR) Scheme. The State-wise updated status of the total amount sought for by each North Eastern State for funding under the scheme through their 2006-07 and 2007-08 Priority lists and the amount sanctioned against each State during 2006-07 and 2007-08 against projects retained from all Priority Lists is available on the Ministers web site-www.mdoner.gov.in.

(b) and (c) The names of the projects proposed by the State Government of Sikkim and Tripura during 2006-07 and 2007-08 along with the amount, the names of those retained for techno-economic examination/sanctioned are also available on this Ministry's website-www.mdoner.gov.in. Under NLCPR, funds are released only after sanction of the projects. There is no project from the 2006-07 and 2007-08 Priority Lists of Sikkim and Tripura which has been sanctioned under NLCPR but for which funds have not been released.

[Translation]

Coal Price Policy

2738. DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the existing policy of fixing of coal prices;

(b) whether the Government proposes to change the existing coal price policy;

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

(d) the details of ten first top of private and Government companies for allotment of captive coal mining and the status of mining therein?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO): (a) Coal pricing has been decontrolled since 01.01.2000. The coal companies themselves fix the coal price based on input costs, national inflation index etc. and notify the same periodically.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise in view of answer given in part (b) of the question.

(d) There is no such categorization for allocation of captive coal mining blocks.

Arrest of Indians in Spain

2739. SHRI CHANDRA MANI TRIPATHI:
DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Spain has arrested some Indians suspecting them to have terrorist links;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI ANAND SHARMA): (a) Yes.

(b) and (c) Two persons claiming to be Indians were arrested on 19.01.2008 by the Spanish authorities on suspicion of terrorism related charges. The nationality of one of them, Mr. Roshan Jamal Khan has been confirmed to be Indian. Embassy officials have met with him and have asked the Spanish authorities to intimate the formal charges laid against him.

*[English]***Schemes for Helping Farmers**

2740. SHRI NARAHARI MAHATO: Will the Minister of DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the North-Eastern Development Finance Corporation Ltd. (NEDFC) has prepared any scheme in order to help the farmers through micro-credit in the North Eastern Region;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the time by which it is likely to be implemented; and

(c) the amount of funds allocated to the farmers by NEDFC Ltd. during the last two years, 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) and (b) While there are no schemes of the North Eastern Development Finance Corporation Ltd. (NEDFi) specifically designed to help farmers directly through micro credit, NEDFi are helping farmers by accommodating their proposals under schemes like Micro Finance (MF), North East Entrepreneur Development Scheme (NEEDS) and Women Entrepreneurship Development Scheme (WEDS).

(c) NEDFi does not make sectoral fund allocations under any Scheme. However, disbursements made for agriculture and allied activities under all the aforesaid schemes, during the last years and the current year are as follows:

Year	Amount (Rs. in crore)
2005-06	1.31
2006-07	1.08
2007-08 (till 13.03.2008)	0.45

*[Translation]***Private Power Distribution Companies and RTI Act**

2741. SHRI V.K. THUMMAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the private power distribution companies are not covered under the Right to Information Act;

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

(c) if not, the number of information furnished by the private companies during the last three years, till-date; and

(d) the laid down norms for obtaining information from the joint ventures of the Union and State Governments under the Right to Information Act?

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) Only non-Government organizations substantially financed by the funds provided by the Government are covered under the Right to Information Act, 2005.

(c) The information is not centrally maintained.

(d) Norms for obtaining information from public authorities are laid in the Act.

Development Schemes for NER

2742. SHRI KIREN RIJU:
SHRI SUBRATA BOSE:

Will the Minister of DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of comprehensive policy and programmes formulated and being implemented by Government for infrastructural development in North Eastern Region; and

(b) the details of projects undertaken by Government for execution in NER during the last three year, year-wise, project-wise and State-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) For the overall development, including infrastructure development of the North-Eastern Region (NER), the Government of India (GoI) have announced and are following up the policy that all the

Central Government Ministries/Departments (except the exempted ones) make at least 10% provision in their plan budget of NER. The unspent balances out of this mandatory provision do not lapse and are credited to the Non Lapsable Central Pool of Resources (NLCPR). Under the scheme of NLCPR, the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (DONER) is given a budgetary provision from "the pool" for infrastructure development in the North-Eastern States. Projects sanctioned include the Power sector (Generation, Transmission and Distribution), Roads and Bridges, Irrigation, Education, Health, Water Supply, Sports etc. In addition, the North-Eastern Council (NEC), which is a statutory body, also sanctions infrastructure development projects for the region. Besides, the North-Eastern States, are categorized as Special Category States by GoI. The schemes of DONER are funded on a 90:10 (grant: loan) basis as per the special policy dispensations. The Government of India, through Ministry of Commerce has approved a package of fiscal incentives and other concessions for the North Eastern Region in the 'North East Industrial and Investment Promotion Policy (NEIIPP), 2007'. This package has come into effect from 1.4.2007 for a period of ten years.

(b) The State-wise, year-wise lists of projects sanctioned under NLCPR scheme during last three years are available on the Ministry's website www.mdoner.gov.in. and details of projects undertaken in the North Eastern Region under NEC Plan during the last 3 years, project-wise and State-wise, are available on the website of NEC viz. www.necouncil.gov.in.

[English]

Climate Change

2743. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Karnataka has become one of the States to set up of a committee on climate change and sustainability;

(b) if so, whether almost all States have so far considered the proposal of setting up of a panel on climate change;

(c) whether these States will be provided help and assistance in meeting the climate change; and

(d) if so, to what extent the said panel will help in making the climate change proposal of the Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) The Government of Karnataka has set up a Committee called the "Committee on Climate Change and Sustainability: Karnataka Initiatives".

(b) The Government is not aware of the proposal of States to constitute Panel on Climate Change.

(c) and (d) Does not arise in view of the reply to (a) and (b) above.

Infertility among Young Couples

2744. SHRI NAVEEN JINDAL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the incidence of infertility in couples is on the rise;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor alongwith comparative figures in the rural and the urban areas;

(c) whether it is proposed to bring infertility under primary health care;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether CGHS beneficiaries are allowed free treatment for infertility at designated hospitals; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) At present, there is no data on the community based studies indicating incidence and prevalence of infertility in the country. However, according to the estimate of World Health Organisation, there are about 8-15% couples at the global level experiencing some form of infertility during their reproductive lives. According to the recently completed National Family Health Survey (NFHS-III) 10.1% women aged 15-49 years did not have any children.

(c) and (d) Management of infertility is a highly technical field. At the primary health care level counselling, screening and referral are the only components included for addressing the issue of infertility.

(e) and (f) There is no designated hospital for treatment specifically for infertility under CGHS. However, treatment for infertility can be undertaken at any of the government hospital.

National Tobacco Control Programme

2745. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government proposes to launch National Tobacco Control Programme;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time by which the said programme is likely to be launched;

(d) whether there is also any proposal to form a Central Tobacco Regulatory Authority to monitor and to implement the Tobacco Control laws; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (e) Government of India has launched the pilot phase of the National Tobacco Control Programme (NTCP) in 2007-08. This program envisages building capacity of States and greater awareness through mass media/IEC campaign, etc. The pilot phase of the programme has been launched in 18 district of 9 States. The proposed national programme broadly includes.

1. Capacity building of the State in the effective implement of the tobacco control act, 2003. It is proposed to set up State Tobacco Control Cells and District Level monitoring cells;
2. Train health workers, school teachers, etc. on ill effects of Tobacco;
3. Engage NGOs, to carry out school programme in the Government Schools;
4. Mass media/IEC campaign, tailored to regional needs;
5. Capacity building laboratories for tobacco product testing.

The approval of competent authority for the launch of NTCP is under active consideration. The modalities of establishing the Tobacco Regulatory Authority is also being worked out.

Annual Plan Allocations for North Eastern States

2746. SHRI M.K. SUBBA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Annual Plan allocations for Assam and other NE-States for the financial year 2008-09 have been approved;

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

(c) the sector-wise outlays/allocations in comparison with that of previous financial year outlay; and

(d) the rate of growth of agriculture and industry contemplated under the new outlays for each State in the NE region?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) to (c) The Annual Plan allocation for the North Eastern state of Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Mizoram and Sikkim have been approved the state-wise approved outlay for 2008-09 for these states are given in the enclosed statement-I. The sectoral outlay are awaited from these state governments. The outlays from Meghalaya, Nagaland and Tripura are yet to be approved. In the absence of details of approved outlay for 2008-09 for all North-Eastern and also sectoral outlay for 2008-09, the comparison for sectoral allocation of 2008-09 with previous financial year is not possible.

(d) The year-wise growth targets for 2008-09 have not been fixed. However, the Growth Targets for 11th Plan are given in the enclosed statement-II.

Statement I

Details of Approved annual Plan Allocations for 2008-09 in respect of NE States

Sl.No.	Name of the State	Amount (Rs. In Crore)
1.	Arunachal Pradesh	2065.00
2.	Assam	5011.51
3.	Manipur	1660.00
4.	Mizoram	1000.00
5.	Sikkim	852.00

Note:- The outlays for the state of Meghalaya, Nagaland and Tripura have not yet been fixed as Annual Plan Discussions with these state governments are yet to be held.

Statement II**State-wise growth targets for the Eleventh Five Year Plan for NE States**

(in %age)

		State-wise and sector-wise Growth Target-Eleventh Five Year Plan			
		Agriculture	Industrial	Services	Total
1.	Arunachal Pradesh	2.8	8.0	7.2	6.4
2.	Assam	2.0	8.0	8.0	6.5
3.	Manipur	1.2	8.0	7.0	5.9
4.	Meghalaya	4.7	8.0	7.9	7.3
5.	Mizoram	1.6	8.0	8.0	7.1
6.	Nagaland	8.4	8.0	10.0	9.3
7.	Sikkim	3.3	8.0	7.2	6.7
8.	Tripura	1.4	8.0	8.0	6.9
All India		4.1	10.5	9.9	9.0

*[Translation]***Purchase of Machines by WCL**

2747. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has taken the cognizance of the corruption report on purchase of machines and spares through indents in Ballarpur region of Western Coalfields Ltd. (WCL), as published in Nagpur edition of Dainik Bhaskar, dated 19 January, 2008;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the report of inquiry ordered/conducted in this regard; and

(c) the action taken by the Government in the light of the findings of the aforesaid report?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO): (a) to (c) A complaint containing similar allegations such as excess/unwanted purchase of dragline spares, purchase of spares which were already available in stores etc. forwarded by the Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) was received by the Western Coalfields Ltd. (WCL). The matter is under investigation.

*[English]***Census of Elephants**

2748. SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE:
SHRI MILIND DEORA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether census of elephants of 2007 has been completed;

(b) if so, the details of the number of male and female elephants in the country, State-wise;

(c) whether the population of the elephants are decreasing in the country;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the Government has received any report regarding the deaths of elephants particularly for ivory;

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

(g) the allocation of funds for Project Elephant during the Eleventh plan; and

(h) the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to protect the elephants?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY):
(a) to (d) Census of elephant for the year 2007 has been completed in all the States except North-Eastern States. As reported by the State Governments, the population of wild elephants have increased compared to the last census of 2002. State-wise comparative population for the year 2002 and 2007 with male-female sex ratio in adult population is given in the enclosed statement I.

(e) and (f) As reported by the State Governments, State-wise and year-wise number of elephants killed for ivory for last three years is given in the enclosed statement II.

(g) The outlay of the Project Elephant during the XI Plan is Rs. 81.99 crores.

(h) The Central Government is continuing with Project Elephant Scheme in the XI Plan for protection of elephants. Financial and technical assistance to the elephant range States are being provided to take up activities to protect the elephants.

Statement I

State	Estimated Number		Male: Female Sex ratio in adult population	
	2002	2007	2002	2007
Jharkhand	772	624	1:1.45	1:1.013
West Bengal (N)	292	300-350	1:1.34	NR
West Bengal (S)	36	25	1:0.93	NR
Orissa	1841	1862	1:2.78	1:2.59
Uttarakhand	1582	1346	1:1.87	1:1.63
Uttar Pradesh	85	380		1:1.59
Tamil Nadu	3052	3867	1:5.72	1:4.92
Karnataka	5838	4035	1:3.44	1:2.3
Kerala	3850	6068	1:2.38	1:2.96
Andhra Pradesh	74	28	1:2.64	1:1.12
Maharashtra	-	7		NR
Chattisgarh	-	122		1:1.5
Total	17422	18664		

NR—Not reported

Statement II

Sl.No.	States	Number of Elephants Killed		
		2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	0	0	0
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0	0	0

1	2	3	4	5
3.	Assam	3	4	1
4.	Bihar	0	0	0
5.	Jharkhand	0	0	0
6.	Karnataka	3	1	4
7.	Kerala	2	3	3
8.	Meghalaya	0	0	2
9.	Mizoram	2	0	0
10.	Nagaland	0	0	0
11.	Orissa	4	7	11
12.	Tamil Nadu	0	0	1
13.	Uttarakhand	2	1	1
14.	Uttar Pradesh	0	0	0
15.	West Bengal	2	0	0
Total		18	16	23

Mobilization of Funds for NHDP

2749. SHRI RAVICHANDRAN SIPPAPARAI: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has drawn out a Plan of mobilization of huge resources for the proposed National Highways Development Projects;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of NHDP project launched and the estimated expenditure likely to be incurred thereon, project-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government has drawn up financing plan for National Highways Development Project (NHDP) whereby sources of financing are, revenue from Cees, surplus from toll revenue, additional budgetary support, external assistance, borrowings from market and financing through Public Private Partnership (PPP).

(c) The details of approved funding for various Phases of National Highways Development Project (NHDP) are given in the enclosed statement.

Statement

Details of approved funding for various Phases of National Highways Development Project (NHDP)

NHDP Phase	Length (km)	Approved Cost Rs. in crore)
Phase I	7,498	30,300
Phase II	6,647	34,339
Phase III	12,109	80,626
Phase V	6,500	41,210
Phase VI	1,000	16,680
Phase VII	700	16,680

National Knowledge Commission

2750. DR. K.S. MANOJ: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the terms of reference of National Knowledge Commission;

(b) whether the National Knowledge Commission has submitted its entire/all reports to the Government;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the action taken by the Government on these Reports;

(e) whether the Planning Commission has taken into consideration the various recommendations of the NKC before formulating the Eleventh Five Year Plan; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) The Terms of Reference of NKC are:

- Build excellence in the educational system to meet the knowledge challenges of the 21st century and increase India's competitive advantage in fields of knowledge.
- Promote creation of knowledge in Science and Technology laboratories
- Improve the management of institutions engaged in Intellectual Property Rights
- Promote knowledge applications in Agriculture and Industry
- Promote the use of knowledge capabilities in making government an effective, transparent and accountable service provider to the citizen and promote widespread sharing of knowledge to maximize public benefit.

(b) and (c) During 2006 and 2007, the National Knowledge Commission submitted the following recommendations: (i) Libraries (ii) Translation (iii) English Language Teaching (iv) National Knowledge Network (v) Right to Education (vi) Vocational Education and Training (vii) Higher Education (viii) National Science and Social Science Foundation (ix) E-governance (x) Health Information Network (xi) Portals (Water, Energy) (xii) Open Educational Courseware (xiii) Legal Education (xiv) Medical Education (xv) Management Education (xvi) Open and Distance Education (xvii) Intellectual Property Rights (xviii) Innovation (xix) Traditional Health Systems (xx) Legal Framework for Public Funded Research

During the current year 2008 the recommendation on School Educations has been submitted.

At present works in process are in the following areas:

- (i) Portals on Teachers and Biodiversity,
- (ii) Engineering Education (iii) More students in Science and Maths (iv) More Ph.Ds (v) Entrepreneurship and (vi) Agriculture

The details of reports are also available on NKC's website: <http://www.knowledgecommission.gov.in>

(d) to (f) The reports/recommendations submitted to the Government are presently under examination in consultation with the concerned Central Ministries and State Governments.

Construction of Roads in Afghanistan

2751. SHRI MILIND DEORA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of benefits that are likely to accrue to India as a result of India's assistance for upgradation/construction of Roads in Afghanistan;

(b) whether there has been any objection from any quarter against the project in view of its security sensitive nature; and

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

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) The Government of India is undertaking the upgradation/construction of a 215 Km road from Delaram to Zaranj in Nimroz Province in Afghanistan. The road will provide connectivity for land-locked Afghanistan to the sea via Iran, and is important for development of infrastructure and promotion of trade in Afghanistan and a considerable reduction of the motorable distance through Iran for Indian goods to Afghanistan and Central Asia.

(b) and (c) There has not been any objection from any quarter against the project, although Taliban insurgents opposing international reconstruction efforts have attacked project sites and personnel on numerous occasions.

Aerial Survey through Satellite

2752. SHRI MANI CHARENAME: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has carried out aerial survey through satellite to ascertain the different categories of lands/areas like forest areas, catchments areas, deforested areas, wastelands, drainage, agriculture lands, etc. in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the benefits that are likely to accrue as a result thereof?

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

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Using satellite data, National Natural Resources Management System (NNRMS), ascertains different categories of lands. The areas/extent of different categories of lands obtained from such projects are:

- Forest areas occupy 6,77,088 sq km (20.60% of geographic area of the country).
- Wastelands occupy around 55 million hectares (17.45% of total geographic area). Out of this, around 41 million hectares is assessed as cultivable/reclaimable, and around 14 million hectares as non-cultivable/non-reclaimable.
- The net sown area during 2005-06 was assessed to be around 141.42 million hectares (43% of the total geographical area of the country). Of this, 50.57 million hectares is double cropped area.

(c) The information is regularly used by the State and Central Governments for planning various developmental activities such as monitoring forest cover and their management; afforestation of degraded forest lands; reclamation of wastelands; improving and management of agricultural areas, etc.

[Translation]

Youth Welfare and Sports Promotion

2753. SHRI MITRASEN YADAV: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of various schemes for promotion of youth welfare and sports under implementation in the country and particularly in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) the total funds allocated and spent during the last three years till date on the said scheme, year-wise, State-wise;

(c) whether the Government has prepared/proposed to prepare any new scheme for this purpose; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ, MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) The details of the major scheme for promotion of youth welfare and sports under implementation by the Ministry in the country including Uttar Pradesh are given in the enclosed statements. There is no specific scheme particularly for the State of Uttar Pradesh.

(b) There is no State-wise allocation under any Scheme of the Ministry. The total expenditure incurred by the Ministry during the last years is as under:-

(Rs. in crore)

Year	Final Allocation (RE)		Expenditure	
	Plan	Non Plan	Plan	Non Plan
2005-06	410.00	68.01	386.10	64.49
2006-07	500.00	63.77	457.20	67.79
2007-08 (till 11.3.2008)	700.00	157.47	485.70	91.18

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The Government has approved implementation of a new Scheme of Panchayat Yuva Krida Aur Khel Abhiyan, (PYKKA), which aims at broad basing sports by way of creation sports infrastructure at the grass root level throughout the country over the next ten years as well as organizing Rural Sports Competition at Village, Block and District levels.

Statement

List of major Youth development and Sports Promotion Schemes of the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports in 2008-09.

Sl.No.	Name of the Scheme
1	2

YOUTH WELFARE SCHEME

1. Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan
2. National Service Scheme
3. National Discipline Scheme
4. National Volunteers Scheme
 - (i) National Service Volunteers Scheme
 - (ii) Rashtriya Sadbhawana Yojana
5. National Programme for Youth and Adolescent Development
 - (i) Promotion of Youth Activities and Training
 - (ii) Promotion of National Integration
 - (iii) Assistance for Development and Empowerment of Adolescent
 - (iv) Promotion of Adventure
6. National Fitness Corps
7. Youth Hostels
8. Rajiv Gandhi National Institute of Youth Development
9. Scouting and Guiding
10. International Co-operation
11. Contribution to United National Volunteers

SPORTS

12. Sports Authority of India
13. Lakshmbai National Institute of Physical Education
14. Incentive to Sports Persons
 - (i) Scholarship
 - (ii) Awards
 - (iii) Meritorious Pension
 - (iv) Rural Sports Programme
15. Assistance to Promotion of Sports Excellence
 - (i) Assistance to National Sports Federations
 - (ii) Talent Search and Training Scheme
16. Promotion of Sports and Games in Schools/Colleges/Universities

1	2
17.	Commonwealth Games 2010 <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Sports Authority of India-Stadia Renovation (ii) All India Tennis Association (AITA) (iii) Preparation of Teams (iv) Upgradation/Creation of venue (v) Overlays (SAI, AITA and Indian Olympic Association (Organizing Committee))
18.	National Sports Development Fund (Earlier part of scheme of Incentives)
19.	Anti-Doping Activities <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (i) National Dope Test Laboratory (ii) National Anti-Doping Agency (iii) World Anti-Doping Agency
20.	Panchayat Yuva Krida aur Khel Abhiyan (PYKKA)
21.	Nagar Palika Yuva Krida aur Khel Abhiyan (NYKKA)
22.	Promotion of Sports among disabled
23.	National Welfare Funds for Sports persons
24.	Arjuna Awards
25.	Dhyanchand Awards
26.	Dronacharya Awards
27.	Physical Education grants to NCC/Public Residential Schools
28.	National Sports Championship for Women

[English]

Indian Women Working in the Gulf Countries

2754. SHRI L. RAJAGOPAL: Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of Indian women are working in the gulf countries; and

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

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. As per reports received from the Indian Missions in the Gulf countries, the following is the number of Indian women working in Gulf countries as on date:

Kuwait	Bahrain	Oman	Saudi Arabia	Qatar
94661	17116	35500	35805	11000

The Mission at UAE has reported that there are a few thousand Indian women workers working in UAE though exact statistics are not available from official sources. State wise details are not available with the Missions.

Alternate Route to Kailash Mansarovar

2755. SHRI VIJOY KRISHNA:
SHRI RAGHUVVEER SINGH KOSHAL:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the route for pilgrimage to Kailash Mansarovar via Laddakh is more comfortable and smooth than the existing one;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the proposal to make this route available for pilgrims; and

(c) the efforts made by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (c) The pilgrimage route to Kailash Mansarovar from Ladakh is not presently open. Government have discussed with China the issue of opening additional routes for pilgrims to Kailash Mansarovar including through Ladakh.

Fire in Abandoned Coal Mines

2756. SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI:
SHRI SUNIL KHAN:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether fire broke out recently in the mines which had been abandoned since 1975 and where illegal mining was being carried out in the Raniganj coal belt in West Bengal;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the list of all the abandoned mines in the area;

(c) whether the Government has inspected these abandoned coal mines during the last three years;

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the names of inspected coal mines; and

(e) the action taken by the Government to stop the illegal mining/subsidence and fire in the coal mines alongwith the safety of workers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) Yes, Sir. Due to illegal mining, fire at two locations under Satgram Area in West Bengal viz. Benalee (East Stagram abandoned since pre-nationalisation) in privately owned land (does not belong to Eastern Coalfields Limited) and J.K. Nagar Fire Project (near Nimcha Village) had occurred and was dealt suitably by Eastern Coalfields Limited and State Government immediately with State Police and Administration support.

(b) A fire had broken out on 31.12.07 at Benalee, which has been successfully dealt by Eastern Coalfields Limited (ECL) and State Government Authority by dozing and filling up of all the pits immediately without any damage or loss of life. The fire had taken place in some illegal pits, which were unscientifically dug in the outcrop side and where there was no working of ECL. The coal, which was left as barrier as required by Coal Mines Regulation 1957, against a jore was being illegally mined by miscreants. ELC is having underground rights to extract coal but the surface land in which the illegal pits were dug are all private lands and thus the owners of the land had allowed the miscreants to dig the pits and to mine the coal.

To save Nimcha village, as advised by Directorate General of Mine Safety (DGMS), a trench/query is being cut in the outcrop side of Nega seam to isolate the village from the fire located on the dip side of the workings. On 04.01.08, a pothole measuring about 10 meters occurred near Nimcha village and smoke was seen coming out from the pot hole. This pot hole was created due to an unauthorized/illegal gallery driven from the edge of the quarry towards the village. Miscreants had driven many similar galleries, which were filled up by dozing.

A list of abandoned mines/production operation suspended within the leasehold of ELC since nationalization is enclosed as statement.

(c) The surface areas of the abandoned mines within the leasehold area are regularly inspected by the concerned colliery officials. When any illegal mining activity is detected, FIR is lodged with the local Police Station. These illegal pits/workings, which were filled/dozed in the past, have been re-dug by miscreants and this requires repeated filling/dozing as and when required.

(d) All disused workings (which have not been sealed off) within the leasehold area are regularly and statutorily inspected by the colliery officials, at monthly intervals. A list of abandoned mines/production operation suspended within the leasehold of ECL since Nationalization is enclosed as statement.

(e) Following action is taken to stop illegal mining/subsidence and fire in the coal mines alongwith the safety of workers.

- (1) Central, State, District and Area Level meetings on illegal mining are regularly held.
- (2) ECL Authority has constituted committees at Area and Company level to inspect sites prone to illegal mining and constant vigil is maintained by the Area authorities and the respective Police Stations.

- (3) Moreover, Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) conduct meetings and surprise inspections with ECL Authorities on regular basis.
- (4) Dozing/filling/sealing of illegal mining sites by pay-loaders dozers with security cover provided by State Police is done when illegal mining sites are identified. As the filled/sealed/dozed excavations are re-dug by miscreants, this activity has become a continuous process.
- (5) ECL Security, CISF and Police are conducting regular raids/checks and have seized illegal coal, coal loaded trucks and apprehended and handed over the miscreants to the Police and FIRs also lodged.
- (6) When illegal mining activities outside leasehold are detected, State Administration is informed.

Statement

List of Closed/Abandoned/Production Operation Suspended Units/Mines/Pits Since Nationalisation

Sl.No.	Name of Mines	Area	Type	Month/Year of Closure	Reason of Closure
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Sanctoria	Sodepur	UG	Apr-76	Exhaustion of minable reserve
2.	East Jemehari	Satgram	UG	Dec-76	Exhaustion of minable reserve
3.	Ratibati 5 and 6	—do—	UG	Sept-78	Exhaustion of minable reserve
4.	KLS Chalbalpur	—do—	UG	May-81	Exhaustion of minable reserve
5.	Chalbalpur Khas	—do—	UG	Jun-80	Exhaustion of minable reserve
6.	New Jemehari Khas	—do—	UG	Feb-80	Exhaustion of minable reserve
7.	Pure Searsole	—do—	UG	Apr-78	Exhaustion of minable reserve
8.	Damoda	Kunustoria	UG	Aug-83	Exhaustion of minable reserve
9.	Seetaldasji	Satgram	UG	Mar-79	Exhaustion of minable reserve
10.	Belrui Dishergarh	Sodepur	UG	Dec-77	Exhaustion of minable reserve
11.	North Brook	Satgram	UG	Jan-82	Exhaustion of minable reserve
12.	Gogla/Adjoy Bank	Pandaveswar	UG	Feb-80	Exhaustion of minable reserve
13.	Manderboni 1, 2 and 4	—do—	UG	6/75, 9/82	Exhaustion of minable reserve
14.	Deoli	Sodepur	UG	Oct-73	Exhaustion of minable reserve

1	2	3	4	5	6
15.	B. Dhemo/Ramjibanpur	—do—	UG	6/73, 6/87	Exhaustion of minable reserve
16.	Banksimulia 7 and 8	Sripur	UG	74-75	Exhaustion of minable reserve
17.	Bright's Rana	—do—	UG	Jan-75	Exhaustion of minable reserve
18.	Madhusudanpur 1 and 2	Kajora	UG	Oct-78	Exhaustion of minable reserve
19.	Central Jamuria	Sripur	UG	Jun-86	Exhaustion of minable reserve
20.	Jote Janaki	Kunustoria	UG	Jul-78	Exhaustion of minable reserve
21.	Rana	Sripur	UG	Apr-89	Exhaustion of minable reserve
22.	New/Central Satgram	Satgram	UG	Apr-88	Exhaustion of minable reserve
23.	Benalee	—do—	UG	Jan-89	Exhaustion of minable reserve
24.	Danula	Pandaveswar	UG	1989	Exhaustion of minable reserve
25.	Krishnanagar	Kenda	UG	May-90	On safety ground
26.	Seetalpur	Sodepur	UG	Sep-90	Geo mining condition
27.	Sankarpur	Bankola	UG	Jan-79	Fire/safety ground
28.	Gimint	Sripur	UG	Aug-89	Fire/drowning of pit
29.	Mahabir	Kunustoria	UG	Nov-89	Drowning of Pit
30.	Kankartala 1 and 2	Pandaveswar	UG	Nov-88	To work through other incline
31.	Tara	Salanpur	UG	Sep-82	Danger of inundation, Offered to WB Govt. for captive mining
32.	Bermondia	—do—	UG	93-94	Exhaustion of minable reserve
33.	Ranipur	Sodepur	UG	93-94	Exhaustion of minable reserve
34.	Lalmatia	Rajmahal	UG	May-89	Exhaustion of minable reserve
35.	Jamuria	Sripur	UG	1996	Exhaustion of minable reserve
36.	Shampur A	Mugma	UG	96-97	on safety ground
37.	Bhanore	Sripur	UG	96-97	Exhaustion of minable reserve
38.	Darnra	—do—	UG	Apr-97	Exhaustion of minable reserve, on safety ground
39.	Samia 3 Pit	Pandaveswar	UG	98-99	Techno Economic ground
40.	Natundanga	—do—	UG	Apr-98	Techno Economic ground
41.	Kankartala 3 and 4	—do—	UG	Apr-98	Techno Economic ground
42.	Sripur	Sripur	UG	98-99	Safety and Techno economic ground

1	2	3	4	5	6
43.	Toposi	Kunustoria	UG	88-99	Exhaustion of minable reserve
44.	Adjoy-II	Sripur	UG	00-01	Exhaustion of minable reserve
45.	Samla	Pandaveswar	UG	02-03	Exhaustion of minable reserve
46.	Chinakuri-II	Sodepur	UG	03-04	Exhaustion of minable reserve
47.	Bhamuria Unit of Parbelia	Sodepur	UG	03-04	Exhaustion of minable reserve
48.	Damagora Incline	SP Mines	UG	03-04	on safety ground
49.	Khairabad	Salanpur	UG	Mar-05	Suspension of operation on safety
50.	BC Incline	Sodepur	UG	May-99	Merged with Patmohona
51.	Kapsara	Mugma	UG	Sep-00	On safety and economic ground
52.	Kuardih 11 and 12 Pit	Satgram	UG	Sep-09	Drawing of Pit
53.	Chapapur-I	Mugma	UG	Apr-87	Exhaustion of minable reserve
54.	Gopinathpur	Mugma	UG	Mar-07	On safety ground
55.	Sangramgarh	Salanpur	UG	Jul-08	On economic and safety ground
56.	Nabakajora/Ghanasyam OC	Kajora	OC	84-85, 89	Exhaustion of minable reserve
57.	Ratibati OC	Satgram	OC	81-82	Exhaustion of minable reserve
58.	Purusottampur OC	Pandaveswar	OC	88-89	Exhaustion of minable reserve
59.	Nimcha OC	Salgram	OC	87-88	Exhaustion of minable reserve
60.	Sheebpur OC	Sripur	OC	83-84	Exhaustion of minable reserve
61.	Mahabir OC	Kunustoria	OC	79-80	Exhaustion of minable reserve
62.	Alkusa-Gopalpur OC	Salanpur	OC	84-85	Exhaustion of minable reserve
63.	Kenda/Dobrana OC	Kenda	OC	77-78	Exhaustion of minable reserve
64.	Dhandadih OC	Kajora	OC	93-94	Safety ground-dewatering of developed workings proposed to be worked by OC might lead to subsidence in and around Harispur Village
65.	Dabor OC	Salanpur	OC	93-94	Exhaustion of minable reserve
66.	Gangaramchak OC	Pandaveswar	OC	93-94	Exhaustion of minable reserve
67.	Poidih OC	Sodepur	OC	91-92	Exhaustion of minable reserve
68.	Dalmiya OC	Salanpur	OC	95-96	Exhaustion of minable reserve
69.	Dalurband OC	Pandaveswar	OC	96-97	Exhaustion of minable reserve

1	2	3	4	5	6
70.	Palastali OC	Pandaveswar	OC	93-94	Exhaustion of minable reserve
71.	Sangramgarh OC	Salanpur	OC	97-98	Exhaustion of minable reserve
72.	Lalmatia OC	Rajmahal	OC	85-86	Exhaustion of minable reserve
73.	Chapapur OC	Mugma	OC	87-88	Exhaustion of minable reserve
74.	Badina/Pusai OC	Mugma	OC	91-92	Exhaustion of minable reserve
75.	Kapasara OC	Mugma	OC	92-93	Exhaustion of minable reserve
76.	Khodia OC	Mugma	OC	2000-01	Exhaustion of minable reserve

[Translation]

Year 2005	—	19
Year 2006	—	65
Year 2007	—	138

Indian Women Deserted/Harassed by their NRI Husbands

2757. SHRI SANJAY DHOTRE:
SHRI L. RAJAGOPAL:
SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH:
SHRI BAPU HARI CHAURE:
SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN:
SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN:

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

(a) the details of complaints received from women harassed by their NRI husbands abroad during the last three years, year-wise and country-wise;

(b) whether the Government has constituted any Committee to look into the matter;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) The complaints received regarding Indian women deserted/harassed/divorced by their overseas Indian husbands for the last three years are as under:

The country wise details are given in the enclosed statement-I.

(b) Yes Sir.

(c) An inter-Ministerial sub committee with Secretary, MOIA as Chairman and representatives from the Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of External Affairs, Ministry of Women and Child Development, Ministry of Law and Justice, National Commission for Women, National Human Rights Commission and representatives from the State Governments of Punjab and Andhra Pradesh had been set up to study the problems faced by Indian women deserted by their overseas Indian spouses and give their recommendations to tackle the problems.

(d) The Ministry has launched an awareness campaign through a guidance booklet, information pamphlets in English, Hindi, and regional languages and through the electronic and the print media to educate and sensitize prospective brides and their families over marital alliances with overseas Indians.

The Ministry has also launched a scheme to provide legal and financial assistance to women deserted by their overseas Indian spouses through Indian Missions/Posts abroad. The details of the scheme are given in the enclosed statement-II.

Statement I

Sl.No.	Name of the Country	Total No. of complaints
1.	U.S.A.	87
2.	U.K.	29
3.	Canada	30
4.	Australia	15
5.	New Zealand	8
6.	Germany	7
7.	Dubai (UAE)	9
8.	Kuwait	3
9.	Qatar	3
10.	Bahrain	3
11.	Iran	1
12.	Hong Kong	1
13.	Japan	1
14.	Singapore	1
15.	Nepal	2
16.	Romania	1
17.	Italy	4
18.	Costa Rica	1
19.	Thailand (Bangkok)	1
20.	Netherlands	3
21.	Central Africa	1
22.	Kenya	3
23.	Norway	1
24.	Philippines	1
25.	Austria	1
26.	Spain	1
27.	Uzbekistan	1
28.	Fiji	1
29.	France	1
30.	Russia	1
Total		222

Statement II***Scheme for Giving Legal/Financial Assistance to Women Deserted by their Overseas Indian Spouses*****I. Objective:**

The objective of the scheme is to provide some financial assistance to needy women in distress who have been deserted by their overseas Indian spouses for obtaining counseling and legal services. The term "Overseas Indian" would include NRIs and foreign citizens of Indian origin. The counseling and legal service would be provided through credible Indian Women's Organizations/Indian Community Associations and NGOs identified for providing such services and empanelled with the Indian Missions in the USA, the UK, Canada, Australia, New Zealand and the Gulf. The scheme is a welfare measure to support women of Indian origin in distress, through the mobilization of the local Indian community in the endeavor and with some financial assistance from the Government.

II. Scope of and Eligibility for the Scheme:

The scheme would be available to the women who have been deserted by their overseas Indian spouses or are facing divorce proceedings in a foreign country subject to the following conditions:-

- (i) The woman is an Indian passport holder.
- (ii) The marriage of the woman has been solemnized in India.
- (iii) The woman is deserted in India or after reaching abroad within five years of the marriage.
- (iv) Divorce proceedings are initiated within five years of the marriage by her overseas Indian spouse.
- (v) An ex-parte divorce has been obtained by the overseas Indian spouse within 10 years of marriage and a case for maintenance and alimony is to be filed.
- (vi) The scheme would not be available to a woman facing criminal charges or having a criminal case decided against her.
- (vii) The domicile of the woman seeking relief under the scheme is not relevant for allowing the benefit. The woman may be domiciled in the

country of her overseas Indian spouse or in India at the time of making the application.

- (viii) Preference may be given to applicants on the basis of financial needs.
- (ix) Assistance will be limited to meeting initial cost and incidental charges for documentation and filing of the case by the Indian women's organization/NGO on the woman's behalf.
- (x) The assistance will be limited to US\$ 1000 per case and will be released to the Indian community organizations/NGO concerned to enable it to take steps to assist the woman in documentation and preparatory work for filing the case.
- (xi) The women's organization/NGO will make efforts to enlist community advocates, preferably women advocates, to extend further legal assistance/appearance in court etc on a pro-bono basis.

Pattern of Assistance

Under the scheme Indian Missions in the countries concerned would empanel credible Indian Women's Organizations/Indian Community Associations/NGOs and their member advocates, preferably women, to provide legal aid to the victims in distress and whose names have been approved by the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs. The applications for providing legal aid received by the Missions would be examined by an officer designated by the Head of the Mission on case-to-case basis and approved by Head of Mission/Deputy Chief of the Mission.

The applications received in the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs will be examined by an internal committee consisting of a legal advisor and an officer of the rank of Director/Deputy Secretary and approved by Secretary. Thereafter, the Ministry will recommend the case to Mission concerned to provide legal aid support. The applicant would also be informed to approach the Mission concerned in this regard.

[English]

IC 814 Hijack Case

2758. SHRI BALASHOWRY VALLABHANENI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Pakistan is not cooperating in extraditing militants associated with the hijacking of IC 814; and

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

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) Yes. The matter is however being pursued with the Government of Pakistan, including through the Joint Anti-terrorism Mechanism and the Home Secretary level talks on Terrorism under the Composite Dialogue.

Coal Gasification Liquefaction

2759. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI:
DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has notified for coal gasification and coal liquefaction as eligible end user for allocation of coal blocks under captive mining;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time by which these coal blocks are likely to be allocated;

(d) whether the Government proposes to explore underground coal gasification to be used as a fuel in view of the "proved" and "indicated" deposits having immense potential;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the current level of energy consumption in India compared to developed and developing countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) and (b) The Government vide Notification No. S.O. 1141 (E) dated 12.07.2007 specified production of syngas obtained through coal gasification (underground and surface) and coal liquefaction as eligible and uses for the purpose of captive coal mining.

(c) it is not possible to indicate the time frame for allocation of Coal Blocks for these purposes.

(d) and (e) Underground Coal Gasification (UCG) mainly aims at extracting energy from the coal seams

which are otherwise not mineable through conventional system. It has potential to produce syn-gas for use in manufacturing of petroleum products and as feedstock in the fertilizer industry or for power generation.

(f) As brought out in the Integrated Energy Policy Report of Expert Committee, the per-capita energy consumption in 2003 in India vis-a-vis the rest of the world is as under:

Country	Total Primary Energy Supply (TPES) Per Capita (KGOE)	Electricity Consumption per Capita (Kwh)
China	1090	1379
Australia	5630	10640
Brazil	1094	1934
Denmark	3852	6599
Germany	4210	6898
India	439	553
Indonesia	753	440
Netherlands	4983	6748
Saudi Arabia	5805	6481
Sweden	5751	15397
United Kingdom	3906	6231
United States	7835	13066
Japan	4052	7816
World	1688	2429

Bhure Lal-Sunita Narain Committee on Environmental Impact

2760. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Committee has been constituted under the chairmanship of Bhure Lal-Sunita Narain for looking at the environmental impact of all projects in Delhi;

(b) if so, the terms of references of the Committee;

(c) whether it is mandatory to obtain consent from Delhi Pollution Control Committee (DPCC) for construction

of projects worth Rs. 50 crores and above and whether DPCC has not given their consent to any of the projects;

(d) if so, whether and what action does the Government propose to take action against the malls coming up without environmental clearance; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Withdrawal of Regulatory Overseeing on Import of GE Seeds

2761. SHRI K. SUBBARAYAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has issued a notification withdrawing the regulatory overseeing on the import of Genetically Engineered seeds;

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

(c) whether the absence of any regulation of entry of Genetically Engineered (GE) seeds is likely to lead to uncontrolled infiltration of such seeds leading to grave threat to health, environment and economy of the country;

(d) if so, whether the Government has formulated any programme for strict adherence to norms in clearance given by the Genetically Engineered Approval Committee (GEAC) to such seeds; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the time by which it is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) No, Sir. The Ministry of Environment and Forests has not issued any such notification.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

(d) The Government of India is following a case by case approval of genetically modified products for which extensive rules and guidelines have been framed for evaluating their environmental and health safety. Only those transgenic crops which are found to be safe for the environment as well as human consumption are approved for environment release.

(e) Does not arise as the 'Rules for Manufacture, Use, Import, Export and Storage of Hazardous Micro Organisms/Genetically Engineered Organisms or Cells Rules, 1989 notified under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 has been in force since 1990.

Revision of Wages for Port and Dock Employees

2762. SHRI P. MOHAN: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Port and Dock Industry is a profit-making organisation;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the total number of employees working in Port and Dock Industry throughout India;

(d) whether Port and Dock employees are covered under decennial wage revision formula; and

(e) if so, the date on which the wages were revised?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) The data of net surplus before tax for the Major Ports during 2006-07 is as under:-

Name of the Port	(Rs. in crores)
Mormugao	40.46
Jawaharlal Nehru	569.14
Kandla	213.18
Cochin	26.66
New Mangalore	109.16
Mumbai	176.47
Visakhapatnam	187.82
Paradip	292.92
Tuticorin	113.45
Chennai	262.78
Kolkata	465.11
Ennore Port Ltd.	34.62

(c) There are approximately 63499 Port and Dock employees/workers working in Major Ports of India.

(d) and (e) The wage revision of Class III and IV Port and Dock employees is done through wage settlements between the Port Management and Major Federations of Port and Dock workers under Section 12(3) of Industrial Disputes Act, 1947. The last wage settlement was signed on 2.8.2000 between the Port Management and Labour Federations. It was effected for the period 1.1.1997 to 31.12.2006.

Illegal Migration to Foreign Countries

2763. SHRI SWADESH CHAKRABORTY:
SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH:

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

(a) whether illegal migration to various countries is taking place, where such migrants are working at extremely low wages and are subjected to various types of exploitations;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) to (c) Under the Emigration Act, 1983, the offices of Protectors of Emigrants (POEs), under the administrative control of this Ministry grant emigration clearance to Indian emigrant workers in the emigration check required (ECR) category proceeding for employment in 17 ECR Countries.

However, cases of workers going abroad on visit/transit visas and taking up employment in that country have come to the notice of this Ministry and Indian Mission from time to time. Whenever such instances are reported, the Missions take up the matter with the local government there to redress the grievances of the workers and extends all help for repatriation of such workers back to India.

Gulf Countries from time to time declare Amnesty for illegal migrants either to regularize their stay or leave the country without penalty. On declaration of such Amnesty the Indian Mission take up the matter with local authorities either for regularizing the stay of such workers or issue of emergency certificates for their deportation back to

India. This Ministry coordinates with the Ministries of Home Affairs and Civil Aviation for ensuring their safe passage back to India.

Cases of exploitation and ill-treatment of Indian workers also come to the notice of this Ministry and Indian Mission from time to time. The problems faced by the overseas Indian workers mainly relate to contractual violations by employers such as non-payment/delayed payment of salary, non-availability of medical facilities, proper food, unhygienic living conditions etc.

In such cases, if registered recruitment agency is involved, action is taken under the provision of Emigration Act, 1983, leading to suspension and cancellation of their registration certificate (RC), 27 RCs have been suspended/cancelled during 2007.

In respect of unregistered recruiting agents, the complaints are referred to concerned State Police Authorities/Protector of Emigrants for investigation and appropriate action as per provisions of the law. 7 prosecution sanctions have been issued during 2007.

In respect of complaints against foreign employers, such foreign employer is placed in the Prior Approval Category (Black list) and as a consequence is not allowed to recruit workers from India. 334 Foreign employers have been placed under such category.

Further in order to ensure the welfare and protection of India workers by the host countries, Government of India has signed bilateral Labour MoUs with UAE in December, 2006 and with Kuwait in April, 2007. An additional protocol with Qatar was signed in November, 2007. These provide for an agreed broad framework for exchange of views leading to better protection of Indian workers while they are employed abroad.

The Emigration Act, 1983 is in the process of being amended to further strengthen the safeguards for the emigrants.

Index of Corruption Perception

2764. SHRI AMITAVA NANDY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the ranking of Indian in the of Corruption Perception Index (CPI) for various countries;

(b) whether the Government has proposed to strengthen the Anti-corruption Bureau in all parts of the country to bring down the corruption level; and

(c) if so, the details of steps taken/proposed to be taken in this regard?

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

(a) According to the Corruption Perception Index, 2007 CPI-2007, published by the Transparency International, Indian is ranked at 72nd place among 180 countries.

(b) and (c) The Government is fully committed to implement its policy of "zero tolerance against corruption" and is moving progressively to eradicate corruption from all spheres of life by improving transparency and accountability. Measures for strengthening the Anti-corruption Bureau in various States are taken by the concerned State Governments. As far as the Central Government is concerned, a number of measures have already been taken by the Government to strengthen the CBI and departmental vigilance organizations. These measures, inter-alia, include enactment of the CVC Act, 2003 and the Right to Information Act, 2005, Whistle Blowers Resolution, 2004, modernization and up-gradation of infrastructure of the CBI, and the appointment of the CVOs on the recommendations of the CVC, formulation and implementation of Annual Action Plans for vigilance activities through pro-active involvement of various Ministries/Departments, issuance of comprehensive instructions on transparency in tendering and contracting processes by the CVC.

Construction and Resurfacing of NHs

2765. SHRI RANEN BARMAN: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of contractors who have carried out the construction and resurfacing works on National Highways; and

(b) procedure and criteria for awarding work to such contractors?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS

(SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) The Ministry is carrying out the construction and resurfacing works on National Highways through the agencies namely, the State Public Works Departments, Border Roads Organization and National Highways Authority of India. The contractors are selected and appointed by the agencies following transparent competitive bidding procedure by open invitation of bids. Both domestic and international contracting firms are engaged depending on the size and nature of the work and meeting the organizational, financial and technical requirements.

[Translation]

Coal Demand by Chhattisgarh Vidyut Board

2766. SHRI AJIT JOGI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has received any proposal for coal demand by Chhattisgarh Vidyut Board for 'Vidyut Kendras' during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the supply of coal to Chhattisgarh Vidyut Board was sufficient;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps being taken by the Government to supply sufficient quantity of coal to them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) and (b) No proposal seeking coal by Chhattisgarh Vidyut Board for "Vidyut Kendras" has been received in this Ministry. However, applications seeking long term coal allocation for proposed 1000 MW thermal power plant at Korba South and 500 MW thermal power plant at Marwah have been received.

(c) to (e) Coal dispatched to power plants located at Korba East and Korba West during last three years is given below:

(figures in thousand tonnes)

Name of Thermal power plant	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
Korba (East)	2232	2716	2568
Korba (West)	4245	4493	4628
Total	6477	7209	7196

The closing stock at these power plants during the last three years, as of April, 2005, 2006 and 2007, as reported by Central Electricity Authority, indicate that these plants had comfortable coal stock ranging between 18 to 33 days. In respect of Korba East (Expansion), there was restricted coal lifting by the power station, by regulating payment. With a view to improve coal stock in this plant also, the concerned coal companies have been advised to augment supplies.

[English]

Issue of Visa for Indian Emigrants to Kuwait

2767. SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS: Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any difference of opinion between India and Kuwait regarding the issue of visas for Indian emigrants to Kuwait;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has taken up the matter with the Kuwaiti Government to resolve the issue; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) to (d) The Government of Kuwait has prescribed a particular format for the labour contract in respect of foreign workers. If the application for visa is not accompanied by the labour contract in that format the work visa is not issued. Under the bilateral MoU signed between India and Kuwait on Labour, Employment and Manpower Development attestation of the labour contract by the Government of Kuwait has been made a procedural requirement in the interest of the worker.

Since the Government of Kuwait is not attesting labour contracts unless they are in the stipulated format, some Indian emigrant workers have been adversely affected. The matter was discussed in the Joint Working Group constituted under the MoU in its first meeting held in New Delhi on 14-15 February 2008 and the labour contract format was finalized with the mutual agreement of the two sides. The Government of Kuwait is taking necessary internal approvals to implement the revised format as per the recommendations of the Joint Working Group.

Funds for Diversion of Forest Land

2768. SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY:
SHRI HARIN PATHAK:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government had constituted ad-hoc Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA) for management of funds received for diversion of forest land for non-forest land under Forest Conservation Act, 1980;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the State Government of Gujarat transferred any funds to CAMPA;

(d) if so, the quantum of funds transferred;

(e) whether the State Government of Gujarat submitted any proposal to receive funds from CAMPA; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY):
(a) and (b) The Government of India in the Ministry of Environment and Forests had constituted Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA) vide the Gazette Notification of 23rd April 2004 for the purpose of management of money realised towards Compensatory Afforestation, Net Present Value and any other money recoverable for diversion of forest lands for non-forest purpose. Since, CAMPA did not become operational, the Ad-hoc CAMPA was constituted in the Month of May, 2006 under orders from the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India for the following functions:-

(i) to ensure that all the monies recovered on behalf of the CAMPA and which are presently lying with the various officials of the State Government are transferred to the bank account(s) to be operated by this body; and

(ii) get audited all the monies received from the User Agencies on behalf of the CAMPA and the income earned thereon by the various State Government officials. The auditors may be appointed by the Comptroller and Auditor

General (CAG). The audit may also examine whether proper financial procedure has been following in investing the funds".

(c) to (f) The State Government of Gujarat had transferred an amount of Rs. 120,57,84,403/- (Rupees one hundred twenty crores, fifty seven lacs, eighty four thousand, four hundred three only) to Ad-hoc CAMPA as on 1st March 2008.

The State Government of Gujarat in the Month of May, 2007 had submitted a proposal for utilization of CAMPA funds to the tune of Rs. 12,33,57,000/- (Rupees twelve crores, thirty three lacs and fifty seven thousand only) for afforestation activities etc. Release of funds to the State/Union Territories including Gujarat could not be made as the Ad-hoc CAMPA has not been authorised by the Hon'ble Supreme Court to release the funds.

People Below Poverty Line

2769. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY:
SHRI P. MOHAN:
SHRI RAM CHANDRA PASWAN:
SHRI K.J.S.P. REDDY:
SHRI PUSP JAIN:
SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA:
SHRI B. MAHTAB:
SHRI RAKESH SINGH:
SHRI G. KARUNAKRA REDDY:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of people in the country living below the poverty line and the number out of them belonging to Minorities, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, State-wise/UT-wise;

(b) the steps taken by the Government to improve their standard of living;

(c) whether the Government proposes to take some new measures to meet the millennium development goal in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) The Planning Commission estimates the percentage of people living below the poverty line at national and state/UT level from the class distribution of persons obtained from

the large sample survey data on household consumer expenditure of the National Sample Survey Organization (NSSO), Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, Government of India, and the poverty line. Applying the projected population, the number of persons in poverty is estimated from the percentage of persons. The latest estimate of the percentage and number of people living below the poverty line at national and state/UT level is available for the year 2004-05 based on the large sample survey consumer expenditure data of the 61st Round of NSS. These are given in the enclosed statement-I.

The percentage of persons living below the poverty line among the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes at national and state/UT level in 2004-05 are estimated from the respective distribution of persons as obtained from the large sample survey data of household consumer expenditure of the 61st Round of NSS and the poverty line for all population. These are given in the enclosed statement II. The estimate of number of poor among the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribes are not available. Separate poverty estimate among the minorities is also not available.

(b) to (d) 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. The central vision of the Eleventh Plan is to trigger a development process, which ensures broad based improvement in the quality of life of the people, especially the poor, the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, minorities, etc. The Government is implementing a number of anti-poverty programmes, such as wage employment and asset generation programmes to raise the income of poor, in addition to the income generated from the general growth process. In alleviating poverty and improving the standard of living of the poor, the major schemes and programmes being implemented include Sampooma Grameen Rozgar Yojana, Swarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana, Indira Awaas Yojana, National Rural Employment Guarantee Programme, Swarn Jayanti Shahri Rozgar Yojana, Targeted Public Distribution System, Antyodaya Anna Yojana, Integrated Child Development Services, Mid-day Meal Scheme, etc. For health, National Rural Health Mission and for education, Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan is being implemented. For water supply and sanitation, the Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme and Total

Sanitation Campaign, respectively are being implemented. The Government has not drawn any separate programme to meet the Millennium Development Goals. However, the Millennium Development Goals are quite similar to the objectives and targets laid down in the Five Year Plans.

Statement I

Number and Percentage of People Below Poverty Line by States/UTs-2004-05

S.No.	States/U.Ts	% age of Persons	No. of Persons (Lakhs)
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	15.8	126.10
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	17.6	2.03
3.	Assam	19.7	55.77
4.	Bihar	41.4	369.15
5.	Chhattisgarh	40.9	90.96
6.	Delhi	14.7	22.93
7.	Goa	13.8	2.01
8.	Gujarat	16.8	90.69
9.	Haryana	14.0	32.10
10.	Himachal Pradesh	10.0	6.36
11.	Jammu and Kashmir	5.4	5.85
12.	Jharkhand	40.3	116.39
13.	Karnataka	25.0	138.89
14.	Kerala	15.0	49.60
15.	Madhya Pradesh	38.3	249.68
16.	Maharashtra	30.7	317.38
17.	Manipur	17.3	3.95
18.	Meghalaya	18.5	4.52
19.	Mizoram	12.6	1.18

1	2	3	4
20.	Nagaland	19.0	3.99
21.	Orissa	46.4	178.49
22.	Punjab	8.4	21.63
23.	Rajasthan	22.1	134.89
24.	Sikkim	20.1	1.14
25.	Tamil Nadu	22.5	145.62
26.	Tripura	18.9	6.38
27.	Uttar Pradesh	32.8	590.03
28.	Uttarakhand	39.6	35.96
29.	West Bengal	24.7	208.36
30.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	22.6	0.92
31.	Chandigarh	7.1	0.74
32.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	33.2	0.84
33.	Daman and Diu	10.5	0.21

1	2	3	4
34.	Lakshadweep	16.0	0.11
35.	Pondicherry	22.4	2.37
All India		27.5	3017.20

Note: The percentage of people below the poverty line (poverty ratio) are estimated separately for rural and urban areas. These are combined to get the poverty ratio for the State/UT as a whole. The following assumptions are made to estimate the rural and urban poverty ratios.

- Poverty Ratio of Assam is used for Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya Mizoram, Manipur, Nagaland and Tripura
- Poverty Line of Maharashtra and expenditure distribution of Goa is used to estimate poverty ratio of Goa.
- Poverty Ratio of Tamil Nadu is used for Pondicherry and Andaman and Nicobar Island
- Urban Poverty Ratio of Punjab is used for both rural and urban poverty of Chandigarh
- Poverty Line of Maharashtra and expenditure distribution of Dadra and Nagar Haveli is used to estimate poverty ratio of Dadra and Nagar Haveli
- Poverty Ratio of Goa is used for Daman and Diu.
- Poverty Ratio of Kerala is used for Lakshadweep.

Statement II

Percentage of Population below Poverty Line of Social Groups by States-2004-05

No.	States	Rural		Urban	
		ST	SC	ST	SC
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	30.5	15.4	50.0	39.9
2.	Assam	14.1	27.7	4.8	8.6
3.	Bihar	53.3	64.0	57.2	67.2
4.	Chhattisgarh	54.7	32.7	41.0	52.0
5.	Delhi	0.0	0.0	9.4	35.8
6.	Gujarat	34.7	21.8	21.4	16.0
7.	Haryana	0.0	26.8	4.6	33.4
8.	Himachal Pradesh	14.9	19.6	2.4	5.6

1	2	3	4	5	6
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	8.8	5.2	0.0	13.7
10.	Jharkhand	54.2	57.9	45.1	47.2
11.	Karnataka	23.5	31.8	58.3	50.6
12.	Kerala	44.3	21.6	19.2	32.5
13.	Madhya Pradesh	58.6	42.8	44.7	67.3
14.	Maharashtra	56.6	44.8	40.4	43.2
15.	Orissa	75.6	50.2	61.8	72.6
16.	Punjab	30.7	14.6	2.1	16.1
17.	Rajasthan	32.6	28.7	24.1	52.1
18.	Tamil Nadu	32.1	31.2	32.5	40.2
19.	Uttar Pradesh	32.4	44.8	37.4	44.9
20.	Uttarakhand	43.2	54.2	64.4	65.7
21.	West Bengal	42.4	29.5	25.7	28.5
	All India	47.3	36.8	33.3	39.9

Legend: SC=Scheduled Castes; ST=Scheduled Tribes;

- N.B: 1. The poverty ratios among the scheduled castes/scheduled tribes are estimated from the respective percentage distribution of persons as obtained from the large sample survey consumer expenditure data of the NSS (61st Round, July 2004 to June 2005) and the poverty line for all population.
2. The estimates are based on the methodology outlined in the Report of the Expert Group on Estimation of Proportion and Number of Poor.
3. All India poverty ratios are worked out from the respective NSS distribution of persons and (implicit) all-India poverty line for all population.
4. The poverty ratio among the Scheduled Tribes population in some states may be treated with caution due to the smallness of the sample household based on which the class distribution of persons have been obtained in the NSS. These states are: in the rural area, Haryana and Punjab, where the number of sample households among the Scheduled Tribes (STs) is 10 or less, and Jammu and Kashmir and Tamil Nadu, where the number of sample households is 15 or less. Similarly, in the urban areas, the states are: Bihar, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Kerala and Punjab, where the number of sample households among the Scheduled Tribes (STs) is 10 or less, and Delhi, Tamil Nadu and Uttarakhand where the number of sample households is 20 or less.

[Translation]

Allocation of Funds to States/Districts

2770. SHRI MAHAVIR BHAGORA:
SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN:

Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) the State-wise and district-wise details of the funds released under Backward Region Grant Fund scheme

during the last three years and the basis on which funds are released;

(b) whether the funds are being utilised as per prescribed norms;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the details of mechanism to monitor the utilisation of funds?

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 Backward Regions Grant Fund Programme (BRGF) was approved in the financial year 2007-07. The Programme has three components, namely, Special Plan for Bihar, Special Plan for the KBK districts of Orissa and the district component covered by the Backward Districts Initiative of the Rashtriya Sam Vikas Yojana (RSVY) subsumed also into the Backward Regions Grants Fund Programme from 2006-07. Special plans for Bihar and the KBK districts of Orissa are handled by the Planning Commission. The allocation under the district component of BRGF consists of two funding windows (a) funds for capacity building of Panchayati Raj Institutions and (b) an united development grant. A statement showing the funds released under these three components, State-wise and district-wise from 2005-06 onwards is enclosed.

(b) and (c) The BRGF provides for united grants which can be used to meet gaps in human development,

infrastructural development and development in the productive sector. The emphasis in the programme is on participative planning through Panchayats and Municipalities so that the goals and outcomes reflect the perceived and the felt needs of the people. Since a plethora of schemes can be taken under BRGF, no norms have been prescribed at the central level. The norms prescribed by the State Governments are followed for the preparation of estimates, quality of work, etc. for various works and schemes undertaken in the programme. Progress Reports for works completed under RSVY have been satisfactory.

(d) The guidelines of BRGF prescribe that regular physical and financial audit of the works under the scheme shall be carried out at the end of each financial year, in each district. The guidelines of the programme also provide for creation of a Review Committee, constituted by the District Planning Committee, at the district level. There is provision of peer reviews up to Intermediate Panchayat level and issue of utilisation certificates by Gram Sabhas to ensure social audit at grassroots level.

Statement

Funds Released Under BRGF

A. Backward Districts Initiative-Release of Funds to RSVY districts.

(Amount in Rs. crore)

Sl.No.	State/District	Total amount to be released	Amount released in 2005-06	Amount released in 2006-07	Amount released in 2007-08	Total Amount released (2003-04 to 2007-08)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Andhra Pradesh (10)					
	Adilabad	45.00	7.50	7.50	7.50	22.50
	Chittoor	45.00		15.00	7.50	22.50
	Karimnagar	45.00	7.50	7.50	15.00	30.00
	Khammam	45.00		7.50	7.50	15.00
	Mahboobnagar	45.00		7.50	7.50	15.00
	Medak	45.00	7.50	7.50	15.00	30.00
	Nalgonda	45.00		7.50	7.50	15.00
	Nizamabad	45.00	7.50	7.50	15.00	30.00
	Vijainagaram	45.00		7.50	15.00	22.50

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	Warangal	45.00	7.50	7.50	7.50	22.50
	Total	450.00	37.50	82.50	105.00	225.00
2.	Arunachal Pradesh (1)					
	Upper Subansiri	45.00	7.50	7.50	7.50	22.50
3.	Assam (5)					
	Dheemaji	45.00		7.50	0.00	7.50
	Karbi-Anglong	45.00		7.50	22.50	30.00
	Kokrajhar	45.00		15.00	15.00	30.00
	N.C. Hills	45.00		15.00	7.50	22.50
	North Lakhimpur	45.00	7.50	7.50	7.50	22.50
	Total	225.00	7.50	52.50	52.50	112.50
4.	Biher (21)					
	Araria	45.00	7.50	7.50	0.00	15.00
	Aurangabad	45.00	7.50	7.50	7.50	22.50
	Bhojpur	45.00	7.50	7.50	15.00	30.00
	Darbhanga	45.00	7.50	15.00	7.50	30.00
	Gaya	45.00	7.50	7.50	7.50	30.00
	Jamui	45.00	7.50	7.50	7.50	22.50
	Jehanabad	45.00		7.50	15.00	22.50
	Kaimpur	45.00	7.50	15.00		22.50
	Katihar	45.00	7.50	15.00		22.50
	Lakhisarai	45.00		15.00		15.00
	Madhubani	45.00	7.50	7.50	7.50	22.50
	Muzaffarpur	45.00	7.50	7.50	7.50	22.50
	Nalanda	45.00	7.50	7.50		15.00
	Nawadah	45.00	7.50	15.00		22.50
	Patna	45.00	7.50	15.00	7.50	30.00
	Purnea	45.00		15.00	7.50	22.50
	Rohtash	45.00	7.50	15.00		22.50

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	Samastipur	45.00	7.50	7.50		15.00
	Sheohar	45.00	7.50	7.50		15.00
	Supaul	45.00	7.50	15.00		22.50
	Vaishali	45.00	7.50	15.00	7.50	30.00
	Total	945.00	135.00	232.50	97.50	472.50
5.	Chhattisgarh (8)					
	Bastar	45.00	7.50	15.00	0.00	22.50
	Bilaspur	45.00	15.00	15.00	7.50	37.50
	Dantewada	45.00	7.50	15.00		22.50
	Jaspur	45.00	15.00	15.00	7.50	37.50
	Kanker	45.00	15.00	15.00	7.50	37.50
	Kawardha/Kabirdham	45.00	15.00	15.00	7.50	37.50
	Rajnandgaon	45.00		22.50	7.50	30.00
	Sarguja	45.00	15.00	15.00	7.50	37.50
	Total	360.00	90.00	127.50	45.00	262.50
6.	Gujarat (3)					
	Dahod	45.00	7.50	15.00	0.00	22.50
	Dangs	45.00	7.50	15.00		22.50
	Panchmahals	45.00		7.50	7.50	15.00
	Total	135.00	15.00	37.50	7.50	60.00
7.	Haryana (1)					
	Sirsa	45.00	15.00	22.50	0.00	37.50
8.	Himachal Pradesh (2)					
	Chamba	45.00	7.50	15.00	7.50	45.00
	Sirmaur	45.00	7.50	15.00	7.50	45.00
	Total	90.00	15.00	30.00	15.00	90.00
9.	Jammu and Kashmir (3)					
	Doda	45.00	7.50	7.50	7.50	22.50
	Kupwara	45.00	7.50	7.50	7.50	22.50

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	Poonch	45.00	7.50	7.50		15.00
	Total	135.00	22.50	22.50	15.00	60.00
10.	Jharkhand (16)					
	Bokaro	45.00	7.50	15.00	15.00	45.00
	Chatra	45.00	15.00	15.00	7.50	37.50
	Dhanbad	45.00	7.50	22.50	7.50	37.50
	Garhwa	45.00	7.50	22.50	7.50	37.50
	Giridih	45.00	7.50	15.00	7.50	30.00
	Godda	45.00	7.50	15.00	7.50	30.00
	Gumla	45.00	7.50	22.50		30.00
	Hazaribagh	45.00	7.50	22.50	7.50	37.50
	Koderma	45.00	7.50	15.00	7.50	30.00
	Latehar	45.00	15.00	15.00		30.00
	Lohardagga	45.00	15.00	15.00		30.00
	Palamu	45.00	15.00	22.50		37.50
	Ranchi	45.00	15.00	15.00	7.50	37.50
	Saraikela	45.00	7.50	30.00		37.50
	Simdega	45.00		22.50		22.50
	West Singhbhum	45.00		30.00	7.50	37.50
	Total	720.00	142.50	315.00	82.50	547.50
11.	Karnataka (4)					
	Bidar	45.00	7.50	7.50	15.00	30.00
	Chitradurg	45.00	7.50	7.50	15.00	30.00
	Davengere	45.00		15.00	7.50	22.50
	Gulbarga	45.00		7.50	7.50	15.00
	Total	180.00	15.00	37.50	45.00	97.50
12.	Kerala (2)					
	Palakkad	45.00	15.00	7.50	0.00	45.00
	Wayanad	45.00		7.50	7.50	15.00
	Total	90.00	15.00	15.00	7.50	60.00

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
13.	Madhya Pradesh (10)					
	Balaghat	45.00	15.00	15.00	0.00	45.00
	Barwani	45.00	15.00	7.50		45.00
	Dindori	45.00	15.00	22.50		45.00
	Khargone	45.00	15.00	7.50		45.00
	Mandla	45.00	15.00	15.00		45.00
	Satna	45.00	15.00	15.00		45.00
	Seoni	45.00	15.00	15.00		45.00
	Shahadol	45.00	15.00	7.50		45.00
	Sidhi	45.00	15.00	15.00		45.00
	Umaria	45.00	15.00	15.00		45.00
	Total	450.00	150.00	135.00	0.00	285.00
14.	Maharashtra (9)					
	Ahmednagar	45.00	7.50	7.50	15.00	30.00
	Bhandara	45.00	7.50	7.50	7.50	22.50
	Chandrapur	45.00	7.50	7.50	15.00	30.00
	Dhule	45.00		15.00	15.00	30.00
	Gadchiroli	45.00		15.00	15.00	30.00
	Gondia	45.00	15.00	7.50	15.00	37.50
	Hingoli	45.00	7.50	7.50	7.50	22.50
	Nanded	45.00	7.50	15.50	7.50	30.00
	Nandurbar	45.00	7.50	7.50	7.50	22.50
	Total	405.00	60.00	90.00	105.00	255.00
15.	Manipur (1)					
	Tamenglong	45.00	15.00	15.00	0.00	30.00
16.	Meghalaya (1)					
	West Garo Hills	45.00		15.00	7.50	22.50

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
17.	Mizoram (1)					
	Lawngtlai	45.00	7.50	15.00	15.00	37.50
18.	Nagaland (1)					
	Mon	45.00	7.50	22.50	0.00	30.00
	Orissa (5)					
	Gajpeti	45.00	7.50	7.50	15.00	30.00
	Ganjam	45.00	15.00	7.50		22.50
	Keonjhar	45.00	7.50	7.50	15.00	30.00
	Mayurbhanj	45.00	7.50	15.00	7.50	30.00
	Sundargarh	45.00	7.50	7.50	15.00	30.00
	Total	225.00	45.00	45.00	52.50	142.50
20.	Punjab (1)					
	Hoshiarpur	45.00	7.50	15.00	7.50	30.00
21.	Rajasthan (3)					
	Banswara	45.00	15.00			45.00
	Dungarpur	45.00	15.00			45.00
	Jhalawar	45.00	7.50	15.00		45.00
	Total	135.00	37.50	15.00	0.00	135.00
22.	Sikkim (1)	45.00	7.50	22.50	7.50	37.50
23.	Tamil Nadu (5)					
	Tiruvannamalai	45.00	15.00		0.00	15.00
	Dindigul	45.00	15.00	7.50	0.00	22.50
	Cuddalore	45.00	15.00	7.50	0.00	22.50
	Nagapattinam	45.00	15.00	7.50	7.50	30.00
	Sivganga	45.00	15.00	7.50	7.50	30.00
	Total	225.00	75.00	30.00	15.00	120.00
24.	Tripura (1)					
	Dhalai	45.00	7.50	15.00	7.50	30.00
25.	Uttarakhand (3)					
	Chamoli	45.00	7.50	15.00	7.50	37.50

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	Champawat	45.00	7.50	7.50	15.00	37.50
	Tehri Garhwal	45.00	7.50	15.00	7.50	37.50
	Total	135.00	22.50	37.50	30.00	112.50
26.	Uttar Pradesh (21)					
	Azamgarh	45.00	7.50	15.00	7.50	30.00
	Banda	45.00	7.50	15.00	7.50	30.00
	Barabanki	45.00	7.50	7.50	15.00	30.00
	Chandauli	45.00	7.50	22.50	7.50	37.50
	Chitrakoot	45.00	7.50	7.50	7.50	22.50
	Fatehpur	45.00	15.00	15.00		30.00
	Gorakhpur	45.00	7.50	15.00		22.50
	Hamirpur	45.00	7.50	22.50		30.00
	Hardoi	45.00	7.50	15.00	7.50	30.00
	Jalaun	45.00	15.00	7.50	7.50	30.00
	Jaunpur	45.00	7.50	15.00		22.50
	Kaushambi	45.00	15.00	15.00	7.50	37.50
	Kushinagar	45.00	7.50	7.50	7.50	22.50
	Lalitpur	45.00	15.00	7.50	15.00	37.50
	Mahoba	45.00	7.50	22.50	7.50	37.50
	Mirzapur	45.00	7.50	15.00	7.50	30.00
	Pratapgarh	45.00	7.50	7.50	15.00	30.00
	Raebareli	45.00	7.50	22.50		30.00
	Sitapur	45.00	15.00	15.00		30.00
	Sonbhadra	45.00	15.00	15.00		30.00
	Unnao	45.00	7.50	15.00	15.00	37.50
	Total	945.00	202.50	300.00	135.00	637.50
27.	West Bengal (8)					
	24 South Paraganas	45.00		7.50	0.00	7.50
	Bankura	45.00	7.50	7.50	15.00	30.00

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	Birbhum	45.00	7.50	7.50	7.50	22.50
	Jalpaiguri	45.00	7.50	7.50	7.50	22.50
	Midnapur West	45.00		7.50	7.50	15.00
	North Dinajpur	45.00	7.50	7.50	15.00	30.00
	Purulia	45.00	7.50	7.50	7.50	22.50
	South Dinajpur	45.00	7.50	7.50	15.00	30.00
	Total	360.00	45.00	60.00	75.00	180.00
28.	NABARD	9.30	3.24	3.30	0.00	6.54
	Total	6624.30	1210.74	1818.30	937.50	5610.12

B. Release of Capacity Building Grant under BRGF In 2006-07 & 2007-08 (As on 17.03.2008)

(Rs. in crore)

Sl. No.	States	Districts	Total entitlement per year	Amount released in 2006-07	Amount released in 2007-08
1.	Andhra Pradesh	13	13	13.00	13
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	1	1	0.50	
3.	Assam	11	11	9.12	
4.	Bihar	36	36	14.46	
5.	Chhattisgarh	13	13	9.10	
6.	Himachal Pradesh	2	2		2.00
7.	Karnataka	5	5		10.00
8.	Kerala	2	2		2.00
9.	Madhya Pradesh	24	24	14.96	24.00
10.	Maharashtra	12	12	6.19	
11.	Orissa	19	19		19.00
12.	Rajasthan	12	12	7.87	
13.	Sikkim	1	1	0.95	
14.	Uttar Pradesh	34	34		25.30
15.	West Bengal	11	11	10.50	
16.	Jharkhand	21	21		21.00
	Total			66.65	116.30

C. Release of Developmental Grants under BRGF 2006-07 and 2007-08 (as on 17.3.2008)

(Amount in Rs. Crore)

State	Sl.No.	Districts	Amount released in 2006-07	Amount released in 2007-08
1	2	3	4	5
Andhra Pradesh	1.	Anantapur		
	2.	Cuddapah		28.32
	3.	Rangareddi		23.85
	4.	Warangal		20.87
	5.	Karimnagar		23.32
	6.	Mehboobnagar		27.50
	7.	Medak		20.37
	8.	Vijianagaram		17.01
	9.	Khammam		24.08
	10.	Chittoor		26.10
	11.	Adilabad		23.89
	12.	Nizamabad		18.63
	13.	Nalgonda		24.35
Assam	1.	Hailakandi		10
	2.	Morigaon		7.5
	3.	Cachar		10
	4.	Barpeta		7.5
	5.	Kokrajhar		13.08
	6.	Bongaigaon		11.9
Chhattisgarh	1.	Korba		19.47
	2.	Dhamtari		12.95
	3.	Koriya		19.19
	4.	Mahasammund		18.64

1	2	3	4	5
	5.	Raigarh		20.84
	6.	Kanker		12.28
	7.	Bilaspur		18.78
	8.	Rajnandgaon		16.52
	9.	Bastar		20.57
	10.	Kabirdham		12.05
	11.	Sarguja		16.52
	12.	Dantewada		21.29
	13.	Jashpur		14.06
Karnataka				
	1.	Raichur		7.50
	2.	Bidar		17.11
	3.	Chitradurga		18.19
	4.	Davnagere		16.33
	5.	Gulbarga		25.34
Kerala				
	1.	Palakkad		9.25
Madhya Pradesh				
	1.	Balaghat	1	16.54
	2.	Barwani	1	13.14
	3.	Betul	1	17.93
	4.	Chhattarpur	1	13.91
	5.	Damoh	1	15.63
	6.	Dhar	1	17.47
	7.	Dindori		14.58
	8.	Guna/Ashoknagar	1	15.21
	9.	Jhabua	1	16.91
	10.	Katni	2.0450997	13.56
	11.	Khandwa/Burhanpur	1	17.01

1	2	3	4	5
	12.	Khargone	1	16.63
	13.	Mandia	1	11.14
	14.	Panna	1	15.05
	15.	Raigarh	1	15.28
	16.	Rewa	1	17.03
	17.	Satna	1	15.75
	18.	Sheopur	1	14.19
	19.	Shivpuri	1	18.18
	20.	Shahdol/Annuppur		15.56
	21.	Sidhi		16.24
	22.	Seoni		17.11
	23.	Tikamgarh	1	14.01
	24.	Umariya		20.36
Manipur				
	1.	Tamenglong		11.25
	2.	Churachandpur		12.24
	3.	Chandel		11.17
Mizoram				
	1.	Lawngtlai		9.94
	2.	Saiha		9.03
Nagaland				
	1.	Mon		9.45
	2.	Wokha		4.51
	3.	Tuensang/Longleng/Kiphre		17.93
Orissa				
	1.	Boudh		12.51
	2.	Kandhamal (Phulbani)		5
	3.	Naupada		19.26
	4.	Sonepur		12.12

1	2	3	4	5
	5.	Dhenkanal		5
	6.	Jharsuguda		15.99
	7.	Debagarh		16.28
	8.	Sambalpur		21.37
	9.	Koraput		14.36
	10.	Kalahandi		13.90
	11.	Malkangiri		12.45
	12.	Rayagada		13.83
	13.	Nabarangpur		13.05
	14.	Ganjam		20.56
	15.	Gajapati		10.54
	16.	Sundargarh		15.53
	17.	Mayurbhanj		16.13
	18.	Keonjhar		13.72
	19.	Bolangir		11.12
Rajasthan				
	1.	Karauli		22.50
	2.	Udaipur		29.57
	3.	Sawai Madhopur		21.63
	4.	Jaisalmer		40.90
	5.	Tonk		33.33
	6.	Banswada		22.51
	7.	Chittorgarh		24.21
	8.	Barmer		35.23
	9.	Jalore		25.90
	10.	Sirohi		18.84
	11.	Dungarpur		21.03
	12.	Jhalawar		15.16

1	2	3	4	5
West Bengal				
	1.	Purba Medinipur		10
	2.	Malda		10
	3.	Murshidabad		10
	4.	Bankura		19.66
	5.	South 24 Parganas		27.60
	6.	Jalpaiguri		19.70
	7.	Purulia		17.93
	8.	Dakhsin Dinajpur		13.40
	9.	Birbhum		17.87
	10.	Medinipur West		25.71
	11.	Uttar Dinajpur		15.88
Biher				
	1.	Banka		14.1
	2.	Begusarai		14.93
	3.	Bhagalpur		15.47
	4.	Buxar		12.88
	5.	Khagaria		12.5
	6.	Kishanganj		12.81
	7.	Munger		12.16
	8.	Paschim Champaran	18.36	
	9.	Purba Champaran		19.41
	10.	Saran		17.2
	11.	Sheikhpura		10.43
	12.	Sitamarhi		15.87
	13.	Aurangabad		15.08
	14.	Darbhanga		17.07
	15.	Jamui		13.72
	16.	Kaimur		13.66

1	2	3	4	5
	17.	Katihar		15.7
	18.	Madhubani		18.4
	19.	Nalanda		15.25
	20.	Nawadah		14.2
	21.	Patna		20.51
	22.	Samastipur		17.65
	23.	Sheohar		10.22
	24.	Supaul		13.95
	25.	Muzzafarpur		18.53
	26.	Purnea		16.13
	27.	Vaishali		15.75
	28.	Madhepura		13.19
	29.	Jehanabad		13.03
	30.	Lakhisarai		11.42
	31.	Gaya		19.06
	32.	Gopalganj		14.6
	33.	Araria		15.08
	34.	Saharsa		13.07
		Total	20.0451	2415.35

Advance of Ten Lakh to each district 25

Total Developmental Grant Component 2440.35

Abstract of Releases in 2007-08 Under Backward Regions Grant Fund as on 17.03.2008

Component	Amount (Rs. in crore)
A RSVY	937.50
B Capacity Building	116.30
C Developmental grants	2440.35
D Funds Earmarked for Programme Management and Development of Data Base	2.50
Total	3496.65

Adolescent Motherhood

2771. SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of adolescents below 15 years of age who attained motherhood during the last three years; and

(b) the remedial measures taken/proposed to be taken to discourage to be the mother at a tender-age?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) According to the NFHS III Survey (2005-06), the proportion of women aged 15-19 years (during the period of survey) who had attained motherhood by the age of 15 years is 1.2 per cent.

(b) Under the National Adolescent Health Strategy, there is a focus on educating and counselling the adolescent girls in the age group 10-19 years from attaining early motherhood. This is done by advocating behaviour change on issues such as age at marriage and delaying marriage till they attain at least the legal age of marriage. Service package at public health outposts aim to provide information on importance of spacing and contraception, fertility awareness, counselling on RTI/STI and prevention and management of unwanted pregnancy.

[English]

Energy Policy

2772. PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR:
PROF. M. RAMADASS:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to announce a long term Energy Policy with a view to promote environment friendly sources of energy;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which it is likely to be announced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) Planning Commission released the Expert Committee Report on

the Integrated Energy Policy (IEP) in August, 2006. The IEP lays specific emphasis on promoting environmental friendly sources of energy.

(b) The details are available in the IEP report at the Planning Commission website www.planningcommission.nic.in.

(c) Several recommendations of the IEP Report are already under implementation while other recommendations are under consideration by the various line Ministries/Departments.

e-Chaupals

2773. SHRI K.J.S.P. REDDY: Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) whether the introduction of IT based knowledge system at panchayat level is likely to help the concept of e-chaupals;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the extent of success achieved by e-chaupals in different parts of the country, specially in Andhra Pradesh?

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 objective of computerization of Panchayats in the country is to make Government services accessible to the common man in his locality, through common service delivery outlets and ensure efficiency, transparency & reliability of such services at affordable costs to realize the basic needs of the common man. One of the goals of the Government to meet this vision is to integrate information across different departments in the Centre, States and Local Government. The National Policy for Farmers (Para 5.8.2) has also underlined the potential of Information Technologies that would be harnessed by establishing Gyan Chaupals in villages.

(c) Some States have taken lead in e-Governance at Gram Panchayat Level with or without financial assistance of the Ministry of Panchayati Raj. The number of such Gram Panchayats is approximately 35000 including those in Andhra Pradesh. Ministry of Panchayati Raj doesn't maintain information on e-Chaupals in different parts of the country.

*[Translation]***Pollution in Rivers**

2774. SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD:
SHRI GIRIDHARI YADAV:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether pollution is increasing in several major rivers in Poorvanchal and Bihar;

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

(c) the details of work undertaken by the Government to check pollution in these rivers and the funds spent thereon during the last three years; and

(d) the progress made as a result of these works in checking/abatement of pollution?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) Water quality of major rivers namely, Ganga and Gomti in the eastern part of Uttar Pradesh and Ganga in the State of Bihar is monitored at 15 locations by the Central Pollution Control Board. The Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD), a key indicator of water quality is complying with the designated water quality criteria at most of the locations in Ganga except at Allahabad, Varanasi and Ghazipur. As regards the river Gomti, the BOD is not complying with designated criteria at Janunpur and Varanasi. Rapid urbanization and inadequate collection and treatment of sewage, leading to discharge of large part of untreated sewage have been among the main reasons causing pollution in these rivers.

(c) and (d) Pollution abatement works have been undertaken in the towns located in the eastern part of Uttar Pradesh namely, Allahabad, Varanasi, Mirzapur, Mugalsrai, Ghazipur and Chunar located on the banks of the river Ganga, and Jaunpur and Sultanpur located on the banks of the river Gomti. In Bihar, pollution abatement works have been undertaken in the towns namely, Arrah, Barahiya, Barh, Bhagalpur, Buxar, Chapra, Fatwah, Munger, Patna, Sultanganj, Hajipur, Kahelgaon and Mokamah along the banks of the river Ganga. The works include Interception and Diversion of Sewage, Sewage Treatment Plants, Low Cost Sanitation, Improved Wood Based/Electric Crematoria, River Front Development etc. So far, 142 projects have been completed along with

creation of sewage treatment capacity of 297.8 million liters per day in these towns of eastern part of Uttar Pradesh and the State of Bihar, and total expenditure of Rs. 22.10 crore has been incurred during the last three years. As per the water quality monitoring done by the reputed institutions in the country, in spite of the phenomenal increase in urban centres along the banks of the river, the water quality of river Ganga has shown discernible improvement at most of the locations over the water quality prior to implementation of Ganga Action Plan.

*[English]***Healthcare Facility through Satellite**

2775. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY:
SHRI NAND KUMAR SAI:

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

(a) whether the Government proposes to provide healthcare solutions in remote areas in the country through satellite connectivity; 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) Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has finalized the guidelines for setting up Rural Telemedicine Network. The guidelines include suggested contours, possible thematic areas and generic costing of key components. Funds for the start up activities have also been released to 17 States including North Eastern States.

Population Stabilisation

2776. SHRI JASUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD:
SHRI M.K. SUBBA:

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

(a) the targets fixed for stabilization of population during the Eleventh Five Year Plan;

(b) the extent to which these targets have been achieved so far;

(c) the efforts being made the Government in this regard;

(d) the main steps taken and programmes implemented during the 8th, 9th and 10th Five Year Plans to boost the population control; and

(e) the allocation made and expenditure incurred during 8th, 9th and 10th Plans and the budgetary provisions made therefor under the Eleventh Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (d) The 11th Five Year Plan has given time bound goals in respect of Infant Mortality Rate, Maternal Mortality Rate and Total Fertility Rate, which are in consonance with targets set under the National Population Policy 2000 and National Rural Health Mission.

Better performing 15 States/UTs, which constitute about 44% of the population in 2001, have already achieved the replacement level Total Fertility Rate (TFR) of 2.1. 10 States, which constitute about 14% of the population, are hopeful of achieving the replacement level in the near future as they have attained TFR between 2.4 and 2.9 by 2010. Remaining States/UTs namely, Bihar, Uttarakhand, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Meghalaya, Tripura and Dadra & Nagar Haveli, which constitute about 42% of the total population, may take longer period to achieve this goal.

India was the first country globally in 1952 to launch Family Planning programme, emphasizing fertility regulation for reducing birth rates to stabilize the population at a level consistent with the requirement of national economy. During the seventies, the family planning programme was focused mainly on terminal methods and the programme received a set back due to the rigid implementation of a target based approach. Since April 1st 1996, the 'Target Free Approach' has been adopted all over India with a focus on decentralized participatory planning. Under this new approach, attention is being paid to enlarging family welfare services and ensuring community participation at the grass-root level. The family welfare programme is now fully voluntary and the main effort of the Government has been to provide service and to encourage the citizens by information, education and communication to use such services. It gives choice to the couple to adopt the size of their family by adopting the family welfare methods best suited to them.

The Government is providing central assistance to the States/UTs under National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) and second phase of Reproductive and Child Health (RCH II) programme for implementation of various family welfare activities to achieve population stabilisation in the country. Under the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) emphasis has been laid to provide accessible, affordable, accountable, effective, reliable, and quality primary health care through creation of a cadre of Accredited Social Health Activities (ASHA), improved hospital care, decentralization of programme to district level to improve intra sectoral convergence and effective utilization of resources.

As a part of NRHM, fixed day services both for terminal and spacing methods of family planning in all the upgraded Primary Health Centres, Community Health Centres, Districts Hospitals and Sub-District Hospital has been taken up in all the States/UTs. The enhanced package of compensation for loss of wages to persons who undergo sterilization has been introduced since September 2007.

The Government has also launched a Family Planning (indemnity) Insurance Scheme since November, 2005, to provide insurance cover to acceptors of sterilization across the country and also provides indemnity insurance cover to doctors/health facilities including private accredited facilities, as an effort towards encouraging adoption of sterilisation by eligible couples and giving protection to the service providers.

(e) The allocation and expenditure for family welfare schemes during the Plan period are given below:

Plan Period	Rupees in lakhs	
	Budgetary Provision	Expenditure
VII	681600.00	703070.83
IX	1496870.00	1396869.55
X	3024100.00	2537378.57*
XI	8141192.00	—

*Figures are provisional

Setting up a Committee to Sort out Issues of MPT

2777. SHRIMATI PRIYA DUTT: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Standing Committee has been set up to sort out various issues of Mumbai Port Trust vis-a-vis development of Mumbai city;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the said Committee has submitted its report;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Union Government thereto; and

(e) if not, the time by which the report is likely to be submitted?

(b) if so, the details of the stretches pending for completion under the project, State-wise and the reasons therefor;

(c) the detail of land yet to be acquired for the stretches under the project, State-wise;

(d) the concrete steps taken by the Union Government to expedite the acquisition of land; and

(e) the time by which the pending balance of work under 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) About 195 km of road is left for completion in Golden Quadrilateral (GQ) Project. The detail of stretches of Golden Quadrilateral (GQ), State-wise, pending for completion is given in the enclosed statement-I. These projects have been pending due to problems associated with land acquisition, shifting of utilities delay in obtaining clearances for cutting of trees and poor performance by some of the contractors.

(c) The details of land yet to be acquired for stretches under GQ Project is given in the enclosed statement-II.

(d) Steps taken by the Government to expedite the acquisition of land are given in the enclosed statement-III.

(e) The Golden Quadrilateral project is likely to be substantially completed by December, 2008.

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (e) Yes, Sir. A Standing Committee comprising both Chairman of Mumbai Port Trust and the Chief Secretary of Government of Maharashtra with their respective officers as members is being constituted to look into the whole issue. The Ministry proposes to issue the necessary notification after finalizing the terms of reference of the Committee.

Stretches Pending for Completion Under GQP

2778. SHRI M. RAJA MOHAN REDDY:
SHRI BADIGA RAMAKRISHNA:

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

(a) whether only a portion of 230 kms. of road is left for completion of Golden Quadrilateral Project in the country;

Statement I

Detail of pending stretches of Golden Quadrilateral (GQ)

Sl.No.	Contract	NH No.	(all length in Km)		
			Total length	4-laned length	Balance length for 4 laning
1	2	3	4	5	6
Karnataka					
1.	Hubli-Haveri	4	64.5	63.45	1.05
2.	Haveri-Harihar	4	56	46.85	9.15
3.	Harihar-Chitradurga	4	77	62.92	14.08

1	2	3	4	5	6
4.	Chtradurga Bypass	4	18	6.61	11.39
5.	Chitradurga-Sira	4	66.7	66.7	0
6.	Tumkur Bypass	4	13	9.7	3.3
West Bengal					
7.	Bridges section (WB-IIi)	6	1.732	0.48	1.252
Orissa					
8.	Balasore-Bhadrak (OR-III)	5	62.64	35.56	27.08
9.	Bridges section (OR-V)	5	11.587	10.75	0.837
10.	Bhubaneswar-Khurda (OR-I)	5	26.3	26.3	0
11.	Sunakhala-Ganjam (OR-VII)	5	55.713	21.202	34.511
12.	Ganjam-Icchapuram (OR-VIII) (Balance work)	5	50.8	4.15	46.65
Uttar Pradesh					
13.	Agra-Shikohabad (GTRIP/I-A)	2	50.83	49.29	1.54
14.	Shikohabad-Etawah (GTRIP I-B)	2	59.02	56	3.02
15.	Etawah Bypass (Balance Work)	2	13.6	13.6	0
16.	Etawah-Rajpur (GTRIP/I-C)	2	72.825	72.83	-0.005
17.	Kanpur-Fatehpur (GTRIP/II-B)	2	51.5	51.2	0.3
18.	Fatehpur-Khaga (TNHP/II-C)	2	77	65.3	11.7
19.	Allahabad Bypass Contract I (Bridge)	2	1.02	2	1.02
20.	Allahabad Bypass Contract II	2	38.987	34.7	4.287
21.	Allahabad Bypass Contract III	2	44.708	32.96	11.748
22.	Handia-Varanasi (TNHP/III-C)	2	72	72	0
Uttar Pradesh (55 km)/ Bihar (21 km)					
23.	Varanasi-Mohania (GTRIP/IV-A)	2	76	73.97	2.03
Bihar					
24.	Sasaram-Dehri on-sonne (GTRIP/IV-C)	2	30	27.06	2.94
Jharkhand					
25.	Gorhar-Barwa Adda (TNHP/V-C)	2	78.75	71.69	7.06
Total		1170.212	1170.212	975.272	194.940

Statement II

Details of land yet to be acquired for stretches under GQ Project

(As on 29.02.2008)

State	Balance area to be acquired (in Hectare)
Tamil Nadu	82.00
Gujarat	2.32
Maharashtra	3.01
West Bengal	27.00
Karnataka	7.71
Jharkhand	1.00
Andhra Pradesh	14.10
Uttar Pradesh	1.00
Total	138.14

Statement III*Steps Taken to Expedite Land Acquisition*

- (i) **Simplification of Procedure for issuing Notifications for acquisition of land;** Notifications for acquisition of land under Section 3 of NH Act were previously vetted from legal angle by Ministry of Law. This contributed to delay in issuing/publishing Notifications. Procedure for issue of such Notifications has been simplified, and they are now issued/published after being legally vetted internally by NHA.
- (ii) **Facilities provided to Project Implementation Units (PIUs);** In order to assist PIUs in performance of functions pertaining to land acquisition, each PIU has been authorized to engage one retired State Govt. Revenue Officer supported by one Surveyor/Amin for each district on contract. Proposals for engagement of additional staff required either because of large area of land to be acquired, or because land has to be acquired within a short time, are considered on case to case basis.
- (iii) **Facilities provided to Competent Authority for land acquisition;** Provision of adequate staff and infrastructure to Competent Authorities for land acquisition is primarily the responsibility of concerned State Government. However, due to large volume of work or time constraints, Competent Authorities sometimes request NHA for additional support. Additional staff/infrastructure is provided to Competent Authorities on case to case basis for specified periods within which land acquisition is required to be completed.
- (iv) **Appointment of State Level Coordinator for land acquisition/pre-construction;** NHA HQ has nominated a Project Director located in the State to function as State Level Coordinator for Land Acquisition/Pre-construction, whose functions are as follows:—
- Collection of information from all PIUs in the State, on pending land acquisition matters for various projects, and forwarding the same to HQ as per specified formats.
 - Coordination with State Government officers on regular basis for all matters pertaining to land acquisition.
 - Ensuring timely coordination meetings at the State level to resolve pending issues.
- (v) **Appointment of CGMs to manage/implement NHDP Projects in States;** NHA has recently appointed CGMs to manage/implement NHDP Projects in States. These officers are responsible for coordinating land acquisition issues (pertinent to stretches within State assigned to them) between concerned Technical Division/Land Acquisition Division/State Level Coordinator/State Government Authorities.
- (vi) **Formation of District Coordination Committees;** land acquisition under NH Act 1956 is conducted primarily at district level. Accordingly, as a measure for strengthening District level mechanisms for land acquisition/pre-construction activities, Chairman has written to Chief Secretaries of Govts. of States in which NHDP Projects are being implemented requesting for constitution of District Coordination

Committees (DCCs) for resolving issues related to land acquisition. The DCCs are to be headed by District Magistrates and comprise NHA's Project Director, Competent Authority for Land Acquisition, District Departmental Head of Departments like PWD, Telephone, Electricity, Jal Nigam, and Municipality, and District Forest Officer, Meetings of DCC (to be held monthly, and as and when requisitioned by NHA PD) would go a long way in clearing hurdles coming in way of timely acquisition of land and (and also completion of pre-construction activities such as shifting of electric poles, telephone lines, water/sewage pipes, cutting of trees etc.)

- (vii) As per Model Concession Agreement between NHA and Contractor/Concessionaire for execution of projects on BOT basis, 80% of land (relaxed to 50% for calendar year 2007) required for construction of the Highway is to be handed over (by NHA) to Contractor/Concessionaire 04-06 months after signing of Concession Agreement.

Quality Control and Standards for Blood Banks

2779. SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA:
SHRI RAVICHANDRAN SIPPAPARAI:
SHRI MADAN LAL SHARMA:

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

(a) whether the blood banks in the country have not adopted the prescribed quality standards and organized storage system, which results in the spread of deadly viruses like HIV and Hepatitis B through blood transfusion;

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

(c) whether the National Accreditation Board for Hospitals & Healthcare Providers (NABH) has planned a programme to ensure quality control standards for blood; and

(d) if so, the facts thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) No Sir. Standards have been prescribed by the National Blood Transfusion Council to

be followed by blood banks in the country. Under the Drug & Cosmetic Act, all the blood units have to be stored in proper storage conditions after mandatory testing for five transfusion transmissible infections, namely HIV, Hepatitis B and C Syphilis and Malaria.

(c) and (d) National Accreditation Board for Healthcare Providers (NABH) has launched the accreditation programme for Blood Banks/Blood Centres and Transfusion Services on January 25, 2008. The accreditation programme strives to ensure quality and safety in the collection, processing, testing and transfusion of blood products. The basis for assessment of blood bank will include compliance with the accreditation standards and national requirements.

Upgradation and Widening of Single Lane National Highways

2780. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE:
SHRI K.S. RAO:
SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN:

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

(a) the status of works for upgradation and maintenance of national highways under the various phases of NHDP;

(b) the funds allocated and spent thereon, till date, project-wise;

(c) the names of the agencies through which these projects are being executed;

(d) the length of single lane national highways in each State;

(e) whether the Government proposes to create a special and separate undertaking to upgrade and widen the single lane national highways with Public-Private Partnership; 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) to (c) The details of the completed projects under National Highways Development Project (NHDP) implemented by National Highways Authority of India (NHA) are given in the enclosed statement I. The details of projects of NHDP under implementation by NHA are given in the enclosed statement II.

(d) The details of single lane National Highways in each state are given in the enclosed statement II.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

Statement I

Details of completed project under NHDP

S.No.	Stretch	NH No.	Total Length Implemented (Km)	By	Expenditure (Rs. Crs.)	Contractor
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
NHDP Phase I						
1.	Sikandara-Bhaunri (TNHP/II A) Km 393-km 470 through MDR route 16 km shorter.	2	62	NHAI	311.09	IT Thal & Som Dutt Builders India (JV)
2.	Khaga-Koldraj (TNHP/III-A) Km 115-Km 158	2	43	NHAI	193.46	IRCON International Ltd.
3.	Mohania-Sasaram (TNHP/IV-B)	2	45	NHAI	256.01	LG Engg. & Construction Ltd.
4.	Dehri-on Sone-Aurangabad (TNHP/IV-D) Km 140-km 180	2	40	NHAI	263.12	Ssangyong Korea-Oriental Structural Engineers Pvt. Ltd.
5.	Aurangabad-Barachatti (TNHP/V-A) km 180-km 240	2	60	NHAI	316.33	Oriental Structural Engineers Pvt. Ltd. Gammon India Ltd.
6.	Barachatti-Gorhar (GTRIP/V-B) Km 240 Km 320	2	80	NHAI	504.38	Larsen & Toubro Ltd. Hindustan Construction Company Ltd. (JV)
7.	Barwa Adda-Barakar km 398.75-km 442	2	43	NHAI	208.54	BSC-RBM-PATI (JV)
8.	Ranigarh-Panagarh km 475-km 517	2	42	NHAI	228.58	BSC-RBM-PATI (JV)
9.	Panagarh-Palsit km 517-km 581	2	64.457	NHAI	612.01	Garnuda Malaysia-WCT Malaysia
10.	Palsit-Dankuni km 581-km 646	2	65	NHAI	442.1	Consortium of Gomuda (Malaysia) & WCT Engineering (Malaysia)
11.	Vivekananda Bridge and Approach	2	6	NHAI	533.86	SVBTG Consortium of Pacific Alliance Inc-PBIDC-STRADec Inc-CES & L & T
12.	Gurgaon-Kotputli km 36-km 162	8	126	NHAI	370.48	BSC-RBM-PATI (JV)
13.	Jaipur Bypass Phase II km 221 of NH-8-km 246 of NH-11	8	34.7	NHAI	199.58	Punj Lloyd Ltd. Progressive Construction Ltd. (JV)

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
14.	Jaipur Bypass Phase I km 283-km 297	8	14	NHAI	102.58	IRCON International Ltd.
15.	Mahapura (near Jaipur)-Kishangarh (6 Lane) km 273.5-km 363.885	8	90.38	NHAI	671.73	Consortium of GVK International-BSCPL
16.	ROB at Kishangarh	8	1	NHAI	18.86	MSK Projects (I) Ltd.
17.	Kishangarh-Nasirabad (KU-I) km 363.9 (NH-8) km 15 (NH-79)	79A	36.23	NHAI	134.4	Sadbhav Engg. Ltd.
18.	Nasirabad-Gulabpura (KU-II) km 15-km 70	79	55.87	NHAI	165.68	Punj Lloyd Ltd.-Progressive Construction Ltd. (JV)
19.	Gulabpura-Bhilwara Bypass (KU-III) km 70-km 120	79	50	NHAI	165.19	ECSB-JSRC (JV)
20.	Bhilwara Bypass-Chittorgarh (KU-IV) km 120-km 183	79	66	NHAI	195.5	B. Seenaiah & Co. (Projects) Ltd.
21.	Chittorgarh - Mangalwar (KU-V) km 220-km 172	76	48	NHAI	139.05	Madhucon Projects Ltd. Binapuri (JV)
22.	Mangalwar-Udaipur (KU-VI) km 172-km 113.825	76	58.175	NHAI	211.1	Sadbhav Engg. Ltd.-Prakash (JV)
23.	Udaipur-Kesariaji (UG-I) km 278-km 340	8	62	NHAI	262.73	KMC Construction Ltd.
24.	Kesariaji-Ratanpur (UG II) km 340-km 388.4	8	48.4	NHAI	147.04	Gayatri-Ranjit (JV)
25.	Ratanpur-Himatnagar (UG III) km 388-km 443	8	54.6	NHAI	175.4	Mudajaya-IRB
26.	Himatnagar-Chiloda (Near Ahmedabad) (UG-IV) Km 443-km 495	8	52	NHAI	146.03	Backbone-Tarmat-NG (JV)
27.	Ahmedabad-Vadodara Exp. Way Phase I km 0.0-km 43.4	8	43.4	NHAI	226.19	PT Sumber Mitra Jaya
28.	Ahmedabad-Vadodara Exp. Way Phase II km 43.3 (Nadiad Dakor SH)-km 93.302	NE1	50	NHAI	342.33	LG Engg. & Construction Ltd. Nagarjuna Construction Co. Ltd.
29.	Surat (Chalthan) Atul km 263.4 km 343	8	79.6	NHAI	410.0	SKEC-Dodsai
30.	Atul-Kajali km 343-km 381.6	8	38.6	NHAI	274.8	LG Engg. & Construction Ltd.- Patel Engineering
31.	Kajali-Manor km 381.6-km 439	8	57.4	NHAI	290.66	Larsen & Toubro Ltd.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
32.	Dhankuni-Kolaghat (WB-I) km 17.6 km 72	6	54.4	NHAI	530.17	RBM PATI (JV)
33.	Kolaghat-Kharagpur (WB-II) km 72-km 132.45	6	60.45	NHAI	443.09	Hindustan Construction Company Ltd.
34.	Kharagpur-Laxmannath (WB-IV) km 53.41-km 119.275	60	65.86	NHAI	419.96	B. Seenaiiah & Co. (Projects) Ltd.
35.	Laxmannath-Baleshwar (OR-4) km 0-km 53.41	60	53.41	NHAI	301.8	Larsen & Toubro Ltd.
36.	Bridges Section (OR/WB-I) km 0-km 119.275	60	0	NHAI	74.74	Gammon India Ltd.
37.	Bhadrak-Chandikhole (OR II) km 61-km 136	5	75.5	NHAI	325.91	Larsen & Toubro Ltd.
38.	Chandikhole-Jagatpur km 28-km 61	5	27.8	NHAI	141.47	KMC Construction Ltd.
39.	Khurda-Sunakhala (OR-VI) km 388-km 338	5	52.058	NHAI	158.97	P.T. Sumber Mitra Jaya-Rohit Kumar-Sri Durga Construction (JV)
40.	Ichhapuram-Korlam (AP-4B) km 233-km 200	5	33	NHAI	95.53	Skanska Cementation India Ltd.
41.	Korlam-Palasa (AP-4A) km 200-km 171	5	29	NHAI	96.56	Skanska Cementation India Ltd.
42.	Palasa-Srikakulam (AP-2) km 171-km 97	5	74	NHAI	266.75	SPCL-IVRCL
43.	Bridges section (AP-6) km 233-km 98	5	0	NHAI	67.47	Navyug Engg. Co. Ltd.
44.	Srikakulam-Champawati (AP-1) (Balance Work) km 97-km 49	5	48	NHAI	154.54	SEW Construction Company Limited
45.	Champawati-Vishakhapatnam (AP-3) km 49-km 2.8	5	46.2	NHAI	181.97	Unitech-Nagarjuna Construction Co. Ltd. (JV)
46.	Bridges section (AP-5) km 49-km 97	5	0	NHAI	55.1	Prasad & SEW (JV)
47.	Ankapalli-Tuni km. 359.2-km. 300	5	58.947	NHAI	249.87	GMR-Tuni-Ankapalli Express Ltd.
48.	Tuni-Dharmavaram (AP-16) km 300-km 253	5	47	NHAI	269.2	Andhra Expressway Limited
49.	Dharmavaram-Rajahmundry (AP-15) km 253-km 200	5	53	NHAI	300.33	Rajahmundry Expressway Ltd. Gammon (JV)
50.	Divancheru (near Rajahmundry)- Gowthami (AP-17) km 200-km 164.5	5	34.95	NHAI	95.57	Punj Lloyd Ltd.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
51.	Bridges Section (AP-19) km 162-km 200	5	2.45	NHAI	100.56	Larsen & Toubro Ltd.
52.	Gowthami-Gundugolanu (AP-18) km 164.5-km 80	5	81.08	NHAI	340.8	LIMAK-SOMA (JV)
53.	Bridges Section (AP-20) km 80-km 161	5	0	NHAI	96.28	Larsen & Toubro Ltd.
54.	Vijayawada-Rajamundry Section (near Eluru) km 75-km 80	5	5	NHAI	15.37	Madhucon Projects Ltd.
55.	Eluru-Vijayawada Package V km 75-km 3.4	5	72	NHAI	347.19	Madhucon Projects Ltd.- Binapuri (JV)
56.	Vijayawada-Chilkaluripet Package I km 355-km 380	5	25	NHAI	77.65	LJM-Gayatri
57.	Vijayawada-Chilkaluripet Package II km 380-km 396.8	5	32	NHAI	70.61	LJM-Gayatri
58.	Vijayawada-Chilkaluripet Package III km 408-km 420.5	5	23.78	NHAI	67.37	LJM Gayatri
59.	Vijayawada-Chilkaluripet Package IV km 10.8-km 13.68	5	2.88	NHAI	69.45	UP State Bridge Corporation Ltd. (UPSBC)
60.	Chilkaluripet-Ongole (AP-13) km 357.9 km 291	5	66	NHAI	255.38	LJM Gayatri
61.	Ongole-Kavali (AP-12) km 291-km 222	5	72	NHAI	304.9	HO-HUP Simplex (JV)
62.	Kavali-Nellore (AP-11) km 222-km 178	5	43.8	NHAI	186.74	Patel-KNR (JV)
63.	Nellore Bypass km 178.2-km 161	5	17.166	NHAI	147.6	Consortium of Soma Enterprises & Navayuga Engg. Co. Ltd.
64.	Nellore-Tada (AP-7) km 163.6 km 52.8	5	110.517	NHAI	628.83	CIDBI Malaysia
65.	Tada-Chennai (TN-1) km 52.8-km 11	5	41.8	NHAI	280.55	Larsen & Toubro Ltd.
66.	Westerly Diversion km 0-km 34.25	4	34.25	NHAI	153.99	Ashoka Buildcon & Birla GTM
67.	Katraj-Sarole (PS-3) km 825.5-km 797	4	28.5	NHAI	85.9	Satav Constt. Pvt. Ltd. and Dena Rehsaz
68.	Katraj Realignment (PS-4) km 825-km 30 of Bypass	4	9	NHAI	177.56	Shakti Kumar M. Sancheti Ltd.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
69.	Sarole-Wather (PS-2) km 797-km 760 excluding km 773-km 781	4	29	NHAI	91.18	Birla GTM Interpose Ltd. B.G Shrike Constt. Tech. Ltd.
70.	Wather-Satara (Ps-1) km 760-km 725	4	35	NHAI	136.53	Skanska Cementation India Ltd.
71.	Satara-Kagal km 725-km 592.24	4	133	NHAI	603.45	MSRDC Ltd. Mumbai
72.	Maharashtra Border-Belgaum km 592-km 515	4	77	NHAI	582.21	North Karnataka Expressway Pvt. Ltd. (Consortium of IL & FS-Pun) Lloyd-CTNL)
73.	Belgaum Bypass km 515-km 495	4	18	NHAI	154.88	Sunway Construction Ltd. Behad & RN Shetty & Co.
74.	Belgaum-Dharwad km 495-km 433	4	62	NHAI	322.03	Sunway Construction Ltd. Behad & R N Shetty & Co.
75.	Sira Bypass km 122-km 116	4	5.8	NHAI	21.08	Maytas Infrastructure Ltd.
76.	Sira-Tumkur km 116.4-km 75	4	41.4	NHAI	225.3	Larsen & Toubro Ltd.
77.	Tumkur-Neemangala km 62-km 29.5	4	32.5	NHAI	255.41	Jas Toll Road Co. Ltd. (Consortium of Jayaswale-Ashoka Buildcon SERI Intl.)
78.	Hathipali-Hosur km 33-km 48.6	7	16	NHAI	39.13	Patel Engineering
79.	Hosur-Krishnagiri km 48.6-km 94.0	7	45.4	NHAI	174.09	Shakti Kumar M. Sancheti Ltd. & Bhola Singh Jaya Prakash (JV)
80.	Krishnagiri-Vaniyambadi (KR-1) km 0.0-km 49.0	46	49	NHAI	233.01	Patel-KNR (JV)
81.	Vaniyambadi-Palikonda (KR-2) km 49.0-km 100.0	46	51	NHAI	247.59	Skanska Cementation India Ltd.
82.	Palikonda-Ranipet and Walahajpet bypass (KR-3) km 100.0-km 145.0	46	45	NHAI	233.93	Skanska Cementation India Ltd.
83.	Valelpet-Kanchipuram km 106.4-km 70.2	4	36.2	NHAI	135.03	Larsen & Toubro Ltd.
84.	Kanchipuram-Poonamalee km 70.2-km 13.8	4	56.4	NHAI	244.1	Aicon Infrastructure Ltd.
85.	Bhogpur to Jalandhar (NS-16/PB) km 26-km 4.23	1A	21.77	NHAI	56.5	Burni Highway

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
86.	Jalandhar Bypass (NS/1) km 387.1 of NH-1-km 4.23 of NH 1A- km 372.7 of NH 1)	1	14.4	NHAI	90.02	Birla GTM Interpose Ltd.
87.	Six laning of Karnaspur to Haryana/ Delhi Border (NS/2) km 44.3 km 29.3	1	15	NHAI	42.39	Nagarjuna Construction Co. Ltd.
88.	Eight Laning of Mukarba Chowk to Mall Road (Delhi) (NS 3/DL) km 16.2-km 8.2	1	8.5	NHAI	44.89	Madhucon Projects Ltd.
89.	Agra-Raj/UP Border (NS-4) km 8-km 24	3	16	NHAI	50.01	PNC Construction Co.
90.	Raj/UP border to Mania (NS-19/UP/RJ) km 24-km 41	3	17	NHAI	90.5	PNC Construction Co.
91.	Mania-Dholpur (NS/5) km 41-km 51	3	10	NHAI	23.8	Maheshwari Brothers Ltd.
92.	MP/RAJ border to Sarai Cholla (NS/6) km 61-km 70	3	9	NHAI	28.75	Dinesh Chandra Agarwal
93.	Sarai Cholla to Morena (NS-20/MP) km. 70.00 to km. 85.00	3	15	NHAI	50.7	Prakash Mahavir (JV)
94.	Morena-Rairu (Start of Gwallior bypass) (NS-21/MP) km. 85.00 to km. 103.00	3	16	NHAI	54.58	Backbone Projects
95.	Chinchbguan-Butibori-Borkhedi (NS-7) km 9.2-km 22.85 & km 24.65-km 36.6	7	25.6	NHAI	86.47	Oriental Structural Engineers Pvt. Ltd.
96.	Kalkattu village to Gundla Pochampali (NS-8) km 447-km 464	7	17	NHAI	38.53	A.L. Sudershan & Co.
97.	Thondapalli to Farukhanagar (NS/9) km 22.3 km 34.8	7	12.5	NHAI	25.49	Maharia Re-surfacing
98.	Avathi village to Nandi Hills cross & six laning of Devanhalli-Meenukunte (NS- km 524-km 527 & 535-km 539	7	7	NHAI	35.2	Bhageeratha Engg. Ltd.
99.	Thopurghar section (NS/14) km. 156-km. 1634	7	7.4	NHAI	23.08	P.T. Sumber Mitra Jaya
100.	Salem bypass (NS/12) km 199.2-km 207.6	7	8.4	NHAI	30.15	Sri Ranganathar & Co.
101.	Bangalore-Salem-Madurai (NS-27/TN) km 248.0-km 259.6	7	8.4	NHAI	23.27	Vijay Engineering Enterprises
102.	4 laning of Karur Bypass including additional bridge across river Amarawati	7	9.36	NHAI	41.82	Bhageeratha Engg. Ltd- Techni Bharti (JV)

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
103.	Construction of Kerur ROB	7	0.84	NHAI	12.56	P.T. Sumber Mitra & Jaya and Punj Lloyd
104.	Angamali to Aluva (NS-28/KL) km. 332.6 to Km. 316.70	47	16.6	NHAI	75.13	Tantia-Techri Bharti (JV)
105.	Guwahati bypass (EW/7) km 163.895-km 156	37	8	NHAI	65.34	Valecha Engineering Ltd.
106.	Guwahati Bypass (EW-14/AS) km. 156.00 to Km. 146.00	37	10.5	NHAI	71.07	Banvari Lal Agarwal (BLA)- CISC-C&C Construction (JV)
107.	Dalkola Islampur Sub section 2 (EW/6) km 500 to km 476.15	31	23.85	NHAI	80.81	Lanco Construction Ltd.
108.	Dalkola-Islampur (EW/5) km 470-km 447	31	23	NHAI	68.87	Progressive Construction Ltd.
109.	Lucknow Kanpur Section (EW-2) km. 11.38 to km. 21.8	25	10.42	NHAI	36.8	Vilayati Ram Mittal
110.	Lucknow-Kanpur section (EW-8/UP) km. 21.80 to km. 44.00	25	22.2	NHAI	86.29	Vilayati Ram Mittal
111.	Lucknow-Kanpur section (EW-9/UP) km 44-km 59.5	25	15.5	NHAI	45.47	B.R. Arora & Associate (BRA)- TRGupta-Bharat (JV)
112.	Abu Road Deesa Section near Palanpur (EW/1) km 340-km 350	14	10	NHAI	22.93	Dinesh Chandra R. Agarwal
113.	Palanpur-Dessa (EW-11/GJ) km. 350.00 to km. 372.70	14	22.7	NHAI	57.79	Dinesh Chandra R. Agarwal
114.	Ribda to Gondal section (EW-10/GJ) km 160-km 143	88	17	NHAI	42.43	Tarmat-Backton Projects (JV)
115.	Addl. 2-Lane Bridge over Rapti River at Gorakhpur	28	0.4	NHAI	16.62	UP State Bridge Corporation Ltd. (UPSBCC)
116.	Cable Stayed bridge on river Yamuna near Naini	27	6	NHAI	299.04	Hyundai-Hindustan Construction Company Ltd.
117.	Ghaziabad-Hapur & Hapur Bypass	24	33	NHAI	134.38	Nagarjuna Construction Co. Ltd. -KNR (JV)
118.	Nandigama-Vijayawada	9	35	NHAI	80.87	CIDBI Malaysia
119.	Nandigama-Vijayawada 13 km 4 laned, and 35 km 2 Laned.	9	48	NHAI	80.87	BSC-RBM-PATI (JV)
120.	Delhi-Gurgaon Section (Access Controlled 8/6 Lane) km 14.3-km 42	8	27.7	NHAI	658.43	Jaiprakash Industries Ltd. DS Constt. Ltd.
121.	Tambaram-Tindivanam km 28-km 121	45	93	NHAI	385.38	Tambaram-Tindivanam Express way Pvt. Ltd. (Consortium of GMR Consortium & UE)

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
122.	Amrawati Bypass (2 Laned new facility)	6	17.4	NHAI	46.68	Nagarjuna Construction Co. Ltd.
123.	Chennai Bypass Phase I (2 Laned new facility)	4,45	19	NHAI	77.38	IJM-SATYAM Construction Ltd.
124.	Durg Bypass (2 Laned new facility)	6	18	NHAI	70	Shakti Kumar M. Sancheti Ltd.
125.	Moradabad Bypass (2 Laned new facility)	24	18	NHAI	92.26	UP State Bridge Corporation Ltd. (UPSBC)
126.	Port Connectivity to Mormugao NH-17B (from Port to Vema Junction on NH-17)	17B	13	NHAI	25.54	BRO (through a MOU between BRO and Mormugao Port Road company Ltd.)
127.	Jawaharal Nehru Port Phase I	4B,4	30	NHAI	168.13	Thakur-Mhatre-Unity (JV)
128.	Vishakhapatnam Port 3.6 km 4 laned, 8.57 km 2 laned	SR	12	NHAI	100.76	M. Venkata Rao Engineering
129.	Gandhidham-Samakhiali Package I km 306-km 324	8A	18	NHAI	42.39	Sadbhav Engg. Ltd.
130.	Gandhidham-Samakhiali Package II km 324-km 346	8A	22	NHAI	97.16	PBA-PC-EC (JV)
131.	Gandhidham-Samakhiali Package III km 346-km 362.16	8A	16.16	NHAI	61.58	Agrawal-Sadbhav-Backbone (JV)
NHDP Phase II						
132.	Phagwara Junction on NH-1 (Flyover on existing 4-lane road)	1	1	NHAI	16.58	Valecha Engineering Ltd.
133.	Bhiladi to Portbandar (Package I) km 52.50 to km 2.00	8B	50.5	NHAI	206.08	LIMAK-SOMA (JV)
NHDP Phase III						
134.	Guna Bypass km. 319/700 to km. 332/100	3	14	NHAI	67	Guna Infrastructure Ltd.
Misc. Projects						
1.	Chittorgarh Bypass km 159 to km 213	79,76	30	NHAI	161.9	Ashoka Valecha (JV)
2.	NH Connectivity to ICTT Vallarpadam	47C	17.2	NHAI	16.47	Suncon-Soma (JV)
3.	Chennai-Ennore Express Way inner Ring Road & Manali Oil Refinery	SR	15	NHAI	Commenced recently	Engineering Projects (I) Ltd.
NH-34						
4.	Dalkola Bypass	34	5.5	NHAI	10.02	M/s SPML-CISC

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
NHDP Phase I						
5.	Agra-Shikohabad (GTRIP/I-A) km 199.66 km 250.50	2	50.83	NHAI	399.05	Oriental Structural Engineers Pvt. Ltd-Gammon India Ltd.
6.	Shikohabad-Etawah (GTRIP/I-B) km. 250.5-km 307.5	2	59.02	NHAI	293.98	Progressive Construction Ltd.
7.	Etawah Bypass (Balance Work) km 307.5-km 321.1	2	13.6	NHAI	160.97	PNC Construction Ltd.
8.	Etawah-Rajpur (GTRIP/I-C) km 321.1-km 393	2	72.825	NHAI	395.65	PATI-BEL (JV)
9.	Kanpur-Fatehpur (GTRIP/II-B) km 470-483(0) km 0-km 38	2	51.5	NHAI	618.07	Somduft Builders-Nagarjuna Construction Co. Ltd. NEC (JV)
10.	Fatehpur-Khaga (TNHP/II-C) km 38-km 115	2	77	NHAI	324.43	Centrodorstroy Russia
11.	Allahabad Bypass Contract I (Bridge) km 158 km-km 159.02	2	1.02	NHAI	127.23	Larsen & Toubro Ltd.
12.	Allahabad Bypass Contract II km 158 km-km 198	2	38.987	NHAI	440.18	Hindustan Construction Company Ltd.
13.	Allahabad Bypass Contract III km 198 km-km 242.708	2	44.708	NHAI	441.91	Oriental Structural Engineers Pvt. Ltd.-KMC Construction Ltd.
14.	Hardia-Varanasi (TNHP/III-C) km 245-km 317	2	72	NHAI	310.96	Centrodorstroy Russia
15.	Varanasi-Mohania (GTRIP/IV-A) km 317-329 (0) km 0- km 65	2	76	NHAI	424.82	Progressive Construction Ltd. Sunway Berhad (JV)
16.	Sasaram-Dehri on-sona (GTRIP/IV-C) km 110-km 140	2	30	NHAI	226.68	Somduft Builders-Nagarjuna Construction Co. Ltd. (JV)
17.	Gorhar-Barwa Adda (TNHP/V-C) km 320-km 398.75	2	78.75	NHAI	326.16	Progressive Construction Ltd. Sunway Berhad (JV)
18.	Bridges section (WB-III) km 17.6-km 136	6	1.732	NHAI	80.2	Bhageeratha Engg. Ltd.
19.	Balasore-Bhadrak (OR III) km 136.5-km 199.141	5	62.64	NHAI	192.38	Elsamex-TWS-Shanker Narayan Shetty (JV)
20.	Bridges section (OV-V) km 199.141-km 61	5	11.587	NHAI	143.93	Gammon India Ltd.
21.	Bhubaneswar-Khurda (OR-I) km 387.7 km 418	5	28.3	NHAI	139.43	Gammon India Ltd. Atlanta

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
22.	Sunakhala-Ganjam (OR-VII) km 338-km 284	5	55.713	NHAI	145.45	Progressive Construction Ltd. Sticco (JV)
23.	Ganjam-Icchapuram (OR VIII) (Balance work) km 284-km 233	5	50.8	NHAI	136.06	KMC-RK-SD (JV)
24.	Hubli-Haveri km 404-km 340	4	64.5	NHAI	283.64	Afcon Infrastructure Ltd. Apil (JV)
25.	Haveri-Harihar km 340-km 284	4	56	NHAI	202.31	UEM-ESSAR (JV)
26.	Harihari-Chitradurga km 284.km 207	4	77	NHAI	265.7	UEM-ESSAR (JV)
27.	Chitradurga Bypass km 207-km 189	4	18	NHAI	86.33	Supreme-MBL (JV)
28.	Chitradurga Sira km 189-km 122.3	4	66.7	NHAI	371.4	UEM-ESSAR (JV)
29.	Tumkur Bypass km. 75-km 62	4	13	NHAI	83.16	A.L. Sudershan & Co.
30.	Kunjwani to Vijaypur (NS-15/J&K) km 97-km 80	1A	17.2	NHAI	110.55	Border Road Organization
31.	Six laning of Panchi Gujran to Kamaspur (Sonepat) (NS-17/HR) km 66.00 to Km 44.30	1	21.7	NHAI	68.86	Valecha Engineering Ltd.
32.	Eight laning of Haryana/Delhi Border to Mukaraba Chowk (NS-18/DL) Km 29.3 to Km 16.5	1	12.9	NHAI	73.81	BJCL Brite (JV)
33.	Gundla Pochampalli to Bowenpalli Shivarampalli to Thondapalli (NS-23/AP)- Balance work km 464.00-km 474.00 & km 9.40-km 22.30	7	23.1	NHAI	88.97	M.B. Patil Construction Ltd.
34.	Nandi Hills Cross to Devanhalli & Six laning of Meenukurte to Habbal (NS-24/KN) km 539-556 & km 527-km 535	7	25	NHAI	188.36	Afcon Infrastructure Ltd.
35.	Thumpipadi to Salem (NS-26/TN) km. 180.00 to Km. 199.20	7	19.2	NHAI	94.33	Bhageeratha Engg. Ltd.
36.	Pumea-Gayakota (EW/4) km 476.15 km 470 & km 419-km 410	31	15.15	NHAI	80.54	Progressive Construction Ltd.
37.	Pumea-Gayakota (EW-12/BR) km 447-km 419	31	28	NHAI	170.86	Lanco Construction Ltd-Rani (JV)

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
38.	Lucknow Bypass (EW-15/UP) Connecting NH-25 and NH-28 via NH 56	56A & B	22.85	NHAI	253.21	Prakash-Atlanta (JV)
39.	Lucknow-Kanpur (EW/3A) km 59.5-km 75.5	25	16	NHAI	37.17	Vilayati Ram Mittal
40.	Haldia Port NH-41 (from Kolaghat on NH-6 to Haldia)	41	53	NHAI	139.73	CWHEC-HCIL (JV)
41.	Jawaharlal Nehru Port Phase II SH-54+Amramarg+Parvel Creek	SH 54	14.35	NHAI	120.27	Jog-Shirth (JV)
42.	New Mangalore Port NH-17 (Suratkal-Nantur Section), NH-48 (Padil Bantwal Section)	13, 17 & 48	37	NHAI	40.08	IRCON International Ltd.
43.	Tuticorin Port NH-7A (Tuticorin-Tirunelveli section)	7A	47.2	NHAI	71.02	Mecon-GEA Energy System (I) Ltd. (JV)
44.	Paradip Port NH-5A (from km 0 to km 77)	5A	77	NHAI	355.71	Hindustan Construction Company Ltd.
45.	Chennai-Ennore Express Way TPP Road	SR	9	NHAI	53.86	East Coast Construction & Industries Ltd.
46.	Cochin Port km 348/382-km 358 750 including 5 Major Bridges	47	10	NHAI	43.8	Mecon-GEA Energy System (I) Ltd. (JV)
NHDP Phase II						
47.	Srinagar Bypass (Road Portion) (NS-30) km 286 to km 303.8	1A	17.8	NHAI	133.4	Prakash Builders Associates Infrastructure Ltd.
48.	Srinagar Bypass (Bridge Portion) (NS-30A) km 286 to km 303.8	1A	1.23	NHAI	expenditure includes in Sl. No. 47	Valecha Engineering Ltd.
49.	Jammu to Kunjwari (Jammu Bypass) NS-33/J&K km. 0.00 to km 15	1A	15	NHAI	40.11	M. Venkata Rao Engineering
50.	Vijaypur to Pathankot (NS-34/J&K) km 16.35 to km 50.00	1A	33.65	NHAI	68.14	ITD Cementation (I) Ltd.
51.	Vijaypur to Pathankot (NS-35/J&K) km 50 to Km 80	1A	30	NHAI	44.88	ITD Cementation (I) Ltd.
52.	Pathankot to Jammu & Kashmir Border (NS-38/J&K) Km 110.45 to Km 117.6 & Km. 4.0 to Km. 16.5	1A	19.65	NHAI	57.95	M. Venkata Rao Engineering
53.	Pathankot to Bhogpur (NS-37/PB) km 26 to Km 70	1A	44	NHAI	112.78	ITD Cementation (I) Ltd.
54.	Pathankot to Bhogpur (NS-38/PB) km 70 to Km 110	1A	40	NHAI	58.49	Bridge & Roof

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
55.	Panipal Elevated Highway km 96.00 to 86.00	1	10	NHAI	295.3	Larsen & Toubro Ltd.
56.	Panipat to Panchi Gujran (Six laning work) (NS-89/HR) km 86.00 km 66.00	1	20	NHAI	28.19	IRCON International Ltd.
57.	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	NHAI	7.11	JMC Projects-Sadbhav (JV)
58.	Dholpur-Morena Section (including Chambal bridge) NS-1/RJ-MP/1 km 51 to km 61	3	10	NHAI	commenced recently	PNC-TRG (JV)
59.	Gwalior Bypass (NS-1/BOT/MP-1) Km 0 to Km 42.033	75,3	42	NHAI	34.49	Ramky-Era-Shriam Consortium
60.	Gwalior-Jhansi Km 16 to km 96.127	75	80	NHAI	84.59	DSC-Apollo consortium
61.	Jhansi to Lalitpur NS-1/BOT/UP-2) Km 0 to 49.79	25,26	49.7	NHAI	100.26	Gayatri-IDFC Consortium
62.	Jhansi to Lalitpur (NS-1/BOT/UP-3) Km 49.7 to Km 99	26	49.3	NHAI	83.56	Gayatri-IDFC Consortium
63.	Lalitpur Sagar (ADB-I/C-3) km to km 132	26	36	NHAI	10.98	Nagarjuna Construction Co. Ltd.
64.	Lalitpur-Sagar (ADB I/C-4) Km 132 to Km 187	26	55	NHAI	50.21	IJM Corporation
65.	Sagar Bypass (ADB I/C-5) km 187 to km 211	26	26	NHAI	26.86	Ssangyong Engineering Const Co.
66.	Sagar-Rajmarg Choraha (ADB I/C-6) km 211 to km 255	26	44	NHAI	29.7	Ssangyong Engineering Const Co.
67.	Sagar Rajmarg choraha (ADB I/C-7) km 255 to km 297	26	42	NHAI	51.79	B. Seenaih & Co. (P) Ltd.
68.	Rajmarg Choraha to Lakhnadon (ADB-I/C-8) km 297 to km 351 (Junction with Km 544 of NH7	26	54	NHAI	21.15	Ssangyong Engineering Const Co.
69.	Rajmarg Choraha to Lakhnadon (ADB-I/C-9) km 351 to 405.7	26	54.7	NHAI	10.21	Ssangyong Engineering Const Co.
70.	Lakhnadon to MP/MH Border (NS-1/BOT/MP-2) km 547.4 to km 596.75	7	49.35	NHAI	83.32	Navabharat-Ferro Alloys Ltd. (Malaxmi Highways Pvt. Ltd.)

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
71.	Lakhnadon to MPMH Border (NS-1/BOT/MP-3) km 596.75 to km 653.225	7	56.475	NHAI	33.02	Sadbhav-SREI (JV)
72.	Butibori ROB (NS-29/MH) Km 22.850 to Km 24.650	7	1.8	NHAI	15.87	JSR Construction Pvt. Ltd.
73.	Borkheddi-Jam (NS-22/MH) km 36.6 km 64.0	7	27.4	NHAI	48.11	JSR Construction Pvt. Ltd- Ketan Construction Limited
74.	Jam-Wadner (NS-59AMH) km. 64 to km. 94	7	30	NHAI	35.74	Ideal Road Builders Pvt. Ltd.
75.	Wadner-Devdhari (NS-60/MH) Km. 94. to Km. 123	7	29	NHAI	20.31	HSC-LSIPL (JV)
76.	Devdhari-Kelapur (NS-61/MH) km. 123 to km. 153	7	30	NHAI	42.56	Ideal Road Builders Pvt. Ltd.
77.	Kelapur-Pimpalkhatti (NS-62) km. 153 to km. 175	7	22	NHAI	16.74	Devi Enterprises Ltd.
78.	Islem Nagar to Kadital (NS-2/BOT/AP-7) Km 230 to Km 278	7	48	NHAI	10.33	Patel-KNR (JV)
79.	MH/AP border to Islem Nagar (NS-2/BOT/AP-6) Km 175 to Km 230	7	55	NHAI	33.86	SOMA-Avinesh Consortium
80.	Kadloor Yellareddy to Gundla Pochampalli (NS-2/BOT/AP-2) Km 367 to Km 447	7	85.74	NHAI	382.97	GMR Infrastructure Ltd-GMR Energy Ltd. Consortium
81.	Kadali to Arumur (NS-2/BOT/AP-8) Km 278 to Km 308	7	31	NHAI	63.1	HCC Ltd.
82.	Farukhanagar to Kottakata (NS-2/AP-3) km. 34.140 to km 80.050	7	46.162	NHAI	222.94	GMR Energy Ltd. & GMR Infrastructure Ltd. Consortium (GMR Jadcherla Expressways Pvt. Ltd.)
83.	Farukhanagar to Kotakatta (NS-2/AP-4) km 80.050 to km 135.469	7	55.74	NHAI	199.19	Larsen & Toubro Ltd. (L&T) Western Andhra Tollways Pvt. Ltd.)
84.	Hyderabad Bangalore section (NS 2/BOT/AP-5) km 135.469 to Km 211	7	74.85	NHAI	395.24	IL & FS CTNL Consortium (Andhra Pradesh Expressway Ltd.)
85.	Hyderabad Bangalore section (ADB 11/C-10) km 211 to Km 251	7	40	NHAI	38.87	CGGC-Soma (JV)
86.	Hyderabad Bangalore section (ADB-11/C-11) Km 251 to Km 293.4	7	42.4	NHAI	46.18	CGGC-SOMA (JV)
87.	Hyderabad Bangalore section (ADB-11/C-12) Km 293.4 to Km 336	7	42.6	NHAI	19.17	Continental Engg. Corporation

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
88.	AP/Karnataka border-Nandi Hill crossing & Devenhalli to Meenu Kurte Village Km 463.6 to Km 527 & km 535-Km 539	7	61.38	NHAI	108.5	Patel-KNR Infrastructure Pvt. Ltd. (JV)
89.	Hyderabad Bangalore section (ADB-11/C-13) Km 336 to Km 376	7	40	NHAI	15.72	Continental Engg. Corporation
90.	Hyderabad Bangalore section (ADB-11/C-14) km 376 to Km 418	7	42	NHAI	43.52	CGGC-SOMA (JV)
91.	Hyderabad Bangalore section (ADB-11/C-15) Km 418 to Km 463.6	7	45.6	NHAI	50.6	CGGC-SOMA (JV)
92.	Krishnagiri to Thopurghat (NS-2/TN1) km. 94.000 to 156	7	62.5	NHAI	284.49	Larsen & Toubro Ltd. (M/S L&T Krishnagiri Thopurghat Toll Road Pvt. Ltd.)
93.	Thopurghat to Thumpipadi (NS-25/TN) Km 163.40 to Km. 180.00	7	16.6	NHAI	24.66	JSR Construction Pvt. Ltd.
94.	Salem to Karur (NS-2/TN-2) km. 207.050 to Km 248.625	7	41.55	NHAI	146.37	Ma/MVR-MRK-JTEC (JV) [MVR Infrastructure & Tollway Pvt Ltd.]
95.	Salem to Karur (NS-2/TN-3) km. 258.645 to km. 292.6	7	33.48	NHAI	86.51	Reliance Energy Ltd. [NK Toll Road Ltd.]
96.	Karur to Madurai (TN-4) Km 305.6 to Km 373.275	7	68.125	NHAI	89.5	Madhucon Projects Ltd. SREI [TN (DK) Expressways Ltd.]
97.	Karur to Madurai (TN-5) km. 373.275 to km. 426.6	7	53.025	NHAI	98.13	M/s Reliance Energy Ltd. [DS Toll Road Ltd.]
98.	Salem to Kerala Border Section (TN-6) Km 203.96 on NH-7 to Km 53.00 on NH-	47	53.525	NHAI	81.23	IVRCL Infrastructure Projects Ltd. (Salem Tollways Ltd.)
99.	Salem to Kerala Border Section (TN-7) Km 53.000 to Km 100	47	48.51	NHAI	111.79	IVRCL Infrastructure Projects Ltd. (Kumar Palayam Tollway Ltd.)
100.	Madurai to km 120 of Madurai-Tirunelveli Section including Madurai Km. 0.000 to Km. 42.000	7	42	NHAI	182.02	Patel-KNR (JV)
101.	Madurai-Kanniakumari Section (NS-Km. 42.000 to Km. 80.000)	7	38.86	NHAI	125.54	IVRCL Infrastructure Projects Ltd.
102.	Madurai-Kanniakumari Section (NS-41/TN) Km. 80.00 to Km. 120.00	7	39.51	NHAI	89.52	IVRCL Infrastructure Projects Ltd.
103.	Madurai-Kanniakumari Section (NS-Km. 120 to km. 160	7	42.7	NHAI	173	Shakti Kumar M. Sancheti Ltd.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
104.	Km 120 of Madurai-Tirunelveli Section to Panagudi (km 203) (NS-43) Km. 160 to Km. 203	7	43	NHAI	107.39	Patel-KNR (JV)
105.	Kanniyakumari-Panagaudi (NS-32) km 203 to km 233.6	7	30.6	NNHAI	32.28	Patel-KNB (JV)
106.	Thiassur to Angamali (KL-1) km. 270.00 to km. 316.70	47	40	NHAI	162.58	KMC-SREI (JV) [Guruvayoor Infrastructure Pvt. Ltd.]
107.	Sāchar-Udarband (AS-1) Km 309 to Km 275.00	54	32	NHAI	58.39	Punj Lloyd Ltd.
108.	Harangajo to Maibang (AS-21) Km 165.4.00 to Km 190.587	54	26	NHAI	22.88	Continental Eng. Corporation
109.	Harangajo to Maibang (AS-22) Km 140.70 to Km 164.08	54	24	NHAI	20.45	Continental Eng. Corporation
110.	Harangajo to Maibang (AS-23) Km 126.450 to Km 140.700, km 164.080 to km. 165.400	54	16	NHAI	51.03	HCC Ltd.
111.	Maibang to Lumding (AS-27) km 40.000 to Km 60.500	54	21	NHAI	14.1	Gayatri-ECI (JV)
112.	Maibang to Lumding (AS-26) Km 60.500 to Km 83.400	54	23	NHAI	13.13	Gammon India Ltd.
113.	Maibang to Lumding (AS-25) km. 83.400 to km. 111.000	54	28	NHAI	4.18	Valecha-TBL
114.	Maibang to Lumding (AS-24) Km 111.000 to Km 126.450	54	15	NHAI	12.76	Gammon India Ltd.
115.	Lumding to Daboka (AS-15) Km 40.00 to Km 22.00	54	18.5	NHAI	3.88	Patel-KNR (JV)
116.	Lanka to Daboka (AS-16) Km 22.00 to Km 2.4	54	24	NHAI	20.24	Punj Lloyd Ltd.
117.	Daboka to Nagaon (AS-17) Km 36 to Km 5.5	36	30.5	NHAI	21.47	Maytas Infrastructure Ltd.
118.	Nagaon bypass (AS-18) Km 5.5 (NH-38) to Km 282.7 (NH-37) and from km 282.70 to km 255	37	23	NHAI	75.02	Patel-KNR (JV)
119.	Nagaon to Dharamtul (AS-2) km 255 to km 230	37	25	NHAI	9.83	Madhucon Projects Ltd.
120.	Dharamtul to Sonapur (AS-19) Km 230.5 to Km 205	37	25	NHAI	31.88	Maytas Infrastructure Ltd.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
121.	Dharamtul to Sonapur (AS-20) Km 205.00 to Km 183	37	22	NHAI	26.81	KMC Construction Ltd.
122.	Sonapur to Guwahati (AS-3) Km 183 to Km 163.895	37	19	NHAI	84.74	Mareshwari Borthers Ltd. Telecommunication Consultant India Ltd.
123.	Brahmputra Bridge (AS-28) Km. 1126.00 to Km. 1121.00	31	5	NHAI	15.91	Gammon India Ltd.
124.	Guwahati to Nalbari (AS-4) Km.1121.00 to Km. 1093.00	31	28	NHAI	26.57	Punj Lloyd Ltd.
125.	Guwahati to Nalbari (AS-5) Km. 1093.00 to Km. 1065.00	31	28	NHAI	38.35	Punj Lloyd Ltd.
126.	Nalbari to Bijni (AS-6) Km. 1065.00 to Km. 1040.3	31	25	NHAI	47.77	Dinesh Chandra R. Agarwal-Infracon Pvt. Ltd. Banowari Lal Agaruralia Pvt. Ltd. Brahmaputra Constortium Ltd.
127.	Nalbari to Bijni (AS-7) Km. 1040.3 to Km. 1013.00	31	27.3	NHAI	18.07	KMC Construction Ltd.
128.	Nalbari to Bijni (AS-8) Km. 1013.00 to Km. 983.00	31	30	NHAI	44.52	Punj Lloyd Ltd.
129.	Nalbari to Bijni (AS-9) Km. 983.00 to Km. 961.5	31	21.5	NHAI	22.85	Punj Lloyd Ltd.
130.	Bijni to Assam/WB Border (AS-10)	31C	33	NHAI	38.84	GPL-ECI (JV)
131.	Bijni to Assam/WB Border (AS-11) Km 60.00 to Km 30.00	31C	30	NHAI	32.08	GPL-ECI (JV)
132.	Bijni to Assam/WB Border (AS-12) Km. 30.00 to Km. 0.00	31C	30	NHAI	45	Progressive Construction Ltd.
133.	Assam/WB Border to Gaikatta (WB-1) Km. 255.00 to Km. 223.00	31C	32	NHAI	55.19	Italian Thai Dev. Projects Co. Ltd.
134.	Siliguri to Islampur (WB-6) Km. 551.00 to Km. 526.00	31	25	NHAI	129.31	B. Seenaiah & Co. (Projects) Ltd.
135.	Siliguri to Islampur (WB-7) Km. 526.00 to Km. 500	31	26	NHAI	42.86	IRCON International Ltd.
136.	Purnea-Forbesganj (BR-1) Km 309.0 to Km. 268	57	41	NHAI	123.48	Progressive Construction Ltd.
137.	Purnea-Forbesganj (BR-2) Km 268.0 to km. 230	57	38	NHAI	120.2	Progressive Construction Ltd.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
138.	Forbesganj-Simrahi (BR-3) Km 230 to Km 190	57	40	NHAI	68.19	Gammon India Ltd.
139.	Simrahi to Ring bund (missing link) BR-4 km 190 to Km 165	57	15	NHAI	37.37	Simplex Infrastructure Ltd.
140.	Kosi Bridge including approaches and Guide Bond & Afflux Bond (BR-5) km 155 to km 165	57	10	NHAI	83.71	Gammon India Ltd. GIPL Consortium
141.	Ring bunds to Jhansiapur (BR-6) km. 155 to km. 110	57	45	NHAI	135.18	BSCPL-C&C (JV)
142.	Jhansiapur to Darbanga (BR-7) km 110 to km 70	57	40	NHAI	77.62	Madhucon Projects Ltd.
143.	Darbanga to Muzaffarpur (BR-8) km 70 to km 30	57	40	NHAI	122.4	B. Seenaiiah & Co. (Projects) Ltd. C & C (JV)
144.	Darbanga to Muzaffarpur (BR-9) km 30 to km 0	57	30	NHAI	116.03	B. Seenaiiah & Co. (Projects) Ltd. -C&C (JV)
145.	Muzaffarpur to Mehsi (LMNH-12) km 520 to km 480	28	40	NHAI	60	Progressive Construction Ltd. MVR (JV)
146.	Mehsi to Kotwa (LMNH-11) km 480 to km 440	28	40	NHAI	57.18	Madhucon Projects Ltd.
147.	Kotwa to Dewapur (LMNH-10) km 440 to km 402	28	38	NHAI	52.7	Progressive Construction Ltd. MVR (JV)
148.	Deewapur to UP/Bihar Border (LMNH-9) km 402 to km 360.915	28	41.065	NHAI	100.89	Progressive Construction Ltd.
149.	UP/Bihar Border to Kasia (LMNH-8) km 360.915 to Km 319.8	28	41.115	NHAI	102.82	Simlex
150.	Kasia to Gorakhpur (LMNH-7) km 319.8 to km 279.8	28	40	NHAI	149.16	NCC-VEE (JV)
151.	Gorakhpur Bypass Km. 251.7 to Km. 279.8	28	32.6	NHAI	181.41	Gammon India Ltd. GIPL- ATSL Consortium
152.	Gorakhpur-Ayodhya (LMNH-6) Km. 251.70 to Km. 208.00	28	43.7	NHAI	131.51	B. Seenaiiah & Co. (Projects) Ltd.
153.	Gorakhpur-Ayodhya (LMNH-5) Km. 208.00 to Km. 164.00	28	44	NHAI	72.34	Nagarjuna Construction Co. Ltd.
154.	Gorakhpur-Ayodhya (LMNH-4) Km. 164.00 to Km. 135.00	28	29	NHAI	128.88	Hindustan Construction Company Ltd.
155.	Ayodhya-Lucknow (LMNH-3) km. 135.00 to Km. 93.075	28	41.925	NHAI	143.72	Hindustan Construction Company Ltd.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
156.	Ayodhya-Lucknow (LMNH-2) Km. 93.075 to Km. 45	28	47	NHAI	141.68	Hindustan Construction Company Ltd. Company Ltd.
157.	Ayodhya-Lucknow (LMNH-1) Km. 45.00 to Km. 8.250	28	36	NHAI	122.77	Hindustan Construction Company Ltd.
158.	Ganga Bridge to Rama Devi Crossing UP-6) Km 75.0-Km 80.06	25	5.6	NHAI	25.51	Gammon India Ltd.
159.	Bara to Orai km 449 to 422 on NH-2 & km 255 to km 220	2,25	62.8	NHAI	17.2	NCC-KMC Consortium
160.	Orai to Jhansi (UP-5) km. 220.00-km. 170.00	25	50	NHAI	55.39	IRCON International Ltd.
161.	Orai to Jhansi (UP-4) km 170.0-km 104.0	25	66	NHAI	194.88	Sunway Construction Ltd.
162.	Jhansi Bypass (UP-3) km 104.0-km 91.0	25	15	NHAI	59.98	Oriental Structural Engineers Pvt. Ltd.
163.	Jhansi-Shivpuri (UP/MP-1) (UP-11 km & MP-30 km) km 91 to km 50 (UP-11 km & MP-30 km)	25	41	NHAI	93.7	Oriental Structural Engineers Pvt. Ltd.
164.	Padalur-Trichy (Pkg-VI-C) km 285.00-km 325.00	45	40	NHAI	217.01	Navayuga-Indu-Abhisek Consortium (India Navayugh Infra. Pvt. Ltd.)
165.	Trichy Bypass end to Tovaramkurchi (Package-VII A) Km 0 to Km 60.95	45B	60.95	NHAI	137.19	Aggarwal-JMC (JV)
166.	Tovaramkurchi to Madurai (Package -VII B) Km 60.95 to Km 124.84	45B	63.89	NHAI	141.92	Aggarwal-JMC (JV)
167.	Jhansi-Shivpuri (EW-II MP-2) km 50 to km 15	25	35	NHAI	119.86	ITD-CemIndia (JV)
168.	Shivpuri Bypass & upto MP/RJ Border (EW-II-MP-I) km 15 to km 0 of NH 25 & km 610 to km 579 of NH 76	25,76	53	NHAI	263.62	CSCHK-Soma (JV)
169.	RJ/MP Border to Kota (RJ-11) km. 579 to km. 509	76	70	NHAI	247.94	Larsen & Toubro Ltd. ECC DIVISION
170.	RJ/MP Border to Kota (RJ-10) km 509 to km. 449.15	76	59.85	NHAI	235.21	KMC Construction Ltd.
171.	RJ/MP Border to Kota (RJ-9) km. 449.15 to km. 406	76	43.15	NHAI	146.72	Sunway Construction Ltd.
172.	Kota Bypass (RJ-4) km.406 to km. 381	76	25	NHAI	39.52	ITD-CemIndia (JV)

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
173.	Chambal Bridge (RJ-5)	76	1.4	NHAI	33.74	Hyundai eng. Cons. Co. Ltd. M/s Gammon India Ltd.
174.	Kota to Chittorgarh (RJ-8) km 381 to km 316	76	65	NHAI	237.44	Punj Lloyd Ltd.
175.	Kota to Chittorgarh (RJ-7) km. 316 to km. 253	76	63	NHAI	274.96	CEC-Hindustan Construction Company Ltd. (JV)
176.	Chittorgarh Bypass (RJ-6) km. 253 to km. 213	76	40	NHAI	227.65	China Gezhouba Water & Power (Group) Co. Ltd.
177.	Gogunda to Udaipur (RJ-3) km. 104 km to km 73	76	31	NHAI	213.6	Ranjit-Tarmat (JV)
178.	Bakaria to Gogunda (RJ-2) km. 73-km. 29	76	44	NHAI	305.04	SOMA-BSCPL (JV)
179.	Swaroopganj to Bakaria (RJ-1) km 29 km 0 (NH 76) & km 264 to km 249.7 (NH 14)	76,14	43	NHAI	139.85	Agrawal JV
180.	Palanpur to Swaroopganj (Rajasthan- 42 km & Gujarat-34 km) km 264 to km 340	14	76	NHAI	98.99	Larsen & Toubro Ltd., ECC Division
181.	Deesa to Radhanpur (Package VI) Km 372.60 to Km 458.0	14	85.4	NHAI	364.24	Daelim Industrial Corp. Ltd. Nagarjuna Construction Co. Ltd. (JV)
182.	Radhanpur to Gagodhar (Package V) km 136.80 to km 245.00	15	106.2	NHAI	343.22	Jain-Sadbhav (JV)
183.	Gagodhar to Garamore (package IV) km. 245.0 to km. 281.3 and km 308.00 to km 254.00	15,8A	90.3	NHAI	281.24	Daelim Industrial Corp. Ltd. Nagarjuna Construction Co. Ltd. (JV)
184.	Garamore to Bamanbore (Package III) km 254.00 to km 182.60	8A	71.4	NHAI	244.27	Daelim Industrial Corp. Ltd. Nagarjuna Construction Co. Ltd. (JV)
185.	Rajkot Bypass & Gondal Jetpur (Package-VII) km 117.00 to km 143.00 & km 175.00 to km 185.00	8B	36	NHAI	325.28	West Gujarat Expressway Ltd.
186.	Jetpur to Bhiladi (Package II) km. 117 to km 52.50	8B	64.5	NHAI	289.03	Longjan Road & Bridge Ltd.
187.	Chennai Bypass Phase II	45,4 & 5	32	NHAI	498.53	Hindustan Construction Company Ltd.
188.	Ulundurpet-Padalur (Pkg-VI-B)	45	92.75	NHAI	358.51	IJM-Sapoorji Pallonji (JV) km 192.25-km 285.00 (Trichy tollway Pvt. Ltd.)
189.	Construction of 10 km service road and one 2 lane Flyover on Guwahati Bypass (AS-14A) Km 146 to Km 156	37	10	NHAI	11.29	Mareshwari Brothers Ltd.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
190.	Hapur-Garhmukteshwar km 58-93 Ltd. (UPSBC)	24	35	NHAI	61.52	UP State Bridge Corporation
191.	Garhmukteshwar-Muradabad km 93-149.25	24	56.25	NHAI	152.9	PNC Construction Co-BEL (JV)
192.	Tindivanam-Ulundurpet (Pkg-VI-A) km 121-km 192.25	45	71.25	NHAI	460.3	GMR Infrac. Ltd.-GMR Energy Ltd. (GMR Ulundurpet Expr. Pvt. Ltd.)
NHDP Phase III						
193.	Khalghat-MP/Maharashtra Border	3	82.8	NHAI	commenced recently	Navyuga Engineering Co. Ltd.
194.	Agra-Bharatpur km 17.756-km 63	11	45	NHAI	168.64	Oriental Structural Engineers Pvt. Ltd. Delhi Brass Consortium
195.	Sitapur-Lucknow Km 488.27 to km 413.20	24	75	NHAI	66	Apollo (UK)-JLI (UK)- DSC (Indian)-LOR (UK) Consortium
196.	Nagpur-Kondhali km 9.2 to Km 50	6	40	NHAI	156.3	Atlanta-SREI Consortium (JV)
197.	Amritsar-Wagha border	1	36.22	NHAI	commenced recently	Rohan Builders Pvt. Ltd.- Rajdeep Buildcon Pvt. Ltd. IDFC Ltd. Consortium
198.	Banglore-Neelamangala	4	19.5	NHAI	37.36	Navyuga Engineering Co. Ltd.
199.	Chhattisgarh/Maharashtra Border- Wainganga Bridge	6	80.055	NHAI	33.03	Ashoka-IDFC Consortium
200.	Delhi/Haryana Border to Rohtak	10	63.49	NHAI	3.73	KCT-ERA consortium
201.	Elevated Highway from Silk board junction to electronic city junction	7	9.98	NHAI	495.02	SOMA-NCC-MAYTAS Consortium
202.	End of Durg Bypass-Chhattisgarh/ Maharashtra Border	6	82.685	NHAI	commenced recently	Ashoka-IDFC Consortium
203.	Kurali-Kiratpur	21	42.9	NHAI	36.05	BSCPL-C&C Consortium
204.	Neelamangala Junction on NH 4 with NH 48 to Devihalli	48	81	NHAI	commenced recently	Lanco Devihalli Highways Pvt. Ltd.
205.	Pondicherry-Tindivanam	66	38.61	NHAI	0.54	Maytas-NCC Consortium
206.	Trichy-Dindigul	45	88.273	NHAI	0.56	Reliance Energy Limited
207.	Trichy-Karur	67	79.7	NHAI	commenced recently	Reliance Energy Limited

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
208.	Zirakpur-Panwano	22	28.69	NHAI	6	Jaiprakash Associates
209.	Madurai-Anupukottai-Tuticorin km 138.8 to km 264.5	45B	128.157	NHAI	123.3	Madhucon Projects Ltd.-SREI- Madhucon Granites Ltd. (JV)
210.	Six Laning of Bangalore-Hosur Section of NH-7 Km 18.750 to 33.130	7	14.38	NHAI	24.7	GVR Construction Pvt. Ltd. Chennai
211.	Banglore-Hoskote-Mudbagal Section km 237.700 to km 318.000	4	79.724	NHAI	34.2	Lanco Hoskote Highway Pvt. Ltd.
212.	Thanjarur-Trichy km 80-km 135.750	67	56	NHAI	116.85	Madhucon Projects Ltd.
213.	Salem-Ulundrupet (BOT-1/TN-06) km. 0.313 to km. 136.670	68	136.357	NHAI	commenced recently	Reliance Energy Limited
214.	Meerut-Muzaffamagar km 52.250 to Km. 131.00	58	79	NHAI	201.97	Nagarjuna Construction Co. Ltd.- MAYTAS Consortium
215.	Dhule-Pimpalgaon Km. 380/0 to Km. 265/0	3	118	NHAI	395	IRCON-SOMA Consortium
216.	Mahua-Jaipur Km. 120 to Km 228	11	108	NHAI	449.63	IJM Corporation Berhad
217.	Bharatpur-Mahua Km. 63 to Km. 120	11	57	NHAI	233.92	Madhucon Projects Ltd.-SREI
218.	Gonde-Vadape (Thane) Km. 440/000 to Km. 539/500	3	100	NHAI	340	Gammon India Ltd.-Sadbhav- Billimoria Consortium
219.	Auranga-Raipur Km 232 to Km. 281	6	45	NHAI	96.37	Apollo (UK)-JLI (UK)- DSC (Indian)-LOR (UK) Consortium
220.	Jalandhar-Amritsar km. 407/100 to Km. 456/100	1	49	NHAI	134	IVRCL Infrastructure Projects Ltd.
221.	Ambala-Zirakpur km. 5/735 to Km. 39/961 of NH-22 and km. 0/0 to Km. 0/871 of NH-21	21,22	36	NHAI	363.46	GMR Energy Ltd. & GMR Infrastructure Ltd. Consortium
222.	Kondhali-Telegaon Km 50 to Km 100	6	50	NHAI	268.77	Oriental Structural Engineers Pvt. Ltd- Delhi Brass Consortium
223.	Indore-Khalghat	3	80	NHAI	263.27	Oriental Structural Engineers Pvt. Ltd-Delhi Brass Consortium
NHDP Phase V						
224.	Vadodara to Bharuch Package BOT-1 (Six lane) 6 lanning (Km 108.7 to km 192)	8	83.3	NHAI	219.17	Larsen & Toubro Badodara Bharuch Tollway Limited

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
225.	Bharuch to Surat Package BOT-II (Six lane) 6 lanning	8	65	NHAI	241.39	IDAA Infrastructure Pvt. Ltd.
226.	Chennai-Tada (Six lane) km 11 to km 54.4	5	43.4	NHAI	commenced recently	Larsen & Toubro Ltd.
227.	Gurgaon-Kotputli-Jaipur (Six lane) km 42.70 to km 273	8	225.6	NHAI	commenced recently	Emirates Trading Agency LIC- KMC Construction Ltd.
228.	Surat-Dahisar (Six lane) km 263 to km 502	8	239	NHAI	commenced recently	IRB Infrastructure Developers Ltd.-Deutsche Bank AG
229.	Chilkakuripet-Vijayawada (Six lane) km 355 to km 434.15	5	82.5	NHAI	commenced recently	IJM Corporation Berhad-IDFC Ltd.
230.	Panipat-Jalandhar (Six lane) km 96 to km 387.1	1	291	NHAI	commenced recently	Isolux Corsan Concesionnes Sa- Corsan Corivam Constructions SA-Soma Enterprise Ltd.

Statement III*Details of single lane National Highways*

Sl.No.	Name of State	Single/Intermed. Lane (length in km)
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	338
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	340
3.	Assam	787
4.	Bihar	1967
5.	Chhattishgarh	668
6.	Goa	118
7.	Gujarat	232
8.	Haryana	189
9.	Himachal Pradesh	847
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	634
11.	Jharkhand	710
12.	Karnataka	618
13.	Kerala	268

1	2	3
14.	Madhya Pradesh	1426
15.	Maharashtra	147
16.	Manipur	493
17.	Meghalaya	456
18.	Mizoram	828
19.	Nagaland	369
20.	Orissa	1475
21.	Punjab	55
22.	Rajasthan	1492
23.	Sikkim	62
24.	Tamil Nadu	130
25.	Tripura	343
26.	Uttar Pradesh	622
27.	Uttarakhand	1621
28.	West Bengal	815
29.	Andaman and Nicobar	300
Total		18350

Declaration of Independence by Kosovo

2781. SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Kosovo has declared its independence from Serbia and has become the 193rd country in the world;

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

(c) the names of countries that have recognized the new nation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI ANAND SHARMA): (a) and (b) Kosovo unilaterally declared its independence on 17 February 2008.

Government's reaction was contained in the Official Spokesperson's response to a question on February 18, 2008. He said:

"India has a long standing and consistent policy on the issue of recognition. Recognition is normally accorded on the basis of a country having a defined territory, a duly constituted Government in charge which is accepted by the people and which has effective control over an area of governance.

It has been India's consistent position that the sovereignty and territorial integrity of all countries should be fully respected by all states. We have believed that the Kosovo issue should have been resolved through peaceful means and through consultation and dialogue between the concerned parties.

We have taken note of the Unilateral Declaration of Independence by Kosovo. There are several legal issues involved in this Declaration. We are studying the evolving situation."

(c) As per information available, as on 13 March 2008, the countries that have recognised Kosovo are:

The United States of America, United Kingdom, France, Afghanistan, Costa Rica, Turkey, Albania, Australia, Senegal, Malaysia, Germany, Latvia, Denmark, Luxembourg, Estonia, Italy, Peru, Belgium, Poland, Switzerland, Austria, Ireland, Iceland, Sweden, The Netherlands, Slovenia and Finland.

Shortage of Doctors, Nurses and Paramedics

2782. SHRI K.S. RAO:
SHRI SURAVARAM SUDHAKAR REDDY:

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

(a) the availability and the requirement of doctors, nurses and paramedical personnel at present to provide adequate healthcare both in urban and rural areas of the country;

(b) the steps taken to update the present curriculum incorporating new concepts of modern technology and medical sciences;

(c) whether the Government proposes to create a new unified Authority for regulating post graduate medical courses, upgrading teaching institutions for nurses and paramedical personnel and encouraging Public-Private Partnership in medical colleges at District headquarters and in rural areas; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the time by which such Authority is likely to be established?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) There is no shortage in the aggregate number of doctors and nurses in the country.

(b) to (d) Proposals for amending the MCI Regulations on Graduate Medical Education, Minimum Standard Requirements for the Medical Colleges, Minimum Qualifications for Teachers in Medical Institution and Postgraduate Medical Education are under consideration, which will deal with reviewing the curriculum, and encourage Public-Private Partnership in medical colleges at district level.

During the XI Plan, the Central Government has envisaged certain steps for upgrading teaching institutions for nurses and paramedical personnel.

A Committee under Chairmanship of Prof. Ranjit Roy Choudhury has recommended for a separate authority for regulating postgraduate medical curriculum, which is also under consideration.

*[Translation]***Promotion of Herbal Treatment**

2783. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH "LALAN":
SHRI SURAJ SINGH:

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

(a) whether herbs are being used for medical treatment in the country;

(b) if so, whether the said medical treatment has proved to be effective and inexpensive; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a): Yes, sir. The practitioners of Indian Systems of Medicine make use of herbal remedies for treatment of patients. Folk healers also use herbs in treatment of patients using local health practices.

(b) and (c): Acceptability of the traditional systems of medicine predominantly based on herbs and their growing demand in India and abroad proves the effectiveness of the treatments. Cost effectiveness of herbal treatment at the level of household use or use of self made medicines by practitioners is by and large attributable to availability of most of the medicinal plants in wild and low technological inputs required for preparation of medicines. However, with commercial production of packaged herbal medicines with all the attendant quality control requirements and cultivation of medicinal plants due to increasing demand are leading to increase in cost of herbal medicines.

*[English]***Funds for Expansion of NH-9**

2784. SHRI BADIGA RAMAKRISHNA:
SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP:

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

(a) whether the Union Government has sanctioned funds for expansion of National Highway No. 9 in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the funds allocated;

(c) the time by which the expansion work is likely to be commenced and completed;

(d) whether State Government of Andhra Pradesh has submitted any proposal to the Union Government for four-laning of National Highway No.9 from Sangareddy to Zaheerabad; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K. H. MUNIYAPPA) (a) to (c): Four-laning of National Highway (NH)-9 in Andhra Pradesh is being taken up in a phased manner. Hyderabad-Machilipatnam section of this NH is being taken up for four-laning by National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) on Build, Operate and Transfer (BOT) basis under National Highway Development Project (NHDP) Phase-III. Four-laning in a length of 31 km from Hyderabad to Sangareddy is in progress on BOT basis. These works are targeted for completion by December, 2011.

(d) and (e) Consultancy services for examining the viability of 4/6 laning of Sangareddy-Zaheerabad section of this NH on Design, Build, Finance and Operate (DBFO) pattern is under progress. Further action in this regard will depend upon the outcome of the said study.

Nuagaon Telisahi Coal Block

2785. DR. BABU RAO MEDIYAM: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received any proposal from Andhra Pradesh Government to divide Nuagaon Telisahi Coal block into two blocks on recommendation of Geological Survey;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the proposal has been approved by the Government; and

(d) if not, the time by which the proposal is likely to be approved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO) (a) to (d): Nuagaon

Telisahi coal block, allocated jointly to M/s Orissa Mining Corporation and M/s Andhra Pradesh Mineral Development Corporation in August, 2006, is a regionally explored block. It was inter-alia stated in the terms and conditions of allocation that whether the block could be operated as one mine or otherwise would be determined by the Central Government after the detailed exploration is completed, having regard to factors such as the interest of conservation, safety, deployment of optimal technology for optimal extraction of coal, mine capacity, the earliest commencement of production etc. Since, the detailed exploration in this block has not been carried out so far, it is not possible to examine the possibility of dividing the block into two parts at this stage.

Employment Agreements with other Countries

2786. ADV. SURESH KURUP:
SHRIMATI YASHODHARA RAJE SCINDIA:

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

(a) whether the Government has entered into bilateral/multilateral Agreement with foreign Governments to ensure payment of minimum wages and provision of basic living conditions to Indian workers in their countries; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI) (a) and (b) Government has not entered into Agreements with foreign Governments to ensure payment of minimum wages. However, Government has been actively pursuing the signing of formal bilateral MoUs with the major labour receiving countries to secure their commitment towards the protection and welfare of Indian emigrant workers. In December 2006 the Government signed an MoU with the UAE and in April 2007 with Kuwait. In November 2007 an Additional Protocol with Qatar was signed to update the 1985 Agreement. MoU has been finalized with Malaysia, which will shortly be signed. MoU are also being pursued with Oman, Bahrain and Yemen. The Government has prescribed a minimum wage for women household service workers emigrating to the Emigration Check Required (ECR) countries. The minimum wage will be fixed by the Indian Missions concerned in the range of US \$ 300-350 after taking into account the prevailing market wage in that country.

Location for Deep-sea-ports

2787. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to review the National Maritime Development Policy;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the locations for setting up deep-sea-ports have been identified; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the estimated expenditure likely to be incurred thereon?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) The Policy for the Maritime Sector, which is under finalization, seeks to combine vision and strategy for the sector through harmonious and coordinated development of our maritime assets including the ports, shipping, inland water transport systems and the ship building and ship repair industries.

(c): No, Sir.

(d): Does not arise.

Four Laning of NH-8A (Extn.)

2788. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI:
SHRI BHUPENDRASINH SOLANKI:
SHRI JASUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD:

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

(a) whether the four laning work of Gandhidham-Mundra Section of NH-8A (Extn.) has been started;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the present status of the work; and

(c) the details of the work proposed to be undertaken under NHDP Phase-III-A and its present Status?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA) (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Gandhidham-Mundra Section of NH-8A (Extn.) has been identified for 4-laning under National Highway Development Project (NHDP) Phase III. At present preparation of Feasibility-cum-Preliminary Design Report has been taken up.

[Translation]

Appointment of Lokpal

2789. SHRI SHYAMA CHARAN GUPTA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the reason for delay in appointment of Lokpal;

(b) the recommendations of the Group of Ministers on Lokpal;

(c) whether the Cabinet has approved the recommendations of the GoM on the appointment of Lokpal;

(d) if not, the hurdles identified in setting up of Rashtriya Lokayukta; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SURESH PACHOURI) (a) to (e) The National Common Minimum Programme of the Government envisages the enactment of Lokpal Legislation. In accordance with this commitment, a Group of Ministers constituted for the purpose has submitted its recommendations. However, before its recommendations could be considered by the Cabinet, the fourth report of the 2nd Administrative Reforms Commission (ARC) titled "Ethics in Governance" has been received. A view is yet to be formulated on the recommendations of ARC on Lokpal. It is the endeavour of the Government to introduce the legislation in the Parliament as early as possible.

[English]

Study on Renal Diseases

2790. SHRI UDAY SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether as per a study conducted by AIIMS, 10 percent of patients suffering from renal problems are saved and remaining 90 percent die without any definite cure;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether proper infrastructure is not available in AIIMS to treat such patients

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) AIIMS has not conducted any such study.

(c) and (d) Infrastructure is available at AIIMS both for kidney and renal diseases.

(e) From time to time AIIMS is modernized as per requirement and availability of funds.

Utilization of Road Safety Funds

2791. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL:
SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI:

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

(a) the details of funds allocated and spent on road safety over the last three years;

(b) whether the Union Government and the State Governments have been unable to utilize the amount allocated for road safety;

(c) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reasons therefor, State-wise; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to ensure full and proper utilization of funds for Road Safety?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA) (a) The details of funds allocated and spent on road safety by this Ministry during the last three

years are as under :—

(Rs. in Crore)

Year	Funds allocated	Funds spent
2004-05	39.70	34.99
2005-06	43.05	29.70
2006-07	47.00	43.25

(b) and (c). The funds allocated to this Ministry for Road Safety are utilized for implementing the schemes—Awareness Campaign for Road Safety, Refresher Training to Heavy Motor Vehicle Drivers, Setting up of Model Driver Training School and for National Highways Accident Relief Service Scheme under which the cranes and ambulances are procured and provided to the State/UT Governments and NGOs for post accident care. Except in the case of Setting up of Model Driver Training School, the funds for road safety are utilized by this Ministry directly. In the case of Setting up of Model Driver Training School, so far the funds have been released for setting up of driver training schools in the 13 states all over the country. During the last three years, the funds allocated to this Ministry were partly not utilized due to delay in tender process and finalization of specification of ambulances and cranes.

(d) For timely utilization of funds, under all the schemes, the proposals are called from various NGOs well in advance and other formalities such as the tender process for procurement etc. are being initiated in time.

Allotment of Forest Land

2792. SHRI MADAN LAL SHARMA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria for allotment of forest land to private parties for development;

(b) whether revenue is collected on such land by State Governments;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the forest land allotted to private parties for development, State-wise; and

(e) the revenue collected therefrom?

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

(a) to (e) The Government of India do not allot forest

land to private parties. However, under the provisions of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, forest land is diverted for non-forestry purposes on realization of money for Compensatory Afforestation, Net Present Value of the forest and any other charges recoverable in such cases.

Projects Pending for Environmental Clearance in A&N Islands

2793. SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of mining projects are pending for environmental clearance in the Union Territory of Andaman and Nicobar Islands;

(b) if so, the details thereof during the last three years including the current year; and

(c) the time by which clearance is likely to be granted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) No, Sir.

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

Compensation for Acquisition of Land in Assam

2794. SHRI SARBANANDA SONOWAL: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has initiated any process to adequately compensate those villagers who lost their land in connection with the construction of National Highway-52 from Rupai (Tinsukia district) to Dirak Gate bordering Arunachal Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA) (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A sum of Rs. 286.44 lakh on account of land compensation pertaining to construction of National Highway-52 in between Km. 848 (3.0 Km ahead of Dirak)

to Km. 875.76 (Rupai) has been deposited with the Deputy Commissioner, Tinsukia for disbursement to affected villagers and the amount of compensation for the stretch from Km. 845 to km. 848 has not yet been communicated by Deputy Commissioner, Tinsukia.

(c) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Health Conditions of Women

2795. SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the report of the United Nations Population Fund has indicated that the health of women in India is in most pitiable condition;

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

(c) whether the Government proposes to prepare any action plan for women health; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (d): No Sir. United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) has not released any specific report on the health condition of women in India. However, Government of India has launched the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) under which flexibility is provided to the States to devise need based Programme Implementation Plans (PIPs) with special focus on vulnerable groups including women and children. In order to reduce the maternal mortality and morbidity, the following key strategies and interventions, inter-alia, are being implemented.

Janani Suraksha Yojana; appointment of an Accredited Social Health Activist (ASHA) for mobilizing women for services; setting up of Rogi Kalyan Samitis at District Hospitals, CHCs and PHCs; operationalisation of Community Health Centres as First Referral Units (FRUs), 24x7 Primary Health Centres; augmenting availability of skilled and trained manpower; supplementary nutrition to pregnant and lactating women under the Integrated Child Development Scheme (ICDS).

[English]

Focus on Environment-Oriented Forest Sector

2796 SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH:
SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:
SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to focus on environment-oriented forest sector and a strong national policy on forests and land use plans which are essential to achieve ecological sustainability;

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

(c) whether various international environmental groups have asked the Government to implement the various Acts concerning the forest use; and

(d) if so, the views of the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY) (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, the principal aim of the existing Forest Policy is to maintain and ensure environmental stability and maintenance of ecological balance including atmospheric equilibrium which are vital for sustenance of all lifeforms, human, animal and plant and also aim to achieve minimum one-third of total land area under forest or tree cover.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Establishment of Mega Ports

2797. SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to establish a number of mega ports of international standard on the lines of Rotterdam and Shanghai ports in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the location selected for the purpose;

(c) the estimated expenditure on each of these projects; and

(d) the time by which these mega ports are likely to be established?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) (a): No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Research for Cancer Treatment

2798. SHRI JUAL ORAM: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of research works conducted for identification and treatment of cancer in the country; and

(b) the extent to which such research resulted in the efficient and effective treatment of cancer patients?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) Cancer diagnosis and treatment is done by different specialities in the field of medicine in India and abroad. The basic research, clinical research and applied research provides the data which may suggest the efficacy of the treatment of cancer. This is an ongoing activity and the research which is carried out is published in journals and presented in professional meetings before the same is used in the patient care on routine basis. Details of the research work already conducted for identification and treatment of cancer in the country are available in the research publications in the field of cancer. The extent to which such research benefited in patient-care in general cannot be concluded. However, it is widely known that the research in the field of cancer has resulted in earlier diagnosis and better survival rates after cancer treatment.

[Translation]

Proposal for Rail Over-bridges on NH-24

2799. SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has received proposals from Railways authorities and State Government

for construction of rail-over-bridges on National Highway No.24;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government has also received proposals for construction of rail-over-bridges in Western areas of Mirganj/Fatehganj in Bareilly district of Uttar Pradesh;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action taken by the Government on such proposals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA) (a) to (e) No proposal for construction of Road Over Bridge (ROB) on National Highway No.24 has been received from Railways Authorities and State Government. However, construction of a 4-lane ROB in Km. 181 of Hapur-Moradabad Section of National Highway No.24 is in progress. On National Highway No.24, all existing two lane ROB's are to be widened to 4 lane and all existing level crossings including at Mirganj/Fatehganj in Bareilly district are to be replaced with 4 lane ROB as part of 4 laning work under National Highway Development Project (NHDP) Phase III/other projects.

[English]

Compensation to Road Accident Victims

2800. PROF. M. RAMADASS:
PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR:
SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA:

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

(a) whether the compensation in all cases is paid to the accident victim, and to the next kith and kin of the person died in road accident; and

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the amount paid either to the victims directly or to the various State Governments during last three years and the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA) (a) and (b) The compensation to the deceased/injured in a road accident is given on the basis of Structured Compensation Formula prescribed under II Schedule of the Motors Vehicle Act, 1988 on no-fault

principle basis. The amount is calculated on the basis of number of factors such as age of the victim, income, number of dependents etc. If the road accident victim/legal heir is not satisfied with the amount of compensation, he may approach Motor Accidents Claims Tribunal/Civil Courts for higher compensation on fault principle. The details regarding compensation paid to the accident victim are not compiled in this Ministry as the compensation is paid by the Insurance Company.

[Translation]

Trade Restrictions Imposed by Russia

2801. SHRI RAKESH SINGH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has entered into any negotiations with Russia on trade and investment; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) Yes. The Governments of India and Russia have held discussions on strengthening bilateral trade and investment. A Joint Study Group to increase bilateral trade to US\$ 10 billion by 2010 and to explore the feasibility of a Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement was set-up in 2006. The Group finalised its report in July 2007. In February 2008, the two Governments have formed a Joint Task Force to monitor the implementation of the Joint Study Group recommendations. Also, in June 2006, the two Governments had decided to establish India-Russia Forum on Trade and Investment and the first two sessions of the Forum have been held with the participation of business communities from the two sides in February 2007 and February 2008. Further, in February 2008, it has also been decided to set up a Council of business Chief Executive Officers from both sides.

[English]

Effectiveness of Microbicides in Medical Research

2802. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO:
SHRI RAGHURAJ SINGH SHAKYA:
SHRI HEM LAL MURMU:

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

(a) whether the Government's attention has been drawn towards the news item "Yaun Rogo Se Mukti Dilayega Microbicides" published in 'Dainik Jagran' dated February 25, 2008;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government including coordination activities to control such diseases in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b): Yes, Sir. Microbicides are anti-microbial products that could reduce the risk of transmission of HIV and other sexually transmitted diseases when applied vaginally. Research on microbicides is being carried out world wide. At present they are not available for use.

(c) Various steps taken by Government including coordination activities to control such disease in the country include the following:—

- (i) Voluntary counseling and testing of vulnerable population.
- (ii) Targeted interventions for High Risk Groups and Vulnerable Population.
- (iii) Measures for Blood Safety through voluntary blood donation and regularizing Blood Banks.
- (iv) Prevention and management of sexually transmitted infections.
- (v) Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission.
- (vi) Identification and treatment of eligible persons living with HIV/AIDS.
- (vii) General awareness for prevention of HIV/AIDS.
- (viii) Coordination with other ministries, departments and sectors of mainstreaming, prevention and control of HIV/AIDS.

[Translation]

Migration of Siberian Birds

2803. SHRI RAGHURAJ SINGH SHAKYA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the migration of Siberian birds to several States in the country has been reported and cases of smuggling of birds have also been detected in many States;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

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

(a) and (b) A number of Siberian birds migrate annually to different States in India for wintering. Though there is no specific report of smuggling of birds, but possibility of some isolated cases of bird smuggling cannot be ruled out.

(c) The steps taken by Government in this regard are as follows:

- (i) Legal protection has been provided to endangered birds, including migratory birds against hunting and commercial exploitation under the provisions of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.
- (ii) The Wildlife (Protection) Act has been amended and made more stringent. The punishments in cases of offences have been enhanced. The Act also provides for forfeiture of any equipment, vehicle or weapon that is used for committing wildlife offence.
- (iii) The Wildlife Crime Control Bureau has been set up for control of poaching and illegal trade in wildlife and its products.
- (iv) The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has been empowered under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 to apprehend and prosecute wildlife offenders.
- (v) Crucial habitats of various species of birds have been notified as National Parks and Sanctuaries. Some of the important wetlands have also been notified as Ramsar Sites and World Natural Heritage Sites.
- (vi) Financial and technical assistance is extended to the State/Union Territory Governments under Centrally Sponsored Schemes for the development of National Parks & Sanctuaries and conservation of wetlands for providing better protection to wild animals.

Agreement with M/s Aryan Benefication Pvt. Ltd. on Various Issues

2804. SHRI FAGGAN SINGH KULASTE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the SECL has signed a contract with M/s. Aryan Coal Benefication Pvt. Limited;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith terms and conditions of the contract;

(c) whether the M/s Aryan coal Benefication Pvt. Limited has not followed the terms and conditions of the contract;

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

(e) whether the SECL has allotted land in Dipika to M/s. Aryan Coal Benefication Pvt. Limited or coal washery;

(f) if so, the details thereof alongwith production of rejected coal, rate of rejected coal for sale, and transportation charges; and

(g) the name of the companies to whom the rejected coal was sold?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO) (a): No, Sir. SECL has not signed any contract with M/s Aryan Coal Benefication Pvt. Ltd.

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

(e) to (g) 5 hectares of land has been allotted on lease to M/s Aryan Coal Benefication Pvt. Ltd. by the South Eastern Coalfields Ltd to set up a coal washery in Dipika area. As regards production of rejected coal, rate of rejected coal for sale, transportation charges and the companies to whom the rejected coal was sold, SECL is not aware as it is a matter between the linked consumer and washery operator.

[English]

Passenger Steamer Service

2805. SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to operate a passenger steamer service from Geonkhali in Midnapur district of West Bengal to Paradip in Orissa;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the stoppages proposed between the two points, location-wise;

(c) the estimated expenditure on the project; and

(d) the time by which such service is likely to be commissioned?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) (a): No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

[*Translation*]

Setting up of All India Institute of Ayurveda

2806. SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY:
SHRI RAJNARAYAN BUDHOLIA:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state the estimated cost of establishment of the proposed All India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA) at Sarita Vihar, Delhi?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): The estimated cost for establishment of All India Institute of Ayurveda at Sarita Vihar, New Delhi during the 11th Plan is estimated at Rs. 155.00 crores, out of which Rs. 134.00 crores is towards capital works and Rs. 21 crores is for recurring costs.

Dr. Abhay Bang Committee on Malnutrition and Child Mortality

2807. SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has studied the recommendations made by Dr. Abhay Bang Committee to check malnutrition and child mortality;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has formulated any action plan to implement the recommendations made by the said Committee; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (d) A Committee headed by Dr. Abhay Bang was constituted on 12.12.2003 by the Government of Maharashtra to look into infant mortality and malnutrition in the State. The Committee submitted its first report on 24.08.2004 and second report on 24.04.2005. Action taken by the Government of Maharashtra on the recommendations of Dr. Abhay Bang Committee are given in the enclosed statement.

Statement

Dr. Abhay Bang Committee, recommendations (first report) deals with the 100% reporting of child deaths and the second report recommendations deal with the actions to be taken to decrease child malnutrition and deaths in the State.

Some of the major recommendations are as follows:—

1. Giving priority to underserved, deprived groups.
2. Carry out reforms in the integrated and child development scheme.
3. Transparency in transfers of workers and officers with an interval of 3 years.
4. Strict implementation of the Pre-Conception and Prenatal Diagnostic Techniques (PCPNDT) Act and Child Marriage Act.
5. Health education to the tribal.
6. 6 monthly de-worming and vitamin A drive.
7. Strengthening of urban health infrastructure
8. Involvement of NGOs and Mahila Mandals in health schemes
9. Evaluation of the different schemes and data by an external agency
10. Consider female community health volunteer
11. Home based neonatal care.

Regarding the recommendations concerning Health and other departments, joint discussions were held with the concerned departments and action taken on the recommendations is given as under.

1. Rajmata Jijau Mother and Child Health and Nutrition Mission has been established (to address malnutrition and infant mortality).
2. Increasing the number as well as training of Anganwadi workers etc. are being implemented
3. Government Orders regarding the transfer policy have been issued and are being implemented
4. PCPNDT Act is being implemented with more than 1500 Appropriate Authorities along with State Appropriate Authority are monitoring the program. 6352 centers are registered under the Act and 101 cases have been filed in the court
5. Health Educational material prepared by State health education bureau is being used for bringing about awareness among communities.
- 6 Deworming and vitamin A drive is being implemented in the State every 6 months
- 7 The number of health posts in urban areas are being increased and the contractual ANMs are being appointed
- 8 Mother NGOs have been appointed for almost all districts in the state and Service NGOs have been appointed for 7 districts and the rest are being appointed
9. Maharashtra Health Science University is being consulted for independent evaluation of the different health schemes.
10. In place of community health volunteer, 139 Arogya Sakhis have been appointed, female pada volunteers in the tribal areas are being trained, 9000 ASHAs are being appointed.
11. Integrated Management of Neonatal & Childhood Illness (IMNCI) initiatives is being implemented in State as a major step towards reduction of Infant Morbidity and Infant Mortality in 15 Tribal & 8 Non-tribal districts in Maharashtra State.

[English]

Package for Preservation and Protection of Wildlife

2808. SHRI CHENGARA SURENDRAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received proposals from State Governments particularly from Kerala for seeking a special assistance for preservation and protection of Forest and Wildlife;

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

(c) the present status of the proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY) (a) to (c) Yes Sir. The details of the proposals submitted by the Government of Kerala during the current financial year for seeking special assistance for the protection of forests and wildlife are as under:

No.	Proposal	Amount (in Rs. crores)
1.	Project on voluntary relocation of human settlements in Wayanad Wildlife Sanctuary	85.00
2.	Project for acquisition of land for elephant corridors at Periya, Kottiyoor, Palachuram, Nelliyyode areas	7.89
3.	Project for acquisition of ecologically fragile land area and private enclosures under CAMPA scheme	76.55
4.	Project for conservation of marine turtles and other endangered marine animals.	6.65
5.	Project for protection and development of Sandal trees at Marayoor	35.52

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.

[*Translation*]

Seminar on STD

2809. SHRI HEMMAL MURMU: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a seminar has been organized recently for protection from the sexually transmitted diseases in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A seminar was organized by "The Indian Association for the study of Sexually Transmitted Disease & AIDS, a professional body of Sexually Transmitted Disease specialists in October 2007 at Rohtak with the objective of providing continuing medical education (CME) to the members of their association.

[*English*]

Agreements Signed with China

2810. SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state the steps taken by the Government in pursuance of Indo-China Science and Technology agreement signed during Chinese Prime Minister's visit to India on the areas such as earthquake research, prevention of disaster management and global warming, etc.?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) During the visit of Chinese President Hu Jintao to India in November 2006, India and China agreed to establish an India-China Partnership in Science and Technology, and to launch joint projects in the areas of (i) earthquake engineering, (ii) climate change and weather forecasting, (iii) nano-technology with focus on advanced materials, and (iv) biotechnology and medicines with focus on bio-nano. The nodal officers of India and China met in Beijing in January 2008 to identify joint projects in these areas. The two sides have agreed

to call for detailed project proposals and propose to complete the process by the middle of the year so as to commence implementation.

Accident Prone NHs

2811 DR. K. DHANARAJU: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Highways where the work of widening of roads into 4 lanes and 6 lanes is under progress have become accident prone;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is a proper monitoring mechanism to check the accidents on the stretches where the widening work is under progress; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) The execution of work of widening is planned keeping in view the safety of traffic. Traffic safety measures such as installation of road signage, provision of delineators, traffic barricades, provision of cautionary flags etc, are taken by the executing agencies. Ministry's specification for Road and Bridge work, 2001 (4th revision), Clause 112, provides for detail arrangement for traffic management during construction.

Interceptor and Diversion Scheme for Clearing Yamuna

2812 SHRI REWATI RAMAN SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under consideration of the Union Government for implementation of an interceptor and diversion scheme with a view to cleanse Yamuna of its pollution;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the level of cleanliness likely to be achieved as a result thereof;

(c) the manner in which the proposed scheme is different from the ones implemented in the past;

(d) the amount of expenditure involved to implement the said scheme;

(e) whether there is any similar schemes for rest of the rivers in the country; and

(f) 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. According to the information provided by the Government of NCT of Delhi, Delhi Jal Board has evolved the concept of laying interceptor sewers along the three major drains namely, Najafgarh, Supplementary and Shahdara in Delhi to prevent the flow of untreated sewage and its treatment before discharge to river Yamuna. The salient features of DJB's proposal include laying of interceptor sewers, augmentation of existing capacity of sewage treatment plants (STPs) and construction of additional sewage treatment plants after full utilization of existing STPs. The proposal takes care of the untreated sewage from unsewered areas and allow only discharge of treated effluent into the river Yamuna. The tentative cost of the project is about Rs. 1300 crore. This concept is similar to the works implemented under Yamuna Action Plan, launched by Government of India in a phased manner.

(e) and (f) Under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of National River Conservation Plan (NRCP), pollution abatement works are implemented to improve the water quality in the identified polluted stretches of major rivers in the Country. These works include interception and diversion of raw sewage flowing into the rivers, setting up of Sewage Treatment Plants for treating the diverted

sewage, creation of low cost sanitation facilities, setting up of electric/improved wood crematoria and River Front Development among others. Presently, NRCP covers pollution abatement works in 164 towns along polluted stretches of 35 rivers spread over 20 States at an approved cost of Rs. 4863.75 crore.

[Translation]

Computerisation of CGHS Dispensaries

2813. DR. SHAFIQR RAHMAN BARQ: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of CGHS dispensaries that have been computerised, name-wise and location-wise;

(b) whether such computerisation has resulted in delay for treatment of patients; and

(c) if so, the details thereof alongwith the training provided to medical and paramedical staff in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) Till date 83 dispensaries have been computerized in Delhi (list is enclosed in the given statement)

(b) and (c) No Sir. However there may be some minor delays during initial change over from Manual to computerize system. Doctors of CGHS, Delhi have been provided basic training. Each dispensary has also been provided with two data entry operators for imparting training and assisting dispensary staff.

Statement

Computerized Dispensaries under Central Government Health Scheme, Delhi

SI.No.	Dispensary Name	Dispensary Address
1	2	3
1.	Chanakya Puri	D-II/257, 259, Vinay Marg, New Delhi
2.	Chitra Gupta Road	CGHS Building, Near Aram Bagh, New Delhi
3.	Constitution House	IE-SA, Kasturba Gandhi Marg, New Delhi
4.	Gole Market	CGHS Building, DIZ Area, Sec.-II, Gole Market, New Delhi

1	2	3
5.	Aliganj	CGHS Building, Near Lodhi Road, New Delhi
6.	Lodhi Road	Block 4-1,3,5,7, Lodhi Road, New Delhi
7.	Minto Road	New Minto Road Hostel, Block-I, Minto Road Complex, New Delhi-110002
8.	Pandara Road	D-II/365-367, Pandara Road, New Delhi
9.	Paharganj	3&4, Chitra Gupta Road, New Delhi
10.	President Estate	CGHS Dispensary Wing
11.	Telegraph Lane	18-E, Telegraph Lane, New Delhi
12.	Dr. Z.H. Road	CGHS Building, Dr. Z.H. Road, New Delhi
13.	Kali Bari	CGHS Building, Kali Bari Marg, DIZ Area, New Delhi
14.	Pragati Vihar	C.P.W.D. Complex, Pragati Vihar, New Delhi
15.	North Avenue	31, North Avenue, New Delhi-1
16.	South Avenue	153, South Avenue, New Delhi-11
17.	Chandni Chowk	CGHS Disp. No.8, Near Moti Cinema, Chandni Chowk, Delhi-6
18.	Darya Ganj	CGHS Disp. No.28, Behind Golcha Cinema Hall, Darya Ganj, Delhi-02.
19.	Dilshad Colony	CGHS Disp. No.87, E-13 and 14, Express Market, Dilshad Colony, Delhi
20.	Krishana Nagar	CGHS Disp. G.K.G. No.56, H.No.A-1, Krishna Nagar, Delhi-51
21.	Kingsway Camp	CGHS Disp., KWC No.60, New Police Line, Kingsway Camp, Delhi
22.	Mayur Vihar	CGHS Disp. No.77, 264, A, Mayur Vihar, Pkt-I, Phase-I, Delhi
23.	Pul Bangash	CGHS Disp. No.22, Hathikhana, Pul Bangash, Near Azad Market, Delhi-7
24.	Rajpur Road	CGHS Disp. No.59, 5, Rajpur Road, Old Police Line, Delhi-54
25.	Shahdara	CGHS Disp. No.49, Mansarovar Park, Shahdara, Delhi-32
26.	Shakti Nagar	CGHS Disp. No.6, 23/1, Shakti Nagar, Delhi-7
27.	Lancer Road	CGHS General Hospital No.7, Lancer Road, Delhi

1	2	3
28.	Bhajan Pura	C-67, Gali No.8, Bhajan Pura, Delhi
29.	Yamuna Vihar	C-4/73, Yamuna Vihar, New Delhi
30.	Laxminagar	CGHS Bldg., H-Block, Vikas Marg, Laxmi Nagar, New Delhi
31.	Ashok Vihar	I-97, Ashok Vihar, Phase-I, Delhi-52
32.	Delhi Cantt	CGHS Dispensary Delhi Cantt. Near Sadar Bazar
33.	Dev Nagar	Block No. 12, Mother Dairy Booth, CGHS Disp. Dev Nagar
34.	Hari Nagar	CGHS Hari Nagar, Near DTC Depot, Hari Nagar
35.	Inder Puri	Flat No.647, 648, Krishi Kunj, Inder Puri
36.	Janak Puri-1	C-4, CGHS Disp., Janak Puri-I
37.	Janak Puri-2	B-1/20, Janak Puri, N.D.-28
38.	Karol Bagh	883, East Park Road, Karol Bagh, N.D.
39.	Naraina Vihar	C-Block Near Community Centre, Naraina Vihar
40.	New Rajinder Nagar	CGHS Disp. Building, New Rajinder Nagar
41.	Nangal Raya	CGHS Disp. Nangal Raya, D Block, Janak Puri
42.	East Patel Nagar	11/14, East Patel Nagar, New Delhi
43.	West Patel Nagar	11/26, West Patel Nagar
44.	Pusa Road	23, Pusa Road, N.D.
45.	Palam Colony	CGHS Dispensary Palam Colony, Near Subzi Mandi, Mangla Puri
46.	Pitam Pura	Income Tax Colony, Pitam Pura
47.	Paschim Vihar	Qtr. No.-A1, A2, A8, pkt-3, Paschim Vihar
48.	Rajouri Garden	CGHS Dispensary Hari Nagar, Near DTC Depot, Hari Nagar
49.	Rohini	CGHS Dispensary Nahar Pur, Sec-7, Rohini
50.	Sunder Vihar	I/6, Sunder Vihar, Delhi-57
51.	Tilak Nagar	CGHS Dispensary Tilak Nagar, Near Subzi Mandi
52.	Tri Nagar	Building No. 564, Gali No.37, Onkar Nagar, Tri Nagar
53.	Andrews Ganj	D-2, 65 & 66, Andrews Ganj, New Delhi
54.	Pushp Vihar	A-B 125, 126, 127-Sector-IV, Pusp Vihar, New Delhi

1	2	3
55.	Hauz Khas	CGHS Dispensary Building, SDA, New Delhi
56.	Jangpura	Q.No.46,48,50,52,56, Block No.8, Jangpura
57.	Kalkaji-I	CGHS Maternity Centre & Disp., Kalkaji
58.	Kalkaji-II	Qr. LIG DDA, Flat 38-B, 42-43A, 745A, Kalkaji
59.	Kasturba Nagar-I	CGHS Polyclinic, Kasturba Nagar, New Delhi
60.	Kasturba Nagar-II	R.525,526,529,530,533 Kasturba Nagar
61.	Kidwai Nagar	CGHS Own Building, 61-63, Kidwai Nagar
62.	Laxmibai Nagar	CGHS Disp. Building, Near Navyug School, Laxmibai Nagar, New Delhi
63.	Lajpat Nagar	CGHS Disp. Building, Lajpat Nagar Market, New Delhi
64.	Moti Bagh	CGHS Own Building near Begum Zaidi Market, Moti Bagh, New Delhi
65.	Munirka	DDA Flat, JNU Campus, Munirka
66.	M.B. Road	CGHS Building, Sector-I, M.B. Road
67.	Malviya Nagar	Senior Secondary School, Malviya Nagar
68.	Netaji Nagar	CGHS Disp. Building, Netaji Nagar
69.	Nauroji Nagar	77, 79, 81, 83-E, Nauroji Nagar
70.	Nanakpura	CGHS Disp. Building, Nanakpura
71.	R.K. Puram-I	Q.No.817-818, Sector-IV, R.K. Puram
72.	R.K. Puram-II	CGHS Disp. Building, R.K. Puram, Sector-II, New Delhi
73.	R.K. Puram-III	CGHS Disp. Building, R.K. Puram, Sector-VI, New Delhi
74.	R.K. Puram-IV	CGHS Disp. Building, Sector-VIII, R.K. Puram
75.	R.K. Puram-V	Qtr. 810, 818-825, Sector-XII, R.K. Puram
76.	R.K. Puram-VI	Qr.No.833, 837, 839, Sector-13, R.K. Puram, Qr. No.817
77.	Sarojini Nagar-I	Y-342-346, Sarojini Nagar
78.	Sarojini Nagar-II	1-165, 67, 69, 171, Sarojini Nagar
79.	Sarojini Nagar Market	G-150, 152, 154, 156, Sarojini Nagar
80.	Sadiq Nagar	CGHS Disp., Near G.K.-I, New Delhi
81.	Sri Niwas Puri	CGHS Disp. Building, Srinivaspuri, New Delhi
82.	Faridabad	Sector-4, NIT, Faridabad.
83.	Gurgaon	343/4, Joacobpura, New Railway Road, Gurgaon

*[English]***Implementation of RNTCP**

2814. DR. R. SENTHIL:
SHRI SURAVARAM SUDHAKAR REDDY:

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

(a) whether there are any States where the Revised National Tuberculosis Control Programme (RNTCP) has been more effectively implemented as compared with other States;

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

(c) the steps taken by the Government to streamline the effective implementation of RNTCP in all the States of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) Revised National TB Control Programme (RNTCP) is being implemented uniformly in all states throughout the country as laid out in the technical and operational guidelines for RNTCP. The Programme is achieving global target of 85% cure rate consistently over the years and a case detection rate of 70% has been achieved in 2007.

(c) The Revised National TB Control Programme (RNTCP) is being implemented as a 100% Centrally Sponsored Scheme and the entire country is implementing the programme. Under the Programme, diagnosis and treatment facilities including a supply of anti TB drugs are provided free of cost to all TB patients. For quality diagnosis, designated microscopy centres have been established for every one lac population in the normal areas and for every 50,000 population in the tribal, hilly and difficult areas. Sputum microscopy instead of X-ray avoids over diagnosis and identifies infectious cases. More than 12000 microscopy centres have been established in the country. Drugs are provided to the TB patients in patient wise boxes to ensure that all drugs for full course of treatment are earmarked the day a patient is registered for treatment under the programme. Treatment centres (DOT centres) have been established near to residence of patients to the extent possible. All government hospitals, Community Health Centres (CHCs), Primary Health Centres (PHCs), Sub-centres are DOT Centres, in

addition, NGOs, Private Practitioners (PPs) involved under the RNTCP, Community volunteers, Anganwadi workers, Women Self Groups etc. also function as DOT Providers/ DOT Centres. Drugs are provided under direct observation and the patient are monitored so that they complete their treatment.

To make the programme more accessible to larger segments of the population, and to supplement the Government efforts in this direction, emphasis is being given to also involve medical colleges, all general hospitals, Corporate hospitals, private practitioners and NGOs in the programme.

Management of Aided Schools

2815. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:
SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:
SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Administrative Reforms Commission has recommended to hand over the appointment of aided school teachers to the Public Service Commission and given a central role to the civic bodies in the management of these schools;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Administrative Reforms Commission has also recommended to make the recruitment of teachers more transparent and accountable to the local communities; and

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

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

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The second Administrative Reforms Commission (ARC) in its 6th report titled 'Local Governance—An Inspiring Journey into the Future' has recommended that in urban local bodies, recruitment for schools should be made to an institution/society, moving away from non-accountable State level recruitment. The report is available

at <http://www.arc.gov.in> for public information. Copies of the report have also been placed in the Parliament Library.

(d) The recommendations contained in the report are being processed for consideration and acceptance by the Government.

Health for All

2816. SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the country needs more than 13 lakh health workers to achieve its mandate of health for all as published in the 'Hindu' dated February 24, 2008;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether private and voluntary agencies have the adequate resources and the infrastructure to ensure health for all, at least at the primary and secondary level;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by the Union Government to meet the needs of health workers to achieve its mandate of health for all?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (d) The Primary health care services in rural areas are provided through a network of a three tier infrastructure of Sub Centres [SC], Primary Health Centres [PHC] and Community Health Centres [CHC]. As on March, 2007 there are a total of 145272 Sub-centres, 22370 PHCs and 4045 CHCs functioning in the country.

As on March, 2007, there is a shortfall of 21157 Health Worker [Female]/ANM at Sub Centres & Primary Health Centres, 77615 Health Workers [Male] at SCs, 7142 Health Assistants [Female]/LHVs at PHCs, 6261 Health Assistants [Male] at PHCs, 1410 Doctors at PHCs, 9455 Specialists at CHCs, 1398 Radiographers at CHCs, 4910 Pharmacists at PHCs and CHCs, 9795 Laboratory Technicians at PHCs and CHCs and 17262 Nurse Midwife/ Staff Nurse at PHCs & CHCs.

(e) These centres are run by the States/UTs Governments and the staff is also recruited by them. Under National Rural Health Mission [NRHM], funds are

released to States/UTs Governments for upgradation and strengthening of Primary Health Centres including contractual appointment of staff, construction of building and infrastructure. The State/UT Governments are however required to incorporate their requirement in their annual NRHM Programme Implementation Plans.

Research on Hydrogen Powered Cars

2817. SHRI VIKRAMBHAI ARJANBHAI MADAM: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has entered into any agreement with Tata Motors for developing hydrogen fuel cells for cars using cryogenic technology;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the benefits that are likely to accrue to ISRO as a result thereof; and

(d) the time by which the car is likely to be produced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) ISRO has entered into an agreement with TATA MOTORS for providing technology for development of fuel cell bus using gaseous hydrogen.

(b) ISRO's responsibility is to design and develop high-pressure storage, flow control and dispensing system for hydrogen fuel. ISRO will also assist in development of vehicle control system and implementation of safety systems.

(c) ISRO has got a planned programme of making available high technology developed for space to industrial/commercial use. This project is one example where indigenously developed cryogenic technology is used for realizing an eco friendly motor vehicle.

(d) Demonstration of fuel cell bus on the road is planned by the end of 2009.

[*Translation*]

Revalidation of Funds for National Parks etc.

2818. SHRIMATI YASHODHARA RAJE SCINDIA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether State Government of Madhya Pradesh has sent a proposal to the Union Government for revalidation of the amount under Development of National Parks and Sanctuaries, which could not be utilized within the stipulated timeframe;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if so, the Government reaction thereto and the time by which the said amount is likely to be revalidated;

(d) whether the some funds are still to be sanctioned and released; and

(e) if so, the time by which such funds are likely to be sanctioned and released?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY) (a) to (c) Yes Sir. During the current financial year 2007-08, Government of Madhya Pradesh had submitted proposals for the revalidation of unspent balance of the previous years/spill over works along with the Annual Plans of Operation under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme—*Assistance for Development of National Parks and Sanctuaries*. Central Government has approved an amount of Rs. 1063.99 lakh (including an amount of Rs. 213.518 lakh as revalidation/spill over works) under the Scheme during 2007-08. Of which, Rs. 787.254 lakh has been released to the State Government.

(d) No proposal for revalidation is pending.

(e) Does not arise.

Death of Animals in Zoos

2819. SHRI SHISHUPAL N. PATLE:
SHRI DEVIDAS PINGLE:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether animals are dying in major zoos in the country as reported in the 'Dainik Jagran' dated March 04, 2008;

(b) if so, the total number of animals died in the national zoos during the current year, till-date, alongwith the reasons therefor; and

(c) the amount spent on the development of the zoos along with procurement of new species of animals from funds allocated during the current year so far?

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

(a) and (b) There have been deaths of animals in zoos including National Zoological Park, New Delhi. National Zoological Park, New Delhi is the only National Zoo in the country. The detail of deaths of animals in National Zoological Park, New Delhi during current year (1-04-2007 to 12-03-2008) is given in the enclosed statement.

(c) The Central Zoo Authority had provided financial assistance of Rs. 93.779 lakhs for the development of the Zoos in the country during the current year upto 13.3.2008. No financial assistance for procurement of new species of animals is provided by the Central Zoo Authority.

Statement

Deaths of Animals in the National Zoological Park New Delhi. Mortality List (from 1st April 2007 to 12th March 2008)

S.No.	Date	Species Name	Sex	Age	Beat No.	Cause of Deaths
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Mammals						
1.	15.04.2007	BEAR SLOTH	M	A	8	CIRROSHIS LIVER
2	18.04.2007	CHIMPANZEE(MO RIS)	M	SA	1	HEAT STROKE.
3	25.04.2007	BUCK WHITE	M	A	14	Myocarditis
4.	30.04.2007	Boar Wild	M	A	17	Acute Septecemea
5.	09.05.2007	Deer Sanghai	M	A	5	Infighting, Shock & Death.
6.	19.05.2007	Buck Black	F	A	3	Cirrosis Liver

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
7.	20.06.2007	NILGAI	F	A	1	Cirroshis Liver
8.	29.07.2007	Chausingha	F	A	18	Cirroshis Liver
9.	01.08.2007	Jackal	M	A	12	Septicaemia
10.	02.08.2007	Black Buck	M	A	3	Multiple Assess of Small intestine
11.	10.08.2007	Lion Asiatic (Meera)	F	SA	Hosp	Acute Anemea, Pulmonary Odema Paralysis & Stress
12.	02.09.2007	Rhinoceros Indian	M	A	4	Snake Bite-Toxemea.
13.	02.09.2007	Boar Wild	F	A	17	Toxemea
14.	04.09.2007	Buck White	M	A	16	Pneumonitis
15.	12.09.2007	Chausingha	M	A	18	Drowning and Aspexia
16.	21.09.2007	Buffalow Cape	M	CALF	17	Stress & Shock
17.	29.09.2007	Rhinoceros Indian	F	A	4	Traumatic Pericarditis
18.	07.10.2007	Deer Sanghai	M	A	5	Pulmonary Oedema & Cirroshis Liver
19.	13.10.2007	Buffalow Cape	F	A	17	Stress & Shock
20.	06.11.2007	Jackal	M	A	12	Cirroshis Liver & Selenity
21.	06.11.2007	Deer Sanghai	F	A	5	Stress & Shock
22.	06.11.2007	Deer Sanghai	F	A	5	Stress & Schock
23.	06.11.2007	Deer Sanghai	F	A	5	Stress & Shock
24.	06.11.2007	Deer Sanghai	F	A	5	Stress & Shock
25.	06.11.2007	Deer Sanghai	M	A	5	Stress & Shock
26.	06.11.2007	Deer Sanghai	M	A	5	Stress & Shock
27.	07.11.2007	Deer Sanghai	F	A	5	Stress & Shock
28.	07.11.2007	Deer Sanghai	M	A	5	Stress & Shock
29.	07.11.2007	Deer Sanghai	M	A	5	Stress & Shock
30.	26.11.2007	Benteng Cattle	F	A	2	Hepatomagaly & Selenity
31.	31.01.2008	Langure Grey	F	A	Hosp.	Splenomagaly
32.	11.03.2008	Deer Sambar	F	A	2	Cirroshis Liver-Selenity
33.	12.03.2008	Deer Sam Bar	M	A	2	Infigting, Shock & Death.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
BIRDS						
34.	01.04.2007	Pheasant Silver	M	A	18	Lymphoid Leucosis
35.	01.04.2007	Pheasant Silver	F	A	18	Acute Haemorrhagic Enteritis.
36.	04.04.2007	Pheasant Edwardsi	F	A	18	Pulmonary Oedema
37.	08.04.2007	Stork Adjutant	M	A	5	Multiple Abscess of Lungs & Liver (Selenity)
38.	15.04.2007	Pheasant Ring Necked	F	A	20	Lymphoid Leucosis
39.	25.05.2007	Peafowl White	M	A	HOSP.	Predator Bite
40.	28.05.2007	Cockateil	M	A	11	Acute Enteritis.
41.	28.05.2007	Cockateil	F	A	11	Acute Enteritis
42.	01.07.2007	Pheasant Silver	F	A	18	Lymphoid Leucosis
43.	01.07.2007	Pheasant Silver	F	A	18	Lymphoid Leucosis
44.	11.07.2007	Parakeet B.H.	M	A	19	Acute Enteritis.
45.	18.07.2007	Parakeet R.B.	F	A	19	Acute Enteritis.
46.	05.08.2007	Thrush W.T. Laughing	F	A	19	Multiple Abscess of Liver
47.	24.08.2007	Pheasant Chackor	M	A	19	Predator Bite
48.	24.11.2007	Lorikeet Indian	F	A	19	Predator Bite.
49.	26.12.2007	Hornbil Grey	F	A	17	Cold Shock & Selenity.
50.	07.01.2008	Parakeet L.I.	F	A	19	Cold Shock & Selenity
51.	21.02.2008	Pheasant Ring Necked	F	A	20	Pneumonitis
52.	06.03.2008	Parrot Eclectus	F	A	20	Predator Bite
REPTILES						
53.	29.01.2008	Python Rock	F	A	7	Cold Shock & Selenity.
54.	11.02.2008	Python Rock	M	BABY	7	Pneumonitis
55.	13.02.2008	Tortoise Star	M	A	7	Oedema Lungs.
56.	20.02.2008	Crocodile Marsh	M	A	16	Multiple Abscess of Lungs & Liver
57.	21.02.2008	Python Rock	M	A	7	Cirrhosis Liver & Pneumonitis.
58.	23.02.2008	Python Rock	M	A	7	Pneumonitis.
59.	27.02.2008	Python Rock	M	A	7	Pneumonitis.
60.	29.02.2008	Python Rock	F	A	7	Pneumonitis.
61.	03.03.2008	Python Rock	F	A	7	Pneumonitis.

Tender for Maintenance of Old Machines

2820. CH. MUNAWAR HASSAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has found any irregularities in the awarding of contract tenders for maintaining of non-working machines in the Northern Coalfields Limited (NCL);

(b) if so, the details thereof, mine-wise, project-wise alongwith terms and conditions of the contract tenders;

(c) the total expenditure incurred on such machines during the last two years;

(d) the action taken by the Government against the errant officials;

(e) whether the coal production has been decreased in coal mines/projects of Northern Coalfields limited;

(f) if so, the details and reasons therefor, mine-wise, project-wise; and

(g) the steps taken to improve the production?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) to (d) No, Sir. No irregularities have been noticed in award of contract tenders for maintaining of non-working machines in Northern Coalfields Limited (NCL).

(e) to (g) No, Sir. The coal production has in fact increased in every succeeding year at NCL.

[*English*]

Strikes by Hospitals/Dispensaries

2821. SHRI M. APPADURAI:
SHRI MADAN LAL SHARMA:

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

(a) whether health services in Government owned hospitals/dispensaries in the National Capital and elsewhere are frequently disrupted due to strikes by Doctors and Health employees thereby, adversely affecting the poor patients;

(b) if so, hospital-wise details of such strikes during the last three years, year-wise; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) In so far as the Central Government hospitals/dispensaries in the National Capital are concerned, there has been no disruption in the hospitals/dispensaries services due to strikes, if any, by Doctors and Health employees as the Central Government Hospitals have contingency plan to tackle any situation arising out of it.

Diversion of Forest Land

2822. SHRI SHRINIWAS DADASAHEB PATIL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether forest land has been diverted for setting up of wind mills at various locations in Maharashtra; and

(b) if so, the details thereof, Location-wise alongwith the area of land diverted at each location?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY) (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. An area measuring 462.3196 ha of forest land has been diverted for setting up of wind mills at various locations in Maharashtra till date. The location-wise details alongwith the area of forest land diverted is as under:—

Name of District	Forest Land Diverted (In hectares)
Dhule	340.4600
Ahmednagar	77.1270
Nasik	18.2210
Sangli	21.6400
Satara	4.8716
Total Forest land diverted	462.3196

[*Translation*]

Recognition of Foreign Medical Degrees

2823. SHRI KIREN RIJUJ:
DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY:

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

(a) whether the Government has consulted the Medical Council of India (MCI) regarding recognition to foreign medical degree in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) & (b) The Indian Medical Council Act, 1956 provides for consultation process with Medical Council of India before the Central Government takes any decision with regard to recognition of foreign medical degrees within or outside the scheme of reciprocity. However, the Central Government is empowered to take a final decision on considering the recommendations of MCI.

(c) After consultation with Medical Council of India, the Central Government has notified the recognition of postgraduate medical qualifications awarded to Indian citizens in Australia, Canada, New Zealand, United Kingdom and United States of America, on 10th March, 2008.

[English]

Mega Terminal at Chennai Port for Container Handling

2824. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Chennai Port Trust has proposed to set up a Mega Terminal for Container Handling;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the estimated cost and container handling capacity thereof; and

(c) the time-frame fixed for the setting up of such terminal?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (c) As part of the on-going process of development, it is planned to construct a Mega Terminal to handle extra large container ships at Chennai Port. The project is at its conception stage

Extension of Kaziranga National Park

2825. SHRI M.K. SUBBA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether in the face of the dwindling tiger population, an expert panel has recommended for increasing the size of the Kaziranga National Park by including Karbi Anglong Hills as buffer habitat; and

(b) if so, the Government's response thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY) (a) and (b) Information in this regard is being collected from State and would be laid on the table of the House.

[Translation]

Mining of Uranium Deposits in Meghalaya

2826. SHRI RAGHUVVEER SINGH KOSHAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is working on any Uranium mining project in Meghalaya;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the progress made so far;

(c) whether the Uranium Corporation of India is facing difficulty in setting up the said mining project; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) Uranium Corporation of India Limited (UCIL), a Public Sector Undertaking under the Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) proposes to set up a mine and mill at Kylleng Pyndengsohiong Mawthabab in the West Khasi Hills district in Meghalaya in Phase-I at an estimated cost of Rs. 1047.32 crore. Various pre-project activities are being carried out and the project will commence only after receipt of all statutory clearances and after an investment decision is taken by the Government.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Few NGOs and anti-nuclear activists are opposing uranium mining in Meghalaya.

Priority of NKC Recommendations

2827. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of priority fixed on the major recommendations of National Knowledge Commission (NKC) for implementation during the Eleventh Plan period including the upgradation of the education system in the context of globalization; and

(b) the year-wise implementation status of the recommendations made by the NKC along with the special reference to its implementation in the North Eastern Region?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) and (b) The reports/recommendations of NKC submitted to the Government are presently under examination in consultation with the concerned Central Ministries and State Governments.

Butterfly Parks

2828. DR. K.S. MANOJ: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are any Butterfly Parks in the country;

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

(c) if not, whether the Government proposes to establish Butterfly Parks in the country, particularly in the Bird Sanctuary at Pathiramanal at Alappuzha, Kerala; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) and (b) As per the information available with the Ministry, there is a Butterfly Park at Bannerghatta Biological Park, near Bangalore in Karnataka. Similarly there is a Butterfly Safari under the Thenmala Ecotourism Promotion Society at Thenmala in Kerala.

(c) No Sir. There is no such proposal.

(d) Does not arise.

Construction of Cement Plant in Bhutan

2829. SHRI MILIND DEORA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has decided to assist in the construction of a cement plant in Bhutan on the Indo-Bhutan Border;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the expenditure likely to be incurred;

(c) the time by which the said project is likely to be completed; and

(d) the benefits that are likely to accrue to the country as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) (a) to (d) Yes. The Government have decided to assist in the construction of a cement plant with a capacity of one million tonnes (MT) per year in Nganglam in Eastern Bhutan near the Indo-Bhutan border and to develop related infrastructure. The estimated time of completion of the project is 27 months from the date of commencement of construction and the total cost is estimated at Rs. 400 crores.

The cement plant will provide economic opportunities and have direct benefits for people on both sides of the border. A road link between Nganglam (Bhutan) and Pathshala (India) via Anchali will improve access to this remote region and is expected to boost local economic activities.

Universal Immunization Programme

2830. SHRI SUGRIB SINGH:
SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL:
SHRI NAND KUMAR SAI:

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

(a) whether the Government has evaluated the performance of Universal Immunization Programme in the country;

(b) if so, the names of the districts in which performance of said programme has been found unsatisfactory;

(c) the details of the targets fixed by the Government under the programme during 2006-07 and 2007-08 alongwith achievements thereof, State-wise; and

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

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

(b) The full immunization coverage of the country as per the District Level House Hold Survey (DLHS)-II (2002-04) is 47.6 percent. The list of districts which have less coverage than national coverage as per DLHS-II is given in the enclosed statement-I.

(c) Statement-II is enclosed.

(d) The following steps have been taken by the Government to further strengthen the Universal Immunization Programme in the country:—

- strengthening of supervision and monitoring by providing mobility support at State and district level,
- vaccine delivery support from last storage point i.e. PHC to session-site,
- mobilization of children to immunization session site by ASHA/Link workers,
- providing services in slums and under served areas where services are deficit by outsourcing immunization services.
- providing support for review meeting of district level officers at State level.
- computer assistance at state & district level strengthening of cold chain facilities.
- Conducting Village Health & Nutrition Days (VHND) to integrate Immunization with other services like nutrition & ANCs etc.
- Observing Special Immunization weeks/Catch-up rounds in low performing States.

Statement I

Name of Districts as per District Household Survey (DLHs) 2002-04

Sl.No.	State/UTs	District
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	Mahbubnagar
2.	Andaman and Nicobar	Andaman

1	2	3
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	Changlong
4.		Dibang Valley
5.		East Kameng
6.		East Siang
7.		Lohit
8.		Lower Subansiri
9.		Papumpare
10.		Tirap
11.		Upper Siang
12.		Upper Subansiri
13.		West Kameng
14.		West Siang
15.	Assam	Barpeta
16.		Bongaigaon
17.		Cachar
18.		Darrang
19.		Dhemaji
20.		Dhubri
21.		Dibrugarh
22.		Goalpara
23.		Golaghat
24.		Hailakandi
25.		Jorhat
26.		Kamrup
27.		Karbi Anglong
28.		Karimganj
29.		Kokrajhar
30.		Lakhimpur
31.		Marigaon
32.		Nagaon

1	2	3
33.		Nalbari
34.		N. Cachar Hills
35.		Sibsagar
36.		Sonitpur
37.		Tinsukhia
38.	Bihar	Araria
39.		Aurangabad
40.		Banka
41.		Begusarai
42.		Bhagalpur
43.		Bhojpur
44.		Buxar
45.		Darbhanga
46.		Gaya
47.		Gopalganj
48.		Jamui
49.		Jehanabad
50.		Kamur ,
51.		Katihar
52.		Khagaria
53.		Kishanganj
54.		Lakhisarai
55.		Madhepura
56.		Madhubani
57.		Munger
58.		Muzaffarpur
59.		Nalanda
60.		Nawada
61.		Champan West
62.		Patna

1	2	3
63.		Champan East
64.		Purnea
65.		Rohtas
66.		Saharsa
67.		Samastipur
68.		Saran
69.		Sheikhpura
70.		Sheohar
71.		Sitamarhi
72.		Siwan
73.		Supaul
74.		Vaishali
75.	Chhattisgarh	Baster
76.		Rajnandgaon
77.	New Delhi	New Delhi
78.		South Delhi
79.	Daman and Diu	Daman
80.	Gujarat	Banaskantha
81.		Dahod (part of Panchmahal)
82.		Panchmahals
83.		Sabarkantha
84.		The Dangs
85.	Himachal Pradesh	Bilaspur
86.		Lahul & Spiti
87.	Haryana	Gurgaon
88.		Kaithal
89.	Jharkhand	Bokaro
90.		Chatra
91.		Deoghar

1	2	3	1	2	3
92.		Dumka	122.	Manipur	Ukhul
93.		Garia	123.	Madhya Pradesh	Barwani
94.		Giridih	124.		Betul
95.		Godda	125.		Bhind
96.		Gumla	126.		Bhopal
97.		Koderma	127.		Chhatarpur
98.		Pakur	128.		Chhindwara
99.		Palamu	129.		Damoh
100.		Singhbhum East	130.		Datia
101.		Singhbhum West	131.		Dewas
102.		Sahibganj	132.		Dhar
103.	Jammu & Kashmir	Anantnag	133.		Dindori
104.		Badgam	134.		East Nimhar (Khandwa)
105.		Doda	135.		Guna
106.		Jammu	136.		Gwalior
107.		Kargil	137.		Harda
108.		Kathua	138.		Jhabua
109.		Kupwara	139.		Katri
110.		Leh	140.		Mandsaur
111.		Pulwama	141.		Morena
112.		Punch	142.		Neemuch
113.		Rajauri	143.		Panna
114.		Srinagar	144.		Raisen
115.		Udhampur	145.		Rajgarh
116.	Karnataka	Raichur	146.		Ratlam
117.	Manipur	Chandel	147.		Rewa
118.		Churachandpur	148.		Sagar
119.		Senapati	149.		Satana
120.		Tamenglong	150.		Sehore
121.		Thoubal	151.		Sahdol

1	2	3	1	2	3
152.		Shajapur	182.	Orissa	Jagatsinghpur
153.		Sheopur	183.		Jaipur
154.		Shivpuri	184.		Keonjhar
155.		Sidhi	185.		Koraput
156.		Tikamgarh	186.		Malakangiri
157.		Ujjain	187.		Mayurbhanj
158.		Umariya	188.		Nabarangpur
159.		Vidisha	189.		Nuapada
160.		West Nihmar (Khargone)	190.	Rajasthan	Ajmer
161.		Gadchiroli	191.		Alwar
162.	Meghalaya	East Garo Hills	192.		Banswara
163.		East Khasi Hills	193.		Baran
164.		Ri-Bhoi	194.		Barmer
165.		South Garo Hills	195.		Bharatpur
166.		West Garo Hills	196.		Bhilwara
167.		West Khasi Hills	197.		Bikaner
168.	Mizoram	Cramphal	198.		Bundi
169.		Kolasib	199.		Chittaurgarh
170.		Lawngtlai	200.		Churu
171.		Lunglei	201.		Dausa
172.		Mamit	202.		Dhaulpur
173.	Nagaland	Dimapur	203.		Dungarpur
174.		Kohima	204.		Ganganagar
175.		Mokokchung	205.		Hanumangarh
176.		Mon	206.		Jaipur
177.		Phek	207.		Jaisalmer
178.		Tuensang	208.		Jalore
179.		Wokha	209.		Jhalawar
180.		Zunheboto	210.		Jhunjhunu
181.	Orissa	Gajapati	211.		Jodhpur

1	2	3	1	2	3
212.		Karauli	242.		Bijnor
213.		Kota	243.		Budaun
214.		Nagaur	244.		Bulandshahar
215.		Pali	245.	Uttar Pradesh	Chandauli
216.		Rajsamand	246.		Chitrakoot
217.		Sawai Madhopur	247.		Etah
218.		Sikar	248.		Etawah
219.		Sirohi	249.		Faizabad
220.		Tonk	250.		Farrukhabad
221.		Udaipur	251.		Fatehpur
222.	Sikkim	North Sikkim	252.		Ferozabad
223.		South Sikkim	253.		Gautam Budh Nagar
224.		West Sikkim	254.		Ghaziabad
225.	Tripura	Dhalei	255.		Ghaziipur
226.		Tripura North	256.		Gonda
227.		Tripura South	257.		Gorakhpur
228.		Tripura West	258.		Hamirpur
229.	Uttar Pradesh	Agra	259.		Hardoi
230.		Aligarh	260.		Hathras
231.		Alahabad	261.		Jaleun
232.		Ambedkar Nagar	262.		Jaunpur
233.		Auraiya	263.		Jhansi
234.		Azamgarh	264.		Jyotiba Phule Nagar
235.		Baghat	265.		Kannauj (Farukabad part)
236.		Bahraich	266.		Kanpur (Dehat)
237.		Belarampur	267.		Kaushambi
238.		Banda	268.		Kheri
239.		Barabanki	269.		Kushinagar
240.		Barilly	270.		Lalitpur
241.		Besti	271.		Maharajganj

1	2	3	1	2	3
272.		Mahoba	288.		Shrawasti
273.		Mainpuri	289.		Siddharthnagar
274.		Mathura	290.		Sitapur
275.		Mau	291.		Sonbhadra
276.		Meerut	292.		Sultanpur
277.		Mirzapur	293.		Unnao
278.		Moradabad	294.		Varanasi
279.		Muzaffarnagar	295.	Uttaranchal	Deharadun
280.		Pilibhit	296.		Hardwar
281.		Pratapgarh	297.		Rudraprayag (Chamoli part)
282.		Raebareli	298.		Udhamsingh Nagar
283.		Rampur	299.		Uttar Kashi
284.		Saharanpur	300.	West Bengal	Birbhum
285.		Sant Kabir Nagar	301.		Maldah
286.		Sant Ravidas Nagar	302.		Murshidabad
287.		Saharanpur	302.		Uttar Dinajpur

Statement II*Universal Immunization Programme Targets & Coverage in Figure 2006-07*

Sl.No.	State/UT	TT (PW)			Target for DPT, OPV		DPT		OPV		BCG		Measles	
		Target (in 000's)	Achievement	%	BCG and Measles (in 000's)	Achievement	%	Achievement	%	Achievement	%	Achievement	%	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1,816.1	1,716,644	94.5	1,553.6	1,494,431	96.2	1,493,526	96.1	1,518,969	97.8	1,452,752	93.5	
2.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	7.4	10,632	142.7	6.7	6,679	100.4	6,679	100.4	6,568	6,568	98.8	93.7	
3.	Arunachal Pradesh*	24.5	13,477	55.0	21.5	19,645	91.3	19,901	93.0	21,546	100.2	16,484	76.6	
4.	Assam	846.4	653,037	77.2	717.9	621,530	86.6	638,247	88.9	701,002	97.6	612,855	85.4	
5.	Bihar	3,102.1	1,007,516	32.5	2,650.9	1,888,836	71.3	1,844,224	68.6	2,158,430	81.4	1,711,708	64.6	
6.	Chandigarh	16.6	17,465	105.3	14.8	15,858	107.2	15,858	107.2	23,819	161.0	15,618	105.6	

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
7.	Chhattisgarh	638.9	667,678	104.5	540.2	605,886	112.2	607,775	112.5	619,464	114.7	601,794	111.4
8.	Dadar and Nagar Haveli	8.4	8,352	90.8	7.2	7,778	108.1	7,778	108.1	8,640	120.1	7,099	98.7
9.	Daman and Diu	4.4	3,324	75.4	3.9	3,589	93.1	3,589	93.1	3,851	99.9	3,391	88.00
10.	Delhi	307.6	212,637	69.1	271.8	261,358	96.2	267,716	98.5	319,495	117.5	239,876	88.2
11.	Goa	23.6	23,697	100.6	21.1	24,236	115.0	24,253	115.1	28,536	135.4	23,018	109.2
12.	Gujarat	1,495.8	1,303,309	87.1	1,282.3	1,211,932	94.5	1,207,836	94.2	1,258,339	98.1	1,171,534	91.3
13.	Haryana	672.9	580,326	86.2	575.7	570,643	98.1	570,092	98.0	597,600	103.8	543,969	94.5
14.	Himachal Pradesh	146.6	135,639	92.5	126.7	129,173	101.9	129,140	101.9	133,212	105.1	126,284	99.7
15.	Jammu and Kashmir*	238.9	262,763	110.0	207.7	292,888	141.0	292,888	141.0	314,245	151.3	265,826	128.0
16.	Jharkhand	851.7	508,813	58.9*	734.8	731,349	98.5	729,110	99.2	772,075	105.1	693,147	94.3
17.	Karnataka	1,355.9	1,152,213	85.0	1,168.6	1,091,237	93.4	1,094,307	93.6	1,120,134	95.9	1,042,765	89.2
18.	Kerala	619.8	507,966	82.0	557.3	485,614	87.1	444,304	79.7	467,416	87.5	451,037	80.9
19.	Lakshadweep*	1.4	932	66.5	1.2	1,033	83.2	1,033	83.2	977	78.8	1,092	88.0
20.	Madhya Pradesh	2,241.8	1,932,158	86.2	1,670.8	1,897,403	101.4	1,898,295	101.5	1,969,112	105.3	1,869,610	99.9
21.	Maharashtra	2,293.2	1,723,124	75.1	1,997.1	1,586,315	79.4	1,595,884	79.9	1,664,981	83.4	1,516,299	75.9
22.	Manipur*	43.9	13,867	31.6	39.3	16,106	41.0	16,416	41.8	21,378	54.4	21,184	53.9
23.	Meghalaya	67.7	43,214	63.8	58.1	65,886	113.5	65,185	112.3	77,715	133.8	58,883	101.4
24.	Mizoram*	16.9	19,748	116.9	15.1	21,951	145.2	21,837	144.5	22,114	146.3	18,758	124.1
25.	Nagaland	58.7	28,614	48.8	50.1	22,973	45.8	24,810	49.1	25,513	50.9	30,466	60.8
26.	Orissa	984.6	830,523	83.5	829.1	810,822	97.8	812,182	98.0	865,820	104.4	779,906	94.1
27.	Pondicherry	20.2	18,186	90.1	17.9	16,352	91.4	16,352	91.4	42,101	235.2	16,328	91.2
28.	Punjab	592.6	524,858	88.6	512.3	530,326	103.5	537,564	104.9	536,302	104.7	503,062	98.2
29.	Rajasthan	2,104.3	1,838,974	87.4	1,789.5	1,890,237	95.5	1,892,103	95.6	1,750,064	98.9	1,654,771	93.5
30.	Sikkim	14.1	9,618	68.4	12.4	11,056	89.4	11,036	89.2	11,421	92.3	10,636	86.0
31.	Tamil Nadu	1,320.7	1,229,479	93.1	1,148.0	1,130,245	98.4	1,130,483	98.4	1,130,783	98.4	1,120,967	97.6
32.	Tripura	54.8	44,896	81.9	48.2	58,147	120.6	58,278	120.8	67,951	140.9	58,931	122.2
33.	Uttar Pradesh	6,398.5	5,174,507	80.9	5,374.7	5,457,184	101.5	5,457,890	101.5	5,646,385	105.1	5,103,901	95.0
34.	Uttaranchal	175.3	226,848	129.4	152.8	222,690	145.7	222,690	145.7	229,782	150.3	211,311	138.3
35.	West Bengal	1928.4	1,572,581	81.5	1672.5	15,88,878	95.0	1600286	95.7	1859365	111.2	1,522,828	91.00
	M/O Defence	\$\$	53,107		\$\$	31,583		36,422		28,940		22,130	
	M/O Railways	\$\$	14,347			22,903		24,341		18,966		16,895	
	Total	30,504.7	24,086,068	79.0	26,032.8	24,646,555	94.7	24,620,200	94.6	28,082,792	100.1	23,522,788	90.4

\$=Provisional

*= Estimated

\$\$= No separate targets allocated

Statement II*Universal Immunization Programme Targets & Coverage in Figure 2006-07 (upto April to November 2007)*

Sl.No.	State/UT	TT (PW)			Target for DPT, OPV		DPT		OPV		BCG		Measles	
		Target (in 000's)	Achievement	%	BCG and Measles (in 000's)	Achievement	%	Achievement	%	Achievement	%	Achievement	%	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	
1.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	5.0	3,685	72.9	4.5	4,037	89.9	4,037	89.9	3,454	76.9	3,540	78.8	
2.	Andhra Pradesh	1,139.8	1,117,42	98.1	975.0	1,000,571	102.6	1,000,861	102.7	1,020,564	104.7	973,574	99.9	
3.	Arunachal Pradesh*	18.6	6,024	32.4	16.3	7,639	47.0	7,701	47.4	8,950	55.1	7,854	48.3	
4.	Assam	546.9	363,880	70.2	464.3	375,847	80.9	352,188	75.8	419,769	90.4	349,853	75.3	
5.	Bihar	2,067.5	533,236	25.8	1,764.9	753,882	42.7	626,409	35.5	798,138	45.2	735,949	41.7	
6.	Chandigarh	12.3	11,963	97.0	11.0	10,425	95.0	10,425	95.0	15,633	142.5	11,791	107.5	
7.	Chhattisgarh*	471.9	407,615	86.4	403.2	368,454	91.4	368,542	91.4	389,298	96.5	394,772	97.9	
8.	Dadar and Nagar Haveli	5.5	5,139	94.3	4.7	4,726	100.1	4,726	100.1	5,197	110.1	4,394	93.1	
9.	Daman and Diu	2.7	1,864	69.0	2.4	2,117	89.7	2,117	89.7	2,293	97.2	1,933	81.9	
10.	Delhi	225.0	171,985	76.4	198.0	156,237	78.9	158,737	80.2	200,982	101.5	182,355	82.0	
11.	Goa	16.1	16,014	99.8	14.3	15,523	108.2	15,542	108.4	18,578	129.6	15,449	107.7	
12.	Gujarat*	999.7	787,644	78.8	860.6	733,072	85.2	702,932	81.7	766,832	89.1	728,716	84.7	
13.	Haryana	434.9	388,484	89.3	371.2	362,576	97.7	361,952	97.5	393,518	106.0	366,313	98.7	
14.	Himachal Pradesh	91.9	87,277	95.0	79.3	83,551	105.4	83,543	105.4	87,494	110.3	84,423	106.5	
15.	Jammu and Kashmir	165.3	159,861	96.7	142.9	189,575	132.7	189,575	132.7	200,065	140.00	178,116	124.7	
16.	Jharkhand	572.4	322,089	56.3	494.8	432,200	87.3	428,501	86.6	488,023	98.6	430,407	87.0	
17.	Karnataka	876.2	758,737	86.6	757.6	717,358	94.7	717,478	94.7	738,141	97.4	688,613	90.9	
18.	Kerala	379.6	279,072	73.5	341.0	308,983	90.6	308,479	90.5	322,982	94.7	280,532	82.3	
19.	Lakshadweep*	0.9	621	66.1	0.8	689	83.0	689	83.0	652	78.5	728	87.7	
20.	Madhya Pradesh	1,502.3	1,287,952	85.7	1,257.8	1,154,914	91.8	1,158,773	92.1	1,290,515	102.6	1,185,350	94.2	
21.	Maharashtra	1,487.3	979,906	65.9	1,303.4	1,166,874	89.5	1,127,280	86.5	1,267,922	97.3	1,154,891	88.6	
22.	Manipur	26.6	12,364	46.6	23.8	14,291	80.0	14,473	80.8	18,152	76.2	17,007	71.4	
23.	Meghalaya*	46.7	42,691	91.5	40.2	37,512	93.4	36,504	90.9	45,436	113.2	31,287	77.9	
24.	Mizoram*	13.7	13,671	100.1	12.2	13,381	109.9	12,832	105.4	13,952	114.5	13,451	110.4	
25.	Nagaland*	22.1	17,944	81.1	19.8	20,211	102.2	20,333	102.8	20,484	103.6	18,748	94.8	

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
26.	Orissa	681.6	517,036	78.2	555.1	517,856	93.3	516,061	93.0	549,458	98.0	502,572	90.5
27.	Puducherry	13.3	13,485	101.8	11.8	10,805	91.9	10,805	91.9	32,185	273.7	11,042	93.9
28.	Punjab	362.7	313,233	96.4	314.9	327,109	103.9	327,109	103.9	335,912	108.7	305,822	97.1
29.	Rajasthan	1,366.3	1,160,668	85.0	1,158.8	1,042,312	89.9	1,039,118	89.7	1,157,172	99.9	1,030,946	88.9
30.	Sikkim	8.5	6,372	75.4	7.4	6,931	93.2	6,930	93.1	7,328	98.5	7,226	97.1
31.	Tamil Nadu	829.6	828,059	99.8	723.2	758,491	104.9	758,239	104.8	759,580	105.0	751,776	103.9
32.	Tripura	38.3	31,384	81.9	33.7	34,072	101.1	32,886	97.6	39,015	115.7	33,987	100.9
33.	Uttar Pradesh	4,278.8	3,145,582	73.5	3,608.6	3,143,609	87.1	2,940,157	81.5	3,818,551	100.2	3,084,887	85.5
34.	Uttarakhand	141.6	144,664	102.2	123.3	134,411	109.0	134,411	109.0	148,195	120.2	124,086	100.8
35.	West Bengal	1,237.0	998,150	80.7	1,079.6	992,536	91.9	916,125	84.9	1,148,825	108.2	994,250	82.1
	M/O Defence	\$\$	29,126	80.7	\$\$	41,681		31,758		23,281		18,572	
	M/O Railways	\$\$	9,525	80.7	\$\$	22,701		26,165		11,848		10,891	
	Total	20,068.4	14,984,685	74.7	17,181.4	14,967,159.0	87.1	14,454,372	84.1	16,366,493	95.3	14,715,653	85.6

\$= Provisional

* = Estimated

\$\$ = No separate targets allocated

Indian Workers Travelling Abroad

2831. SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU:
SHRI K.C. PALLANI SHAMY:

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

(a) the details of the Indian workers travelling abroad during the last two years, year-wise;

(b) whether a large number of such persons have gone to foreign countries without any valid visa and completing all the formalities;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the assistance rendered/proposed to be rendered to such persons?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) An emigrant Indian worker holding (ECR) category passport and going for employment in any of the ECR country has to seek

emigration clearance under the Emigration Act, 1983, from the offices of Protectors of Emigrants (POEs) under the administrative control of this Ministry. A statement containing number of emigrant workers granted emigration clearance by the POE offices during the years 2006 and 2007 is enclosed.

(b) to (d) Cases of workers going abroad on visit/transit visas and taking up employment in that country have come to the notice of this Ministry and Indian Missions from time to time. Whenever such instances are reported, the Missions take up the matter with the local government there to redress the grievances of the workers and extends all help for repatriation of such workers back to India.

Gulf Countries from time to time declare Amnesty for illegal migrants either to regularize their stay or leave the country without penalty. On declaration of such Amnesty the Indian Missions take up the matter with local authorities either for regularizing the stay of such workers or issue of emergency certificates for their deportation back to India. This Ministry coordinates with the Ministries of Home Affairs and Civil Aviation for ensuring their safe passage back to India.

Statement

Number of Indian emigrant worker granted ECR clearance by the offices of Protectors of Emigrants (POEs) during the years 2006 and 2007

S.No.	Country	2006	2007
1.	United Arab Emirates	254774	312885
2.	Saudi Arabia	134059	195437
3.	Malaysia	36500	30916
4.	Qatar	76324	88483
5.	Oman	67992	95462
6.	Kuwait	47449	48487
7.	Bahrain	37688	29966
8.	Maldives	4671	ECNR
9.	Mauritius	1795	ECNR
10.	Jordan	1485	1254
11.	Libya	—	3223
12.	Others	14175	3550
Total		676912	809453

[*Translation*]

Insufficient Food for Rural People

2832 SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN:
SHRI SURAJ SINGH:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether according to the National Sample Survey Organization report, around 10.6% of the rural population of West Bengal and Assam do not have sufficient food;

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

(c) the special schemes proposed to be taken up by the Government in this regard during the Eleventh Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) National

Sample Survey Organisation in its Report No. 512 (NSS 61st Round) has indicated that the percentage of Rural Households not getting enough food every day in some months of the year in West Bengal and Assam is 10.6% and 1.7% respectively. The percentage of Rural Households not getting enough food every day in any month of the year for West Bengal and Assam is 1.3% and 3.6% respectively.

(b) and (c) The Government is implementing a number of welfare schemes such as Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) and Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) for distributing wheat and rice at subsidized prices to the poor families in the country, including in the States of West Bengal and Assam. The Finance Minister in his Budget speech 2008-09 has, inter alia, announced that a sum of Rs. 32,667 crore is being provided next year for food subsidy under the Public Distribution System (PDS) and other welfare programmes. The Central Issue Prices of rice and wheat under TPDS have not been revised since July, 2000. The Antyodaya Anna Yojana covers about 2.42 crore poorest of the poor families among the below poverty line families and the central issue prices for them are Rs. 3/- per kg for rice and Rs. 2/- per kg. for wheat. The Government is also implementing a number of programmes to eradicate hunger and poverty. The major programmes in this regard include Sampooma Grameen Rozgar Yojana (SGRY), Swarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY) and National Rural Employment Guarantee Programme (NREGP). Besides, the Government is implementing programmes to improve the nutrition status of the population such as Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) to supplement the nutrition requirement of children below 6 years and pregnant and lactating mothers of targeted population and Mid-day Meal Scheme. These programmes are being implemented in collaboration with the State Governments.

Allotment of Coal Mines to SCs/STs on Priority Basis

2833. SHRI AJIT JOGI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any provision for priority and concession to SCs/STs for the allotment of coal mines;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of coal mines allotted to SCs/STs on priority basis during the last three years; and

(d) if so, the details thereof, State-wise and particularly in Chhattisgarh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) and (b) As per the Coal Mines (Nationalisation) Act, 1973, as amended from time to time, only a company as defined in Section 3 of the Companies Act, 1956 (1 of 1956) and engaged in specified end uses such as power generation, steel manufacturing, cement production, coal gasification and coal liquefaction is eligible to undertake captive mining of coal.

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

Posts of SCs In Government Offices

2834. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has made any effort to fill up the posts reserved for Scheduled Castes but lying vacant in Government offices for years; 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) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government launched a Special Recruitment Drive in 2004 to fill up the backlog reserved vacancies of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes. As per information received from various Ministries/Departments, there were a total of 30011 backlog reserved vacancies of the Scheduled Castes in the Ministries/Departments and their Attached Offices/Subordinate Offices/Autonomous Bodies, of which 26776 have been filled up by way of the Drive.

(English)

Variation in Selling Price of Medical Devices

2835. SHRI RAMESH DUBE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the medical devices such as stents, catheters, heart-valves and orthopaedic implants are being sold in the country with wide variation in their prices;

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

(c) the steps taken by the Government to bring these most essential devices within the scope of the price negotiations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) As per the information provided by Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers, in February 2007, the Government has constituted a committee on price negotiations of patented drugs to examine and propose a system of reference pricing/price negotiations/differential prices which may be applied for price negotiations of patented drugs and medical devices before their marketing approval in India. This Committee has not submitted its recommendations to the Government.

Allocation for Education Sector

2836 SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI:
DR. CHINTA MOHAN:
SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has proposed to spend around 20 per cent of the total Eleventh Five Year Plan budget on education as against the approximate 9% spent during the Tenth plan;

(b) if so, whether the existing educational institutions are prepared enough to absorb this volume of funds;

(c) if so, the details thereof,

(d) the total funds allotted during 2008-09; and

(e) the concrete measures the Government proposes to utilize these funds for immediate betterment of the education system?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) Out of the total projected Eleventh Plan outlay of Rs. 14,21,711 crore (at 2006-07 prices) Rs. 2,74,228 crore is projected to be allocated for Education Sector which is 19.29% of the total outlay

(b), (c) and (e) Necessary action for formulation and implementation of appropriate programmes and schemes

has been taken in consultation with the concerned Central Ministries and the State Governments.

(d) During 2008-09 Plan, Rs. 34,400 crore has been allocated for the Department of School Education & Literacy and the Department of Higher Education under Ministry of Human Resource Development.

Review of Medical Colleges

2837. SHRI SARVEY SATYANARAYANA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has constituted any Committee to review the number of medical colleges in various States of the country, especially in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the current status of the proposal?

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

(b) and (c) In view of above, question does not arise.

Collaboration in Health Sector between India and the USA

2838. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:
SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:

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

(a) whether India has discussed with the USA regarding the areas of collaboration in health care to reap the benefits of global health services Sector;

(b) if so, the outcome thereof;

(c) whether India lacks strength in research in basic and clinical sciences;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by the Union Government to augment the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) Yes. India and the USA have discussed areas of collaboration in health care and thereafter several MOU/Agreements have been signed for various Indo-US collaborative efforts. Details of such agreements and areas of collaboration are given in the enclosed statement.

(c) to (e) India has developed the infrastructure and expertise in basic as well as clinical research. However, there are various areas in health research, which are marked by complex technologies and multi-disciplinary involvement. In some areas where US has more experience than India, joint collaboration focus is on transfer of technology through training of the research staff in the US and in Indian laboratories, who will then implement this training using the infrastructure available in India.

Under various Indo-US collaborative research activities, ICMR has been conducting studies and making efforts to help Government of India to develop various strategies in Health sector such as capacity building in the field of emerging and re-emerging diseases, developing HIV Vaccine, containing Kala-azar, development of network for surveillance of human Influenza, Rota-Virus and Haemophilus Influenza B. Agencies like Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), USA and the Indian agencies viz. National Institute of Communicable Diseases (NICD) and Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) shall partner in the network of disease surveillance activities to derive maximum benefit from the collaboration.

Statement

Details of the Areas of Collaboration in Health Care between the Government of India and the Government of United States of America

Four Indo-US Joint Statements were signed between the Governments of India and the United States of America in the following fields:

- (i) Indo-US joint Statement on prevention of STD and HIV/AIDS
- (ii) Indo-US Joint Statement on Maternal and Child Health and Human Development Research
- (iii) Indo-US Joint Statement on Environment and Occupational Health

- (iv) Indo-US Joint Statement on Emerging and Re-emerging Infectious & Diseases Surveillance.

Apart from the above, the following MOU's/Agreements have been signed between agencies/organizations of the two countries in the following fields of research activities:

- (i) Tripartite agreement for HIV/AIDS between Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, ICMR&IAVI.
- (ii) ICMR-CONRAD MOU for microbicide research.
- (iii) ICMR-NIH Policy Forum on Biomedical Research established in New Delhi.
- (iv) MoU between ICMR, New Delhi and University of Minnesota, USA to work together in the areas of health research such as field epidemiology, cardiovascular medicine, cancer, obesity, diabetes etc.
- (v) MoU between ICMR and the University of California, Los Angeles, USA to work together in the identified areas of clinical, translation research, basic and fundamental health related sciences.
- (vi) Letter of intent between ICMR and the Boston University, USA to develop an MoU in the areas of mutual interest such as emerging infectious diseases and public health.

Rail-road Connectivity of Minor Ports

2839. SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Union Government has received proposals from various Maritime States for road and rail connectivity of Minor Ports under NMDP;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;
- (c) the steps taken by the Government in this regard;
- (d) the estimated expenditure likely to be spent on the proposed project; and
- (e) the time by which the projects are likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) (a): No, Sir.

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

Funds for Family Welfare Programmes

2840. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY: Will the MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) the funds allocated for family welfare programmes during the Tenth Five Year Plan;
- (b) the State-wise details of the amount released and spent therefrom during this plan and the success achieved as a result thereof; and
- (c) the funds allocated for family welfare programmes in the Eleventh Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (c) During the Tenth Plan an allocation of Rs. 26126 crore was made for Family Welfare Programmes. The allocation for Family Welfare Programmes is Rs. 81411.92 crores for the Eleventh Five Year Plan.

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

Prevention of Ocular Diseases

2841. SHRIMATI MANORAMA MADHAVRAJ: SHRI M. SHIVANNA:

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

- (a) whether ocular diseases are still being treated through conventional means;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) the number of blind persons in the country expected to increase by the year 2010; and
- (d) the efforts made by the Government to treat the blind persons to regain their vision eye-sight and the progress made as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) All ocular diseases including cataract are being treated through modern techniques available in the field of eye care. More than 90% of the cataract surgeries in the country are being done through IOL implantation technique.

(c) There are around 12 million blind persons in the country. Cataract is the leading cause of blindness contribution around 62.6% blindness among 50+ population in the country. Since cataract is an age related disease and also considering the increased life expectancy, the number of blind persons in the country is likely to increase by the year 2010.

(d) The following efforts/steps have been taken under National Programme for Control of Blindness to treat the blind persons to regain their vision/eye sight to control blindness:—

1. Providing Eye care facilities to the needy people at Primary, Secondary and Tertiary levels through Primary Health Centres, District Hospitals, Medical Colleges and Regional Institutes of Ophthalmology.
2. Strengthening of Eye Banks in Govt/Voluntary Sector.
3. Financial support to NGOs for strengthening of their existing infrastructure for Eye care.
4. Screening of School Children for detection of refractive errors and providing free glasses to poor.
5. Strengthening of Regional Institutes of Ophthalmology and Medical Colleges by providing assistance for development of paediatric eye units/low vision units/retina units and training infrastructure.
6. Imparting training to Ophthalmic Surgeons from Government Hospitals/Medical Colleges in various specialities of Ophthalmology for quality eye care.
7. Intensification of IEC activities to create awareness about eye care activities.

As a result of the efforts made under the programme, following major achievements have been made under the programme :—

- As per the Survey on Rapid Assessment of Avoidable Blindness (2007), prevalence of blindness has come down to 1%.
- **Cataract**—During 2004-05, around 44,91,154 cataract surgeries were performed under NPCB. The performance has been improving steadily with 49,05,619 surgeries during 2005-06 and 50,40,002 surgeries during 2006-07. During the current financial year, 2007-08, around 33.30 lakh cataract surgeries have been reported by the States upto January, 2008.
- **Intra ocular lens (IOL) Implantation** has improved from 88% during 2004-05 to nearly 93% during 2006-07.
- **Special drive for Cataract** and other comprehensive eye care activities has been initiated in N.E. region in view of the large cataract backlog in these states. As a result, around 57,000 cataract surgeries during 2005-06 and 62,145 cataract surgeries during 2006-07 were performed in these states. The activity is in progress in these states during the current year (2007-08).
- **Eye Donation**—Performance of Eye Donation has also improved from 23,553 during 2004-05 to around 30,000 during 2006-07. During the current financial 2007-08, around 17,000 donated eyes have been collected.
- **School Eye Screening Programme**—Provision of free glasses to poor children has also increased from 2,83,070 during 2004-05 to 4,56,634 during 2006-07. During the current financial year, 2007-08, around 2.45 poor school children have been provided spectacles as per reports upto January, 2008.

[Translation]

Nuclear Energy

2842. SHRI MOHAN SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any assessment has been made by the Government regarding the requirement of Nuclear Energy in the country in the coming years in view of rising prices of petroleum and decline in the reserve of traditional sources of energy;

(b) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government for augmentation of generation of nuclear energy in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN) (a) and (b) The Integrated Energy Policy of the Government recognizes the potential of nuclear energy and envisages reaching a nuclear power capacity of 48,000 MWe to 63,000 MWe by the year 2030.

(c) The present installed capacity of 4120 MWe will reach 7280 MWe by completion of the projects under construction progressively by the year 2011. The XI plan proposals envisage start of work on eight indigenous Pressurised Heavy Water Reactors of 700 MWe each. In addition, 10 Light Water Reactors, each of about 1000 MWe and above based on imports are also planned to be taken up for construction in the XI Plan, subject to realization of international cooperation in nuclear energy. Four Fast Breeder Reactors of the second stage are also planned to be added by the year 2020. This will be followed by additional nuclear power reactors during XII Plan and beyond.

[English]

Violence against Indian Doctors in UK

2843. SHRI MADHU GOUD YASKHI:
SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:
SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD:
SHRI ANIRUDH PRASAD ALIAS SADHU
YADAV:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has drawn its attention to the news item captioned "UK Mein Her Tisre Indian Doctor Ke Sath Hinsaa" as reported in 'The Nav Bharat Times' dated February 25, 2008;

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

(c) whether the Government has taken up this issue with the British Government; and

(d) if so, the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) A survey 'Violence in the workplace—The experience of doctors in Great Britain' was conducted by the British Medical Association in January 2008. The survey mentions that a third of UK doctors have experienced violence or abuse in the workplace in the last year. Doctors in training were the most likely group of doctors to report experience of violence or abuse in the workplace, followed by general practitioners. The majority of doctors, who reported experience of violence in the workplace, experienced some form of verbal abuse. Government of India have not received any complaints of violence against Indian doctors in UK.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Delay in Allocation/Release of Funds from CRF

2844. SHRI KASHIRAM RANA:
DR. DHIRENDRA AGARWAL:

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

(a) whether the funds are not allocated/released on time from CRF for the development of State-roads resulting in undue delays in the completion of these projects;

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

(c) the efforts made by the Union Government to release the CRF share to the States on time?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K. H. MUNIYAPPA) (a) to (c) The allocation of funds

from Central Road Fund (CRF) for each State/Union Territory (UT) is finalized at the beginning of the financial year. All the States/UTs are provided with one-third of their allocation of CRF, which is maintained as reserve by the States/UTs. This is replenished by subsequent releases based on receipt of utilization certificates for the amount previously released and the progress of works. As such, there is no delay in this regard.

[English]

Hospitals and Health Sub-centres for Women

2845. SHRI JASUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has any proposal to set up hospitals and health sub-centres in the Central Sector exclusively for women patients during the Eleventh Plan;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the States where these hospitals are proposed to be set up location-wise;

(d) the steps taken by the Union Government in this regard; and

(e) the time by which these hospitals are likely to be set up in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) Primary health care services in rural areas are provided to all including women through a network of a three tier infrastructure system based on the following population norms:

Centre	Population Norms	
	Plain Area	Hilly/Tribal Area
Sub Centre	3000	5000
Primary Health Centre	20000	30000
Community Health Centre	80000	120000

As on March, 2007 there are a total of 145272 Sub-centres, 22370 PHCs and 4045 CHCs functioning in the country which serve both men and women. There is no proposal as yet for setting up health centres/hospitals exclusive for women in the 11th Five Year Plan. In case States feel there is need to set up women hospital in their State, they can incorporate their proposal in the Programme Implementation Plan for approval.

(c) to (e) These Centres are run by the States/UTs Governments and the location is decided by the States/UTs Governments as per their requirement. Under National Rural Health Mission [NRHM], funds are released to States/UTs Governments for upgradation/strengthening/establishment of new Centres. The States/UTs Governments are however required to incorporate their requirement in their annual NRHM Programme Implementation Plans [PIP]. SCs, PHCs, CHCs are to be established as per the population norms in a phase-wise manner. Accordingly the States/UTs give their request in their annual NRHM PIP.

Proposal for New Coal Mines

2846. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to start new coal mines / projects in Government/Private Sector during 2008-09;

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

(c) the details of targets fixed for production of coal from these coal mines during the next three years; and

(d) the time by which these coal mines/projects are likely to be made operational?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) Yes, Sir. 14 new coal projects of Coal India Limited (CIL) and 2 new coal projects of Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL) are planned to start contribution from the year 2008-09. 18 new coal blocks are likely to contribute towards 36.22 MT production from captive blocks during 2008-09.

(b) to (d) The details of 16 projects of CIL and SCCL are as below:

Sl.No.	Company	Name of the project	Capacity (Mty)	Capital (Rs. Crs)	Planned production			Likely completion date
					08-09	09-10	10-11	
1.	CCL	Konar OC	3.50	74.53	0.50	2.00	3.00	MAR-11
2.	WCL	Bhanegaon OC	0.60	30.44	0.05	0.15	0.30	MAR-12
3.	WCL	Ghonsa OC	0.30	6.99	0.05	0.10	0.15	MAR-12
4.	WCL	Junakunda OC	0.60	23.76	0.05	0.10	0.15	MAR-12
5.	WCL	Urdhan OC	0.50	43.50	0.05	0.10	0.20	MAR-12
6.	WCL	Yekona-I OC	0.40	46.07	0.08	0.15	0.35	MAR-11
7.	WCL	Yekona-II OC	0.60	48.06	0.08	0.20	0.40	MAR-12
8.	WCL	Durgapur Ryt, 6/7/8 inclines UG	0.32	13.64	0.10	0.26	0.32	MAR-11
9.	SECL	Amera OC	1.00	41.69	0.20	1.00	1.00	MAR-10
10.	SECL	Saraipalli OC	1.40	22.82	0.20	1.00	1.33	MAR-11
11.	SECL	Amadand OC	1.15	83.39	0.30	1.04	1.15	MAR-11
12.	SECL	Damini UG	0.48	39.32	0.17	0.35	0.40	MAR-11
13.	MCL	Damini OC	10.00	457.77	1.00	3.93	6.50	MAR-12
14.	NEC	Ledo OC	2.50	41.37	0.70	1.50	1.50	MAR-13
15.	SCCL	Adriyala Shaft	2.144	212.34	0.41	1.08	1.43	Sept-13
16.	SCCL	Shanti Khani Longwall	1.167	249.03	0.46	0.73	1.32	Oct-11

Migration of Doctors

2847. SHRI BALASHOWRY VALLABHANENI:
SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN:

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

(a) whether most of the students who study in All India Institute of Medical Sciences go abroad for jobs;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether education in the AIIMS is subsidized;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government proposes to take any steps to ensure that those who study in the AIIMS work in the country at least for some time; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) AIIMS do not maintain any data of the students going abroad. However as per study conducted by one of the faculty of AIIMS has stated that 54% of AIIMS student reside out of the Country.

(c) The education in AIIMS is subsidized;

(d) Tuition fees for Indian undergraduate students is Rs. 300/- per annum. However from foreign students the fee charged is US \$ 75,000.

(e) and (f) There is presently no proposal to consider enactment of law requiring trained medical professionals in AIIMS to leave the country only after serving for a requisite number of years in the country including rural areas.

**Construction Work on Projects without
Forest Clearance**

2848. SHRI JASUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Gujarat has started construction and other works on some Projects without getting forest clearance;

(b) if so, whether these works/projects involve forest land including wildlife sanctuary; and

(c) if so, the steps taken/to be taken by the Government to save forest bio-diversity?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY):
(a) to (c) The Ministry of Environment and Forests has not received any information so far on constructional activities involving forest land including wildlife sanctuary in the State of Gujarat without obtaining approval under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. However, factual information is being collected from the State Government of Gujarat, which will be placed before the House as soon as the same is received.

Report on Public Distribution Schemes

2849. SHRI K.S. RAO: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the major findings of the study report prepared by the Planning Commission regarding Public Distribution Scheme;

(b) the main recommendations of the report of Programme Evaluation Organisation (PEO) in this regard;

(c) whether the Government has proposed to make Government officials accountable for more transparency in implementation of welfare schemes and provided for penal action against officials found indulging, in pilferage and diversion of foodgrains meant for the poor under PDS;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government has proposed to do away with the subsidies regime; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) The main findings contained in the Report on Performance Evaluation of Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) prepared by the Programme Evaluation Organisation (PEO) of the Planning Commission are the following:

- (i) The implementation of TPDS is adversely affected by targeting errors, prevalence of ghost cards and unidentified households;
- (ii) Though the off-take per household has shown some improvement under TPDS, yet only about 57% of the BPL households are covered by it;
- (iii) The Fair Price Shops are generally not viable because of low annual turnover and they remain in business through leakages and diversions of subsidized grains;
- (iv) Leakages and diversions of subsidized grains are large and only about 42% of subsidized grains issued from the Central Pool reaches the target group; and
- (v) The cost of income transfer to the poor through PDS is much higher than that through other modes.

(b) The main recommendations of the Report of PEO on TPDS are the following:—

- (i) The performance of TPDS can be improved if some corrective measures are taken to reduce delivery cost, bring in transparency in the delivery mechanism and make the operation of retail outlets financially viable;
- (ii) To minimize leakages at Fair Price Shops (FPS) level and ensure their transparent operation, these retail outlets must be made financially viable.
- (iii) The Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) must be empowered to inspect the accounts/transaction records of FPSs and satisfy themselves about transparent functioning of FPSs.
- (iv) There is a need for bringing down the economic cost of foodgrains distributed under TPDS through rationalization of cost structure of handling foodgrains through, public agencies.

(c) and (d) The main responsibility for prevention of diversion of pilferage of foodgrains vests with the concerned State Governments and UT Administrations, since matters relating to allocation of foodgrains within the State/UT, issue of ration cards and supervision of the functioning of Fair Price Shops come within their purview. As far as taking action against officials indulging in pilferage and diversion of foodgrains, any such case brought to the notice of Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution is forwarded by that Ministry to the concerned State Governments for taking suitable action against the concerned officials under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955. In order to make implementation of TPDS more transparent, a revised Citizens' Charter has been issued recently by Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution for adoption and implementation by the State/UT Governments for facilitating use by the citizens of the provisions of the Right to Information Act in relation to functioning of TPDS.

(e) and (f) Finance Minister in the Budget Speech 2008-09 has, inter-alia, stated that a sum of Rs. 32,667 crore is being provided next year for food subsidy under the Public Distribution System (PDS) and other welfare programmes. Besides, he stated that strengthening the PDS would mean adequate supplies, reasonable subsidies and efficient delivery of the subsidized food.

Review of Centrally Sponsored Schemes Related with Health and Diseases

2850. SHRI G.M. SIDDESWARA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has reviewed the implementation of Centrally Sponsored Schemes to keep a check on deadly diseases like Malaria, Tuberculosis, Blindness and AIDS in the various States;

(b) if so, the outcome of this review, State-wise; and

(c) the remedial measures taken/proposed to be taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) Health is a State subject. The Government of India through various national disease control programmes and schemes supplement the efforts of the State Governments to control and keep a check on deadly diseases like Malaria, Tuberculosis, Blindness

and AIDS in the country. The review and remedial measures in respect of these disease control programmes are taken from time to time. A statement in this regard is enclosed.

Statement

1. National Vector Borne Disease Control Programme In depth review (IDR) of malaria & other vector borne diseases like kala-azar, filariasis, JE, dengue & chikungunya was conducted by ICMR institutions in the year 2006. This was followed by another review by Joint Monitoring Mission (JMM) in the year 2007. The outcome of the surveys are as follows:

1. The fever prevalence varied between 0.5%-2.6%. The highest prevalence of fever and malaria was in Assam while the lowest prevalence was in Chennai.
2. Availability of the first line drugs i.e. Chloroquine was good in the rural areas and even at peripheral facilities such as sub-centres.
3. The household survey showed that a significant proportion of the population consulted the private sector even in the rural areas.
4. Coverage of vector control was still low for all methods (IRS, ITN and larvivorous fish) in all areas surveyed. Biological control methods, such as use of larvivorous fish was also low in all the areas surveyed.
5. Health education and community mobilization activities seemed to be low in most health facilities.
6. There was need to introduce Artesunate Combination Therapy (ACT) treatment for falciparum malaria nationally and to ensure the use of Rapid Diagnostic Kits (RDK) in primary care facilities without microscopy in malaria risk areas.
7. Need was also felt to introduce a quality assurance system for diagnosis and treatment.

On the basis of the review the following remedial measures have been taken/are being taken:

1. The malaria surveillance has been improved in the country by positioning of Malaria Link

Volunteers (MLVs) at village level and Accredited Social Health Activities (ASHA) per 1000 population.

2. The programme has identified 61 high malaria endemic district with *P.falciparum* (a severe form of malaria which causes high mortality) predominance in 11 states. GIS maps have been developed for these districts with village-wise information for prioritization of most problematic areas for focused interventions.
3. For early diagnosis and prompt treatment of *P.falciparum* malaria cases, the programme has introduced simpler & effective diagnostic tool i.e. rapid diagnostic kits (RDK) for quick detection of Pf cases in remote & inaccessible areas.
4. Artesunate Combination Therapy (ACT) which was being used for treatment of *P.falciparum* cases in areas showing resistance to chloroquine and sulphapyrimethamine is now being introduced in all high Pf endemic districts as first line of treatment for *P.falciparum* cases.
5. The programme has scaled up the use of insecticides treated bednets among the vulnerable population in high endemic areas. Besides providing free bednets to vulnerable families, the programme has also taken initiative for impregnation of community owned bednets with suitable insecticides to kill the malaria vector population.

2. Revised National Tuberculosis Control Programme

Review of the programme is an ongoing activity. The World Bank reviews the Programme biannually along with other donor partners. The last World Bank review mission came in December 2007. In addition, the programme is reviewed externally every three years by international experts. Such reviews took place in the years 2000, 2003 and 2006. The programme is consistently achieving global targets of 85% cure rate of new sputum positive cases and case detection rate of such cases is close to 70%. Till date, the RNTCP has placed more than 82 lac patients on treatment thus averting more than 14 lac deaths.

Under the Programme, diagnosis and treatment facilities including supply of anti TB drugs are provided free of cost to all TB patients. For quality diagnosis, designated microscopy centres have been established for

every one lac population in the normal areas and for every 50,000 population in the tribal, hilly and difficult areas. Drugs are provided to the TB patients in patient wise boxes to ensure that all drugs for full course of treatment are earmarked the day one a patient is registered for treatment under the programme. Treatment centres have been established near to residence of patients to the extent possible. Government hospitals, Community Health Centres (CHC), Primary Health Centres (PHCs), Sub-centres are Direct Observation Therapy (DOT) Centres, NGOs, Private Practitioners (PPs) etc. are involved under the RNTCP. Community Volunteers, Anganwadi workers, Women Self Groups etc* also function as DOT Providers/DOT Centres. Drugs are provided under direct observation and the patients are monitored so that they complete their treatment.

3. National Programme for Control of Blindness

In so far National Programme for Control of Blindness(NPCB), a Task force including experts in the field of eye care was constituted to review the existing schemes for the 10th Five Year Plan and prepare Strategy Papers for 11th Five Year Plan. Based on the review and suggestion of the Task Force, EFC proposal for the XI Five Year Plan has been formulated.

4. National AIDS Control Programme

National AIDS control Programme Phase-II was evaluated by an independent consortium consisting of Indian Institute of Management-Kolkata, Indian Institute of Health Management Research-Jaipur and Johns Hopkins University-Baltimore (USA Recommendations based on the evaluation were taken into account while preparing Project Implementation Plan for NACP Phase-III (2007-12), which features following measures to prevent and control HIV/AIDS:—

- (i) Voluntary counseling and testing of vulnerable population
- (ii) Targeted interventions for High Risk Groups and Vulnerable Population.
- (iii) Measures for Blood Safety through voluntary blood donation and regularizing Blood Banks.
- (iv) Prevention and management of sexually transmitted infections,
- (v) Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission.

- (vi) Identification and treatment of eligible persons living with HIV/AIDS.
- (vii) General awareness for prevention of HIV/AIDS.
- (viii) Coordination with other ministries, departments and sectors of mainstreaming, prevention and control of HIV/AIDS.

Subsidy for Haj Pilgrimage

2851. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Apex Court has extended its stay on the Allahabad High Court Order restraining the Union Government from providing Haj subsidy or subsidy for any other pilgrimage; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) As the Lucknow Bench of the Allahabad High Court has not yet decided the matter in Writ Petition No. 1533 of 1995, the Supreme Court, while disposing of the Special Leave Petition No. 15495 of 2006 filed by the Government, at the last hearing held on 21st Jan., 2008, has directed that the stay order would continue to operate for any subsequent year also till the final disposal of the writ petition which is pending before the High Court and requested the High Court to dispose of the petition at the earliest.

Snakes and Venom Trade

2852. SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether a racket in snake and venom trade has been unearthed by the Kerala Police recently with the confiscation of snakes and their products;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the number of people caught and convicted;

(c) whether the Kerala has become a major source center for snake venom in the international venom-trading network; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor and the efforts made by the Union Government to bust such illegal trading network?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) and (b) As reported by the State Government, three cases of illegal trade of snake venom have been detected by the Forest Vigilance Wing of Kerala recently. Details are given below:

Date and Place	Quantity	Status
01.01.2008 Kannur	22 gm	3 persons have been arrested and case registered.
02.01.2008 Thiruvananthapuram	450 ml.	1 person arrested and case registered.
25.02.2008 Nedumbassery	2 litres	8 persons arrested and case registered.

(c) There are no such reports available with the Ministry.

(d) The steps taken by Government of India to protect wildlife and prevent poaching & illegal trade in wildlife 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 up to control wildlife crimes.
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.
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.

Establishment of National Animal Resource Facility

2853. DR. BABU RAO MEDIYAM: Will the Minister Of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to set up National Animal Resource facility for Bio-Medical Research at Hyderabad;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the present status; and

(c) the benefits that are likely to accrue as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) Yes Sir, A concept proposal for establishment of National Animal Resource facility for Bio-Medical Research at Hyderabad at a cost of Rs. 244.341 crores was examined and referred to Planning Commission, which has given its in-principal approval. The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) accordingly has been asked to initiate action for setting up the facility.

(c) The proposed facility would cater to the basic requirements of Bio-Medical Research relating to availability of high quality animals for Research/Development/Discovery of new safer molecules which demand different species of animals. Presently we have a very few small animal houses for the purpose and the proposed facility would immensely augment the position.

[*Translation*]

Construction and Maintenance Standards for NHs

2854. DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any policy for construction and maintenance of National Highways;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps taken to maintain the prescribed standards for construction and thereafter maintenance of the same; and

(d) the authority responsible for ensuring maintenance of the standards prescribed in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) The construction (development) of National Highways (NHs) is taken up based on the approved Five year plan and annual plans keeping in view the availability of funds, traffic density, condition of the road/bridges, location and *inter-se* priority of various works. Maintenance of NHs is taken up within the fund available on the basis of maintenance norms, severity of damage and *inter-se* priority of various works.

(c) and (d) The work of construction of NHs are entrusted to three agencies by the Ministry namely National Highways Authority of India, State Public Works Departments (PWDs) and Border Roads Organization. This Ministry has issued standards and specifications, Manual for construction, as well as guidelines (Ministry's Circulars) from time to time to ensure the prescribed norms are maintained at the time of construction and maintenance thereafter. A fixed percentage of the cost of the work is kept separately for the quality control during the execution of the works through the respective executing agencies.

[*English*]

Death of Reptiles in River Yamuna

2855. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of reptiles died in Yamuna River in the recent past;

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

(c) whether the Government have conducted any investigation to find out the reasons for the death of such a large number of Reptiles in the Yamuna;

(d) if so, the details and the outcome thereof; and

(e) the remedial steps taken by the Government for the protection of the Reptiles in the Yamuna river?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) and (b) As per the available information, there are no reports of large number of deaths of reptiles in Yamuna River.

(c) to (e) Does not arise.

Oral Cancer Patients

2856. SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA:
SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY:

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

(a) whether cases of oral cancer are increasing in the country including the Union Territory of Andaman and Nicobar over the years;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the number of oral cancer patients reported during the last three years and the amount of expenditure incurred on treatment of such patients, State-wise;

(d) whether consumption of tobacco products is a major contributor for the spread of cancer disease; and

(e) if so, the measures taken to create awareness among masses in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) Data collected by National Cancer Registry Programme (NCRP) functioning under the aegis

of Indian Council of Medical Research shows an increasing trend of oral cancer at Delhi and Mumbai whereas decreasing trend in Bangalore. No data regarding oral cancer in the UT of Andaman & Nicobar regions are available since it has not been included in the network of (NCRP).

(c) No such data is centrally maintained. This Ministry released grant-in-aid under various schemes of National Cancer Control Programme (NCCP) on the recommendation of the concerned State Government which also include development of infrastructure, purchase of equipment, awareness activities etc. A state-wise and scheme-wise list of institutions to whom grant-in-aid have been given under NCCP during last three years for detection and treatment of cancer is given in the enclosed statement.

(d) and (e) Tobacco is a major cause of several cancers like mouth, throat, lunge esophagus, etc.

Under the scheme of NCCP special emphasis is now being laid on early detection of cancer through screening, promoting health education, creating awareness etc. under District Cancer Control Programme. In addition, Government of India has implemented a comprehensive legislation for control of tobacco use.

Statement*State-wise Expenditure under Revised NCCP*

Sl.No.	Name of State	Name of the Institution	Name of the Scheme	Year	Amount of Grant-in-aid (In Lakh Rs.)
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	Indian Red Cross Society, Nellore	Oncology	2007-08	50.00
		Venkateshwara, Thirupati	Oncology	2006-07	300.00
		GMC, Ananthapura	Oncology	2005-06	200.00
		CGH, Kakinada	Oncology	2005-06	100.00
		IRCS, Nellore	Oncology	2004-05	250.00
2.	Assam	RCC, Guwahati	RCC	2007-08	500.00
		Barpeta Nalbari & Darang	DCCP	2007-08	22.00
		AMC Dibrugarh	Oncology	2006-07	218.00

1	2	3	4	5	6
		Medical College, Silchar	Oncology	2005-06	2.00
		BBCI, Guwahati	Oncology	2004-05	16.00
		BBCI, Guwahati	RCC	2004-05	284.00
		BBCI, Guwahati	Oncology	2004-05	300.00
3.	Chandigarh	PGIMER, Chandigarh	Oncology	2005-06	264.00
		PGIMER, Chandigarh	RCC	2005-06	500.00
4.	Chhattisgarh	RCC, Raipur	RCC	2007-08	300.00
5.	Gujarat	RCC, Ahmedabad	Excellence	2006-07	500.00
		RCC, Ahmedabad	DCCP	2006-07	6.99
		MGIC, Wardha	Oncology	2006-07	200.00
		RCC, Ahmedabad	DCCP	2005-06	15.00
		RCC, Ahmedabad	RCC	2004-05	300.00
6.	Himachal Pradesh	RCC, Shimla	RCC	2007-08	300.00
7.	Jammu and Kashmir	GMC, Srinagar	Oncology	2006-07	114.00
		GMC, Jammu	Oncology	2005-06	200.00
		SKIMS, Srinagar	RCC	2005-06	499.00
8.	Karnataka	RCC, Bangalore	Excellence	2006-07	500.00
		VIMS, Bellary	Oncology	2005-06	100.00
		RCC, Bangalore	RCC	2004-05	300.00
		RCC, Bangalore	Oncology	2004-05	200.00
9.	Kerala	RCC, Trivandrum	RCC	2007-08	400.00
		RCC, Trivandrum	DCCP	2007-08	17.00
		Kottayam	Oncology	2007-08	100.00
		RCC, Thiruvanthapuram	Excellence	2006-07	100.00
		GMC, Calicut	Oncology	2005-06	150.00
		GH, Emakulam	Oncology	2005-06	270.00
		RCC, Trivandrum	DCCP	2005-06	22.00
		RCC, Trivandrum	RCC	2004-05	300.00
		MCC, Kannur	Oncology	2004-05	150.00
		GMCH, Trivandrum	Oncology	2004-05	300.00
		RCC, Trivandrum	Oncology	2004-05	300.00

1	2	3	4	5	6
10.	Madhya Pradesh	Shivpuri, Guna and Ashoknagar	DCCP	2007-08	22.00
		Datia, Chattarpur and Tikamgarh	DCCP	2007-08	22.00
		Bikaner	DCCP	2007-08	22.00
		Seoni and Balaghat	DCCP	2007-08	22.00
		Bhind and Morena	DCCP	2007-08	22.00
		Bhopal and Raisen	DCCP	2007-08	22.00
		RCC, Gwalior	DCCP	2007-08	44.00
		GRMC, Gwalior	Oncology	2005-06	300.00
11.	Maharashtra	RCC, Gwalior	RCC	2004-05	300.00
		GMCH, Nagpur	Oncology	2004-05	288.00
12.	Manipur	RIMS, Imphal	Oncology	2005-06	300.00
		RIMS, Imphal	RCC	2005-06	500.00
13.	Meghalaya	CH, Shillong	Oncology	2004-05	300.00
14.	Mizoram	Civil Hospital, Aizwal	RCC	2007-08	200.00
		Civil Hospital, Aizwal	Oncology	2007-08	100.00
		Civil Hospital, Aizawal	RCC	2005-06	80.00
		RCC, Mizoram	DCCP	2005-06	22.00
15.	Nagaland	CH, Mokokchung	Oncology	2004-05	221.00
16.	Orissa	RCC, Cuttack	RCC	2006-07	300.00
17.	Pondicherry	RCC, Pondicherry	RCC	2004-05	300.00
18.	Punjab	SGTBH, Amritsar	Oncology	2005-06	200.00
19.	Rajasthan	RNT, Udaipur	Oncology	2007-08	196.00
20.	Tamil Nadu	GAAMCRI and H, Kachipuram	RCC	2005-06	500.00
		RCC, Chennai	RCC	2004-05	300.00
		GAAMCRI & H, Kachipuram	Oncology	2004-05	288.00
		GMCH, Trichur	Oncology	2004-05	120.00
21.	Tripura	Civil Hospital, Agartala	Oncology	2004-05	160.00
22.	Uttarakhand	Doon Hospital, Dehradun	DCC	2006-07	66.00
		Doon Hospital, Dehradun	Oncology	2005-06	62.00

1	2	3	4	5	6
23.	Uttar Pradesh	KNHM, Allahabad	Excellence	2006-07	500.00
		SGPGIMS, Lucknow	RCC	2005-06	500.00
		JK Cancer Institute, Kanpur	Oncology	2006-07	250.00
		KGMC, Lucknow	Oncology	2006-07	278.00
		SGPGI, Lucknow	Oncology	2005-06	100.00
		GMCH, Allahabad	Oncology	2004-05	300.00
		KNHM, Allahabad	RCC	2004-05	300.00
24.	West Bengal	RG Kar Hospital, Kolkata	Oncology	2007-08	98.00
		MCH, Kolkata	Oncology	2006-07	100.00
		GMCH, Medinipur	Oncology	2004-05	300.00

Bridge on National Highway No. 60 in Bankura

2857. SHRI SUNIL KHAN: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Detailed Project Report (DPR) has been undertaken on three weak bridges of NH-60 from Gobindawam to Mejia in the Bankura district of West Bengal;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the construction work is likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (c) The reconstruction of three weak bridges of NH-60 between Gobindawam to Mejia is included in Annual Plan and the detailed estimates are to be submitted by the State Government. It is too early to indicate the likely date of starting of construction.

[Translation]

Environmental Regulations for Coal Based Factories

2858. SHRI V.K. THUMMAR:
SHRI JIVABHAI A. PATEL:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the environmental regulations coal based factories have to comply with;

(b) whether coal based factories are not making use of pollution-control devices;

(c) if so, the number of such factories identified by the Government, State-wise;

(d) the number of such factories against which action has been taken by the Government, the State-wise details thereof; and

(e) the outcome of the action taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) to (e) The environmental emission standards coal based boilers/factories have to comply which are as under:

Steam generation capacity (tonne/hour)	Particulate matter emission (mg/Nm ³)
less than 2	1200
2 to less than 10	800
10 to less than 15	600
15 and above	150

The coal based boilers having steam generating capacity from less than 2 tonne per hour to 15 tonne per hour and above are required to meet the particulate matter emission norms. To meet the respective standards, cyclone/multicyclone, bag filters and electrostatic precipitators are recommended as pollution control equipment with these boilers.

There are 88 thermal power plants, which are major coal consumers. Out of these 88 plants, 22 power plants

are reported to be not complying with the emission standards as of December 31, 2007. The State-wise list of such power plants is given in the statement-I. The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) had issued directions under Section 5 of the Environment (Protection) Act 1986 to 28 thermal power plants in January 1997 as given in the enclosed statement-II. Of these, 20 plants are reported to have complied with the directions issued and the rest are at various stages of compliance.

Statement I

Regulations for Coal based factories indicating Statewise Thermal Power Plants which do not comply with the emission standards

Sl.No.	Name of Thermal Power Plant	State
1.	Kothagudem Thermal Power Plant	Andhra Pradesh
2.	Ramagundam-B Thermal Power Plant	-do-
3.	Patratu Thermal Power Plant	Jharkhand
4.	Barauni Thermal Power Plant	Bihar
5.	Bokaro-B, Thermal Power Plant (Damodar Valley Corporation)	Jharkhand
6.	Sikka Thermal Power Plant	Gujarat
7.	Korba (East) Thermal Power Plant	Chhattisgarh
8.	Amarkantak Thermal Power Plant	Madhya Pradesh
9.	Satpura Thermal Power Plant	-do-
10.	Nasik Thermal Power Plant	Maharashtra
11.	Koradi Thermal Power Plant	-do-
12.	Bhusawal Thermal Power Plant	-do-
13.	Chandrapur Thermal Power Plant	-do-
14.	Parli Thermal Power Plant	-do-
15.	Obra Thermal Power Plant	Uttar Pradesh
16.	Harduaganj Thermal Power Plant	-do-
17.	Tanda Thermal Power Plant	-do-
18.	Paricha Thermal Power Plant	-do-
19.	New Cossipore Thermal Power Plant, (Calcutta Electricity Supply Corporation)	West Bengal
20.	Durgapur Projects Ltd. Thermal Power Plant	-do-
21.	Farakka Thermal Power Plant, NTPC	-do-
22.	Bandel Thermal Power Plant	-do-
23.	Mettur, (Tamilnadu Electricity Board) Thermal Power Plant	Tamil Nadu

Statement II

Coal based factories indicating names of the 28 Thermal Power Plants to whom directions were issued by CPCB in January, 1997

S.No.	Name of the Power Plants	State
(i)	Kothagudem Thermal Power Station, A.P.	Andhra Pradesh
(ii)*	Bongaigaon Thermal Power Station	Assam
(iii)*	Bokaro Thermal Power Station A.	Jharkhand
(iv)*	Bokaro Power Plant-B DVC, Bokaro,	-do-
(v)	Patratu Thermal Power Plant	-do-
(vi)*	Panipat Thermal Power Plant	Haryana
(vii)*	Faridabad Thermal Power Plant	Haryana
(viii)	Satpura Thermal Power Station	Madhya Pradesh
(ix)*	Paras Thermal Power Station	Maharashtra
(x)	Koradi Thermal Power Station	-do-
(xi)	Nasik Thermal Power Plant	-do-
(xii)	Chandrapur Thermal Power Plant	-do-
(xiii)	Bhusawal Thermal Power Plant	-do-
(xiv)*	Talcher Thermal Power Plant	Orissa
(XV)*	Ennore Thermal Power Station	Tamil Nadu
(xvi)*	Indraprastha Thermal Power Station	Delhi
(xvii)*	Rajghat Thermal Power Station	-do-
(xviii)	Obra (A&B) Thermal Power Station	Uttar Pradesh
(xix)	Harduaganj Thermal Power Station	-do-
(xx)*	Durgapur Projects Ltd.	West Bengal
(xxi)*	Durgapur Thermal Power Station	-do-
(xxii)*	Santalidih Thermal Power Station	-do-
(xxiii)*	Panki Thermal Power Station	Uttar Pradesh
(xxiv)*	Bandel Thermal Power Plant	West Bengal
(xxv)*	Korba (East) Thermal Power Plant	Chhattisgarh
(xxvi)*	Badarpur (NTPC) Thermal Power Plant	Delhi
(xxvii)*	Ahmedabad Electricity Company (Sabarmati Thermal Power Plant)	Gujarat
(xxviii)*	Chandrapura Thermal Power Station (DVC)	Jharkhand

*Power Plants have complied with the directions.

*[English]***Replantation of Precious Trees**

2859. SHRI C. KUPPUSAMI:
SHRI M. P. VEERENDRA KUMAR:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any assessment was made on the damages caused to the environment in urban areas due to the felling of huge number of trees for developmental projects such as roads, flyovers and major buildings, mining, irrigation, etc.;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the details of the forest area lost due to these projects;

(c) whether the Union Government propose to chalk out a definite policy regarding replanting of precious trees felled for the developmental projects in urban areas of the country; and

(d) if so, the details and the specific steps proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a): The urban areas in the county has a population of 27.8%. It would be practically not possible to assess the environmental damages/changes that are occurring within these areas precisely due to various developmental activities that are being undertaken therein.

(b) As per the report titled "State of Forest Report, 2005" by Forest Survey of India, released recently, a comparison of forest covers of the country between the present and preceding assessment (2003) shows that there is a marginal loss of 728 sq km during the period 2002-2004. Hence, there has been no major change in the forest cover in the country.

(c) a (d) All major developmental projects that are listed in the schedule to the Environmental Impact Assessment Notification, 2006 attract the provisions of the said Notification. If felling of trees is essential for implementation of any developmental projects being considered for grant of environmental clearance (EC) under the notification in non forest areas, generally, plantation of trees at the minimum ratio of 1:2 is prescribed in the environmental clearance. The Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 also provides for compensatory afforestation over equivalent non forestland or double the

degraded forest area to mitigate the loss of forestland for non forestry purpose.

Pollution in River Mahanadi and Brahmani

2860. SHRI JUAL ORAM: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has conducted a study on pollution level in Mahanadi and Brahmani rivers;

(b) if so, the outcome thereof;

(c) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to check the increase in pollution level in these rivers;

(d) whether main cause of the pollution is discharge by the heavy industries along the bank of these rivers;

(e) if so, the details of such industries; and

(f) the action taken to check them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) to (c) The water quality monitoring is undertaken jointly by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) and Orissa State Pollution Control Board in rivers Brahmani and Mahanadi at identified polluted stretches. As reported by CPCB, the Biological Oxygen Demand, a key indicator of water quality, is within the designated standard at all the locations in river Mahanadi and most of the locations in river Brahmani except at Panposh, Orissa.

Under the Centrally sponsored scheme of National River Conservation Plan, works for Interception and Diversion of domestic sewage and setting up of Sewage Treatment Plants have been taken up for the abatement of pollution of river Mahanadi and Brahmani in the towns of Cuttack, Talcher and Dharmashala. Besides these measures, the effluent discharged by the industries is regularly monitored by the Orissa State Pollution Control Board to check compliance with the prescribed standards. Action is taken against the defaulting units under the provisions of Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.

(d) to (f) As per the information provided by CPCB, four grossly polluting industries were discharging their effluent into river Mahanadi. Of these, one unit has been closed and remaining three units have installed requisite

effluent treatment facilities. As regards river Brahmani, nine grossly polluting industries were discharging their waste water into river. Out of these, one unit has been closed and seven units have installed requisite effluent treatment facilities. One defaulting unit is facing legal action under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.

Increase of Heart Patients

2861. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether according to the Heart Care Foundation of India, the heart diseases have increased in the country during the last few years;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise and year-wise alongwith reasons therefor;

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

(d) the allocation of funds provided for such diseases during the last three years, statewise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Indian Council of Medical Research has carried out a study "Assessment of Burden of Non-Communicable Diseases" estimating the projections of burden of disease due to ischemic heart disease (IHD) in India for the years 1998 and 2004. The number of cases of IHD was estimated to have increased from 18.6 million in 1998 to 22.37 million in 2004. Recently, a NCMH background paper "Forecasting Vascular Diseases Cases and Associated Mortality in India" by A. Indrayan has projected the number of Cardio-vascular disease and associated mortality in India from 2000 to 2015. The study has forecast an increase in number of coronary heart

disease cases in India from 28.7 million in 2000 to 50.7 million in 2010 in the age group of 20-69 years. State wise/year-wise figures of number of persons suffering from heart diseases is not available. Several ICMR studies have implicated diabetes, hypertension, hyperlipidemia, obesity and smoking as risk factors for cardiovascular diseases.

(c) and (d) The pilot phase of the National Programme for Prevention and Control of Diabetes, Cardiovascular Diseases and Stroke has been launched in 9 Districts of 9 States in 2008. These States are (i) Assam (ii) Andhra Pradesh (iii) Karnataka (iv) Kerala (v) Madhya Pradesh (vi) Punjab (vii) Rajasthan (viii) Sikkim (ix) Tamil Nadu. Funds amounting to Rs. 49.16 lakh have been released to each of these States in the current financial year.

Outstanding Dues

2862. SHRI AMITAVA NANDY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the outstanding dues as on the March 31, 2008 to various hospitals which are empanelled under CGHS throughout the country;

(b) the time since when these dues are pending alongwith the reasons for pendency; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) The details of outstanding dues of various hospitals under CGHS as on 17.3.2008 is given in the enclosed Statement. The earliest pending bill was received in August, 2007. The pendency is mainly on account of non-availability of funds and can be cleared immediately after funds become available.

Statement

Sl.No.	Name of Hospital/Diagnostic Centre	Amount in Rs.
1	2	3
Allahabad		
1.	Jeevan Jyoti Hospital, Allahabad	9076690
2.	Guru Kripa Jagriti Hospital, Allahabad	555771

1	2	3
3.	Vatsalaya Maternity & Surgical Hospital, Allahabad	690434
4.	Heart Line Cardiac Care Center, Allahabad	390644
Total		10713539

Ahemadabad

1.	Yogeswar Health Care/Krishna Hospital	1692941
2.	Rajasthan Hospital	1611989
3.	Parekh Hospital	724250
4.	Sterling Hospital	362919
5.	Usmanpura CT Scan	37836
Total		4429935

Bhubaneswar

1.	Apollo Hospital, Hyderabad	570408
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Bangalore

1.	Bangalore Baptist Hosp. Bangalore Institute of	39552
2.	Oncology	222716
3.	Curie Centre of Oncology	781436
4.	Hosmat	76025
5.	Santosh Hosp.	12437
6.	Gayathri Hosp.	43951
7.	Trinity Hosp.	192212
8.	Netradharma	66345
9.	Narayana Hrudaylaya	176769
10.	K.R. Hospital	20400
11.	Shekar Hosp.	21893
12.	VIVUS	403000
Total		205673

Chandigarh

1.	Silver Oak Hospital	629783
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1	2	3
Chennai		
1.	RSR's Trinity Hospital	1559646
2.	Sugam Hospital	106663
3.	CSI Kalyani Hospital	433053
4.	Prem's Eye Clinic	403481
5.	Vijaya Heart Foundation	1046899
6.	MIOT Hospital	1209966
7.	Bharat Scans	226940
8.	CSI Rainy Hospital	320896
9.	KHM Hospital	39889
10.	MMM Hospital	1114081
11.	Sri Devi Hospital	344238
12.	National Hospital	417941
13.	SRMC & H	1680229
14.	Andhra Mahila Sabha	156690
15.	Apollo Hospitals	3187542
16.	Billroth Hospitals	88962
17.	Chennai Kaliappa	17250
18.	Agarwal's Eye Hospital	9098
19.	MNRI Scans	21280
20.	Rigid Hospital	173649
Total		12558393
Dehradun		
1.	Kailash Hospital, Noida	402835
2.	Metro Hospital, Noida	1122474
Total		1525309
Hyderabad		
1.	Apollo Hospital DRDO	3240033
2.	Appollo Hospital	40627911

1	2	3
3.	Aravind Eye Hospital	218791
4.	B.B.R. Hospital	237464
5.	Bibi General & Cancer Hospital	61232
6.	Care Hospitals	28730431
7.	Durga Bhai Deshmukh Hospital	1389774
8.	Gaganmahal Nursing Home	55092
9.	Geetha Maternity Nursing Home	557893
10.	Global Hospital	3745958
11.	Hyd. Kindey & Laproscopic Centre	687224
12.	Hyd. Nursing Home	289015
13.	Hari Prasad Memorial Hospital	152965
14.	Image Hospital	4650591
15.	Indo American Cancer Inst.	3722833
16.	Kamineni Hospital	15024679
17.	L.V. Prasad Eye Instt.	1907311
18.	Madhava Nursing Home	87037
19.	Mediciti Hospital	7130076
20.	Maxivision Laser Centre	1111285
21.	Medwin Hospital	15394466
22.	Mythri Multi Speciality Hospital	377274
23.	NIMS	15276105
24.	Owaisi Hospital	1672763
25.	Polumi Hospital	648337
26.	Premier Hospital	70232
27.	Princess Dhurr Shever Hospital	193901
28.	Ram Hospital	101723
29.	Remedy Hospital	126093
30.	Sagarmal Memorial Hospital	351405
31.	Sri Sai Kidney Centre	24162

1	2	3
32.	Sai Vani Hospital	472874
33.	Swapna Hospital	2720
34.	Smiline Dental Clinic	4505
35.	Usha Mohan Hospital	65145
36.	Usha Mullapudi Cardiac Centre	947290
37.	Vasavi Hospital	418863
38.	Vijaya Health Care	324336
39.	Vijaya Hospital	23124
40.	Yashoda Malakpet	14928776
41.	Yashoda Somaliguda	25797095
42.	Swaroop Eye Centre	794387
43.	S.V.R. Hospitals	1403099
44.	Sathya Kidney Centere	1169620
DIAGNOSTIC CENTRE		
45.	Deccan Diagnostic & Research Centre	43089
46.	Dr. V. Nandan Singh Lab.	26310
47.	Medinova Diagnostic Centre	41545
48.	Parklane Medical & Diagnostic, Centre	650
49.	Nikhil Multispecialty	152791
50.	Secunderabad Diagnostic & Research Centre	6015
51.	Vijaya Diagnostic Centre	1325057
52.	Asian Instt. of Gastro Enterology	9315
53.	3M Diagnostic Centre	31167
54.	S.L. Diagnostic Centre	143486
Total		145051062
Jabalapur		
1.	Jabalapur Hospital & Research Centre	2500000
2.	Marble City Hospital & Research Centre	1500000
3.	Bombay Hospital & Research Centre	200000

1	2	3
4.	Seth MJT Hospital & Research Centre	200000
5.	Jamdar Hospital Pvt. Ltd.	500000
6.	National Hospital	1900000
7.	Central India Kidney Hospital	600000
8.	Mahakoshaal Hospital Pvt. Ltd.	500000
9.	Escort Heart Institute & R C, New Delhi	260000
10.	Crescent Nursing Home & ICU Nagpur	160000
Total		8300000
Kolkata		
1.	M/s B.M. Birla Heart Research Centre	1030331
2.	M/s Rabindra Nath Tagore international Institute of Cardiac Scinces	397912
3.	M/s Behala Balananda Bramchari Hospital	761240
4.	M/s Dafodil Nursing Home (P) Ltd.	1868604
5.	M/s Cancer Centre Welfare Home & Research Institute	365542
Total		5223629
Kanpur		
1.	Regency Hospital, Kanpur	9969926
2.	Bhargawa Hospital, Kanpur	531311
3.	Rajaram Hospital, Kanpur	1963343
4.	Chandani Hospital, Kanpur	952323
5.	Madhulok Diag. Centre, Kanpur	136449
Total		13553352
Lucknow		
1.	V.P.C. Lko	2963644
2.	M/s Avadh Hospital & Heart Centre	4668626
3.	M/s Nidan Diagnostic Centre	169810
4.	M/s Charkadhar	122470
5.	M/s Mayo Hospital	2327216
6.	M/s Sarkar Diagnostic Centre	795114

1	2	3
7.	M/s Life Line Hospital	400
8.	LKO Pathology	21205
9.	M/s Raj Scaning	525600
10.	M/s Jagrani Hospital	984288
11.	City Hospital	103552
12.	K.K. Hospital	63808
13.	M/s Diagnostic Medical Centre	378033
14.	M/s Shekhar Hospital	1182171
15.	Sewa Hospital	511998
16.	Saroj Hospital	2325
17.	M/s Indira Diagnostic	41840
Total		14950300

Meerut

1.	Bharat Hospital Meerut	125379
2.	Parvati Devi	235104
3.	Drishti Eye	26100
4.	Jaswant Raj Hospital	693689
5.	Dhanwantri Jeevan Raka Ltd.	1335356
6.	KMC	466927
7.	Lok Priya Hospital	137222
8.	Metro Hospital	10003919
9.	Dr. Chaurasia Nursing Home	454350
10.	Narinder Mohan Hospital	755099
11.	Dharmasilla Hospital	47407
12.	Kailash Hospital	1280475
13.	Yashoda Hospital	93526
14.	Othonoya Hospital	328000
15.	M. Prakash Hospital	82043
16.	Dhanwantri Diagnostic	29853

1	2	3
17.	Health Care	17920
18.	Dr. Seth	27001
19.	Kent Hospital	39820
20.	Dr. Pardeep Tyagi	12664
21.	United Scan	15180
22.	NMC	59265
Total		17111020

Mumbai

1.	Prince Ali Khan	1041981
2.	K.J. Somaiya	338864
3.	S.R. Mehta	1221871
4.	Bombay Hospital	1423644
5.	Tata Hospital	329370
6.	Radhibhai Hospital	34091
7.	V.T. Shah	22233
Total		4412054

Nagpur

1.	Khemukha X-ray & UCG Clinic	247469
2.	Rainbow Medinova & Dia. Services	265432
3.	Avanti Inst. of Cardio. Pvt. Limited	1032458
4.	Mahatme Eye Hosp.	451815
5.	Anjani Eye Hosp.	657130
6.	Kamdikar Eye Hosp.	169850
7.	Lifeline Blood Bank	70750
8.	Bisne Hosp.	295773
9.	N.S.R.M.	162283
10.	Ortho. Relief Hosp.	769108
11.	Dr. K.G. Deshpande M. Centre	1478557
12.	Orange City Hosp.	2466935

1	2	3
13.	Ashawini Kidney & Dialysis Hosp.	136398
14.	Gillurkar Hosp.	813799
15.	Suretech Hosp.	2747319
16.	Crescent N. Home	1102673
17.	M.R.I. Centre	28500
18.	Surgicare Clinic	133868
19.	Janta M. Hospital	518876
20.	Sushreet Hosp.	288740
21.	Chandak Lab.	13900
22.	Pawan Path.	6403
23.	N.R.P.L	5594
24.	Narcaood	33385
25.	Radhakrishna Hosp.	866339
26.	Gupta N. Home	38475
27.	Amit Surgical Hospital	47993
28.	Gastro. Centre	5700
29.	J.J. Diag. Centre	8433
30.	Lata M. Hosp.	2648527
31.	K.K. Sonagraphy	12325
32.	Suraj Eye Hosp.	178767
33.	Prakashe X-ray Clinic	7900
34.	Khare Dental	8975
35.	Gruh Kalayan Kendra	122360
36.	Mure Memorial Hospital	395052
Total		18288028
Pune		
1.	Ruby Hall Clinic	10707336
2.	Sancheti Institute of Ortho. & Rehabilitation	6948
3.	Jahangir Hospital	793592

1	2	3
4.	K.E.M. Hospital	2796846
5.	Sharda Clinic	772741
6.	Bhide Hospital	271744
7.	Deenanath Mangeshkar Hospital	264999
8.	Katbagi Hospital	395525
9.	Deendayal Memorial Hospital	5387858
10.	Poona Hosp. & Res. Centre	413040
11.	Inlaks Budhrani Hospital	255953
12.	Sanjeevani Hospital	21551
13.	Joshi Hospital	44460
14.	Sanjeevan Hospital	38667
15.	Surya Hospital	94400
16.	Supertech Hospital	46909
17.	National Instt. of Ophthalmology	209725
18.	Hardikar Hospital	506523
19.	N.M. Wadia Instt. of Cardiology	3838699
20.	Colony Nursing Home	141436
21.	Sant Dyneshwar Hospital	365180
22.	Medivision Dia. Centre	220658
23.	Uni Scan Centre	12000
24.	P.H. Medical Centre	4440
25.	Medinova Dia. Centre	119921
26.	Spect Lab. Nuclear Med. Services	27200
27.	A.B. Diagnostic Centre & Poly. Pvt. Ltd.	4180
28.	Pai Clinic & Diagnostic Centre	6360
Total		27768895
Ranchi		
1.	Raj Hospital & Research Centre, Ranchi	2132894
2.	Abdur Razzaque Ansari Memorial Weaver's Hospital, Ranchi	1339902

1	2	3
3.	Nagmal Modi Seva Sadan, Ranchi	322570
4.	St. Barnabas Hospital, Ranchi	13000
	Total	3808366

Trivandrum

1.	SCTIMST	969843
2.	RCC	2420237
3.	Jubilee Hospital	148890
4.	Devi Scans	184974
5.	DDRC	61426
6.	Chaitanya Hospital	435274
7.	Metro Scans	25000
8.	Gopinath Scans	82722
	Total	4328366

Delhi

1.	Escorts Hospital, Faridabad	1.1 Crore
2.	Jeewan Anmol	16.00 Lacs
3.	Jeewan Mala Hospital	40 Lacs
4.	Jeewan Nursing Home, Pusa Road	74.60 Lakhs
5.	Batra Hospital	12.25 Lakhs
6.	Kalyani Hospital, Gurgaon	7.07 Lakhs
7.	Metro Hospital, Noida	1.60 crores
8.	Metro Hospital, Laipat Nagar	56.70 Lakhs
9.	Apollo Hospital	2.00 Crore
10.	Yashoda Hospital	89.70 Lakhs
11.	Narender Mohan Hospital	1.80 Crore
12.	Prakash Hospital	40.11 lakhs
13.	Rajiv Gandhi Hospital	47.78 Lakhs
14.	Rockland Hospital	2.2 Crore
15.	Sheetla Hospital	8.05 Lakhs
16.	Kukreja Hospital	43.70 Lakhs
17.	Kalra Hospital	50.20 Lakhs

1	2	3
18.	Park Hospital	90.70
19.	G.M. Modi Hospital	35.07 Lakhs
20.	Orthonova Hospital	1.2 Crore
21.	MGS Hospital	47.50 Lakhs
22.	Maharaja Agrasen Hospital	5.20 Crore
23.	St. Stephens Hospital	97 Lakhs
24.	Dharamshila Hospital	3.03 Lakhs
25.	Jaipur Golden Hospital	15.00 Lakhs
26.	Kailash Hospital	2.10 Crores
27.	Mata Chanan Devi Hospital	87 Lakhs
28.	Bapu Nature Cure	15.90 lakhs
29.	Escorts Heart Institute and Research Centre	11.90 Crores
30.	Tirath Ram Shah Hospital	4.89 Lakhs
31.	Centre for Sight	88.70 Lakhs
32.	R.L. K.C. Hospital	32.06 Lakhs
33.	Satya Medical Centre	3.48 Lakhs
34.	Sant Permanand Hospital	23.58 Lakhs
35.	Venu Eye Institute	12.67 Lakhs
36.	Sunder Lal Jain Hospital	59.8 Lakhs
37.	Metro Heart Institute, Faridabad	14.48 Lakhs
38.	Brahm Shakti Hospital	2.90 Lakhs
39.	Action Balaji Medical Centre	2.19 Crores
40.	Max. Hospital	3.40 Crores

Spread of Avian Flu

2863. SHRI K. SUBBARAYAN:
DR. K. DHANARAJU:

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

(a) whether the Government has conducted any research/study to find out the reasons for the spread of the Avian flu disease and its treatment;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government to eradicate such disease from the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) The committee constituted by Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries to study the possible source of infection in Maharashtra in 2006 and Manipur outbreak in 2007 observed that although no definite conclusion could be reached, the possibility of introduction of the disease through migratory/

wild birds can not be totally ruled out. The strategy followed to control, contain and stamp out the disease in poultry has been to cull all poultry within 5 Kms of foci of infection and prevent movement of poultry and poultry products to other areas.

For the treatment of human cases of Avian Influenza the World Health Organization recommended protocol for treatment with Oseltamivir is followed.

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 cases early and to manage them.

[Translation]

Health Facilities In Rural Areas

2864. SHRI RAKESH SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of healthcare facilities in far flung rural areas in the country;

(b) whether para-medical staff and doctors show reluctance in working in such areas due to lack of housing facilities in community health-centres;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government proposes to provide financial assistance to the States for construction of houses to ensure the presence of medical staff in such centres; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) Primary health care services in rural areas are provided through a network of a three tier infrastructure system based on the following population norms:

Centre	Population Norms	
	Plain Area	Hilly/Tribal Area
Sub Centre [SC]	3000	5000
Primary Health Centre [PHC]	20000	30000
Community Health Centre [CHC]	80000	120000

As on March, 2007 there are a total of 145272 Sub-centres, 22370 PHCs and 4045 CHCs functioning in the country.

(b) and (c) CHCs are situated at Sub District level, serving for a population of 80,000 to 120,000. Residential facilities for the doctors and other staff are available in some hospital premises.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. Under National Rural Health Mission (NRHM), funds are released to States/UTs Governments for upgradation/strengthening/establishment of new Centres including construction of residential building for doctors and other staff. The States/UTs Governments are however required to incorporate their requirement in their annual NRHM Programme Implementation Plans (PIP).

[English]

Helipad/Air Ambulance Facility

2865. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to provide a helipad and air ambulance facility in the All India Institute of Medical Sciences;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of other hospitals in country having similar facilities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) Yes Sir, there is a proposal for development of a helipad on the rooftop of Jai Prakash Narain Trauma Centre of AIIMS.

(b) The roof of the wards block of the building is designed to take the load of helicopter. The work of modifications and development of site is under process to make the same usable as helipad. It may take approx. six months before effective start of the said facility at the Centre.

(c) No other Central Government hospitals in the country having similar facilities.

[Translation]

**Employment of Local People by
Coal Companies**

2866. SHRI FAGGAN SINGH KULASTE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Parliamentary Committee in their inquiry report on SECL has recommended to employ local people of Madhya Pradesh/Chhattisgarh for setting up washeries, coal transportation and loading;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of local people employed by SECL in setting up washeries/coal transportation and loading in Gewara/Deepika during the last three months; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO): (a) and (b) It has been suggested that out of the transportation work reserved for Ex-Servicemen (ESM) Companies at least 50% should be reserved for local ESM Companies. It was further suggested that Directorate General Resettlement (DGR) should be asked to promote Ex-Servicemen Companies in Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh so that they may come forward and take advantage of the scheme put in place for their benefit.

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

[English]

Foreign Assistance for Kala Azar

2867. SHRI CHENGARA SURENDRAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of foreign assistance received and utilized for treatment of Kala Azar in the country during the last three years; and

(b) the benefits accrued to the country as a result thereon?

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

LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) No foreign assistance has been received by the Government of India for treatment of Kala Azar in the country during the last three years.

[Translation]

Extinction of Tiger from Panna Tiger Reserve

2868. SHRI HEMMAL MURMU: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the extinction of tiger from Panna Tiger Reserve has been reported in the 'Dainik Jagran' dated February 20, 2008;

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

(c) the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to check the extinction of tigers from Panna Tiger Reserve?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) and (b) Media reports regarding declining status of tiger population in the Panna Tiger Reserve of Madhya Pradesh have come to light.

(c) A Committee was constituted for an appraisal of the status of tiger population in the said reserve, which has reported tiger presence, while *interalia*, recommending verification using camera traps. The Wildlife Institute of India has been directed for the needful in this regard. The steps taken by the Government of India for tiger conservation are given in the enclosed statement.

Statement

The Steps taken by the Government of India for tiger conservation are as below:

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

2. Strengthening of antipoaching activities, including special strategy for monsoon patrolling, by providing funding support to Tiger Reserve States, as proposed by them, for deployment of antipoaching squads involving ex-army personnel/home guards, apart from workforce comprising of local people, in addition to strengthening of communication/wireless facilities.
3. 100% Central Assistance provided to 17 Tiger Reserves as an additionality for deployment of Tiger Protection Force, comprising of ex-army personnel and local workforce.
4. Constitution of the National Tiger Conservation Authority with effect from 4.09.2006, for strengthening tiger conservation by, *inter-alia*, ensuring normative standards in tiger reserve management, preparation of reserve specific tiger conservation plan, laying down annual/audit report before Parliament, constituting State level Steering Committees under the Chairmanship of Chief Ministers and establishment of Tiger Conservation Foundation.
5. Constitution of a multidisciplinary Tiger and Other Endangered Species Crime Control Bureau (Wildlife Crime Control Bureau) with effect from 6.6.2007 comprising of officers from Police, Forest, Customs and other enforcement agencies to effectively control illegal trade in wildlife.
6. The revised Project Tiger guidelines have been issued to States for strengthening tiger conservation, which apart from ongoing activities, *inter-alia*, include funding support to States for enhanced village relocation/rehabilitation package for people living in core or critical tiger habitats (from Rs. 1 lakh/family to Rs. 10 lakhs/family), rehabilitation/resettlement of communities involved in traditional hunting, mainstreaming livelihood and wildlife concerns in forests outside tiger reserves and fostering corridor conservation through restorative strategy to arrest habitat fragmentation.
7. Memorandum of Understanding developed for better/concerted implementation of conservation inputs through tiger reserve States.
8. Financial and technical help is provided to the States under various Centrally Sponsored Schemes, *viz.* Project Tiger and Development of National Parks and Sanctuaries for enhancing the capacity and infrastructure of the States for providing effective protection to wild animals.
9. Enabling provisions provided in the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, through amendment in 2006, for preparing tiger reserve specific Tiger Conservation Plan', addressing issues relating to tiger (in the core/critical area) and people (in the buffer/fringe area).
10. Enabling provisions provided in the Wildlife (Protection) Acts 1972, through amendment in 2006, for preparing reserve wise Tiger Conservation Foundation, for involving local stakeholder communities.
11. Enabling provisions provided in the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, through amendment in 2006, for creating State level Steering Committees by States under the Chief Minister for ensuring coordination, monitoring, protection and conservation of tiger, copredators and prey animals.

[English]

Plan Outlays for States

2869. SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Plan outlays for the Eleventh Five Year Plan for the States of Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh have been finalized;

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

(c) the targets contemplated there under different sectors of development?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Eleventh Plan (2007-12) Projected Outlay at 2006-07 price level for Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh is under:

State	Projected Outlay (Rs. in crores)
Madhya Pradesh	70329.00
Rajasthan	71732.00
Chhattisgarh	53730.43

(c) The sector-wise growth targets for the above States in the Eleventh Plan are as under:

(Figures in % per annum)

Items	Madhya Pradesh	Rajasthan	Chhattisgarh
Agriculture & Allied Activities	5.0	3.5	2.3
Industry	10.0	8.0	12.0
Services	8.0	8.9	7.6
Total	7.7	7.4	9.0

Irrational Use of Anti-TB Drugs

2870. SHRI S. AJAYA KUMAR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has directed the health practioners to discourage irrational use of first and second line of Anti-TB drugs; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) A consensus statement of experts across the country drawn on the initiative of Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), which was then endorsed by National Task Force (NTF) of Medical Colleges was circulated to all Medical Colleges and States to disseminate amongst all health care providers with the appeal to all practitioners to follow International Standards of TB Care. The consensus statement highlights the importance of quality DOTS Programme to prevent emergence of drug resistant TB in the community and management of MDR-TB by adhering to the guidelines on diagnosis, drug regimens, duration of treatment and taking measures to ensure treatment adherence.

Traffic Jam at Gurgaon Expressway

2871. SHRI REWATI RAMAN SINGH:
CH. MUNAWAR HASSAN:

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

(a) whether the toll barriers and barricades at Rangpuri on Gurgaon Expressway have been resulting in Traffic Jam and inconvenience to the general public;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the stapes taken by the Government to address the problem?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (c) Government has taken steps to address the problem of traffic jam by frequent review. Based thereupon, the concessionaire has now taken the following steps:

- (i) Contact less smart card being replaced and more lanes are made available for vehicles having electronic tags (on board units).
- (ii) Purchase of electronic tags and re-charge being facilitated through internet, SMS through mobile phones and through banks.
- (iii) 50% discount offered on company owned vehicles used for personnel purpose.
- (iv) Validity of discount facility changed from calendar month to 30 days period from date of issue.

Hospital for Sports Medicines

2872. SHRI RANEN BARMAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to set up integrated hospital of sports medicines;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith broad features of such hospitals and the project-location; and

(c) the time which such hospitals are likely to be established?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has approved a proposal for establishment/upgradation of the existing sports injury unit to a full-fledged Sports Injury Centre at Safdarjung Hospital in view of the ensuring Commonwealth Games, 2010. The proposed Sports Injury Centre, to be operational by 2010, is to provide highly specialized surgical and rehabilitative services under one roof with the provision of Physiotherapy Centre, an OT Complex, Wards and OPDs, modern diagnostic facilities with MRI & CT Scan and team of specialized doctors and para-medical staff.

[*Translation*]

Allocation for Atomic Energy

2873. SHRI RAJNARAYAN BUDHOLIYA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is contemplating to emphasise on the need for new research in the field of Atomic Energy in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the amount of funds proposed to be allocated by the Government during the Eleventh Five Year Plan for this purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Considering the need for new research in the atomic energy, Department of Atomic Energy is emphasizing on the following thrust areas of R&D during the XI Plan:

- Intensifying of Uranium exploration including development of aerial electromagnetic survey capability.
- R&D Support for 700 MWe PHWRs, life extension of existing NPPs/HWPs Fuel cycle and Safety related research, etc.
- Metallic fuel for fast reactors and associated fuel cycle.
- Development of Advanced Reactor/New Energy Systems like Advanced Heavy Water Reactor (AHWR), Indian High Temperature Reactor (IHTR), Setting up a multi-purpose research reactor with facility to accommodate a proton beam driven neutron source in future, etc.
- Development of core technologies for Accelerator Driven Systems (ADS).
- Development of special materials for high temperature systems.
- Development of systems for hydrogen generation and storage.
- Energy conversion technologies.
- Thorium fuel cycle development.

- Major thrust in strategic areas.
- Development of special materials.
- India's participation in ITER and development of fusion energy technologies.
- Strengthening advanced basic research facilities like Indus-II beam lines, Indian Neutrino Observatory (INO) and Radioactive Ion Beam (RIB) within the country and participation in international mega-science projects like Facility for Antiproton and Ion Research (FAIR), International Linear Collider (LIC) and X-ray Free Electron Laser (XFEL).
- Greater outreach of societal applications in the areas of radiation technologies applications, nuclear agriculture, food processing by irradiation, health care, water, industrial lasers, etc.

(c) During the XI Plan, an amount of Rs. 11,000 crore has been provided in the outlay for R&D activities.

CGHS Facility to Journalists

2874. SHRI MITRASEN YADAV: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the year-wise details of amount spent for providing medical facility to the PIB-accredited journalists during the last three-years;

(b) whether the Government has proposed to increase the amount for providing medical facility to such journalists during 2008-09;

(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) Individual category-wise detailed expenditure on medical facilities is not being maintained by the CGHS.

(b) to (d) The PIB accredited journalists, not being Government employees, were provided with CGHS Card as were provided for General Public (G.P.). The Coast & Accounts Branch has recommended charging of subscription for General Public Card on cost to cost basis.

[English]

**Incentives to Villages for Improvement
in Sex-Ratio**

2875. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:
SHRI ADHALARAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:

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

(a) whether the Government proposes to launch a scheme for providing cash incentives to the villages which take steps to improve sex-ratio; 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 Union Ministry of Women & Child Development have informed that the Scheme of Dhanalakshmi-Conditional Cash Transfer for the Girl Child with Insurance Cover—has been launched on 3.3.2008 as a Pilot Project in eleven Educationally Backward Blocks across seven States. The scheme includes cash transfers to the family of the girl child based on the fulfillment of four important conditionalities viz. birth and registration of the girl child, immunization, retention in school and delaying marriage beyond 18 years of age.

**Development of Water-Ways and
Roads in Myanmar**

2876. SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has entered into an agreement with the Government of Myanmar to develop water-ways and roads in Burma;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the funds likely to be invested thereon; and

(c) the benefits that are likely to accrue to the country as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (c) Border Roads Organisation had upgraded the Tamu-Kalemyo road (160 km) in Myanmar across Manipur from 1997-2001 at a cost of Rs. 120 crores. Government of India are presently responsible for upkeep of the TTK road in Myanmar. In

addition, the Kaladan multi-modal transit transport project in Myanmar envisages connectivity between ports and Sittwe port in Myanmar, and road and inland waterway links from Sittwe to India.

Policy of Appointment on Compassionate Ground

2877. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has enacted any comprehensive legislation to govern the policy of appointment on compassionate ground to render clarity to the eligibility criteria under the scheme and to make it obligatory on the part of ministries/departments/organisations to implement the same;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of cases pending for appointment on compassionate grounds as on date, ministries/departments/PSUs-wise; and

(d) the time by which the pending cases will be cleared?

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

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) The Department of Personnel and Training (DOPT) lays down the policy on compassionate appointment, which is implemented by the administrative Ministries/Departments. Information on details of cases pending for appointment on compassionate ground in various Ministries/Department/PSUs is not centrally maintained.

Adulteration in Herbal Drugs

2878. SHRI VIJOY KRISHNA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the herbal formulations, including drugs manufactured in the country contain hazardous substances like lead, arsenic, nickel, cobalt, chromium and copper;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) Manufacture of Ayurveda, Siddha & Unani medicines containing plants/herbal, herbo-mineral and herbo-metallic preparations in India is regulated under the provisions of the Drugs & Cosmetics Act, 1940 and Rules 1945. The herbo-mineral and herbo-metallic preparations are allowed only after purification in ayurvedic medicines in small quantity to act as catalyst to activate other herbal ingredients, to increase the efficacy of the medicine and to increase the shelf life of the medicine.

(c) The Government has taken following steps:

- (i) Mandatory testing for heavy metals in all purely herbal Ayurveda, Siddha and Unani medicines to be exported has been made mandatory from 01.01.2006 onwards.
- (ii) State Drug Licensing Authorities have been directed to ensure full compliance by all ASU drug manufacturers of the provision relating to printing of ingredients with quantities thereof on the label or a leaflet in the container for information of consumers.
- (iii) 29 State Drug Testing Laboratories have been strengthened and 26 Pvt. Drug Testing Laboratories and other NABL accredited laboratories have been approved for testing of ASU drugs in the country.
- (iv) As there are certain concerns regarding the herbo-metallic medicines, a research project has been sanctioned to various laboratories of Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) under the Golden Triangle Partnership Project to study the physiochemical characteristics of 8 most widely used Bhasmas and to carry out their toxicity studies.
- (v) Good Manufacturing Practices have been made mandatory for all Ayurveda, Siddha and Unani drug manufacturing units in the country.

National Coal Policy

2879. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the most of the thermal power plants are depending on imported coal;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether there has been steep rise in the prices of coal in Australia and South Africa;

(d) if so, the details thereof and its likely impact on the power plants in the country;

(e) whether the Government proposes to revise coal policy to ensure that the total coal demand is met domestically only; and

(f) if so, the steps taken or being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) and (b) No, Sir. During the years 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07, the power utilities which are linked to Coal India Limited (CIL) and Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL) were supplied indigenous coal of 281.11 million tonnes, 289.95 million tonnes and 298.18 million tonnes respectively, whereas they imported coal to the tune of 4.43 million tonnes, 10.44 million tonnes and 9.66 tonnes during the said period.

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

(e) and (f) The New Distribution Policy notified by the Government in October, 2007, *inter-alia*, provides that 100% of the "normative requirement" of power utilities would be considered for supply through Fuel Supply Agreement (FSA) by Coal companies. The policy also provides that in order to meet full requirement of coal under Fuel Supply Agreement, coal companies may have to import if required, from time to time and they may adjust its overall price accordingly.

Ship-Passenger Service to Karachi and Dubai

2880. SHRI VIKRAMBHAI ARJANBHAI MADAM: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government proposes to introduce Ship-passenger Service from Jamnagar to Karachi and Dubai; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Plastic Roads

2881. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Transportation, Planning and Research Centre (NTPRC) is undertaking several tests in various parts of the country to find out the level of efficiency and durability of plastic roads in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken/to be taken by the Government to popularise the technology?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) National Transportation Planning and Research Centre (NATPAC)—a Research Centre of Kerala State Council of Science, Technology and Environment is reported to be undertaking field tests to evaluate the performance and durability of roads constructed using plastic waste in bituminous works, in selected roads in Madurai region in Tamil Nadu and Trivandrum, Cochin and Kozhikode regions in Kerala State.

(c) This Ministry has sponsored a research scheme on investigations of field performance of bituminous mixes using different bitumen modifiers including plastic waste to L.I.T. Madras. Laboratory investigation on the relative performance of the modified binder is under progress. Further action can be taken up based on the findings of the research scheme.

[Translation]

Funds for Conservation of Lakes

2882. SHRI RAGHUVVEER SINGH KOSHAL:
SHRI JIVABHAI A. PATEL:
DR. DHIRENDRA AGARWAL:
SHRI ANANTHA KUMAR:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has carried out any study/assessment on the deterioration of lakes in the country;

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

(c) whether the Government has any proposal to rejuvenate, preserve and develop the lakes that have dried up due to various reasons; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and details of the funds made available for this purpose, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) to (d) The Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of India is implementing the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of National Lake Conservation Plan (NLCP) since June, 2001 on 70:30 cost sharing basis between the Central Government and the respective State Governments with its objective to restore and conserve the polluted and degraded lakes in urban and semi-urban areas of the country. The Plan includes core components of interception, diversion and treatment of wastewaters before their entry into the lake, catchment area treatment, shoreline protection, in-lake treatment (aeration, de-weeding, de-siltation, bio-remediation and bio-manipulation) etc. The non-core activities include lake front eco-development (beautification, optimum public interface, low cost sanitation, etc.) and public participation.

In order to identify polluted and degraded lakes across the country, a study was carried out at the instance of Planning Commission. A list of 62 lakes across the country requiring conservation, was prepared under the study. The State Governments were asked to review this list and to prioritize the lakes in their States for submission of proposals under NLCP. New lakes under the Plan are sanctioned on the basis of their prioritization, admissibility and availability of funds under NLCP.

Out of the proposals received so far, the Ministry has sanctioned projects for conservation of 52 lakes at a total approved cost of Rs. 687.52 crore. An amount of Rs. 239.08 crore (out of Govt. of India share) has been released till date under the NLCP for implementation of approved lake conservation projects. The details of different lake conservation projects sanctioned State-wise, under the NLCP, are given in the enclosed statement.

Statement*Details of Lake Conservation Projects approved under the NLCP*

				(in Rs. Crore)
Sl.No.	State	Lake	Approved cost	
1	2	3	4	
1.	Karnataka	3 lakes of Bangalore namely Vengaihkere, Nagavara and Jarganahalli	11.48	
2.	-do-	Bellandur take, Bangalore	5.54	
3.	-do-	Kotekere take, Belgaum	5.64	
4.	-do-	Bhishma lake, Gadag	2.50	
5.	-do-	Lal Bagh, Bangalore	1.66	
6.	-do-	Channapatna lake, Hasan	4.97	
7.	-do-	Sharanbhasveshwara lake, Gulberga	4.89	
8.	-do-	Akkamahadevi lake, Haveri	2.64	
9.	-do-	Kundawada lake, Davangere	3.41	
10.	-do-	Kote Tavarekere lake, Chikmagalur	3.64	
11.	-do-	Tripuranthkeshwar lake, Bidar	4.67	
12.	-do-	Gowamma and Hombalamma lakes, Magadi town, Bangalore Rural	4.77	
Sub Total ,			55.81	
1.	Andhra Pradesh	Banjara lake, Hyderabad	2.75	
Sub total			2.75	
1.	Maharashtra	Powai lake, Mumbai	6.62	
2.	-do-	9 lakes in Thane	2.53	
3.	-do-	Mahaaxmi lake, Vedagaon	1.85	
4.	-do-	Rankala lake, Kolhapur	8.65	
5.	-do-	Varhala Devi lake, Bhiwandi	4.60	
Sub total			24.25	
1.	Rajasthan	Mansagar lake, Jaipur	24.72	
2.	-do-	Anasagar lake, Ajmer	15.28	
3.	-do-	Pushkar sarovar, Ajmer	48.37	
Sub total			88.37	

1	2	3	4
1.	Tamil nadu	Ooty lake	1.85
2.		Kodaikanal lake, Dindigul	10.42
		Sub total	12.37
1.	Tripura	3 lakes of Agartala	2.02
		Sub total	2.02
1.	Uttaranchal	4 lakes in Nainital	16.85
2.	-do-	Nainital lake, Nainital	47.97
		Sub total	64.82
1.	West Bengal	Rebindra Sarovar	6.96
2.	-do-	Mirik lake, Darjeeling	4.01
		Sub total	10.97
1.	J&K	Dal lake, Sri Nagar	298.76
		Sub total	298.76
1.	Kerala	Veli Akkulam lake, Thiruvananthapuram	24.56
		Sub total	24.56
1.	Orissa	Bindu sagar lake, Bhubaneswar	3.50
		Sub total	3.50
1.	Madhya Pradesh	Rani talab, Rewa	3.31
2.	-do-	Sagar lake, Sagar	21.33
3.	-do-	Shivpuri lakes, Shivpuri	51.99
		Sub total	76.63
1.	Uttar Pradesh	Mansi Ganga lake, Govardhan	22.71
		Sub total	22.71
		Grand Total	687.52

[English]

Allocation for Developmental Activities in NER

2883. SHRI M.K. SUBBA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Planning Commission has approved the allocation for the North Eastern States to speed up developmental activities in the backward region;

(b) if so, the allocation approved by the Commission and accepted by the Government for 2008-09 and for the Eleventh Five Year Plan 2007-12; and

(c) the industrial and agricultural growth targets along with the targets of Socio-economic development contemplated there under?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) and (b)

The projected outlay for the Eleventh Five Year Plan as estimated by the Planning Commission and the approved outlay for the Annual Plan 2008-09 for North Eastern States are as below:

Eleventh Five Year Plan (2007-12) projected outlay

Sl.No.	States	Rs. Crore
1.	Arunachal Pradesh	7901.00
2.	Assam	23954.00
3.	Manipur	8154.00
4.	Meghalaya	9185.00
5.	Mizoram	5534.00
6.	Nagaland	5978.00
7.	Sikkim	4720.00
8.	Tripura	8852.00

Annual Plan (2008-09) approved outlay

Sl.No.	State	Rs. Crore
1.	Arunachal Pradesh	2065.00
2.	Assam	5011.51
3.	Manipur	1660.00
4.	Meghalaya*	-
5.	Mizoram	1000.00
6.	Nagaland*	-
7.	Sikkim	852.00
8.	Tripura*	-

*The Assembly election process has just been completed. Annual Plan (2008-09) for the states yet to be finalized.

(c) The growth target for the North Eastern States for the 11th Five Year Plan period are as below:

Growth target for the North Eastern States for the 11th Five Year Plan

Sl.No.	State	State-wise Growth Target			Annual Average in (%)
		Agriculture	Industry	Services	
1.	Arunachal Pradesh	2.8	8.0	7.2	6.4
2.	Assam	2.0	8.0	8.0	6.5
3.	Manipur	1.2	8.0	7.0	5.9
4.	Meghalaya	4.7	8.0	7.9	7.3
5.	Mizoram	1.6	8.0	8.0	7.1
6.	Nagaland	8.4	8.0	10.0	9.3
7.	Sikkim	3.3	8.0	7.2	6.7
8.	Tripura	1.4	8.0	8.0	6.9

The broad vision of the Eleventh Plan includes several inter related components of Socio-economic development. The targeted inclusive growth aims at reduction of poverty and creation of employment opportunities, access to essential services in health and education especially for the poor, equality of opportunity, empowerment through education and skill development,

employment opportunities underpinned by the National Rural Employment Guarantee, environmental sustainability, recognition of women's agency and good governance.

Prevalence of Fluorosis Disease

2884. DR. K.S. MANOJ: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Fluorosis disease is prevalent in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;
- (c) whether the Government has conducted any research in this regard;
- (d) if so, the outcome of the study/research; and
- (e) the action taken by the Government to eradicate the disease from the country, especially from Kerala?

(a) whether the formulation of National Environment Policy for reform and to harmonize the demands of development and environment has been completed;

- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the details of the mechanism to monitor the implementation of the policy;
- (d) the targets fixed and achievements made by the Government during the Tenth Year Plan; and
- (e) the corrective measures taken by the Government so far in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (d) As per studies conducted by various organisations based on fluoride content of the drinking water fluorosis is prevalent in 196 districts of 19 States/UTs which are Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Rajasthan, Karnataka, Orissa, Punjab, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Haryana, Bihar, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Kerala, Assam, Delhi, Jammu & Kashmir, Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh. It is estimated that population actually affected by fluorosis in the country is 25 million.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) Yes, Sir. The National Environment Policy was approved by the Union Cabinet on 18.5.2006 and it is available on the website (<http://www.envfor.nic.in>) of the Ministry of Environment and Forests.

(e) Fluorosis is combated by provision of safe drinking water. Provision of safe drinking water is a State subject. However, Government of India supplements the efforts of the State Government/Union Territories by providing funds under the Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP) and Prime Minister's Gramodaya Yojana (PMGY) Rural Drinking Water of tackling quality related problems and sustainability issues in respect of rural drinking water supply. Alongwith the Department of Drinking Water Supply, UNICEF has supplied ionmeters to different States for estimation of fluoride in drinking water. National Institute of Communicable Diseases is providing training to public health engineers and medical professionals from various State, Union Territories to generate awareness about fluorosis and check the spread of fluorosis in the country.

(b) The National Environment Policy, 2006 is a response to our national commitment to a clean environment, mandated in the Constitution. It recognizes that maintaining a healthy environment is not the State's responsibility alone, but also that of every citizen. The National Environment Policy is also intended to help realize sustainable development by mainstreaming environmental concerns in all development activities. It briefly describes key environment challenges currently and prospectively facing the country, the objectives of environment policy, normative principles underlying policy action, strategic themes for intervention, broad indications of the legislative and institutional development needed to accomplish the strategic themes, and mechanisms for implementation and review. The broad objectives of the policy are: conservation of critical environmental resources, intra generational equity, livelihood security for the poor, inter-generational equity, integration of environmental concerns in economic and social development, efficiency in environmental resource use, improved environmental governance and enhancement of resources for environmental conservation.

The Government is considering launch of a National Programme for Prevention and Control of Fluorosis.

National Environment Policy

2885. SHRI SUGRIB SINGH:
SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL:
SHRI NAND KUMAR SAI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(c) to (e) No specific targets were required to be fixed under the National Environment Policy (NEP) during the 10th Five Year Plan. However, in pursuance of the objectives of the NEP, each Ministry/Department of the Central Government is required to prepare action plans in their respective areas containing specific legislation,

programmes and schemes, for implementation of the Policy and the State Governments/UT Administrations would undertake similar actions. The schemes/programmes prepared by the Ministries/Departments of the Government under their respective Annual Plans, with both financial and physical targets, are approved by the Planning Commission, ensuring that the environmental concerns expressed in the National Environment Policy are appropriately integrated in such sectoral development plans.

Invitro Fertilisation at AIIMS

2886. SHRI M. APPADURAI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the funds earmarked for Invitro Fertilisation treatment at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS);

(b) the number of couples likely to be treated in a calendar year;

(c) whether the Government proposes to seek external assistance for the above clinic; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) The All India Institute of Medical Sciences have indicated that no separate fund have been allocated for Invitro fertilisation (IVF) facility. However, IVF is the part of Gynae & Obst. Deptt. and portion of fund allotted to Deptt. of Gynae is being utilized for the purpose.

(b) the number of couples likely to be treated in a calendar year is from 150-200 approximately

(c) and (d) No Sir.

Improvement of Waterway from Cochin Seaport to Cochin Airport

2887. SHRI P.C. THOMAS:
SHRIMATI C.S. SUJATHA:

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

(a) whether the State Government of Kerala has submitted any proposal to the Union Government to

improve the waterway from Cochin seaport to Cochin airport at Nedumbassery;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the estimated expenditure thereon;

(c) whether the Union Government has accorded sanction to the project;

(d) if so, the funds allocated and released therefrom; and

(e) the time by which the said project is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) Yes Sir. A proposal for improvement of Cochin Seaport-Airport Waterway through river Periyar and Udyogmandal canal was received from State Government of Kerala under Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) in the month of March, 2007.

(b) Important elements of the proposal were: (i) improvement of river portion from Eloor to Kanjoor, (ii) improvement of Chengal Thodu portion from Kanjoor to Nedumbassery, (iii) setting up of terminal facilities and passenger jetties, and (iv) construction of new bridges across Chengal Thodu. The estimated cost of the proposal was Rs. 17.00 crores.

(c) The proposal could not be sanctioned by the Government of India since CSS was discontinued by the Planning Commission w.e.f. 01.04.07.

(d) and (e) Does not arise.

[Translation]

ARC Report on Local Governance

2888. SHRI RAMJILAL SUMAN:
SHRI MADHU GOUD YASKHI:
SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH "LALAN".
SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:
SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD:
SHRI ANIRUDH PRASAD ALIAS SADHU
YADAV:

Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Second Administrative Reforms Commission (ARC) in its report on local Governance has expressed concern over the lack of power with the Panchayats in most States to recruit their own staff and determine their salaries, allowances and other conditions of service as reported in the 'Hindustan Times' dated February 25, 2008; and

(b) if so, details of the facts reported therein and 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) and (b) Para 4.1 5.4 of the Sixth Report of 2nd ARC dwells on 'Personnel Management in PRIs'. ARC has recommended that:

- (i) Panchayats should have power to recruit personnel and to regulate their service conditions subject to such laws and standards as laid down by the State Government. Evolution of this system should not be prolonged beyond three years. Until then, the Panchayats may draw upon, for defined periods staff from departments/agencies of the State Government, on deputation.
- (ii) All States, a detailed review of the staffing pattern and systems, with a zero-based approach to PRI staffing, may be undertaken over the next one year in order to implement the policy of PRI ownership of staff. The Zila Parishads, particularly, should be associated with this exercise.

Government of India is generally in agreement with the above recommendations. It has been felt that any fresh recruitment should not result in any substantial increase in overall administrative costs. The Ministry of Panchayati Raj is in consultation with State Governments/ Union Territories Administrations on these issues.

[English]

Participation of NGOs in Environmental Projects

2889. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the schemes which encourage the Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) to participate in environmental projects;

(b) the terms and conditions alongwith the qualifications prescribed for Non-Governmental Organisations to get financial support from the Government; and

(c) the funds allocated during each of the last three years and in the current year for the said projects in each State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) The following schemes encourage the Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) to participate in environmental projects:

1. Environmental Research Promotion including National Natural Resources Management System (NNRMS);
2. Pollution Control Projects;
3. Greening India Scheme under National Afforestation and Eco-Development Board;
4. Conservation;
5. Environment Education, awareness and centres of excellence scheme;
6. Environmental Information System (ENVIS);
7. Animal Welfare;
8. National River Conservation Project (NRCP).

(b) Information is given in the enclosed statement-I.

(c) Information is given in the enclosed statement-II.

Statement I

Terms and conditions and eligibility criteria for funding in Environmental Projects

1. Environmental Research Promotion

Terms and Conditions for Sanction of Research Projects:

- A. A Project will normally be sanctioned for a maximum of three years. The grant will be payable in two installments each year on submission of Utilization Certificates, Expenditure Statement and Progress Reports. In the case of

collaborative research carried out by a network of institutions, the Coordinating Institution would be responsible for submission of the Utilization Certificate and Expenditure Statement and Progress Reports covering all the partners. The authorities of the institution(s) where the research activities are to be carried out would receive the grants and be responsible for their disbursement, administration, and maintenance of accounts.

- B. In case any Investigator (including Lead or Principal Investigator) leaves the institute, responsibility for completion of the project may be entrusted to another equally qualified Investigator by the Head of the Institution with approval of the Ministry, at no additional cost.
- C. All accounts in respect of the project will be subject to audit by the institution auditors. On termination of the project, the duly audited accounts shall be submitted and the unspent balance, if any shall be refunded to the MoEF within six calendar months of completion of the project. Full and final payment will be made after the acceptance of all the financial certificates, audit reports and final technical reports of the project. Ten (10) percent of the sanctioned amount will be released only on completion of all closure formalities.
- D. During the course of implementation of the project, the MoEF may depute its staff or scientists from other institutions to visit the research institution(s) concerned to review progress.
- E. The selection, and appointment of JRJFs/SRFs/ Emeritus Scientists/Support Staff for the project may be made by the Principal/Lead Investigator in terms of the procedures of the concerned Institutions for periods not exceeding the sanctioned duration of the project. The Qualification and experience should be followed as per the DST guidelines.
- F. Staff appointed for the research project will be subject to the administrative control and service rules as applicable at the institute where they are appointed.
- G. In respect of particular research projects, *at the time of sanction*, the Ministry may prescribe

requirements of prior approval by the Ministry before submitting for publication or conference presentation, papers or articles based on the Project.

- H. In the event, after due enquiry, the Ministry concludes that the progress of a research Project is highly unsatisfactory and cannot be improved, it may terminate the Project. Upon such termination, full audited accounts and refund of all unspent balances will have to be made promptly to the Ministry.
- I. All equipment and stores purchased out of the grant would remain with the institution concerned unless otherwise specified in the sanction. However, the grantee organization will submit the list of assets acquired under the project as per the prescribed proforma. The terms "Assets" here means (a) immovable property and (b) movable property of a capital nature where the value exceeds Rs. 10,000/-.
- J. International travel, even if provided for in the project budget, will require prior approval of the Ministry of Environment & Forests.
- K. The Research Fellows and Investigators may pursue a research degree while working on the project. They may utilize the research outputs of the project towards their degree requirements, except in cases where the sanction would provide that the research results are classified.
- L. The project will become operative with effect from the date of receipt of the First Demand Draft by the grantee organization. The date of receipt of the Demand Draft will be intimated by the Principal Investigator to the Ministry of Environment and Forests.
- M. The projects will be sanctioned normally for a specified period (maximum three years). Extension may be granted in exceptional cases upto a maximum period of one year. Any request for extension of the project should be sent by PI to the Ministry at least three months before the closing date. The PI should not make any expenditure after the closing date without specific approval of the Ministry or till the extension is conveyed to him. If such extension does not involve change in scope of the project, no additional funds would be sanctioned.

- N. Sharing of Intellectual Property Rights between the Government of India and the Institution(s) and research staff participating in the project would be specified in the sanction order based on Guidelines of the CSIR.
- O. The Principal Investigator shall submit three hard copies and one soft copy of the progress report of the project at the end of the each year to the Contact Person for Annual Review of the project.
- P. The grantee organization(s) will furnish 5 copies of the Final Technical Report, including Executive Summary, alongwith a soft copy, to the Ministry. The FTR will be subject to review by the Thematic Peer Group.
- Q. Non-Governmental Organizations seeking financial assistance for research projects shall execute a Bond in the prescribed format.
- R. All correspondence is to be addressed to the Contact Person specified for the concerned Research Programme.
- S. The Peer reviewers will be given honorarium @ Rs. 600/- per project for providing expert comments on the project.

2. Pollution Control Projects

2.1 Common Effluent Treatment Plants (CETPs)

Criteria for Consideration for Assistance

- (i) CETPs in industrial estates or in a cluster of Small Scale Industrial units are encouraged.
- (ii) Central Assistance will be available only for clusters of SSIs.
- (iii) Projects for assistance will be prioritised on the basis of:
 - Toxicity of pollutants
 - Pollution load being generated and to be treated; and
 - Number of units covered.
- (iv) The CETPs are to be set up and managed by the State Industrial Infrastructure Corporation (by whatever name known) or through an appropriate institution including a cooperative body of the concerned units as may be decided by the State Governments/SPCBs concerned.

- (v) The project should be self-supporting for repayment of the loan and meeting operation and maintenance costs.
- (vi) The project must formulate adequate institutional arrangements for cost sharing, recovery of dues and management and ensure observance of prescribed standards.
- (vii) The scheme must have the technical recommendation of the State Pollution Control Boards.
- (viii) The CETP project should have the conveyance system from the individual units to the CETP.
- (ix) Sludge characteristics (i.e. hazardous Vs. non-hazardous) from the primary and secondary treatment of the CETP should be estimated. Therefore, the CETP should have a sludge management plan which should be prepared based on the sludge characterisation and be documented in the feasibility report of the CETP project.
- (x) Possibility of recycling/reusing the treated effluent from the CETPs by the member units should be explored and be documented in the feasibility report of the CETP project.
- (xi) An environmental management and monitoring plan/programme to be prepared for the CETP and be documented in the feasibility report of the CETP project.
- (xii) A legal agreement between the CETP Co. and its member units to be executed be reflected in the feasibility report of the CETP project.
- (xiii) The cost recovery formula developed for the CETP project should be ratified by all members and be documented in the feasibility report of the CETP project.
- (xiv) Necessary clearance be obtained from the concerned State Pollution Control Board for discharging the treated effluent and be reflected in the feasibility report of the CETP project.
- (xv) All hazardous waste facilities associated with these CETPs should obtain clearance from the concerned State Pollution Control Board and be documented in the feasibility report of the CETP project.

3. Greening India Scheme

Assistance is provided to Voluntary agencies for tree planting by incorporating the additional components of QUALITY PLANTING MATERIAL (QPM) production facilities and creation of mass awareness about QPM.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO VARIOUS IMPLEMENTING AGENCIES FOR TREE PLANTING AND PRODUCTION OF QUALITY PLANTING MATERIAL AND AWARENESS PROGRAMME DURING 2007-08

Ministry of Environment and Forests is providing financial assistance under the Grants-in-Aid for Greening

India Scheme, to various Implementing Agencies during Eleventh Five Year Plan. Under the scheme, financial assistance is provided for afforestation and establishment of High-tech/Satellite nurseries for production of Quality Planting Material (QPM) on Government, Forest, Community and Private lands along with Awareness Programme. Guidelines of the scheme along with format of application have been made available to Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, of all States/UTs, and can also be accessed at the website of the Ministry at <http://www.envfor.nic.in>

Eligibility Criteria

Items	Tree Planting	Establishment of Satellite Nurseries	Central High-Tech Nursery & Awareness Programme
Implementing Agencies	Government Department, Urban Local Bodies, Panchayati Raj Institutions, State Forest Department, Registered Societies, Non-Profit Organizations, Cooperatives, Charitable Trusts, Voluntary Agencies, Public Sector Undertaking, Autonomous Bodies, Registered Schools, Colleges and Universities	(i) State Forest Department on its own or in collaboration with Forestry/Agricultural Research Organizations/FDAs/Farmers below poverty line/Tree Growers Co-operatives/Panchayats. (ii) Individuals including Farmers below poverty line and private entrepreneurs.	State Forest Department on its own or in collaboration with Forestry/Agricultural Research Organizations/FDAs/Farmers below poverty line/Tree Growers Co-operatives/Panchayats.
Minimum Registration Period	Must have completed five years of registration as on 31st March 2007	Should be registered under provisions of local Acts and Rules at the time of application.	NA
Experience	At least 3 years experience in the field of environment or related social sector.	At least 3 years experience in nursery raising with knowledge of sources and procuring of QPM.	NA

The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (PCCF) has been made the focal point for receiving and scrutiny of the proposals of tree planting and establishment of Satellite nurseries in the State. The Project proposals, complete in all respects, should be submitted in duplicate in prescribed format directly to the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests of the concerned State

Government/UT Administration. The completed proposals as per the scheme guidelines, shall be received by the State/UT Forest Departments upto 15 August 2007. Proposals from each State/UT should be recommended by the PCCF after due scrutiny and prioritization. The last date for receipt of complete project proposals with all requisite documents from the Principal Chief

Conservator of Forests, in this Ministry is 15th September, 2007. All proposals/documents/papers need to be sent by Registered post only.

Terms and Conditions

- (i) In case of Agencies other than government departments, the grantee should execute a bond under the General Financial Rules (GFR) in the prescribed format and submit it to the Board with a copy to the respective PCCF before the release of grant, once the proposal is approved by the NAEB for grant of financial assistance under the scheme.

All other usual terms and conditions as applicable under GFR to grantees including government departments, will apply.

- (ii) Only those agencies who have been registered at least for last five years, and who have requisite experience (at least 3 years) in the field of environment or working with people in other related social sectors, will be considered for financial assistance. In case of agencies other than government departments, it will be obligatory to furnish audited statement of accounts for the last three successive years. Till such time QPM becomes available from high-tech/satellite nursery funded under this Scheme, the agencies should use certified quality planting material obtained from any other source certified by the SFD.
- (iii) The Agency other than government departments should have a properly constituted Managing Body with its powers, duties and responsibilities clearly defined and laid down in a written constitution/bye-laws.
- (iv) The financial position of the Agency should be sound for the type of project to be taken up. It should not be run for profit of any individual or body of individuals. It should have the facilities, resources, experience and personnel for successful implementation of the proposed project.
- (v) **Project area and size**

The land on which activities are proposed should be properly and fully identified. Details of the land such as survey numbers, area, and names of owners should be given location-wise along

with totals for the project. These details should be verified and authenticated by the concerned landowner or land owning body/authority.

Project land identified should be suitable for construction of satellite nursery/tree plantation, and could be located anywhere except notified forest areas wherein only SFD is eligible. For others while selecting the project area, preference may be given to lands adjacent to forest areas. In respect of agencies other than government departments, PSUs, the plantation area should normally not exceed 50 ha.

4. Conservation

Criteria and Terms and Conditions:

- (i) Normally existing gardens are eligible for support. Proposal for new gardens may be considered if they meet the eligibility criteria. Preference shall be given to applications from uncovered and under covered regions/sub-regions..
- (ii) Such proposals may be given priority where the applicant and Institute have proven track record to undertake the conservation and propagation of indigenous, particularly 'RET' and 'E' plants.

The minimum size of the garden to be assisted should not be less than 2 acres but may be preferably, 5 acres or above.

- (iii) The organization receiving grants under this scheme must also ensure rehabilitation of the species and periodic monitoring of their survival/potential for survival as an integral part of the project. The organisations must coordinate with the concerned State Government to ensure that successful rehabilitation of the RET and E species in their natural habitats.
- (iv) The Central Govt. would identify an Institute/organization in each phyto-geographic zone as nodal institute/organization for providing guidance to other recipients organizations as also other players for conservation and propagation of indigenous, particularly RET and 'E' species of the given region. State Governments may be consulted whenever desired.
- (v) A Panel of experts from the field of taxonomy (including retired taxonomists), forestry and horticulture would be prepared in consultation

with BSI for a given state/Region for providing scientific and professional support to recipients of assistance at State/district level. BSI can engage services of retired taxonomists for technical assistance. Budgetary provisions for such assistance will be provided to BSI under the scheme.

(vi) The organization applying for assistance is required to furnish a certificate indicating that no grant has been received by the organization for the same work from the Union Ministry of Environment & Forests and/or any other source like DBT, DST, UGC, CSIR or ICAR etc. for the same work.

(vii) The BSI is entrusted with preparation of inventory of the RET and E species in different phyto geographic regions of the country, which need to be conserved and propagated on a priority basis.

The inventory may be obtained from BSI by the applicant Institutes for undertaking conservation of the species of the given region.

(viii) *The proposal should focus on minimum 10 to 15 RET and E species of the region concerned.* The list should be provided/authenticated by BSI. Out of RET and Endemic species, minimum 20 saplings of each tree species, 30 saplings of each shrub species including lianas and 50 saplings of each herbaceous species/climbers to be maintained in the garden.

(ix) The Institutes receiving grants under the scheme must ensure that they utilise the funds and the facilities under the scheme for activities for which they are meant.

(x) The organizations funded under the scheme should also tie up with the users for the said plant material for supplying them the material of the species conserved by them for specific purposes.

There is a need to link up *ex-situ* conservation with *in-situ* transfer by developing an arrangement with the State Forest Departments so that the logical chain is completed.

(xi) Seeds of live materials of the RET & E species conserved by the organizations shall be sent for maintenance and storage in the regional stations of BSI or NBPGR.

(xii) Transfer of such material to any foreign agency/ individual attracts provisions of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002. Hence, any such transfer can be only with the prior approval of the National Biodiversity Authority.

(xiii) Non-recurring grant for infrastructure improvement and recurring grant for field surveys and collection of plants may be borne under the scheme. Civil construction work should be proportionately limited to the size of the garden and be kept to the minimum level and the estimates are to be based on latest available Schedule of Rates (SOR) of State PWD, and to be prepared/verified by certified engineer.

(xiv) Assistance for Landscaping, pathways, lighting, signage, information boards and introductive multimedia equipments may also be allowed to the extent necessary for maintenance of *ex-situ* collection and awareness creation.

(xv) Appointment of regular personnel or staff shall not be supported under the scheme.

(xvi) The organization may clearly state/mention as to how the garden will sustain its maintenance and other activities once the funding of the Ministry stops after the project period.

(xvii) The recipients of assistance will submit quarterly progress report (QPR) in physical and financial terms.

5. Environment Education

Eligibility:

(I) Seminars / symposia / workshops / conferences

Any recognized academic / research institution or Government Department / Government undertaking having at least 3 years experience of working in environment related subjects. Any registered voluntary / professional organisation / Trust having proven credential, and experience in environmental field and registered under the Societies Registration Act for minimum three years and raising audited accounts.

(II) Professional societies and institutions - capacity building

Any registered voluntary / professional organisation or academic / research institution or museum / science centre having proven credential or Government

Department actively involved in the field of environment education and awareness for a minimum period of three years.

(iii) Publication of resource material related to environment

Any voluntary / professional organisation or academic/ research institution or museum / science centre or Government Department actively involved in the field of environmental education and awareness.

The organisation / Department should have worked in the field of environment education / awareness / extension for a minimum period of three years and during this period, the organisation should have developed considerable expertise and should be excellent track record of working in this area.

Under the scheme, grant is not provided for publication of newsletters, magazines, journals, periodicals etc. or to any publisher / business house including individuals.

The cut-off dates for receiving proposals in the Ministry seeking grant under the scheme Seminar/Symposia/Workshops/Conferences are:

- 7th March for the quarter April, May, & June.
- 7th June for the quarter July, August, & September
- 7th September for the quarter October, November, & December - 7th December for the quarter January, February, & March.

Proposals received after the stipulated last date would be rejected.

Centres of Excellence:

Eligibility:

Any recognized academic / research institution or Government Department / Government undertaking having more than 10 years experience of working in environmental related subjects, Any registered voluntary / professional organisation / Trust having proven credential, and experience in environmental field and registered under the Societies Registration Act for minimum 10 years and raising audited accounts.

6. Environmental Information

Criteria of selection of ENVIS Centre:

ENVIS Centres are to be set up on subject areas, concern and priority for both Central and State/UT Governments.

ENVIS Centres are to be located in leading institutions/organisations in the country in particular subject area as well as in concerned departments of the State/ UT Governments. The institute/organisation/departments having the ENVIS Centre should have the necessary expertise and capability to run a subject—oriented information Centre and should have the interest and willingness to serve the user community of ENVIS with substantive information as and when required.

Terms and conditions

- (a) Approval of the Grant being released is for the specific purpose of the ENVIS Centre and the grant should be exclusively spent on the ENVIS Centre for which it has been sanctioned within the stipulated time. Any unspent amount, out of the grant given by the Ministry, would be required to be surrendered to the Ministry and carry forward of unutilised amount from one financial year to the next financial year for utilisation for the ENVIS Centre would require the specific approval of the Ministry.
 - (b) For permanent, semi-permanent assets acquired solely or mainly out of the grant, including books, periodicals and furniture etc., an audited record in the form of Register in the prescribed proforma shall be maintained by the grantee organisation. The term 'Assets' here means (a) immovable property, and (b) movable property of a capital nature where the value exceeds Rs. 1,000/-.
- The grant should not be utilised for construction of any building and full facilities by way of accommodation and infrastructural facilities, etc. required for the ENVIS Centre will be provided by the grantee organisation.
- (c) All the assets including equipment and prototypes acquired from the grant will be the property of the Government of India and without the prior sanction of the Ministry should not be disposed of or encumbered or utilised for any purposes other than those for which the grant has been sanctioned.
 - (d) In case the ENVIS Centre is closed down, the Government of India will be free to sell or otherwise dispose of assets, which are the property of the Government of India. The grantee organisation shall render to the Government of

India necessary facilities for arranging the sale of these assets. The Govt. of India has the discretion to gift the assets to the grantee organisation; if the Govt. of India considers it appropriate.

- (e) The grantee organisation will furnish yearly progress reports of the work done at the ENVIS Centre. The Ministry can depute scientists/specialists to visit the grantee organisation periodically for reviewing the progress of work and for suggesting such measures as to ensure early realisation of the objectives of the ENVIS Centre. Full facilities are to be provided by the grantee organisation to the visiting scientists/specialists.
- (f) The grantee organisation is required to send to the Ministry at the end of each financial year and at the time of seeking further installments of the grant a list of assets referred to in (2) above.
- (g) The grantee organisation would furnish to the Ministry a utilization certificate as in within sixty days from the closure of each financial year i.e. by 31st May of each year for the grant released during the previous financial year. An audited statement of accounts and Utilization Certificate pertaining to the grant may also be furnished in due course. However, in case of NGOs, Professional Bodies/Registered Societies audited UC and Expenditure Statement of the previous grant are required to be submitted.
- (h) The Comptroller and Auditor General of India at his discretion shall have the right to access to the books and accounts of the Grantee organisation for the grants received from the Government of India.
- (i) The grantee organisation would maintain separate audited accounts for the centre. If it is found expedient to keep a part or whole of the grant in a bank account earning interest, the interest thus earned should be reported to the Ministry. The interest thus earned will be treated as a credit to the grantee organisation to be adjusted towards further installments of the grant.
- (j) Sale proceeds if any as a result of the activities of the centre arising directly from the funds granted by the Ministry shall be remitted to the

Government of India. The Government of India may at its discretion allow a portion of such receipts to be retained by the grantee organisation.

- (k) The grantee organisation is not permitted to entrust the implementation of the ENVIS Centre, for which the grant is being sanctioned, to any other organisation and diversion of the grants or any portion of it as assistance to any other organisation. In case, the grantee organisation is not in a position to execute or complete the work, it is required to refund forthwith to the Ministry the entire amount of grant received by it. In exceptional cases, this condition may be relaxed by the Government of India.
- (l) The Ministry reserves the right to terminate the grant at any stage, if convinced that the grant has not been properly utilised or appropriate progress is not being made.
- (m) The ENVIS Centre will become operative with effect from the date on which the grant is received by the grantee organisation. The date of receipt of the grant will be intimated by the grantee organisation to the Ministry.
- (n) The terms and conditions of service of staff in the ENVIS Centre would be governed by the rules and regulations prevailing in the organisation/institute in which the ENVIS Centre is located. Ministry will not have any liability in such matters, including deployment of the staff in the event of closure of the ENVIS Centre, since the staff will be borne on the strength of the organisation/institute in which the ENVIS Centre is located.

7. Animal Welfare

SCHEME FOR PROVISION OF SHELTER HOUSES FOR LOOKING AFTER THE ANIMALS

Eligibility:

- (i) Under the scheme, grants can be given to voluntary organisations/institutions, universities, research institutes, schools, statutory bodies like Panchayati Raj Institutions, Municipal Corporations, Town Area Committees, Red Cross Societies and its branches.

- (ii) The organisation should have at least three years of registration or experience of working in the related area or should show evidence of competence to take up the proposed scheme.
- (iii) It should not be run for profit to any individual or body of individuals.
- (iv) It should have a properly constituted Managing Body with its powers, duties and responsibilities clearly defined and laid down in a written constitution.

Definition of a Voluntary Organisation : For the purpose of this Scheme a 'Voluntary Organisation' will mean :

- (a) A Society registered under the Indian Societies Registration Act 1860 (Act XXI of 1860); or
- (b) A charitable non-profit making company;
- (c) A Public Trust registered under any law for the time being in force; or
- (d) Any registered non-official organisation engaged in the conduct and promotion of social welfare.

1.2 Scheme for Birth Control and Immunization of Stray Dogs and Medical Screening of and Treatment of Tuberculosis in Urbanized Monkeys of Delhi

Eligibility for assistance and descriptions of the manner in which the scheme will be implemented including the agency through which the scheme will be executed.

- (i) Under the scheme, the funds will be provided to the AWOs/SPCAs working under municipalities/rural areas by the Ministry of Environment and Forests on receipt of the application in the prescribed performa and subject to the terms and conditions laid down for the purpose.
- (ii) The agencies eligible for assistance shall be the AWOs/SPCAs working in collaboration of Municipalities/Corporations/Committees/Gram Panchayats and registered under the Indian Societies' Registration Act, 1860 (XXI of 1860), and Municipal Corporations/Committees and other local bodies. Assistance will also be granted to State Veterinary Departments in appropriate cases. The AWOs/SPCAs should meet the following requirements:
 - (a) The organisation should have experience of working towards the cause of animal welfare or should show evidence of competence to take up the proposed scheme,

- (b) It should have an appropriate administrative structure and a duly constituted managing/executive committee.
- (c) The organisation shall give an undertaking to submit reports and returns periodically and punctually as prescribed by the Government of India (Ministry of E&F) from time to time.
- (d) The organisation should have sufficient space to carry out the animal birth control programme and other facilities such as operation theatre, shelter for post surgery care, vehicle to transport the dogs from and to the concerned locality from where the animal was picked up and qualified veterinary doctor(s) who are registered veterinary practitioner with Indian Veterinary Council/State/UT Veterinary Council and required number of Para-Vets to carry out the sterilization and immunization of the dogs.
- (e) In the event of organizations proposing to undertake catching and release of sterilized stray dogs, the organization should have arrangements for a vehicle to transport the dogs from and to the concerned localities from where the animal was picked up. The NGO/agency should have capacity to engage trained dog-catchers, trained by vets/experts.

7.3 Scheme for provision of Ambulance Services to animals in distress

Eligibility for Assistance: Under the scheme, grants shall be sanctioned subject to terms and conditions laid down by this Ministry and provided application for the same is received as per prescribed Performa. The agencies eligible for assistance shall be as follows:

- (i) State Governments/Union territory Administrations, local bodies.
- (ii) Institutions or organisations set-up by Government as autonomous bodies either under, a statute or as a society registered under the Societies Registration Act, 1860 or otherwise.
- (iii) Educational and other institutions of the like local bodies and cooperative societies.
- (iv) Non-Government organisations meeting the following requirements:
 - (a) It is a registered body under and appropriate Act so, that it gets a corporate status and a

legal personality and group liability is established for its activities.

- (b) It has an appropriate administrative structure and a duly constituted managing/executive committee.
- (c) The aims and objectives of the organization and programmes in fulfillment of those aims and objectives are precisely laid down; and
- (d) The organisation is initiated and governed by its own members on democratic principles, without any external control.
- (e) The organisation shall not run for profit to any individual, or individuals and shall take an

undertaking to submit periodically and punctually reports and returns as prescribed from time to time by the Government of India, Ministry of E&F.

- (f) The concerned organisation should have been registered for a period of two years.

8. National River Conservation Project (NRCP)

Eligibility:

The NGOs should be registered society maintaining audited accounts with at least two years experience in the field of Environmental awareness and should preferably be situated in the district where the pollution abatement works under NRCP are undertaken.

Statement II

Year-wise release of funds to various NGOs

Research Programmes for Medicinal Plants Mangroves and Coral Reef

(In. Rs.)

Sl.No.	State	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08 As on 14.3.08
1.	Delhi	-	2,46,000	12,38,000	2,13,000
2.	Gujarat	3,07,680	6,39,858	-	-
3.	Karnataka	1,44,000	2,31,000	3,98,000	-
4.	Kerala	-	-	-	10,00,000
5.	Tamil Nadu	-	2,53,564	3,25,000	-
6.	Uttar Pradesh	-	10,11,000	-	-
7.	West Bengal	-	1,75,524	-	-

National Natural Resources Management System (NNRMS)

(in Rs.)

Sl.No.	State	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08 As on 14.3.08
1.	Delhi	-	-	7,88,210	-
2.	Gujarat	-	8,40,650	6,58,028	-

Pollution Control (Financial Assistance to NGOs by CPCB)

Grants-in-Aid for Greening India Scheme in different States

(Amount in Rs.)

Sl.No.	States	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
1	Andhra Pradesh	5236232	3730437	313820	1340000
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	4053451	6729390	808572	1528000
3.	Assam	2740576	2367510	1255280	1528000
4.	Bihar				
5.	Chhattisgarh	398640		313820	
6.	Delhi				
7.	Goa				
8.	Gujarat	4186864	3306600	313820	320800
9.	Haryana				
10.	Himachal Pradesh	524302	313820		250000
11.	Jammu and Kashmir		1760000		1740000
12.	Jharkhand	1264560		243870	
13.	Karnataka		966240		
14.	Kerala	1353880			798000
15.	Maharashtra	2412643	254310	251056	
16.	Manipur	11080253	5816740	2709123	5220000
17.	Meghalaya	4113426	3377640	878696	2608000
18.	Mizoram	6208600		341678	525000
19.	Madhya Pradesh	2331830	2899627		2806000
20.	Nagaland	11688132	7990298	3858910	421200
21.	Orissa	8712867	11901142	194800	6987000
22.	Punjab		254310		
23.	Rajasthan	3677998	6186820	584470	3206000
24.	Sikkim		513820		
25.	Tamil Nadu	4137982	32153	2229040	
26.	Tripura	115562	233870		
27.	Uttar Pradesh	6150617	9997214	568130	7365000
28.	Uttarakhand	6968673	5419900	663275	4862000
29.	West Bengal	2343112	1967820		852000

National Wetland Conservation Programme

(In Rs. Lakhs)

Sl.No	State	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
1.	Andhra Pradesh	-	-	8.62	-
2.	Gujarat	6.42	-	3.94	-
3.	Maharashtra	-	8.03	-	-
4.	Kerala	-	6.08	-	-
5.	Uttar Pradesh	-	3.19	-	-
6.	West Bengal	-	5.32	-	-

Conservation of Medicinal Plants, Mangroves, and Coral Reef

(in Rs.)

Sl.No.	State	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08 As on 14.3.08
1.	Delhi	2,60,190	2,06,800	3,38,861	2,52,958
2.	Karnataka	75,00,000	56,20,000	92,44,733	90,00,000
3.	Tamil Nadu	-	6,08,000	3,22,000	3,22,000

Environmental Education Awareness and Training Scheme

(Amount in Rs. lakhs)

Sl.No	State	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08**
1	2	3	4	5	6
1	Andhra Pradesh	37.14	42.23	39.24	15.23
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
3.	Assam	20.32	25.50	0.00	30.98
4.	Bihar	25.71	50.64	32.66	33.03
5.	Chhattisgarh	0.00	0.00	5.82	7.34
6.	Delhi*	98.46	122.17	163.45	142.28
7.	Goa	0.00	0.00	0.15	0.00
8.	Gujarat	360.30	370.49	370.49	373.68
9.	Haryana	0.00	0.05	8.10	14.15

1	2	3	4	5	6
10.	Himachal Pradesh	1.20	0.00	0.05	0.040
11.	Jammu and Kashmir	7.69	0.16	26.70	27.55
12.	Jharkhand	24.57	17.68	19.45	19.22
13.	Karnataka	20.01	15.69	18.32	13.02
14.	Kerala	2.45	1.80	0.20	0.00
15.	Maharashtra	35.59	40.61	41.45	43.41
16.	Manipur	0.20	0.70	0.00	0.00
17.	Meghalaya	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
18.	Mizoram	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
19.	Madhya Pradesh	0.12	0.50	0.00	0.00
20.	Nagaland	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
21.	Orissa	2.24	0.95	17.98	18.45
22.	Punjab	0.00	0.00	0.40	0.00
23.	Rajasthan*	13.22	147.59	228.93	240.05
24.	Sikkim	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
25.	Tamil Nadu	135.28	152.25	161.85	155.13
26.	Tripura	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
27.	Uttar Pradesh	24.36	40.81	31.15	29.88
28.	Uttarakhand	3.49	10.21	4.82	7.28
29.	West Bengal	14.03	21.65	19.46	22.92

*Including release under National Green Corps Programme.

** figures for 2007-08 are approximate and upto 13.03.08.

Environmental Information (ENVIS)

(In Rs.)

Sl.No	State	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
1.	Andhra Pradesh	6,58,000	74,4,000	80,5,450	80,5,450
2.	Delhi	34,31,000	61,13,882	55,72,857	41,90,500
3.	Gujarat	9,77,000	10,28,000	52,9,240	42,15,09
4.	Karnataka	52,7,000	76,3,000	78,4,000	35,6,5000
5.	Maharashtra	16,43,000	15,10,416	17,99,321	18,86,812
6.	Tamil Nadu	10,54,000	12,32,620	12,80,921	93,0,000

Animal Welfare

The allocation of funds for direct funding to NGOs is NIL.

National River Conservation Project (NRCP)

The State-wise funds allocated for the public participation activities:

(In Rs. lakhs)

Sl.No	State	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
1.	Delhi	3.00	3.63	6.66	Nil
2.	Uttar Pradesh	Nil	Nil	191.00	Nil
3.	Tamil Nadu	2.75	Nil	Nil	Nil
4.	Haryana	Nil	Nil	87.20	Nil

**Complaints Regarding Dilapidated
Condition of Roads**

2890. SHRI JASUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD:
SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO:
SHRI HEMLAL MURMU:
SHRI TEK LAL MAHTO:

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

(a) whether the Union Government has received complaints regarding dilapidated condition of roads in different parts of the country under National Highway Development Programme (NHDP);

(b) if so, the total number of complaints received, State-wise, alongwith the mechanism to dispose of such complaints and the action taken by the Union Government thereon; and

(c) the details of funds allocated and spent on repair and maintenance of National Highways during the last three years including the current year and the progress made as a result thereof, State-wise and year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) No stretch of National Highways under National Highways Development Project (NHDP) is in a dilapidated condition. However, complaints are being received from time to time regarding bad condition of various roads under NHDP. Large number of complaints regarding bad condition of roads were due to damage to roads during heavy rains and poor maintenance owing to non-performance of contractors.

Steps have been taken by National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) to address this situation including carrying out urgent repair work, re-surfacing, termination of contract of non performing contractors and re-awarding the work etc. Provisions have been made in the operation & maintenance contracts to ensure that road is made traffic worthy and serviceable. Flood damage repair is also undertaken as and when required.

(c) The details of fund allocated and spent on repair and maintenance of National Highways during the last three years including the current year, State-wise and year-wise, are given in the enclosed statement.

Statement

State-wise allocation and expenditure for Maintenance & Repairs of National Highways during the years 2004-05, 2005-06, 2006-07 and 2007-08 (upto 29.02.2008)

(Rupees in crore)

SLNo.	State/Union Territory	2004-05		2005-06		2006-07		2007-08	
		Allocation	Expenditure	Allocation	Expenditure	Allocation	Expenditure	Allocation	Expenditure (upto 29.02/2008)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1.	Andhra Pradesh	34.67	25.81	39.07	39.09	61.19	56.59	74.63	46.20
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0.41	0.26	0.21	0.10	0.30	0.09	1.37	0.04
3.	Assam	22.42	18.30	30.84	27.52	25.98	21.18	46.88	21.50
4.	Bihar	36.96	36.61	47.66	44.46	34.34	24.58	41.51	7.40
5.	Chandigarh	0.80	0.72	0.52	0.12	0.66	0.64	0.98	0.80
6.	Chhattisgarh	26.99	19.75	20.55	20.12	24.15	23.52	33.51	17.76
7.	Delhi	0.75	0.00	0.44	0.04	0.03	0.03	0.00	0.00
8.	Goa	3.80	1.76	4.66	3.87	3.51	3.30	4.82	2.34
9.	Gujarat	37.39	33.73	38.62	38.08	33.99	33.95	42.46	27.55
10.	Haryana	7.09	6.42	15.43	14.12	24.27	21.34	18.13	15.21
11.	Himachal Pradesh	16.10	14.66	23.27	18.19	18.90	18.28	19.59	13.35
12.	Jammu and Kashmir	0.44	0.04	0.12	0.03	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
13.	Jharkhand	12.50	12.42	21.37	14.79	22.27	21.68	27.82	10.77
14.	Karnataka	37.40	36.62	42.44	41.87	39.88	39.88	59.44	27.07
15.	Kerala	30.70	30.23	34.59	53.07	19.30	29.54	37.53	19.73
16.	Madhya Pradesh	59.49	54.21	56.48	53.21	51.70	50.89	60.68	45.79
17.	Maharashtra	48.48	47.34	52.60	52.36	59.54	59.16	63.18	32.39
18.	Manipur	7.02	5.08	10.87	8.98	3.04	2.91	14.30	1.89
19.	Meghalaya	12.24	11.70	10.69	8.50	9.84	7.08	15.07	0.28
20.	Mizoram	4.56	4.32	5.52	5.28	5.19	3.42	6.67	0.60
21.	Nagaland	2.31	2.14	4.01	3.85	3.91	2.63	6.93	1.86
22.	Orissa	33.83	33.82	40.92	41.22	43.70	43.78	50.51	34.33
23.	Pondicherry	1.06	0.83	0.77	0.76	0.94	0.30	2.01	0.52

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
24.	Punjab	19.03	16.48	21.76	19.30	17.44	15.20	28.42	12.72
25.	Rajasthan	53.11	42.74	54.99	53.91	67.58	67.54	71.63	49.23
26.	Tamil Nadu	36.18	34.56	54.30	49.94	25.67	23.71	40.75	14.36
27.	Uttar Pradesh	54.92	52.10	51.18	50.01	45.63	48.54	64.24	46.37
28.	Uttarakhand	10.60	10.20	16.10	15.87	15.80	15.39	15.27	8.85
29.	West Bengal	26.22	22.94	29.87	28.05	18.50	16.38	25.31	14.65
30.	NHAI	91.09	91.09	112.05	112.05	105.76	105.76	87.73	60.00
31.	Brahmputra Bridge Maintenance	0.00	0.00	0.20	0.07	0.13	0.13		
32.	BRDB	17.00	13.06	22.00	15.75	22.28	22.05	30.06	21.01

Prevention of Thyroid Disease

2891. SHRI BALASHOWRY VALLABHANENI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether more than 4 crore people are suffering from thyroid disease in the country;

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

(c) the action taken by the Government to check the disease?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) It is estimated that about 7.1 crore people are suffering from nutritional Iodine Deficiency Disorders.

(c) In order to prevent and control the problem of Iodine Deficiency Disorders, the Ministry is implementing the National Iodine Deficiency Disorders Control Programme (NIDDCP) as a 100% centrally assisted scheme in the entire country Iodated salt in place of common edible salt is being supplied to all the States/UTs. The Ministry is also providing financial assistance to all the States/UTs for establishment of an IDD Control Cell and an IDD monitoring Laboratory for the effective implementation of the Programme. IEC activities have also been intensified in all the States and UTs through Prasar

Bharati, All India Radio, Directorate of Field Publicity and DAVP besides allocation of funds to the State Governments for Health Education at the State level.

Import of Machines for Controlling Air Pollution

2892. SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has imported some machines for controlling air pollution;

(b) if so, the countries from which such machines are being imported and the cost of each machine; and

(c) the places where these machines are likely to be installed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) to (c) The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) has procured 12 (twelve) Continuous Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Stations (CAAQMS) from France for continuous monitoring and assessment of air pollution levels in four cities at a cost of Rs. 80.00 Lacs (approximately) each.

Additionally, 5 (five) similar CAAQMS from different manufacturers from Australia, France and USA have been procured 11 (eleven) such CAAQMS are at various stages of procurement. The Capital Cost is to be borne by the CPCB upto Rs. 40.00 Lacs per CAAQMS and balance amount is to be met by the concerned SPCB.

These CAAQMS are to be installed by the CPCB and various SPCBs in 17 cities across the country namely: Hyderabad (AP.) Patna (Bihar), Ahmedabad (Gujarat), Faridabad (Haryana), Jharia (Jharkhand), Bangalore (Karnataka), Mumbai (Maharashtra), Pune (Maharashtra), Solapur (Maharashtra), Jodhpur (Rajasthan), Chennai (Tamil Nadu), Kanpur (U.P.), Varansi (U.P.), Agra (U.P.), Lucknow (U.P.), Kolkata (West Bengal), and Delhi.

Animals Migration Corridor

2893. SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether mining activities are destroying animal migration corridor;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps taken to protect the animal migration corridor in the face of such mining?

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

(a) to (c) There are State corridors, inter-State corridors and international corridors for facilitating the movement of migratory animals from one habitat to another. Some of these migration corridors fall in mineralized zone of the country including Jharkhand-Orissa, Jharkhand-West Bengal, Jharkhand-Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka-Kerala, and Kerala-Tamil Nadu. While according approval for mining under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, conditions incorporating mitigative measures are stipulated to reduce the impact of mining on wildlife corridors as far as feasible.

Enhanced Malaria Control Project

2894. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has implemented a modified plan of operation to control malaria in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of the States and cities where Enhanced Malaria Control Project has been in operation; and

(d) the extent to which said plan has been able to achieve its objectives so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The modified plan of operation (MPO) was launched in 1977 with the objectives:-

- (i) Prevention of deaths due to malaria;
- (ii) Reduction of morbidity due to malaria;
- (iii) Maintenance of industrial and green revolution and retention of the achievements gained.

The programme was integrated with primary health care delivery system.

(c) The Enhanced Malaria Control Project (EMCP) under support from World Bank was operationized in eight States, namely, Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan and Orissa, covering a total of 100 districts in these States. To sustain the ongoing malaria control activities beyond 2005 in the above States, World bank has provided retroactive financing till implementation of the phase-II programme.

(d) The implementation of Modified Plan of Operation (MPO) in 1977 has resulted decline in malaria cases from 6.4 million cases in the year 1976 to 1.67 million cases in the year 2006 & 1.36 million malaria cases in 2007. The annual reported deaths due to malaria in the country is around 1000 cases. To sustain the achievement by MPO, the following steps have been initiated under National Vector Borne Disease Control Programme.

- improving access to diagnosis & treatment
- scaling up the use of integrated vector control measures
- use of insecticide treated nets (ITNs)
- institutional strengthening through decentralization and training
- awareness generation and social mobilization through IEC activities, and
- strengthening Management Information System (MIS).

Regeneration of Mangroves

2895. SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken for regeneration of Mangroves that have been destroyed during Tsunami in 2004 in Andaman and Nicobar islands; and

(b) the funds allocated/utilized for this purpose so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) The Forest Department of Andaman & Nicobar Islands has taken-up mangroves plantations in the areas destroyed during Tsunami in 2004. More and more areas are covered annually. The natural regeneration of mangroves in tsunami affected area is also observed. The Department of Environment and Forests, Andaman & Nicobar Islands is monitoring the natural succession and also rehabilitating degraded areas under Plan Scheme as indicated below:

Year	Regeneration of Mangrove (in hectares)
2005-06	12.17
2006-07	25.70
2007-08	45.00

(b) The year-wise utilization of funds by the Forest Department of Andaman & Nicobar islands for the regeneration of mangrove plantation is as under:

Year	Expenditure (Rs. in Lakhs)
2005-06	19.67
2006-07	29.34
2007-08	27.71

[*Translation*]

Collection of Toll Tax

2896. SHRI V.K. THUMMAR:
SHRI JIVABHAI A. PATEL:

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

(a) the details of the (Public & Private) agencies which have been authorized to collect toll tax on National Highways;

(b) whether the Government has received any complaint from local people against these agencies during the last three years;

(c) if so, the manner in which the functioning of these agencies is monitored by the Government;

(d) whether these agencies have any other source of income besides the earning from the collection of toll tax; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) The details of the (Public & Private) agencies which have been authorized to collect users fee (toll tax) on National Highways are given in the enclosed statement.

(b) A few complaints in respect of irregularities in collection of fee, misbehaviour of staff of fee collecting agencies, delay in issue of monthly passes and overcharging of fees etc. were received from the users of the facilities.

(c) The functioning of these agencies is monitored in the following manner:

- (i) surprise checks and frequent inspections;
- (ii) by engaging local fee auditors;
- (iii) by appointing round the clock Toll Supervisors;
- (iv) by sending decoy customers;
- (v) on-the-spot observation at toll plaza of all the transactions for a defined period by an agency.

(d) and (e) Such information is not maintained in this Ministry.

Statement*Details of Toll Collecting Agency*

Sl.No.	Name of the States	Total number of public and private agencies engaged in Toll collection
1.	Andhra Pradesh	19
2.	Assam	2
3.	Bihar	5
4.	Chhattisgarh	3
5.	Delhi	2
6.	Gujarat	15
7.	Haryana	2
8.	Karnataka	10
9.	Kerala	7
10.	Madhya Pradesh	8
11.	Maharashtra	21
12.	Manipur	1
13.	Orissa	4
14.	Punjab	3
15.	Rajasthan	14
16.	Tamil Nadu	14
17.	Uttaranchal	4
18.	Uttar Pradesh	20
19.	West Bengal	7

*[English]***Accident Prone Coal Mines**

2897. SHRI AMITAVA NANDY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has conducted any study to identify coal mines in the country which are accident prone and unsafe;

(b) if so, the outcome/identification thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the government to identify such unsafe mines, location-wise and to check accidents in such coal mines?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In the year 2004, 2005 & 2006 through accident statistics. 64, 57 & 41 mines respectively have been declared accident prone mines.

(c) Risk assessment of all mines are done and Safety Management Plans are prepared accordingly for time bound implementation. Mine safety status is deliberated Safety Committee meetings and the management of coal companies and workers are accordingly informed of the action to be taken. Workers are imparted training to make them aware with new technology and method of working.

Impetus for Sports

2898. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the work done by the Ministry in various fields of sports during the last three years;

(b) the amount allocated and spent on sports during the last three years;

(c) whether the Ministry is giving impetus to some selected sports in the country during the current year;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) During the last three years the Ministry of Shipping, Road Transport and Highways has organized the Cricket, Carrom and Table Tennis matches with different Ports and participated in Inter-Ministerial tournaments in Cricket and Chess.

(b) The amount allocated and spent on sports during the last three years is given in the enclosed statement.

(c) to (e) The Department of Personnel and Training is the nodal agency in the Central Secretariat which conducts the Inter-Ministerial sports activities.

Statement

Sl.No.	Year	Amount Allocated	Amount Spent
1.	2004-05	Rs. 53,000	Nil
2.	2005-06	Rs. 58,000	Rs. 2,921
3.	2006-07	Rs. 58,000	Rs. 1,415

Amendment to National Highways Authority of India Act

2899. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to amend the National Highways Authority of India Act to incorporate changes in the functions and structure of the Authority;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Subsequent to the approval of the Cabinet on restructuring proposal of National Highways Authority of

India (NHA), the NHA Act 1988 is required to be amended to implement the following decisions:

- (i) to increase the number of full-time members of the Authority from five to six, and
- (ii) to increase the number of part-time members of the Authority from four to six.

(c) This Ministry conveyed intention of move for leave to introduce the National Highways Authority of India (Amendment) Bill, 2007 during Winter Session of Parliament and also to introduce the bill. The bill could not be introduced in that Session. Fresh notice has been issued to introduce the NHA (Amendment) Bill during the current Session.

[*Translation*]

Hospital Treating AIDS Patients

2900. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state the details of the Government hospitals which are providing treatment for AIDS patients on priority basis?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): At present there are 147 Government Hospitals providing treatment for AIDS patients. The State-wise details are given in the enclosed statement.

Statement**State-wise details of ART centres as on 29th Feb. 2008**

S.No.	State	Name of the Centre
1	2	3
1.	Tamil Nadu (20)	GHTM, Tabram, Chennai
2.		Madras Medical College, Chennai
3.		Government Medical College, Madurai
4.		Government Hospital, Namakkai
5.		Kilpouk Medical College, Chennai
6.		Medical College, Salem
7.		Medical College, Tirunelveli

1	2	3
8.		Medical College, Coimbatore
9.		Medical College, Theni
10.		Medical College, Thanzavur
11.		Medical College, Vellore
12.		Medical College, Kanyakumari
13.		Medical College, Trichy
14.		IOG, Chennai
15.		Govt. Dist. Head Qtrs. Hospital, Dharmapuri
16.		Govt. Dist. Head Qtrs. Hospital, Virudhunagar
17.		Govt. Dist. Head Qtrs. Hospital, Villupuram
18.		Govt. Dist. Head Qtrs. Hospital Karur
19.		Govt. Dist. Head Qtrs. Hospital, Dindigul
20.		Govt. Dist. Head Qtrs. Hospital, Perambalore
21.	Maharashtra (25)	JJ Hospital Mumbai
22.		KEM Hospital, Mumbai
23.		Nair Hospital, Mumbai
24.		Sion Hospital, Mumbai
25.		Government Medical College, Sangli
26.		B.J. Medical College, Pune
27.		Government Medical College, Nagpur
28.		NARI Pune
29.		Medical College, Aurangabad
30.		Medical College, Dhule
31.		Medical College, Akola
32.		Medical College, Yawatmal
33.		Medical College, Amhejogai
34.		Govt. Med. College, Kolhapur
35.		Govt. Med. College, Solapur
36.		Govt. Med. College, Nanded

1	2	3
37.		Govt. Med. College, Latur
38.		BILT, Chandrapur
39.		Thane District Hospital
40.		Nashik District Civil Hospital
41.		Ahmadnagar District Hospital
42.		District Civil Hospital, Ratnagiri
43.		Civil Hospital, Wardha
44.		District Civil Hospital, Parbhani
45.		District Civil Hospital, Jalgaon
46.	Andhra Pradesh (21)	Osmania Medical College, Hyderabad
47.		Government Medical College, Guntur
48.		Government Medical College, Vizag
49.		SVRR GGH, Tirupati (Chittoor)
50.		GGH, Ananthapur
51.		GGH, Vijayawada
52.		RIMS, Kadapa
53.		Govt. Dist. Hospital, Prakasam (Ongole)
54.		GGH, Kakinada
55.		Gandhi Med. College, Secunderabad
56.		Medical College, Warangal
57.		Medical College, Karimnagar
58.		Gov. Gen. & Chest Hospital, Hyderabad
59.		Dist H Q Hospital, Nizamabad
60.		Dist H Q Hospital, Eluru
61.		Dist HQ Hospital, Srikakulam
62.		Dist H Q Hospital, Khammam
63.		District Headquarter Hospital, Mehboobnagar
64.		District Headquarter Hospital, Vizianagaram
65.		District Headquarter Hospital, Medak
66.		District Headquarter Hospital, Adilabad

1	2	3
67.	Karnataka (17)	Lady Curzon Hosp., Bangalore
68.		Mysore Medical College, Mysore
69.		VIMS, Bellary
70.		KIMS, Hubli
71.		District Hospital, Raichur
72.		District Hospital, Davengere
73.		Wenlock Dist. Hospital, Mangalore
74.		District Hospital, Bijapur
75.		District Hospital, Gulbarga
76.		District Hospital, Belgaon
77.		District Hospital, Kolar
78.		District Hospital, Bagalkot
79.		IG Inst. of Child Health, Bangalore
80.		DH Koppal
81.		DH Chamrajnagar
82.		DH Hassan
83.		ACC Wadi
84.	Manipur (5)	RIMS Imphal
85.		Jawaharlal Nehru Hospital, Imphal
86.		District Hospital, Ukhrul
87.		District Hospital, Churachandpur
88.		District Hospital Thobal
89.	Nagaland (4)	Naga District Hospital, Kohima
90.		District Hospital Dimapur
91.		Tuensang Civil Hospital
92.		Mokokchung Civil Hospital
93.	Delhi (9)	RML Hospital, New Delhi
94.		LNJP Hospital, New Delhi

1	2	3
95.		AIIMS, New Delhi
96.		DDU Hospital, New Delhi
97.		GTB Hospital, Delhi
98.		LRS institute of TB, New Delhi
99.		Safdarjung Hospital
100.		Kalawati Saran Children Hospital
101.		Baba Saheb Ambedkar Hospital, Delhi
102.	Chandigarh (1)	PGIMER, Chandigarh
103.	Rajasthan (4)	SMS Hospital, Jaipur
104.		Bikaner, SP Medical College
105.		SNMC, Jodhpur
106.		RNT Medical College, Udaipur
107.	Gujarat (4)	B.J. Medical College, Ahmedabad
108.		B.J. Medical College, Surat
109.		Mora Choriyasi, Reliance HIV & TB Control Centre, Surat
110.		Pandit Din Dayal Upadhyay Hospital, Rajkot
111.	West Bengal (2)	School of Tropical Medicine, Kolkatta
112.		North Bengal Medical College, Silliguri
113.	Uttar Pradesh (5)	Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi
114.		KGMC, Lucknow
115.		MLN Medical College, Allahabad
116.		LLRM Med. College, Meerut
117.		BRD Medical College, Gorakhpur
118.	Goa (1)	Government Medical College, Bambolim
119.	Kerala (5)	Med. College, Thiruvanthapuram
120.		Med. College, Kottayam
121.		Med. College, Kozhikode (Calicut)
122.		Med. College, Thrissur
123.		Med. College, Allepy (Alappuzha)

1	2	3
124.	Himachal Pradesh (1)	IGMC Shimla
125.	Pondicherry (1)	GGH, Pondicherry
126.	Bihar (2)	PMCH Patna
127.		SKMCH, Muzafarpur
128.	Madhya Pradesh (2)	Med. College, Indore
129.		MC, Jabalpur
130.	Assam (3)	Med. College, Guwahati
131.		AMC, Dibrugarh
132.		Silchar Medical College & Hospital
133.	Arunachal Pradesh (1)	General Hospital, Naharlagun
134.	Mizoram (1)	Civil Hospital, Aizwal
135.	Punjab (2)	GMC, Amritsar
136.		Civil Hospital Jalandhra
137.	Sikkim (1)	STNM Gangtok
138.	Jharkhand (2)	RIMS, Ranchi
139.		MGM Med. College, Jamshedpur
140.	Harayana	PGIMS, Rohtak
141.	Uttarakhand	Doon Hospital, Dehradun
142.	J&K (2)	Medical College, Jammu
143.		SKIMS, Srinagar
144.	Orissa	MKCG Medical College, Behrampur
145.	Chhattisgarh	Medical College, Raipur
146.	Tripura	Civil Hospital-Agartala
147.	Meghalaya	Civil Hospital-Shillong

Entering of Wild Animals in Residential Areas

areas in several States of the country;

2901. SHRI HEMMAL MURMU: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

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

(a) whether there have been incidents of wild animals particularly tiger and elephant entering the residential

(c) the steps taken by the Government to protect the people from the wild animals and also to rehabilitate such wild animals?

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

(a) and (b) Straying of wild animals, including tiger and elephant, in residential areas/villages have come to light, time and again. However, details of day-to-day instances in this regard are not collected at the Government of India level.

(c) Funding support under the ongoing Centrally Sponsored Schemes (Project Elephant, Project Tiger, Development of National Parks and Sanctuaries) is provided to States for mitigation of such man-wild animal conflicts, and to rehabilitate the strayed wild animals. These measures, *interalia*, include:

- (i) Erection of solar fences for preventing entry of wild elephants;
- (ii) Creation of elephant proof trenches;
- (iii) Development of antidegradation squads for chasing away problematic animals;
- (iv) Deployment of rescue team to capture strayed carnivores for their release/rehabilitation;
- (v) Deployment of monitoring teams.

[English]

15-Point Programme

2902. SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether 15-Point Programme was discussed at the National Development Council meet held on December 19, 2007 and done away with stipulating the earmarking 15 per cent of targets and outlays where possible for minorities under various schemes during the Eleventh Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken to implement the various schemes and programmes in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) to (c) On December 19, 2007 a meeting of National Development Council was held to discuss and adopt draft Eleventh Five Year Plan Document.

[Translation]

National Highway Projects in Chhattisgarh

2903. SHRI AJIT JOGI: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the National Highways projects taken up/likely to be taken up in Chhattisgarh including four laning and six laning of National Highways Project-wise;

(b) the funds allocated and spent on these projects till date, project-wise;

(c) whether some of the projects are running behind the schedule; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) Details of the ongoing works and new works on National Highways likely to be taken up during the year 2007-08 in Chhattisgarh are as given below:-

Sl.No.	Project	No.	Length (km)	Cost of the project (Rs. in Crore)
1.	Widening to two lane	21	304.24	130.41
2.	Bridge works	16	1.372	52.01
3.	Strengthening and other improvement works	30	102.06	43.84
4.	Four laning	2	127.69	654.00

Apart from above, works of widening to two lane on NH-16 in 132 km. is also under execution by Border Roads Organisation (BRO). There is no proposal for six laning of National Highways in Chhattisgarh.

(b) Funds for development of National Highway works are allocated State-wise and not project-wise. During 2007-08, an amount of Rs. 39.00 crore has been allocated for development of National Highways being implemented by State Government. Out of which Rs. 31.01 crore has been spent upto February 29, 2008. In addition, during the current year, BRO has spent Rs. 24.74 crore upto February 25, 2008. Four laning works are being

implemented through Build, Operate and Transfer system by National Highways Authority of India.

(c) and (d) Total seventeen projects are presently running behind the schedule which are likely to be completed between March, 2008 and September, 2008. Action as per conditions of contract has been taken by the State PWD. Appropriate technical/administrative decisions in respect of these works have also been taken to expedite the progress.

[English]

New Recruitment System for Health Staff

2904. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Administrative Reforms Commission has recommended for a new recruitment system for health-staff in Government hospitals to make the process more transparent and accountable to the local communities;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the measures 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) Health is a State subject. Accordingly, various schemes and programmes for health services delivery are implemented by the State Governments. The Central Government supplements the efforts of the States in this endeavour through its various programmes.

The Sixth Report of the Administrative Reforms Commission on Local Governance *inter-alia* recommends that recruitment for hospitals and schools should be made to an institutions/Society, moving away from non accountable State level recruitment.

The recommendations of the Administrative Reforms Commission have been forwarded to all State/Union Territory Governments and other concerned authorities for taking appropriate measures.

Accidents inside Paradip Port

2905. SHRI JUAL ORAM: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there have been frequent accidents due to the presence of heavy vehicles inside the Paradip Port;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the number of casualties occurred as a result thereof, during the last three years; and

(c) the reasons for such accidents and the steps taken to prevent such accidents?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) The details of the accidents which have taken place and the number of casualties are as follows:-

Year	Number of accidents	Casualties
2004-05	6	2
2005-06	5	5
2006-07	8	3

(c) After investigation, it was found that the main cause of the accidents was 'Human Error' on the part of the drivers/helpers/operators of the heavy vehicles such as trucks, dumpers, pay loaders, trailers etc. and as well as casual workers roaming in the port area. The Port has taken several measures to prevent such type of accidents in future by taking the following steps:

- (i) Regulation of entry and exist from Port area by the heavy vehicles and their movement inside the port area.
- (ii) Taking punitive action against the owners of the heavy vehicles which caused the accidens.
- (iii) By issuing suitable instructions to the owners of the heavy vehicles to appoint competent and reliable drivers/helpers/operators, etc.
- (iv) By ensuring proper illumination inside the port area and allotting separate parking area for trucks, dumpers, etc.
- (v) Holding regular discussions in the port safety committee meeting on the causes and remedial measures to be taken to avoid such accidents in future.
- (vi) Apart from the above the officials of the safety cell, the mobile traffic squad, Central Industrial

Security Force (CISF) and other concerned authorities carry out regular surprise check to check any violation in the movement of traffic in the port area. The port is also holding regular workshops pertaining to safety aspects to educate the workers.

Promotion of Sports for Physically Challenged

2906. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has formulated any programme for promotion of sports for physically challenged;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of sports competitions conducted for disabled persons during the last three years;

(d) the details of sports infrastructure created for disabled persons; and

(e) the quantum of funds allocated for the promotion of sports for disabled persons, State-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) to (c) The Ministry is formulating a new scheme entitled Scheme of Games & Sports for the Disabled, under which, financial assistance will be provided for training the trainers of disabled sportspersons and for conducting District, State and National level championships for the disabled. However, pending finalization of the new Scheme, the Ministry is already providing financial assistance to the recognized National Sports Federations for promotion of sports amongst disabled through Paralympic Committee of India, All India Sports Council of the Deaf and Special Olympic Bharat, under the scheme of 'Assistance to National Sports Federation'. Financial assistance is being provided to these National Sports Federations for national coaching camps, organizing National championships and international events in India and participation in international events abroad. The details of funds provided during the last three years under the existing scheme of 'Assistance to National Sports Federations' to these three Federations, excluding expenditure under National coaching camps, which are organized through the Sports Authority of India, are as under:-

Sl.No.	Name of the Federation	Central Assistance Released (Rs. in lakhs)		
		2005-06	2006-07	2007-08 (as on 29.02.2008)
1.	All India Sports Council of the Deaf	13.43	19.15	16.40
2.	Paralympic Committee of India	13.50	33.34	217.69
3.	Special Olympic Bharat	0.00	4.50	92.00

(d) Sports being a State subject it is primarily the responsibility of the State Govt. to create sports facilities for all, including disabled persons.

(e) No State-wise funds are allocated for the promotion of sports for disabled persons.

Accredited Social Health Activists

2907. SHRI VIJOY KRISHNA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the State-wise details of Accredited Social Health Activists (ASHAs), working at present in the country;

(b) the details of their responsibilities outlined in the mandate alongwith details of remuneration being paid;

(c) whether the present strength of ASHAs across the country particularly in Bihar is sufficient; and

(d) if not, 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) The statement is enclosed.

(b) ASHA is a health activist in the community to create awareness on health, its social determinants and

mobilize the community towards local health planning, increased utilization and accountability of the existing health services. Her roles and responsibilities are (i) to create awareness (ii) to counsel (iii) to mobilize the community and facilitate them in accessing health and health related services (iv) to work with the Village Health & Sanitation Committee of the Gram Panchayat. (v) Escort and accompany pregnant women and children requiring treatment (vi) Provide primary medical care for minor illness (vii) To act as a depot holder for essential provisions (viii) To inform about births and deaths, and (ix) to promote construction of household toilets under total sanitation campaign.

ASHA is an honorary volunteer and would not be paid any salary or honorarium. However, ASHA is being compensated for her time in the following situation:

- For duration of training in terms of TA and DA
- For participating in monthly/bi-monthly meetings for undertaking specific health or other social sector programmes with measurable outputs. (Disbursement of compensation to ASHA will be made as per specific payment mechanism built into individual programmes)
- The average remuneration depends on the total performance based payments that the ASHA is entitled to as per the work done by her. It can vary from village to village and ASHA to ASHA.

(c) Yes, the present strength of ASHA across the country pertaining to Bihar is sufficient. About 90% of ASHA has been selected till now. Against the total target of ASHA which is 74384; 66701 has been selected the process for rest is in progress.

(d) the question does not arise.

Statement

State-wise Status of ASHA as on 12.03.08

Sl.No.	State/UTs	No. of ASHAs Trained till date
1	2	3
High Focus Non-NE		
1.	Bihar	56545
2.	Chhattisgarh	29437

1	2	3
3.	Jharkhand	36000
4.	Jammu and Kashmir	9500
5.	Madhya Pradesh	32042
6.	Orissa	32612
7.	Rajasthan	39000
8.	Uttar Pradesh	114169
9.	Uttaranchal	9268
10.	Himachal Pradesh	16
Total Non-NE		358589

High Focus NE

1.	Assam	26235
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	1465
3.	Manipur	2981
4.	Meghalaya	0
5.	Mizoram	674
6.	Nagaland	1278
7.	Tripura	1390
8.	Sikkim	530
Total NE		34553

Non-High Focus (Tribal Areas)

1.	Gujarat	898
2.	Karnataka	
3.	Kerala	442
4.	Maharashtra	701
5.	Dadara and Nagar Haveli	
6.	Daman and Diu	
7.	Lakshadweep	85
8.	Andhra Pradesh	8500
9.	Andaman and Nicobar	
Total Tribal Area		13322
Grand Total		406464

**Guidelines for Appointment of Dieticians
in Hospitals**

2908. SHRI MADHU GOUD YASKHI:
SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:
SHRI ANIRUDH PRASAD *Alias* SADHU
YADAV:

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

(a) whether the Director General Health Services DGHS) has issued any guidelines for appointment/posting of dieticians in Hospitals;

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

(c) whether these guidelines are being implemented in all the Government hospitals in the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) The Director General of Health Services has developed a publication entitled 'Guidelines for Standardized Hospital Diets' which provides detailed information about suggested staff requirement; qualifications of the staff (Chief Dietician, Sr. Dietician, Dietician, Asstt. Dietician, Steward/Supervisor); duties and responsibilities, etc.

(c) to (e) Such information is not maintained centrally as health is a State subject.

Training to Teachers for Detecting Vision Defects

2909. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has given any training to the teachers to detect vision defects among children;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the number of children benefited as a result thereof?

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

LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir, Training of School Teachers to detect vision defects among school children is one of the functions of the District Blindness Control Societies (since merged with District Health and Family Welfare Societies) under School Eye Screening Programme of the National Programme for Control of Blindness (NPCB). During the 10th Five Year Plan (2002-07), a total number of 5,50,278 teachers were trained by the District Societies.

(c) During the 10th Five Year Plan (2002-07), a total number of 12,10,27,178 children were screened for refractive errors, out of which 33,67,386 children were found with refractive errors and 14,08,109 school going poor children were provided free spectacles under NPCB.

Functioning of National Medical Library

2910. DR. K.S. MANOJ: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is contemplating to improve the functioning of National Medical Library (NML);

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of the Funds provided for the National Medical Library by the DGHS during the last three years, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) The Government has initiated many activities as listed below to improve the functioning of the National Medical Library (NML):

(i) Electronic Journal Consortium has recently been started by NML to provide facility to access over 1500 journal electronically by the 39 medical colleges/institutions across the country. The consortia will provide facilities to medical students stationed at remote areas to avail standard medical literatures without visiting NML;

(ii) NML is disseminating more than 8700 copies of the medical journals to different medical college students facilitating research in medical sciences;

(iii) NML is conducting training work-shops for different medical college libraries across the country to process their library collection in the electronic form. It has also created data bank

of over 4000 medical research thesis. These are expected to be available on the NML's website;

- (iv) Numerous electrical & civil development work have been taken up to improve the basic amenities at NML.

The allocation of funds to NML was Rs. 10.53 cr., Rs. 10.25 cr. and 15.60 cr. during the years 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07 respectively.

Missing of Indian Ship and Crew Members

2911. SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether an Indian ship which was navigating from Russia to Turkey alongwith several Indian crew went missing;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the circumstances under which the ship was lost;

(c) the name of the company which hired/operated the ship;

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

(e) if so, the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) The vessel that was reported missing while navigating from Russia to Turkey was MV. Rezzak, a Panamanian registered vessel and not an Indian ship.

(b) The vessel during its voyage in the Black Sea apparently encountered rough weather conditions due to the prevailing gale force winds. The last position report from the vessel was received on 18th February, 2008. Since then, no further information is known about its whereabouts.

(c) The company which hired the ship was "Carbofer, General Trading S.A". Turkey and the Company which operated the ship was "CMR Denizcilik ve Ticaret A.S, Turkey.

(d) and (e) An investigating officer of the Directorate General of Shipping, Mumbai is in Turkey and is taking

part in the investigation into this incident which is being conducted by the Flag state Panama in Turkey.

Additional Funds for Health Related Projects

2912. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received requests to from various States including Karanataka for additional funds to complete the health-related Centrally Sponsored Schemes;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the action taken or proposed to be taken by the Union Government in this regard; and

(d) the time by which the additional funds are likely to be released to the States?

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

Promotion of Ayurveda Medicines

2913. SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU:
SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY:
SHRI SURESH WAGHMARE:

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

(a) whether ayurvedic medicines have been used as life saving drugs since the ancient times;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government for promotion of AYUSH Medicine in view of its usefulness?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. In ancient classical text books of Ayurveda, there are descriptions about medicines and interventions that are useful even in acute and life threatening situations like un-consciousness, venomous toxicity and trauma to vital organs. Judicious application of medicines coupled with interventions that augment the

natural defence systems of the body are able to control vast number of diseases. While treating the patients, their physiological and psychological constitution are taken into account.

(c) Department of AYUSH have taken various steps to promote AYUSH systems of medicine in India & abroad. The schemes for supporting information, education and communication, international co-operation, quality control of AYUSH drug, AYUSH intervention in public health initiative re-vitalization of local health practices, setting up of AYUSH facilities in allopathic centres and supply of essential medicines to AYUSH dispensaries have been implemented for enhancing the public awareness and promotion of AYUSH in health care system. The Central Research Councils of AYUSH are working on scientific validation of AYUSH systems for their wider acceptability.

Forest Cover in Jammu and Kashmir

2914. SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of efforts made by the Government on the recommendations of CAG on the regeneration and preservation of the forest area in Jammu and Kashmir; and

(b) the details of money spent in this regard alongwith the mechanism for monitoring the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) and (b) As per information received from the Government of Jammu and Kashmir, the State is implementing the National Forest Policy, 1988 and undertaking various measures for expediting compensatory afforestation, removal of encroachment and prevention of further encroachment of forest areas. As per the State Government, no specific fund has been allotted to implement the CAG recommendations. However, the regeneration and preservation of forests is being done from available resources under various ongoing schemes funded by the State and the Central Governments. The major schemes are Rehabilitation of Degraded Forests, Eco Task Force, Stabilization of Slip Areas, Urban Forestry, CM's participatory Afforestation Programme, River Valley Project, Eco-restoration of Degraded Catchments and National Afforestation Programme for which a total allocation of Rs. 23.36 crore has been made and Rs. 8.29 crores spent till 31.1.2008 during 2007.08. The

State has also prepared a scheme for strengthening the monitoring mechanism, and a multi-tier monitoring and evaluation is in place.

Foreign Assistance for T.B. Control Programme

2915. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received any assistance from Denmark for Revised National Tuberculosis Control Programme (RNTCP) Phase-I for Orissa during 2007-08;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the terms and conditions of said assistance; and

(d) the number of persons likely to be benefited as result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) No Sir, RNTCP in the State of Orissa is being implemented under Global Fund assistance w.e.f. 1st January, 2006 onwards and hence Government has not received any assistance from Denmark for Orissa during 2007-08.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Issuance of Passports

2916. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO:
SHRI C. KUPPUSAMI:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the various existing passport offices and collection centres in the various States of the country; and

(b) the number of passport applications received and the number of passports issued during each of the last three years alongwith details of pendency?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED): (a) The details of the existing passport offices and collection centres in the various States of the country are as given below:

(i) Passport Offices:

1. Ahmedabad
2. Bangalore
3. Bareilly
4. Bhopal
5. Bhubaneshwar
6. Chandigarh
7. Chennai
8. Cochin
9. Delhi
10. Ghaziabad
11. Guwahati
12. Hyderabad
13. Jaipur
14. Jalandhar
15. Jammu
16. Kolkata
17. Kozhikode
18. Lucknow
19. Madurai
20. Mumbai
21. Malappuram
22. Nagpur
23. Panaji
24. Patna
25. Pune
26. Raipur
27. Ranchi
28. Shimla

29. Srinagar
30. Surat
31. Thane
32. Tiruchirappalli
33. Thiruvananthapuram
34. Vishakhapatnam

(ii) Passport Application Collection Centres:

1. Agartala
2. Aizawl
3. Berhampore
4. Darbhanga
5. Gangtok
6. Imphal
7. Kohima
8. Leh
9. Mangalore
10. Pondicherry
11. Shillong
12. Siliguri
13. Tirupati
14. Vijayawada
15. Kolkata.

(b) The details of the number of passport applications received and passports issued during the last three years, RP-wise, along with pendency details are attached as given in the enclosed statement. There are several reasons for pendencies in Passport Offices. These include: Delays in receipt of Police Verification Reports (PVRs), receipt of adverse/incomplete PVRs; and furnishing of incomplete information and/or documents by the applicants. Rapidly growing workload of the Passport Offices is also contributing to pendencies.

Statement

*Number of Passport Applications Received and Passports Issued alongwith
Details of Pendency during 2005-07*

Sl.No.	Passport Office	Number of Passport Applications received			Number of Passport issued			Pendency as on 31st December		
		2005	2006	2007	2005	2006	2007	2005	2006	2007
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
1.	Ahmedabad	219068	237044	271278	208198	242363	276396	13050	8807	6264
2.	Bangalore	190481	241202	270124	186602	271941	279812	30236	12024	12407
3.	Bareilly	51903	60404	67906	48129	57327	64280	11682	11280	13935
4.	Bhopal	60667	78132	81127	58287	71097	83826	15661	20729	15335
5.	Bhubaneshwar	28861	38616	39642	27176	34813	44542	10976	16354	16296
6.	Chandigarh	223949	250131	283233	212086	244664	278411	31762	36408	49179
7.	Chennai	237561	291916	299488	212143	300503	305238	39087	20758	22867
8.	Cochin	185852	203212	215411	178824	205028	241205	9690	10722	6973
9.	Delhi	207497	242415	247712	233118	249174	227330	11769	5223	14110
10.	Ghaziabad	55157	70059	79784	51885	65957	83957	11130	15246	7057
11.	Guwahati	22983	27056	29870	21287	23711	27254	1286	2902	14500
12.	Hyderabad	307678	382121	392869	270703	403895	400266	34417	15838	Nil
13.	Jaipur	117138	154353	159989	134747	132406	188573	16428	51576	46152
14.	Jalandhar	174175	201527	223463	164219	204765	215750	18382	12941	6453
15.	Jammu	12371	16795	17872	11928	13419	17113	2102	5591	4601
16.	Kolkata	137081	156539	182224	122917	152210	170306	14871	21625	15147
17.	Kozhikode	237367	236375	169180	244799	250350	170070	19837	9274	2724
18.	Lucknow	171833	228262	268647	152671	169023	303118	36262	165287	87706
19.	Madurai*	-	-	2965	-	-	346	-	-	2619
20.	Malappuram**	-	42348	138731	-	21056	153689	-	21292	995
21.	Mumbai	239863	261004	299028	223436	263770	294019	11211	179	8521
22.	Nagpur	31735	41912	50174	28517	38401	46701	1093	3623	6501
23.	Panaji	24381	25660	28825	23914	25630	28421	390	759	1419
24.	Patna	75850	96990	147395	77770	75949	119206	46937	43715	58437

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
25.	Pune*	76036	97609	109971	68044	168243	107955	6282	8633	17015
26.	Raipur	-	-	412	-	-	46	-	-	368
27.	Ranchi	22127	27359	31757	22815	24317	33409	10136	13178	10111
28.	Shimla***	-	-	17022	-	-	11947	-	-	70
29.	Srinagar	8921	13757	15616	5512	11906	13897	7711	10154	10905
30.	Surat	71398	80000	90773	75449	78246	96980	6327	4853	5111
31.	Thane	98041	114812	142229	87635	115819	139669	5307	6894	14043
32.	Tiruchirappalli	225403	279713	287862	220429	303684	285627	50456	32762	32873
33.	Thiruvananthapuram	122135	137150	151104	131833	141280	149135	1333	1448	2589
34.	Vishakhapatnam	71936	88241	82172	65657	80821	83773	6995	8283	8993
Total		3709448	4422714	4895855	3570730	4441768	4941560	482806	598358	522274

*Opened in December 2007

** Opened in August 2006

*** Opened in March 2007

Investment by Overseas Indians

2917. SHRI JYOTIRADITY M. SCINDIA: Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of comparative figures of the number of Pravasi Bharatiyas attending the Pravasi Bhartiya Diwas and investment made by them during the last two years; and

(b) the steps taken by the Government to promote investment by overseas Indians?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) Pravasi Bharatiya Divas is the flagship event organized by Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs every year with the objective to provide a platform for bringing the expertise and knowledge of the Overseas Indian Community and integrating it with the country's development process. Approximately 1100 delegates each had attended the Pravasi Bharatiya Diwas held in 2007 and 2008. Details about the investments made by the delegates during the last two years are not available with the Ministry since the nodal authority for

granting approvals for Foreign Direct Investment under the liberalized FDI regime is the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP) and investments are being made in the States.

(b) Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs has now set up an Overseas Indian Facilitation Centre (OIFC) in partnership with the Confederation of India Industry (CII) as a not-for-profit Trust to facilitate the overseas Indian community for all investment related information. However, the authority for granting approvals for Foreign Investments remain with the DIPP.

[Translation]

Participation of NGOs In Afforestation

2918. SHRI AJIT JOGI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal has been received from the State Government of Chhattisgarh to promote participation of voluntary organisations in treeplantation under Greening India Scheme;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the said proposal is likely to be cleared?

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

(a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Proposal of only one Voluntary Organisation namely "Hareetima Sanrakshan Evam Prakshishan Society" Dongaragarh, Chhattisgarh for tree Planting, forwarded by the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Raipur, Chhattisgarh, was received in this Ministry. The Proposal was not recommended by the Grants-in-Aid Committee for Greening India of the Ministry during 2007-08 due to the fact that the Voluntary Organisation was registered with effect from 5.8.2004 i.e. for less than five years with reference to 31.3.2007. The guidelines of the scheme stipulate that the Voluntary Agency should be registered for the last five years to be eligible for undertaking such projects.

[English]

Implementation of Scheduled Tribes and Other Forest Dwellers Act

2919. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA: Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry of Panchayati Raj has requested the State Government to expedite implementation of the Scheduled Tribes and other Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act and Rules as reported in 'The Hindu' dated February 24, 2008; 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. Under the provisions of the Scheduled Tribes and other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, the Gram Sabha is the competent authority for initiating the process of determining the nature and extent of forest rights to be recognized and vested, which are to be scrutinized by the Sub Divisional Committee after which the District Level committee will approve the claims and record of forest rights. After operationalization of the Act 2006 and notification of the Rules, 2007, the Ministry of Tribal Affairs which is the nodal Ministry for implementation

of the Forest Rights Act has written to all States/UT Governments on 11.1.2008 to constitute various Committees under the Act immediately and also initiate necessary action for recognition and vesting of the forest rights in the forest dwelling Scheduled Tribes and other traditional forest dwellers under the Act.

The Ministry of Panchayati Raj has also written to the States/UTs on 15.2.2008 suggesting that the States may organize Gram Sabhas on 28.2.2008 during which the provisions of the Act and the Rules and the roles and responsibilities of PRIs, Gram Sabhas and Forest Rights Committees are explained. This Ministry has also suggested that training for this purpose must be organized for the Sub Divisional Committee members and Pradhans and the PRI representatives so that they understand the entire process and specifically their assigned roles and responsibilities. This Ministry has requested the States to expedite the launch of the process of recognizing the forest rights of Scheduled Tribes and other traditional forest dwellers.

Declared National Highways under Tenth Plan

2920. SHRI JUAL ORAM: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of State roads declared as National Highways during Tenth Plan, year-wise and State-wise;

(b) the progress made in the upgradation, widening and development of these converted National Highways;

(c) the reasons of the delay if any; and

(d) the progress as on date National Highway-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) The details of State roads declared as National Highways during Tenth Plan, year-wise and State-wise is given in the enclosed statement.

(b) to (d) The upgradation widening and development of both existing and new National Highways is a continuous process. These works are taken up based on the condition of road, traffic, *inter-se* priority and availability of funds.

Statement*Declared National Highways in 2004*

Sl. No.	State	National Highways No.	Stretch	Approx. Length (Km)
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	214A	Digamaru-Ongole	255
		221	Vijaywada-Jagadapur	155
		222	Maharashtra border-Nirmal	60
			Sub Total	470
2.	Bihar	57A	Forbesganj-Jogbari	15
		28B	Chhapwa-Uttar Pradesh border	121
		110	Anwal-Biharsharif	89
			Sub total	225
3.	Chhattisgarh	111	Bilaspur-Ambikapur	200
		221	Andhra Pradesh border-Jagadapur	174
			Sub Total	374
4.	Gujarat	8A Extension	Narayan Sarovar-Mandvi	145
		8E Extension	Dwarka-Somnath	225
		113	Rajasthan border-Dahod	40
			Sub Total	410
5.	Haryana	73A	Yamuna Nagar-Himachal Pradesh border	42
		71B	Rewari-Rajasthan border-Pahwal	69
			Sub Total	111
6.	Himachal Pradesh	73A	Haryana border-Paontasahib	20
			Sub Total	20
7.	Jharkhand	75 Extension	Ranchi-Orissa border	202
			Sub Total	202
8.	Karnataka	218 Extension	Bijapur-Honnabad	223
		67 Extension	Tamil Nadu border-Gundlupet	50
			Sub Total	273

1	2	3	4	5
9.	Madhya Pradesh	86A	Rahatgarh-Raisen	131
		12A Extension	Jabalpur-Uttar Pradesh border	330
		26A	Sagar-Bina	75
			Sub Total	536
10.	Maharashtra	222	Kalyan-Andhra Pradesh border	550
			Sub Total	550
11.	Manipur	155	Nagaland border-Jessami	5
			Sub Total	5
12.	Meghalaya	44 Extension	Shillong-Nongstoin	93
			Sub Total	93
13.	Nagaland	155	Mokokchung-Manipur border	125
			Sub Total	125
14.	Orissa	224	Khurda-Balangir	298
		203A	Puri-Satpada	49
		203 Extension	Puri-Konark	38
		75 Extension	Jharkhand border-Parsora	18
			Sub Total	403
15.	Rajasthan	113	Nimahera-Gujarat border	200
		112	Bar-Barmer	343
		114	Jodhpur-Pokaran	180
		116	Tonk-Swaimadhampur	80
		11B	Lalsot-Dhaulpur	180
		71B	Haryana border near	5
			Dhharuhera (Haryana)- Taorou (Haryana)	
			Sub Total	988
16.	Tamil Nadu	45C	Thanjavur-Vikravandi	159
		47B	Nagercoil-Kavalkinaru	45
		67 Extension	Coimbatore-Karnataka border	148
		45 Extension	Dindigul-Teni	73
			Sub Total	425
17.	Uttarakhand	123	Vikasnagar-Barkot bend	95
		119	Uttar Pradesh border-Srinagar	135
		121	Kashipur-Bubakhal	252

1	2	3	4	5
		87 Extension	Nainital-Karna Prayag	233
		125	Sitarganj-Pithoragarh	201
			Sub Total	916
18.	Uttar Pradesh	119	Meerut-Uttaranchal border	125
		91A	Etawah-Kannauj	126
		76 Extension	Allahabad-Mirzapur	120
		28C	Barabanki-Nepalgarh	140
		29 Extension	Gorakhpur-Sonauli	110
		28B	Bihar Border-Kushinagar in Uttar Pradesh	29
		12A Extension	Madhya Pradesh border-Jhansi	7
			Sub Total	657
19.	West Bengal	60 Extension	Raniganj-Moregram	141
		60A	Bankura-Purulia	100
		117	Starting from its junction with NH-6 connecting Kona Expressway-Balckhali	133
			Sub Total	374
20.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	223	The Andaman Trunk Road	300
			Sub Total	300
			Grand Total	4757

Declared National Highways in 2006

1.	Jammu & Kashmir	1D	Srinagar-Kargil-Leh	422
2.	Uttar Pradesh	NE II	Eastern Peripheral Expressway	90
		24B	Lucknow-Rai Bareilly-Allahabad	165
			Sub Total	275
3.	Tamil Nadu	228	Thanjavur-Gandharvakottai-Sivaganga-Manamadurai	144
		227	Thiruchirappalli-connecting-Lalgudi-Kumaratchi-Chidambaram	135
			Sub Total	279
4.	Gujarat	228	Ahmedabad-Dandi (Dandi heritage route)	374
5.	West Bengal	2B	Burdwan-Bolpur	52
6.	Bihar	2C	Dehri-Akbarpur-Bihar/UP Border	105
7.	Haryana	NE II	Eastern Peripheral Expressway	44
			Grand Total	1551

**New Initiatives for Andaman and
Nicobar Islands**

2921. SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to give a fresh look for growth in view of several new initiatives taken after Tsunami-devastation in the Union Territory of Andaman and Nicobar Islands;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of the growth rate achieved by the Andaman and Nicobar Administration during the last plan period and proposes to achieve in the current plan period; and

(d) the details of the steps taken or proposed to be taken to achieve the objectives during the current plan in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) and (b) The Government is implementing an Action Plan to restore and upgrade the infrastructure damaged and to rehabilitate the people of Andaman & Nicobar Islands affected by the Tsunami the occurred on December 26, 2004. This plan includes rebuilding of roads, ports, jetties, fish landing centres and construction of planned temporary and permanent shelters along with social infrastructure such as schools, health centres, community buildings etc. The plan is monitored by an Empowered Group of Ministers headed by the Hon'ble Minister.

(c) In Andaman & Nicobar Islands, the estimated growth rate in the Tenth Plan is 5.90% and the target growth rate for the Eleventh Plan is 6.72%.

(d) In Andaman & Nicobar Islands, the thrust areas in the Eleventh Plan are improvements in connectivity, development of fisheries and agriculture, implementation of rural development programmes, water supply schemes and promotion of tourism, small and medium enterprises.

Utilization of Sports Funds

2922. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of grants released to National Sports Federations (NSFs) during each of the last three years, NSF-wise indicating the expenditure incurred;

(b) whether grants released to National Sports Federations (NSFs) are being utilized properly and NSFs are submitting utilization certificates thereto;

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

(d) the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government against such NSFs who do not utilize the funds properly?

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 Ministry gives financial assistance to the recognized National Sports Federations (NSFs) under its Scheme for Assistance to NSFs'. The quantum of assistance released to NSFs during the last 3 years, federation-wise is given in the enclosed statement.

(b) to (d) The assistance to (NSFs) is released only after the accounts and utilization certificates of the assistance given, if any, for the previous event are settled. As per the provisions of General Financial Rules, Ministry also issues necessary permission to CAG to conduct the audit of the NSFs receiving financial assistance of more than one crore in a financial year. The guidelines under the scheme of "Assistance of National Sports Federations" also provide for action by way of suspension/de-recognition in the event of irregularities such as unfair election, misutilisation of funds, functioning against the interest of sports, etc.

Statement

Sl.No.	Name of the Federation	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08 as on 29.2.2008
1	2	3	4	5
1.	All India Carrom Federation, New Delhi	13.98	12.69	13.92
2.	All India Chess Federation, Chennai	78.94	112.46	158.22
3.	All India Karate-Do-Federation,	00.00	3.46	00
4.	All India Sports Council of the Deaf, N. Delhi	13.43	19.15	16.40
5.	Amateur Baseball Federation of India Keshavpuram, Delhi	07.00	15.49	6.00
6.	Amateur Handball Federation of India, Jammu and Kashmir	34.57	38.64	16.42
7.	Atya Patya Federation of India, Nagpur	12.00	15.50	7.00
8.	Ball Badminton Federation of India	00.00	0.00	NIL
9.	Basketball Federation of India, New Delhi	41.21	36.31	77.80
10.	Cycle Polo Federation of India, New Delhi	0	30.01	12.83
11.	Fencing Association of India, Patiala	43.78	45.70	4.50
12.	Gymnastics Federation of India, Jodhpur (Raj.)	14.88	66.47	24.45
13.	Indian Body Building Fedn.	0	0.00	0
14.	Indian Kayaking & Canoeing Association, New Delhi	36.50	21.23	39.60
15.	Indian Polo Association, N. Delhi	01.10	1.55	2.11
16.	Indian Power lifting Federation, New Delhi	15.00	8.50	11.50
17.	Judo Federation of India, New Delhi	64.66	48.62	54.05
18.	Kho-Kho Federation of India, Kolkata	12.00	2.00	00
19.	Korfball Federation of India, New Delhi.	09.00	12.50	14.00
20.	All India Tennis Association, New Delhi	77.45	90.07	87.44
21.	National Rifle Association of India, New Delhi	433.43	373.19	595.46
22.	Netball Federation of India, Sahadara, Delhi	11.50	9.50	10.00
23.	Roller Skating Federation of India, Kolkata	09.00	0.00	0
24.	Rowing Federation of India, Secunderabad	51.65	9.75	65.20
25.	Sepak Takraw Federation of India Nagpur, Maharashtra	10.50	13.00	9.95
26.	Shooting Ball Federation of India	00.00	0.00	0

1	2	3	4	5
27.	Softball Federation of India, Jodhpur	9.80	12.00	13.00
28.	Squash Racket Federation of India, Chennai	15.42	21.94	11.37
29.	Swimming Federation of India, Ahmadabad	53.33	13.59	54.79
30.	Table Tennis Federation of India, New Delhi	165.10	178.75	311.99
31.	Taekwondo Federation of India, Bangalore	00.00	0.00	0
32.	Tenni-Koit Federation of India, New Delhi	11.00	13.00	9.00
33.	Tennis Ball Cricket Federation of India, Gorakhpur, U.P.	17.00	11.50	7.50
34.	Tug of War Federation of India, New Delhi	11.50	20.75	2.25
35.	Volleyball Federation of India, Chennai	94.97	58.17	108.24
36.	Yachting Association of India, New Delhi	141.30	78.40	107.37
37.	Wushu Association of India, New Delhi	07.10	13.50	6.91
38.	Throwball Fedn. of India, Bangalore	09.00	0.00	19.82
39.	Para Olympic, Bangalore	13.50	33.34	217.69
40.	Archery Association of India, New Delhi	51.75	96.48	64.97
41.	Billiards & Snooker Federation of India, Kolkatta	28.57	16.13	18.99
42.	Indian Amateur Boxing Federation, New Delhi	142.74	81.79	106.22
43.	Indian Hockey Fedn., Patel Nagar, Delhi	96.46	92.09	7.66/4.00
44.	Indian Women Hockey Federation, New Delhi ,	78.81	111.64	153.46
45.	Indian Amateur Kabaddi Federation, Jaipur	24.69	13.95	20.00
46.	Indian Weightlifting Federation, New Delhi	51.41	3.28	0
47.	Athletics Federation of India, New Delhi	227.95	86.83	204.10
48.	Badminton Association of India, Rajasthan	271.94	117.65	149.18
49.	Equestrian Federation of India, New Delhi	31.20	29.06	55.73
50.	Football, Delhi	70.37	30.55	66.90
51.	Indian Golf Union, New Delhi	37.84	23.65	18.02
52.	Wrestling Federation of India, I.G. Stadium, Delhi	209.82	32.58	6.15
53.	Winter Games Federation of India (WGFI), Daryaganj	12.51	1.65	0
54.	Women's Cricket Fedn. of India, Delhi	00	1.00	1.87
55.	Cycling Federation of India, Delhi	11.73	1.00	22.59

1	2	3	4	5
56.	Special Olympic Bharat, New Delhi	0.00	4.50	92.00
57.	Indian Olympic Association, New Delhi	28.53	538.10	118.07
58.	Sports Authority of India J.N. Stadium, New Delhi	950.00	500.00	1700.00
59.	Malkhamb			3.75
Total				4910.44

Conservation of Wetlands

2923. DR. K.S. MANOJ: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is contemplating to formulate any new programme for conservation of wetlands in the country in view of the global warming;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government of Kerala has submitted any proposal for the conservation of Vembanad wetland system in Kerala;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action taken by the Union Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) No, Sir. No new programme is under consideration for conservation of wetlands in the country in view of global warming. However, a National Wetland Conservation Programme is already in existence under which 103 wetlands have so far been identified for conservation in the country. These are supported for activities like survey & demarcation, attchement area treatment, water management, protection measures, fisheries development, weed control, wildlife conservation, pollution abatement, eco-development activities, etc.

(c) to (e) A proposal for conservation of Vembanad lake has been received recently from the State Government with a proposed estimated cost of Rs. 2.5 crore. However, the proposal does not have the approval of the State Steering Committee for westlands constituted for this purpose. which is an essential requirement. The

State Government has been advised to resubmit the proposal after obtaining the approval of the Steering Committee.

Setting up of National Blood Authority

2924. SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to establish a National Blood Transfusion Authority to regulate blood collection and distribution system in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which such Authority is likely to be established?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Government of India is examining various options for strengthening of Blood Transfusion Services in the country. One of the options, where modalities are being worked out, is the establishment of National Blood Transfusion Authority under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. However, no deadline has yet been set up in this regard.

India Specific Safeguards Talks with IAEA

2925. SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA:
DR. THOKCHOM MEINYA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) has agreed to accommodate India's concerns about continued supply of N-fuel for its atomic reactors, during the recent India specific safeguards talks;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the reaction of the IAEA thereto;

(c) the progress made so far towards concluding a safeguard agreement with International Atomic Energy Agency; and

(d) the time by which the proposed agreement is likely to be concluded?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) to (c) In the five rounds of negotiations on India Specific Safeguards Agreement held so far, considerable progress has been made and India and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) have decided to continue to consult. The Agreement would be for application of IAEA safeguards to civil nuclear facilities notified by India on the basis of their receiving continued nuclear fuel supply for life time operation.

(d) It is not possible to prejudge the time frame at this stage.

Employment Generation

2926. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether some State Governments have alleged that the Union Governments has not addressed the core issue of unemployment in Eleventh Plan documents;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the strategic thrust and policy intervention are missing in the Eleventh Plan documents; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government to explore the possibility of using monetary policy for employment generation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) to (d) Eleventh Plan Document, approved by NDC, envisages rapid growth in employment opportunities. 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.

The Eleventh Plan thrust is on creating pool of skilled personnel in appropriate numbers with adequate skills in line with the requirements of the ultimate users such as the industry, trade and services sectors. It recognizes the need to increase the share of regular employees in total employment.

Forest Rights Act

2927. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Wildlife NGOs and the conservationsists have written to the Government against the implementation of the Forest Rights Act without a fresh review as reported in the 'Times of India' dated March 06, 2008;

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

(c) whether the Government has set up a Committee to review the Act; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) and (b) The concern has been expressed in the 4th meeting of National Board for Wildlife regarding loss of habitats due to the adverse impact of the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 on wildlife conservation.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Arrangements Made for Haj Pilgrims

2928. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWASI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received any protest from Chief Ministers of various states regarding arrangements made by the Government for Haj Pilgrims;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED): (a) and (b) The Government have received a letter from the Chief Minister of Bihar regarding difficulties faced by some pilgrims during Haj 2007. This Ministry has not received any other communication from any other Chief Minister in this regard.

(c) As per the past practice, the Government of India made adequate arrangements for Haj pilgrims during Haj 2007. The arrangements made for accommodation of Haj pilgrims in Makkah and Mina in 2007 were quite satisfactory. However, a few complaints were received regarding inadequate facilities at place of stay, loss of way to the place of their stay, problems related to local transportation, etc. Some pilgrims faced hardship due to delay in arrival/departure of flights and change in flight schedules. Some pilgrims on return did not receive their baggage and/or Zam Zam (holy water).

There is a system in place for the redressal of the hardships faced by the pilgrims such as transportation related issues, inadequate services at the place of their stay, loss of baggage etc. The Government of India sets up a large number of administrative offices in the holy cities of Makkah and Madinah besides at Jeddah airport. These offices are manned by more than 210 administrative staff members deputed by the Government from India besides the seasonal staff recruited locally in Saudi Arabia. In addition, the Government makes arrangements for providing proper medical facilities for the pilgrims. The staff on duty co-ordinates with other agencies involved for taking appropriate measures. During Haj 2007, the complaints and suggestions from the pilgrims pertaining to such problems were well received by the Government of India staff on duty and action was taken for their redressal. The issue related to delay and rescheduling of flights, delay/non-receipt of baggage etc. have been taken up with the airlines in order to minimise such problems during the next Haj season. The delay and non-receipt of Zam Zam was due to general shortage of Zam Zam locally. The Consulate General of India, Jeddah has obtained approval from the Saudi authorities to permit Air India to carry the backlog of cans of Zam Zam to India for distribution to the pilgrims who have not received it till now and Air India after obtaining approval for its flight schedule is to transport it back to India.

Development of Integrated Aero Space Technology

2929. SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has developed any integrated aero space technology recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether this technology is sufficient for indigenous aircraft production; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) India is developing space technology in the field of launch vehicle and satellites. Towards realization of this, it makes use of Acrospace Industry like Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL).

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Setting up of Maternity Centres

2930. SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO: DR. DHIRENDRA AGARWAL:

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

(a) whether the Government is contemplating to set up maternity centres for rural women at every five kilometers in the rural area;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) Primary health care services including maternity facilities/services in rural areas are provided through a network of a three-tier infrastructure system based on the following population norms:

Centre	Population Norms	
	Plain Area	Hilly/Tribal Area
Sub Centre	3000	5000
Primary Health Centre	20000	30000
Community Health Centre	80000	120000

As on March, 2007 there are a total of 145272 Sub-centres, 22370 PHCs and 4045 CHCs functioning in the country.

(c) These Centres are run by the State/UT Governments. Under National Rural Health Mission [NRHM], funds are released to States/UTs Governments for upgradations/strengthening/establishment of new Centres. The States/UTs Governments are however required to incorporate their requirement in their annual NRHM Programme Implementation Plans (PIP).

Renewal of Passports of Sindhi Families

2931. SHRI SRICHAND KRIPLANI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the passports of people belonging to Sindhi community, who had come to the country from Pakistan with their families 15 or 16 years back have expired;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) It has come to the notice of Government that such people are facing difficulties in renewing their passport when they approach Pakistan High Commission in New Delhi. There have been requests from such individuals for issue of Long Term Indian Visa without insisting on a valid Pakistani passport.

(c) The matter is being examined by the Ministry of Home Affairs.

[English]

Industrial Production Index

2932. SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:
SHRI ANIRUDH PRASAD ALIAS SADHU
YADAV:
SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD:
SHRI MADHU GOUD YASKHI:

Will the Minister of STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether publication of the Index of Industrial Production (IIP) is likely to be delayed this year;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the time by which the IIP is likely to be published; and

(d) the corrective measures taken/proposed to be taken by the Government for timely publication of the index in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI G.K. VASAN): (a) There is no delay in publication of Index of Industrial Production (IIP) this year. Index of Industrial Production (IIP) is a monthly index. As per the Special Data Dissemination Standards (SDDS) of International Monetary Fund (IMF), IIP is released within six weeks from the reference month. Index for January, 2008 was released on 12th March 2008 on scheduled time.

(b) to (d) Question does not arise.

Construction of Malls without Environmental Clearance

2933. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Malls and Shopping Centres are being constructed in various parts of National Capital Territory of Delhi especially in Saket without obtaining environmental clearance;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken or proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

Provision in the 11th Plan for Malnutrition

2934. SHRI KIREN RIJJU: Will The Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state the details of provisions proposed to be made in the

Eleventh Five Year Plan to resolve the critical issues pertaining to the problem of Malnutrition among children in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): The Eleventh Five Year Plan document pertaining to Nutrition has envisaged various measures including restructuring of Integrated Child Development Scheme, greater convergence among health, nutrition and sanitation sectors, enhanced Information Education and Communication activities; addressing micronutrient deficiencies including anemia through dietary diversification, food fortification and supplementation for addressing the malnutrition in the country, especially among vulnerable groups such as women, children.

[English]

Insult of National Leaders and Tricolour

2935. SHRI BADIGA RAMAKRISHNA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether printing of images of Mahatma Gandhi, National Flag and Jawaharlal Nehru on garments by a US-based website has come to the notice of the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (c) Government are aware of the offensive use of images of Mahatma Gandhi, the national flag and Jawaharlal Nehru on undergarments by a US based online supplier. Our Embassy in Washington took up this issue with the President of the company immediately expressing outrage, and demanding that this be discontinued. The US Government have also been told of the offensive practice by the US company.

Cadre Restructuring in CSS

2936. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has constituted a Committee of senior officers in February 2001 for cadre-restructuring of Central Secretariat Service;

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

(c) if so, the details of the recommendations made by the Committee and the action taken thereon by the Government?

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) Yes, Sir.

(c) The details of the recommendations made by the Committee, and the action taken thereon by the Government are given in the enclosed Statement-I and Statement-II respectively.

Statement I

Recommendations made by the Committee of Senior Officers

The recommendations given in the Report are summarized as under:-

Sl.No.	Summary of the recommendation
1	2
1.	The Committee recommends that a fixed number of posts in the scale of Rs. 14,300-18,300 (Director) to be designated Senior Selection Grade (SSG) should be included in the cadre structure of CSS. Officers belonging to the CSS cadre having minimum five years of service in the Selection Grade of CSS would be eligible for promotion to these posts so encadred in CSS, duly following the prescribed procedure for selection by merit. At present around 100 officers of the CSS are holding the post of Director. The Committee recommends that 110 Director level posts may be taken out of Central Staffing Scheme and encadred in the CSS as SSG. This would be in line with the rationale already existing in para 5 of the relevant DOP&T O.M. regarding the Central Staffing Scheme as per which posts of US and DS as are occupied by CSS officers are excluded from the scheme and encadred in the CSS. With the encadrement of SSG posts in CSS, the

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provisions of the Central Staffing Scheme should be appropriately modified and revised eligibility conditions determined for their empanelment at SAG/HAG.

2. With the creation of the additional posts in Selection Grade and Grade-I the practice of resorting to *in situ* promotions should cease. The Committee is strongly of the view that fresh creation of posts and continuation of *in situ* scheme of promotions cannot go together.
3. The Committee recommends that direct recruitment of SOs may be discontinued and the vacancies of Section Officer should be distributed between the seniority and LDCE quota in the ratio of 75% : 25% for promotion of Assistants.
4. The Committee recommends that Direct Recruitment of LDCs may be stopped with immediate effect and all posts of LDCs, presently filled by Direct Recruitment, are abolished as and when these fall vacant. Further, 90% of the posts in the grade of UDC would also wither away in future and when these fall vacant, retaining the remaining 10% for promotion of the residual LDC cadre.

It is also recommended that as a one time exception vacancies in all the additional posts of Assistant arising as a result of cadre restructuring would be filled only by promotion of eligible UDCs. The vacancies in Assistant grade arising due to normal wastage on account of retirement, promotion, etc. would in future be filled to the extent of 75% through direct recruitment of graduates possessing computer proficiency; 15% by promotion of UDCs and 10% through LDCE for UDCs.

5. For better service prospects at the level of Section Officer, a non-functional scale of Rs. 8000-13500 may be introduced. All Section Officers who have completed four years service as regular Section officer may be placed in this scale subject to their fitness.
6. Restructured cadre of CSS to comprise of 110 posts (1.1%) in SSG, 330 posts (3.2%) in SG, 1400 posts (13.6%) in Grade-I, 3000

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posts (29%) of SO and 5500 posts (53.2%) of Assistant. All posts of LDCs (except 15% to be retained for promotion of Group D staff on seniority/LDCE) and all posts of UDCs) except 10% to be provided for promotion of LDCs) should be abolished as and when they fall vacant due to promotion/retirement, etc.

7. The issue of application of DOP&T O.M. dated 28.3.1988 with retrospective effect in CSS should be processed on file taking into account various ramifications involved.
 8. The Committee does not recommend revision of pay scale of Section Officers retrospectively w.e.f. 1.1.1986.
 9. The two grades of Assistant & SO should be made inter-cadre transferable, and effecting such transfers should be centralized with the DOP&T. The day to day administrative control of these two grades can, however, continue to be exercised by the respective 33 cadre authorities.
 10. The Committee recommends that cadre management of the grades of Assistant and Section Officer should be centralized with DOP&T for the purpose of seniority, promotion and inter-cadre transfer. The Committee has already recommended sanctioned strength for posts of Grade-I (Under Secretary) Selection Grade (Deputy Secretary) and Senior Selection Grade (Director) of CSS. These sanctioned posts should be kept out of the purview of the Central Staffing Scheme in consonance with provisions contained in para 5(ii) of O.M. No. 36/77/94EO (SM-1) dated 5.1.1996 of DOP&T and their promotion, inter cadre transfer etc. should be entrusted to the CS Division of DOP&T which should be made solely responsible for cadre management of CSS.
 11. The Committee does not recommend *in situ* promotion to any grade. In future all promotions should be vacancy based. It is also clarified that the recommended cadre restructuring shall be implemented subject to
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	the condition that no fresh <i>in situ</i> promotion are ordered, as this Committee does not envisage implementation of the aforesaid cadre structure with the on-going <i>in situ</i> promotion scheme.
12.	It is recommended that the entry of Steno Grade 'C' through LDCE for the post of SO should be discontinued. Simultaneously entry of PS to the grade of Under Secretary may also be discontinued.
13.	The Committee is unable to accept the demand of granting Group A status to CSS. Keeping in view the recommendations of the Fifth Central Pay Commission, the Committee also does not find any justification for creation of posts for CSS in the grades of SAG and above and recommends that the posts of SAG and above should continue to be filled under the Central Staffing Scheme without earmarking posts for any particular service.
14.	The demand for encadrement of the GCS/Ex-Cadre posts is not relevant after the sanctioned strength has been recommended for the posts of US, DS and the Director of CSS. However, Individual proposals regarding encadrement of the GCS/ex-cadre posts can be decided by the Establishment Division of DOPT in the light of relevant recruitment rules.
15.	The Committee recommends that <i>status quo</i> regarding the eligibility service should be maintained.
16.	The Committee does not recommend any change in designations of SOs and Assistants.
17.	The Committee does not recommend upward revision of the pay scale of Section Officers and Assistants, however it has separately recommended introduction of the pay-scale of Rs. 8000-13500 for regular SOs with four years service in the grade.
18.	In view of the unique function performed by the CSS, its parity with DANICS/DANIPS is not possible.

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19.	In view of the present security scenario the Ministry of Home Affairs has not acceded to the demand of providing Open Pass Facility to Assistants of CSS. Therefore, the Committee cannot make any recommendation in this regard.
20.	The Committee would like to emphasized that the recommendations in Chapters 3, 4 & 5 of the Report have been made in an integrated manner and, therefore, these should be implemented as a complete package. Piecemeal implementation of the recommendations would lead to fresh distortions in the CSS Cadres.

Statement

Action Taken by the Government on Recommendations of the Committee

- (i) Creation of a new Senior Selection Grade (Rs. 14300-18300) to be designated as Director, and fixing the cadre strength of Directors in the CSS at 110.
- (ii) Fixing the cadre strength of Deputy Secretaries and Under Secretaries in the CSS at 330 and 1400 respectively.
- (iii) Fixing the Cadre strength of Section Officers (SO) in the CSS at 3000.
- (iv) To provide non-functional scale of Rs. 8000-13500 to the SOs, prospectively;
- (v) To discontinue the Direct recruitment to the post of SO;
- (vi) To discontinue the Scheme of *in situ* upgradation of posts in the CSS.
- (vii) To change the mode of recruitment for the post of Assistant by way of 75% through direct recruitment of graduates possessing Computer proficiency, 15% by promotion of UDCs and 10% through LDCE for UDCs. As a one time exception, resultant vacancies of Assistants arising from the cadre restructuring of CSS will be filled up from UDCs by way of 50% through LDCE and 50% by seniority;
- (viii) To provide inter cadre transferability at the level of SO and Assistant;

- (ix) To centralize the cadre management, including postings of the CSS personnel in the CS Division of DOPT;
- (x) To discontinue direct recruitment to the post of LDC;
- (xi) To abolish vacant posts of LDC which are filled up through direct recruitment;
- (xii) To defer, for the present, a decision regarding the lateral entry of CSSS officers.

Setting up of Sub-Centre of ISRO at Jamnagar

2937. SHRI VIKRAMBHAI ARJANBHAI MADAM: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any proposal to set up a sub centre of Space Application Centre, Ahmedabad at Jamnagar;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

12.00 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): On behalf of Shri Sharad Pawar. I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following Outcome Budgets (Hindi and English versions):

- (1) Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries, Ministry of Agriculture, for the year 2008-09.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 8434/08]

- (2) Department of Agriculture, for the year 2008-09.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 8435/08]

- (3) Department of Consumer Affairs, Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution for the year 2008-09.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 8436/08]

- (4) Department of Food and Public Distribution, Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, for the year 2008-09.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 8437/08]

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): On behalf of Shri P. Chidambaram, I beg to lay on the table a copy each of the following Outcome Budgets (Hindi and English versions)

- (1) Ministry of Finance for the year 2008-09.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 8438/08]

- (2) Ministry of Finance, Flagship Programmes for the year 2008-09.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 8439/08]

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 Administrative Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Calcutta Dock Labour Board, Kolkata, 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 Calcutta Dock Labour Board, Kolkata, 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 8440/08]

- (3) A copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Shipping, Road Transport and Highways for the year 2008-2009.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 8441/08]

- (4) A copy of the Outcome Budget (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Shipping, Road Transport and Highways for the year 2008-2009.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 8442/08]

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ): I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Outcome Budget (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Water Resources for the year 2008-2009.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 8443/08]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): On behalf of Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh, I beg to lay on the Table—

(1) A copy each of the following Outcome Budgets (Hindi and English versions):—

(i) Department of Rural Development, Ministry of Rural Development for the year 2008-2009.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 8444/08]

(ii) Department of Land Resources, Ministry of Rural Development for the year 2008-2009.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 8445/08]

(iii) Department of Drinking Water Supply, Ministry of Rural Development for the year 2008-2009.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 8446/08]

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ, MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): I beg to lay on the Table—

(1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Lakshmbai National Institute of Physical Education, Gwalior, 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 Lakshmbai National Institute of Physical Education, Gwalior, 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 8447/08]

(3) A copy each of the following Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions):—

(i) Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports for the year 2008-2009.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 8448/08]

(ii) Ministry of Panchayati Raj for the year 2008-2009.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 8449/08]

(iii) Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region for the year 2008-2009.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 8450/08]

(4) A copy each of the following Outcome Budgets (Hindi and English versions):—

(i) Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports for the year 2008-2009.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 8451/08]

(ii) Ministry of Panchayati Raj for the year 2008-2009.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 8452/08]

(iii) Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region for the year 2008-2009.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 8453/08]

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): On behalf of Shri Oscar Fernandes, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Outcome Budget (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Labour Employment for the year 2008-2009.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 8454/08]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): On behalf of Kumari Selja, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation for the year 2008-2009.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 8455/08]

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 Indian Council of World Affairs, 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 8456/08]

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): On behalf of Shri Suresh Pachouri, I beg to lay on the Table—

(1) A copy of the Central Secretariat Service (Amendment) Rules, 2008 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 64(E) in Gazette of India dated the 1st February, 2008 issued under article 309 of the Constitution.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 8457/08]

- (2) A copy of the Central Secretariat Service (Promotion to Grade I and Selection Grade) (Amendment) Regulations, 2008 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 65(E) in Gazette of India dated the 1st February, 2008 issued under Rules 12 and 23 of the Central Secretariat Service Rules, 1962.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 8458/08]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) A copy of the Notification No. G.S.R. 70 (E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 5 February, 2008 containing corrigendum to the Notification No. G.S.R. 491(E) dated the 21st August, 2006 issued under the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 8459/08]

- (2) A copy of the Dental Council of India Revised MDS Course Regulations, 2007 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. DE-22-2007 in Gazette of India dated the 21st November, 2007 under sub-section (4) of section 20 of the Dentists Act, 1948.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 8460/08]

- (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Board of Examinations, New 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 National Board of Examinations, New Delhi, for the year 2006-2007.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 8461/08]

- (4) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Medical Council of India, New 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 Medical Council of India, New Delhi, for the year 2006-2007.

- (5) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (4) above.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 8462/08]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) A copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Coal for the year 2008-2009.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 8463/08]

- (2) A copy of the Outcome Budget (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Coal for the year 2008-2009.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 8464/08]

- (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 Coal India Limited, for the year 2006-2007.
- (ii) Annual Report (Volumes I and II) of the Coal India Limited, 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 8465/08]

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. 2016(E) and S.O. 2017(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 30th November, 2007 regarding acquisition of land for building (widening/four-laning etc.), maintenance, management and operation of different stretches of National Highway No. 7 (Nagpur-Hyderabad Section) in the State of Andhra Pradesh.

- (ii) S.O. 2225(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 31st December, 2007 regarding acquisition of land for building (widening/four-laning etc.), of National Highway No. 7 (Hyderabad-Bangalore Section) in the State of Andhra Pradesh.
- (iii) S.O. 240 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 5th February, 2008 regarding acquisition of land for building (widening/four-laning etc.), maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 5 (Vijayawada-Visakhapatnam Section) in the State of Andhra Pradesh.
- (iv) S.O. 1944 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 15th November, 2007 regarding acquisition of land for building (widening/four-laning etc.), maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 7 (Nagpur-Hyderabad Section) in the State of Andhra Pradesh.
- (v) S.O. 350 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 18th February, 2008 regarding acquisition of land for building (widening/four-laning etc.), maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 1 (Jalandhar-Amritsar Section) in the State of Punjab.
- (vi) S.O. 289 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 11th February, 2008 regarding acquisition of land for building (widening), maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 26 including construction of bypasses (Jhansi-Lakhnandon Section) in the State of Madhya Pradesh.
- (vii) S.O. 383 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 20th February, 2008 regarding rates of fees to be recovered per trip from users of the Katni Bypass.
- (viii) S.O. 2139(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 17th December, 2007 regarding rates of fees to be recovered from the users of the section on the National Highway No. 3 in the State of Madhya Pradesh.
- (ix) S.O. 56(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 9th January, 2008 regarding rates of fees to be recovered from the users of four laned stretches, mentioned therein, of National Highway No. 1 in the States of Haryana and Punjab.
- (x) S.O. 57(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 8th January, 2008 regarding rates of fees to be recovered from the users of four laned stretches, mentioned therein, of National Highway No. 2 in the States of Jharkhand and West Bengal.
- (xi) S.O. 58(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 8th January, 2008 regarding rates of fees to be recovered from the users of four laned stretch of National Highway No. 2 (Koshi-Agra section) in the State of Uttar Pradesh.
- (xii) S.O. 59(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 8th January, 2008 regarding rates of fees to be recovered from the users of four laned stretches, mentioned therein, of National Highway No. 2 in the States of Haryana and Uttar Pradesh.
- (xiii) S.O. 80(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 9th January, 2008 regarding rates of fees to be recovered from the users of four laned stretch of National Highway No. 24 (Ghaziabad-Hapur section) in the State of Uttar Pradesh.
- (xiv) S.O. 128(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 9th January, 2008 regarding rates of fees to be recovered from the users of stretches of National Highway No. 11 in the State of Rajasthan.
- (xv) S.O. 319 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 8th February, 2008 regarding rates of fees to be recovered from the users of four laned stretch of National Highway No. 4 (Gabbur-Devgiri section) in the State of Karnataka.
- (xvi) S.O. 1599 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 26th September, 2007 authorizing District Revenue Officer, Nagapattinam to acquire land for building (widening/four-laning etc.) maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 67 in the State of Tamil Nadu.
- (xvii) S.O. 1741 (E) and S.O. 1742 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 12th October, 2007 regarding acquisition of land for building (widening/four-laning etc.) maintenance, management and operation of different stretches of National Highway No. 46 (Krishnagiri-Ranipet Section) in the State of Tamil Nadu.

- (xviii) S.O. 1767 (E) to S.O. 1769 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 17th October, 2007 regarding acquisition of land for building (widening/four-laning etc.) maintenance, management and operation of different stretches of National Highway Nos. 45 and 45B of different sections, in the State of Tamil Nadu.
- (xix) S.O. 1771 (E) to S.O. 1773 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 17th October, 2007 regarding acquisition of land for building (widening/four-laning etc.) maintenance, management and operation of different stretches of National Highway No. 45B (Tiruchirappalli-Viralimalai-Madurai Section) in the State of Tamil Nadu.
- (xx) S.O. 1824 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 28th October, 2007 regarding acquisition of land for building (widening/four-laning etc.) maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 67 (Karur-Coimbatore Section) in the State of Tamil Nadu.
- (xxi) S.O. 1825 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 26th October, 2007 regarding acquisition of land for building (construction) of Chennai Bypass (Phase-II) connecting National Highway Nos. 4 and 5 in the State of Tamil Nadu.
- (xxii) S.O. 1826 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 26th October, 2007 regarding acquisition of land for construction of Grade Separator at Kathipara Junction on National Highway No. 45 in the State of Tamil Nadu.
- (xxiii) S.O. 1827 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 26th October, 2007 regarding acquisition of land for building (widening/four-laning etc.) maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 67 (Karur-Coimbatore Section) in the State of Tamil Nadu.
- (xxiv) S.O. 1831 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 26th October, 2007 regarding acquisition of land for building (widening/four-laning etc.) maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 7 (Bangalore-Salem-Madurai to Madurai-Kanniyakumari Sections) in the State of Tamil Nadu.
- (xv) S.O. 1902 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 12th November, 2007 regarding acquisition of land for building (widening/four-laning etc.) maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 67 (Thanjavur-Tiruchirappalli Section) in the State of Tamil Nadu.
- (xvi) S.O. 1903 (E) and S.O. 1904 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 12th November, 2007 regarding acquisition of land for building (widening/four-laning etc.) maintenance, management and operation of different stretches of National Highway No. 46 (Krishnagiri-Ranipet Section) in the State of Tamil Nadu.
- (xvii) S.O. 1932 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 24th November, 2007 regarding acquisition of land for building (widening/four-laning etc.) maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 45B (Tiruchirappalli-Viralimalai-Madurai Section) in the State of Tamil Nadu.
- (xviii) S.O. 1942 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 15th November, 2007 regarding acquisition of land for building (widening/four-laning etc.) maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 66 (Pondicherry-Tindivanam Section) in the State of Tamil Nadu.
- (xxix) S.O. 1943 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 15th November, 2007 regarding acquisition of land for building (widening/four-laning etc.) maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 67 (Thanjavur-Tiruchirappalli Section) in the State of Tamil Nadu.
- (xxx) S.O. 1948 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 16th November, 2007 regarding acquisition of land for building (widening/four-laning etc.) maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 67 (Karur-Coimbatore Section) in the State of Tamil Nadu.
- (xxxi) S.O. 1949 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 16th November, 2007 regarding acquisition of land for building (widening/four-laning etc.) maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 7 (Salem-Karur section) in the State of Tamil Nadu.

- (xxcii) S.O. 1953 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 16th November, 2007 regarding acquisition of land for building (widening/four-laning etc.) maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 7 (Bangalore-Salem-Madurai Section) in the State of Tamil Nadu.
- (xxciii) S.O. 2079 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 4th December, 2007 regarding acquisition of land for building (widening/four-laning etc.) maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 45B (Tiruchirappalli-Viralimalai-Madurai Section) in the State of Tamil Nadu.
- (xxciv) S.O. 2080 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 4th December, 2007 regarding acquisition of land for building (widening/four-laning etc.) maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 45 (Tindivanam-Villupuram-Tiruchirappalli Section) in the State of Tamil Nadu.
- (xxcv) S.O. 2083 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 4th December, 2007 authorising Special District Revenue Officer (Land Acquisition), Kancheepuram to acquire land for building (widening/four-laning etc.) maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 205 in the State of Tamil Nadu.
- (xxcvi) S.O. 2084 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 4th December, 2007 regarding acquisition of land for building (widening/four-laning etc.) maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 66 (Pondicherry-Tindivanam Section) in the State of Tamil Nadu.
- (xxcvii) S.O. 2085 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 4th December, 2007 regarding acquisition of land for building (widening/four-laning etc.) maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 45 (Trichy-Dindigul Section) in the State of Tamil Nadu.
- (xxcviii) S.O. 2106 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 7th December, 2007 regarding acquisition of land for building (widening/four-laning etc.) maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 67 (Karur-Coimbatore Section) in the State of Tamil Nadu.
- (xxcix) S.O. 2107 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 7th December, 2007 regarding acquisition of land for building (widening/four-laning etc.) maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 7 (Bangalore-Salem-Madurai Section) in the State of Tamil Nadu.
- (xi) S.O. 2109 (E) and S.O. 2110 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 7th December, 2007 regarding acquisition of land for building (widening/four-laning etc.) maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 7 (Krishnagiri-Thoppur Ghat Section) in the State of Tamil Nadu.
- (xii) S.O. 2111 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 7th December, 2007 regarding acquisition of land for building (widening/four-laning etc.) maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 7 (Bangalore-Salem-Madurai Section) in the State of Tamil Nadu.
- (xiii) S.O. 2136 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 17th December, 2007 regarding acquisition of land for building (widening/four-laning etc.) maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 67 (Thanjavur-Tiruchirappalli Section) in the State of Tamil Nadu.
- (xiiii) S.O. 2155 (E) and S.O. 2156 (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 different stretches of National Highway No. 45B (Madurai-Aruppukottai-Thoothukkudi Section) in the State of Tamil Nadu.
- (xv) S.O. 2181 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 26th December, 2007 regarding acquisition of land for the public purpose of construction, maintenance, management and operation of Chennai Bypass (Phase-II) connecting National Highway Nos. 4 and 5 in the State of Tamil Nadu.
- (xvi) S.O. 2220 (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. 7 (Krishnagiri-Thoppur Ghat Section) in the State of Tamil Nadu.

(xvi) S.O. 2221 (E) and S.O. 2222 (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 different stretches of National Highway No. 47 (Salem-Coimbatore Section) in the State of Tamil Nadu.

(2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) for showing reasons for delay in laying the papers at item No. (iv) of (1) above.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 8466/08]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): I beg to lay on the Table—

(1) A copy each of the following Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) :—

(i) Department of Atomic Energy for the year 2008-2009.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 8467/08]

(ii) Department of Space for the year 2008-2009.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 8468/08]

(2) A copy each of the following Outcome Budgets (Hindi and English versions) :—

(i) Department of Atomic Energy for the year 2008-2009.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 8469/08]

(ii) Department of Space for the year 2008-2009.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 8470/08]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): I beg to lay on the Table—

(1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:—

(i) Review by the Government of the working of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands Forest and Plantation Development Corporation Limited, Port Blair, for the year 2006-2007.

(ii) Annual Report of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands Forest and Plantation Development

Corporation Limited, Port Blair, for the year 2006-2007, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 8471/08]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): I beg to lay on the Table—

(1) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) issued under section 3 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 :—

(i) S.O. 1960 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 19th November, 2007 constituting the State Level Environment Impact Assessment Authority, Punjab, comprising of Chairman, Member and Member-Secretary mentioned therein.

(ii) S.O. 2126 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 13th December, 2007 constituting the State Level Environment Impact Assessment Authority, Puducherry, comprising of Chairman, Member and Member-Secretary mentioned therein.

(iii) S.O. 162 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 29th January, 2008 constituting the State Level Environment Impact Assessment Authority, Chhattisgarh, comprising of Chairman, Member and Member-Secretary mentioned therein.

(iv) S.O. 48 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 8th January, 2008 constituting the State Level Environment Impact Assessment Authority, Jammu and Kashmir, comprising of Chairman, Member and Member-Secretary mentioned therein.

(v) S.O. 2019(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 30th November, 2007 making certain amendments in the Notification No. S.O. 884(E) dated the 19th December, 1996.

(vi) S.O. 49 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 8th January, 2008 constituting the State Level Environment Impact Assessment Authority, Madhya Pradesh, comprising of Chairman, Member and Member-Secretary mentioned therein.

- (vii) S.O. 2228 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 31st December, 2007 making certain amendments in the Notification No. S.O. 671 (E) dated the 30th September, 1996.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 8472/08]

- (2) A copy of the Notification No. S.O. 2125 (E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 13th December, 2007 directing that the all proposals relating to development in Doon Valley will be examined by the procedure mentioned therein issued under section 5 of the Environment Protection Act, 1986.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 8473/08]

- (3) A copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Environment and Forests for the year 2008-2009.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 8474/08]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI ANAND SHARMA): I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) A copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of External Affairs for the year 2008-2009.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 8475/08]

- (2) A copy of the Outcome Budget (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of External Affairs for the year 2008-2009.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 8476/08]

12.04 hrs.

MESSAGES FROM RAJYA SABHA

[*English*]

SECRETARY-GENERAL: Sir, I have to report the following messages received from the Secretary-General of Rajya Sabha:

- "(i) "In accordance with the provisions of sub-rule (6) of rule 186 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to return herewith the Appropriation (Vote on Account) Bill, 2008, which was passed by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 14th

March, 2008 and transmitted to the Rajya Sabha for its recommendations and to state that this House has no recommendations to make to the Lok Sabha in regard to the said Bill."

- (ii) "In accordance with the provisions of sub-rule (6) of rule 186 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to return herewith the Appropriation Bill, 2008, which was passed by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 14th March, 2008 and transmitted to the Rajya Sabha for its recommendations and to state that this House has no recommendations to make to the Lok Sabha in regard to the said Bill."
- (iii) "In accordance with the provisions of sub-rule (6) of rule 186 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to return herewith the Karnataka Appropriation (Vote on Account) Bill, 2008, which was passed by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 14th March, 2008 and transmitted to the Rajya Sabha for its recommendations and to state that this House has no recommendations to make to the Lok Sabha in regard to the said Bill."
- (iv) "In accordance with the provisions of sub-rule (6) of rule 186 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to return herewith the Karnataka Appropriation Bill, 2008, which was passed by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 14th March, 2008 and transmitted to the Rajya Sabha for its recommendations and to state that this House has no recommendations to make to the Lok Sabha in regard to the said Bill."
- (v) "In accordance with the provisions of rule 127 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to inform the Lok Sabha that the Rajya Sabha at its sitting held on the 18th March, 2008 agreed without any amendment to the Delimitation (Amendment) Bill, 2008 which was passed by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 11th March, 2008."
- (vi) "In accordance with the provisions of rule 127 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to inform the Lok Sabha that the Rajya Sabha at its sitting held on the 18th March, 2008 agreed without any amendment to the Representation

of the People (Amendment) Bill, 2008 which was passed by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 11th March, 2008."

- (vii) "In accordance with the provisions of rule 127 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to inform the Lok Sabha that the Rajya Sabha at its sitting held on the 18th March, 2008 agreed without any amendment to the Prasar Bharati (Broadcasting Corporation of India) Amendment Bill, 2008 which was passed by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 17th March, 2008."

12.05 hrs.

***DEPARTMENTALLY RELATED STANDING COMMITTEE**

A Review

[English]

SECRETARY-GENERAL: I beg to lay on the Table the (Hindi and English versions) of the 'Departmentally Related Standing Committee (2006-2007)—A Review'.

12.05¹/₄ hrs.

****INDIAN PARLIAMENTARY PARTICIPATION AT THE 117TH ASSEMBLY OF INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION (IPU)**

Report

[English]

SECRETARY-GENERAL: I beg to lay on the Table (Hindi and English versions) of the Report on Indian Parliamentary participation at the 117th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union held at Geneva (Switzerland) from 8 to 10 October, 2007.

*Placed in Library. See No. LT 8477/08.

**Placed in Library, See No. LT 8478/08.

12.05 hrs.

COMMITTEE ON PETITIONS

37th to 40th Reports

[English]

SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN (Deogarh): I beg to present the following Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on Petitions:

- (1) Thirty-seventh Report pertaining to Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers (Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals) on the Petition from Shri Basudeb Acharia, MP requesting for grant of payment of additional Ex-gratia to employees of IDPL in Central Dearness Allowance (CDA) scale at par with other employees.
- (2) Thirty-eighth Report on the representations concerning the Ministries of Agriculture (Department of Agricultural Research and Education) and Railways.
- (3) Thirty-ninth Report on the representations concerning the Ministries of Coal and Defence (Defence Research & Development Organization).
- (4) Fortieth Report on the representations concerning the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas.

...(*Interruptions*)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Members, no murmuring please.

12.06 hrs.

COMMITTEE ON EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN

Statement

[English]

SHRIMATI KRISHNA TIRATH (Karol Bagh): I beg to lay on the Table the Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing Final Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the Fourteenth Report (Fourteenth Lok Sabha) of the Committee on Empowerment of Women on the subject 'National Overseas Scholarship Scheme for Scheduled Caste students for Higher Studies Abroad'.

12.06¹/₂ hrs.

**COMMITTEE ON WELFARE OF SCHEDULED
CASTES AND SCHEDULED TRIBES**

29th Report

[Translation]

SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA (Dhandhuka): Sir, I beg to present the Twenty-ninth Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes on "Situation arising out of the employment secured on the basis of false caste certificates".

12.07¹/₂ hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE

84th Report

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA (Surat): I beg to lay on the Table the 84th Report (English and Hindi versions) of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Commerce on the Trade Marks (Amendment) Bill, 2007.

12.08 hrs.

STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS

- (i) **Status of implementation of recommendations contained in the 29th report of Standing Committee on Rural Development on Demands for Grants (2007-08) pertaining to the Department of Rural Development, Ministry of Rural Development*.**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): Sir, on behalf of Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh, I beg to lay the Statement on the status of implementation of the recommendations contained in the Twenty-ninth Report of the Standing Committee on Rural Development (Department of Rural Development) (2007-08) (14th Lok Sabha) in pursuance of the Direction 73A of the Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha.

The Twenty-ninth Report of the Standing Committee on Rural Development (14th Lok Sabha) was presented to the Lok Sabha on 14th May, 2007. The Report relates to the examination of Demands for Grants of the Department of Rural Development for the year 2007-08. Action Taken Report on the recommendations/ Observations contained in the report of the Committee was sent to the Standing Committee on Rural Development on 30th October, 2007.

There are 58 recommendations made by the Committee in the said Report where action is called for on the part of the Government. These recommendations mainly pertain to the issues concerning the schemes for generation of self-employment and wage employment, provision of housing to rural poor, rural roads, monitoring of implementation of rural development.

*Laid on the Table and also placed in Library. See No. LT 8506/08.

12.07 hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON DEFENCE

24th to 28th Reports

SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL (KOPERGAON): I beg to present the following Reports of the Standing Committee on Defence (2007-08):

- (1) Twenty-fourth Report (Hindi & English versions) on 'Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations/observations of the Committee contained in their Thirteenth Report (Fourteenth Lok Sabha) on 'A Critical Review of Rehabilitation of Displaced Persons'.
- (2) Twenty-fifth Report (Hindi & English versions) on 'Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations/observations of the Committee contained in their Fourteenth Report (Fourteenth Lok Sabha) on 'Defence Research & Development Organisation'.
- (3) Twenty-sixth Report (Hindi & English versions) on 'Action Taken by the Government on the Recommendations/observations of the Committee contained in their Sixteenth Report (14th Lok Sabha) on Demands for Grants (2007-08) of the Ministry of Defence.
- (4) Twenty-seventh Report (Hindi & English versions) on 'Action Taken by the Government on the Recommendations/observations of the Committee contained in their Seventeenth Report (Fourteenth Lok Sabha) on 'In-depth study and critical review of Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL)'.
- (5) Twenty-eighth Report (Hindi & English versions) on 'Action Taken by the Government on the Recommendations/observations of the Committee contained in their Eighteenth Report on 'In-depth Study and Critical Review of Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL)'.

Programmes and other quality inputs such as assistance for strengthening of District Rural Development Agency Administration, training, human resource development, development of voluntary action etc. for proper implementation of the programmes.

The present status of implementation of the various recommendations made by the Committee is indicated in the Annexure to my Statement, which is laid on the Table of the House. I would request that this may be considered as read.

12.09 hrs.

- (ii) **Status of implementation of recommendations contained in the 30th report of Standing Committee on Rural Development on Demands for Grants (2007-08) pertaining to Ministry of Panchayati Raj***

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ, MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): I beg to lay a Statement on the status of implementation of recommendations contained in the Thirtieth Report (14th Lok Sabha) of the Standing Committee on the Rural Development in pursuance of the direction 73 A of the Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha *vide* Lok Sabha Bulletin-Part-II dated September 1, 2004.

The Thirtieth Report of the Standing Committee on Rural Development (14th Lok Sabha) was presented to the Lok Sabha on 14.5.2007. The report relates to examination of Demands for Grants of Ministry of Panchayati Raj for the year 2007-2008.

Action taken statements on the recommendations/ observations contained in the report of the Committee had been sent to the Standing Committee on Rural Development in November, 2007.

There are 27 recommendations made by the Committee in the said report where action is called for on the part of the Government. These recommendations mainly pertained to allocation and utilization during 10th and 11th Plans, Panchayati Raj and National Common Minimum Programme (NCMP), Training of elected representatives and officials of PRIs, Devolution of funds, functions and functionaries, Role of the Ministry in the Centrally Sponsored Schemes, constitution of DPCs,

*Laid on the Table and also placed in Library. *See* No. LT 8507/08.

Strategy for the Eleventh Plan and allocation to Panchayats by Twelfth Finance Commission. Further, the scheme-wise analysis of Backward Regions Grant Fund, Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Yojana, Panchayat Empowerment Incentive Scheme etc.

The present status of implementation of the various recommendations made by the Committee is indicated in the Annexure to my Statement which is laid on the Table of the House. I would not like to take the valuable time of the House to read out all the contents of this Annexure. I would request that this may be considered as read.

12.10 hrs.

SUBMISSIONS BY MEMBERS

- (i) **Re: Reported killing of Hindi Speaking people in Manipur**

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please listen to me.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV (Jhanjharpur): 14 Hindi speaking people have been massacred in Manipur...(Interruptions). The people are being continuously massacred there...(Interruptions). Unorganised labourers especially the labourers of Bihar are being massacred. ... (Interruptions).

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing should go on record. Whosoever speaks without my permission will not go in the record.

...(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yadav ji, you please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

*Not recorded.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Ram Kripal Yadav, nothing is going on record.

...(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please sit down. Please listen to me. First listen to me. Then I will allow you. Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing is going on record.

...(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please listen to me. Nothing is going on record.

...(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: First listen to me. It was not possible for me to suspend the Question Hour. But I have a notice with regard to reported killing of Hindi-Speaking people in Manipur. So, hon. Members, I will allow the Party Leaders to speak on this very subject. So, please speak one-by-one. But please do not raise the hue and cry that they should be allowed at the same time.

First of all, I would like to call Shri Ramji Lal Suman. Please be brief.

[Translation]

He had given notice.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: We have also given notice...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You will get time. If you have given notice then you will get time.

...(Interruptions)

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer): Sir, I have also given notice...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: If you have given notice, you will get time. Why are you saying this? I have already told you that those who have given notices will get two minutes each.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Firozabad): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, 14 Hindi speaking people have been killed at various places in Manipur since Monday night till yesterday evening. After committing massacre, the terrorists left the message on the dead bodies of the people of Bihar asking them to go back to their State. The victims were associated with the trading of tobacco products. Terrorists have imposed ban on these products. It simply means that there is also a parallel government in Manipur. Yesterday discussion was held in the House regarding those Hindi speaking people who were killed in Assam. During the last few days nearly 150 Hindi speaking people have been massacred in Assam. The House is fully aware of the massacre of Hindi speaking people in Manipur and Assam and prior to this whatever happened in Maharashtra. It is a very serious issue. The people of our country are living in various parts of the world, however, there is no news of torturing or killing of those people from anywhere in the world. What can be more unfortunate that this that within our own country our people are killing each other? It is a matter of concern that people in India hate each other in the name of language, State, caste, religion and region. I fail to understand that what can be more unfortunate situation than this? I would very humbly like to submit that it is not merely a state subject rather it is a part of our mentality. If any untoward incidents occur at any place then it is not fair to shun responsibility by saying that it is a State subject...(Interruptions)

Sir, I would like to allege that the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India, has failed to check the occurrence of such incident all over the country, as it is the responsibility of the Government to maintain the integrity of the country. It is a very serious matter.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now your point is complete.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Through you, I would like to submit that the Government of India is not discharging its responsibility that it should do in this matter. Sir, I would like to have your protection. The people of every State of the country may go anywhere else in the country and do business or job. It is a very serious matter. The Government should take initiative in this matter.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Vijay Kumar Malhotra.

SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN (Bhagalpur): Sir, with your permission, I would like to speak on this matter.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: All right, you please speak.

SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, yesterday too this matter was raised as to how the people were massacred in Assam and after that today 14 persons have been killed in Manipur. Daily we raise this issue, however, the Government is not doing anything in this regard. It appears from the attack on Hindi speaking North Indian people especially from Bihar and Uttar Pradesh during the last three months that the regional forces have organized themselves against North Indians and so various types of atrocities are being committed against North Indian especially the people from Bihar and Uttar Pradesh inside all over the country.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, when we raise any subject in the House we do not raise it only for the sake of doing so. It is the responsibility of the Ministry of Home Affairs. In this federal system it is their responsibility to provide security to all the people of the country. Through you, I would like to allege that since the Congress has no vote bank in Bihar so atrocities are committed against people of Bihar and the Congress Government remain inactive and do not do anything...(*Interruptions*) It is not a very insignificant matter. I would like to submit in this regard that since Congress has only 8 Congress MLAs from Bihar so it seems to have developed disenchantment with people of Bihar. If anyone from outside goes to Gujarat or Maharashtra it is vehemently opposed by it.

Atrocities are being committed in Maharashtra against the people of Bihar, while in Delhi people are indulged in making statements and counter-statements on the people of Bihar. The people of Bihar...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shahnawaz ji, please conclude.

SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN: I would like to say that the Rashtriya Janata Dal is also an alliance partner. They should also take strict action by withdrawing the support from the Government. If you are serious about the issue of Bihar, ...(*Interruptions*). I am pained to say about the situation which has been created. The dead bodies are not supposed to be disrespected. ...(*Interruptions*) These are being spoken by the Minister

himself who is sitting in the Government. People are being killed and he himself is sitting in the Government...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Mistry, please sit down.

[*Translation*]

SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN: My speech is not over...(*Interruptions*) He reacts like this.

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing should be recorded except the version of Shri Syed Shahnawaz Hussain.

...(*Interruptions*)*

[*Translation*]

SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN: Sir, they have got Gujarat phobia. They are repeatedly losing, but they are suffering from Gujarat phobia...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please conclude.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN: They are suffering from Gujarat phobia. Sir, I conclude. Whenever someone dies, nobody shows disrespect to the dead bodies. Now the situation has worsened to the extent that the people were killed and nobody from the Government came forward to rescue them and after killing them they put slogans on the dead bodies 'Biharis Wapas Jaao, Hindi Bhashi Wapas Jaao' (Go back Biharis, Go back Hindi speaking people.) To give such a message...(*Interruptions*) I want the Parliament to be unanimous on this issue and if the Congress Government lost in the Kumbhakaran like deep slumber is concerned even a little about it*,...then, the violence in Manipur...(*Interruptions*) The people of Bihar will not be allowed to get entry. Through you, I would like to say this...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Expunge the un-parliamentary words from the proceedings.

[*English*]

Please listen to each other. This is my request.

*Not recorded.

[*Translation*]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: Sir, you may have remembered that yesterday you allowed us to speak. We had raised the issue of violent attacks on Hindi speaking people, particularly the labourers working in unorganized sectors, in Assam. It is very unfortunate that even today we are once again discussing the same issue. It should not have been said that it is a small issue by Shahnawaz Ji. This is the issue of national concern. It is very regretful that 14 Bihari people have been shot dead in the name of region or language today in Manipur by the separatist outfits. So, I would like to say that according to the constitution of India any person whether he belongs to Bihar or any other Hindi speaking state or any other state has been guaranteed to live and earn their livelihood in any part of India. But, now the situation is that even the constitution is being challenged. Regionalism is being spread. Why the massacre in the name of Hindi speaking people is not been checked? This is the big question because continuously brutal attacks are taking place. Biharis and other Hindi speaking people are being targeted. The brutal killings and incidents of genocide which are continuing unchecked is a matter of national concern. Shahnawaz Ji, if you have to learn the lesson of nationalism, you can take it from Bihar. Such an atmosphere has never been witnessed in Bihar during these sixty years of independence...(*Interruptions*). There is no dissemination in the name of region or language in Bihar. ...(*Interruptions*). Such vitiated atmosphere of hatred has never been created in Bihar...(*Interruptions*)

My request is that if the concerned State Government is unable to protect the life and property of the Hindi speaking people, then, the Central Government should intervene in this matter and launch a joint operation by taking actions against those who are either the separatists or the people having such a mentality. The security of Hindi speaking people should be ensured.

My demand is that the Central Government should intervene immediately in this matter because today the national unity and integrity is being threatened. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (Maharajganj, Bihar): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, ever since the session of this House has been convened, no discussion has been held on the issue of Maharashtra where a street-vendor (Bhuja seller) was sent to his home by amputating his arms...(*Interruptions*)

CHAUDHARY LAL SINGH (Udhampur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I may also be allowed to speak. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Your notice has not been received.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, we have taken up this subject. When we will take up zero hour, you can tell me.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, if you pay attention towards me, then, I will speak otherwise I will prefer to keep quiet...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will definitely listen to you. I wished him to be quiet first so that I could listen to you very clearly.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: That is why we say that the issue is serious and sensitive. It should be taken very seriously. Today is the third time when such incidents have taken place ever since the Session of the House started. It was for the first time it took place when it happened in regard to Maharashtra where the arms of one street-vendor (Bhuja seller) was amputated. He is still alive but suffering. It was for the second time when such an incident took place in Assam which was raised by Devendra ji yesterday and now it is for the third time when the issue has been raised about the killings of 14 people in Manipur. After all I would like to know whether the Members will keep on discussing these things only in the House so that it will continue to become the part of the proceedings of the House and the Government will be a silent spectator to killing and victimisation of the Hindi speaking people, particularly the people of Bihar, in coming days? Are the discussions held to merely go through the motions? Discussion are meant to sensitise the Government for taking some action to prevent the occurrence of such incidents in any part of the country. But, there is no check on these incidents, they continue to happen one after another. Who are the people that have been killed? Street-Vendors like tobacco sellers have been killed, Sattu sellers have been killed, small vendors have been killed and their killing have been posed as a

challenge for them to go back to their own State, Bihar. There is nothing more unfortunate than this incident.

Sir, separatism gets encouragement with these things. I have received telephonic information that the people of North Bihar have organized a meeting and prepared a proposal and they are going to meet the Chief Minister of Bihar by saying that if the Government of India or the other State Governments are not in a position to provide them security, then, a separate State should be constituted by merging Uttar Pradesh and the part of the North Bihar together where they will be able to create the means of employments and ensure security on their and mobilise source of livelihood for them.

It will increase tension and the State and the country both will have to suffer.

Laloo Prasadji, you are a Minister in the Union Government and I request you to call honourable Members from that part of Bihar and Uttar Pradesh. We people are ready to come on your invitation and you may please think seriously on this sensitive issue and that Hindi speaking people are being attacked and killed in many parts of the country whether they are from Bihar or Uttar Pradesh and also on the manner in which this Government will make security arrangements for them. I would like to say that*. I am speaking truth and why do you become restless due to this.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: No, this name will not go on record. It may be deleted.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: If people of the country are to be secured then* only people of the country will be secured.

MD. SALIM (Kolkatta-North East): The matter regarding killing of 14 Hindi speaking citizens of Bihar in Manipur has been raised here and it is a very important issue. The Government should take it seriously. It is a matter of internal security. Extremist organizations are trying to extend their patronage in the name of regionalism and the people of other States who are settled there and doing business are being attacked. Wherever extremism breeds, they want to run their dictatorship to take possession and they can do anything and they create fear and terror for this purpose. The Government should take it also seriously. As Prabhunath Singhji and Devendra Prasad Yadavji have also said that the extremist organizations are doing this in a planned manner on the issue of regionalism in Maharashtra, Assam and now in Manipur and in other states, otherwise 14 persons would not have been killed in a single day like this and porters

would not have been affixed. I had also said on vote of Thanks on President's Address that it is the responsibility of the Government that the people of every language, every State have right to do business and travel throughout the country by maintaining social unity, national integrity and sovereignty. If we see insurgent elements for political benefit and we do not tackle them then insurgent elements will become stronger. I demand that the Government should take it seriously. I have one assumption also that a lot of children of north eastern States go to northern India and other parts of country to study so such powers or elements should not dominate on them that they should inclucate the feeling of revenge and we see all this silently and social tension linger on in the country. Therefore, the Government will have to take stern action against this insurgent outfits of Manipur...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now I have to take up Zero Hour after that, so now you please sit down.

[English]

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA (Panskura): Sir, I have no language to condemn the ghastly killing of the people of Bihar, our brothers of Bihar, in Manipur and Assam. We totally condemn it.

[Translation]

We do not know as to what is the fault of the people of Bihar.

[English]

What wrong the people of Bihar have perpetrated that they are being killed in different parts of the country? The only point is.

[Translation]

They go to Manipur and Assam for their livelihood. The harassment which is going on them. It is not a question of Bihari and Bengali, it is a question of Indian people. Being Indians we condemn it. We want

[English]

let me tell the Government a very clear thing.

[Translation]

If it will go like that because Bihari people will be killed in Assam and Bengali people will be killed in Maharashtra and then India will not remain united.

[English]

The unity of India is in jeopardy if the regional killings are allowed to be done. The unity and security of India

*Not recorded.

[Shri Gurudas Dasgupta]

will be in jeopardy. Therefore, I am suggesting two things. Immediately an all-party meeting should be called. I am ashamed that the Government of India is taking no step. No step is being taken. I am ashamed. Let there be an all-party meeting to discuss this in Delhi and another meeting in Assam.

Secondly, I am suggesting immediate deployment of Central Forces in Manipur and Assam to protect our brothers...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI ILYAS AZMI (Shahabad): No member of our party has been given opportunity.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have called all the leaders. Azmiji, I am trying that leader of every party should be given an opportunity to speak on this issue.

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV (Patna): You are calling the leaders but why are you not calling us as when we have given notice. We too have right to speak.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will give opportunity.

[English]

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY (Puri): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, what has happened in Manipur and some time back in Assam and Maharashtra is most deplorable. The country is now facing the worst ethnic crisis which has not been witnessed for the last four decades. The migrant labours, workers are facing the worst hardship. They have been killed; they have been assaulted. Not only the orth Indians, the Orissa people, those who have gone as migrant labour to different parts, they are also becoming victim of all these things. They are at the receiving end. It is now spreading like fire. It is also spreading to other States. It is the most serious thing; the most serious crisis. The Government of India should come forward. They should not enjoy the crisis, the problem of the people. Mostly, the migrant labours are going for their work, for their job, for their livelihood to different parts of the country and they are facing such hardships. So, the Government of India should not sit silent. They should consult all the Chief Ministers. The law and order should be tight. They should take proper action. The Government of India should respond immediately. We should not only witness like this; we should not remain silent observer to all these incidents.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMESH DUBEY (Mirzapur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, it is a very serious issue. I agree with the views expressed by our colleague Prabhunath Singhji. We Hindi speaking people go to every corner of the country and work sincerely and honestly. We are being harassed and it is a matter of concern, whether it is happening in Assam, Maharashtra or any other State. It should not be viewed from a political angle and it should be correlated with social point of view. Wherever such incidents have occurred it was the govt. of the Congress Party. I do not hesitate to say that it may be happening in at the instance of the Congress Party. So it should be enquired into...*(Interruptions)* I would like to say through you that I have only asked for investigation...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY (Sabarkantha): What is this, Sir? It should be expunged. Let him place the proof on the Table...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Only the statement of Shri Ramesh Dube should be recorded.

...*(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

SHRI RAMESH DUBEY: I have not levelled any type of allegation. I have said clearly that it should be investigated and my colleagues are unnecessarily making hue and cry...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please let him speak.

SHRI RAMESH DUBEY: I have said categorically that is should be investigated. Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, I would like to say through you that it may be investigated as to whether Congress Party has any role in it...*(Interruptions)* So the Union Government should take it seriously and killing of Hindi speaking and innocent people like us should be stopped...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY: I demand that it should be expunged...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: It is not unparliamentary.

...*(Interruptions)*

*Not recorded.

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY: Sir, let him place the proof on the Table. He cannot level charges like this...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Only Shrimati Ranjit Ranjan's statement will go on record.

...*(Interruptions)**

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please listen to me. If that is unparliamentary, I will expunge it.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: That is my headache.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRIMATI RANJIT RANJAN (Saharsa): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to say through you that today 16 persons have been killed in Manipur...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: If there will be anything unparliamentary, I will expunge it. I have said it, please take your seat, this is my headache.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi): Sir, the world 'Congress' is not unparliamentary...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Prof. Malhotra, it is my duty to see.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI RANJIT RANJAN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to say that the incidents which have taken place in Manipur are very shameful. Not only in Manipur, but these incidents have occurred in Maharashtra, Assam and some months ago in Delhi too. These incidents indicate a very dangerous politics and a very shameful politics is emerging before the people of this country. Today, the time has come and we will have to think that in which direction today the politics is going? This is also to be seen as to how we can control those narrow minded people who want to rise in the arena of politics by doing narrow politics? Courts also adopt two

of laws that some people face death punishment in the name of hatching conspiracy and on the other hand every day people are being killed due to someone's statement, but no action is taken against them. There was a pregnant lady in Maharashtra and she was killed because she was from UP or Bihar...*(Interruptions)* Sir, we are not here even 33% please a lady is speaking, please give me two minutes. This is a very shameful incident. I just want to say that there should be review of the politics prevailing today. What has happened in Manipur, has this been done by politicians or by Naxals under the garb of Politicians or by a gang of some people to defame politicians and pasted the sticker sayings 'Biharis go back'. This type of politics is very dangerous. This situation should be analysed seriously in consultation with top leaders. This is a very serious situation that people have been divided on caste lines as well as state-wise.

SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR (Aurangabad, Bihar): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, first of all I would like to say that what has happened in Mumbai and Maharashtra. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please see, if you want to continue this discussion upto 13.00 hrs. then I agree.

SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, first of all I would like to say that what has happened in Mumbai and Maharashtra is most condemnable.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You please wait for a minute. If you want to continue this upto 1.00 O' clock, then you can't take up zero hour.

...*(Interruptions)*

CHOWDHARY LAL SINGH: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, you should take up Zero hour right now.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: There will be zero hour today itself but at 6.00 O'clock.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (Hooghly): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want to raise about the use of Blackberry telephones...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Rupchand ji, you are not speaking on this subject. You please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Salim ji, other members from your Party have already spoken on this subject. Only speech of Mr. Nikhil Kumar will go on record.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please let me listen to him

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR: Sir, I want to say that the incidents of Mumbai and Maharashtra are most condemnable. There is constitution in our country, law and order is there and when only incidents occur against the constitution and law and order, it hurts the nation. Similarly, what has happened in Mumbai and the other cities in Maharashtra against the North Indian especially against Biharis, is an attack on the Nation...(Interruptions) Similarly, it has happened in Assam and Manipur. Please listen to me. What has happened in Mumbai, Maharashtra, Manipur and Assam is an attack on the nation...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record except the speech of Shri Nikhil Kumar.

SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR: Who can be held responsible for the incidents in Mumbai. Its responsibility lies with those people who have taken over the control of as their personal feildom. This is the act of those people, who do not think about the nation.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You please conclude now.

SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR: They do not know that Biharis working in Mumbai are self-made. There is no reservation that this work will be done by Biharis or North Indians or Mumbaikars.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Nikhil Kumar ji, you please sit down.

SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR: They should be provided safety there. People should keep in mind that the contributions made by the Biharis and North Indians for Mumbai is no less than others. I condemn this...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri P.C. Thomas.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Only the speech of Shri Thomas will go on record.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI P.C. THOMAS (Muvattupuzha): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want to raise an urgent matter...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAMESH DUBEY: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the hon. Member has mentioned my name...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: If that will be expunged then both will be expunged, otherwise none.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Nikhil Kumar, nothing is going on record.

...(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Sir, on behalf of the Kerala Congress Party, I strongly condemn the killings in Manipur. Repeated killings by terrorists and non-terrorists on the basis of language, on the basis of States, on the basis of religion are happening. May it be in Manipur, may it

*Not recorded.

be in Maharashtra, may it be in Orissa, may it be in Assam or may it be at any other place, in India we are all one. We have to take a very serious view on this.

Sir, I would like to urge upon the Government, through you, to form a Joint Parliamentary Committee to look into these aspects because these aspects are repeating and the Government has not taken this matter seriously. So, the Parliament should take it seriously. I submit that a Joint Parliamentary Committee should be formed to look into these killing...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: First, please listen to me.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please listen to me.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Will you please listen to me?

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: First you please listen to me.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Perhaps there is not even a single party to which I have not given time. I have given opportunity to everyone. I want to mention the name of those Hon. Members, who have given notices they are Shri Shailendra Kumar, Prof. Rasa Singh Rawat, Yogi Aditya Nath, Shri Santosh Kumar Gangwar, Shri Mohan Singh, Shri Ram Kripal Yadav, Shri Kiren Rijju and Shri Avinash Rai Khanna. Their name are being associated with this subject. Now I am going to take up zero hour.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: If I will give time to him, then I will have to give time to the seven members.

[English]

This is my main problem.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing should be recorded.

...*(Interruptions)**

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing is going on record.

...*(Interruptions)**

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Hon Deputy Speaker, Sir, I do not like to...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

Rasa Singh ji please listen to me....*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Ram Kripal Yadav, nothing is going on record.

...*(Interruptions)**

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please sit down. Only the statement made by Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi will be recorded, and nothing else would go on record.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The leader of your party has already made his speech.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Kindly allow me to speak...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

You sit down, I am speaking. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I do not like to comment on the Maharashtra issue because the Union Home Minister has already made a very detailed statement on the issue of Maharashtra after a detailed discussion of various Leaders. Hence, I do not have to make any comment on this issue...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR (Bareilly): The leaders of the Congress party are speaking just like that, please tell them to come here after reading the newspaper...*(Interruptions)*

*Not recorded.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Gangwarji, you also had discharged this duty in the past and now let me also perform this duty...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR: Please advise Nikhil Kumarji that he should not say such things...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, today, in the Obituary Reference, the entire House condoled among other deceased Members one of our dearest friends who used to sit in the back bench, namely, Shri Wangcha Rajkumar. He was a Member of the last Lok Sabha from Arunachal Pradesh. He was a bright young Member of Parliament. He was playing badminton, and only 10 days before his death I was with him. He was telling that I do not feel any threat now as I can go and move around. Unfortunately, my dear friends from Arunachal Pradesh know as to how he died. He still expressed his concern that many of us are still not very certain in the border districts of North-East. It is a known feature right from all the Governments, and not today. Therefore, we are one in the House on the issue of terrorists as to how to deal with them together firmly, and without casting any aspersions on any community, group, ethnic side, etc. They are our Indian friends.

We have not only condemned unequivocally the incident that took place in Manipur, but we also feel that selective targets in Manipur are really a great concern for all of us. I will convey the note and sentiments, and expression of anguish of all the Members directly to the Prime Minister with all my responsibility of discharging my obligation in this House. It is my duty to bring such a serious situation to the knowledge of the Government, and I am confident that our Government will deal with it more firmly...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P.S. GADHAVI (Kutch): When will it be done?
...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: I cannot tell you whether it will be done 10 minutes or 10 seconds later. It is already...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer): What is happening in all the States?

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Rasa Singhji, you have a right to ask questions because you are in opposition. After listening to you I have to consult the Government to have a complete idea in this matter. I can say that our Government is monitoring it since last night and that too very strictly. I want to assure you that our Government does not intend to sit as spectator when people are killed or their property is destroyed in any part of the country. But the occurrences in Manipur are very tragic. People of every region have to go to other regions for work, and if terrorists have targeted them...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

We do not do politics when somebody is killed in uniform in Chhattisgarh, and we do not do politics when somebody is killed in uniform in other parts of the country. We think that it is a serious issue, and we should collectively share our ideas and concerns, and fight it very strongly. Therefore, I will convey it to the Prime Minister. What more can I say? ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, I will take 'Zero Hour' mentions. Prof. Vijay Kumar Malhotra.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please listen to Prof. Vijay Kumar Malhotra.

12.55 hrs.

SUBMISSIONS BY MEMBERS—*Contd.*

(ii) Re: Inclusion of Bhojpuri Language in the Eighth Schedule to the Constitution

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (Maharajganj, Bihar): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Mr. Speaker had stated on last Friday that Government would give a statement on the question of Bhojpuri Language. Today, sitting of the House is going to be adjourned; but, there is no statement from the Government side. I request you to ask the Government to give a statement in this regard.
...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Who told you that the session of the House was likely to be adjourned?

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, hon. Speaker had said...(*Interruptions*)

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, please ask the Government to give the statement in that matter.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, statement should be given today itself.

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir it is not possible to give that statement, then it can be given on some other day.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, please ask them to give the statement now, as further sitting of the House is going to be adjourned. What happened to the direction of hon. Speaker?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The House will remain in session, don't worry about that.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, they are going to adjourn sitting of the House after BAC meeting at 1 p.m., so please ask the Government to give a statement. At least, tell us when will the statement be given?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: O.K. I shall ask them for it.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please listen to Malhotraji.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA (Bettiah): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the matter of Bhojpuri was discussed in the House. After Calling Attention by Prabhunathji. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Malhotraji, it is nearly 1 o'clock, you please speak.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Government has been neglecting the demand of Bhojpuri people on the issue of Bhojpuri language. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we want to have a clear answer as to what is being done by the Government in this matter? ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please listen to Prof. Vijay Kumar Malhotra. The issue is very important.

[*Translation*]

SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN (Bhagalpur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the BJP has always wanted to know the reason for delay regarding the issue of Bhojpuri. We want that the Government should take up the issue of Bhojpuri language in the House as the Government had already said that Bhojpuri would be included in Eighth Schedule of the Constitution...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please listen to the Minister. The Minister is on his legs.

[*Translation*]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I can assure only to the extent that we will try our best to complete tasks on the matter of dialect or language under the Ministry of Culture which have been left as such since the NDA regime.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, please give a ruling about the timeframe under which it is likely to be completed. They should not involve politics in it.

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing should be recorded.

...(*Interruptions*)*

[*Translation*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Malhotraji, time is being wasted, please start your speech.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Prabhunathji, I am in support of it from that day itself. I can only say about the suggestions emerging within the Government that Bhojpuri has been given priority and it will be getting it in future also...(*Interruptions*)

*Not recorded.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Jha ji, please sit down.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Deputy Speaker, Sir, when this statement would be given?

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: I have as much affection for Bhojpuri as you have. If we both make efforts collectively target would be achieved.

Sir, when it has impact of 3 per cent in America it affects 30 per cent in our country. When *sensex* was crossing 21 thousand points we had warned that foreign institutional investors and terrorists are making investment in the market and when this money would be withdrawn, stock exchange *sensex* would definitely crash and crores of small investors would suffer extensive loss. The Government should have taken some steps in this direction but they did nothing. The impact of this crash has been reflected in the budget. *Sensex* has fallen 951 points day before yesterday while it had come down 1400 points in January.

13.00 hrs.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Shri Chidambaram repeatedly assured the people that there is no need to worry and on his assurance people kept on investing their money in share market. I am talking about small investors. The Government have not provided any relief in the budget to exporters. Government have given assurance to provide some relief to exporters due to the devaluation of dollar but nothing has been done for them in this budget. Price-rise is very high. Crores of people have lost their money for not providing relief to the exporters in the budget and the policies adopted by the government and this has caused a lot of hardships for them. I want the Government to take immediate action in this regard otherwise, share market would crash further in the days to come and more small investors would suffer loss.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing should be recorded. Whosoever speaks without my permission, it should not be recorded. Prof. Vijay Kumar Malhotra is on his legs.

...(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, volatile situation has been prevailing in Mumbai Stock Exchange for last 2-3 months...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please listen to Prof. Vijay Kumar Malhotra.

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: *Sensex* has crashed 6000 points over there causing losses of crores of rupees to small investors. They are facing lots of difficulties.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the losses suffered by small investors are equal to our total G.D.P. Dr. Manmohan Singh has said that there is no need to be worried about this fluctuation. Even Shri Chidambaram had stated that our economy is so strong that this situation would not affect it. It is said that there is recession in our country because of recession in America. Mr Deputy Speaker,

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Chaudhary Lal Singh ji Please. be brief.

CHAUDHARY LAL SINGH (Udhampur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, not in brief, it is a very serious matter.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You have to ask only this much as to what do you want from the Union Government.

CHAUDHARY LAL SINGH: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, if you hear then I would ask from the Union Government.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will definitely hear.

CHAUDHARY LAL SINGH: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, first of all you please hear my request. You are *'Aseelah* of the poor. If you do not listen to me, what is use of my speaking?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will certainly listen to you.

CHAUDHARY LAL SINGH: Sir, With heavy heart, through you, I would like to submit to the Government that I have mentioned several times here that there are seventeen thousand labourers such as Pitthu wala, Pauny wala and Palki wala at Vaishno Devi in my State. Labourers are exploited there very much and such instances cannot be seen anywhere in the world. Tax is charged from the labourers there. I have opposed it several time but I regret to say that no one paid attention to it. I would like to tell that 'Pitthu Wala' charges Rs. 162 for carrying pilgrims luggage from Katara to Bhavan out of this amount 33 rupees are charged from him as tax. Apart from this, the contractors also charged Rs. 9 from him. Please, listen to me, I am very much serious on this issue. In this way 'Pitthu wala' earns only Rs. 120 out of Rs. 162.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You please tell what do you want from the Union Government.

CHAUDHARY LAL SINGH: Sir, I would like to mention about 'Pauni wala' that includes a labourers and a Pony. He charges Rs. 243 out of which he has to pay tax of Rs. 33 and Rs. 10 to the contractors. Thus, he earns only Rs. 200 in which his labour and expenditure incurred on 'Pony' is included. Thereafter, 'Paliki wala'...(*Interruptions*) Sir, Palki is carried by four persons. Sir, they hire Palki. Sir, if you do not listen to me, I would protest...(*Interruptions*) I am sorry to say that tax is collected from these labourers...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You please tell what do you want from the Union Government.

CHAUDHARY LAL SINGH: Sir, I would like to know whether tax is imposed on the labour any where in any country...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): No where such tax is levied.

CHAUDHARY LAL SINGH: Then why tax is being charged from the labourers of Vaishno Devi? Why attention is not being paid to my submission...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have listened to you.

CHAUDHARY LAL SINGH: Sir, moreover, he is not allowed to eat in hotels. He does not have shelter to

sleep at night. They have been deprived of their shelters. Every year the tenders are invited. I mention this because presently tender process has been initiated there. What is the use of tender for labour, how will they be benefited thereby. Sir, 17 thousand labourers are in difficulties there. There has been fraud in commission, helicopters have been introduced. 14 battery cars are operating, every then, the problem has not been solved. I want to know who is there to take care of poor and who is looking after his interest? When we raise this issue it is stated that this matter relates to Centre on State. Who is responsible for this loot? ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You have raised your point. Now, you please sit down. Shri Basu Deb Acharia.

...(*Interruptions*)

CHAUDHARY LAL SINGH: No, no sir. Please listen to me...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN (Khurja): The Government of Jammu and Kashmir and the Union Government is responsible for it...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: If you do not speak from your seat, nothing shall go on record.

...(*Interruptions*)*

13.05 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Five Minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.

14.07 hrs.

The Lok Sabha re-assembled after Lunch at Seven Minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.

[SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV *in the Chair*]

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, the House shall take up item no. 30, Matters under Rule 377.

Dr. Arvind Sharma	—	Not present
Shri Jivabhai A. Patel	—	Not present
Shri V.K. Thummar	—	Not present
Shri Bagun Sumbrui	—	Not present

*Not recorded.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I do not want to interrupt matters under Rule 377, I simply want to inform this House through you that I have just submitted a written proposal to the Deputy Speaker to allow some Ministers to lay their Demands for Grants in the House at 4.00 p.m. I would like to inform the House that I shall submit it in written form.

MR. CHAIRMAN: All right.

- (i) **Need to bifurcate Ministry of Environment and Forest to facilitate quick action and decision making in the matters concerning Environment and Forests**

[English]

SHRI K.C. SINGH 'BABA' (Nainital): Sir, I wish to draw attention towards an issue concerning preservation, protection and sustainable development of our ecological system, environment, forests and wild life. At present only one Ministry, that is the Ministry of Environment and Forests is responsible for administration and management of a wide range of subjects like global warming, environmental safety, wild life preservation and afforestation. Experience has shown that the Ministry of Environment and Forests, despite its best efforts, has not been able to handle a huge number of subjects coming within its purview. I therefore, urge upon the Government to consider reducing the burden of this Ministry by bifurcating Ministry into two separate Ministries, that is, the Ministry of Forests and Wild Life and the Ministry of Environment. Such a bifurcation will facilitate quick action and decision making in the matters relating to preservation and protection of wild life, particularly preventing poaching of tigers and other animals, increase in forest area, sustainable ecological development and also in taking timely remedial measures to check the ill effects of global warming and other climatic changes on human health.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Madhu Goud Yaskhi-Not present.

Shri Haribhau Jawale.

- (ii) **Need to give financial aid to farmers whose banana crop has been damaged due to spread of disease 'Karpa' in Jalgaon district of Maharashtra**

SHRI HARIBHAU JAWALE (Jalgaon): Banana is a predominant crop of Jalgaon District in the State of

Maharashtra. Majority of farmer-families are dependent on this agricultural based crop round the year. This year around 60,000 hectares land is being cultivated for Banana out of which 40,000 hectares are being infected by Karpa (Black Spot) disease (Scientific Name Ciga-Toka) very heavily.

A team from Agriculture Ministry had conducted a survey in last month in the tehsil of Yawal, Raver, Chopada, Bhusawal and Jalgaon in State of Maharashtra. They have reported that the problems persist heavily and estimated that the losses of Banana being infected are to the tune of Rs. 300 crore.

Hence, through this August House, I request the hon. Minister to sanction the financial aid to compensate the losses incurred by farmers on account of Karpa disease at the earliest.

Through this House, I also request to provide assistance in strengthening the Research Centre at Allegan for Banana in the State of Maharashtra and to sanction the National Research Laboratory Centre for Banana at Jalgaon in the State of Maharashtra as this District is the largest grower and largest supplier of Banana in the country.

- (iii) **Need to release funds for award of scholarships to SC, ST and OBC students in Rajasthan.**

[Translation]

SHRI MAHAVIR BHAGORA (Salumber): Mr. Chairman, Sir, there is a scheme of the Government of India to give post matric scholarship to student belonging to Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Classes. Under the scheme, the amount spent at the end of Five Year Plan is borne by the State Government in the next Five Year Plan as previous liability. The Government of India has to bear all expenditure amount to be spent on new liabilities in addition to the previous liabilities.

The Government of India has yet not paid the total payable amount of new liabilities to be borne by the State of Rajasthan in the Tenth Five Year Plan, whereas Rs. 11 crore for Scheduled Castes, Rs. 10 crore for Scheduled Tribes and Rs. One Crore for Other Backward Classes have been spent from the State Head. Every year, professional educational institutions are being set up in private sector and thus the number of students in

Higher Education is increasing, which ultimately results in increase in the amount of scholarship. The scholarship of Rs. 17.47 crore for Scheduled Castes, Rs. 30.27 crore for Scheduled Tribes, Rs. 16.6 crore for Other Backward Classes thus total Rs. 64.34 crore of previous liability is outstanding against the Government of India. I request the Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment to pay the same at the earliest.

- (iv) **Need to provide an underpass at KM 390 on NH-4 at Varur Village in Dharwad North Parliamentary Constituency, Karnataka**

[English]

SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI (Dharwad North): Varur is a village in my constituency having a population of about 10,000 mainly of farmers and agricultural workers at KM 390 on N.H. 4 Bangalore-Hubli. Though it was a part of Golden Quadrilateral Road, no junction or under pass was provided at KM 390 at the point where the village is literally bifurcated with both sides having farms, schools and markets, and people and small children frequently crossing this spot. Hence people of the village are pressing for a large underpass instead of already provided which is about one KM away. This small underpass is also very hazardous as it is literally build on a passage, which is a feeder channel to a nearby lake. This has caused inconvenience to people. The situation may lead to serious law and order problems. Therefore, I urge upon the Government to immediately take up the work in this regard and provide underpass at KM 390 on NH at Varur village in my constituency.

14.15 hrs.

**MESSAGES FROM RAJYA SABHA AND
BILL AS PASSED BY RAJYA SABHA**

[English]

SECRETARY-GENERAL: Sir, I have to report the following messages received from the Secretary-General of Rajya Sabha:-

"In accordance with the provisions of rule 111 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to enclosed a copy of the Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order (Amendment) Bill, 2008 which has been passed by the Rajya Sabha at its sitting held on the 19th March, 2008".

Sir, I lay on the Table the Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order (Amendment) Bill, 2008 as passed by Rajya Sabha on the 19th March, 2008.

14.16 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377—Contd.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Shripad Yesso Naik—Not present.

- (v) **Need to provide financial relief to sugarcane growers whose crops have been damaged due to frost and cold waves in Uttarakhand**

[Translation]

SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA' (Almora): Sir, the sugarcane crops in Haridwar, Dehradun and Udham Singh Nagar of Uttarakhand have been badly damaged due to severe cold and frost in the last winter season. Now, with the beginning of Summer, the sugarcane crops are being badly affected due to heat wave.

According to the experts, 50 to 60 per cent sugarcane crops of the farmers in the entire region have got damaged. If immediate relief is not given to sugarcane growers, a grave economic crisis will emerge before them.

Therefore, I request the Union Government to send a central team to the affected areas of Uttarakhand in the wake of the seriousness of the matter, and get the damages evaluated and on the basis of that evaluation action may be taken to provide sufficient relief to the sugarcane growers.

- (vi) **Need to grant the status of a Central University to Kerala Kalamandalam; a premier cultural institution in Kerala**

[English]

SHRI S. AJAYA KUMAR (Ottapalam): Kerala Kalamandalam is a premier and leading cultural institution in state of Kerala. This institution of cultural importance imparts training and teaches all sorts of cultural performances such as Kathakali. This institution attracts hundreds of students for learning and getting training on various arts performances. Therefore, it has been a long

pending demand to convert this institution as a cultural university. By doing so, this institution will be able to expand its cultural activities and enhance the livelihood of the people associated with it.

Therefore, I urge upon the Government to grant the status of a Central University to Kerala Kalamandalam.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri P. Karunakaran—Not present.

- (vii) **Need to take steps for the maintenance and preservation of Taj Mahal, a world-heritage site**

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Firozabad): Sir, Taj Mahal, the wonder of the world, realization of a dream, worship of a true love and is the mirror of India for the world. The country earns crores of dollars from Taj Mahal every year but the stones of this marble monument, which are gradually becoming pale have started cracking.

The stones of the guest house Mehamankhana), Taj Mahal, Mosque and the entrance gate including the main tomb of Taj Mahal are cracking and falling. The condition of the main tomb is the worst. Apart from the marble stone even the coloured stones, coral and green jade used in the inlay work are also falling. The stones facing the Yamuna river are mostly washed away. The iron clips used for holding the stones have rotted. In fact, the process of stones of Taj Mahal getting washed away is years old. If the Department of Archaeology had paid.

Proper attention towards this problem, these stones would not have cracked and fallen. The marble stones of this 538 year old Taj are uprooted from a number of places but new marble stones have not been put in place.

It is a highly serious matter. The Government should pay attention to protect Taj Mahal without any further delay so that this world heritage can be protected.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN:

Shrimati Jayaprada	— Not present
Shri Sugrib Singh	— Not present
Shri Jaysingrao Gaikwad Patil	— Not present
Shri Chengara Surendran	— Not present
Shri Prabhunath Singh	— Not present

- (viii) **Need to sanction a Central project for checking water-logging and for desalination of rivers in Bihar particularly Chhapra and Siwan districts**

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (Maharajan), Bihar: Sir, India is an agriculture dominant country. About 80 per cent population of India depends on agriculture. That's why it is said that the soul of India lives in village, but the regular occurrence of natural calamities like floods and drought has badly affected the farmers of the country. Today, the farmers who provide food to more than one hundred crore people, are hungry and in distress because of the indifference shown towards them by the Government.

In comparison to the other parts of the country the North Bihar is worst affected by the floods that take place every year. Its main reason is the problem of water-logging. Chhapra and Siwan districts of North Bihar are surrounded by Sarayu and Narayani rivers. Some small rivers also pass through these districts. The important parts of Chhapra and Siwan districts are more affected by water logging than by floods. Every year, the crops of farmers standing on thousands of acres get destroyed due to water-logging. If drainage of such water is ensured, the crops of the farmers being destroyed every year can be protected. For this, it is essential that areas under water-logging may be connected with the rivers by constructing pucca nallah, so that extra water may fall in the river through the pucca nallah and water-logging may not take place. There is need to facilitate drainage system in regard to Dhurdeh Chawar in Majhi block of Chhapra district, Bahiyara Chawar in Baniyapur block and Tel river in Jalapur block. Further, due to sitting in small rivers, river water overflows and causes flood problem following which the crops of the farmers get destroyed.

I demand the Government through you to ask the Government of Bihar to send a project in this regard and to allot an amount after sanctioning the same so that the people may get rid of the problem of water-logging and the problem of sitting in small rivers in Chhapra and Siwan districts of North Bihar. Thank you.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Sanat Kumar Mandal—Not present.

Shri Chengara Surendran

(ix) Need to make the National Savings Schemes attractive for customers

SHRI CHENGARA SURENDRAN (Adoor): In Kerala more than 16000 persons, majority of them ladies, are working as Mahila Pradhan, S.A.S. and PPS agents. They have been earning their livelihood from this work. But now they are all on the verge of starvation due to losing their benefit from the agency work.

The National Small Savings schemes were introduced by the Central Government with the intention of promoting saving tendency among the common people and to increase the savings in the country. Several attractive schemes were introduced by the Government to achieve this goal. Kisan Vikas Patra, MIS Public Provident Fund, NSC, Post Office Recurring Deposits were the schemes introduced by the Government to achieve this goal which attracted the people because of its benefits such as higher rates of interest and income tax-exemption, The interest rate allowed to these schemes were higher than the rates prevailing in Banks. Now the situation has changed. The interest rate of deposits in Banks is higher than that in National Savings Schemes. So the people are reluctant to deposit money in National Savings Schemes now a days. The schemes are now not so attractive. The withdrawals from the schemes are also very high. This has affected the financial position of the Kerala Government also. The chance for getting loans from the NSSF has become remote.

In the circumstances, I would suggest that the Union Government may consider increase in the interest rate of National Savings Schemes instruments urgently and thereby save the workers numbering more than 16000 from starvation.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Matters under Rule 377 of those hon. Members who were not present in the House may be treated as laid on the Table of the House.

(x) Need to expedite the setting up of a Medical College-cum-Hospital at Karnal on the lines of AIIMS, New Delhi*

DR. ARVIND SHARMA (Karnal): There has been inordinate in setting up of the Kalpna Chawla Medical College cum hospital on the lines of AIIMS, New Delhi.

Sir, the people of my constituency have been waiting for work to start on the project.

Apart from honouring the memory of Kalpna Chawla, the facility would provide healthcare to millions of people in the area. The people of my area presently have to travel either to Delhi, Rohtak or Chandigarh for major ailments and the setting up of this facility would provide much-needed relief to the people of the area.

Sir, though more than a year has passed, there has been little or no movement on the issue.

I urge upon the concerned department of the Union and the State Government to acquire land at the earliest so that work on the project could be started at the earliest.

(xi) Need to construct railway line linking Ahmedabad-Khedbrahma-Ambaji and Harji-Radhanpur in Mehsana Parliamentary constituency in Gujarat*

[Translation]

SHRI JIVABHAI A. PATEL (Mehsana): Sir, Khedabrahma place of pilgrimage falling in my Parliamentary constituency is famous all over the country and lakhs of people from other states come to visit this pilgrimage place and a large number of people have devotion towards Ambaji, but there is no railway line between Ahmedabad Khedabrahma and Ambaji and this is a long standing demand. Therefore, through this House, I would like to request the Minister of Railways to make provision in this budget for new railway line between Ahmedabad, Khedbrahma and Ambaji. In the same way there is no railway connectivity from my Parliamentary constituency to Harji and Radhanpur and because of it people of this area face a lot of inconvenience in commuting. Most of the people in this area are poor. Widespread backwardness of this area can be removed by laying new railway line.

Through this House I request the Government to take action in the public interest for the aforesaid works so that people of this area get the railway facility, of which they are still deprived.

*Treated as laid on the Table.

*Treated as laid on the Table.

(xii) Need to ensure grant of subsidy to farmers by NABARD in Amreli Parliamentary Constituency, Gujarat*

SHRI V. K. THUMMAR (Amreli): Sir, NABARD is providing subsidy to the farmers for warehousing facility in my Parliamentary constituency Amreli and Saurashtra region of Gujarat, which enables the farmers to save their foodgrains from rain. This is a good scheme, but it is not being implemented properly because farmers are not being paid subsidy. When we inquired about it, we were told that the Central Government has not released money due to which farmers are not getting money and consequently farmers are not getting payment of warehousing subsidy from NABARD and farmers are facing a lot of difficulties in the storage of their foodgrains. They are paying interest on the loan taken from banks for the construction of these godowns.

Through this House, I request the Government to conduct necessary inquiry in this regard and the Central Government should make payment of pending amount to NABARD so that payment of subsidy could be made to farmers.

(xiii) Need to enforce stringent safety measures in factories and check the pollution by industrial units*

SHRI BAGUN SUMBRUI (Singhbhum): Sir, stringent rules should be put in place for safety of workers in the industrial units. On 28th February, 2008 five workers got burnt and two workers died during the treatment at Adhunik Alloy and Power Ltd.-Kandra situated in Singhbhum Kohan Block in Jharkhand. ON 6th March, 2008, two workers got burnt out of which one died on 10th March at ACC Jhinkapani Plant. Adequate compensation and permanent employment should be provided to the dependents of workers.

Pollution being spread by the industrial units and unrestrained exploitation of ground water by these units should be checked. Stringent measures should be taken immediately to check unrestrained pollution being spread by industrial units situated in Kolhan Block (Jharkhand and iron units and crushers situated in Novamundi, Badrajamda (Jharkhand) and Badrbil, Jodra (Orissa) region. Respective Government agencies responsible for inspection of the industrial units in the aforesaid region are inactive, they should be made active immediately.

[English]

(xiv) Need to provide sufficient medical facilities in Rural Health Centres in Andhra Pradesh*

SHRI MADHU GOUD YASKHI (Nizamabad): Sir, the Health facilities in the rural areas of the country particularly in Andhra Pradesh are very poor. There are shortage of doctors, nurses and medicines.

In order to meet the shortage of doctors and paramedical staff a comprehensive policy is required to be devised by the Central Government. For this purpose it must be made mandatory for all the doctors who have passed the MBBS examination recently to serve in the rural areas for a fixed tenure of 2 to 3 years. Also, those doctors who are recruited by the Government need to serve compulsorily in rural areas of the country, especially in Andhra Pradesh for a fixed tenure of 2 to 3 yrs.

I, therefore, request the Union Government to take necessary action in this regard and make provision for adequate numbers of doctors and paramedical staff and supply of sufficient medicines in these Rural Health Centres.

(xv) Need to renew the rules/regulations governing Appointments on compassionate grounds in Government Departments*

[Translation]

SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK (Panaji): Sir, there are long queues of people waiting for getting employment on compassionate ground in the different Ministries of the Central Government and different departments of the state Governments. Members of the family of deceased persons do not get employment even after many years, due to which they face a lot of difficulties in maintaining their families. Now-a-days due to rules made by the Government to provide employment on compassionate ground and due to pending cases of employment on compassionate ground, people do not get employment and some people do not get employment and some people get overaged.

*Treated as laid on the Table.

*Treated as laid on the Table.

Therefore, I request the Government to review the rules for providing employment on compassionate ground so that pending cases are cleared and people get employment at the earliest.

(xvi) Need to restore the quota of power from Central Pool to Kerala*

[English]

SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN (Kasargod): I would like to draw your kind attention to the problems faced by the people of Kerala due to the reduction of quota of electricity from the unallocated central pool. From the quota allotted to the State, 133 MW of electricity was cut down from April 2007 and about 50 MW from December 2007. In the meantime, the consumption has increased by 150 MW. The demand is likely to increase to the tune of 2,800 mw by the peak season of summer. But the availability including central pool quota will be around 2400 mw, which is short by 400 MW. This will result in heavy load shedding. The electricity Board is not in a position to purchase electricity at Rs. 8.75-Rs. 9.00 per unit direct from generating plants. The only way to ameliorate the situation is to restore the reduced quota from the central pool.

I therefore, urge upon the Hon'ble Minister to intervene urgently so that the reduced quota of electricity from the central pool is restored immediately.

[Translation]

(xvii) Need to provide a Central package to complete the construction work of bridges over rivers Koshi and Ganga in Rampur Parliamentary Constituency, Uttar Pradesh*

SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA (Rampur): Sir, in my Parliamentary constituency Rampur work is not in progress for constructing Pranpur bridge over Kosi river and a bridge over Gaganpur river passing through Saifani Chandrapura Kalan Marg. Cost estimate for Pranpur bridge has been prepared. People are facing a lot of difficulties in the absence of approach road to this road and Koshi river is not flowing under bridges course and it has taken another course and people residing in villages near the river may have to face floods during the coming rainy season. For another bridge near Saifani over Gagan river, an amount of Rs. 231.27 lakh out of the sanctioned amount of 818.67 lakh has already been spent and now this work has been halted due to this Rs. 231.27 lakh

has become useless and the constructed part of the bridge can collapse during the coming rainy season and threat of floods can aggrarrats.

Through this House, I request the Central Government to provide a package at the Central level to provide financial assistance to complete this work.

(xviii) Need to expedite the introduction of Ranchi-Bhubaneswar Garib Rath and construction of Khurda Road-Bolangir rail line project*

[English]

SHRI SUGRIB SINGH (Phulbani): Sir, during the last year Rail budget Hon'ble Railway Minister had announced to start a Garib Rath between Ranchi and Bhubaneswar, but so far it has not been done.

Also, there is a long pending demand from the people of Orissa to provide rail link to the tribal dominated areas. The final location survey for the Khurda Road-Bolangir new rail line project has been completed but railways are not very keen to acquire the land. They have so far acquired 1000 acres of land out of 5500 acre required for the project./ This new line rail project was included in the Railways Budget in the year 1994-95. Though the original cost of the project was Rs. 355 crore (approx.) but the delay has led to cost-escalation. Khandamal, which is part of my Parliamentary Constituency is not going to get the benefit of Khurda-Bolangir rail line. I being a representative of the area had several time requested the Ministry of Railways to link Khandmal with Bharampur.

Sir, I, therefore, request the Hon'ble Minister for Railways to kindly expedite the introduction of Ranchi-Bhubaneswar Garib Rath besides expediting the work relating to land acquisition and other civil work for Khurda Road-Bolangir rail line. The Hon'ble Railway Minister may also consider sympathetically to link Khandmal with Baharampur.

(xix) Need to expedite construction of Ahmednagar-Beed-Parli railway line in Maharashtra*

[Translation]

SHRI JAYSINGRAO GAIKWAD PATIL (Beed): Sir, Ahme:nagar-Beed-Parli (Vaidyanath) new rail line passes

*Treated as laid on the Table.

*Treated as laid on the Table.

[Shri Jaysingrao Gaikwad Patil]

through my Parliamentary Constituency Beed, Maharashtra for which a provision of Rs. 103.75 crore has been made but only Rs. 16 crores have been spent and the remaining amount is not being utilized. There is no progress on this work.

The cost of this 12 year old railway line project has now doubled. The revaluation papers are lying with the Ministry of approval. A provision of Rs. 10 crores only has been made in the rail budget for 2008-09. The provision is not being increased and even the allocation made is not being spent.

In order to demand sufficient allocation and expedite the works on Ahmednager-Beed-Parli (Vaidyanath) rail line, a dhama was staged for almost a month in October 2007 and on 28th October, 2007 a Rail Roko agitation was organized and 850 citizens got arrested. I was also arrested at Ghatnandur railway station and in the evening I was released.

Therefore, I would like to submit to the hon'ble Minister of Railways to immediately accord sanction for land acquisition. Alongwith that, the farmers should be paid Rs. 14 crore i.e. one third amount immediately. The provision of Rs. 103.75 crore made so far may be utilized till march 2009 and all types of survey works for Ghatnandur-Anbajogai may be completed and enough amount may be provided in the coming budget.

(xx) Need to take steps for protection of tigers in the country*

[English]

SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL (Joynagar): I wish to bring to the notice of the Government the dwindling population of Tigers-out National Animal-in the country.

There are reports in media about the dwindling population of tigers due to poaching. However, it seems that in the absence of proper assessment or census of tigers, it would not be possible to stop such poaching.

It is reported that census of tigers are undertaken from time to time. But the procedure being adopted for these Census are not bearing desired result. Tiger Reserves are of national importance bringing foreign exchange through visiting foreign tourists. Sundarbans is also one of such Tiger Reserves wherein the census of tigers was held recently. It is yet to be informed by the Government the steps it proposes to take protecting the tigers of Sundarbans.

*Treated as laid on the Table.

I, therefore, urge upon the Government to inform the correct position of Sundarbans tigers and the steps being taken/proposed to be taken by them to protect the tigers in Sundarbans.

14.22 hrs.

STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS—Contd.

(iii) Postponement of execution of Sarabjit Singh, Indian national in Pakistan custody, by one month

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): Sir, some time back our Ministry of External Affairs have received certain information from foreign office of the Govt. of Pakistan. I want that the hon'ble Minister of External Affairs may be permitted to present it. As per rules we have already submitted the relevant papers to the Speaker's Secretariat.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): Sir, I am happy to inform the House that the High Commission of India in Islamabad has been informed a little while ago by the Pakistani Foreign Office that the President of Pakistan has stayed the execution of Sarabjit Singh till 30th April, 2008 that is a postponement by one month.

As the hon'ble Members have expressed their concerns yesterday and as I assured them, the Government of India is continuing its efforts to save the life of Sarabjit Singh. We have achieved partial success but we shall continue to carry on our efforts so that his life can be saved.

Thank you, Sir, for permitting me to share this information with hon'ble House.

14.24 hrs.

MATERNITY BENEFIT (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2008

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill further to amend the Maternity Benefit Act, 1961, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration."

Hon. Chairman and Members of the House, the Government proposes to take immediate steps by way of amendments in The Maternity Benefit Act, 1961 to enhance the medical bonus from Rs. 250/- to Rs. 1000/- if no pre-natal confinement and post-natal care is provided by the employer free of charge to bring it in tune with the Consumer Price Index and inflation along with the provision to amend the ceiling of Rs. 1000/- after every three years up to a maximum amount of Rs. 20,000/-

I would inform the House that in its sitting held on 27th February, 2008, the Rajya Sabha has already passed this Maternity Benefit (Amendment) Bill, 2008.

The amendments have been necessitated as a result of recommendations made by the 2nd National Labour Commission concerning the maternity benefit both in the organized and unorganized sector among other recommendations in its report submitted in June, 2002.

The Maternity Benefit Act, 1961 regulates the employment of women in mines, factories, circus industry, plantations and shops or establishment employing 10 or more persons including any such establishments belonging to Government for certain period before and after child birth and provides for maternity and certain other benefits. The aim of the Act is to extend the benefits to women workers in establishments which have not yet been covered under the ESI Act and those women workers who are not covered within the wage ceiling limit of Rs. 10,000/- provided under the ESI Act.

The Act allows the State Governments to extend the jurisdiction of the Act to other classes of establishments, with the approval of the Central Government after giving not less than two months notice of its intention of doing so. It may be notification officially declare that all or any of these provisions shall apply also to any other establishment or class of establishments-commercial, agriculture or otherwise.

The Central Government introduced the Maternity Benefit (Amendment) Bill, 2007 in the Rajya Sabha on 14th May, 2007 which included two amendments in the existing Act. The first amendment proposed to enhance the medical bonus from Rs. 250/- to Rs. 1000/- that was last revised in 1989. In the second amendment permission

was sought to enhance medical bonus from time to time up to an amount of Rs. 20000/-.

The Bill was referred to the Standing Committee on Labour. The Standing Committee held discussions with this Ministry on 15th June, 2007 and 3rd August, 2007. The Committee has submitted its report to the Parliament on 16th August, 2007. The recommendations of the Standing Committee have been examined based on the discussions held with the Standing Committee on Labour and Consultative Committee and the information obtained from various State Governments.

The Standing Committee made several recommendations such as to enhance the amount of medical bonus to Rs. 5000/-; to review the medical bonus at periodical intervals but not more than 3 years doing away with the proposal of allowing Government to increase the medical bonus from time to time to a maximum amount of Rs. 20,000/-; to bring forward a comprehensive bill to broaden its scope making its applicability universal; enhance the number of maternity leave in parity with the Central Government employees and provision of paternity leave.

The Standing Committee on Labour's recommendation that the upper limit of Rs. 20,000/- proposed for amount of medical bonus payable should be done away with and the Central Government should review the medical bonus at periodic intervals of three years has been examined in this Ministry. The Committee's recommendation to remove the upper limit is a welcome suggestion. However, this upper limit is proposed taking into account the interests of all stake holders. The suggestion that an interval of not more than three years for review of the medical bonus has been accepted and incorporated in the amendment Act brought before this House.

A large number of recommendations made by the Committee have already been taken care of with the introduction of the Unorganized Sector Worker' Social Security Bill, 2007 in the Parliament. Under section 3(1) of the proposed Bill, the Central Government has been empowered to formulate, from time to time suitable welfare schemes for different sections of the unorganized sector workers on health and maternity benefits. There are suitable provisions made in the Bill for financing and implementation of the schemes to be framed by the Central Government. As regards enhancement of maternity leave at par with the Central Government employees and provision of paternity leave is concerned, the matter has

[Shri Oscar Fernandes]

to be examined in consultation with the employers, State Governments, Trade Unions and Women Organisations. The benefits under the Maternity Benefits Act, 1961 are borne by the employers. It is felt that enhancing maternity leave and providing paternity leave has to be done through consensus so that the move does not have an adverse effect on the employment of women and face difficulty in enforcement. It is submitted that such a move may discourage an employer from employing women. Hence this recommendation has not been accepted at this stage.

I hope the present amendments would go a long way in providing urgently needed relief to the working women.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Motion moved:

"That the Bill further to amend the Maternity Benefit Act, 1961, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration".

14.32

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE CHAIR

Cancellation of sitting of the House

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, I have to inform the House that as unanimously decided in the meeting of the Business Advisory Committee held today (19.3.2008), the sitting fixed for Thursday, the 20th March, 2008 may be cancelled.

I hope the house agrees.

SEVERAL HON MEMBERS: Yes, Sir.

14.33

MATERNITY BENEFIT (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2008-*Ccrttd.*

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN (Indore): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I welcome Maternity Benefit (Amendment) Bill and I will have to welcome it. I welcome it with a heavy heart because what facilities we are providing and

to whom. Whenever the Government thinks about somebody, then it must keep in mind that for whom we are providing these facilities. I welcome the benefits or a little bit increased bonus being paid to them and I agree with it that you will think about the upper limit. We are giving something to the women, not only women but to the mother hood of the country, and to that mother who makes our future. If we see the scenario of India, we find that women are malnourished and if so, her child will be malnourished and if she is anaemic her child will also be anaemic.

There is a saying in Marathi language—"Suddha bēeja poti, fale rasal gomati" means the seed should be pure, the seed should also be strong, then only the posterity will be of that kind. Hon'ble Bhuraji is sitting here we know that women in tribal areas go for trivial work and what is their condition. Are we giving something to these women? Not only the ladies working in factories but also the ladies working in the mines are not free from pollution. What facilities they are being provided and under what conditions they are working? All these facts need to be taken into consideration. What is the condition of women at their places of work you have mentioned where you propose to pay bonus to the women working there. Time and again reports are published by us and by the big NGOs of other countries that so and so percentage of Indian women are anaemic and malnourished. Is it a matter of pride for us when these reports are revealed to whole of the world? Here I will use the word mother for woman. When we want to do something for our mother then we will have to keep all these things in mind which I think hon'ble Minister and the Government have not kept in mind. This amendment is brought because the benefits are to be provided and these benefits would be nothing if we look at them from the angle of inflation. Do not indulge into the jugglery of figures. In the year 1961, the amount of bonus was Rs. 25 and gradually it was increased to Rs. 250 and now it is being raised to Rs. 1000. I would say that besides these facilities, other facilities should also be taken into consideration. Have you ever given a thought whether women labourers are getting six weeks leave with salary in reality? What have we done it for it? This provision of six weeks leave seems to be insufficient. There is a provision that three weeks leave before delivery and three weeks leave after delivery can be availed. But is it possible for a woman working in the mines to resume working in three weeks or so? We need to think on humanitarian ground.

Similarly look at the conditions of the women working in the circus. These women demonstrate tricks, walk on ropes and sometimes demonstrates tricks in the ground in front of our houses. I am sharing my experience with you. I saw a woman demonstrating tricks and she appeared to be in the ninth month of her pregnancy. I stopped her and asked why was she doing so and she replied that she was doing so for livelihood. Fifteen days later I saw the same woman and she was demonstrating tricks keeping her baby in the basket. If we can do something, we must do so for such women. It needs monitoring as to whether they are being granted such leave or not. For this purpose there are factory inspectors. I should not talk of them. But I would look to say that industrialists ask them as to what they want to keep away from their factories. This is what is happening. If this is the situation in the factories then we can imagine the conditions of those working in mines and brick kiln. Everybody is aware of the atrocities inflicted on them. Can any action be expected from such inspections? How can we monitor it. Therefore I am saying that the Government seems to be non serious about maternity. You have carried out only a minor amendment in this Act, it should have been discussed in toto. There have been minor amendments in the past but it should have been discussed in toto as per the demand of the time. The provision of Rs. 1000/- as bonus amount is nothing if seen from the angle of inflation. This bonus amount is given to such women so that they can take better diet because it is considered that they are getting leave for six weeks with pay. She can buy medicine from this money. What are the prices of medicine in the market today? We know the cost of delivery now a days in a hospital.

Some States are providing assistance in this regard. Now, our Madhya Pradesh Government has realized this. Janani Suraksha Yojana is being run there. If a woman goes to the hospital and delivers a baby there, then she is provided Rs. 1400/-, irrespective of the fact that she is working somewhere or not. Not only this, earlier poor women also provided medicines and food items after performing the ritual of 'Godbharai' in Anganwadi Centres. Besides, I would like to say that look at the initiative taken by the Madhya Pradesh Government. Do something about the labourers. You have mentioned that some schemes have been launched for the workers engaged in unorganised sector. But these schemes don't have the feature, that I have been mentioning that Madhya Pradesh Government is providing 90 days leave with pay to these women after providing them cards.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, how much time will you take? Several hon. members of you party want to speak.

SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN: Sir, do not allow me if I divert from the issue. Discussion on this bill could not be taken up in Rajya Sabha, so it is very important Bill for us. I will not repeat my points.

I am saying that a woman labourer will get 90 days leave with Pay. She will get the same at her home. Besides, her husband will also get 15 days leave with Pay. We are providing it. You have made a provision that it will cover only those organisations where ten or more people are working. Apart from wages and mines, today several small call centers are functioning and many girls and women are working there. In such centres, the number of employees is less than ten and they function in the night. So, you must remember to make provisions for such small entities. When we talk about unorganised sector, some companies employ women for door-to-door sale of their products. They carry articles weighing several kilograms. They are not covered under this law. This thing should also be kept into the mind. You have also mentioned about paternal leave. You have spoken about providing Rs. 1000/- for Medical Service, but I would like to say that, this amount should be increased because this amount is not sufficient enough for medication. It is also not sufficient for meals.

Nursing have been mentioned in this act, that women who join work after availing the leave, are allowed to feed their child twice a day during initial 15 days. You are also aware of the fact that there are no creches in industries, factories etc., so that they can leave their child there. I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister that whether monitoring committees have been set up for the purpose, if not, then they should be up. He should go there and make arrangements for nursing. If you are not going to do that, then increase the six weeks leave period, given after the birth of child. You have also mentioned about this in your recommendations. Therefore, this required attention and leave period should be more than 12 weeks.

The provision regarding the penalty in this amendment bill is very nominal. You have mentioned that if any factory owner or other employer does not provide such facility, then he has to pay penalty of Rs. 500/- or an imprisonment of three months and this never happens. If factory inspector visits the factory to inspect this, he does not have the courage to speak against the owners.

[Smt. Sumitra Mahajan]

Owners are also ready to pay this nominal penalty of Rs. 500/- not only once but on many occasions. It may also be possible that they don't employ women workers. Therefore, attention should also be given to this.

You must also check whether laws are being complied with or not. If we look at it, then we will find out that this law is not being complied with and women are not being provided facilities which have been mentioned in the law. The Standing Committee have also submitted its report in this regard. The Report has prepared a list of States in which not more than 100,200 or 300 women are getting such facilities. Only one or two states have better record in this respect. In the remaining States only 72, 73 or even 23 women have been provided such facilities. Hence, you must know that the benefits, which should be made available to women, are actually being provided to them or not. Earlier, when Rs. 200/- were given as bonus, system was the same and today also there is no change in that. What will you do to ensure that the states provide facilities to women in a proper way? You should initiate an awareness programme and set up monitoring committee. Assistance from various organisations can be sought for the purpose. If comprehensive amendment had been made in this law, I would have agreed to the point that you are really serious about the motherhood in the country. But, I would like to say with sorrow that this seriousness has not been reflected in this bill. As the region goes salvage what you can at a bad debt, nobody would like to forgo this. But you must also given attention to other things, which I have been mentioning.

SHRIMATI KRISHNA TIRATH (Karol Bagh): Mr. Chairman, Sir, today we are discussing Maternity Benefits (Amendment) Bill 2008. I rise to support the bill. The Bill is reflective of as to how far our hon'ble Minister is sensitive to the issue. As Mrs. Sumitra Mahajan has told that mother labourers, who are working in mines or factories or in some other place will be covered under the ESI, irrespective of the fact that their wages are not sufficient for inclusion in the scheme. I would like to thank the hon'ble Minister for sparing a thought on the issue. As Mrs. Sumitra Mahajan said that a mother needs to be quite healthy, so that she is able to deliver a healthy baby. She should be provided nutritious food and balanced diet. There are Anganwadi Centres for this purpose. But, question is that whether the expecting mother gets such a balanced diet there. It has been mentioned in the amendment bill that women workers, whether they are working in organized sector or

unorganized sector, will be given three months leave. In my view, three months are not enough, this period needs to be increased. I was going through an advertisement, then I came to know about the system in which some women will be allowed to resume their jobs, three years after the delivery, perhaps something of that kind is going to be incorporated in Government jobs. This provision is also in the Bill that women may resume her job at least after six months of delivery, so as to enable them to feed their baby which is very essential for the child. You have increased the amount of bonus from Rs. 250/- to Rs. 1000/-. It is a welcome step. I would like to say that our elected representatives should visit such factories, and places in their constituencies, where women are working, in both organized sector and unorganized sector. They should make them aware about the facilities meant for them.

It is also a fact that women labourers are not aware about the number of holidays with pay which they are entitled for. There is a provision in the labour Act that 15 days leave with pay could be availed, but even today no women labourer is aware of that. We are also a part of the society and represent whole society. Therefore, we should make them aware by organizing awareness programmes in factories, industries etc. In addition to this, there should be two-three or six meetings in a year to apprise them about such facilities.

[English]

Section 8 of the Maternity Benefit Act, 1961 provides that every woman who is entitled to maternity benefit under this Act shall also be entitled to receive from her employer a medical bonus of Rs. 1000.

[Translation]

This is good that you have increased the bonus from Rs. 250/- to Rs. 1000/-. But it should be increased little more as the employers have no dearth of money. You also know that one cannot get hold of all those medicines, food items with more nutrients like proteins, minerals and iron with this amount. For this reason, the amount of bonus needs to be increased. If this is undertaken, the amendment would be better.

The Bill says that husband of the lady on maternity leave can also avail paternity leave of 15 days. This way, when the woman go to work, her husband would be able to take care of the baby by availing this leave. I would like to say that the mother should be provided a complete diet package, which should have all the nutrients, so that when she feeds her baby, the baby

could also get the nutritious diet, so a separate package should be given to mothers, so that they could take complete diet and look after their babies. If the mother is healthy, the child would also be healthy. Today, we see women working in factories, industries, but apart from that, they also work as labourers at construction sites and lift cement, stones, iron and bricks etc. But they do not get nutritious diet, therefore, a separate diet package should be given to women labourers.

I also support other things in the Bill and congratulate the hon'ble Minister for showing sensitivity which is a right step. Apart from this, whatever Sumitra Mahajanji has said should also be incorporated in it.

With these words I conclude and thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak.

[English]

SHRIMATI P. SATHEEDEVI (Badagara): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the proposed amendments to the Maternity Benefit (Amendment) Bill, 1961 are really welcome steps and I support the amendments. While discussing the Bill, we will have to consider the current availability of maternity entitlement for the women of our country. It is a matter of deep concern in a situation where women are not able to access to their basic rights. The huge majority of working women fall within the unorganised sector and though the Act itself states that they too are entitled to maternity benefits, the reality is that most of these women are denied their rights. Indeed, in many cases pregnancy is a reason for depriving the poor of this protective legislation, which often serves to make women more vulnerable in the job market. Hence, one of the most important tasks of the Labour Ministry should be to make sure that the maternity entitlement of women reach them when they are most needed. Enhancing the entitlements should also be accompanied by measures to ensure that women do not become victims of this unjust practice of reducing women's employment, which is engaged in by many employers to avoid their commitment on maternity benefits. Unfortunately, the legal provision for penalising the employers who resort to such tactics is observed more in breach. This lacuna will have to be dealt with seriously.

The present amendment proposed by the Ministry regarding the upgradation of the bonus amount payable by the employer, if no pre-natal and post confinement care is provided to the working mother, is a welcome step.

Sir, considering the rise in prices of essential commodities, especially the medical expenses, the amount of increase is very meagre. My submission is that it should be increased to Rs. 5,000/- as suggested by the Standing Committee. While elaborate discussions took place in the Standing Committee, there was a suggestion to enhance it to Rs. 5,000/- to provide some relief for pregnant women and the lactating mother. The payment of the amount should be done in three instalments, twice in pre-natal stage and once in post-natal stage. This also assumes that the Janani Suraksha Yojana will be available at least at the time of delivery.

Secondly, the amendment has suggested that the amount of maternity bonus should be enhanceable by notification as and when the need arises. This is acceptable. However, there is no need to prescribe an upper limit on the amount that would be payable as Medical bonus.

The scope of maternity entitlements and that of improving their implementation in a situation where the recent family health survey outcomes shows an unacceptable degree of malnutrition prevalent among women and a very high MMR-on the one-third women of this country are malnourished and over a half of the women are anaemic. The corresponding figure for men is 28 per cent indicating that even within the poverty, there is a definite female preponderance. Under these circumstances, these issues should be addressed and effective monitoring should be there to implement the existing laws to protect the women and children of our country. Hence, the Ministry should undertake a large review of maternity entitlements, addressing issue like broadening the scope of the Act and improving the access and implementation of this important legislation so that many more working women can be benefited and the health rights of mother and child can be legally safeguarded.

I have a few more suggestions. The present ceiling of ten or more persons in an establishment to avail the benefits be waived off. The applicability of the Act should be universal, that is covering the women working in all unorganised sector. The medical bonus should be disbursed through ESIC network to ensure that it reaches the targeted group. A national corpus involving contribution from employers, employees, State Governments and the Union Government be constituted for meeting the expenditure in this regard. The grant of maternity leave be enhanced to at least 135 days as available to the

[Smt. P. Satheedevi]

employees of the Union Government. Provision for paternity leave of fifteen days also should be there. At last fifteen days of leave should be allowed as paternity leave. That also should be incorporated.

15.00 hrs.

Effective monitoring of all these things should be provided for. The current availability of maternity benefits is highly meagre. Considering this, some more steps should be taken by the Labour Ministry to protect the women of our country. We have completed 60th anniversary of our Independence. The UPA Government has assured the protection of their rights. More and more women are engaged in many activities in the unorganised sector. Their right to motherhood should be protected.

With these words, I support the Bill.

[Translation]

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR (Chail): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak on Maternity Benefit (Amendment) Bill, 2008. Hon'ble Minister has outlined all the benefits in this amendment and my colleagues Sumitra Mahajanji and Krishna Tirathji have told in detail about the pains of motherhood. It is true that mothers hold a place of importance in the society and I noticed that the Bill has provision of pre-natal and post-natal benefits for the C.G.H.S. card holders.

MR. Chairman, Sir, there may be ten or more than ten women working in factories, mines, circus, plantations or in various institutions or shops, we have expressed our concern about them in this House from time to time. Why there is deficiency of blood, deficiency of haemoglobin in women, and the children are in the grip of malnutrition? This has been constantly discussed during Question Hour also. There are lots of health care facilities for women and children but the women working in factories, mines, circus, plantations and in various institutions or women who are working in organized or unorganized sector for whom the Bill has been brought needed to be given more and more benefits. The hon'ble Member has enumerated the benefits which have been given under Employee State Insurance Act, 1948 and Maternity Benefit Act, 1961 like maternity leave of upto 12 weeks or a daily wage is entitled to one month's leave during pregnancy or sickness. Only a mother can understand the feelings of a mother. But the period of leave should be increased.

As far as medical bonus is concerned, the hon'ble Minister said that it has been increased from Rs. 250/- to Rs. 1000/- which is a meager amount. In these days, when prices are so high, a pregnant woman has to pay monthly visit to her doctor for check up. She needs injections and medicines from time to time. She needs fruits etc. in her diet and Vitamins as well. Then, there are celebrations after the birth of the child like Chhathi is celebrated after the birth of child. It requires lot of money. How can poor woman labourer spend this much. The amount should be increased to at least Rs. 5,000/-. The hon'ble Minister is shaking his head, but he should positively increase this amount. It needs to be implemented. The purpose of the Bill will be fulfilled only if it is implemented. The provision of Rs. 20,000/- or time to time increase in medical bonus is alright, but it is not sufficient as some women are working on higher posts. They go to nursing homes or hospitals and want to get admitted in private rooms, because infants are susceptible to infections at the time of birth.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to say through you that National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme which was being implemented in some districts earlier, has now been implemented throughout the country. There is a provision for these women of rural areas who hold job cards that if they are employed anywhere under this scheme and if they are engaged for works like digging of ponds and drains or laying of kharana. If they have small kids, then a temporary child care centre has to be set up by the contractor, Pradhan or the Secretary of the village, but nothing is being done. There are provisions for the women employed under this scheme, but these are not being implemented. Now, the hon'ble Minister would say that this does not come under his department. He should at least intimate the Ministry of Rural Development about it. Our Minister of State in the Ministry of Health is leaving, she should stay and listen as she herself is a woman and can understand their pain better, she should write to the hon'ble Minister and Ministry of Rural Development that women should be given special benefits to enable them look after their children properly.

With these words, I conclude and support the Bill. And I will support it even more when hon'ble Minister increases this amount to Rs. 5,000/-

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV (Patna): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thank you for giving me this opportunity to speak on this important Bill. Honourable Minister has presented Maternity Benefit (Amendment) Bill, 2008 which is an amendment to the Act of 1961. He has proposed to

increase the medical bonus from Rs. 250 Rs. 1000. It is a welcome step definitely. I thank the honourable Minister for taking the right step of increasing the maternity bonus.

We thank the honourable Minister that he has understood the agony of women working in private sector as organized labourers, women are contributing in nation building by participating in various activities. Half the population of our country consists of women and I feel that country cannot progress until their financial condition is strengthened. The last few years have witnessed an increase in the number of working women. Although our development rate is rising and foreign exchange is increasing and we are becoming prosperous but on the other hand certain sections of our society are getting poorer. Even today labourers in our country are not getting meal twice a day. Almost 30 percent population is living in straitened circumstances and women are also a part of it. Now a day everybody is taking about Women Empowerment and Government have taken various steps in this regard. I feel that even today the condition of women is rather pathetic...*(Interruptions)* We are not against reservation. We are ready to support reservation on certain conditions and there is a need to make certain changes.

Sir, I would like to quote some figures regarding working women in our country. In 2004, 62 lakh men and 20.44 lakh women were working in private sector and 153.60 lakh men and 28.90 lakh women were working in public sector.

Sir, woman is mother and the world will come to an end without her. So, women play an important role in this world but we have not taken care of them. The way they are being exploited is a matter of serious concern. As you come from a rural area, you will understand and even the House will understand the plight of women working brickkilns, fields and at construction sites. Although they earn something through sheer hard labour yet they are unable to feed their children properly. This is the situation. A pregnant woman needs 2700 calories to give birth to a healthy child. But they do not get it and their children starve. Children are the future of our country. If we want to strengthen then our country, we would have to save them from malnutrition, anemia and diseases. If the children fall in the grip of diseases then the vision of healthy India will not materialize. Human Resource is most important for the economy of our country. Human resource is the backbone of India. If our Human Resource weakens then it will affect India adversely. This particularly requires

our attention. You can look at the children of poor families. Some are handicapped and some are victim of malnutrition. Arrangements should be made to provide 2700 calories necessary for a pregnant lady. Honourable Minister has made an attempt in the right direction. You can see the situation prevailing due to price hike, a pregnant woman needs care in several ways: She needs regular check ups. She needs various things at the time of delivery. I think one thousand rupees are insufficient. Government should consider to increase this amount so that a mother could bring up her child properly, save him or her from malnutrition and thus the future of India could be strengthened.

Now with the advent of new economic policy various multinational companies have come to India. It is with regret that I draw your attention to the fact that the environment is not conducive for women working there. They are meted out ill treatment when they are in family way. They are asked to choose between work and motherhood. This issue needs to be paid attention. It is great that a law is being enacted and it should be so. But it is necessary ensure that it is implemented properly. The Government should bring an amendment bill to bring those persons to task who are responsible for exploitation of women belonging to weaker sections so that they are saved from further harassment. At present 93 percent workforce is in unorganized sector putting in labour. Our country is developing with their contribution only. If we do not pay attention towards them then they will continue to lag behind.

Who are the people working in fields? They belong to this section only. Our country is the country of villages and farmers. Our economy is based on agriculture. Unless we pay attention to the people working there, our country cannot develop. The condition of women working in unorganized sector is a matter of concern. They require our special attention. We want to help them by enacting this law in some sectors but still large number of women will be deprived of its benefits. Women need year help. The Government should think about them. How many women are educated. Women choose teaching or nursing but only two percent women are working in these sectors. Remaining 98 percent women also need help. Concrete steps are required for them including an increase in the amount.

I fully agree with Shrimati Sumitra Mahajan that the maternity leave should be extended.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude now.

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: The hon'ble Minister should definitely increase this amount. If an Amendment is needed in this regard then it should be carried out to save the future of our country, to save children from malnutrition who are the strength of our country. We have to take concrete steps for the poor and labourers of our country. Our country is the country of labourers and farmers.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I am taking this as the end of your speech.

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Sir, I am concluding now. The Government should provide as much amount as it deems sufficient. The Government has taken several steps during the last few days be it regarding the insurance of labourers working in organized sector...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please take your seat. Nothing will go on record.

...*(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

SHRIMATI KRISHNA TIRATH: I would like to ask two more questions. For how many children the leave benefit is given and in case of miscarriage, how many times this benefit could be availed?

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have already spoken. You cannot be permitted to speak again.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: You may submit a written statement. Whatever you are saying will not go on record.

...*(Interruptions)**

MR. CHAIRMAN: You may give in writing. Hon'ble Minister will consider it.

[English]

SHRI A. KRISHNASWAMY (Sriperumbudur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thank you very much for giving me this opportunity to speak on this Bill.

I rise to support this Bill on behalf of my DMK Party. I am compelled to speak on the subject. It is about the enhancement of the maternity benefit amount. I welcome the amendment which has been brought forward by the hon. Minister. I feel that the enhanced amount from Rs. 250 to Rs. 100 is not sufficient. I am quite unhappy about this enhancement. Therefore, I would request the hon. Minister to enhance the amount from the present Rs. 250 to Rs. 6000. This is well and good.

In today's scenario, bonus means the amount which one gets in bulk. Bonus encourages a person. Will this bonus encourage the mother or will it encourage the child? It will not encourage both.

According to the 1961 Act, in the year 1961 when this Scheme was implemented, the amount of Rs. 250 might be a good bonus. At that time, the amount of Rs. 250 had good money value. After 37 years, in the present day scenario, this amount of Rs. 1000 will not compare with that of Rs. 250 which was given in those days. If you could give Rs. 25,000, that may be a bonus which will encourage the mother and the child. Therefore, I urge upon the Government to enhance the amount from Rs. 1000 to Rs. 6000. Already, the standing Committee has recommended it to be enhanced to Rs. 5000. Why has this Government not taken into account the recommendation of the Standing Committee? Why is it giving only Rs. 1000?

As Shri Ram Kripal Yadav has said, a lot of multinational companies are booming in our country. Actually, in my constituency, there are more than 100 multinational companies. Those multinational companies, without knowing this Act, are paying Rs. 3000-5000 as maternity benefit. It is given just as the pocket money. They are paying Rs. 5000. But, today, this Act will send the message all over the country, particularly to the multinational companies that the Government has amended the Act and enhanced the amount to only Rs. 1000.

This will affect all the women who are employed in multinational companies. Till today, those company authorities do not know that such an Act exists in the country and they have to pay Rs. 250 to their women employees at the time of their pregnancy. This will give a bad message to those companies. So, I request the Minister to withdraw this Bill today and bring a new Bill with enhanced bonus amount. That will be useful to those women who are employed in private companies. All the

Members who have spoken on this Bill so far have demanded enhancement of the bonus amount. I hope the hon. Minister will agree to this demand.

Now, I would like to bring to the notice of this august House what the Government of Tamil Nadu is doing for the welfare of the unorganised sector workers and women who are below the poverty line. In Tamil Nadu, the Government is paying the women below the poverty line Rs. 1,000 every month prior to the delivery and Rs. 3,000 every month after the delivery so as to ensure better nutrition both to the mother as well as the child. This will help encourage the mother to bring up the child well so that we get human resource in the country.

Then, when a pregnant woman goes to the hospital for check up, it takes about four to five hours for a complete medical check up during which time the pregnant woman needs good lunch. So, yesterday the hon. Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu issued an order that the Government of Tamil Nadu will provide good lunch to those poor women when they go to hospital for medical check up. Moreover, in Tamil Nadu, the Government is giving free medical check up to poor women with ultrasound scan and other tests that are required for pregnant women.

Therefore, I, once again, request the hon. Minister to take back this Bill and come forward with a new Bill by enhancing this bonus amount to Rs. 6,000 which will be useful to the women who are employed in private establishments. I hope the Government will agree to this demand because this UPA Government is headed by the Congress Party which got freedom for Mother India and the Congress Party is headed by a mother, Annai Soniaji and I hope this Government will take care of such poor mothers in this country. So, I request the Government to enhance this amount.

[Translation]

*SHRI SUGRIB SINGH (Phulbani): Respected Chairman Sir, I thank you for allowing me to speak on the Maternity Benefit Amendment Bill 2008. Sir, I rise to support this Bill. Hon. Minister is here. This Bill intends to empower women by extending maternity benefits to them which is a welcome step. Many hon. Members, including my women colleagues have placed their valuable opinions, comments and suggestions in this august House.

They have highlighted the problems women go through and expressed sincere concern for their well being. I respect their views and support them whole-heartedly. But I would also like to draw the attention of the Hon. Minister to some lacunae of the Bill.

As I am speaking in Oriya, I presume my brother from West-Bengal are able to understand me. Sir, I would like to speak about Employees State Insurance Company which is being managed by the Government of India. In order to give benefit to pregnant women employees, the Government has taken some positive steps. But the Amendment Bill which is being discussed today need some alteration. Prior to me many hon. Members have spoken about the inadequacies in the benefits extended to women. Many provisions are rather insignificant. Sir, employees in the private sector contribute 6.5% from the salaries towards provident fund, the employees contribution is 4.75% and the Government is giving 1.75%. This amount is deposited with the Government. But what is the Government doing to protect our women folk—our 'MATRASHAKTI'? I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister as to what is the contribution of the Government to our women folk? What happens to all those funds which is accumulated over a period of time from the employees contribution? Do the Government have a clear-cut transparent financial management policy? I would like to know from the Minister.

Sir, this Bill intends to bring changes to the existing Bill of 1951. But the provisions are inadequate. Raising the financial assistance from Rs. 250/- to Rs. 1000/- is not sufficient. I feel the amount should be increased to Rs. 5000/-. In case of Government employees the ceiling limit should be increased from Rs. 20,000/- to Rs. 1,00,000/-. Regarding maternity leave, Sir, I would like to say Sir, the leave period should be extended upto six months.

Unless the mother is strong and healthy how can she give birth and raise healthy children? The Government must extend all cooperation to the expectant mothers. The husbands of the neo-natal mothers should also get adequate paternity leave to extend their helping hand. Sir, this Bill was brought in a hurry and is to be passed in a jiffy. But I feel adequate thought has not gone in to it. This Bill has a far-reaching impact and will affect the lives of millions of women in this country. Sir, our Constitution speaks of "Protective Discrimination". And if we do not protect our 'MATRASHAKTI' who will?

*English Translation of the speech originally delivered in Oriya.

[Shri Sugrib Singh]

Sir, these days our country is flooded with Multi National Corporations, where they engage the women on a contractual basis. Because of this 'Contract' nature of their job, the women employees stay out of the purview of the ESI Scheme. This is very unfair Sir. I feel the hon'ble Minister should investigate and take effective steps to benefit the employees of the non-government sector by bringing them under the ambit of the ESI Scheme. I feel the hon'ble Minister is now a little absent minded as I am speaking in Oriya.

I would like to bring to the notice of the hon. Minister that there are so many multinational companies in our country and all their employees are employed on contract basis and so they are not getting the benefit of maternity leave and ESI benefits. So, I request the hon. Minister to look into this matter and take necessary action.

[English]

SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO (Bolangir): Mr. Chairman Sir, I welcome the Maternity Benefit (Amendment) Bill 2008. It is a very important legislation and a gender sensitive legislation.

The most productive years in a woman's life are also the reproductive years of her life and today, we find more and more women seeking employment and going out of the house to work. Out of the 460 million strong workforce in the country, 26 per cent comprises of women. Protecting the maternity of women workers is a basic human right and a key element of gender equality.

Maternity protection is essential to ensure that women's work does not threaten health during pregnancy and recovery from child birth. It enables women to return to work after child birth and maternity leave. The objective of maternity leave and benefits is to protect the dignity of motherhood by providing for full and healthy maintenance of woman and child. We must ensure that women take their rightful place in the mainstream of economic development.

In a democratic welfare State like ours, right from the Preamble of our Constitution to the Fundamental Rights and Directive Principles of State Policy, the Government is committed to improve the status of women.

I have gone through the report of the Standing Committee and I was a little bewildered that the Ministry, before finalizing the draft Bill, had not even bothered to

invite the views of various women organizations, trade unions and social workers. That spade work was done by the Standing Committee and the irony is that after all the hard work done by the Standing Committee, none of its recommendations have been implemented. They have not been incorporated into this amendment Bill. Whatever is being given to us in this Maternity Benefit Bill is being given in a very, forgive me for saying it in grudging manner, I would say.

Now, coming to the Bill, I will not repeat whatever provisions of the amendment Bill are. I just want to mention here that whoever came up with this figure of Rs. 1000 to be given as medical bonus either has not suffered of experienced pregnancy in his own family for a very long time because we all know that even if a woman during pregnancy seeks an appointment with a doctor, the minimum fee which a doctor charges is Rs. 250 to Rs. 300 and if she goes for an ultrasound in a place like Max- all right, not everybody goes to an elitist hospital like Max, but even to an ordinary hospital-the amount still is very high. So, where does this figure of Rs. 1000 seem rational? The explanation given is that it is based on some calculation done through some Consumer Price Index. I am not a very clever finance person but I would like to appeal to the hon. Minister as a woman and as a mother that this just does not gel. It needs to be enhanced. The Committee's recommendations of Rs. 5,000 is the bare minimum which we can take into account. They have also requested to remove this cap of Rs. 20,000 which has been put and which needs to be reviewed every three years, which should be done away with.

Secondly, the Principal Act should be amended to cover establishments employing five people at least because now in the computer age and with the information technology boom, many offices and many work places do not really employ much man power. They are all dependent on technology. So, rather than have this 10 person provision, I think, we should bring it down to five.

Besides that, there was a recommendation to have a National Corpus Fund with contributions from the Central and the State Government as well as employees. Neither has that been taken into account.

They have recommended that the Principal Act should be examined and maternity leave should be enhanced and put at par with the Central Government employees, that is, up to 135 days. This seems fair enough. Why

should there be a preferential treatment? After all, everybody is equal in the country, supposedly.

The last point which I would like to make here is to broaden the scope of the Act. The Principal Act should be made applicable to all women working in the organized sector until the legislation covering the unorganized sector is brought forward by the Government. If I understand correctly, the hon. Minister has just mentioned that the Social Security Bill covers this aspect, but it would be nice if we could cover this under this Bill because many times, there is overlapping of issues, which leads to tremendous ambiguity.

Here I would also draw the attention of the hon. Minister to a Supreme Court judgement in the MCD versus Female Workers case of 2000, where the Supreme Court examined the provisions of the Maternity Benefits Act and observed that in the context of the preamble, which promises social and economic justice, article 14 of the Fundamental Rights, which provides for equality before law, etc., article 15 of the Fundamental Rights which, besides prohibiting discrimination on various grounds, permits the State to make special provisions for women and children.

Then to come to the Directive Principles, article 39 which enjoins the States to secure adequate means of livelihood to men and women, equal pay for equal work and the health and strength of workers, article 42 of the Directive Principles directs the State to make provision for securing just and humane conditions of work and for maternity relief, especially. These are all provisions of the Constitution which are there to enforce social justice and to improve the status of women.

Besides this, India has also ratified various international conventions and human rights instruments like the CEDAW in 1993, which directs the State to take all measures to eliminate discrimination against women in the field of employment and in particular, the right to protection of health and safety in working conditions, including the safeguarding of the function of reproduction. We all know that there exists an enormous gap between the goals enunciated in the Constitution, legislation, policies, plans, programmes and the actual status of women in India.

After 61 years of Independence, is this Amendment Bill with two little amendments all that we could come up with?

We all know that our nation is one where the MMR is the second highest in the world, as mentioned by my colleagues, and is estimated to be 540 per 1,00,000 live births. Approximately, 1,25,000 women die each year due to pregnancy and pregnancy related causes like poverty, malnutrition. The National Family Health Survey has reported that one-third of Indian women are malnourished, while over one-half of the Indian women are anaemic. They also die due to lack of adequate health care during pregnancy.

It has been noted that there exists a higher percentage of child births and low MMR in States which have institutionalised deliveries. According to the ILO report, only 48 per cent of women give birth in hospitals or health centres in developing countries. Therefore, we should also try and develop better training system for skilled health workers even in rural areas.

The National Health Policy aims to reduce the MMR to 100 per 1,00,000 live births by 2010, which is two years away.

At our recent rate of decline, which is 16 points per year during the period 1973 to 2003, does it seem plausible? We would have to bring in radical changes. We have to put in huge quantum of investment into the desired sectors.

As per the data regarding the disbursement of maternity bonus to women employees in the country, if you look at Maharashtra, which is one of the highest populated States in India, the statistics show that in 2003, only 545 women employees were benefited by the medical bonus scheme. In 2004, 410 women employees were benefited; in 2005, 353 women employees were benefited. Punjab absolutely takes the cake, the icing and even the Baker's Daughter. It says that in 2004, the number of women employees who benefited is nil; in 2005 it is 1; in 2006 it is 3. How these statistics have been reached upon is anybody's guess.

So, I would request the hon. Minister that he should kindly incorporate the relevant suggestions of the Standing Committee and our suggestions as well and come out with a more comprehensive Bill.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI KALPNA RAMESH NARHIRE
(Osmanabad): Mr. Chairman, Sir, thank you very much.

[Smt. Kalpna Ramesh Narhire]

Supporting this Bill, I would like to express my views. It has been mentioned that as per Maternity Benefit Act, 1961, all women employees are entitled to get maternity leave of 12 weeks with average daily wages. She is entitled for additional one month leave with wages in case of illness due to pregnancy. She is also entitled for 6 weeks leave in case of miscarriage. These provisions made by you in this Act are very good. There is a proverb in Marathi "Jichha Hati Palanyachi Dauri Ti Jagala Uddhan". One of the facilities supposed to be provided in this Bill includes cash payment of a bonus of Rs. 1000/- but it is insufficient. Hence, all the women members have demanded that it should be enhanced. I also demand that they should be provided a bonus of Rs. 5000/-.

Sir, all of us see that few children are born here with the silver spoon in their mouth and a number of children take birth on the streets. They do not get any facility. Even a woman having nine months pregnancy has to work full day and after doing work for full day, she does not earn the money sufficient to purchase nutritious food and medicines, which a pregnant woman is supposed to have. Therefore, they have to face a lot of problems. Due to this reason, when such a woman delivers a baby, he or she is usually found to be malnourished and that is why the number of malnourished children is increasing in India. It is my humble submission that such provisions should be made in this Bill under which nutritious food and medicines can be provided to pregnant women of the poor families. Such provisions should be made in this Bill so that more and more facilities could be provided to the pregnant women.

Mr. Chairman Sir, there is a large number of such women in our country who despite being at advance stage a pregnancy to do manual work and returning from their work they do not even get nutritious food. I, therefore, request that provisions should be made in this Bill so that they could get the nutritious food and medicines which are supposed to be given to a pregnant woman. Your object of introducing this Bill is very noble, but it is to be seen whether the provisions made in this Bill will be beneficial to women employees or not. We have seen that with good intention we get a Bill passed here but it does not benefit the targetted group. I just want to say that women living in rural areas at least get the services of a local 'vaidya' but here child does not get the nutritious food. Hence, I urge that such a provision

should be made through this Bill so that children living in rural areas can get nutritious food. We should take care of the health of the mother who brings a new life in the world.

With these words, I would like to conclude.

[English]

SHRI PRABODH PANDA (Midnapore): Mr. Chairman, Sir, at the very outset, I welcome this Maternity Benefit (Amendment) Bill, 2008. While presenting this Bill, the Minister himself referred to a comprehensive legislation for the unorganized workers, but I do not know when that sort of legislation will come into light. It was our expectation that it would be coming very soon. But, since formation of the UPA Government, nothing has been done so far. Now the time is going fast. I do not know when it will be coming in this august House itself.

Many other aspects related to the organized workers have been mentioned here; several hon. Members mentioned them very efficiently. I am only touching the problems of the working women. The social security still eludes most workers in the informal sectors especially the women workers. There are many social security schemes but the existing schemes are mainly restricted to the organized sector which is barely 10 per cent of the workforce. So, 90 per cent of the workforce is engaged in unorganized sector, and mostly they are engaged in paddy fields and in cultivation. But, for the millions in the unorganized sector, social security continues to be missing. So the problem is more acute for the women workers. They are not only workers, they play triple role in our society. They play the role of workers, they are mothers and they are housewives. So the special security provisions should be there for women, for the working women especially. In the absence of any provision for maternity leave and child care, the woman worker, who has children, often has to leave her job to take care of her children. This is the situation. In such a situation, the Standing Committee dealt with the problems in depth.

The hon. Minister referred to the recommendations of the Standing Committees. But, just I fail to understand why he did not respond to the recommendations made by the Standing Committees.

When he has taken is a very small one. It seems that he is giving peanuts to children. The major recommendations made by the Standing Committee have been ignored.

What are the major recommendations of the Standing Committee? The Standing Committee, in its Report, recommended that the maternity bonus should be raised to Rs. 5,000/-. Several Members also pointed that. It also said that there is no need to specify the maximum limit on how much bonus could be raised by the Central Government. Here, a limit has been mentioned. Even that recommendation has not been properly addressed to. The principal Act should be amended to cover establishments employing five people or more but now it is mentioned here as ten people. So, it should be five people or more. This was the recommendation. It should be applicable to all women working in the unorganized sector until the legislation covering the unorganized sector has been brought forward by the Government. It is not clear to us as to when it would be brought forward. Till that time, what would be the fate of the unorganized workers? Nothing has been mentioned here, and that point has not been addressed to in this Amendment Bill.

Sir, not only the Standing Committee but the Reports of several agencies say that 80 per cent of Indian women are under-nourished and anaemic, and the maternal mortality rate in India is among the highest in the world. This is how our nation is moving and our country is moving in such a way. So, maternal mortality is the highest in India. It has been recommended for the creation of a national corpus fund with contributions from the Central Government and State Governments as well to deal with this issue. Nothing has been mentioned about that.

In this august House, I would like the hon. Minister, in his reply, assure us that the Government is already thinking or pondering over for the creation of that sort of corpus fund. The principal Act should be amended for this. This is not about only one amendment. The principal Act is going to be amended. The recommendation was that it should be amended to extend the maternity leave from 12 weeks to 135 days. This point has already been mentioned very emphatically, very clearly and very efficiently by several hon. Members, particularly the women Members in this august House. Not only that, it has been correctly mentioned about the paternity leave. The recommendation of the Standing Committee was that 15 days' paternity leave should be available as it is available to the Central Government employees. Why it is not being extended to others to that extent?

Sir, I am not going to touch other points. While supporting and welcoming this Bill, I would request the hon. Minister to tell us, throw some light about other recommendations of the Standing Committee, and also bring forward a comprehensive legislation for the unorganized workers in this House after the recess of this Budget Session.

With these words, I once again welcome and support this Bill.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, we shall take up the Supplementary List of Business-Papers to be laid on the Table.

16.00 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE—*Contd.*

[English]

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS
(SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) A copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs, for the year 2008-09.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 8479/08]

- (2) A copy of the Outcome Budget (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs, for the year 2008-09.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 8480/08]

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R.
BHARDWAJ): I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) A copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Law and Justice, for the year 2008-09.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 8481/08]

- (2) A copy of the Outcome Budget (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Law and Justice, for the year 2008-09.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 8482/08]

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): I beg to lay on the Table—

(1) A copy each of the following Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions):—

(i) Ministry of Tourism for the year 2008-09.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 8483/08]

(ii) Ministry of Culture for the year 2008-09.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 8484/08]

(2) A copy each of the following Outcome Budgets (Hindi and English versions):—

(i) Ministry of Tourism for the year 2008-09.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 8485/08]

(ii) Ministry of Culture for the year 2008-09.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 8486/08]

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): On behalf of Shri Prem Chand Gupta, I beg to lay on the Table—

(1) A copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Corporate Affairs, for the year 2008-09.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 8487/08]

(2) A copy of the Outcome Budget (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Corporate Affairs, for the year 2008-09.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 8488/08]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): I beg to lay on the Table—

(1) A copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Food Processing Industries, for the year 2008-09.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 8489/08]

(2) A copy of the Outcome Budget (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Food Processing Industries, for the year 2008-09.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 8490/08]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUÉ): On behalf of Shri Praful Patel, I beg to lay on the Table—

(1) A copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Civil Aviation for the year 2008-09.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 8491/08]

(2) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:—

(i) Statement regarding Review by the Government of the working of the Vayudoot Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2006-07.

(ii) Annual Report of the Vayudoot Limited, New Delhi, for the 2006-07, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

(3) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (2) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 8492/08]

(4) A copy of the Outcome (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Civil Aviation for the year 2008-09.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 8493/08]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUÉ): I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research, S.A.S. Nagar, for the year 2006-07 together with Audit Report thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 8494/08]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): I beg to lay on the Table—

(1) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under section 48 of the Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999:—

- (i) The Foreign Exchange Management (Transfer or Issue of Security by a Person Resident Outside India (Third Amendment) Regulations, 2007 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 737(E) in Gazette of India dated the 29th November, 2007.
- (ii) The Foreign Exchange Management (Foreign Exchange Derivative Contracts) (Amendment) Regulations, 2007 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 760(E) in Gazette of India dated the 7th December, 2007.
- (iii) The Foreign Exchange Management (Foreign Currency Accounts by a Person Resident in India) (Second Amendment) Regulations, 2007 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 778(E) in Gazette of India dated the 19th December, 2007.
- (iv) The Foreign Exchange Management (Transfer or Issue of any Foreign Security) (Amendment) Regulations, 2007 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 13(E) in Gazette of India dated the 15th January, 2008.
- (v) The Foreign Exchange Management (Remittance of Assets) (Second Amendment) Regulations, 2007 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 90(E) in Gazette of India dated the 15th February, 2008.
- (vi) The Foreign Exchange Management (Deposit) (Third Amendment) Regulations, 2007 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 91(E) in Gazette of India dated the 15th February, 2008.
- (vii) The Foreign Exchange Management (Foreign Currency Accounts by a Person Resident in India) (Amendment) Regulations, 2008 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 92(E) in Gazette of India dated the 15th February, 2008.
- (viii) The Foreign Exchange Management (Permissible Capital Account Transactions) (Amendment) Regulations, 2007 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 14 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 5th January, 2008.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 8495/08]

- (2) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (3) of section 21 of the Coinage Act, 1906:-

- (i) The Coinage of the Fifty Rupees and Five Rupees coined to commemorate the event of "Golden Jubilee Celebration of Khadi and Village Industries Commission", Rules, 2007 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 470(E) in Gazette of India dated the 5th July, 2007.
- (ii) The Coinage of the Five Rupees of Ferritic Stainless Steel coined to commemorate the occasion of "GOLDEN JUBILEE CELEBRATION OF KHADI AND VILLAGE INDUSTRIES COMMISSION", Rules, 2007 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 660(E) in Gazette of India dated the 15th October, 2007.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 8496/08]

16.02 hrs.

MATERNITY BENEFIT (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2008—*contd.*

[*Translation*]

SHRIMATI RUPATAI D. PATIL (Latur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am thankful for giving me an opportunity to speak on Maternity Benefit (Amendment) Bill, 2008.

Sir, this Bill has been introduced to make special provisions for granting Maternity Leave during pregnancy and payment of Post Delivery Bonus to the women mostly working in unorganized private sector.

Sir, a large number of working women are engaged in unorganized sector. Out of 460 million total workforce, leaving only 24 million people, rest of the workforce is working in unorganized sector. The women constitute around 26 per cent of the total workforce. The women workforce is mainly engaged in call centres, retail sector, shopping malls, road, building and bridge construction, domestic work and agriculture sector, etc. There is a need to bring all such women in the ambit of this Bill also. There should be an unambiguous definition of unorganized sector. A large number of labourers are engaged in sugarcane harvesting and the women constitute around half of them. Not to talk of maternity facilities, leave and bonus, they are not even paid an appropriate remuneration. The Government need to bring all the employers in the ambit of this amendment Bill.

[Shrimati Rapatai D. Patil]

Sir, under section 8 of this amendment Bill, a provision has been made for payment of maximum of one thousand rupees by the employer for the delivery related expenses. But keeping in view the rising prices, a bonus of Rs. one thousand is rather meagre. Under the present medical treatment scenario in the country, the expenses of treatment are increasing not only in private hospitals but Government hospitals also. The expenses of Private hospitals have gone beyond the paying capacity of a common man.

16.04 hrs.

[DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY *in the chair*]

What is the value of one thousand rupees in present situation? If a woman undergoes a caesarean operation it will incur huge expenses, who will compensate for that?

The Government should consider this and increase maternity bonus at least up to Rs. 5,000/- and make provision to increase it by the employer on the basis of ascending rate of inflation.

Sir, the Government have fixed the upper limit of Rs. 20,000/- under Section 8(2) of this Act. I register my objection on it and say that if the Government is in favour of women labourers, there is no need to fix an upper limit in this regard.

The Bill brought for the women working in unorganized sector by the Government could be beneficial only when the benefit reaches the women engaged as agriculture labourers, domestic workers and to those women, working at a place where according to the definition of the Government more than 10 labour are employed. It has been seen that some employers do not keep records and pay lesser wages to the women. How can such an employer give maternity leave and maternity bonus? How can the Government make it mandatory? The punishment should also be there to make it mandatory keeping in view the functioning of bureaucratic system in the country.

I urge upon the Government to ensure the implementation of this Amendment Bill brought for the security of the womenfolk to achieve its objectives and increase the amount of bonus.

*SHRI M. SHIVANNA (Chamrajanagar): Sir, the Maternity Benefit (Amendment) Bill, 2007 has been brought before the Parliament and I whole heartedly

**English Translation of the speech originally delivered in Kannada.*

support this bill. Let me congratulate the Hon'ble Minister Shri Oscar Fernandes ji for bringing this bill.

Sir, our Indian culture has a lot of respect for women. We respect woman as a mother, as a sister and as a daughter. We use to call women as "MATHRISHREE", Since time immemorial we believe in that "God is there, where women are respected". It is our sincere duty to encourage our women to live a happy and peaceful life with dignity. We should give proper education to our women. Only educated women can mould a bright future for our children. Now-a-days, women are working in unorganised sectors, agriculture field etc., to earn their livelihood. The condition of the middle and lower class women is very pathetic.

Sir, the Bill seeks to raise the amount of maternity bonus from Rs. 250/ to Rs. 1,000/. I strongly feel that it is insufficient. Neither the mother nor the child be benefited from this meagre sum. Therefore, through you, I request the Hon'ble Minister, who is very generous and very much capable to understand the problems of the poor women, to increase this sum to Rs. 5,000/.

Another thing is that this bonus should be made available to all women working in the unorganised sectors, agriculture field, garment industries etc. More than 80 percent of Indian women are undernourished. It is the duty of the government to ensure sufficient food for women in general and particularly for pregnant women and lactating mothers.

These days in hospitals the doctors and staff nurses are demanding bribe to provide medical treatment and other services. Therefore, Rs. 1000/- maternity bonus is not going to help our poor women. Another thing I would suggest is that maternity leave should be extended from 12 weeks to 135 days. We all know that the enforcement of the existing law is not proper. Therefore, the enforcement machinery should be strengthened. In Karnataka, services of the Anganwadi workers are being extended to help the pregnant women and lactating mother and child. This is matter of serious concern that the Anganwadi workers are being terminated from their services as per the direction of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India.

Sir, I once again congratulate the Hon'ble Minister and support the Bill on behalf of my Party J.D. (S) and on my own behalf. With these few words, I conclude my speech.

16.08 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, I would request Mr. Radhakrishnan to speak. You are requested to be very brief.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil): Sir, I am supporting this Bill, but at the same time, it is not with satisfaction. There are reasons for it.

In our country, there are two Acts. One is the Employees' State Insurance Act. We call it ESI Act. It is ESI Act of 1948. This Act is Maternity Benefit Act of 1961. These two Acts cover more or less the same area. Maternity Benefit Act is now applicable to all the institutions, irrespective of the fact whether it is a factory or not. Now, Act's application is restricted to factories and some other specified establishments. At any rate, these two statutes give special protection to mothers.

Now, this amendment is brought with a view to increase the amount of medical benefit from Rs. 250 to Rs. 1000. There is a statutory limitation also imposed in the Amendment Bill up to Rs. 20,000. When considering this enhancement, we will have to take into consideration certain other aspects which I would like to urge before this House.

The first thing in our country is that previously, there was no family planning. In families, the couples may have six children and above, or half a dozen and above, or even a dozen or even 14, 15 or 16 children. So, the natural tendency will be that all these poor children were brought up by breast feeding. So, at the time when the twelfth delivery is over, the mother will get exhausted.

She was breastfeeding all the 13 or 14 children born before. Nowadays a tendency has developed. In the TV, we find the advertisements about the brassieres. Most of the young women are attracted by them. They want to protect their breasts. The moment the delivery is over, they will never attempt to do breastfeeding. We must realise that there is no substitute for mother's milk. It is self-sufficient for the child. So far, science has not found a substitute for mother's milk. That is the only wholesome food that a child can get when it is born. But, unfortunately, the child's right is denied by the mothers. It is also a human right violation if I may put it. All our young mothers who deliver children are now delivering

only up to two children. They will immediately stop breastfeeding denying the lawful right of the child to get his growth by breastfeeding. That must be very strictly enforced.

One thing that I will have to stress here is that breastfeeding is a prevention for breast cancer also. If you do not practice breastfeeding and tie down the breasts immediately after delivery, the natural tendency will be that it will lead to breast cancer. So, our young mothers should realise that by using brassieres immediately after delivery, they are doing a disservice not only to the child but to the society as well. After all, they have only two deliveries. Why not they do the breastfeeding for the children? Previously, our mothers breastfed 12 or 14 children. Now our young mothers have to do breastfeeding for two children only because family planning is the law of the land. They must make it sure or there must be something in this statute to give them some incentives for breastfeeding. For that there must be a provision. When you give medical reimbursement, there must be a provision for breastfeeding also.

The amount of Rs. 1,000 that is proposed in the Act is nothing. They must be given all the benefits. They are the workforce of the country. The elite ladies may do it. They will immediately stop it. That will be enforced to other mothers. But our working force, working employees must have a tendency to breastfeed their children as soon as they are born.

Now, I would like to suggest for that purpose that the statute should provide for breastfeeding and an enhanced amount should be provided in the statute giving an impetus or an incentive to the mothers who are doing breastfeeding. It is about the workforce. We, the trade unions, have a duty and we are duty-bound to the society. So, the trade unions should always encourage and also advise the workforce for breastfeeding. Even the workers, immediately after delivery, will use the brassieres and tie down the breasts. Now that is the tendency among the workers. That tendency must be stopped... (*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please address the Chair.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: The working force should not use the brassieres. They must be provided with nutritious food. We cannot simply say that you must do breastfeeding. The workers should be provided with sufficient nutritious food during pregnancy and delivery period. For that purpose, not only in this

[Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan]

Maternity Benefit Act but even in the ESI Act also there must be a specific provision for workers working in the central establishments and other establishments giving them the benefits...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing else should be recorded.

[*Translation*]

Athawale ji, please sit down.

...*(Interruptions)**

[*English*]

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: They must be given some encouragement for practising breastfeeding.

Sir, I would suggest one thing to the hon. Minister. We are all representing the trade unions. The trade unions must also take the initiative and they must tell the working class women that it will be a violation of human rights because the child is having a right to be breastfed. That right is denied by the young mother. That also amounts to human right violation.

So, considering all these aspects I would request the hon. Minister to bring in an amendment by which there must be some encouragement for breastfeeding. We should not leave it to the Health Department. Of course, the Health Department is also duty-bound. But it should not be left to the Health Department alone. But the Labour Department, the working force should also take the initiative to see that the working women are breastfeeding immediately after the delivery. For that purpose, you provide some amount in this Act as well as in the ESI Act so that our society and community at large will get developed.

16.21 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE—*contd.*

[*English*]

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKARSINH VAGHELA): Sir, on behalf of my colleague Shri E.V.K.S. Elangovan, I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Export Promotion Council for Handicrafts, New Delhi, for the year 2006-2007, along with Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Export Promotion Council for Handicrafts, New Delhi, for the year 2006-07.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 8497/08]

- (2) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Carpet Export Promotion Council, Noida, for the year 2006-07, along with Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Carpet Export Promotion Council, Noida, for the year 2006-07.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 8498/08]

- (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Institute of Carpet Technology, Bhadohi, for the year 2006-07, along with Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Indian Institute of Carpet Technology, Bhadohi, for the year 2006-07.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 8499/08]

- (4) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Man-Made Textiles Research Association, Surat, for the year 2006-07, along with Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Man-Made Textiles Research Association, Surat, for the year 2006-07.

- (5) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (4) above.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 8500/08]

- (6) A copy of the Outcome Budget (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Textiles for the year 2008-09.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 8501/08]

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA): Sir, on behalf of my colleague Shri Dinsha J. Patel I beg to lay on the Table—

(1) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under section 62 of the Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board Act, 2006:-

- (i) The Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (Meetings of the Board) Regulations, 2007 published in Notification No. S.O. 731(E) in Gazette of India dated the 26th November, 2007.
- (ii) The Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (Levy of Fee and Other Charges) Regulations, 2007 published in Notification No. S.O. 732(E) in Gazette of India dated the 26th November, 2007.
- (iii) The Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (Conduct of Business, Receiving and Investigation of Complaints) Regulations, 2007 published in Notification No. GSR 744(E) in Gazette of India dated the 30th November, 2007.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 8502/08]

(2) A copy of the Outcome Budget (Hindi and English versions of the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas for the year 2008-09.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 8503/08]

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, on behalf of my colleague Dr. Akhilesh Das, I beg to lay on the Table—

(1) A copy of the Outcome Budget (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Steel for the year 2008-09.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 8504/08]

(2) A copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Steel for the year 2008-09.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 8505/08]

16.22 hrs.

MATERNITY BENEFIT (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2008—*contd.*

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, I request Shrimati Kiran Maheshwari to speak.

[*Translation*]

SHRIMATI KIRAN MAHESHWARI (Udaipur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I welcome the Maternity Benefit Amendment Bill brought by hon. Minister Oscar Fernandes ji. It is a matter of pleasure that he has brought this Bill. I have some suggestions, and I wish that these should be incorporated in it. While speaking on the Bill, I would like to give an introduction that the nature has awarded a woman with a privilege to be a mother and not only in this country, but in entire world, the mother has its own identity, she is worshiped, saluted, and has respectable position in the society. In such a scenario, when we discuss about Maternity Bill, we talk of providing benefits to a mother, a woman who has become a mother, what are the post-natal benefits, which would be extended to her. A number of things have been incorporated in this Bill, such as what are the different sectors under which facilities would be given to mothers and how. Actually there is no comparison of the benefits, she should get as a mother, she should get plenty of facilities. As she is the creator/maker of the society, she gives birth to a child, so she should get all the benefits. But, despite this, the Government have made certain rules and accordingly we would extend these benefits to them. Unfortunately, the mother does not get these benefits, whatever is described that could not be extended to her. This is a harsh reality. Even in the past, many of my colleagues have said that we want to give lot of benefits to mother up to a certain level but we could not do so because there are some limitations or some times we hesitate to extend so many benefits to them and it is indeed true. Earlier, they were getting medical bonus of Rs. 25/- then it was increased to Rs. 250/- and today you have said that this sum would be Rs. 1000/-. I would like to say something about the benefits mentioned under point no. 4 of the Statement of Objects and Reasons in this Bill.

[Shrimati Kiran Maheswari]

[English]

It reads:

"Section 8 of the Maternity Benefits Act, 1961 provides that every woman entitled to maternity benefit shall also be entitled to receive from her employer medical bonus of Rs. 250, if no pre-natal confinement and post-natal care is provided for by the employer free of charge".

[Translation]

My suggestion regarding the condition you have imposed is that you would increase the bonus amount from Rs. 250/- to Rs. 1000/- but on the other hand, condition laid down is that if the employer is extending some more benefits free of cost, then this amount may not be given to her. You are very well aware of the fact that what benefits are being given to the women working in mines, circus industry or tea plantation by their employers. No benefits are given to them during pregnancy, they are rather exploited. They are not given light duties even during that period. You said that if the employer provides any kind of benefit for this purpose, there is no need to give them Rs. 1000/- I would like to say that no such condition should be imposed, because, if the employer provides some benefit to her during pregnancy period or maternity period i.e. post-delivery period, these benefits should be considered as additional benefits. The employer should not be exempted for giving bonus, even if he/she provides some benefits.

As I have said earlier that you intend to give benefit to women but it does not reaches to them. It would be appropriate if a State-level monitoring committee is set up to monitor as to whether Maternity Benefit Act is being implemented in real sense or not, the women are getting their due benefits or not. It would be like a drop in the Ocean until you assess it, as my colleague Sangeeta Singh had said that if we assess in Maharashtra, and Punjab that how much benefits are reaching to them, it is almost negligible. If the benefits to Maternity Benefits mentioned under the Bill do not reach the targeted section of women, there is no use of having such a long discussion on the Bill sitting here in Parliament. We should constitute a monitoring committee to have a close vigilance to see as to whether these women are actually getting these benefits or not. A State-level committee may be set up and it should be made mandatory through an amendment in the Bill.

With these words, I conclude.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shrimati Pratibha Singh.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (Balasore): Sir, from the Government side, so many supplementary items have been laid. We have not received any circular or information with regard to that. We do not know what are the items which have been laid on the Table...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

where has been circulated, we have not received anything. Nobody has received anything. ...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: We do not know what are the items the Government has submitted in the House. We have only been told that there is a Supplementary List of Business and this is being presented. We do not know what are those items...(Interruptions) This is not the way the House should run because the House will adjourn today and we will not be given anything and we will not know what are the items which have been presented...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY (Mandsaur) Sir, Supplementary items are laid neglecting rules. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Pandeya, please listen to me.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: Sir, all of a sudden, they have brought it...(Interruptions) We have received the Supplementary List of Business in which only Shri Kyndiah's item is mentioned...(Interruptions) We have not received anything else. What is this? ...(Interruptions) Sir, we need your protection. At least as Members of the Opposition, we have the right to know what are the items which have been presented...(Interruptions)

[*Translation*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You will get it soon.

...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH (Rajgarh): Sir, hon. Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs is here...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have said that you will get it soon.

...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing should be recorded.

...(*Interruptions*)*

[*Translation*]

SHRIMATI PRATIBHA SINGH (Mandi): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am very grateful to you for allowing me to speak on Maternity Benefit Bill, 2008. As we all are aware that this subject has been discussed in detail here and female members have expressed their views in this regard. I would like to thank Mr. Fernandes, who has sought to give some relief to women by bringing in some amendments in the bill. It has been proposed to increase the medical bonus to Rs. 1000 from Rs. 250. My female colleagues have correctly stated that amount should be increased to Rs. 5000 from Rs. 1000 in view of the price rise and prevailing circumstances, because a pregnant woman has to look after not only herself but has to take care of the baby too whom she is carrying. We always talk of taking care of pregnant women but we should also ensure that a healthy child is born. We can claim that we are concerned about the health of the child to be born only if we provide proper diet, medicines and take good care of the pregnant woman. Therefore, this aspect should also be considered.

It has been discussed here to provide maternity leave to the women working in factories or other institutions.

We all know that there are some families where head of the family do not earn money and women have to take care of their children and family. Hence, they are forced to work even during pregnancy.

Sumitra ji just said that women undertake risky jobs like walking on a rope in circus and other such things even during their 8th or 9th month of pregnancy and they risk their own lives and not of their children because they know that they have to look after the family as well. I would like to request the hon'ble Minister to consider all other aspects. We also have to think about her and her child's future. The hon'ble Minister has proposed to provide maternity leave and I would request the Government to extend the period of maternity leave so that we can take good care of pregnant women during critical period. Their working hours should also be limited. In case, they are compelled to work, they should not be exploited, this aspect should be taken into consideration.

Due to paucity of time, I am expressing my views briefly, though, I would like to say a lot more. Children fall victim to diseases like polio. If we do not pay attention towards these pregnant women then it will affect our future generation. I would like to request the hon'ble Minister to take note of the views and suggestions expressed here. Only then we can take care of the pregnant women.

With these words, I welcome the bill and believe that the hon'ble Minister will pay attention towards the suggestion given in this regard.

SHRIMATI KARUNA SHUKLA (Janjgir): Mr. Deputy Speaker, I half heartedly support the Maternity Benefit (Amendment) Bill, 2008 presented by the hon'ble Minister. I support the bill half heartedly because the provisions of the bill do not seem to be sufficient. It is difficult to imagine the experience of being a mother. In my region there is a saying—'Baanjh kya jaane prasav ki peera' i.e. only a woman who has gone through labour pain and given birth can understand this pain. The hon'ble Minister has half heartedly increased the amount to Rs. 1000 from Rs. 250 which is not sufficient for her to purchase medicines or to visit a good doctor in the present circumstances when prices are so high. Apart from this she requires proper diet after delivery. Mother can feed child properly only if she herself takes proper diet which is impossible to get with such a meagre amount. The proposed amount of Rs. 1000 is like a drop in the ocean. The amount should at least be raised to Rs. 5000. If the Government really wants to make India a healthy country

*Not recorded.

[Smt. Karuna Shukla]

then this amount should be raised to Rs. 5000 instead of Rs. 1000 in the amendment bill. Maternity leave of 3 months is not at all sufficient. If she falls ill or her blood pressure or sugar level increases, then she has to take leave for one month prior to her delivery. In this way she will be left with only two months leave after delivery. Therefore, maternity leave should be extended to six months so that she can regain the strength to resume her work. If she is fully fit then she can work in tea gardens, mines or factories.

It is a common trend in the villages that the rickshaw pullers spend their entire earning on liquor. Every woman is concerned about the health of her baby and she is ready to work hard for this. If one wants to realize this feeling then one should share the feelings of one's mother. There are mothers and wives in every family. These feelings could not be expressed in words. If the hon'ble Minister would appreciate these feelings then surely he would make provisions in the bill. Abortion is equally painful as giving birth to a child. Leave granted in case of abortion is not sufficient. Amount provided in such a case should be increased. Kerala has allocated biggest amount in this regard—3128, 3282 and 3404 in the year 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07 respectively. The Government should take stringent action against the states where the scheme has not been implemented and ask the states to speed up the process where work in this regard is going on at a slow pace. If the hon'ble Minister really wants the welfare of women, then he should kindly incorporate the suggestions given by hon'ble Members of the house in the bill. I am not convinced with the suggestions given by Shri Radhakrishnan ji. His expressions were not appropriate. I did not even like it when he was saying so but I did not want to interrupt him while he was speaking. Shri Radha Krishnan ji is a senior member, we all respect him a lot, but whatever he said about mothers was not appropriate. We always move forward showing full respect to the society and moral values. I do not agree with him and it is my request that suggestions given by all the hon'ble Members may be incorporated in the bill after serious consideration.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am very grateful to you for allowing me to speak.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): Sir, I would like to thank all the hon'ble Members especially all the 18 members, most of them are lady members.

Sir, in the tradition of our country, we respect mother as God. In a couplet, it is said that "matri devo Bhav, Petri Devo bhav, Acharya Devo bhav" means father holds higher place to Guru and mother holds higher place than father. In this way the place of mother is equivalent to that of God. I do agree with the opinion expressed by the women members in the house regarding women, I came across such incidents when I used to work in the fields. Then, suddenly one day a woman failed to attend her work. When I enquired about her absence from work, people said that last night she gave birth to a child. It clearly shows that the said woman was attending work in the field upto the date of her delivery. On that day I realized the problems of women in our country.

So I tried to make some reform in this regard. I agree with the views expressed by all the honourable Members that the amount we have decided to increase is quite meagre under the present circumstances. But we have made a provision to raise this amount upto 20,000 in a time span of three years. However, in Rajya Sabha, discussion on this bill could not be taken up so far.

[English]

there was din in House.

[Translation]

We expected some good suggestions to out from the discussion in Rajya Sabha, but discussion could not be take place there. In this regard, hon'ble Members have given valuable suggestions in this House. In my opinion Government would look into this matter and provision has been made for enhancing this amount to Rs. 1000. Here I want to assure you that we would definitely put heads together in future and talk about it. Whatsoever, we are providing through other points and ESI and required measures would certainly be taken for its enhancement. It was decided to bring a comprehensive bill, we are ready to consider it, this feeling was there in the Ministry also.

[English]

We have to comprehensively have a look at it.

[Translation]

But there were some suggestions from Labour Commission. We have brought this Bill for this speedy implementation. I would like to assure you that

[English]

We will discuss the matter, and bring a comprehensive bill.

[Translation]

Our Standing Committee has given very good suggestions. When we take any decision in Labour Department then we call a tripartite meeting.

[English]

We discuss with the management, employees, State Government and the Central Government.

[Translation]

We have essentially to go through a process.

[English]

We will take the management into confidence.

[Translation]

Our problem is that if we broaden these facilities then

[English]

it should not be a disincentive for the employer to employ women workers.

[Translation]

Apart from it we have no other problem in this regard. The lady apost from it. Members have told us as to how many women have been benefited in each State. It is our responsibility to monitor its implementation. Definitely we are going to bring forth a mechanism for this purpose. I would like to thank all the Hon'ble Members who have participated in this debate.

Members like Radhakrishnanji, Kiran Maheshwarji, Pratibha Singh ji, and Karuna Shukla ji etc. have participated in the debate.

[English]

More Members wanted to participate.

[Translation]

But we have to follow the time frame so it is necessary to conclude it. We have also discussed the unorganized sector in this bill.

[English]

This is for the organized sector.

[Translation]

4 crore persons are covered under the provident fund. One crore people are covered in ESI and three crore people are to be covered under it. Women can also be benefited under it. We want to cover as many women as possible under ESI. We are doing our endeavour for the purpose.

[English]

Wherever it is possible.

[Translation]

We are trying to cover them under it. It is not only a programme. Central Government and State Governments have started various schemes in this field. For example, there is ICDS which is aimed to provide nutritious food to the pregnant women and new born babies. Therefore, I would like to read it out.

[English]

The Government has been giving maternity benefit through other schemes also to the poor pregnant women. Janani Suraksha Yojana under the National Rural Health Mission is being implemented with the objective reducing the maternal and neo-natal mortality by providing institutional delivery for poor pregnant women. The Yojana is being implemented in all the States and the Union Territories with special focus on low performing States, and the mothers' package in the form of cash assistance including health activists called ASHA. In rural areas, Rs. 2000 is being given to women; and Rs. 1200 is being given in urban areas.

[Translation]

There are a number of such schemes and keeping all these schemes in mind,

[Shri Oscar Fernandes]
[English]

we will try to bring a comprehensive Bill.

[Translation]

Then you must speak on that. Your suggestions will also be invited at that time. One hon'ble Member said, all lady members had to speak on that. But it could not happen due to paucity of time. We will surely give all a chance to speak at the right time. Moreover, we will also ask the social institutions to express their opinion on that. We will soon bring a new vision before you.

I request the House for leave to pass this Bill.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Bill further to amend the Maternity Benefit Act, 1961, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The House will now take up clause-by-clause consideration of the Bill. Shri Prabodh Panda, are you moving your amendment?

SHRI PRABODH PANDA (Midnapore): Sir, I do not want to move the amendment.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That clause 2 stand part of the Bill".

The motion was adopted.

Clause 2 was added to the Bill.

Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Long Title were added to the Bill.

SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES: Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill be passed."

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Bill be passed."

The motion was adopted.

16.49 hrs.

MESSAGE FROM RAJYA SABHA

[English]

SECRETARY-GENERAL: Sir, I have to report the following message received from the Secretary-General of Rajya Sabha:-

"In accordance with the provisions of sub-rule (6) of rule 186 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to return herewith the Sugar Development Fund (Amendment) Bill, 2008, which was passed by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 17th March, 2008 and transmitted to the Rajya Sabha for its recommendations and to state that this House has no recommendations to make to the Lok Sabha in regard to the said Bill".

16.50 hrs.

CONSTITUTION (SCHEDULED TRIBES) ORDER (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2008

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The House will now take up the second supplementary list of business slated for Wednesday, March 19, 2008.

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH): Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill further to amend the Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order, 1950 to modify the list of Scheduled Tribes in the State of Arunachal Pradesh, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration."

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Motion moved:

"That the Bill further to amend the Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order, 1950 to modify the list of Scheduled Tribes in the State of Arunachal Pradesh, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration".

[Translation]

SHRI KIREN RIJU (Arunachal West): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to

speak on this constitutional Amendment (Scheduled Tribes) Bill, 2008. I support this Bill. Before expressing my views on the Bill, I would like to thank the Government, particularly, hon'ble Minister Kyndiaji, Dasmunsiji and Handiqueji for brining the Bill in the House. They deserve appreciation. For this, I personally, on behalf of my party and the people of Arunachal Pradesh, particularly, the Nishi community of the State, would like to thank them.

At the outset, I would like to apprise the House with the background related to it. Keeping in view the sensitivity shown by the Government towards Arunachal Pradesh, I would like to mention a few things.

[English]

Arunachal Pradesh is a jewel in the crown of India.

[Translation]

When you go through the history of Arunachal Pradesh you will find that all the tribes of the State have always shown great honour and love for the country. This feeling of theirs have been true for the Government as well. Moreover we take great pride in being a part of India and will remain so. Nishi community is the largest tribe of the State. 'Nishi' word has been their identification for years. But the Britishers had substituted this Nishi word with Daffla word. This Daffla word sounds very degradable and derogatory as well.

SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY (Dhenkanal): What does it mean?

SHRI KIREN RIJJU: This word has no recognition there till date. This word refers to a person who kills others, a person who is coercive and one who is an inhabitant of hills-jungles. People want to forget this word. That is why, I am presenting my views on this historical occasion that this Bill will give the tribes of the State a new life, a new chapter. The people belonging to Nishi Community fought against the Britishers. This is the reason, they did not get the due recognition, that they deserved. They had been freedom fighters in one way.

In 1956, this region was given the name 'NEFA' Later, Indiraji, granted it the name, 'Arunachal Pradesh' and the status of a Union territory in 1972. In 1987, it was given the status of a State. But even in the present list, under the constitution order no. 18, you will notice that a large

number of tribes of the State are not included in it. It is a matter of great regret. Today, I am very happy because I represent the Nishi community and I am also married in the same community. Therefore, I am overwhelmed. I would like to request the Government to include more tribes of the State in this list. As I said, I am very happy today, therefore I will not take much time. I would like to tell you names of some tribes which are not included in this list. One tribe is Galo, which should be called Galon, same is the case with Khaba which should be called Boogon. Besides, Tribes such as Sajlon, Monapa and the likes are not included in the list. This is very important, therefore, in any opinion the Government should also include them in the coming years.

I presented a Private Member's Bill in the year the 2005 but this Amendment has been introduced by the Government itself therefore the Bill presented by me is not required. In addition to that, I also mentioned it during the zero hour and gave a special mention and calling attention on this matter, but I am very happy today and I would like to thank the Chief Minister of Arunachal Shri Dorzi Khandu, elected members of Nishi Society, Nishi Students' Union, Nishi-Allied Society, youth organisation and all persons who have contributed in this important matter and further to the Congress BJP and other parties who have agreed to pass this Bill without much discussion. One more important thing, I want to say is that in the constitution of India "The All Naga Tribes" word has been used, which is wrong. As such, there is no Naga Tribes in Arunachal Pradesh but even today it is so mentioned in our constitution "All the Naga Tribes in Arunachal Pradesh". At the serial No. 18 of the order, you will see the 'All Naga Tribes' term. I would like to draw attention of the Government towards the first word of the entry. "All the tribes including following" and it means that names of 16 tribes follow. It means that the names that are not included are also tribes. They are also given ST certificate. But the State Government have issued an order saying that who are not in the list will not get ST certificates. I talked with the hon'ble Minister and also the State Government on this issue and I would like to request the Minister of Tribal Affairs Shri P.R. Kyndiah that a clarification from his ministry, may be issued because it is our duty to follow the constitution. There are tribes whose population is only 400 or only 500-600. It is our duty to protect them. At last, I conclude my speech thanking you, the Government and the whole House.

[English]

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (Balasore): Sir, Shri Kyndiah is piloting this Bill. Shri Muli Deora presented something. Shri Sankarsinh Vaghela has presented something. We do not know what those things are!

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): Sir, I wish to clarify this. The Chief Whip of the Party was not present. We did discuss this in the BAC. We sought permission for inclusion in Special Supplementary List of Business, some of the demands which could not be laid in the morning.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: It was decided in the BAC meeting.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: I am not objecting to that. I am only saying that the paper should have been circulated.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: It was agreed upon at the last minute. We submitted all lists. Circulation part is done by the Secretariat. Maybe the Secretariat could not immediately circulate that. Do not blame the Secretariat. We were cooperating every moment. The decision was taken just five minutes before the adjournment of the BAC. That is why, before you came, I did take the consent of the Chair and informed the House of this Supplementary List of Demands. Prabhunathji and everybody have accepted that. That is the position.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: I am not opposing it. I am only saying that if they are circulated, we would have come to know about them.

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY (Sabarkantha): Sir, I congratulate the Minister of Tribal Affairs for bringing this Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order (Amendment) Bill, 2008 for substituting the name of a community called Nishi. I am enlightened by what Shri Kiren Rijiju has already submitted. Though I do not belong to a Scheduled Tribe, over the years I have worked for them and I can very well understand that certain communities now intend to be known with a different name. There are quite a few of them in Gujarat and I am pretty sure in the other parts of the country as well. So, I would request the Minister to take a comprehensive look of the entire situation in the country. If there are cases of this nature

where communities wish to be known with a different name, perhaps the Minister can bring a comprehensive Bill later on.

I once again share the joy of both my friends from Arunachal Pradesh and I really join the Minister in congratulating them from our party.

17.00 hrs.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): Sir, this is an innocuous Bill. I rise to support the Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order (Amendment) Bill, 2008. The main purpose of this Bill is to substitute the name of one community in the State of Arunachal Pradesh called Nishi.

We have been assured a number of times that the Government would bring a comprehensive Bill to include certain communities which are required to be included as Scheduled Tribes. One such community in the State of West Bengal is Deswali Majhi who predominantly live in the three Districts of Purulia, Bankura and West Midnapore. Prior to 1952 they belonged to Scheduled Tribe. Their culture, their food habits and everything is identical with Santhal community. Previously they demanded to be included in the Santhal community. Now, they are asking to be included in the list of Scheduled Tribes. Their total number will be about 2.5 lakhs mainly in those three Districts. The Government of West Bengal had already recommended it. The Cultural Institute, under the Ministry of Backward Class Welfare of West Bengal, has also made research work and that also has recommended it. So, I urge upon the Minister to bring a comprehensive legislation in the next phase of Budget Session to include certain communities like Deswali Majhi of West Bengal which are required to be included in the list of Scheduled Tribes.

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY (Puri): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order (Amendment) Bill, 2008. This Bill intends to amend the Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order, 1950 to modify the list of Scheduled Tribes in the State of Arunachal Pradesh. This is meant to include the name of Nishi in place of Dafia. So, there is no objection to this.

However, the Minister has brought it in a piecemeal manner. There are recommendations made by other States for similar modifications. Recommendations of a similar nature made by the State of Orissa have not been accommodated. Other States of the country have

also made similar recommendations which have not been covered.

I would like to cite an example of my State Orissa. In Orissa, Kandha has already been included in the list of Scheduled Tribes. Oriya Kandhas' or 'Odia Kandhas' customs and habits are similar in nature with "Kand" Tribe. Previously these people were enjoying the status of Scheduled Tribes. However, because of a decision of the Supreme Court, they have now been excluded, and they are not able to avail of this benefit. Their families are suffering because of this. They are not able to get benefits under Indira Awas Yojana and other tribal schemes. Students are facing a lot of difficulties because of this. In some parts of the State of Orissa these people are in great difficulties. The State Government has recommended this. The Advisory Committee attached to the Ministry and Union Tribal Commission has also made a recommendation for its inclusion.

I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to whether Government is also considering all these anomalies, rectify, change and enlist it so that these people would similarly get the benefit as they used to benefit earlier.

Regarding some Tribes in other States, which is a very important matter, we have discussed this in the House also. Some Tribes which were included in the List but unfortunately they had been migrated to other States and they are staying in other States and they are not availing the facilities. As such, they are not considered as Scheduled Tribes in those States. The Union Government is one and the nation is one. Some Schedule Tribes are staying in other parts of the State or other part of the country, they are not allowed to avail the facilities of Schedule Tribes. This aspect should also be considered. This is my personal request...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: This is concerning only Arunachal Pradesh.

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Their tradition and customs are the same. Hence, they should also be included in the Scheduled Tribes. The Government should consider this and it should bring a comprehensive Bill so that all the Scheduled Tribes are covered in one Bill.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Tapir Gao, if you have any suggestions, you can give.

[Translation]

SHRI TAPIR GAO (Arunachal East): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I stand here to support this Bill. I have had a life-long struggle to include the Nishi community. Before becoming a Member of Parliament, I was member in the National Commission for Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribes. I thank Kyndia Saheb, Munshi Saheb and to you also on behalf of the Nishi community which lives in the forests of Arunachal Pradesh. I want to submit that Arunachal Pradesh was created through the Assam State Bill. As Shri Kirenji has said, there are many tribes which are not found in Arunachal Pradesh. There is a need to bring a comprehensive bill on this issue. I would like to say one thing, which Kyndiah Saheb, Mrs. Sonia Gandhi and Munshi Saheb is also aware of that there are two-three tribes in Arunachal Pradesh such as Devri, Mishing and Lisu. Since Arunachal Pradesh was carved out from the times of the North East Frontier Agency till 1992, these communities have been given scheduled Tribes certificate. But due to some political reasons, issuing of this certificate to the scheduled tribes such as Devri, Mishing and Lishu was stopped. The parents have ST certificate but their children are not being issued ST certificate. These people have land possession right. They have also elected their Panchayat leader but they are not being given the benefit of reserved seat to contest for MLA or MP election. This is a bill related to Arunachal Pradesh. Therefore, I will request Kyndiah Saheb and the UPA Government to bring a comprehensive bill in the next session in which STs from other States should also be included. This Arunachal Bill is discriminatory, but, even then, I support this bill and invite Kyndiah ji to visit Arunachal Pradesh...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: This bill is related to Arunachal Pradesh and not to your State.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Bill is on Arunachal Pradesh.

Now, the hon. Minister.

Please sit down.

Nothing should be recorded.

...*(Interruptions)**

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): Every Member has the right to explain whatever they like but it has been agreed upon by Business Advisory Committee meeting. We had brought this Bill with great efficiency from Rajya Sabha and get it passed without debate. Rajya Sabha did not debate...*(Interruptions)* Let the House continue up to 1 o' clock in the night. I do not mind. This is not the way. Then, why did you sit and agree in the BAC meeting?...*(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I want to express my thanks to the members who have participated in this discussion. Two Members from Arunachal Pradesh have taken part. This Bill, as the House is aware, has been passed by Rajya Sabha before it is brought as legislation. We have two Members from Arunachal Pradesh, Shri Tapir Gao and Shri Kiren Rijiju. They have spoken eloquently of the gestures and action that the Government of India has taken in this regard. I want to place on record my deep sense of admiration to the people of Arunachal Pradesh for the nationalistic fervour they have shown in all the attempts throughout these years to remove the stigma that has been imposed upon them by the colonial rulers. That is something great.

I personally had one of the longest association with Arunachal Pradesh. Way back in 1955, I had been there. They used to drop food there from Dakota aircrafts. Most of the time we walked on foot though there were jeeps also. And I know the people very well. I know that they have intense pride in their culture, in their arts, in their dancing, and in their beauty and today this land of Arunachal Pradesh is not just a land of Rising Sun. To me, I have a dream that one day with its rich resources, and bio-diversity, it would become a Rising Star, not only of the North-East but also of entire country. It has rich potential that perhaps no one can imagine—be it its hydel power, bio-diversity and rich culture of the people themselves. There are 16 Tribes. They have different identities. But on this issue of substituting Dafla with Nyishi there have been a kind of tumultuous and spontaneous movement of people not only among themselves, cutting across party lines, cultural identities. I am happy to mention here that this Bill has been brought about after a lot of discussion. I have sent my own Secretary to go to Arunachal Pradesh, to go on foot if necessary in order to know the truth and the truth remains that it is a

deserving case. We have got the recommendations of the Registrar General of India and the National Commission of Scheduled Tribes, of which Shri Tapir Gao was himself a Member earlier. All these are very important. For me personally I feel very proud today to be here and to do this. Only the other day the Chief Minister of Arunachal Pradesh has telephoned me to inform me about the importance of this Bill to the people of Arunachal Pradesh. I shared with him his anguish. All these years, we have been looking for this time. I think, this day is a great day for the country as a whole and in the case of Arunachal Pradesh as we have to deal matters on the region with sensitivity. We have to understand the deep ethos of the people and today here is a kind of bursting out of nationalistic character.

Insofar as other thing is concerned, Shri Acharia has made a suggestion; in fact, I was the member of the Committee and I know too well about it. Shri Mistry has spoken something; then, Shri Tripathy from Orissa spoke; I know that. I can tell you this—first and foremost—any tribal community which is recognized in one State need not necessarily be recognized in another State. The Constitution is clear about it. It is State-relevant; it is State-specific. Secondly, in 1999, the Government of India has made a very clear procedural way of how to get things done to include a community in the list of ST.

Firstly, the State Government must recommend that it is justified that the tribals have the tribal characteristics. This criteria has been laid down by the Lokur Committee way back in 1965. This is number one. Secondly, it has got to get the clearance of the RGI, Registrar-General of India. Thirdly, the National Commission on Scheduled castes and Scheduled Tribes looks into it. Then, it comes to us. After that, we take it to the Cabinet and then, it comes to the House. This is the way we will be doing it.

But I can only assure the hon. Members here that we have an open mind; we do not have a closed mind. You can give any suggestions, but remember that no one can say that one tribe is recognized in one State and so, it should be recognized in the other State of the country. It cannot be and the Constitution is very clear about it.

But at the same time, I have an open mind and whatever my friends have said—Shri Tripathy and others—I have heard...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: The State Government and the Tribal Commission have recommended that. You can consider...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH: We will certainly; we keep an open mind. Any time, I am ready to listen...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: No. Nothing will be recorded.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Whosoever speaks without my permission, his speech should not be recorded.

...*(Interruptions)**

SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH: I can tell once more; let me clear the doubts...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please sit down now.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH: There are two currents today in the country. One current is that many communities want to be in the Scheduled Tribes list. The other current is this—tribals that are already there today, numbering about 8.2 crores, say that they are already. Let us not allow too many to come into the category the Scheduled Tribes. I am faced with these two currents. But at the same time, I keep an open mind. Whatever I wanted to say, I said. I thank you very much.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Bill further to amend the Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order, 1950 to modify the list of Scheduled Tribes in the State of Arunachal Pradesh, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The House shall now take up clause by clause consideration of the Bill.

The question is:

"That clause 2 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 2 was added to the Bill.

Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Long Title were added to the Bill.

SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH: I beg to move:

"That the Bill be passed."

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Bill be passed."

The motion was adopted.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to wish a happy Holi to all on behalf of the House.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I also wish all of you Happy Holi on behalf of the Speaker and the Chair.

[English]

The House stands adjourned to meet on Tuesday, the 15th April 2008 at 11 a.m.

17.19 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Tuesday, April 15, 2008/Chaitra 26, 1930 (Saka).

ANNEXURE I

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Member-wise index to Starred Questions

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