

# **LOK SABHA DEBATES**

## **(English Version)**

**Twelfth Session**  
**(Thirteenth Lok Sabha)**



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# LOK SABHA DEBATES

## LOK SABHA

Wednesday, May 7, 2003/Vaisakha 17, 1925 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock.

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

[Translation]

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH (Maharajanj, U.P.) Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have given a notice for the Adjournment Motion on the problems of the paddy, wheat and sugarcane growers. Not once but several times discussion has been held on the issue of the sugarcane growers in the House. However, despite all these discussions, the farmers are still compelled to commit suicide due to the laxity of the Government to take any positive measures in this regard. Outstanding amount is not being paid to the farmers even today. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI C.N. SINGH (Machalishahar): Mr. Speaker, Sir, a farmer has committed suicide in Pratapgarh. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You raise this issue during zero hour. I will give you permission.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN (Hazipur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have given notice for suspension of Question Hour so as to discuss the Gujarat issue. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I have not accepted the Notice. Your subject is important. You can raise it during Zero Hour. Ram Vilasji, I have seen your Notice.

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, effort to mislead not only the people of Gujarat but also the Court has been made. The minimum support price would be in accordance with the order of the Supreme Court dated 31.1.2001. As per the order of the Supreme Court, the sugarcane growers of UP should get the remunerative price of Rs. 95 to 100 per quintal of sugarcane but the Government of Uttar Pradesh has been exploiting the farmers under the pressure of the mill owners. ...*(Interruptions)*

11.01 hrs.

## ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

### Safeguarding Women and Children against HIV

\*643. SHRI V. VETRISELVAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any programme to safeguard women against HIV transmission;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government are also contemplating to expand the prevention of mother to child HIV transmission programme upto district level in all the high HIV prevalent States;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the kind of incentives being provided under the programme, if any?

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

### Statement

In order to prevent and control the spread of HIV/AIDS, Government has launched a comprehensive National AIDS Control Programme, currently under implementation throughout the country as a centrally sponsored scheme. Some of the programme activities focusing specifically to safe-guard women against HIV transmission are: (i) Prevention of Parent to Child Transmission (PPTCT); (ii) Targeted Intervention for female sex workers and migrant women among others; (iii) Family Health Awareness Campaigns (FHAC) to sensitize the target population including women, in the age group 15-49 years about adopting healthy life styles, avoiding high risk behaviour and managing care and treatment of Reproductive Health (RH); (iv) Integrated Child Development Scheme in collaboration with Department of Women and Child Development to raise awareness among adolescent girls regarding HIV/AIDS; and (v) School AIDS Education and University Talk AIDS Education Programmes for adolescent girls and young women.

In view of the emerging threat of transmission of HIV infection from HIV infected pregnant mother to her baby, Government of India has launched the Prevention of Parent to Child Transmission (PPTCT) Programme in the country. The feasibility study on prevention of mother to child transmission was initiated in March, 2000, in 11 institutions located in five HIV high prevalence States namely: Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Manipur. In the first phase of the study, short course regimen of Zidovudine (AZT) was administered to pregnant women who attended ante natal clinics from 36 weeks of gestation and during labour at the above institutions. In the second phase (October, 2001 to September, 2002) of the feasibility study at these institutions, single dose nevirapine to both HIV infected mother and baby pair was administered for prevention of mother to child transmission. This drug has an additional advantage over AZT as it is administered in single dose, besides being cost effective as compared to short course regimen of Zidovudine (AZT).

Encouraged with the results of the feasibility studies, Government has decided to scale up PPTCT programme in the entire country in a phased manner. In the first phase of the programme, medical colleges and district hospitals of the six high prevalence States namely Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Manipur and Nagaland are being covered. Currently, 74 Medical Colleges and 15 District Hospitals in these States are providing PPTCT services. In the second phase of the programme, Medical Colleges of other States will be covered.

SHRI V. VETRISSELVAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, my first supplementary is this. Today, India is the second largest country in the world, which is facing high prevalence of HIV cases. In 1986 there was only one case which was detected in Chennai. Today, we have more than four million people who are HIV and AIDS affected, out of which 90 per cent is women; their children stand a 30-40 per cent chance of being affected by the virus. This figure of the affected people can rise up to 13 million by the end of 2007, according to the survey of UNAIDS. The Government have launched a number of schemes and provided huge budgetary support to control this disease, but the position has not changed so far.

I want to know from the hon. Minister whether she has found any lacunae in the implementation of the schemes. If so, what action has been taken in this regard and what are the other programmes of the Government in this regard.

SHRI A. RAJA: Sir, it is true that India is the second largest country in the world which is suffering from the menace of AIDS. To fight this menace, we are getting around Rs. 1,500 crore as external assistance from the World Bank and other agencies. Apart from that, per year, we are getting Rs. 196 crore as our own budgetary support.

We are having a general mechanism for surveillance of the disease and to promote IEC activities. Apart from that, specific to the cases, we have taken some measures to promote STD (Sexually Transmitted Diseases) Clinics. Our commitment is for setting up of voluntary blood testing centres in all districts. These are the measures taken by us.

Apart from that, in a broad sense, this is the first time when the Government of India came out with two important policies: one is the National AIDS Prevention and Control Policy, and another is the National Blood Policy. Through these two policies, we are having a very good mechanism of surveillance of the disease and the funds are adequate to fight the menace. Our aim is to have zero-level growth by 2025 and we are committed to this aim.

SHRI V. VETRISSELVAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Tamil Nadu is the most HIV-affected State in the country. The figure of HIV-affected people in Tamil Nadu in 1998 was only 1,092. It rose to 1,881 in 1999; to 5,231 in 2000; to 9,714 in 2001; and to 16,677 in 2002.

MR. SPEAKER: Please put your question.

SHRI V. VETRISSELVAN: I would like to know whether there is any rehabilitation programme for the HIV-affected people of Tamil Nadu, and whether any funds have been received from international agencies including WHO, for Tamil Nadu.

SHRI A. RAJA: There is no external assistance exclusively for Tamil Nadu. We are getting it *in toto* for the nation.

PROF. A.K. PREMAJAM: In the statement laid on the Table of the hon. Minister, different methods for prevention of AIDS are stated. They are—targeted intervention for female sex workers and migrant women among others, and female health awareness campaigns to sensitise the targeted population. Here, emphasis is laid on prevention among the 'female sex workers' and also other targeted women. Though I hate to use the term female sex workers, how to identify and target those

men, whose identity is not known, who visit these female sex workers? What is the *modus operandi* to be followed for targeting such men in the society, who are invariably the higher-ups and influential people, who go to these female sex workers?

SHRI A. RAJA: Their identity cannot be known as such. When they come voluntarily, we promote the usage of condom and we offer them voluntary testing facilities. It applies not only to the sex workers, but also to everyone in this country. We cannot compel anybody to undergo such tests. We can only offer them tests so that they can come to know if they are affected by AIDS or not. It should be a voluntary choice. If they do not come voluntarily, we cannot do anything. Because their own privacy and their own personal rights are involved, we cannot intervene.

DR. V. SAROJA: Hon. Speaker, Sir, it is mentioned in the statement that in the second phase of the study from October, 2001 to September, 2002, it has been found that a single dose Zidovudine is more cost-effective for prevention of mother to child transmission. According to *HIV Sentinel*, there are six States in the country with HIV prevalence of more than 1 per cent in the pregnant women. They are: Maharashtra—1.75 per cent; Manipur—1.75 per cent; Andhra Pradesh—1.5 per cent; Nagaland—1.25 per cent; Karnataka—1.13 per cent; and Tamil Nadu—1.13 per cent. This is a very critical area. In the cases where the pregnant women is HIV positive, it is very difficult for us to conduct the delivery. At the time of delivery, we have to intersect. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether target-oriented budget allocation will be made for this purpose. I say this because most of the times the drug is not available even though we have the statistics of the HIV positive people. I would like to have a categorical, concrete, positive reply from the hon. Minister.

SHRI A. RAJA: There is no separate and exclusive budget for prevention of mother to child transmission. What I can say before the House is, as put by the hon. Member, in the six high-prevalence States we have selected 15 Districts and 74 medical college hospitals where we are having the Prevention of Parent to Child Transmission Centres. In short, they are being called PPTCTs. These Centres are given to 74 medical college hospitals in 15 Districts in the high-prevalence States. Our commitment is that before the end of this year all medical college hospitals in all the Districts of these high prevalent States should be provided with these Centres. Once these Centres come into existence in these States,

the medicines and treatment will be made available to the people free of cost.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to add something in my reply to his question. Hon. Member has asked two things—one is that there is no surveillance to ensure that the mother to child HIV transmission does not take place. He is not right but we have exclusively 220 anti natal clinics among the total institutions set up for the purpose to find out the exact figures of the mother to child transmission of HIV virus? Hence maximum surveillance is being done through anti-natal clinics.

Secondly, through you I would like to apprise the House that out of the total global fund meant to tackle the TB, Malaria and AIDS Rs. 500 crore has been exclusively allocated to check the mother to child transmission of HIV which is adequate to cover the entire country.

[English]

DR. (SHRIMATI) BEATRIX D'SOUZA: Sir, one section of women, which needs protection from HIV AIDS is of those women who are married to bisexual men. The danger of these women getting AIDS is much greater than those women who are married to heterosexual spouses. One way of making these men come out of the closet is to make it compulsory for all pregnant women to be tested for HIV. Will the Government consider this proposal?

SHRI A. RAJA: There is no such proposal with the Government now.

[Translation]

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to whether his Ministry or various experts have observed that the transmission of AIDS in Southern States has taken place due to the migrant labourers from Northern State particularly from Bihar and U.P., I would like to know as to what is the observation of the Government in this regard? Besides, whether your Ministry has taken some precautionary measures to check the increasing number of cases of deaths of young people or whether you propose to undertake a study in this regard?

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Mr. Speaker, Sir, while identifying risk groups, highly risk group are designated as 'HRG'. As said by hon. Member that the migrant labours comes under high risk group and he transmits it further to his wife and children. He is quite right in saying that migrant workers comprise a very big group. Hence talking of targeted groups, Government is intervening by having considered labourers as the target group. As far the mention made by the hon. Member whether any study has been conducted by the Government in regard to the number of cases of death of young people is concerned. I would like to reply in affirmative but at present we do not have the figures.

[English]

SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, lorry drivers spend their nights in the *dhabas* along the National and State Highways. There, they come in contact with the people living in the surrounding villages and unhealthy practices take place there. As a result of this, AIDS is spreading not only to the lorry drivers and their staff but also from them to the people in the surrounding villages also. I would like to know as to what steps the Government would propose to take to prevent these *dhabas* from becoming centres of spreading of AIDS?

SHRI A. RAJA: The truckers are already included in the target group under the main scheme. They are being supplied with materials by the State Government to make them aware of the menace. It is particularly inculcated in their minds that usage of condom will prevent not only the contact but also the spread of AIDS.

[Translation]

#### Purchase of Handsets

\*645. DR. MAHENDRA SINGH PAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether some major limited mobile service operators are compelling their customers to buy expensive handsets;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) whether a customers' organisation has asked the Telecom Regulatory Authority to look into this matter;

(d) if so, the outcome thereof;

(e) the interim measures proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard till the disposal of the matter;

(f) whether the marketing policy adopted by the WLL Mobile companies is arbitrary; and

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

[English]

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) to (g) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

#### Statement

(a) and (b) According to information received from various basic service operators, customers are free to buy handsets from the market; customers are not compelled to buy expensive handset.

(c) to (g) The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) had received complaints from three customer organisations viz. Telecom Watchdog, Consumer Coordination Council and Cellular Phone Users' Association alleging that customer was being forced to buy expensive handsets for limited mobility. TRAI took up the matter with the concerned service providers and it was found that in the standard tariff package, choice had been given to the subscriber to opt for the handset from the service provider. If he opted to do so, he would be required to give a refundable security deposit of Rs. 6000/- (ceiling amount) or aim monthly rent of Rs. 50/- or arrange for the handset on his own according to this choice, and opt for relevant standard tariff package. Basic service providers have also offered alternate tariff packages in addition to the standard tariff packages. This combination of tariff packages in within the regulatory guidelines.

Keeping in view the foregoing, that the marketing policy adopted by the WLL mobile companies cannot be construed as arbitrary and, accordingly, no action by the Government is envisaged in this regard.

Further, as per the TRAI Act, in case of a dispute between a service provider and a group of consumers an appeal lies before the Telecom Disputes Settlement and Appellate Tribunal (TDSAT). According to the available information, no appeal against such a practice has been



filed against any service provider in TDSAT. Moreover, consumers are protected by Consumer Protection Act and can approach various Consumer Redressal Forum at district/state/national level for redressal of their grievances.

[Translation]

DR. MAHENDRA SINGH PAL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am not satisfied with the reply given by the hon. Minister because it is being reported everyday in the newspapers that the people are being harassed a lot. The subscribers have to bear the burnt of the mock war going between the telecommunications companies especially over the rates as TRAI looks clueless in role of the referee and its role has been reduced to that of a mute spectator.

Though the incoming calls at any network has become free since coming into operations of the long awaited inter-network utilisation cost system w.e.f. 1st May, but the rates of the calls from basic phones to cellular phones or limited distance mobile (WLL) have grown six fold. Different call rates for the calls being made from basic phones to cellular phones using WLL technology has been fixed differently for different distances which is a very complex thing to understand for a common subscriber. New rates will also hard hit the subscribers of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) and Mahangar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL). Though both these companies are trying hard to convince the subscribers that their monthly bills will remain unchanged but the truth lies somewhere else. Earlier a subscriber making a call from the basic phone to the WLL based mobile phone had to pay Rs. 1.20 for each three minute call but now it is not so. If seen roughly, the local call rate from basic to basic phone has remain unchanged at Rs. 1.20 for a three minute call. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Mahendra Pal Singhji, you ask the question. You can not read the question. ...*(Interruptions)*

DR. MAHENDRA SINGH PAL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, my submission is that the Government has no control over it. The Government has not enacted any law in this regard. ...*(Interruptions)* I am of the view that the image of the Government has been tarnished in the entire country. The entire phone network is in mess and not only this several allegations has been levelled against the former Minister in this regard. It is being alleged that money has exchanged hands in this whole affairs and it is due to this that the cellular companies have been put at on advantageous position these are not my views but these are the views of the people which I want to put up before you. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Yes, Mr. Minister, you can reply now.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Dr. Mahendra Singh Pal, you cannot take the time of the House like this.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

DR. MAHENDRA SINGH PAL: I am coming to that. There is bungling in it and the companies which had basic phone network all over the country have failed. It is on account of this that all the poor people of the country are facing difficulties. I would like to submit that. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Pal, you please complete your question, please finish it quickly.

DR. MAHENDRA SINGH PAL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon'ble Minister in his reply has told to go to the consumer forum, but my submission is that the Consumer Protection Act was already there in place. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I am sorry, you are taking much time of the House.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

DR. MAHENDRA SINGH PAL: Why did the Government not formulate laws before permitting cellular phone. ...*(Interruptions)* before launching the cellur services ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I will disallow your question. If you do not want to ask question you may do so. How can it be like this.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Let the Minister reply now.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

DR. MAHENDRA SINGH PAL: Why did you not formulate laws before introduction of cellular phone before permitting it. You do not have control over it. I would like to know from the Government whether it will make effort to control it.

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know, whether the hon'ble Member has information about everything of the Government or he is talking in imagination. It is not justified to level such allegation. I would like to request you that you please expunge these allegations as he has not submitted any proof.

Secondly, the hon'ble Member is alleging that no laws has been formulated by the Government. But laws have been formulated by the Parliament, by the Members. The Government have formulated TRAI Act according to which TRAI has authority regarding tariff.

Thirdly, this question is not related to the tariff, it is related to free handsets.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Yes, I know what is the question.

[Translation]

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: If you permit, I can give him reply. As far the question of BSNL and MTNL is concerned, BSNL and MTNL has not increased their monthly rental. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Please let the Minister complete his reply.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please let the Minister reply. Please sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Please let the Minister reply. The hon'ble Minister is replying First let him reply.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: We want to listen to his reply however, I would like to submit that earlier mobile companies were telling that if their handset is purchased one will have to pay less so that people purchased their handset but now they are charging arbitrarily. They increase price as they wish. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You can ask question only when I permit. This is not the way to ask question. You please sit down otherwise I will take up next question. See, you will be in loss, I will take up next question. This is not the way. Please sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: BSNL and MTNL had not increased the monthly rentals. They had not decreased the pulse rate. The order which was issued by TRAI in January had only provided a ceiling. It is not a mandatory order. Everybody is giving alternate packages which are lower than that order. In that, the consumer is gaining. What is the problem? ...*(Interruptions)*

SOME HON. MEMBERS: No. Not at all. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, you cannot ask a question! Now, Shri Suresh Kurup.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ADHI SANKAR: Sir, the Minister is misleading the House. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down. Let Shri Suresh Kurup ask the question.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SURESH KURUP: The steep increase in the telephone tariffs has invited widespread protest all over the country. The Government and the Minister should take this into consideration. The land-phone users are victimised. If you make a call to the mobile phone from a land-phone, you have to pay Rs. 7.20 for three minutes. If you make a local call, you have to pay Rs. 1.20 for two minutes, instead of three minutes which was the case earlier. This increase in telephone tariff is benefiting the mobile phone companies. ...*(Interruptions)* A majority of telephone users in this country are land-phone users. So, the mobile companies are benefited at the cost of

the common man in this country. So, the increase in telephone tariff should be withdrawn. This is the demand of the people of the country. ...(*Interruptions*)

PROF. A.K. PREMAJAM: This is the demand of the common people in this country. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: This is the reality. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down. Shri Suresh Kurup has put a pointed question. This question is in the interest of the people.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down. He has put a pointed question. The Minister is ready to reply to that question. I want that the reply must come rightly on record.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Let the answer be complete.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Please cooperate.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: I am prepared to allow more Members to ask questions in the House, provided discipline is observed. So, let us observe discipline first. Yes, Mr. Minister, please reply.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: This is precisely the allegation which is being examined by TRAI at that moment. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL (Kanpur): Please hold discussion on this subject today in the evening itself.

MR. SPEAKER: First let the reply be completed.

[*English*]

PROF. A.K. PREMAJAM: The increase in tariff was postponed till 1st of May. What was the Government and TRAI doing at that time? ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Please it down.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down. Shri Shivaji Mane, I am not permitting you to speak a word. Please sit down.

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: Whether the new tariff regime benefits cellular companies or fixed line companies is one of the points which is being examined by TRAI at the moment. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, how long will the TRAI examine this issue? Daily they are increasing the rate of telephone. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: The Minister has a full right to give a reply and he is replying to the question. You need not get agitated. You can ask for a discussion. The Minister will give a detailed reply.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: To roll out to the village areas, the BSNL requires Rs. 29,000 crore in the next 4 years and they have been only Rs. 4 crore in the Plan. They have to make it up in some or the other. The competition is lowering the rates everywhere. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Shivaji Vitthalrao Kamble.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: I will allow a discussion on this issue. Please sit down. I am going to permit a Half-an-Hour discussion. You can raise the question there.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: The question being important, I will allow a Half-an-Hour Discussion on the question. You can raise the question there.

Q. No. 646, Shri Adhir Chowdhury. Shri Adhir Chowdhury is not there. Shrimati Shyama Singh.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Mr. Speaker Sir, it is a very important subject. It is due to the increase in telephone rates that the people all over the country have started to have wrong opinion about the N.D.A. Government. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Khaire ji I also know that it is an important subject, First you please sit down as I am on my leg. It will not possible that I am standing and you are also standing.

[English]

Everybody must sit down. I am not going to tolerate this type of disorder in this House. Please sit down. First, you sit down as I am standing. Do you not have a simple sense of observing discipline in the House? Please sit down first. I am not going to allow you. Shri Shivaji Mane, I am warning you. Please sit down now. I can understand that you are agitated on this issue. I said, I am prepared to allow you to ask more question also. But the way in which you want to behave, the Minister would not be able to reply.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down. I am speaking. If you do not agree with the reply of the Minister, you can definitely raise the issue by some other method in the House. You have a number of resources to do that. This is not the way that you can ask the Minister to reply in a way in which you want a reply from him. This is not the way. I would not be able to take this question further. I am prepared to allow Half-an-Hour Discussion.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the people ask from us, what should I do, where should I go?

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: The Minister may be replying rightly or wrongly. If it is an unsatisfactory reply, you can ask for a discussion. I am prepared to have a discussion.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, will the hon'ble Minister consider to maintain the old rate as long as it is under consideration of the TRAI and whether arrangement will be made to ensure that by that time new rate will not be charged. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: It all of you will continue to behave like this, then it will not be replied.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I will allow Half-an-Hour discussion on this.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI K. FRANCIS GEORGE: In half an hour, we cannot discuss the entire issue. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shrimati Shyama Singh, you can ask the question.

SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH: Last time in my Starred Question, the hon. Minister had stated. ...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the question has been raised that the rates of mobile has been reduced while the rates of telephone have been increased. It is on account of this that capitalists are getting profit and the general consumers are being exploited. ...(Interruptions) What can be inferred from this. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing except what Shrimati Shyama Singh is saying will go on record.

...(Interruptions)\*

MR. SPEAKER: You can ask your question.

SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH: Sir, I am hearing all these noises. The hon. Minister will not be able to hear my question. ...(Interruptions)

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\*Not recorded.

MR. SPEAKER: If one Member wants to ask a question. I can permit him but Members must obey my instructions and maintain discipline in the House.

*[Translation]*

Only the hon'ble Members whose names will be called will rise. If all of you do not sit I will take up next question. All of you please sit down. If you do not sit down it is you who will be in loss. The hon'ble Minister is not going to lose anything. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHIVAJI MANE: Hon'ble Minister will not lose rather it is the common people who will lose. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I have called Shri Shivaji Kamble. Only he will ask question. Please, you will have to sit otherwise I will take up next question.

*...(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHIVAJI VITHALRAO KAMBLE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am thankful to you for giving me time to ask the question. My question is regarding WLL. The WLL service has not been provided till now in those areas in which it was proposed to be provided by 31st March. It also includes my constituency in Maharashtra. Through you I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to why WLL service has not been provided by 31st March and who were the persons guilty in this regard and also what action has been proposed to be taken by the Government against the guilty persons. I would also like to know by when these areas are likely to be provided this service? As soon as the declaration in regard to providing WLL service was made by the department, I assured the persons of my constituency that the service would be provided by 31st March but the facility has yet not been provided due to which the MPs have been finding it hard to go before the people of their constituency. Hence I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to by when the service is likely to be provided. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: You please read the question carefully. The question is about the handsets that whether or not the said number of handsets are being provided. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Minister is replying. You will have to listen to it.

*[English]*

You may or may not agree with him.

*...(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

MR. SPEAKER: Raghunath Jha ji, if you do not interrupt. I may let you ask the question.

*...(Interruptions)*

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: As far WLL or fixed line is concerned

*[English]*

certainly, BSNL is making maximum effort;

*[Translation]*

and the licenses given to the remaining three,

*[English]*

it is in their commercial interest to do it. If BSNL is rendered bankrupt, by not allowing the rates to increase, then you will find that you will not be able to get the roll out that you require or that everybody wants. That everybody wants. Shri Paswan is here. In the next four years, the BSNL requires Rs. 29,000 crore. They have been given only Rs. 4 crore in the Plan. *...(Interruptions)* Where would they get the money from? You are not allowing the rates to go up. You are turning the telecom sector into a power sector.

*[Translation]*

This condition regarding rate increase has been imposed by you.

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Hon. Mr. Speaker, Sir, the main reason for the Members in the House being agitated is the steep rise in the rate of landline phones and in my opinion it has resulted due to the pressure by the Reliance group. As it has been said by hon. Minister that the matter is being reviewed in TRAI but the enhanced rate is being charged from the people, the subscribers, and they are being exploited, I would only like to know from the hon. Minister as to what objection can be sustained in charging the subscribers at old rates until the final decision in this regard is taken by TRAI. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: Let me give reply. First thing is that ...*(Interruptions)* At least listen to it. The monthly rental has not been increased for the fixed lines, I have stated this thrice. Secondly, pulse rate has not been decreased, I do not know how the hon. Member is mentioning it, Reliance will like the monthly rental be increased but we did not increase it. We also did not take a decision to decrease the pulse rate. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI PRAKASH YASHWANT AMBEDKAR: Sir, is the Minister confessing what he has said? ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Raghuvansh Prasad, you ask the question.

MR. SPEAKER: Prakash Ambedkar ji you can ask question when I call your name.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shivaji Maneji, what has happened to you today?

SHRI ANANT GUDHE: People are finding it hard to do without telephone and the Government itself has issued license to Reliance. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Raghuvanshji, do not you intend to ask the question.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to ask a specific question from the Government as to what is the rationale behind its recent decision to increase the telephone tariff? Why was not any consultation held with TRAI in this regard? Whenever we go before the people the reason for this hike is asked and on the other hand tariff of mobile phones has been decreased to capture the market. Nobody wants to keep telephone connection due to the increase in tariff, hence I smell a rate in this entire exercise. I would like to know as to how many telephones have been surrendered and the extent to which the market share of mobile telephones has increased. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Let the reply be given first.

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: Sir, as you yourself know that the handicapped persons who own PCOs had come to you. I would like to tell as to what was the complaint

and grievance of those persons who came from Mumbai. They complained that the tariff rates of mobile phones are decreasing and fewer people are visiting PCOs. People are being benefitted due to decreased rates. If the rates of fixed phone are kept higher the people will naturally move to cellular phones and that too is not acceptable to you. If BSNL and MTNL go bankrupt who will provide the Services. ...*(Interruptions)* The Government will give its decision within a week. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: It is a very important question. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Let Shri K. Yerrannaidu ask his question. Please go to your seats.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri K. Yerrannaidu will ask his question.

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU: Mr. Speaker, Sir, ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Why a representation in this regard was not given to TRAI? Why did not they listen to it? ...*(Interruptions)* We being the people's representatives, people ask us as to why are you taking such decisions while being in NDA? Is there my conspiracy behind it? Are you trying to create a favourable atmosphere for disinvesting MTNL and BSNL? ...*(Interruptions)* It is not right. You are causing harm to the people. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri K. Yerrannaidu will ask his question.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI K. FRANCIS GEORGE: Now, the Minister himself said that. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU: Mr. Speaker, Sir, kindly allow me. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please. Shri K. Yerrannaidu.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please. Shri Chandrakant Khaire, please sit down. Shri K. Yerrannaidu is asking a question. You are a responsible leader of a responsible Party. Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU: Sir, ours is a democratic country. We have 4<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> crore landlines in our country. On an average, four persons are using one land phone, which means 15 crore people are using landlines. We have BNSL and MTNL. We also have regulatory authorities. Now, these organisations are behaving like business organisations. Even the Government of India, Ministry of Telecommunications are independent, and they have to obtain the permission from the Parliament, otherwise what is the use? There we have 15 crore subscribers. They have increased the tariffs from Rs. 2.40 to Rs. 7.20. Are we in democracy or not? ...(Interruptions) So, that is why we are talking about the country's economic progress. In our country 30 per cent of the people are living below the poverty line. Is this communication system for the rich people only and not for the poor people? Even after 54 years of attaining democracy, the common people in the country cannot use the telephones. ...(Interruptions)

Even we requested so many times the previous Ministers, namely, Shrimati Sushma Swaraj and Shri Pramod Mahajan to reduce the tariffs. Twice they reduced the tariffs for STD calls, international calls, and everything. Once we started moving in a right direction, and suddenly again we have gone back. So, this is a hasty decision of TRAI. The *status quo* should be maintained, otherwise it will be difficult. ...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: A roll back on it should take place. Questions on the hike are asked from us when we meet people. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members are requested to please sit down. I have heard a number of Members, and the hon. Minister can also very well understand that the Members are agitated on the increase that the Government has made. A detailed reply in this case is absolutely necessary, and a detailed reply can only come after a detailed discussion on this subject.

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Sir, we want it today.

[Translation]

Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is very big conspiracy. It is a conspiracy to disinvest MTNL. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: If you want a debate on this issue, you can fix it up in the Business Advisory Committee even before the Session gets over.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: But the way in which you are trying to ask questions, I do not think, the Minister will be able to answer them. I have to go to other questions also.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I would request the hon. Members to ask specific questions so that specific replies can be given by the Minister.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS: Sir, what is the position of the Government? ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Let us get the reply.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: He is asking a question.

[Translation]

Rupchand Palji, let the reply come first.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Raghuvanshji, I have not given you permission to be on your legs. You resume your seat.

...(Interruptions)

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: You are not allowing the question to be asked. ...(Interruptions) Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is an acute resentment in the masses due to the increase in the landline telephone tariff rates. ...(Interruptions) Hon. Minister has said that neither the monthly rental charges nor the pulse rate has been increased. Whether the hon. Minister will give an assurance and clarify as to why the increased rate is

being charged while no hike in rental charges has taken place?

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, you have said that you will allow half an hour discussion on it. I will mention all the things in it. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, hold the discussion now. ...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: Can you suggest me, what do you want from the Minister?

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Now Shri Palanimanickam will ask his question.

...*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI: I am fully dissatisfied with the attitude and the reply of the Government. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I understand the sentiment of the House.

...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: What do you want the Minister to do?

11.49 hrs.

*(At this stage, Shri N.N. Krishnadas and some other hon. Members came and stood on the floor near the Table.)*

MR. SPEAKER: What do you want from the Minister?

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Ask your question, he will reply.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: This is not the way. In this way you will not get a reply from the Minister.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Q. No. 646—Shrimati Shyama Singh

Q. No. 647—Shri Ramdas Athawale

Q. No. 648—Shri Ramshakal

Q. No. 649—Col. (Retd.) Sona Ram Choudhary

Q. No. 650—Shrimati Nivedita Mane  
Shri C.N. Singh

Q. No. 651—Prof. Ummareddy Venkateswarlu

Q. No. 652—Shri Radha Mohan Singh

Q. No. 653—Dr. Jaswant Singh Yadav

Q. No. 654—Shri C. Sreenivasan

Q. No. 655—Shri Abdul Rashid Shaheen  
Shri Bir Singh Mahato

Q. No. 656—Shri Shivaji Mane  
Dr. M.P. Jaiswal

Q. No. 657—Prof. Dukha Bhagat  
Shrimati Rajkumari Ratna Singh

Q. No. 658—Shri Iqbal Ahmed Saradgi

Q. No. 659—Shri N. Venkataswamy

Q. No. 660—Shri Anant Nayak

Q. No. 661—Shri Virendra Kumar  
Shri Vilas Muttemwar

Q. No. 662—Shri Ashok N. Mohol  
Shri Ramsheth Thakur

*[Translation]*

MR. SPEAKER: T.V. relay should be discontinued.

...*(Interruptions)*

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## WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[Translation]

### Introduction of Medical Course

\*644. SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any State Government is authorised to introduce its own medical course in the State without obtaining approval of the Medical Council of India/All India Medical Education and to award medical degrees;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the action taken/being taken by the Government against the States doing so?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (c) No, Sir. As per the Indian Medical Council Act, 1956, it is only the Central Government who can permit starting of new medical college, new or higher course of study or training in medicine (including a Post graduate course of Study or Training). The Government give such permission on the recommendation of the Medical Council of India. Similarly, any university or medical institution in India which grants medical qualification, not included in the First Schedule of Indian Medical Council act, 1956, has to apply to the Central Government for recognition of the qualification and the Central Government, after consulting the Medical Council of India, issues necessary notification for inclusion of such qualification in the First Schedule.

[English]

### Primary Health Care

\*646. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY:  
SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH:

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

(a) whether the Government are aware of the need to augment primary health care in the country as reported in the Statesman dated March 9, 2003;

(b) if so, whether the Government are considering augmenting primary health care system and also to empower secondary health care system;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether any assistance from NGOs and foreign countries is being sought for the purpose; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (c) Government is aware of shortage of primary health care facilities in several States against the laid down norms for establishment of Sub-Centres, Primary Health Centres and Community Health Centres. For a Sub-Centre established for every 5000 population in plains and 3000 in hilly, desert and tribal areas, Central assistance is provided to States towards the salary of ANM, honorarium of voluntary worker, rent of building and contingent expenditure at fixed rates. Medicines, furniture and equipments are provided to the Sub-centres under Reproductive and Child Health (RCH) Programme and other schemes. From 1.4.2002 onwards, the Government of India is providing financial assistance to all the 1,37,311 Sub-Centres in the country. Expenditure on Primary Health Centre and Community Health Centres is to be met by the States from out of the overall funds provided to them by the Planning Commission under the State Sector Health Outlay. Statement-I showing the number of Sub-Centres, Primary Health Centres and Community Health Centres required as per 1991 population and presently functioning in States/UTs indicating the goals for the Xth Plan to meet the shortfall is enclosed.

(d) and (e) Linkage between Primary Health Care system and secondary health care system is established by means of referral. With a view to augment the secondary health system in the country, Government has, in addition to its own efforts, negotiated with external agencies like World Bank to provide financial assistance. Details thereof are given in the enclosed Statements-II & III.

**Statement I**

| S.No. | States/UTs        | Sub-Centres |             |                         | Primary Health Centers |             |                         | Community Health Centres |             |                         |
|-------|-------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------------------|------------------------|-------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|-------------------------|
|       |                   | Reqd.*      | In Position | *Goal for the 10th Plan | Reqd.*                 | In Position | *Goal for the 10th Plan | Reqd.*                   | In Position | *Goal for the 10th Plan |
| 1     | 2                 | 3           | 4           | 5                       | 6                      | 7           | 8                       | 9                        | 10          | 11                      |
| 1.    | Andhra Pradesh    | 10242       | 10568       | —                       | 1707                   | 1386        | 321                     | 427                      | 219         | 208                     |
| 2.    | Arunachal Pradesh | 220         | 273         | —                       | 37                     | 65          | —                       | 9                        | 20          | —                       |
| 3.    | Assam             | 4356        | 5109        | —                       | 726                    | 610         | 116                     | 181                      | 100         | 81                      |
| 4.    | Bihar             | 11547       | 10337       | 1210                    | 1961                   | 1642        | 319                     | 490                      | 87          | 403                     |
| 5.    | Chhattisgarh      | 4692        | 3818        | 874                     | 704                    | 545         | 159                     | 176                      | 150         | 26                      |
| 6.    | Goa               | 138         | 172         | —                       | 23                     | 19          | 4                       | 6                        | 5           | 1                       |
| 7.    | Gujarat           | 6168        | 7274        | —                       | 1028                   | 1044        | —                       | 257                      | 253         | 4                       |
| 8.    | Haryana           | 2482        | 2299        | 183                     | 414                    | 402         | 12                      | 103                      | 64          | 39                      |
| 9.    | Himachal Pradesh  | 973         | 2069        | —                       | 162                    | 302         | —                       | 40                       | 65          | —                       |
| 10.   | Jammu & Kashmir   | 1176        | 1700        | —                       | 196                    | 337         | —                       | 49                       | 53          | —                       |
| 11.   | Jharkhand         | 4278        | 4462        | —                       | 676                    | 561         | 115                     | 169                      | 47          | 122                     |
| 12.   | Karnataka         | 6431        | 8143        | —                       | 1072                   | 1676        | —                       | 268                      | 249         | 19                      |
| 13.   | Kerala            | 4325        | 5094        | —                       | 721                    | 944         | —                       | 180                      | 105         | 75                      |
| 14.   | Madhya Pradesh    | 7430        | 8129        | —                       | 1316                   | 1193        | 123                     | 329                      | 229         | 100                     |
| 15.   | Maharashtra       | 10533       | 9725        | 808                     | 1756                   | 1768        | —                       | 439                      | 351         | 88                      |
| 16.   | Manipur           | 344         | 420         | —                       | 57                     | 69          | —                       | 14                       | 15          | —                       |
| 17.   | Meghalaya         | 464         | 413         | 51                      | 77                     | 85          | —                       | 19                       | 13          | 6                       |
| 18.   | Mizoram           | 122         | 346         | —                       | 20                     | 58          | —                       | 5                        | 9           | —                       |
| 19.   | Nagaland          | 325         | 302         | 23                      | 54                     | 46          | 8                       | 14                       | 9           | 5                       |
| 20.   | Orissa            | 6374        | 5927        | 447                     | 1062                   | 1352        | —                       | 265                      | 157         | 108                     |
| 21.   | Punjab            | 2858        | 2852        | 6                       | 476                    | 484         | —                       | 119                      | 105         | 14                      |
| 22.   | Rajasthan         | 7484        | 9926        | —                       | 1247                   | 1674        | —                       | 312                      | 263         | 49                      |
| 23.   | Sikkim            | 85          | 147         | —                       | 14                     | 24          | —                       | 4                        | 2           | 2                       |
| 24.   | Tamil Nadu        | 7424        | 8682        | —                       | 1237                   | 1436        | —                       | 309                      | 72          | 237                     |
| 25.   | Tripura           | 579         | 539         | 40                      | 96                     | 58          | 38                      | 24                       | 11          | 13                      |
| 26.   | Uttaranchal       | 1764        | 1524        | 240                     | 265                    | 257         | 8                       | 66                       | 30          | 36                      |
| 27.   | Uttar Pradesh     | 20573       | 18629       | 1944                    | 3458                   | 3551        | —                       | 865                      | 280         | 535                     |
| 28.   | West Bengal       | 10356       | 8126        | 2230                    | 1726                   | 1262        | 464                     | 431                      | 99          | 332                     |

| 1     | 2                         | 3      | 4      | 5    | 6     | 7     | 8    | 9    | 10   | 11   |
|-------|---------------------------|--------|--------|------|-------|-------|------|------|------|------|
| 29.   | Andaman & Nicobar Islands | 45     | 100    | —    | 7     | 18    | —    | 2    | 4    | —    |
| 30.   | Chandigarh                | 13     | 13     | —    | 2     | 0     | 2    | 1    | 1    | —    |
| 31.   | Dadra & Nagar Haveli      | 40     | 36     | 4    | 7     | 6     | 1    | 2    | 1    | 1    |
| 32.   | Daman & Diu               | 12     | 21     | —    | 2     | 3     | —    | 1    | 1    | —    |
| 33.   | Delhi                     | 190    | 42     | 148  | 32    | 8     | 24   | 8    | —    | 8    |
| 34.   | Lakshadweep               | 7      | 14     | —    | 1     | 4     | —    | —    | 3    | —    |
| 35.   | Pondichery                | 58     | 80     | —    | 10    | 39    | —    | 3    | 4    | —    |
| Total |                           | 134108 | 137311 | 8208 | 22349 | 22928 | 1714 | 5584 | 3073 | 2512 |

\*Required as per 1991 Census based population.

### **Statement II**

#### *External assistance for*

#### *Reproductive and Child Health (RCH) Programme*

(Rs. In crores)

| Agency              | 2000-01 | 2001-02 | 2002-03 | Total   |
|---------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| World Bank          | 362.89  | 366.75  | 254.71  | 984.35  |
| European Commission | 110.81  | 0.00    | 155.45  | 266.26  |
| DFID, U.K.          | 143.96  | 136.76  | 148.75  | 429.47  |
| KFW, Germany        | 0.00    | 0.00    | 50.00   | 50.00   |
| UNICEF              | 39.00   | 57.29   | 124.74  | 211.03  |
| Total               | 656.66  | 560.80  | 733.65  | 1951.11 |

### **Statement III**

#### *Status Note on State Health System Development Projects with World Bank assistance*

State Health System Development Projects with the World Bank assistance aimed at improving/upgrading secondary level health facilities are under implementation in the following States:—

(Rs. In Crores)

| State          | Project Period                     | Project Outlay | Status                 |
|----------------|------------------------------------|----------------|------------------------|
| 1              | 2                                  | 3              | 4                      |
| Andhra Pradesh | w.e.f. 1.3.95 for 6 and half years | 608.00         | Completed on 30.6.2002 |

| 1                           | 2                                    | 3      | 4                         |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------|---------------------------|
| West Bengal                 | w.e.f. 26.6.96 for 5 and half years  | 698.00 | Extended upto 31.3.2004   |
| Karnataka                   | w.e.f. 27.6.96 for 5 and half years  | 546.00 | Extended upto 31.3.2004   |
| Punjab                      | w.e.f. 27.6.96 for 5 and half years  | 425.00 | Extended upto 31.3.2004   |
| Orissa                      | w.e.f. Sept., 98 for 5 years         | 415.57 | Under Implementation      |
| Maharashtra                 | w.e.f. 14.2.99 for 5 and half years  | 727.00 | -do-                      |
| Uttar Pradesh & Uttaranchal | w.e.f. 1.7.2000 for 5 and half years | 495.00 | (Total outlay 521 crores) |

#### THE STATUS OF OTHER PROPOSAL IN PIPELINE

##### *Assam with outlay of Rs. 382.16 crores*

The Project proposal of Assam was submitted to DEA for World Bank assistance on 27.10.2000. The World Bank in its review mission had expressed its inability to undertake this project due to security constraints. However, DEA has again been requested on 4.1.2002 to take up the matter with World Bank for reconsideration.

##### *Rajasthan with outlay of Rs. 338.22 crores*

The proposal of Rajasthan Health System Development Project was submitted to the World Bank on 28.11.2000. The World Bank mission in its review visit had advised to revise the project proposal. The Rajasthan Government had submitted TOR indicating activities to be undertaken by utilizing savings from RCH project at a cost of Rs. 54.46 lakhs. Department of Family Welfare conveyed its approval on 16.5.2002 to Rajasthan Government for utilization of savings of 54.06 lakhs under RCH sub project for revising the project proposal.

##### *Tamil Nadu with outlay of Rs. 650 crores*

The proposal of the Tamil Nadu was submitted to DEA for World Bank assistance on 10.11.2000. World Bank in its review mission advised to send the concept paper for supplementing the main proposal, which has been submitted to DEA on 10.1.2002. Now the proposal is under consideration of the World Bank since then.

##### *Madhya Pradesh with outlay of Rs. 629.62 crores*

The proposal of M.P. was submitted to DEA for World Bank assistance on 28.10.2002, in consultation with Planning Commission. In response, DEA has stated that the annexure referred in the proposal has not been received by them. Now the Government of M.P. has been requested to send the additional copies of the complete proposal.

##### *Kerala with outlay of Rs. 810.47 crores*

The proposal of the Kerala has been submitted to World Bank.

[Translation]

#### **Rubberised Roads**

\*647. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether tests have been conducted for constructing rubberised roads;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to make rubberised roads in the capital; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI): (a) and (b) Tests have been conducted both in laboratory and field to investigate the effect of use of rubber and polymer modified bitumen in improving the performance of the roads.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Polymer/rubber modified bitumen for wearing surface is being used for the new projects in the capital.

#### **Chhatra Sansad Competition/Programme**

\*648. SHRI RAMSHAKAL: Will the Minister of PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government provide funds to several schools for conducting Chhatra Sansad Competition/Programme in the country;

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

(c) the number of Chhatra Sansad competitions organised during the last three years, State-wise; and

(d) the benefit accruing from such programme/competitions?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) and (b) The Yuva Sansad Pratiyogita/Youth Parliament Competitions are conducted all over the country under the following four schemes:-

1. Youth Parliament Competition for Schools under the Govt. of NCT of Delhi and NDMC;
2. National Youth Parliament Competition for Kendriya Vidyalayas;
3. National Youth Parliament Competition for Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas; and
4. National Youth Parliament Competition for Universities/Colleges.

These competitions are not conducted State-wise and financial assistance is provided to the participating schools/institutions under the schemes mentioned at S. No. 3 and 4 above.

(c) The number of Youth Parliament Competitions organised during last three years schemes-wise is as below:-

| S.No. | Scheme  | Number of participating schools/<br>institutions in Youth Parliament<br>Competitions held during |           |           |
|-------|---|--|-----------|-----------|
|       |   | 2000-2001  | 2001-2002 | 2002-2003 |
| 1.    | Youth Parliament Competition for Schools under the Govt. of NCT of Delhi and NDMC | 69   | 38        | 39        |
| 2.    | National Youth Parliament Competition for Kendriya Vidyalayas                     | 163  | 88        | 88        |
| 3.    | National Youth Parliament Competition for Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas             | 55   | 88        | 78        |
| 4.    | National Youth Parliament Competition for Universities/Colleges                   | 40   | 37        | 31        |

(d) Main objectives of Youth Parliament Competitions are to strengthen the roots of democracy, inculcate healthy habits of discipline, tolerance for views of others and to educate student community about the working of Parliament.

[English]

#### **Mismanagement of Telecom Stores**

\*649. COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken note of mismanagement of stores and carelessness in disposal of obsolete and unserviceable stores worth crores of rupees lying in various store Depots for several years;

(b) if so, whether inordinate delay in their disposal results in theft, pilferage and loss;

(c) if so, the facts thereof;

(d) whether advance paid during March 2000 to suppliers to the tune of Rs. 357.65 crores remained unadjusted till March, 2001;

(e) if so, whether responsibility has been fixed in this regard; and

(f) if so, the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) The Government have taken note of some deficiencies in the management of Telecom Stores. Regarding disposal of obsolete and unserviceable stores, Government have issued detailed procedure/guidelines from time to time to bring about improvement in the management of stores. As on date, the amount of obsolete and unserviceable stores accumulated over so many years is less than 0.5 per cent of the total value of stores procured during this period.

(b) Due to the elaborate procedure that has to be followed for scrapping and disposal of obsolete and unserviceable stores, delays do take place that may some time lead to the risk of theft, pilferage and loss. During the last three years, obsolete and unserviceable stores worth Rs. 105.8 crore have been disposed off through approved Government agency Metal Scrap Trading

Corporation (MSTC). Telecom Stores Circle has already initiated action for disposal of obsolete and unserviceable stores amounting to Rs. 25.41 crore lying in Wholesale Depots through the same approved agency.

(c) Reports received from field units indicate that amount involved in such cases is very small as compared to total value of stores transacted.

(d) No, Sir. The words "Advance Payment to Contractors (APC)" are used for accounting purposes only. Provisional payment of 90%/95% as per the terms and conditions of the purchase order was being made to suppliers on submission of proof of despatch of stores/provisional receipt. This amount shown unadjusted under the head APC (representing 90%/95% provisional payment) was being cleared only after settlement of the balance 10%/5% amount on receipt of Bill Copy Payable Challan (BCPC). The BCPC is the proof of actual receipt of materials after verification of contents.

(e) Since the provisional payment was being made only after proof of despatch of goods/provisional receipt strictly as per terms and conditions of purchase order, no impropriety was committed. Therefore, the question of fixing of responsibility does not arise.

(f) A massive drive was launched in 2000 to clear the unadjusted amount under the head "APC" of the major suppliers i.e. M/s ITI, M/s HCL, M/s HTL (Central PSUs). As a result, accumulated unadjusted amount under the head "APC" came down from Rs. 613 Crore as on 1st April, 2000 to Rs. 357.65 crore in March, 2001 and further to Rs. 228.09 crore as on date. The matter is being constantly pursued with all concerned and the unadjusted amount under the head "Advance payment to Contractors" (APC) is likely to come down further in the coming months. The procedure has since been modified and now the expenditure is not being booked under the head "APC". The payments are now being made only after receipt of BCPC, which is the proof of actual receipt of materials after verification of contents and not against the proof of despatch/provisional receipt.

Besides, the system of stocking of stores in wholesale store depots has since been dispensed with.

#### **Manufacture of Defence Products in SSI Sector**

\*650. SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:  
SHRI C.N. SINGH:

Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government propose to allow Small Scale Industries to manufacture Defence products;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to provide any special concessions to the small scale industries for the purpose;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND MINISTER OF DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (DR. C.P. THAKUR):

(a) and (b) Small Scale Industries (SSIs) have long been supplying raw materials, finished/semi-finished products, parts & components to a number of Public Sector Undertakings and Ordinance Factories of the Ministry of Defence. The Army Base Workshops, Air Force Repair Depots and the Shipyards of the Navy are also directly sourcing their requirements from them. SSIs have also been participating in the efforts of the Defence Research & Development Organisation. From May 2001, Defence Industry Sector hitherto reserved from Public Sector has also been opened up for participation upto 100% by private sector undertakings, including the SSIs.

(c) to (e) SSI units are already enjoying certain special concessions which *inter alia* include the following:—

- (i) A nominal fee of Rs. 2,000/- is charged for registration for vendor assessment as against Rs. 5,000/- charged from the medium and large scale units.
- (ii) The Defence specifications and drawings relating to the development of small items are issued free of cost alongwith tender enquiry to SSIs. For the complete systems where the drawings are elaborate running into hundreds of pages, free access is allowed for perusal to enable SSI Sector to decide whether the same is of interest of them.
- (iii) Free consultancy is provided to SSI Sector to help them prepare for registration with DGQA. Relaxation in utilization of test facilities from reputed test houses is also given for certain parameters to SSIs.

### Linux System

\*651. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government had called a meeting of the I.T. Professionals to discuss the ways for propagating Linux system;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the reaction of the I.T. professionals thereto; and

(c) the manner in which the Linux system is proposed to be propagated?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A meeting was held on 23rd December 2002 at Department of Information Technology, Government of India to discuss relevance and opportunities for Open Source/Free Software, more specially GNU/Linux in the Indian context.

Specific steps such as setting up of Resource Centre(s), Special Interest Groups, suitable provision in procurement policy of Government/Government Institutions, localization, R&D, inclusion of these in the Curricula/Labs of educational institutions specially Engineering Colleges etc. were discussed to arrive at consensual action plan. The relevance of Department of I.T. initiating these steps under a program entitled Linux India Initiative in the context of the above was also discussed.

Participants included a representative sample from I.T. industry (Indian and MNCs), academia, R&D labs, Central and State Governments, developer community/NGOs. They were desirous of pursuing this initiative.

(c) Based on the deliberations of the meeting and follow-up inputs from participants, a proposal for Linux India Initiative was submitted to Planning Commission for budgetary support during 2003-2004 and was submitted as part of Department of Information Technology (DIT)'s Annual Plan for 2003-2004. The DIT maintains a stance of strict technology neutrality, platform neutrality and vendor neutrality. It has therefore not prescribed preferential treatment of one over the other. DIT believes that both proprietary and open source software have a large space in the marketplace and the choice must be exercised by each user.

[Translation]

### Improvement of Quality of Health Services

\*652. SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the measures being taken to improve the quality of health services in the country;

(b) whether any assistance is likely to be taken in this regard from WHO, World Bank and other International Agencies;

(c) whether the Government propose to constitute any new body with the cooperation of the NGOs associated with the drug manufacturers, chemists and laboratories to improve the quality of health services; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) Health is a State subject. Hence, State Governments are primarily responsible for the provision of preventive, promotive and curative health care services. However, Central Government extends assistance to various States in the implementation of Centrally Sponsored Health Programmes for control of major diseases like Malaria, TB, Blindness, Leprosy and AIDS. The implementation of the disease control programmes in all the States has brought about a general improvement in the various health indicators in the country. A vast rural health care infrastructure comprising 1,37,211 Sub-Centres, 22,842 Primary Health Centres and 3043 Community Health Centres have been established up to March, 2001 for provision of health care services. Funds are also provided under Pradhan Mantri Gramodaya Yojana (PMGY) for improving the functional status of rural primary health care institutions.

(b) Yes, Sir. The Government has been making every effort to augment the resources for health sector by mobilizing external assistance from various bilateral and multilateral agencies for supporting National Health Programmes. State Health System Projects with World Bank assistance aimed at improving and upgrading the secondary health care facilities are also presently under implementation in seven States.

The main objective of the Government's health policy is to achieve an acceptable standard of good health amongst the general population of the country by adopting

the approach of increasing access to the decentralized public health system, by establishing new infrastructure in deficient areas and by upgrading the infrastructure in the existing institutions. The National Health Policy—2002, envisages increasing public health investment to 2% of GDP by the year 2010 from the existing level of 0.9%. Therein, it is also proposed that State Governments would increase their expenditure on health sector from 5.5% at present to 7% of their total budget by 2005 and to 8% of the budget by 2010. The Central Government contribution would rise from the existing level of 15% to 25% of the total public health spending by 2010. The Government is making all out efforts to increase expenditure on health as envisaged in the National Health Policy, 2002, subject to the overall financial constraints.

(c) and (d) There is no such proposal under consideration of the Government.

### Accidents on National Highways in Rajasthan

\*653. DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of accidents which occurred on the National Highways in Rajasthan during the last three years;

(b) the number of those killed and wounded in these accidents during the said period alongwith the number of persons given compensation and the number of those yet to get this compensation; and

(c) the steps taken to prevent road accidents on National Highways in Rajasthan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI): (a) and (b) As per information available, total number of accidents, persons killed and persons injured on the National Highway in Rajasthan for the last three years from 1999 to 2001 is given below:

| Year | Number of accidents | Number of persons Killed | Number of persons injured |
|------|---------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1999 | 6778                | 2313                     | 7996                      |
| 2000 | 6718                | 2312                     | 8314                      |
| 2001 | 7465                | 2455                     | 9621                      |

The details regarding the compensation given/pending are not compiled by this Ministry.



(c) The steps taken to prevent accidents broadly fall into three categories, namely, Engineering, Education and Enforcement. Government of India has been undertaking a number of engineering and educational measures to prevent road accidents in the country as a whole including the State of Rajasthan. Some of the important steps being taken by the Government besides highway design to check the road accidents are as under:

- (1) Funds for procurement of three number of cranes and ambulances were provided to Government of Rajasthan.
- (2) Grants-in-aid to voluntary organizations for administering road safety programmes.
- (3) Publicity campaign on road safety awareness through audio-visual-print media.
- (4) Encouraging use of simulators in driver's training.
- (5) Institution of National Award for voluntary organizations/individuals for outstanding work in the field of road safety.
- (6) Organizing All India Essay Competition on road safety for school children with a view to create awareness.
- (7) Tightening of fitness norms for transport vehicles.
- (8) For widening/improvement of roads, etc. an amount of Rs. 550.43 crore was spent on approximately 4666 Kms of National Highways (including approximately 1257 Kms. under National Highway Development Project) and Centrally sponsored works in Rajasthan during the last three years, *i.e.*, year 2000-01 to 2002-03.

Enforcement of provisions of Motor Vehicles Act, 1988 and Central Motor Vehicles Rules 1989 for improved road safety is entirely the responsibility of State Government.

[English]

#### **Computerisation/Modernisation of Post Offices**

\*654. SHRI C. SREENIVASAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have computerised all the major post offices in different States;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Union Government propose to modernise the post offices located in rural areas;

(e) if so, the details thereof and the expenditure to be incurred thereon; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) Department of Posts has computerised 550 Head Post Offices (HPOs) out of a total of 845 HPOs till 31st March, 2003. In addition, 1877 major Departmental Sub Post Offices out of a total of 25,219 have also been computerised till 31st March, 2003.

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

(c) In the Tenth Plan period, 335 HOPs (including 40 HPOs where limited number of computers were provided earlier) and 5010 major Departmental Sub Post offices are proposed for total computerisation and networking subject to required clearances and availability of funds. The remaining Post Offices will be taken up for computerisation in the subsequent Plan periods.

(d) The Department has a Plan scheme for modernisation of Post offices located in rural areas (called Branch Post Offices) by providing better infrastructural equipment. The scheme was started during the latter part of the Eighth Plan. It is a continuing scheme. There is a proposal for modernizing such Post offices in the Tenth Plan also.

(e) Till the end of Ninth Plan period, 30,118 Branch Post offices have been modernised out of a total of 1,29,231 such Post Offices. In the Tenth Plan period 10,000 Branch Post Offices are proposed for modernization with a proposed expenditure of Rs. 5 crores.

(f) The remaining Branch Post Offices will be taken up for modernization in subsequent Plan periods.

**Statement****Number of Head Post Offices and Sub Post Offices provided with Computers: Circle-wise**

| Sl. No.      | Name of the Circle | No. of HOs | No. of other Departmental Sub Post Offices | Total no. of Post Offices |
|--------------|--------------------|------------|--|---------------------------|
| 1.           | Andhra Pradesh     | 71         | 73   | 144                       |
| 2.           | Assam              | 20         | 53   | 73                        |
| 3.           | Bihar              | 23         | 10   | 33                        |
| 4.           | Chhattisgarh       | 10         | 70   | 80                        |
| 5.           | Delhi              | 12         | 72   | 84                        |
| 6.           | Gujarat            | 22         | 127  | 149                       |
| 7.           | Himachal Pradesh   | 17         | 45   | 62                        |
| 8.           | Haryana            | 16         | 38   | 54                        |
| 9.           | Jammu & Kashmir    | 8          | 23   | 31                        |
| 10.          | Jharkhand          | 9          | 4  | 13                        |
| 11.          | Kerala             | 34         | 172  | 206                       |
| 12.          | Karnataka          | 25         | 183  | 208                       |
| 13.          | Maharashtra        | 54         | 261  | 315                       |
| 14.          | Madhya Pradesh     | 16         | 53   | 69                        |
| 15.          | North East         | 9          | 21   | 30                        |
| 16.          | Orissa             | 33         | 31   | 64                        |
| 17.          | Punjab             | 22         | 73   | 95                        |
| 18.          | Rajasthan          | 15         | 69   | 84                        |
| 19.          | Tamilnadu          | 76         | 136  | 212                       |
| 20.          | Uttar Pradesh      | 35         | 135  | 170                       |
| 21.          | Uttaranchal        | 8          | 25   | 33                        |
| 22.          | West Bengal        | 15         | 203  | 218                       |
| <b>Total</b> |                    | <b>550</b> | <b>1877</b>                                | <b>2427</b>               |

**Legislation to Control Private Cell Phone Companies**

\*655. SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN:  
SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO:

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

(a) whether the Government propose to enact legislation to control private cell phone companies;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether there is any monitoring mechanism to control the mushrooming of private cell phone companies;

(d) if so, details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The Cellular Mobile Telephone Service (CMTS) sector is governed by the existing legislations *i.e.* Indian Telegraph Act, 1885 and Telecom Regulatory Authority of India Act, 1997. However, a Bill named the 'Communication Convergence Bill, 2001', designed to fully harness the benefits to the converged technologies and the emerging technologies of the future to meet the growing social and commercial needs was introduced in the Lok Sabha in August, 2001.

(c) to (e) Licences for Cellular Mobile Telephone Service (CMTS) have been granted to private companies based on an open bidding process. At present, there is provision for grant of three licences per Service Area to private companies in addition to one licence in each Service Area to Government companies. Accordingly, a total of 55 licences to private companies are in existence spread over 22 Service Areas. CMTS Providers are bound by the terms and conditions of the Licence Agreement with them. The performance and quality to service of the CMTS providers is monitored by the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) through quarterly reports as laid down by TRAI in terms of the provisions of TRAI Act.

#### **Fight against Global Terrorism**

\*656. SHRI SHIVAJI MANE:  
DR. M.P. JAISWAL:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of India being the prime mover of peace in the World have taken initiatives to mobilise the World opinion against the menace of global terrorism;

(b) if so, whether discussions have been held with big powers on this issue;

(c) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(d) the details of countries with whom India has signed agreement(s) to combat terrorism?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) to (d) India, a victim of terrorism, specially cross-border

terrorism, has consistently emphasised to the international community the threat that terrorism poses to peace and security and the need for enhanced international cooperation to effectively combat it. After the September 11 event and the attack on Indian Parliament the discussions with major powers and efforts in other international fora have further intensified.

There is greater recognition in the world today of the danger and threat of terrorism and of India's perspective including the need to put a stop to cross-border terrorism.

India has agreements on Joint Working Group (JWGs) on terrorism with a number of countries including UK, France, USA, Russia, China, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Israel and Germany.

[*Translation*]

#### **Health Centre in Villages**

\*657. PROF. DUKHA BHAGAT:  
SHRIMATI RAJKUMARI RATNA SINGH:

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

(a) whether the Bhure Lal Committee has suggested the setting up of a health centre in every village;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the efforts being made by the Government to implement the said suggestion?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (c) Government of India has not constituted any committee under the Chairmanship of Shri Bhure Lal for reviewing the health care system.

[*English*]

#### **Indo-Russian Talks**

\*658. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and Russian recently held discussions regarding Iraq war, its impact on the situation in Afghanistan and the anti-terror campaign in the region;

(b) if so, the points of discussions held with the Russian Government on these issues alongwith outcome thereof;

(c) whether there is a similarity of approach between the two countries; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) During the sixth meeting of the India-Russia Joint Working Group on Afghanistan held on 28 March, 2003 in Moscow, the two sides discussed, *inter alia*, the situation in Afghanistan and Iraq. The Minister of External Affairs and Mr. Igor Ivanov, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation, have also spoken to each other over telephone twice on 23 March and 24 April, 2003. Iraq war was also discussed in these two telephonic talks. The two sides shared their views about the military action against Iraq and expressed concern at the humanitarian situation in Iraq. India and Russia share the view that the military action against Iraq should not weaken the resolve of the international community to fight terrorism in Afghanistan and in the region.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) India and Russia share views on the restoration of the United Nations's role in addressing issues such as the Iraq problem. India and Russia are of the view that the United Nations should provide an agreed framework for providing humanitarian assistance to the Iraqi people for post-war reconstruction of Iraq. As regards Afghanistan and the anti-terror campaign in the region, the two countries firmly reject and condemn all types of terrorism, based on any ground—political, religious or ideological—and wherever it may exist. They agree that the countermeasures against this menace should be taken on a comprehensive and sustained basis. Such measures should be directed also against those states, entities and individuals who support, fund or abet terrorists or provide them shelter or asylum to engage in cross-border terrorism. The two countries also agree on the need to strengthen international mechanisms to fight against international terrorism, and in this context they have agreed to work towards the early conclusion and adoption by the United Nations General Assembly of the draft Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism and the draft International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism.

#### **Post-war Reconstruction of Iraq**

\*659. SHRI N. VENKATASWAMY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the diplomatic initiatives proposed to be taken by the Government for post-war reconstruction of Iraq;

(b) the nature of assistance that can be rendered by India in the reconstruction of Iraq;

(c) whether the Government have held discussions in the United Nations in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details of the deliberations held and the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI VINOD KHANNA): (a) to (d) In view of India's traditional friendship with the Iraqi people, India is keen to participate in the post war reconstruction of Iraq. Indian companies have wide experience of working in Iraq in the 1970s and 1980s in areas such as civil construction, infrastructural projects, industrial rehabilitation and deployment of expert manpower. Different aspects of the situation in Iraq such as humanitarian relief, easing or lifting of sanctions, and a UN role in facilitating post war political arrangements and reconstruction are currently under discussion among members of the UN. India is engaged in these consultations.

#### **Bilateral Ties with Norway**

\*660. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether steps are being taken by the Government to establish better bilateral relations with Nordic countries;

(b) if so, the areas identified for the purpose; and

(c) the programmes drawn up therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) India has warm and friendly relations with all Nordic countries. These have been strengthened by exchange of high level visits, enhancement of commercial and technological relations and as appropriate, the setting up of Joint Economic Commissions.

(b) and (c) Areas of cooperation with Nordic countries include enhancement of bilateral trade, cooperation in the energy sector and proposals for future collaboration in petroleum sector, polar research and environmental related studies.

#### **Tonnage Tax**

\*661. SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR:  
SHRI VILAS MUTTMEWAR:

Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to introduce the tonnage tax as an alternative to the existing corporate tax on their profits;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the manner in which tonnage tax is likely to reduce the burden on the ailing Indian Shipping Companies; and

(d) the names of the countries which have already introduced the tonnage tax system?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI SHATRUGHAN SINHA): (a) and (b) Ministry of Shipping is at present discussing the proposal of Introduction of Tonnage tax with the Ministry of Finance on the direction of the Cabinet. In order to finalize the modalities of the proposed fiscal regime, a group comprising of representatives of the Ministry of Shipping, Central Board of Direct Taxes and Indian National Shipowners' Association has been constituted.

(c) Since the proposal is under consideration stage, exact effect of this to reduce the burden on the ailing Indian shipping companies cannot be quantified at this stage.

(d) 42 maritime countries comprising 85.78% of world Shipping are following either the conventional tonnage tax system or dual taxation regime of corporate tax alongwith optional tonnage tax system. A list of countries having tonnage tax and its variants is annexed as statement.

#### **Statement**

*List of Countries that follow Tonnage Tax Regime and their respective Tonnage Profile*

|   | Tonnage as on 31.12.2000 |            |
|---|--------------------------|------------|
|   | No. of Ships             | GRT        |
| 1   | 2                        | 3          |
| <b>A. Countries with Conventional Tonnage tax System including flags of convenience countries</b> |                          |            |
| Antigua & Barmuda   | 759                      | 4,224,380  |
| Bahamas   | 1,295                    | 31,445,118 |
| Barbados  | 76                       | 733,319    |
| Belize  | 1,660                    | 2,251,422  |
| Bolivia   | 87                       | 177,736    |

| 1                    | 2             | 3                              |
|----------------------|---------------|--------------------------------|
| Combdia              | 405           | 1,447,491                      |
| Hong Kong            | 560           | 10,242,199                     |
| Cyprus               | 1,475         | 23,206,439                     |
| Denmark (Dis)        | 524           | 6,357,439                      |
| Dominica             | 7             | 2,233                          |
| Honduras             | 1,407         | 1,110,987                      |
| Jamaica              | 9             | 3,647                          |
| Liberia              | 1,557         | 51,450,917                     |
| Luxembourg           | 58            | 1,078,550                      |
| Malta                | 1,505         | 28,170,010                     |
| Marshall Islands     | 302           | 9,745,233                      |
| Mauritius            | 40            | 91,178                         |
| Netherlands Antilles | 177           | 1,235,471                      |
| Norway (Nis & FoC)   | 1,404         | 35,768,087                     |
| Panama               | 6,184         | 114,382,270                    |
| Portugal (Mar)       | 145           | 909,735                        |
| Saint Vincent        | 1,366         | 7,026,358                      |
| Singapore            | 1,728         | 21,491,085                     |
| Sri Lanka            | 65            | 150,003                        |
| Bermuda              | 129           | 5,751,816                      |
| Cayman Islands       | 133           | 1,796,353                      |
| Gibraltar            | 55            | 604,008                        |
| Isle of Man          | 223           | 5,430,510                      |
| Vanuatu              | 288           | 1,378,832                      |
| <b>Sub Total</b>     | <b>23,623</b> | <b>367,663,214</b><br>(70.38%) |

#### **B. Dual Taxation Regimes**

|         |       |            |
|---------|-------|------------|
| Greece  | 1,529 | 26,410,710 |
| Denmark | 942   | 6,823,081  |
| Germany | 994   | 6,552,202  |
| Italy   | 1,457 | 9,048,652  |

| 1  | 2      | 3                       |
|--|--------|-------------------------|
| Netherlands                                    | 1,317  | 5,167,722               |
| Norway (NOR)                                   | 1,606  | 3,912,084               |
| United Kingdom                                 | 1,488  | 5,531,986               |
| Portugal                                       | 326    | 281,757                 |
| Spain  | 1,503  | 1,552,626               |
| France   | 700    | 1,502,535               |
| Finland  | 280    | 1,620,353               |
| Turkey   | 1,153  | 5,832,717               |
| South Korea                                    | 2,502  | 6,199,801               |
| Sub Total                                      | 15,757 | 80,427,232<br>(15.40%)  |
| <b>C. Cabotage Trade Regimes</b>               |        |                         |
| USA  | 5,792  | 11,110,901              |
| Japan  | 8,012  | 15,256,624              |
| Canada   | 861    | 2,657,570               |
| Sub Total                                      | 14,665 | 29,025,095              |
| <b>D. Developing Trade/Liberal Tax Regimes</b> |        |                         |
| Brune  | 57     | 361,726                 |
| Malaysia                                       | 868    | 5,328,086               |
| UAE  | 350    | 978,781                 |
| Saudi Arabia                                   | 276    | 1,259,627               |
| Iran   | 375    | 4,234,410               |
| Qatar  | 67     | 715,489                 |
| Sub Total                                      | 1,993  | 12,878,119<br>(2.47%)   |
| Total (A+B+C+D)                                |        | 489,993,660<br>(93.81%) |
| World Tonnage                                  |        | 522,410,119*            |

\*Excludes unknown flags and unknown taxation regimes with a combined tonnage of 35.64 million grt.

Note: Figures in brackets refer to percentage share of respective groups of countries to World Tonnage.

### Alternate Material for Construction of Roads

\*662. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL:  
SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR:

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

(a) whether the Government are using cement for construction of roads under the National Highway Development Project;

(b) if so, whether the experts have pointed out several drawbacks in use of cement in the construction of roads;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government are considering use of any alternate material for the construction of roads; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) No such opinion has been received from experts. However, the higher initial cost, susceptibility to skidding and higher noise etc. are some of the drawbacks of cement concrete roads.

(d) and (e) Only proven materials are being used for construction of roads. These are bitumen, cement and stone aggregates. Modifiers for bitumen, geotextiles and fly-ash have been recently introduced in road construction.

### Software Technology Parks in Jharkhand

6355. SHRI LAXMAN GILUWA:  
SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY:

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

(a) whether the Government propose to set up electronic Software Technology Parks in Jharkhand;

(b) if so, the details of the districts alongwith the locations for which assistance has been provided by the Government for setting up such parks; and

(c) the details of the guidelines issued for the setting up of electronic software parks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SU. THIRUNAVUKKARASAR): (a) and (b) A proposal to set up a Software Technology Parks of India (STPI) Centre at Ranchi, Jharkhand has already been approved. A project proposal for setting up of HSDC facility and incubation Centre at Ranchi was approved by Ministry of Commerce and Industry for funding of Rs. 3.5 Crores under their scheme "Assistance to States for Developing Export Infrastructure and Allied Activities (ASIDE)". In addition Department of Information Technology, has also released a grant-in-aid of Rs. 50 lakhs. The State Government will also provide 3 acres of land and 3000 sq. ft of built up space.

(c) The setting up of new centre is based on export potential as well as the State Government's willingness to provide land, built up area and financial support.

#### Improvement of Postal Network

6356. SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether average population served by post offices in India is less in comparison to U.K. and Sri Lanka;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken or being taken by the Government to further improve postal network in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SU. THIRUNAVUKKARASAR): (a) Yes, Sir. The average population and area served per post office in India is 6566 and 21.22 sq. km. respectively, as against

4192 and 14.40 sq. km. in Sri Lanka and 3377 and 13.84 sq. km. in U.K.

(b) and (c) Given the population and geographical extent to be covered by the network in U.K. and Sri Lanka vis-a-vis that in India, these indicators do not form a proper basis for comparison. India has the largest postal network in the world and Government continues to improve the access to postal facilities by expanding the network, subject to norms and availability of resources under Plan Schemes. The postal system in India also extends the facility to daily delivery and collection of dak sale of postage stamps at the doorstep of the customers throughout the length and breadth of this country.

#### Deepening of Ports

6357. SHRI PARSURAM MAJHI: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government had taken up the deepening work of some major ports during the Ninth Plan;

(b) if so, the details thereof, port-wise and the amount spent thereon;

(c) whether steps had been taken by the Government for the deepening of the approach Channel of Paradeep Port; and

(d) if so, the progress thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI): (a) and (b) Port-wise details of deepening work taken up by the ports during the Ninth Plan are as follows:

| Sl. No. | Name of Major Port | Particulars of Deepening Work   | Amount Spent during Ninth Plan (Rs. in crores) |
|---------|--------------------|---|--|
| 1       | 2                  | 3   | 4  |
| 1.      | Visakhapatnam      | Deepening of Port waterways including Outer Harbour Entrance Chennel to (-)20 mtrs. and Turning Circle to (-)19 mtrs., two Ore Berths to (-) 18.2 mtrs., Offshore Tanker Terminal to (-) 19 mtrs., LPG Jetty to (-)16 mtrs., General Cargo Berth in the Outer Harbour to (-)16.5 mtrs. and Inner Harbour Entrance Channel and Turning Circle to (-)11.6 mtrs. | 18.43  |

| 1  | 2             | 3   | 4      |
|----|---------------|---|--------|
| 2. | Kandla        | Deepening of Channel to (-)11.20 mtrs.  | 52.2   |
| 3. | Mormugao      | Deepening of two General Cargo Berths Nos. 10 and 11 to (-)12.00 mtrs. and (-)13.10 mtrs. respectively and the area for Mooring Dolphin on the turning circle to (-)13.1mtrs. | 23.29  |
| 4. | New Mangalore | Extension of Oil Dock by dredging to depth of (-)15.1 mtrs.   | 30.12  |
| 5. | Tuticorin     | Deepening the Approach Channel and Harbour Basin to a draught of 10.7 mtrs.   | 237.00 |
| 6. | Ennore        | Deepening of Port Basin and Approach Channel  | 88.50  |

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) A scheme for Deepening of the Approach Channel at Paradip Port at an estimated cost of Rs. 100 crores has been included in the Tenth Five Year Plan (2002-07). The project is in preliminary stage in Port Trust.

#### **Labour System in Ports**

6358. SHRI SUNIL KHAN: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the contractual system of labour is provided in all the ports;

(b) whether some of the jobs in Vizag are undertaken by foreign labour on a contractual basis;

(c) whether due to ship dismantling in Gujarat ports, sea-water has been polluted causing environmental hazard; and

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

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

(a) Main work of Major Ports is cargo handling which is carried out by Port & Dock workers. However, in some Ports, peripheral jobs are assigned to contractors who are free to engage their own labour.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) No ship dismantling is carried out in Kandla Port, the only Major Port under the administrative

control of Government of India, located in the State of Gujarat.

#### **Ban on Sex Determination Test**

6359. DR. V. SAROJA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Committee on Empowerment of Women has recommended that women be punished with three years imprisonment and a fine of Rs. 50,000 if they undergo sex determination test;

(b) if so, whether this committee also proposed an amendments to the Pre-Natal Diagnostics Techniques (Regulation and Prevention of Misuse) Act, 2003;

(c) whether the proposed amendments to the Act exclude men from the pre-natal diagnostics procedures; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (Regulation and Prevention of Misuse) Act, 1994 has since been amended. Under the amended provisions of section 23 of the Act, any person who seeks the aid of any clinic, centre or person for sex selection or for conducting pre-natal diagnostic techniques for the purposes other than those permitted under the Act, is punishable with imprisonment upto three years and fine upto fifty thousand rupees for the first offence. For any subsequent offence the punishment would be imprisonment upto five years



and fine upto one lakh rupees. The pregnant woman who has been compelled to undergo such test or diagnostic techniques is not liable to these punishments. However, her husband or any other person who compels her to undergo these tests or techniques, is punishable under section 24 of the Act.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. Any person, whether man or woman is covered under the Act.

#### **Posting of Pharmacists**

6360. SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the existing sanctioned strength of Pharmacists in CGHS Dispensaries/Units of Ayurvedic/Homoeopathic system in Delhi/New Delhi as on February 28, 2003;

(b) whether according to the norms of posting the pharmacists are same in both the systems;

(c) if so, the details of the pharmacists actually posted in each of these dispensaries/units in Delhi/New Delhi; and

(d) if not, the reason for having different norms for different systems alongwith the details thereof each system separately?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) The sanctioned strength of Pharmacists in CGHS dispensaries/Units of Ayurvedic and Homoeopathic under CGHS Delhi as on 28.2.2003 is as under:-

|                           |   |    |
|---------------------------|---|----|
| Pharmacist (Homoeopathic) | — | 18 |
| Pharmacist (Ayurvedic)    | — | 32 |

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The details of Pharmacist actually posted in each of the CGHS dispensaries/Units of Ayurvedic and Homoeopathic under CGHS Delhi are given in the enclosed statement.

(d) In view of (a) above, the question does not arise.

#### **Statement**

| Name of Dispensary                                 | Number of Pharmacists posted |
|--|------------------------------|
| 1  | 2                            |
| <b>Ayurvedic</b>                                   |                              |
| CGHS Ayurvedic dispensary, Kali Bari               | 2                            |
| CGHS Ayurvedic dispensary, North Avenue            | 2                            |
| CGHS Ayurvedic dispensary, R.K. Puram (Sector-XII) | 3                            |
| CGHS Ayurvedic dispensary, Kidwai, Nagar           | 3                            |
| CGHS Ayurvedic dispensary, Janakpuri               | 2                            |
| CGHS Ayurvedic Unit, Delhi Contonment              | 2                            |
| CGHS Ayurvedic Unit, Dev Nagar                     | 2                            |
| CGHS Ayurvedic Unit, Paschim Vihar                 | 2                            |
| CGHS Ayurvedic Unit, Gurgaon                       | 1                            |
| CGHS Ayurvedic Unit, M.B. Road                     | 1                            |
| CGHS Ayurvedic Unit, Jungpura                      | 1                            |
| CGHS Ayurvedic Unit, Laxmi Nagar                   | 1                            |
| CGHS Ayurvedic Unit, Kingsway Camp                 | 2                            |

| 1   | 2 |
|---|---|
| <b>Homoeopathic</b>                                   |   |
| CGHS Homoeopathic dispensary, Kali Bari               | 3 |
| CGHS Homoeopathic dispensary, Dev Nagar               | 2 |
| CGHS Homoeopathic dispensary, R.K. Puram (Sector-XII) | 1 |
| CGHS Homoeopathic Unit, South Avenue                  | 1 |
| CGHS Homoeopathic Unit, Hari Nagar                    | 1 |
| CGHS Homoeopathic Unit, Tilak Nagar                   | 2 |
| CGHS Homoeopathic Unit, R.K. Puram, Sector-III        | 1 |
| CGHS Homoeopathic Unit, Kasturba Nagar                | 1 |
| CGHS Homoeopathic Unit, Kalkaji-I                     | 1 |
| CGHS Homoeopathic Unit, Pushp Vihar                   | 1 |
| CGHS Homoeopathic Unit, Laxmi Nagar                   | 1 |
| CGHS Homoeopathic Unit, Shahadra                      | 1 |
| CGHS Homoeopathic Unit, Timarpur                      | 1 |

**Expansion of Communication Network  
in N-E Estates**

6361. SHRI GUNIPATI RAMAIAH:  
SHRI GANTA SRENIVASA RAO:

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

(a) whether calls from Agartala to any part of the country are treated as ISD call instead of STD call;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether any action has been taken by the Government to expand its communication network to all the important cities of the North-Eastern States; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) No, Sir.

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

(c) Yes, Sir. All the important cities of the North-Eastern States have already been provided with modern and reliable communication network.

(d) Does not arise in view (c) above.

**Conversion of Teaching Posts**

6362. SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether after the Fourth Pay Commission, the Tikku Committee was set up in 1987 which had given its report that all non-teaching posts in teaching institutes under the Central Health Scheme may be converted to teaching posts in teaching institutes;

(b) if so, whether the same has been done; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) The Tikku Committee was constituted in 1990. It had not recommended for conversion of non-teaching specialist

posts of Central Health Service in teaching institutes into teaching posts.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

**Loss due to Non-Publication of Telephone Directory**

6363. SHRI A. NARENDRA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the total loss suffered by the Government due to non-publication of telephone directories annually by way of royalty in test-checked circles during the last three years;

(b) the names of printers who did not pay the royalty and the amount outstanding against each of them; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to recover the amount of royalty?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) to (c) As per the current policy, telephone directories are printed either on positive royalty or negative royalty depending upon the offers received. There have been cases of non-printing of directories on account of default by the contractors, non availability of contractors and legal cases. Action is taken against defaulters as per departmental rules.

[*Translation*]

**SSI Units in Bihar**

6364. SHRI RAJO SINGH: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the location-wise details of new small scale industries set up during the last three years and till date in Bihar;

(b) the details of items manufactured in these units;

(c) the production capacity and actual production of each of them;

(d) the locations where small scale industries are proposed to be set up in Bihar in the current year; and

(e) the time by which these industries are likely to start production?

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND MINISTER OF DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (DR. C.P. THAKUR): (a) As reported by the State Government of Bihar, the number of Small Scale Industries (SSI) units set up during last three years *i.e.* during 1999-2000 to 2001-2002 is 12,503 and cumulative number of SSI units set by the end of March, 2002 (latest available) is 93988. The Location-wise information is not maintained centrally. However, District-wise break-up of the new units set up and total number of units set up by the end of March, 2002 is given in the enclosed statement.

(b) to (e) SSI units are set up in the Private Sector and the role of the Government is to facilitate their promotion and development. Even the registration of the SSI units with the States directorate of Industries/District Industry Centres is voluntary as licenses are not required for setting up these units. The information in respect of the goods manufactured, their production capacity and actual production in these industries is not maintained centrally. The decision on locations where the new units are to be set up and their dates of commencement of production are decided by the entrepreneurs themselves.

**Statement**

*District-wise number of SSI units permanently registered during 1999-2000, 2000-2001 and 2001-2002*

| Sl.No. | Name of District | District-wise number of SSI units registered |           |           |                             |                                      |
|--------|------------------|--|-----------|-----------|-----------------------------|--------------------------------------|
|        |                  | 1999-2000                                    | 2000-2001 | 2001-2002 | During the last three years | Cumulative by the end of March, 2002 |
| 1      | 2                | 3  | 4         | 5         | 6                           | 7                                    |
| 1.     | West Champaran   | 54   | 20        | 84        | 158                         | 1301                                 |
| 2.     | East Champaran   | 281  | 223       | 255       | 759                         | 4709                                 |

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| 1   | 2                | 3   | 4   | 5   | 6    | 7     |
|-----|------------------|-----|-----|-----|------|-------|
| 3.  | Sheohar          | 80  | 40  | 80  | 200  | 333   |
| 4.  | Sitamarhi        | 126 | 66  | 125 | 317  | 3594  |
| 5.  | Madhubani        | 100 | 107 | 68  | 275  | 1885  |
| 6.  | Supaul           | 53  | 48  | 39  | 140  | 439   |
| 7.  | Araria           | 239 | 289 | 201 | 729  | 825   |
| 8.  | Kishanganj       | 190 | 229 | 124 | 543  | 638   |
| 9.  | Purnea           | 263 | 331 | 294 | 888  | 3288  |
| 10. | Katihar          | 225 | 110 | 121 | 456  | 2417  |
| 11. | Madhepura        | 21  | 45  | 48  | 114  | 1028  |
| 12. | Saharsa          | 115 | 53  | 49  | 217  | 2098  |
| 13. | Darbhanga        | 73  | 135 | 122 | 330  | 1709  |
| 14. | Muzaffarpur      | 184 | 170 | 228 | 582  | 5940  |
| 15. | Gopalganj        | 50  | 82  | 43  | 175  | 2050  |
| 16. | Siwan            | 139 | 133 | 111 | 383  | 2659  |
| 17. | Saran            | 139 | 72  | 101 | 312  | 3523  |
| 18. | Vaishali         | 74  | 128 | 51  | 253  | 2925  |
| 19. | Samastipur       | 103 | 74  | 55  | 232  | 3441  |
| 20. | Begusarai        | 103 | 14  | 157 | 344  | 3516  |
| 21. | Khagaria         | 28  | 29  | 54  | 111  | 960   |
| 22. | Bhagalpur        | 66  | 52  | 75  | 193  | 2465  |
| 23. | Banka            | 24  | 18  | 37  | 79   | 242   |
| 24. | Munger           | 154 | 182 | 175 | 511  | 4181  |
| 25. | Lakhisara        | 0   | 0   | 17  | 17   | 17    |
| 26. | Shekhpura        | 0   | 0   | 18  | 18   | 18    |
| 27. | Nalanda          | 120 | 156 | 172 | 448  | 3463  |
| 28. | Patna            | 463 | 433 | 320 | 1216 | 14498 |
| 29. | Bhojpur          | 46  | 166 | 101 | 313  | 1785  |
| 30. | Buxar            | 85  | 108 | 94  | 287  | 668   |
| 31. | Bhabhua (Kaimur) | 82  | 101 | 69  | 252  | 880   |
| 32. | Rohtas           | 104 | 86  | 91  | 281  | 3114  |
| 33. | Jehanabad        | 142 | 78  | 93  | 313  | 2652  |

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| 1           | 2          | 3    | 4    | 5    | 6     | 7     |
|-------------|------------|------|------|------|-------|-------|
| 34.         | Aurangabad | 101  | 93   | 109  | 303   | 2420  |
| 35.         | Gaya       | 162  | 202  | 82   | 446   | 5786  |
| 36.         | Nawada     | 153  | 50   | 97   | 300   | 2513  |
| 37.         | Jamui      | 0    | 0    | 8    | 8     | 8     |
| State Total |            | 4342 | 4193 | 3968 | 12503 | 93988 |

[English]

#### Opening of CGHS Dispensary in Delhi

6365. SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that more than 3000 CGHS beneficiaries reside in Pushpanjali and West Pitampura, New Delhi;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to open a CGHS dispensary in the above areas; and

(c) if so, by when?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) Yes, Sir. For availing dispensary facilities, the CGHS beneficiaries residing in Pushpanjali and West Pitampur are attached with the CGHS dispensary Shakurbasti located at a distance of about 3 to 4 kms.

(b) and (c) Due to constraints of resources and manpower, there is no proposal to open a new CGHS dispensary in the above mentioned areas at present.

#### Shipping Service between Mumbai and Panaji

6366. SHRI J.S. BRAR: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a regular ship service between Mumbai and Panaji;

(b) if so, whether it is running on profit;

(c) whether there is any proposal to extend this service to Mangalore to make it more profitable;

(d) whether any survey or study has been carried out in this regard; and

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

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

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Such surveys or studies would normally be done if a commercial venture is to be undertaken and since Government does not run commercial shipping services, no such survey has been conducted by Government.

#### Waiting List

6367. PROF. A.K. PREMAJAM: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of persons in the waiting list in Calicut Secondary Switching Area (SSA) of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL);

(b) the targeted number of telephone connections for the year 2001-2002, 2002-2003 & 2003-2004 within Calicut-SSA;

(c) whether the BSNL has not been able to achieve the targeted number of telephone connection during 2001-2002 & 2002-2003;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps taken to achieve the target?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) The total number of persons in the waiting list in Calicut Secondary Switching Area (SSA) are 62615 as on 31.3.2003.

(b) to (e) The target for the year 2001-02, 2002-03 and 2003-04 and achievement during the year 2001-02, 2002-03 for providing telephone connections in Calicut SSA are as under:-

| Year      | Fixed Line |             | Wireless in Local Loop (WLL) |             |
|-----------|------------|-------------|------------------------------|-------------|
|           | Target     | Achievement | Target                       | Achievement |
| 2001-2002 | 50000      | 50025       | Nil                          | Nil         |
| 2002-2003 | 35500      | 37526       | 26000                        | 1466        |
| 2003-2004 | 14885      | —           | 39378                        | —           |

The shortfall in achieving WLL target during the year 2002-03 is due to delay in supply of equipment from the vendors and validation of WLL equipment. Action has been taken to procure the material in time during 2003-04.

#### Registration of Foreign Suppliers

6368. SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the Government policy for Registration of foreign suppliers of Drugs by the Drugs Controller of India (DCI);

(b) whether the Government are also insisting on registration for intermediates and chemicals which go to into manufacturing of bulk drugs in the country; and

(c) if so, the justification of this policy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) Government of India, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare have published a Gazette Notification GSR No. 604(E) dated 24.8.2001 amending the various provisions of the Drugs and Cosmetics Rules, thereby introducing a new provision for the registration of the manufacturing premises of foreign drug manufacturers and the individual drugs prior to their import into the country. The notification has also introduced few other provisions viz. enhanced import licence fees, increased validity period of licence,

deletion of exemption from requirement of import licence for bulk drugs for actual users, requirement of minimum 60% of retained shelf life for imported drugs and provisions for import of small quantities of new drugs by Govt. hospitals for treatment of their own patients etc.

(b) and (c) No, Sir. Under Rule 24-A(8), no Registration Certificate is required in respect of an inactive bulk substance to be used for a drug formulation, with or without pharmacopoeial conformity. However, certain drugs like Penicillin G, Erythromycin, Tetracycline, Oxytetracycline, Estradio, Dexamethasone, Prednisolone etc., which are used as drugs as well as also used as a raw material for the manufacture of other drugs and their salts may required registration under the said Notification.

#### Development of Cancer Medicines

6369. DR. RAMESH CHAND TOMAR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question Nos. 174 and 175 on February 19, 2003 and state:

(a) the type of details of the Central Council of Research in Ayurveda and Siddha (CCRAS) sought from the D.S. Research Centre, Varanasi, and the date thereof;

(b) whether the Government are aware of the contents of the book "Cancer is curable now" published by the D.S. Research Centre, Ravinder Puri Colony, 147-A, Lane No. 8, Varanasi with documentary evidence in support of their claim;

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

(d) if not, the efforts being made to verify their claim of saving thousands of cancer patients;

(e) whether the Government propose to boost the activities of the centre in the interest of ever increasing number of cancer patients and to save huge foreign exchange being spent on the treatment of such patients abroad; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) The Centre was asked to provide details of composition of drugs, method of preparation, clinical data etc.

(b) Government is aware of this book which is collection of cases.

(c) and (d) It is not possible to evaluate the claim in the absence of required data.

(e) and (f) There is no such proposal as the claim has not been evaluated.

#### **Construction of Daman Ganga Bridge**

6370. SHRI DAHYABHAI VALLABHBHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons due to which the construction on Daman Ganga Bridge linking Nani Daman and Moti Daman has not commenced as yet even as technical approval for the project was granted long back by the Government;

(b) the factors responsible for delay and the steps taken by the Government in this regard; and

(c) the time by which the construction of bridge is likely to commence and be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI): (a) and (b) On the request the Ministry of Home Affairs, this Ministry accorded technical approval in August 2002 for the construction of Daman Ganga bridge at a cost of Rs. 17.99 crore in the U.T. of Daman. The environmental clearance is yet to be submitted by the U.T. Government before clearance by Standing Finance Committee can be taken up, for which the I.T. Administration is pursuing with Ministry of Environment and Forest.

(c) It is too early to give the completion date at this stage.

[*Translation*]

#### **Facilities to Students Living in SAI Centres**

6371. SHRI DINESH CHANDRA YADAV: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of amount proposed to be spent per student annually on the students living in SAI Hostels;

(b) whether the Government are providing all facilities to the students living particularly in SAI Centres at Patna, Kishanganj and Muzaffarpur; and

(c) if so, the expenditure incurred by the Government per student last year?

THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI VIKRAM VERMA): (a) The residential trainees are admitted in the hostels of following schemes of Sports Authority of India (SAI):

1. SAI Training Centre (STC)
2. Special Area Games (SAG)
3. Centre of Excellence (COX)

The trainees under the STC/SAG schemes are provided with following facilities:

|  |                          |
|--|--------------------------|
| (1) Boarding and lodging @ 75 per trainee for 300 days | Rs. 22,500/- p.a.        |
| (2) Sports Kit   | Rs. 3,000/- p.a.         |
| (3) Competition Exposure                               | Rs. 3,000/- p.a.         |
| (4) Education Expenses                                 | Rs. 1,000/- p.a.         |
| (5) Medical  | Rs. 300/- p.a.           |
| (6) Insurance  | Rs. 100/- p.a.           |
| (7) Miscellaneous                                      | Rs. 100/- p.a.           |
| <b>Total</b>   | <b>Rs. 30,000/- p.a.</b> |

The trainees under the COX Scheme are provided with following facilities:

|   |                          |
|---|--------------------------|
| (1) Boarding and lodging @ 100 per trainee for 200 days | Rs. 20,000/- p.a.        |
| (2) Sports Kit  | Rs. 3,000/- p.a.         |
| (3) Competition Exposure                                | Rs. 3,000/- p.a.         |
| (4) Medical   | Rs. 500/- p.a.           |
| (5) Insurance   | Rs. 100/- p.a.           |
| <b>Total</b>  | <b>Rs. 26,600/- p.a.</b> |

This apart necessary sports equipments are provided for scientific training.

(b) Yes, Sir. Residential trainees in STC, Patna, SAG Centres at Kishanganj and Muzaffarpur are provided with boarding lodging, scientific training, competition exposure, sports kit, necessary equipment for training medical assistance insurance etc.

(c) Expenditure on the trainees of STC, Patna, SAG Centres at Kishanganj and Muzaffarpur are incurred as per the above norms. This apart following expenditure were incurred as salary to the coaches posted in the centres:

- |                        |   |                 |
|------------------------|---|-----------------|
| (i) STC Patna          | — | Rs. 15,25,195/- |
| (ii) SAG, Kishanganj   | — | Rs. 3,95,386/-  |
| (iii) SAG, Muzaffarpur | — | Rs. 6,20,210/-  |

#### **Mobile Service in Maharashtra**

6372. SHRI NAMDEO HARBHAJI DIWATHE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Taluka level villages under Bhandara, Chanderpur, Gondia and Gadchiroli districts of Maharashtra have been covered under mobile service;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) by when Taluka level villages of the above districts are likely to be covered under mobile service?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) and (b) The following companies are Licenced to provide and have commissioned Cellular Mobile Telephone Service (CMTS) in Maharashtra Telecom Circle Service Area.

1. M/s. BPL Mobile Cellular Ltd.
2. M/s. IDEA Cellular Ltd.
3. M/s. Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd. (BSNL)
4. M/s. Bharti Cellular Ltd.

As per the information provided by these companies, District headquarters of Bhandara, Gondia, and Chanderpur and Bhadravati & Warora Talukas of Chanderpur district are covered with CMTS. None of the

said companies are providing CMTS in the Gadchiroli district of Maharashtra.

(c) and (d) As per the terms and conditions of the Licence for CMTS, in the Telecom Circle service Areas, an operator is required to cover 10% of the District Headquarters within one year and 50% of the district Headquarters within three years. The Licensee is also permitted to cover any other town in a district in lieu of the District Headquarter. The choice of District Headquarter/Towns to be covered and further expansion beyond 50% District Headquarters/Towns shall lie with Licensee depending on his business decision. There is no mandatory requirement for coverage of rural areas.

However, the Government operator, namely, BSNL envisages to cover all the District Headquarters in its licensed service area of Maharashtra Telecom Circle.

#### **Restoration of Water Supply**

6373. DR. BALIRAM: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd. New Delhi, has deposited a sum of Rs. Forty lakh in order to restore the water supply from NDMC to the departmental flats at Kalibari Marg, New Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the date on which the above amount was deposited;

(c) whether the supply of water has been restored;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) by when NDMC water supply is likely to be restored in the Government flats?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) Yes. Sir, the department has deposited Rs. 41,04,684/- (Rs. Forty One lakhs, four thousand six hundred and eighty four only) to NDMC for restoration of water supply at P&T Colony, Kali Bari Marg, New Delhi.

(b) The amount was deposited on 6.3.03 vide NDMC challan No. C-5 dated 6.3.03.

(c) The water supply has not been restored till date.



(d) The case is being pursued with NDMC.

(e) NDMC water supply is likely to be restored at an early date.

#### **Motor Sports Association**

6374. SHRI P.R. KHUNTE:  
SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE:

Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to refer to the reply given to unstarred question No. 3989 dated April 9, 2003 and state:

(a) whether Federation of Motors Sports Club of India has been divested of its A.S.N. rights and powers by F.I.A.; and

(b) if so, the reasons for recognizing it by the Government as on date?

THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI VIKRAM VERMA): (a) Yes, Sir. The Federation of Motors Sports Clubs of India has been divested of motor sporting power in India by FIA (the International Federation for Motor Sports).

(b) The matter is pending in the Hon'ble Delhi High Court and is sub-judice.

[English]

#### **Infrastructure Development in Himachal Pradesh**

6375. COL. (RETD.) DR. DHANI RAM SHANDIL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Himachal Pradesh has prepared a comprehensive plan for the development of infrastructure in the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the amount to be spent on each such projects; and

(d) the amount proposed to be provided by the Union Government for the implementation of these projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRI SATYA BRATA

MOOKHERJEE): (a) Sir, No exclusive comprehensive Plan for the Infrastructure Development in the State has been prepared. However, different Infrastructure Developmental activities are proposed to be implemented during the Tenth Five Year Plan (2002-07) for which an outlay of Rs. 10,300.00 crore has been approved. This will be implemented through the Annual Plans approved by Planning Commission, Government of India, on year to year basis. The approved outlay includes all activities under plan.

(b) to (d) In view of (a) above, questions do not arise.

#### **Refund of Security Deposit**

6376. DR. CHARAN DAS MAHANT: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of telephone connections disconnected and surrendered by subscribers in South Delhi area particularly in Hauz Khas area during the last six months;

(b) whether all the above cases have been disposed of by the MTNL and refund amount/security deposit etc. sent to the above subscribers;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) by when the refund amount is likely to be paid to the subscribers by the MTNL?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) 11,577 number of telephones were surrendered in all the Exchanges of South Delhi including 1480 in Hauz Khas Exchange during the last 6 months (1.10.2002 to 31.3.2003).

(b) and (c) Out of 11,577 cases, 8626 cases which include 1189 of Hauz Khas Exchange have been settled so far and 2951 cases which include 291 cases of Hauz Khas Exchange are pending.

(d) Cases are pending due to non-submission of required documents by the subscribers viz. copy of registration, affidavit etc.

(e) Cases are being settled expeditiously after receipt of documents from the subscribers.

**Disinvestment of Modern Food Industry**

6377. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV: Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Modern Food Industries Ltd. has become sick after disinvestment and is being referred to BIFR for liquidation/winding-up formalities;

(b) if so, the facts thereof and the reasons adduced by the private management thereof;

(c) whether the Government are satisfied with the reasons given by the Private Management;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the land and property owned by the Modern Food Ltd. at the time of their transfer to the Private Management?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) to (d) Modern Food Industries (India) Limited (MFIL) was disinvested on 31.1.2000 with the transfer of 74% Government equity in favour of M/s Hindustan Lever

Limited (HLL). During the period that MFIL was under Government control, the accumulated loss at the end of the financial year 1999-2000 resulted in the erosion of more than 50 percent of its net worth and therefore MFIL had filed a report with the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) in accordance with Section 15(1) of the Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1985 for declaring the company a sick industrial company and for determining measures for rehabilitation of the company under the Act. The BIFR directed the company to submit a rehabilitation package for revival of MFIL. In the revival plan submitted to BIFR, HLL did not ask for any relief or concession for revival of MFIL and, instead, indicated that with HLL's management and funding, MFIL would start generating profits from the year ending December 2004 and that the net worth of the company would become positive in the year ending December 2007. The BIFR, vide its order dated 5.3.2002, accepted the revival plan and took on record the Plan of Action submitted by the company for implementation by all concerned.

(e) Details of the land and property owned by MFIL at the time of its disinvestment are given in the enclosed statement.

**Statement**

*Land and Property owned by Modern Food Industries (India) Limited at the time of disinvestment on 31.1.2000*

| S.No. | Property/location | Leasehold/Freehold |
|-------|-------------------|--------------------|
| 1     | 2                 | 3                  |

**Bakery Units**

|    |            |           |
|----|------------|-----------|
| 1. | Ahmedabad  | Leasehold |
| 2. | Bangalore  | Freehold  |
| 3. | Kolkata    | Leasehold |
| 4. | Chandigarh | Freehold  |
| 5. | Chennai    | -do-      |
| 6. | Cochin     | -do-      |
| 7. | Delhi-I    | Leasehold |
| 8. | Delhi-II   | -do-      |
| 9. | Hyderabad  | Freehold  |

| 1   | 2   | 3         |
|---|---|-----------|
| 10.   | Indore                                      | Leasehold |
| 11.   | Jaipur                                      | -do-      |
| 12.   | Kanpur                                      | -do-      |
| 13.   | Mumbai                                      | -do-      |
| 14.   | Ranchi                                      | -do-      |
| <b>Supplementary Nutritional Food (SNF) and other units</b> |   |           |
| 15.   | Bhagalpur-SNF Unit                          | Leasehold |
| 16.   | Delhi (Fruit Juice Bottling Plant)—SNF Unit | -do-      |
| 17.   | Faridabad (Bottling Plant)—SNF Unit         | Freehold  |
| 18.   | Faridabad (Roller Flour Mill)—SNF Unit      | -do-      |
| 19.   | Patna—SNF Unit                              | Leasehold |
| 20.   | Silchar (Incomplete project)                | -do-      |
| 21.   | Ujjain (oil mill) (closed)                  | Freehold  |
| <b>Residential Flats</b>                                    |   |           |
| 22.   | Bangalore (8 flats)                         | Leasehold |
| 23.   | Kolkata (5 flats)                           | Freehold  |
| 24.   | Chennai (5 flats)                           | Freehold  |
| 25.   | New Delhi (2 flats)                         | Leasehold |
| 26.   | Mumbai (6 flats)                            | Freehold  |
| 27.   | Faridabad (32 flats)                        | Freehold  |
| 28.   | Ujjain (64 flats)                           | Freehold  |

#### Unsafe Food

6378. SHRI CHADA SURESH REDDY:  
DR. RAJESWARAMMA VUKKALA:

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

(a) whether facilities to test the vulnerability of harmful blends of edible items imported into the country are insufficient; and

(b) if so, the action proposed to be taken to curb imports of biologically unsafe food?

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

Imported food items are required to meet the standards prescribed in the rules made under the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954 for all the products listed therein.

The Department of Biotechnology is currently engaged in developing protocols using PCR and ELISA methods for identification of transgenic traits such as nucleic acids and proteins, respectively in Genetically modified Foods and products derived therefrom through research and development endeavors at five institutions in the country. These are National Institute of Nutrition (NIN), Hyderabad, Central Food Technological Research Institute (CFTRI), Mysore, Centre for DNA Fingerprinting and Diagnostics, Hyderabad, National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources, New Delhi and Industrial Toxicological Research Centre, Lucknow.

Ministry of Health and Family Welfare is also strengthening National Institute of Nutrition (NIN), Hyderabad for the establishment of a national facility for evaluation of safety of genetically modified foods. The proposal has been included in the capacity Building Project for strengthening of Food labs. in the country.

(b) The rules for the Manufacture, Use, Import and Storage of hazardous Micro-organism/Genetically Engineered Organisms or Cell, 1989 notified under the Environmental Protection Act, 1986, restricts, a person from importing, manufacture, transport, storage, distribution or sale of any food, feed, raw or processed or any ingredient of food, food additives or any food product that contains GM material, without the approval of the Genetic Engineering Approval Committee (GEAC).

#### **Private Coaching Centres**

6379. SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry have received any complaints that some of the coaches of SAI are running their own private coaching centres to earn huge profits;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any action is being contemplated against such coaches;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether SAI has developed any mechanism to monitor the performance of cricket coaches particularly those who are negligent and irregular; and

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

THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI VIKRAM VERMA): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. A complaint has been received from Shri Ravikumar, Journalist that majority of the coaches at Dehradun have started their own private business and rest of them have got attached to private institutions, schools and colleges. In this regard, comments of SAI Regional Director, Central Centre have been obtained. It is learnt that no doubt some coaches are posted at Dehradun for the last ten years but there has been no report of non-performance of the coaches and some of them have produced many national level players. The matter is under investigation. A complaint

had also been received against Shri K.V. Sharma, the then Administrator, Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee Swimming Pool Complex (since retired) and the matter is under investigation.

(e) Monitoring of Coaches of all disciplines including cricket is being done by the Monitoring Cell specially constituted in each region under the concerned Regional head. Necessary disciplinary action is also taken from time to time by the concerned Regional Heads against the coaches who are found negligent and irregular in performing their duties.

(f) As and when any specific incident(s) is brought to the notice of the Government action will be taken against the erring official(s) as per rules.

*[Translation]*

#### **Shipping Service from Haldia to Allahabad**

6380. DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to introduce a ship service from Haldia in West Bengal to Allahabad in Uttar Pradesh enroute Patna for transportation of goods;

(b) if so, the work undertaken so far for the purpose;

(c) the details of the works still to be undertaken in this regard; and

(d) by when the works are likely to be completed in the said service likely to become operational?

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

(a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

*[English]*

#### **BPO Firms in I.T. Sector**

6381. SHRI SAIDUZZAMA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Business Process Outsourcing (BPO) firms are also operating in the areas of I.T. Sector as reported in the Economic Times dated March 11, 2003;

(b) if so, the facts thereof; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to avoid competition in this field?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SU. THIRUNAVUKKARASAR): (a) to (c) Both IT Service and IT enabled sector are covered under STP scheme. Depending on the market conditions and technical expertise a Software Exporting unit may operate/move to one of the other or both the sectors. The competition amongst IT Service and IT enabled sector would be according to the market drivers in North America, European and other world markets. Export from both these sectors are growing in the face of global competition and no need is felt to put any restriction on free competition amongst these units.

#### **Definition of Food in PFA**

6382. SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN SHARAN SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the definition of Food in the PFA specifically excludes Drugs and Water;

(b) the legal implication of the specific exclusion of water from the definition of Food in the PFA;

(c) whether the Rules made under PFA in relation to bottled water are without the authority of statute;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (e) It is only plain water which is excluded from the definition of food but not the processed or Packaged Drinking Water or Natural Mineral Water. Both Mineral Water and Packaged Drinking Water have been categorized as food by Codex Alimentarius Commission.

#### **Distorted Maps of India**

6383. SHRI RAMJIVAN SINGH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the existing machinery to scrutinise the country's territorial maps brought out in the periodicals/

publications both Indian and foreign and also included in the various books which are imported into the country with a view to judge its authentication or otherwise;

(b) the number of cases where the country's map showing its territorial rights was found to be incorrect and unauthenticated including the names of the countries from where they were published during the last three years;

(c) whether the matter has been taken up by the Government with the concerned authorities; and

(d) if so, the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI VINOD KHANNA): (a) Specific instances of inaccurate depiction of India's external boundaries are brought to the Government's notice either by the Indian Missions/Posts abroad or by the Customs authorities. The Customs authorities come to know of the inaccuracies in the maps when they are approached for import of such books/publications/documents. Upon receiving a reference from Ministry of Home Affairs/Customs authorities, the Ministry of External Affairs examine the matter in consultation with Survey of India. In case of inaccurate depiction of the maps, suitable instructions are issued to Customs authorities to release the publications after affixing the legend "The external boundaries of India as depicted in the maps are neither correct nor authenticated". Customs authorities also ban the import of publications in case of gross violations.

(b) to (d) Eight such cases were reported during the last three years in respect of publications from U.K., UAE, U.S.A., Switzerland, Netherlands. In each such case, the Ministry of External Affairs asked the concerned Indian Missions/Posts abroad to take up the issue of distortions with the concerned authorities and to impress upon them not to repeat these distortions/inaccuracies in future publications.

#### **Golden Quadrilateral Project**

6384. DR. B.B. RAMAIAH: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Golden Quadrilateral road project is running behind schedule in Bihar and is now facing Naxalites wrath who are not allowing technical staff to do their work;

(b) if so, the workers have left the work site; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by the Government to provide safety to the workers at the work site?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI): (a) Yes, Sir. The progress on some projects on Golden Quadrilateral in Bihar has been adversely affected.

(b) Some of the workers left the work sites due to which work has been held up for some time, and slowed down in some sections.

(c) The matter was taken up with Government of Bihar as a result of which police protection was provided. Local authorities have been requested to increase security at the project sites, so that the work can proceed unhindered.

#### **Use of Computer**

6385. SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the official secrecy is likely to be jeopardised with the use of computers in the Ministerial work;

(b) if so, whether any concrete policy has been formulated to check the increasing cyber crime in the country;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) if not, the justification for taking the decision to make Ministry free from paper work;

(e) whether unemployment is likely to be increased by introducing computerisation of Ministerial work; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SU. THIRUNAVUKKARASAR): (a) Computerisation of Govt. Offices is being done in a manner consistent with the need for official secrecy.

(b) Cyber Laws have been framed to check cyber crime.

(c) The details are contained in the Information Technology Act of 2000.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) and (f) The aim of computerisation in Government is to improve the speed and quality of delivery of services and not to reduce employment.

#### **Amendment for Central Motor Vehicles Rules**

6386. SHRI AJAY SINGH CHAUTALA: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to amend the Central Motor Vehicles Rules again to facilitate alternate technology without the safeguards prescribed by the Apex Committee;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to introduce a monopoly of foreign technology in the transport sector; and

(c) if not, the effective steps being taken to prevent the State Governments from introducing the monopoly technology?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The Government has developed software specifications for the issue of Smart Card based driving licences and registration certificates for motor vehicles. Standardized software formats, common specifications to be adopted by all the States, the working document for operating system based on ISO-7816 standards and development of application software to be operated on terminals and hand held readers have already been circulated to all the States/UTs free of cost. The Smart Card Operating System Standards are kept in open domain and are not proprietary standards. This is to prevent monopoly of technology.

#### **Loan for Sanitation Programme**

6387. SHRI PRABODH PANDA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the World Health Organisation (WHO) has recently approved any loan to India to support complete sanitation programme;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the manner in which the loan is likely to be utilized?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) No, Sir. WHO has not provided any financial loan to Government of India for complete sanitation programme in the country.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

#### **UN aid to Poor**

6388. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY:  
SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the United Nations (UN) has appealed for international aid to help nearly 15 million people facing severe malnutrition in East and West Africa; and

(b) if so, the response of the Government thereto including the details of the assistance proposed to be provided to these countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) and (b) India has taken decision to provide food aid to a few African countries affected by drought through bilateral channels at a cost of Rs. 31.74 crores.

#### **Fake Pollution under Control Certificates**

6389. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a new World Bank report blames forged PUC certificates for increased pollution in Delhi, Mumbai, Bangalore and Pune, as reported in the Indian Express dated February 5, 2003;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) the preventive measures taken/to be taken by the Government in this regard;

(d) whether vehicles manufactured under Euro-2 norms also required PUC certificate; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI): (a) and (b) Forged PUC certificates can be one of the factors contributing to pollution level in these cities.

(c) The following measures are being taken/proposed to be taken:-

(i) Imprinting of the registration number of vehicles being tested for PUC certification photographically on the body of the document, and use of computers for printing the emission levels of the vehicle in the certificate;

(ii) Preparation of the future PUC Road Map for the country and tightening of the existing emission norms for gasoline vehicles;

(iii) Measurement of Hydrocarbons in addition to the measurement of CO;

(iv) Introduction of four gas analysers in a systematic time bound manner in the country so that ultimately the Lambda, which measures the efficacy of the functioning of the three-way closed loop catalytic converters fitted in Bharat Stage-II complaint motor vehicles, etc. could also be measured. The four gas analyzers would be capable of measuring in addition to CO, the emission of Hydrocarbons, CO<sub>2</sub> and O<sub>2</sub>. The measurement of Lambda is done based on the CO<sub>2</sub> and O<sub>2</sub> emissions.

(d) and (e) All motor vehicles are required to carry pollution under control certificates issued by the agencies authorized by the respective State Governments. This is mandatory for all categories any types of motor vehicles.

#### **Sale of Combination Drugs**

6390. SHRI VINAY KUMAR SORAKE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether combination drugs are considered irrational and dangerous;

(b) whether under Para 122(E) of the Drugs and Cosmetics Rules, whenever two or more drugs are combined to form a new drug, it requires the mandatory approval of the Drugs Controller of India;

(c) whether a large number of such combination drugs are sold in India without the DCI's approval;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the action taken against the erring companies selling combination drugs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) No Sir, Combinations of drugs are based on valid therapeutic principles and patient compliance etc.

(b) Under rule-122E(c) of Drugs and Cosmetics Rules—a fixed dose combination of two or more drugs, individually approved earlier for certain claims which are now proposed to be combined for the first time a fixed ratio, or if the ratio of ingredients in an already marketed combination is proposed to be changed, with certain claims, requires prior approval from Drugs Controller (India).

(c) and (d) The Drug manufacturing licences including patent and proprietary medicines are granted by State Licensing Authority under the provisions of Drugs and Cosmetics Rules. The said Rules have been amended through Gazette Notification No. GSR 311(E) dated 1st May, 2002, making it mandatory for the State Licensing Authorities to ensure that drug formulations falling under the definition of new drug should have prior permission from Drugs Controller (India).

(e) The concerned State Licensing Authorities are directed to withdraw permissions for such formulations.

#### **Recognition to Medical Universities by MCI**

6391. SHRIMATI PRABHA RAU: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the procedure adopted by the Medical Council of India (MCI) for registration of students after the completion of their medical study abroad; and

(b) the number of Medical Universities in India and abroad recognized by the MCI?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) As per the provisions of the Indian Medical Council (Amendment) Act, 2001 and the Screening Test Regulations, 2002 framed thereunder any Indian citizen possessing a primary medical qualification awarded by

any medical institution outside India, who is desirous of getting provisional or permanent registration with Medical Council of India or any State Medical Councils on or after 15th March, 2002 shall have to qualify the Screening test conducted by the prescribed authority for that purpose. The primary medical qualification possessed by the Indian students must be recognised medical qualification for enrollment as medical practitioner in the country in which the institution awarding the said qualification is situated and which is equivalent to MBBS in India.

(b) Five States in the country have established Universities of Health Sciences, which are awarding recognised medical degrees. In addition together there are 117 Universities whose medical degrees are recognised by the Central Government. Since the enactment of Indian Medical Council (Amendment) Act, 2001, there is no concept of recognition of foreign medical Universities, except in respect of those located in the countries with which a scheme of Reciprocity under section 12 of the Indian Medical Council Act, 1956 exists.

#### **PCO Facility at Post Offices**

6392. SHRI SAVSHIBHAI MAKWANA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether PCO (public call office Re. 1 box) connections have been provided to all the post offices in Gujarat;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) the number of post offices in the State where PCOs is not available; and

(e) by when all the post offices are likely to be provided with PCO facility?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Out of 9270 post offices in Gujarat State, 21 post offices have been provided with coin collection box (CCB) local PCOs. In addition, in 1591 post offices attended type PCOs are available.

(c) CCB PCOs are provided in the post office when justified request is received from the public and the postal authorities. So far no such request has been received.



(d) 7658 post offices in Gujarat are not having any PCOs.

(e) There is no policy to provide PCOs in all the post offices. Such PCOs can be provided as and when justified request is received from the public and the postal authorities.

#### **Length of OFC in Orissa**

6393. SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the total length of Optical Fibre Cable laid in Orissa so far;

(b) whether more OFC is proposed to be laid during the current financial year;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) 14,625 Kms of Optical Fibre Cable has been laid so far in Orissa.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) 500 Kms Optical Fibre Cable is proposed to be laid during the current financial year in Orissa.

(d) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

[*Translation*]

#### **Declaration of National Highway**

6394. SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the proposal of linking the Bilaspur-Mungeli-Paudi with National Highway No. 12A and declaring this stretch as a National Highway is pending;

(b) if so, by when it is likely to be upgraded as a National Highway; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[*English*]

#### **Condition of National Highway**

6395. SHRI CHANDRA VIJAY SINGH: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the bad condition of National Highway No. 24 from Hapur to Rampur;

(b) if so, whether a proposal is pending to transfer the said stretch to the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI);

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government have not sanctioned the required funds for improving the traffic worthiness of this stretch;

(e) if so, whether the Government propose to allot more funds for improving the condition of this stretch; and

(f) if so, the quantum of funds allotted during 2003-2004?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI): (a) to (c) National Highway No. 24 from Hapur to Rampur is in traffic worthy condition. However, this section of road is being entrusted to National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) for its further development and maintenance.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

(f) Allocation of funds is done State-wise and not project-wise.

#### **Opening of Post Offices**

6396. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is shortage of post offices in Saurashtra-Kutch region of Gujarat;

(b) if so, whether there is any proposal for opening of new post offices in the said region;

(c) if so, the details thereof and by when the said post offices are likely to be opened; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SU. THIRUNAVUKKARASAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise in view of (a) above.

(d) Opening of new post offices is subject to availability of proposals which fulfil prescribed norms. Currently, there is no proposal for opening of post office in the said region.

*[Translation]*

#### **Hosting of Commonwealth Games**

6397. KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has staked a strong claim for hosting Commonwealth Games 2010;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the estimated funds required to be spent on it;

(d) the sources from where the funds would be obtained;

(e) the process through which sportspersons will be selected for the commonwealth games; and

(f) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI VIKRAM VERMA): (a) and (b) On the request of Indian Olympic Association, Government has indicated its no objection for bidding for hosting of Commonwealth Games, 2010 at Delhi by IOA.

(c) and (d) The details of requirement of funds and its sources can only be worked out once the Games are allotted to India.

(e) and (f) The Indian Sportspersons are supposed to be selected by the Selection Committees constituted by the concerned National Sports Federations.

*[English]*

#### **Opening of New Post Offices**

6398. SHRI BHAN SINGH BHAURA:  
SHRI A. NARENDRA:  
SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ:  
SHRI NAGMANI:

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

(a) the number of new post offices, branch post offices proposed to be opened in Andhra Pradesh, Jharkhand, Punjab and Karnataka during the current financial year, district-wise;

(b) the number of post offices opened in urban and rural areas in these States;

(c) the funds allocated for the purpose during the current financial year;

(d) targets set and achieved during the period 2002-2003 in these States; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to improve the postal services in these States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SU. THIRUNAVUKKARASAR): (a) to (c) The allocation of targets and funds for opening of new Departmental post offices and branch post offices in Andhra Pradesh, Jharkhand, Punjab and Karnataka during the current financial year is under process. Locations or these offices will be decided by the Circles thereafter, by prioritising proposals justified as per norms.

(d) The details of targets set and achieved during the period 2002-2003 in the States are given in the enclosed statement.

(e) Existing postal facilities include daily delivery and collection of dak & sale of postage stamps at the doorsteps of cusomters. Access to other postal facilities is improved by opening new post offices subject to fulfillment of norms and availability of resources, and opening of Panchayat Sanchar Sewa Kendras, where post

office is justified as per distance and population norms but not justified as per income norms.

In order to improve existing postal services, various measures have been undertaken, including computerisation of counter facilities in post offices in a phased manner, subject to the availability of resources; extending Speed Post Services to selected places having potential and demand; conducting Mail Surveys on a regular basis to assess quality to mail delivery and initiating corrective measures where necessary.

#### **Statement**

*The Details of Targets set and achieved during the period 2002-2003 in Andhra Pradesh, Jharkhand, Punjab and Karnataka*

| Serial No. | Name of State  | Target set for Opening of new Post Offices | Target Achieved |
|------------|----------------|--|-----------------|
| 1.         | Andhra Pradesh | 3  | 3               |
| 2.         | Jharkhand      | 10   | 8               |
| 3.         | Punjab         | 6  | 6               |
| 4.         | Karnataka      | 10   | 9               |

[*Translation*]

#### **Financial Assistance to Sportspersons**

6399. SHRI NAMDEO HARBAJI DIWATHE: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state the number of sportspersons belonging to Maharashtra who participated in the National level sports events during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI VIKRAM VERMA): Information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

#### **Corruption in MTNL**

6400. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the alleged corruption prevalent in the Garuda Mobile/WLL service, Dolphin and other mobile service being run by the MTNL in Delhi;

(b) whether the Government have received any complaints from MPs and others in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) Sir, no such complaint has been received. However, certain irregularities have been noticed.

(b) and (c) (i) Complaint No. 939/CMD/MTNL dated 29.04.2003 of Hon'ble MP, Shri Ravindra Kumar Pandey has been received.

(ii) Complaints were received that the bills are being received without booking. On investigation, it was found that a few subscribers obtained connections on fake documents.

(d) (i) Complaint of Hon'ble MP as per (c) above was investigated and it was found that there was delay in provisioning of STD facility on WLL phone No. 20061835. The erring officer has been issued a Memo with a suitable entry in the Record of Services.

(ii) The case of fake bills has been investigated, based on which certain recommendations were made which have now been implemented to prevent the recurrence of such incidents.

[*English*]

#### **Reduction of Cost of Money Orders**

6401. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether demand drafts from banks are proving to be cheaper than the system of money orders;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government have made any efforts to reduce the costs of money orders;

(d) if so, the steps proposed to be taken to make money orders an efficient and reasonably priced service; and

(e) the other measures propose to the Government to take to increase the popularity of money orders?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SU. THIRUNAVUKKARASAR): (a) Different banks charge different rates of commission for demand draft. Apart from the commission, the customer has to incur some additional expenditure for the transmission of the bank draft either by the registered post or courier to the recipient. The tariff of money order is the composite amount for transmission from the customer to the door of the recipient.

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

(c) to (e) The focus of the efforts made so far has been on enhancing the speed and efficiency of transmission of money orders. Accordingly, as part of its modernisation strategy, Department has set up, under successive plans, a satellite based communication network through Very Small Aperture Terminals (VSATs) which has served to reduce the transmission time. This system is further connected to approximately 1500 post offices throughout the country through telephone lines. Progressively, the entire money order traffic in the country is proposed to be brought on VSAT network, in a phased manner.

#### **Road Connectivity to Minor Ports**

6402. DR. MANDA JAGANNATH: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received a request from Andhra Pradesh Government for allocation of funds in order to take up the work relating to road connectivity to minor ports of Gangavaram, Krishnapatnam and Vodarevu to enhance the capacity of these ports;

(b) if so, when such a request was received by the Government;

(c) whether the Government have taken any decisions to allot funds for the purpose;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) by when the Government propose to take action on the proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The request was received in October, 2002.

(c) to (e) The Government of Andhra Pradesh was informed that since the roads connecting the above-mentioned ports are not National Highways, no funds can be allocated for development of these roads by the Ministry. Further it was informed that the State Government could consider funding the development of these roads under Central Road Fund (CRF).

#### **Identification of Most Backward Districts**

6403. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have identified twenty five most backward districts in the country;

(b) if so, the State-wise names of these districts; and

(c) the development works so far undertaken/to be undertaken in each of these districts with particular reference to Gadchiroli and Bhandara districts of Maharashtra?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) and (b) A new initiative, namely, the Rashtriya Sam Vikas Yojana (Development and Reform Facility) is proposed for the development of backward areas. Tentatively, 25 districts have been identified (statement enclosed).

(c) The details of the scheme are yet to be finalized.

#### **Statement**

##### *Tentative list of districts for the Backward Districts Initiative under the Rashtriya Sam Vikas Yojana*

| S.No. | Name of the State | Name of the District |
|-------|-------------------|----------------------|
| 1     | 2                 | 3                    |
| 1.    | Andhra Pradesh    | 1. Adilabad          |
|       |                   | 2. Warangal          |
| 2.    | Chhattisgarh      | 3. Bastar            |
|       |                   | 4. Dantewada         |
| 3.    | Gujarat           | 5. Dangs             |
| 4.    | Jharkhand         | 6. Loharagga         |

| 1                 | 2 | 3                            |
|-------------------|---|------------------------------|
|                   |   | 7. Gmula                     |
|                   |   | 8. Simdega                   |
| 5. Karnataka      |   | 9. Gulbarga                  |
| 6. Kerala         |   | 10. Palakkad                 |
| 7. Madhya Pradesh |   | 11. Barwani                  |
|                   |   | 12. Mandla                   |
|                   |   | 13. West Nimar<br>(Khargone) |
| 8. Maharashtra    |   | 14. Gadchiroli               |
|                   |   | 15. Bhandara                 |
| 9. Rajasthan      |   | 16. Banswara                 |
|                   |   | 17. Dungarpur                |
| 10. Tamil Nadu    |   | 18. Tiruvannamalai           |
| 11. Uttar Pradesh |   | 19. Sonbhadra                |
|                   |   | 20. Rae Bareli               |
|                   |   | 21. Unnao                    |
|                   |   | 22. Sitapur                  |
|                   |   | 23. Hardoi                   |
| 12. West Bengal   |   | 24. Purulia                  |
|                   |   | 25. Jalpaiguri               |

#### Drug Licensing Powers

6404. SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY:  
SHRI MANSINH PATEL:

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

(a) the rules and regulations on existing drug licensing power at present;

(b) whether the Government propose to take away the drug licensing powers currently vested with the States;

(c) if so, whether this proposal for centralized licensing system for both the drug manufacturing and trade alongwith a Central vigilance system would help to solve many of the regulatory issues;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken to implement this proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) Licensing of drug manufacture and sales establishments is governed by the provisions of Drugs and Cosmetic Rules, 1945 as amended from time to time. Under the rules, license for manufacture and sale of drugs is granted by the concerned State Licensing Authorities. Approval of new drugs is accorded by office of Drugs Controller General (India) based on which manufacturing license can be granted by State Licensing Authorities. For certain categories of drugs like vaccine and sera, large volume Parenterals (LVP) and Blood Bank/Blood Products, the license to manufacture are approved by Central License Approving Authority (CLAA).

(b) There is no such proposal at present.

(c) and (d) Due to lack of uniformity of enforcement and inadequacy of drug regulatory infrastructure in many states a view has been expressed at various fora that the licencing system for the manufacture of drugs in the country may be centralized so as to ensure uniform levels of GMP compliance and checks on drug formulations.

(e) An Expert Committee headed by Dr. R.A. Masheker, DG, CSIR has been constituted to examine, inter-alia related to the structure of the Drug Regulatory System in the country and strengthening of the drug regulatory infrastructure in Centre and States.

[Translation]

#### Telephone Exchanges/Telephones out of Order

6405. SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY:  
SHRI LAXMAN GILUWA:

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

(a) whether most of the telephone exchanges and telephones in the rural areas have been out of order for more than six months;

(b) if so, the State-wise details of such villages along with the reasons therefor;

(c) the details of loss incurred as a result thereof;

(d) whether several officers have been found guilty in this regard;

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

(f) the action taken/being taken by the Government against these guilty officers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) to (f) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

#### **Opening of Cellone Service in Jharkhand**

6406. SHRI BRAJ MOHAN RAM: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been delay in opening the technical bids of tenders invited for the appointment of distributors for post-paid and pre-paid Cellone cellular service of BSNL in various districts under Jharkhand Circle;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) No, Sir. The technical bids were opened in time as per the date and time mentioned in the NIT.

Now, the financial bids have been opened and recommendations of Tender evaluation Committee are under process for finalization of the tender.

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

#### **Kidney Disease**

6407. SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that about 1.5 lakh people fall prey to kidney disease in the country every year as reported in the '*Rashtriya Sahara*' dated March 7, 2003;

(b) if so, whether the Government have examined the causes of this disease;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to prevent it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (d) No national survey has been carried out to ascertain the number of people affected with kidney disease in the country.

The causes of renal disease and prevention thereof are examined by various Central Government Hospitals. In addition, preventive education programme is also taken up at All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi.

#### **Contracts for OFC and Renovation of Telephone Exchanges**

6408. SHRI SUKDEO PASWAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of firms/contractors who have got contracts for optical fibre work and renovation of telephone exchanges in more than one C.G.M. circle; and

(b) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

#### **National Illness Association Fund**

6409. DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA:  
SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN:  
PROF. A.K. PREMAJAM:

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

(a) whether several patients in AIIMS are provided financial assistance through the National Illness Association Fund;

(b) if so, the details of funds allocated by the Government and utilised by the AIIMS under the National Illness Association Fund and the number of patients benefited therefrom during each of the last three years till date;

(c) whether the Government are aware that there is a long list of patients in AIIMS awaiting their treatment due to shortage of National Illness Association Fund (NIAF);

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

(e) the remedial measures taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

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

(b)

| Year    | Funds allocated to AIIMS under Rashtriya Arogya Nidhi (Rupees in lakhs) | Amount disbursed to patient/beneficiaries by AIIMS (Rupees in lakhs) | Number of patients benefited under the Scheme |
|---------|---|--|---|
| 2000-01 | 35.82   | 37.43  | 109   |
| 2001-02 | 197.45  | 161.66   | 413   |
| 2002-03 | 56.00   | 84.77  | 254   |
| Total   | 289.27  | 283.86   | 776   |

(c) to (e) Presently, all the patients who were sanctioned financial assistance by the Managing Committee of Rashtriya Arogya Nidhi have received/are receiving medical treatment at AIIMS out of the sanctioned amount. As per information received from AIIMS, 77 patients who have been sanctioned financial assistance out of the Revolving Fund at the disposal of Medical Superintendent, AIIMS are awaiting treatment due to shortage of funds. The Medical Superintendent, AIIMS has been requested to furnish Utilization Certificate for Rs. 20 lakhs released to the Revolving Fund in June 2002, as required under General Financial Rules-19, for replenishment of the Revolving Fund.

[English]

#### Delay in Clearance of Arrears of Funds

6410. SHRI K.E. KRISHNAMURTHY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether arrears of funds under Family Welfare Programme to Andhra Pradesh for the year 2000-2001 are pending with the Ministry;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

Yes, Sir. Financial assistance is sanctioned by the Managing Committee of the National Illness Assistance Fund, now re-named as *Rashtriya Arogya Nidhi*, to patients, living below poverty line, who are suffering from major life threatening diseases, for medical treatment at any of the Government/Superspeciality Hospitals/Institutes including AIIMS. A Revolving Fund of Rs. 20.00 lakhs has also been placed at the disposal of Medical Superintendent, AIIMS to enable him sanction immediate financial assistance upto Rs. 50,000/- in each deserving case reporting for treatment in the Institute.

(c) whether there is any inordinate delay in releasing the funds; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor alongwith the time by which the arrears are likely to be released?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

#### Setting up of Cancer Institutes

6411. SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the regional cancer institutes have received any financial aid from the foreign countries during each of the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to open more Cancer Institutes in the country during the 10th Plan; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

[Translation]

**Changes in Telecommunication Policy**

6412. SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI:  
SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN:

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

(a) the changes effected by the Government from time to time in its telecommunication policy of 1999;

(b) whether these changes also include the permission of use of WLL from January 2001;

(c) if so, to whom this permission has been given and the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the permission of use of WLL has been subjected to some restrictions; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor and the possible disadvantages of its unrestricted use?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) Sir, no changes have been effected by the Government in New Telecom Policy-1999 (NTP-99).

(b) to (e) Wireless in Local Loop (WLL) was one of the preferred technologies for subscriber loop since 1995 in India. As per NTP-99 also, WLL is permitted to Basic Service Providers. After considering the recommendations of Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI), Basic Service Operators were allowed to provide mobility in January 2001 to their subscribers with Wireless Access System limited within local area *i.e.* Short Distance Charging Area (SDCA) in which subscriber is registered. While deploying such systems the operator has to follow the numbering plan of that SDCA and it should not be possible to authenticate and work with subscriber terminal in SDCAs other than in which it is registered. The system shall also be engineered so as to ensure that hand over of subscriber does not take place from one SDCA to another SDCA while communicating. Unrestricted use of WLL in a service area amounts to a cellular service and not envisaged in Basic Services.

[English]

**Review of Tariff by BSNL and MTNL**

6413. SHRI A.P. JITHENDER REDDY:  
SHRI K.A. SANGTAM:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that BSNL and MTNL have recently reviewed tariff rates;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have taken private players into confidence to avoid unhealthy competition;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether any demand has been received from the private operators to review the tariff rate announced by the BSNL; and

(f) if so, the steps being taken to create level playing field for both Government and private players?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) and (b) Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) and Mahangar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) have recently announced their alternative tariff plans in respect of fixed Telephone service with the due approval of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India. The details of these alternative tariff plans of BSNL area at statement-I and of MTNL at statement-II. These orders have come into effect from 01.05.2003.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. As per the TRAI Act 1997, the power to fix telecom tariffs has been mandated to TRAI only. The TRAI has made it mandatory for all service providers to obtain its approval for implementing their tariff plans. Tariffs plans are examined by TRAI to ensure their adherence to the existing regulation and consonance with customer protection. While approving the tariff plans, TRAI takes care of the regulatory issues, that the tariff plans are cost-based non-discriminatory and non-predatory.

(e) and (f) Some private operators have represented to TRAI for a review of the tariff rates announced by BSNL. As intimated by TRAI approval for the BSNL's tariff packages was accorded after examining these plans



carefully in terms of the 24th amendment to the tariff order, the IUC regime and other regulatory guidelines.

As long as tariff packages are within regulatory framework, there is no justification for intervention by the Authority.

**Statement I**

**BSNL: Tariff for Basic Telephone Services**

|                                 | Rural            |                  |                  |          |          | Urban            |                  |                  |          |          |          |   |
|---------------------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|----------|----------|------------------|------------------|------------------|----------|----------|----------|---|
|                                 | Existing         | TRAI*            | General          | Economy  | Special  | Existing         | TRAI*            | General          | Economy  | Special  | Super    |   |
| Rental                          |                  |                  |                  |          |          |                  |                  |                  |          |          |          |   |
| Exchange capacity               |                  |                  |                  |          |          |                  |                  |                  |          |          |          |   |
| Below 1000 Lines                | Rs. 50           | Rs. 70           | Rs. 50           | —        | —        | Rs. 120          | Rs. 120          | Rs. 120          | —        | —        | —        | — |
| 1000-29999 Lines                | Rs. 110          | Rs. 120          | Rs. 110          | —        | —        | Rs. 120          | Rs. 120          | Rs. 120          | —        | —        | —        | — |
| 30000-99999 Lines               | Rs. 150          | Rs. 200          | Rs. 150          | —        | —        | Rs. 180          | Rs. 200          | Rs. 180          | —        | —        | —        | — |
| >100000 Lines                   | Rs. 210          | Rs. 280          | Rs. 210          | —        | —        | Rs. 250          | Rs. 280          | Rs. 250          | —        | —        | —        | — |
| Plan changes (including rental) | —                | —                | —                | Rs. 150  | Rs. 650  | —                | —                | —                | Rs. 350  | Rs. 750  | Rs. 1650 |   |
| Free Calls                      | 125              | 50               | 50               | 150      | 700      | 75               | 30               | 30               | 150      | 600      | 1800     |   |
| Call charges beyond free calls  | Re. 0.60 to 1.20 | Rs. 0.80 to 1.20 | Re. 0.80 to 1.20 | Rs. 1.20 | Rs. 1.10 | Re. 0.80 to 1.20 | Re. 1.00 to 1.20 | Re. 1.00 to 1.20 | Re. 1.20 | Re. 1.10 | Re. 1.00 |   |

\*Pulse rate 2 minutes under TRAI for other options pulse rate 3 minutes for fixed line to fixed line.

Intra Circle Long Distance calls beyond 200 km., brought down from Rs. 4.80 per minute to Rs. 2.40 per minute-available to all customers (including non-STD customers) by dialing '95'.

\*Inter Circle Long Distance calls from fixed to cellular made cheaper from Rs. 4.80 per minute to Rs. 3.60 per minute for distance beyond 200 km.

\*Access to Internet made cheap during off-peak hours, 10.30 p.m. to 6.30 a.m. This will be at the rate of 10 minute pulse rate i.e. about Rs. 7.20 per hour.

**Statement II**

**MTNL: Tariffs for Basic Telephone Services**

| Facility     | Existing  | TRAI Standard                             | MTNL Economy  | MTNL Economy plus   | MTNL Super Saver |
|--------------|---|---|---|---|------------------|
| 1            | 2   | 3   | 4   | 5   | 6                |
| Basic Rent   | Rs. 250 pm  | Rs. 280 pm<br>Sr. citizens<br>Rs. 250 pm. | Rs. 250 pm  | Rs. 280 pm  | Rs. 2000 pm      |
| Free calls   | 75  | 30  | 30  | 30  | 2000             |
| Call charges | 76-200: Re. 0.80<br>201-500: Re. 1.00<br>>500: Re. 1.20 | 31-300: Re. 1.00<br>>300: Re. 1.20        | 31-300: Re. 0.80<br>301-2000: Re. 1.20<br>>2000: Re. 1.00 | 31-300: Re. 0.80<br>301-2000: Re. 1.20<br>>2000: Re. 1.00 | >2000: Re. 1.00  |

| 1   | 2                                       | 3                       | 4                       | 5                         | 6                         |
|---|---|-------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Local call Pulse Duration (Within MTNL/Other operators network) |   |                         |                         |                           |                           |
| Fixed to fixed  | 180 sec.                                | 120 sec.                | 180 sec.                | 180 sec.                  | 180 sec.                  |
| Fixed to Cellular   | 180 sec.                                | 90 sec.                 | 60 sec.                 | 60 sec.                   | 60 sec.                   |
| Fixed to WLL Mobile   | 180 sec.                                | 120 sec.                | 90 sec.                 | 90 sec.                   | 90 sec.                   |
| Phone Plus facilities   |   |                         |                         |                           |                           |
| 1. Abb. Dialing   | Rs. 20 pm                               | Rs. 10 pm               | Rs. 10 pm               | ] In-cluded in Basic rent | ] In-cluded in Basic rent |
| 2. Cell transfer  | Rs. 20 pm                               | Rs. 10 pm               | Rs. 10 pm               |                           |                           |
| 3. Hotline  | Rs. 20 pm                               | Rs. 10 pm               | Rs. 10 pm               |                           |                           |
| 4. Three Party conferencing                                     | Rs. 20 pm                               | Rs. 10 pm               | Rs. 10 pm               |                           |                           |
| 5. E-mail* (fixed rent)   | Rs. 9 pm                                | Rs. 9 pm                | Rs. 9 pm                |                           |                           |
| 6. CLIP   | Rs. 50/- on registration and, Rs. 20 pm | In-cluded in Basic rent | In-cluded in Basic rent |                           |                           |
| 7. Call Hunting/Call Alert/ Alarm/Dynamic STD Lock              | in-cluded in Basic rent                 | -do-                    | -do-                    |                           |                           |

\*Sending & retrieving E-Mail through PSTN Rs. 0.20 per msg., sending SMS to mobile through land line phone is Rs. 0.50 per msg. retrieving E-mail on local fax Rs. 0.50 per fax.

#### Schemes for Development of Shipping Harbours

6414. SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are schemes for developing new shipping harbours in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

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

(a) and (b) Government of India is responsible for development of major ports only. At present, there is no proposal under consideration of the Government for establishment of any new major port. Responsibility for development of ports other than major ports vests with the concerned State Governments.

#### Compensation to Land Oustees

6415. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the total land acquired by the Government for the establishment of Atomic Power Plant at Kaiga;

(b) whether it is a fact that all the land oustees have neither been paid compensation nor have they been rehabilitated;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the details of steps taken to pay adequate amount of compensation and to provide suitable rehabilitation to those people?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) The total private land acquired by the Government for the establishment of Atomic Power Plant at Kaiga is 172 Ha.

(b) No, Sir. The land acquisition and implementation of the rehabilitation package by the State Government

were completed by the year 1993-94 for which funds were provided by the Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited, a Public Sector Enterprise of the Department of Atomic Energy. Kaiga Atomic Power Station (units 1&2 - 2x200 MWe) is in commercial operation since the year 2000.

(c) and (d) Not applicable in view of (b) above.

#### **Outstanding dues of MTNL and BSNL**

6416. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the total outstanding dues of MTNL and BSNL towards sitting MPs and Ex-MPs present and former Union Ministers as on March 31, 2003; and

(b) the steps being taken by the Union Government to recover the outstanding dues?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) The total outstanding dues of Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited and Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited towards sitting MPs and Ex-MPs as on 31.3.2003 is Rs. 12.34 crores. Separate information about outstanding dues against Union Ministers is not maintained because such telephone are provided in the name of the concerned Ministries/ Departments.

(b) After corporatization of the operational arm of the Government w.e.f. 1.10.2000, the Govt. no longer handles operations, including the recovery of outstanding dues. Now, it is Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited and Mahangar Telephone Nigam Limited, which are responsible for recovery of these dues. For recovery of the outstanding dues, all necessary action as indicated below, is taken by MTNL and BSNL.

1. The defaulter telephones are disconnected when the dues continued to be unpaid.
2. High power Committees and Liquidation Boards have been set up to facilitate liquidation of dues.
3. Targets for liquidation of outstanding are set and performance monitored against them each year.
4. The collection efficiency is monitored each month.

5. Outstanding Pursuit Cells are functioning at Head quarter level and also at Circle level.

6. Where necessary, after disconnection of telephone, legal action is also initiated for recovery of the dues.

7. Disputed cases are referred to Arbitrators under the Indian Telegraph Act, 1885.

#### **Term of Specialists**

6417. SHRI K.A. SANGTAM: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal is under the consideration of the Government to post technically qualified specialists capable of handling the latest technical appliances viz. WLL, on a minimum term of two years instead of one year; and

(b) if so, the steps taken in this regard and to provide better telephone services in the North East?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) Technically qualified and competent personnel capable of handing the latest technology equipments are already being posted in the places. The tenure of officers posted from other states to al the tenure stations is two years except Nagaland, Manipur and J&K (Excluding Jammu SSA) where the tenure is one year owing to difficult working conditions.

(b) (i) There is no proposal to increase the tenure from one to two years.

(ii) Important steps taken to provide better telephone services in the North East are as follows:

- (a) WLL technology has already been inducted in the North East.
- (b) MARR based VPTs are being replaced progressively.
- (c) Grameen Sanchar Sewak (GSS) Scheme has been launched.
- (d) The existing SBM Exchanges in Rural Areas are being converted to RSUs.
- (e) Tendering process for procurement of Mobile Services Equipments is in process.

- (f) High speed internet access system is planned to be commissioned this year in Shillong and Imphal.

[Translation]

#### **Disinvestment Process of SCI**

6418. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the decision to restart the process of disinvestment of the Shipping Corporation of India and to invite fresh bids has been taken; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The cap on foreign participation for acquisition of the 51 per cent equity of Shipping Corporation of India Ltd. (SCI) has been removed and fresh Expressions of Interest (EOIs) are being invited allowing foreign participation in line with the Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) policy for the shipping sector.

[English]

#### **Reserved Posts**

6419. SHRI P.D. ELANGO VAN: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have strictly followed the reservation policy in providing jobs in the Government Departments and Autonomous institutions as well as attached offices coming under his Ministry in as far as Gazetted jobs or Class-I and Class-II employments are concerned;

(b) if so, the details thereof, Departments/Autonomous institutions/attached offices-wise;

(c) the steps taken by the Government to fill up the vacant posts in the Government Sector and Public Sectors;

(d) whether both the Union and State Governments find it difficult to fill up the reserved posts (Class-I and Class-II in both Government Sector and Public Sector)

designated for the persons belonging to SC/ST and OBC; and

(e) if so, the reasons thereof and the steps taken by the Government to fill up such vacant posts?

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

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

#### **Water Crisis in Safdarjung Hospital**

6420. SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the emergency service of the Safdarjung Hospital has been severely affected due to non-availability of water as reported in the *'Times of India'* dated April 21, 2003;

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

(c) whether due to non-availability of water and disposable gloves, the Doctors/Nurses are forced to use the unclean gloves repeatedly in the hospital;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the remedial measures taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) Due to short supply of water from the NDMC and a faulty pump of the Tubewell, the services in the Obst. & Gynae Department were partially affected for three days. The pump has been replaced and the normal supply of water has been restored.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) In view of (c) above, does not arise.

(e) To overcome the shortage of water supply, the situation has been reviewed by the High Powered Idgah Abattoir Committee constituted by the Delhi High Court for supply of adequate and wholesome drinking water in Delhi on 29.4.2003. The following decisions were taken:—

1. A direct line for water supply to Safdarjung Hospital by the Delhi Jal Board.

2. Augmenting the supply of water by the NDMC.
3. Re-boring of the dired tubewell.

#### **Declaration of National Highways in Orissa**

6421. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have recently approved the proposals of the State Government of Orissa to declare some State roads as National Highways in 2003-2004; and

(b) if so, the details of such State Roads?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

#### **Visit of Namibia President**

6422. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the President of Namibia during his recent visit to India called upon the Indian entrepreneurs and investors to explore joint venture business possibilities in Namibia;

(b) if so, whether any concrete proposals have been finalized by the two Governments in this regard;

(c) if so, the sectors in which the joint ventures are being contemplated; and

(d) the details thereof?

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

(b) to (d) The private sectors of both the countries have been requested to evolve joint ventures in sectors that are mutually beneficial.

[*Translation*]

#### **Computerisation of Post Offices**

6423. SHRI RAJO SINGH:  
SHRI SHIVAJI MANE:

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

(a) the details of the post offices in Bihar and Maharashtra where computers have been installed and registration work is being done through computers during each of the last three years, location-wise; and

(b) the number of post offices likely to be computerised in the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SU. THIRUNAVUKKARASAR): (a) The details are given in the enclosed statement.

(b) Nine Head Post Offices in Maharashtra Circle and Four in Bihar Circle are proposed for computerization subject to necessary clearances and availability of funds for the current year.

#### **Statement**

*Details of Post Offices in the Maharashtra & Bihar where computers have been installed and registration work is being done during the last three years*

| Year               | S. No. | Name of the Post Office |
|--------------------|--------|-------------------------|
| 1                  | 2      | 3                       |
| <b>MAHARASHTRA</b> |        |                         |
| 2000-2001          | 1.     | Bhusawal HO             |
|                    | 2.     | Kalbadevi HO            |
|                    | 3.     | Alibag HO               |
|                    | 4.     | Mumbai Central HO       |
|                    | 5.     | Satara HO               |
|                    | 6.     | Pune City HO            |
|                    | 7.     | Aurangabad HO           |
| 2001-2002          | 8.     | Abhyankamagar           |
|                    | 9.     | Ahmednagar City         |
|                    | 10.    | Airport Napur           |
|                    | 11.    | Akalkot                 |
|                    | 12.    | Akola SO                |
|                    | 13.    | Anadibazar, ANR         |
|                    | 14.    | Aurangabad Cantt.       |

| 1 | 2   | 3                |
|---|-----|------------------|
|   | 15. | Baramati         |
|   | 16. | Barsi            |
|   | 17. | BPO Nagpur       |
|   | 18. | Chakan           |
|   | 19. | Chandrapur       |
|   | 20. | DA Marg. Nagpur  |
|   | 21. | Dajipeth         |
|   | 22. | Deollali         |
|   | 23. | Hadapsar IE      |
|   | 24. | Hingoli          |
|   | 25. | Ichalkaranji HO  |
|   | 26. | Jaripatka        |
|   | 27. | KC Park          |
|   | 28. | Kalyan City HO   |
|   | 29. | Khamgaon         |
|   | 30. | Lonavala         |
|   | 31. | Malkapur         |
|   | 32. | Mohol            |
|   | 33. | Nanded HO        |
|   | 34. | Nashik Rd HO     |
|   | 35. | Osmanabad        |
|   | 36. | Panvel City      |
|   | 37. | Pani Vaiznath    |
|   | 38. | Ranapratap Nagar |
|   | 39. | Ratnagir HO      |
|   | 40. | Seepz            |
|   | 41. | Seminar Hill     |
|   | 42. | Shirpur          |
|   | 43. | Shivaji Nagar    |
|   | 44. | Sinnar           |
|   | 45. | SPC Nagpur       |

| 1         | 2   | 3                 |
|-----------|-----|-------------------|
|           | 46. | Ulhasnagar-5      |
|           | 47. | Vairag            |
| 2002-2003 | 48. | Ahmedpur          |
|           | 49. | Airport P.O. Pune |
|           | 50. | Akola             |
|           | 51. | Amalner           |
|           | 52. | Ambejogai         |
|           | 53. | Bagudganj         |
|           | 54. | Bajajnagar        |
|           | 55. | Beed              |
|           | 56. | Bhoom             |
|           | 57. | Chinchbunder HO   |
|           | 58. | Cumbala Sea Face  |
|           | 59. | Degloor           |
|           | 60. | D.D. Marg P.O.    |
|           | 61. | Dhantoli          |
|           | 62. | Gokhale Road      |
|           | 63. | Grand Rd. P.O.    |
|           | 64. | Jalgaon           |
|           | 65. | Kawle Rd.         |
|           | 66. | Mahad             |
|           | 67. | MBP Mhape         |
|           | 68. | Manmad            |
|           | 69. | MIDC Solapur      |
|           | 70. | Nandurbar         |
|           | 71. | Navapur           |
|           | 72. | Nehru Rd          |
|           | 73. | Nalanga           |
|           | 74. | Omergaon          |
|           | 75. | Palghar HO        |
|           | 76. | Panchgani         |

| 1                | 2   | 3                                       | 1         | 2   | 3   |
|------------------|-----|---|-----------|-----|---|
|                  | 77. | Panvel HO                               |           | 10. | Gaya HO   |
|                  | 78. | Parbhani                                |           | 11. | Sitamarhi Bazar (Under Sitamarhi)   |
|                  | 79. | Parola                                  |           | 12. | Sheohar S.O. (Under Sitamarhi)  |
|                  | 80. | Pimpalgaon                              |           | 13. | Kaithar SO  |
|                  | 81. | Rajarampuri                             |           | 14. | Kishanganj SO (Under Purena HO)   |
|                  | 82. | Shahada                                 |           | 15. | Arariya SO (Under Purena HO)  |
|                  | 83. | Sillod                                  |           | 16. | Samastipur HO   |
|                  | 84. | Sitabaldi                               |           | 17. | RMS "U" Dn. Muzaffarpur   |
|                  | 85. | Taloda                                  |           | 18. | Siwan HO  |
|                  | 86. | Tujapur                                 |           | 19. | Purnea HO   |
|                  | 87. | Udgir                                   |           | 20. | Laheeriasari HO   |
|                  | 88. | Varangaon                               |           | 21. | Begusarai HO  |
|                  | 89. | Vihand                                  |           | 22. | Darbhanga   |
|                  | 90. | Vishnunagar                             |           | 23. | Sitmarhi HO   |
|                  | 91. | Vivekanand Nagar                        |           | 24. | Arrah HO  |
|                  | 92. | Wanari                                  |           | 25. | Madhubani HO  |
|                  | 93. | ZNPO Solapur                            |           | 26. | Bhagalpur HO  |
|                  |     |   | 2000-2001 | 27. | Banka HO  |
| <b>II. Bihar</b> |     |   |           | 28. | Chapra HO   |
| 1999-2000        | 1.  | Patna G.P.O.                            |           | 29. | Hajipur HO  |
|                  | 2.  | Bankipur H.O. (Under Patna Dn)          |           | 30. | Motihari HO   |
|                  | 3.  | Lohianagar S.O. (Under Patna Dn)        |           | 31. | Gopalganj HO  |
|                  | 4.  | Patna Sectt S.O. (Under Patna Dn)       | 2001-2002 | 32. | Sasaram HO  |
|                  | 5.  | Muzaffarpur H.O.                        |           | 33. | Patliputra SO   |
|                  | 6.  | M.I.T.S.O. (Under Muzaffarpur HO)       |           |     |   |
|                  | 7.  | Ramna SO (Under Muzaffarpur HO)         | 2002-2003 |     | Computers planned for installation are proposed to be covered during the current year |
|                  | 8.  | Bihar University (Under Muzaffarpur HO) |           |     |   |
|                  | 9.  | Munger HO                               |           |     |   |

*[English]***Outstanding dues of MTNL and BSNL**

6424. SHRI C. SREENIVASAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) the status of outstanding dues of MTNL and BSNL as on 30th April, 2003, State-wise;
- (b) whether it is a fact that big corporate houses and companies have also owe a huge amount to MTNL and BSNL;
- (c) if so, the details of such companies/corporations, State-wise; and
- (d) the action taken against these defaulters and other defaulters by the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) Reports have been called for and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(b) and (c) The two public sector telephone providers (MTNL and BSNL) maintain information on the arrears on telephone dues telephone number-wise, and not company-wise.

(d) After formation of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited, the Government no longer provides telecom services. Recoveries of outstanding dues are a continuous process, and the steps taken by BSNL and MTNL to recover the arrears are:

1. The defaulter telephones are disconnected when the dues are not paid.
2. Where necessary after disconnection of telephone, legal action is also initiated for recovery of the dues.
3. Disputed cases are referred to Arbitrators under Indian Telegraph Act, 1885.
4. High power Committees and Liquidation Boards have been set up to facilitate liquidation of dues.
5. Targets for liquidation of outstanding are set and performance monitored against them each year.
6. The collection efficiency is monitored each month.

7. Outstanding Pursuit Cells are functioning at Head quarter level and also at Circle level.

*[Translation]***Curtailment of Expenditure**

6425. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

- (a) the year-wise expenditure incurred under various heads such as publicity, advertisements, hospitality, catering, opening ceremonies, seminars, conferences, tours (including foreign visits), STD and ISTD telephone bills, electricity bills especially the electricity bills of airconditioners and coolers and other office expenses in various departments and undertakings under this Ministry during the last three years;
- (b) whether the Government propose to launch any drive to cut down the expenditure being incurred under above heads;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND MINISTER OF DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (DR. C.P. THAKUR): (a) Year-wise expenditure incurred under publicity, travel expenses and office expenses of the Ministry of SSI and its undertaking, namely, National Small Industries Corporation Ltd. during the last three years is as under:-

|    |   | (Rs. in lakhs) |         |                          |
|----|---|----------------|---------|--------------------------|
|    |   | 2000-01        | 2001-02 | 2002-03<br>(Provisional) |
| 1. | Publicity<br>(Including<br>Publication) | 171.01         | 190.01  | 234.43                   |
| 2. | Travel Expenses<br>(Domestic & Foreign) | 240.28         | 264.83  | 291.25                   |
| 3. | Office Expenses*                        | 1643.97        | 1618.73 | 1617.61                  |

\*The expenditure on account of items like hospitality, telephone bills, electricity bills, stationery, furniture, postage etc. are met from the Office Expenses.

(b) to (d) In order to curb wasteful expenditure, instructions for austerity in Government expenditure are



issued by the Ministry of Finance, Department of Expenditure to all the Ministries/Departments from time to time. The austerity measures include ban on the creation of posts, reduction in the number of sanctioned posts, restrictions on the filling up of vacant posts, reduction in office expenses, restrictions on purchase of vehicles, restrictions on foreign travel and entertainment/hospitality expenses, reduction in per diem allowance for travel abroad etc., and these instructions are being followed in the Ministry of Small Scale Industries.

#### **Closure of Indian Telephone Industries**

6426. SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Telephone Industries in Srinagar is lying closed;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the extent of losses to the Government on account of this closure during the last three years; and

(d) the efforts being made by the Government to restart it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) No, Sir.

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

[English]

#### **Reduction of Fund**

6427. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the allocation for Karnataka's New Mangalore Port Trust has been drastically reduced;

(b) if so, the main reasons for the reduction of the allocation;

(c) the extent to which it will affect the development of the Mangalore Port Trust;

(d) whether the State Government has been urging not to reduce these allocations; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI): (a) to (c) Annual Plan allocations for major ports are finalized on the basis of the expenditure estimated to be incurred on specific Plan Schemes/Projects which have been identified for implementation during the particular year, after taking into account the availability of the resources. For the year 2003-04, a Plan outlay of Rs. 25.00 crores as projected by the New Mangalore Port Trust (NMPT) was approved by the Government. Hence, the question of reduction of funds or development of the Port being affected does not arise.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

#### **Shortage of Cable**

6428. PROF. A.K. PREMAJAM: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is shortage of cable in Kerala Telecommunications, Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd. (BSNL);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the criteria adopted by the Department in supplying cable to the different States; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to meet the requirements of the telephone exchanges?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) There was a requirement of 29.686 Lakh Conductor Kilometer (LCKM) of cable for the year 2002-2003. Purchase orders were placed for 15.08 LCKM only because the complete tendered quantity of cable was not accepted by the bidders.

(c) Allotment of cable is done as per net switching capacity required to provide the prescribed target of Direct Exchange Lines (DEL).

(d) It has been planned to float tender for procurement of cable for the current year including the shortfall of the previous year of 2002-2003 subject to availability of funds.

**Additional Funds for N-E Region**

6429. SHRI M.K. SUBBA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received a number of requests from Assam and other North Eastern States for grant of additional funds for development projects and for exemptions of the products from the region, both agricultural and industrial from excise duties;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the response of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) Yes Sir, Financing of development activities is undertaken through the Annual Plans of the States, which are prepared by the States concerned and finalized by mutual agreement in consultation with the Planning Commission, for all States including Assam and the North Eastern States. Requests for grant of additional funds for development projects are considered on merit and subject to availability of funds within the framework of the State Plans.

A number of specific requests have however been received from Assam and other North Eastern States regarding exemption of the products from the region from excise duties.

(b) The following requests have been received:

- (i) Excise duty exemption for Ashok Paper Mills.
- (ii) Restoration of full exemption to Numaligarh Refinery.
- (iii) Exemption from additional duty of excise on tea under North East exemption notification.

(c) Requests for (i) and (ii) in part (b) above were considered and it was not found possible to accept these. As regards (iii), the request is being examined by Government.

**Disinvestment of MOIL**

6430. SHRI PARSURAM MAJHI: Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have a proposal for the disinvestment of Manganese Ore India Ltd. (MOIL);

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

(c) whether any percentage of its stake is reserved for the employees of the Company; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) and (b) Government has decided for strategic sale of 51% equity of Manganese Ore (India) Limited (MOIL), in favour of a strategic partner with transfer of management control. The Government has also decided that bid by management-employees of the company, in partnership/collaboration with a venture capitalist or a Financial Institution or a Bank, will be considered at the appropriate stage if the legal entity so formed is qualified to bid and make a competitive price offer. The process of disinvestment is in the preliminary stages.

(c) and (d) Government has decided to reserve 4.57% equity for the employees of MOIL.

**Cancellation of Licence of Blood Banks**

6431. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the licence issued to some blood banks were cancelled in 2002-2003;

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

(c) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to maintain a high level of vigil over all blood banks in the country?

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

(b) A statement is attached.

(c) The State Drug Control Authorities are inspecting the blood banks regularly so that the blood banks adhere to the conditions of licence as stipulated under the provisions of the Drugs & Cosmetics Rules.

**Statement**

| Sl.No. | Name of the State | Name of the Blood Bank  | Reason for cancellation           |
|--------|-------------------|---|-----------------------------------|
| 1.     | Andhra Pradesh    | M/s A.S. Raja Blood Bank, Visakhapatnam                           | Violation of condition of licence |
| 2.     |                   | M/s Share Medicare Blood Bank, Ghanpur village, Rangareddy Distt. | Violation of condition of licence |
| 3.     | Gujarat           | M/s Avkar Voluntary Blood Bank, Dahod                             | Violation of condition of licence |
| 4.     | Haryana           | M/s Lakhani Blood Bank, Faridabad                                 | Violation of condition of licence |
| 5.     |                   | M/s Haryana Blood Bank, Hissar                                    | Violation of condition of licence |
| 6.     | Karnataka         | M/s Chigateri General Hospital, Devangeri                         | Violation of condition of licence |
| 7.     |                   | M/s Balaji Voluntary Blood Bank, Bangalore                        | Violation of condition of licence |
| 8.     | Kerala            | M/s Dr. Nair's Hospital, Kollam                                   | Violation of condition of licence |
| 9.     | Maharashtra       | M/s Janaswea Mandal Blood Bank, Satara                            | Violation of condition of licence |
| 10.    | Rajasthan         | M/s ESI Hospital, Jaipur  | Violation of condition of licence |

**Guidelines for Port Officers**

6432. SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the guidelines that have been circulated to port officers of the Drug Controller of India for clearance of Bulk Drugs and Intermediates;

(b) whether the port officer at Delhi is delaying export consignments of Bulk Drugs by raising objections contrary to the guidelines;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the remedial action taken in this regard?

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

A manual was issued on 29.7.1994 to all the Port Officers containing guidelines for checking import and export of drugs. For export consignments, following are to be checked; labels, manufacturing/sale licence, purchase bills in case of merchant exporter, NOC from Narcotic Commissioner for export of narcotic/Psychotropic substances; invoice copy of documents/Shipping Bills; Batch Test/Release Certificate etc.

(b) This Directorate has not received any complaint regarding unnecessary delay of export consignment of bulk drugs by raising unnecessary objections contrary to the guidelines.

(c) and (d) Does not arise.

**CGHS Dispensary, South Avenue**

6433. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether CGHS beneficiaries of Allopathic dispensary South Avenue, New Delhi are not getting the medicines in time and pharmacists of that dispensary usually short supplies the medicines;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government are aware that there is nexus between dispensary incharge, pharmacists and local authorised chemists;

(d) whether any complaints/representations have been received in this regard;

(e) if so, whether any inquiry has been conducted by the Government into it; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (f) The information is being collected and would be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

#### **Technology Upgradation**

6434. DR. N. VENKATASWAMY: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have launched a scheme for providing capital subsidy for technology upgradation;

(b) if so, the total amount and percentage of capital subsidy given to the SSI units March 31, 2003; and

(c) the sectors identified for giving capital subsidy?

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND MINISTER OF DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (DR. C.P. THAKUR): (a) Yes, Sir. The scheme is called "Credit Linked Capital Subsidy Scheme for Technology Upgradation of Small Scale Industries (CLCSS)".

(b) The total amount of subsidy disbursed till March 31, 2003 under the scheme is Rs. 1,16,96,260/- which is equal to 12% of the loan amount or part thereof which is eligible for grant of subsidy under the guidelines of the scheme.

(c) Twenty-one sectors listed at Statement have been identified for giving capital subsidy:

#### **Statement**

*Details of the sectors identified for giving capital subsidy under the Credit Linked Capital Subsidy Scheme for SSIs (CLCSS)*

- (i) Leather and Leather Products including Footwear and Garments;
- (ii) Food Processing (including Ice Cream manufacturing);
- (iii) Information Technology (Hardware);
- (iv) Drugs and Pharmaceuticals;
- (v) Auto Parts and Components;
- (vi) Electronic Industry particularly relating to design and measuring;
- (vii) Glass and Ceramic Items including Tiles;
- (viii) Dyes and Intermediates;
- (ix) Toys;
- (x) Rubber Processing including Cycle/Rickshaw Tyres;
- (xi) Hand Tools;
- (xii) Bicycle Parts;
- (xiii) Foundries—Ferrous and Cast Iron;
- (xiv) Stone Industry (including Marble Mining Industry);
- (xv) Industry based on Aromatic and Medicinal plants;
- (xvi) Combustion Devices/appliances;
- (xvii) Gold Plating and Jewellery;
- (xviii) Common Effluent Treatment Plant;
- (xix) Bio-tech Industry;
- (xx) Plastic Moulded/Extruded Products and Parts/Components and
- (xxi) Corrugated Boxes.

#### **Mobile Phone Service in Punjab**

6435. SHRI J.S. BRAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the BSNL had received applications from the subscribers for its Mobile Phone Service at Muktsar,

Fazilka and Jalalabad in Punjab during the last four months;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the company had also taken affidavits from the applicants forfeiting their right to complain in the event of unsatisfactory service;

(d) whether the BSNL mobile service in these cities have not been started while the private operators have started their services;

(e) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the action taken/being taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Many applications were received from the prospective customers of Muktsar, Fazilka and Jalalabad towns of Punjab where BSNL is yet to launch its cellular services. Mobile connections were given to some of them on their request to use the BSNL's mobile services outside their hometown in the areas where BSNL's cellular network is operational.

(c) No, Sir. Only a declaration on a plain paper was taken from the subscribers of these towns that they will not complain for non availability of the services there.

(d) to (f) The coverage of mobile service at Muktsar, Fazilka and Jalalabad have been planned and the services are likely to be available by August, 2003.

#### **Speed Post facilities in Himachal Pradesh**

6436. COL. (RETD.) DR. DHANI RAM SHANDIL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the names of districts in Himachal Pradesh where speed post facilities have not been provided so far in the Post Offices;

(b) whether the Government propose to extend speed post facilities to some more districts and sub-divisions of the State; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

(SHRI SU. THIRUNAVUKKARASAR): (a) Out of 12 districts in HP State, Speed Post facility is not available in one District *i.e.* Lahaul & Spiti. The District Head Quarter of Lahaul & Spirit is Keylong which remains closed to vehicular traffic in winter for about 6 months due to closure of Rohtang Pass on account of heavy snow fall.

(b) and (c) Speed Post is a premium product and is run on commercial consideration. Expansion of Speed Post network is an on-going process. Extending the service to a particular place will depend on market requirements, customer needs, expected business and connectivity required for maintaining service standards.

#### **Opening of CGHS Dispensary**

6437. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to open a CGHS dispensary in Vaishali/Indrapuram;

(b) if so, by when the dispensary is likely to be opened; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor alongwith the alternative arrangement made by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) In view of (a) above, the question does not arise.

(c) The area of Vaishali/Indrapuram is not covered under CGHS and therefore, the Central Govt. servants residing here have their medical facilities covered under the Central Services (Medical Attendance) Rules, 1944.

#### **HIV/AIDS Victims Rights**

6438. COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any proposal from National AIDS Control Organisation or Plan to bring in a legislation to safeguard Human Rights of those infected by HIV/AIDS;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the time by which such a legislation is likely to be brought in for discussion;

(c) whether the Government propose to protect the property rights of women who contract HIV/AIDS from their husbands;

(d) if so, whether the Government have collected any data of such women in the country and such women who are already fighting their cases in courts; and

(e) if not, the time by which such a data is proposed to be collected?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) No, Sir.

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

(c) No such proposal is under consideration. Property rights of a woman are governed by personal laws, depending on the religion she belongs to.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) There is no much proposal.

[Translation]

#### **Late Supply of Indented Medicines**

6439. DR. BALIRAM: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the dispensary No. 76 Gole Market, New Delhi takes one week time in providing local purchase medicines to the patients;

(b) if so, whether doctors of the said dispensary do not allow the patients to buy medicines from the market in case of non-availability of essential medicines in the said dispensary;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the action proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) In view of (a) above, the questions do not arise.

[English]

#### **Establishment of Electronic Hardware Technology Parks**

6440. SHRI SAVSHIBHAI MAKWANA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up some more Electronic Hardware Technology Parks (EHTPs) in the country;

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

(c) whether the Government have received proposals from various State Governments for the setting up of EHTPs;

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

(e) the details of the EHTPs set up in the country during the last three years, location-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SU. THIRUNAVUKKARASAR): (a) to (d) Government of India has not received any proposal from the State Government to set up Electronic Hardware Technology Parks (EHTPs) in the country.

(e) There are 79 exporting Electronic Hardware Technology Park (EHTP) units registered with the Designated Officers of the Department of Information Technology. Centre-wise break up is given in the enclosed statement.

#### **Statement**

##### *Comparative Statement of EHTP Units under STPI*

(Rs. in Crores)

| STPI Centre | EHTP Exporting Units | Export Earnings<br>DY (2000-01) | Export Earnings<br>DY (2001-02) | Export Earnings<br>DY (2002-03) |
|-------------|----------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1           | 2                    | 3                               | 4                               | 5                               |
| Nodia       | 18                   | 202.53                          | 63.42                           | 64.27                           |
| Chennai     | 8                    | 27.62                           | 461.07                          | 717.53                          |

| 1                 | 2  | 3      | 4       | 5       |
|-------------------|----|--------|---------|---------|
| Tiruvananthapuram | 3  | 13.54  | 12.59   | 14.45   |
| Pune              | 4  | 42     | 50.65   | 48.95   |
| Bangalore         | 31 | 367.14 | 828.53  | 1403.85 |
| Mumbai            | 1  | 29.57  | 39.76   | 64.28   |
| Gandhinagar       | 7  | 3.45   | 10.01   | 13      |
| Hyderabad         | 7  | 17     | 12.35   | 50      |
| Total             | 79 | 702.85 | 1478.38 | 2376.33 |

#### Reopening Consulate in Kandhar

6441. SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have reopened the consulate in Kandhar in Afghanistan;

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

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) and (b) Yes. The Consulate General of India in Kandhar was reopened on 15 December, 2002.

(c) Does not arise.

#### Disinvestment of HPCL and BPCL

6442. SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH: Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a decision of the Government to privatise HPCL and BPCL without amending the ESSO (and Burmah Shell) acquisition of undertaking Act has been criticized by the experts as reported in the *Indian Express* dated March 12, 2003;

(b) if so, whether the Government have been actively considering on re-examine the issue in view of its criticism by experts; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) Government is aware of the newspaper report appearing in the *Indian Express* on March, 12, 2003 that some personages have criticized HPCL and BPCL disinvestment.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Since a Writ Petition No. 171 of 2003 has been filed by Centre for Public Interest Litigation on 13.3.2003 on this issue, the matter is now before the Hon'ble Supreme Court and Government has been issued a notice. Government will give its response within the stipulated period.

#### Professionalism in Health Management

6443. SHRI PRABODH PANDA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to introduce changes in the Indian Medical Service to bring professionalism in health management;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the views of the State Governments in this regard; and

(d) the time by which changes are likely to be introduced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (d) There is no Service under the Government which is named as Indian Medical Service. Therefore, the question of introduction of changes in the Indian Medical Service does not arise.

### **Tolerance Limits for Food Items**

6444. SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN SHARAN SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether specific Insecticide and Pesticide tolerance limits for different Food items prescribed in Part XIV of PFA Rules are in line with the current tolerance limits prescribed by the European Union/FDA in US/WHO etc.;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) by when the Government are likely to bring tolerance limits to current tolerance limits prescribed by the European Union?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (c) The maximum tolerance limits for various pesticides for different food items are prescribed based on the nature of their use upon different crops, taking into consideration their toxicity, accepted daily intake (ADI), post harvest interval (PHI), food consumption pattern and average body weight of population, which is specific to a country. As such, the tolerance limits prescribed for different pesticides by different countries need not necessarily be the same.

The tolerance limits prescribed for different pesticides for different food Crops under Part XIV of PFA Rules are in the process of harmonization with that of the maximum residue limits (MRLs) notified by Codex, wherever applicable.

### **Funds for Rural Poverty Alleviation Programme**

6445. SHRI A. NARENDRA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether a committee of the NDC was set up on March 31, 1999 on the criterion for allocation of funds under major Rural Poverty Alleviation Programme;

(b) if so, the details of its recommendations;

(c) whether several State Governments have urged a return to 1987-88 (Pre-Lakdawala) methodology so that the State Governments that have several social security schemes for the poor are not penalised; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) Yes Sir. A committee of the National Development Council (NDC) was set up on 31.03.1999 on the Criterion for Allocation of Funds under Major Rural Poverty Alleviation Programmes.

(b) The recommendation of the NDC Committee is given below:

The NDC Committee discussed various criteria for allocation of funds under major Rural Poverty Alleviation Programmes. There was a consensus and agreement on continuation of the presently used criterion, *i.e.*, 15 per cent adjusted shares as approved by the full Planning Commission under the Chairmanship of Prime Minister. This allocation criterion is based on an adjustment formula to contain the losses under the Expert Group estimates to not more than 15 per cent of their expected entitlement based on the Task Force methodology 1993-94. For States where the loss was less than 15 per cent, the Expert Group estimates were retained. For the remaining States, it was ensured that they would not get less than the lower of the two shares computed on the Task Force estimates for 1993-94 and the Expert Group estimates for 1993-94. However, some States made the observation that some incentive might be provided to the States that had performed well in terms of poverty reduction. It was also noted that there were special needs and pockets of acute distress in some States and these issues also needed to be addressed. The Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission appreciated their concern and agreed that issues could be considered at the time of the formulation of the Tenth Five Year Plan.

(c) and (d) Since Planning Commission received representations from some States for return to the 1987-88 Task Force (Pre-Lakdawala) methodology, the issue was placed before the National Development Council (NDC) meeting held on 19.02.1999 and consequently the above mentioned NDC committee was set up. The report of the NDC committee was placed before the NDC meeting held on 01.09.2001 wherein the NDC took note of the report.

### **Family Welfare Schemes in Rajasthan**

6446. SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:



(a) whether the Government have received any proposals regarding Family Welfare and Rural Health Care Schemes from the Government of Rajasthan;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the position of these proposals as on April 30, 2003;

(d) whether any proposals out of them is for foreign assistance; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (c) The Government of Rajasthan presented its Annual Action Plan (2002-2003) for funding from Government of India during the Third Business Session of EAG held on

29.8.2002. The Scheme-wise details of amount recommended & released under various schemes under the Action Plan as on 30.4.2003 are given in the enclosed Statements I & II.

The State Govt. has also asked for relaxation of population norm for sanctioning Sub-Centres in desert areas. The proposal for sanctioning 461 Sub-Centres in Rajasthan is under consideration in Govt.

A project proposal has been received from the State Government, covering six districts of Rajasthan under the Country Program-6 of the IPD Project (2003-07), to be funded by UNFPA, at a total cost of US\$ 10.5 million.

(d) Yes, Sir. IPD Project is funded by UNFPA.

(e) The procedural approval of the CP-6 IPD Project is being obtained by the Department.

#### **Statement I**

*Scheme-wise details of amount proposed for Rajasthan (2002-03)*

(Rs. in Lakhs)

| Sl.No. | Name of Scheme   | Rajasthan |        | Amt. with State | Amt. to be released | Status of Release of funds           |
|--------|--|-----------|--------|-----------------|---------------------|--------------------------------------|
|        |  | Prop.     | Recom. |                 |                     |                                      |
| 1      | 2  | 3         | 4      | 5               | 6                   | 7                                    |
| I.     | RCH Schemes  |           |        |                 |                     |                                      |
| 1.     | Additional ANMs  | 1509.39   | 477.20 | 19.44           | 457.76              | Rs. 457.76 lakhs released            |
| 2.     | PHNs   | 0.00      | 138.84 | 52.85           | 85.99               | Rs. 41.02 lakhs released             |
| 3.     | Lab. Technicians                                       | 0.00      | 30.72  | 9.63            | 21.09               | Rs. 13.91 lakhs released             |
| 4.     | PPI  | —         | 365.97 | 0.00            | 365.97              | No releases made                     |
| 5.     | Home Delivery Care (Dais Training)                     | 636.24    | 190.00 | 5.24            | 184.75              | Rs. 184.75 lakhs released            |
| 6.     | Promoting Institutional Deliveries (24 hours Delivery) | 66.00     | 0.00   | 280.30          | 0.00                | Not needed                           |
| 7.     | Referral Transport                                     | 59.50     | 81.57  | 67.57           | 14.00               | No releases made as UCs. are pending |
| 8.     | Out reach Services                                     | 150.64    | 150.50 | 63.36           | 87.14               | No releases made as UCs. are pending |

| 1            | 2  | 3              | 4              | 5              | 6              | 7   |
|--------------|--|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|---|
| 9.           | RCH Camps                                | 242.00         | 242.00         | 125.85         | 116.15         | No releases made as UCs. are pending  |
| 10.          | MIS                                      | 200.00         | 100.00         | —              | 100.00         | Rs. 15.35 lakhs released. No funds for printing of various registers for use by ANMs in FW Programme during 2002-03 have been released as revised formats are being centrally printed at Govt. of India press for supply to EAG States. |
| 11.          | Strengthening of CCH/PHC                 | 960.00         | 960.00         | 660.00         | 300.00         | Details are awaited from the State.   |
| 12.          | Information, Education and Communication | 511.10         | 500.00         | 184.72         | 315.28         | Details are awaited from the State.   |
| II.          | Area Projects                            |                |                |                |                |   |
| 1.           | District Projects/RCH Sub-project        | 200.00         | 400.00         | 0.00           | 400.00         | No releases.  |
| 2.           | Area Projects (IPP Projects)             | 100.00         | 100.00         | —              | 100.00         | No releases.  |
| III.         | National Maternity Benefit Scheme        | —              | 107.84         | 50.30          | 57.54          | Rs. 89.44 lakhs released. This amount includes Rs. 50.30 lakhs released earlier as 1st instalment.  |
| <b>Total</b> |  | <b>4634.78</b> | <b>3844.64</b> | <b>1519.26</b> | <b>2605.67</b> |   |

**Statement II**

| Sl.No.                         | Name of Scheme                          | Rajasthan |         | Amt. with State | Amt. to be released | Status of Release of Funds         |
|--------------------------------|---|-----------|---------|-----------------|---------------------|------------------------------------|
|                                |   | Prop.     | Reconm. |                 |                     |                                    |
| 1                              | 2                                       | 3         | 4       | 5               | 6                   | 7                                  |
| <i>EC Assisted SIP Project</i> |   |           |         |                 |                     |                                    |
| 1.                             | Construction & Repair of Sub-Centres    | 2000.00   | 500.00  | 0.00            | 500.00              | No fund released                   |
| 2.                             | Strengthening of Basic Training Schools | 30.00     | 30.00   | 0.00            | 30.00               | No fund released                   |
| 3.                             | Urban Slum Project (Urban Health)       | —         | 20.00   | 0.00            | 20.00               | Details are awaited from the State |

| 1     | 2  | 3       | 4       | 5      | 6       | 7   |
|-------|--|---------|---------|--------|---------|---|
| 4.    | Strengthening of Jan Mangal Programme              | 1040.00 | 380.00  | 0.00   | 380.00  | Rs. 275 lakhs released                                  |
| 5.    | Supply of Mopeds to ANMs                           | 150.00  | 90.00   | —      | 90.00   | Subject to submission of UCs for funds released earlier |
| 6.    | SAP/DAP  | 0.00    | 227.28  | 120.00 | 107.28  | No releases are made                                    |
| 7.    | Repair of Laparoscopes                             | 225.00  | 146.00  | 0.00   | 146.00  | Rs. 145.00 lakhs released                               |
| 8.    | Operationalising FRUs for Emergency Obs. & NN Care | 340.00  | 160.00  | 0.00   | 160.00  | No funds released                                       |
| 9.    | FP Camps   | 402.00  | 192.00  | 0.00   | 192.00  | No funds released                                       |
| Total |  | 4187.00 | 1745.28 | 120.00 | 1625.28 |   |

[*Translation*]

**Funds for Jharkhand**

6447. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of funds allocated to Jharkhand under Centrally sponsored scheme during the Ninth Five Year Plan;

(b) the amount out of them actually utilised by Jharkhand during the said period; and

(c) the action taken to ensure that Jharkhand is not deprived of its shares during the Tenth Five Year Plan period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) Jharkhand came into existence in November, 2000. After creation, the State was provided Rs. 269.69 crore for its Annual Plan 2001-02 (Final year of the Ninth Five Year Plan) for Centrally Sponsored Schemes as per the details below:

|   |                    |
|---|--------------------|
| PMGY (Other than Roads)                         | = Rs. 75.92 crore  |
| PMGSY   | = Rs. 110.00 crore |
| Roads & Bridges                                 | = Rs. 9.84 crore   |
| Slum Development                                | = Rs. 8.93 crore   |
| AIBP  | = Rs. 50.00 crore  |
| Fort strengthening the infrastructure of Ranchi | = Rs. 15.00 crore  |

(b) Information on utilisation is awaited from the Government of Jharkhand.

(c) The projected (tentative) 10th Five Year Plan outlay of Jharkhand for Centrally Sponsored Schemes is Rs. 144.09 crore. The State has already been allocated Rs. 428.74 crore during the Annual Plan 2002-03 (1st Year of the 10th Plan).

[*English*]

**Adoption of New Technologies**

6448. SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to utilise the services of India based multinational companies to install new technology and digital microwave system in telecom transmission network;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the criteria adopted for identifying new technologies and digital microwave system;

(d) the proposed telecom coverage and benefits likely to be accrued by adopting these new technologies; and

(e) the details of programmes chalked out for the execution of the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) and (b) No Sir, Government Telecom Operators carry out installation of digital microwave systems in Telecom Transmission Network by their own teams. However, new technology such as Broad Band Wireless Access Systems are proposed to be inducted in the Telecom Transmission Network for provisioning of bandwidth upto subscriber's premises, through competitive bidding by the companies registered in India.

(c) The criteria adopted for identification of new technologies is based on advanced features and techno economic considerations.

(d) With such technologies, the demand for bandwidth for broad band data and video applications can be met much faster.

(e) Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited has plans to introduce Broad Band Wireless Systems in 10 cities of the country during the current financial year.

#### **Motor Vehicle Act**

6449. SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that as per Motor Vehicle Act only a Motor Vehicle Inspector can conduct a skill evaluation test and that too before issuing a Driving Licence;

(b) whether in spite of this various Central Government/State Government Offices make their own

arrangements to get the evaluation test conducted again of the Candidates holding valid Driving Licence and applying for a relevant post in their offices;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether these offices are empowered to conduct driving evaluation test of valid Licence Holder Candidates again;

(e) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(f) if not, the reasons for such a violation of Motor Vehicle Act?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS [MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI]: (a) Motor Vehicles Act only provides for a test of competence before issuing of driving licences. The test can be conducted by any licensing officer authorized by the State Government.

(b) to (f) Grant of driving licence and recruitment are two separate matters. There is no bar in Motor Vehicles Act for an employer to test the driving skills of a person.

#### **Payment of Delayed Bills**

6450. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the BSNL has introduced a new system of bill payment for delayed bills; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) and (b) Sir, no new system of bill payment has been introduced in BSNL for delayed bills. As regards delayed payments, these are accepted only at specified collection centers so as to minimize wrong disconnection of telephones.

#### **Construction of Indoor Stadium in Karnataka**

6451. SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a persistent demand for constructing an Indoor Stadium in Hassan, Karnataka;

(b) whether the Government have received requests/proposals from the State Government of Karnataka in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the amount, if any, released so far to the State in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI VIKRAM VERMA): (a) to (d) On the basis of proposal received from the Government of Karnataka, Central assistance of Rs. 60.00 lakhs was approved, in principle, on 21.12.2000 for construction of an Indoor Stadium (Cat. I) at Hassan, Karnataka. No grant has been released so far as the documents required for release of approved assistance, after spending minimum of 50% of State's share first, are still awaited from the State Government.

[*Translation*]

#### Cornea Transplantation

6452. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of patients waiting for cornea transplantation in the country;

(b) the number of patients cured through eye donation under National Blindness Control Programme during each of the last three years; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken by Government to motivate people to donate eyes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) No such data is maintained at central level.

(b) During last three years 21608 people have been benefited through transplantation of corneas. Year-wise details is as under:

| Year | Number of Corneal Transplantation |
|------|-----------------------------------|
| 2000 | 6051                              |
| 2001 | 7821                              |
| 2002 | 7736*                             |

\*Provisional

(c) To promote eye donation in the country, the following measures are being taken:

(i) Organising National Fortnight on Eye Donation from 25th August to 7th September every year.

(ii) Enhance mass awareness through messages on television, radio, press and printed material.

(iii) Training hospital staff of GRIEF COUNSELING for motivating relatives of terminally ill patients for donating the eyes.

(iv) Provide financial assistance to eye banks in government and voluntary sector.

(v) Organise training of eye surgeons in the corneal transplantation to restore vision of corneal blind persons.

(vi) Launching hospital cornea retrieval programme with the support of major hospitals, medical colleges in government and non-government sector, Army, ESI, Railway hospitals of the country.

(vii) To shift the focus from "Pledging of Eyes" to actual collection of Eyes.

[*English*]

#### Release of Funds to Maharashtra

6453. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have earmarked certain amount to Maharashtra for upgradation of Food and Drugs Administration Headquarters, Drugs Control Laboratory at Mumbai at Aurangabad;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether this amount has since been released to the State Government of Maharashtra;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) by when it would be released by the Union Government?

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

(b) The total value of assistance to be provided to Aurangabad and Mumbai Laboratories under the World

Bank Capacity Building Project has been assessed at Rs. 4.16 crore. The negotiations with the World Bank are over and the project is in the process of final approval.

- (c) No, Sir.
- (d) The project is yet to be finally approved.
- (e) The project is likely to become effective from October, 2003.

#### **Decline in Demand of I.T. Bachelors**

6454. SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY:  
PROF. DUKHA BHAGAT:

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

- (a) whether jobs have been provided to Information Technology Bachelors during the last two years;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the fate of Information Technology Bachelors has been doomed due to the lack of vision of his Ministry and consequently the demand of these IT Bachelors is declining with each passing day;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the remedial measures taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SU. THIRUNAVUKKARASAR): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. As per a National Association of Software and Services Companies (NASSCOM) Survey about 1,30,000 IT professionals were employed during the last two years.

(c) No Sir, the Department of Information Technology under the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology has a vision to make India an IT Super Power by the Year 2008 with one of the vision objectives being employment generation through IT led economic growth. As per NASSCOM's Survey, the number of IT software and services professionals employed, increased to 650,000 by the end of 2002 compared to 280,000 employed in 1998-99.

- (d) and (e) Do not arise.

#### **Indian Council of World Affairs**

6455. SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Union Government have received any complaints regarding the functioning and operation of Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA);
- (b) if so, the details in this regard during the last two years; and
- (c) the remedial measures taken by the Government to rectify the shortcomings?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI VINOD KHANNA): (a) to (c) Yes. During the last two years, three complaints were received. These basically related to the formation of ICWA Council and the ICWA's day-to-day functioning. The Government have had the complaints examined. The complaints were found to be without any basis.

*[Translation]*

#### **Tenders for Renovation of Telephone Exchanges**

6456. SHRI SUKDEO PASWAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) the total number of Telephone Exchanges for which renovation tenders have been invited by the concerned offices of BSNL from April, 2002, till date;
- (b) the number of tenders out of these for which work has been sanctioned to various contractors/firms;
- (c) the number of tenders whose work has been completed;
- (d) the details of the tenders against whom complaints have been received by the Government; and
- (e) the action taken thereon?

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

[English]

**Reservation Order for M/s. Hindustan Cables**

6457. SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI:  
SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT:

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

(a) whether the BSNL is contemplating reservation of orders for M/s Hindustan Cables for PIJF cables;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons for not adhering to the decisions arrived at in the meeting held between the then Minister of Communications and IT and Minister of Industry and Public Enterprises?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. 60 LCKM of PIJF Cables has been kept reserved for M/s Hindustan Cables.

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

**Recommendations of Study Group**

6458. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY:  
SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA:

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

(a) whether the Study Group on North-East set up to curb flow of development funds to militants operating in the region has submitted its recommendations;

(b) if so, its main findings, observations and suggestions; and

(c) the response of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) Yes, Sir. The study group has submitted its first set of recommendations.

(b) The recommendations of the study group include measures to improve governance, accelerate development

and cultural integration of North East with the rest of the country. It is also the perception of the study group that some of the developments funds are being siphoned off.

(c) The study group is in process of discussing these recommendations with the concerned North Eastern States and a meeting has already taken place with the Government of Assam.

**Upgradation of Tumkur-Haveri National Highway**

6459. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken steps for upgrading Tumkur-Haveri Section of National Highway No. 4 to four lane;

(b) if so, whether the Asian Development Bank (ADB) is funding this upgradation project;

(c) if so, the amount of ADB assistance provided for the purpose; and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS [MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI]: (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) US\$ 240 million ADB assistance has been tied up for four laning of about 259 km of Tumkur-Haveri section of NH-4. Out of this, US\$ 29.63 million has already been disbursed by the ADB to NHAI.

**Review of NTP**

6460. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have reviewed the working of the National Telecom Policy;

(b) if so, whether the objective for which the National Telecom Policy was formulated has been achieved;

(c) if not, whether the Government propose to modify the existing National Telecom Policy;

(d) if so, the salient features of the modification proposed to be made; and

(e) the date by which the new national telecom policy is likely to be announced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) to (c) Sir, Government is periodically monitoring the implementation of New Telecom Policy, 1999 (NTP-99) and there has been satisfactory progress towards achieving overall objective. Government have no proposal to modify NTP-99 at present.

(d) and (e) Do not arise in view of (a) to (c) above.

#### **Setting up of Medical Colleges in M.P.**

6461. SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the proposal to set up some new medical colleges in Madhya Pradesh is pending with the Union Government;

(b) if so, the number of new medical colleges proposed to be set up in this State, location-wise; and

(c) by when the proposal is likely to be approved?

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

(c) Does not arise.

#### **Quality of I.T. Graduates**

6462. SHRI V. VETRISILVAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the I.T. experts have expressed concern over the quality of I.T. graduates and their low acceptance by the industry;

(b) if so, whether experts have also warned that it could result in under employment and other serious repercussions;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether there is an acute shortage of quality faculties;

(e) if so, whether there is likely to be shortage of I.T. professionals in the coming years; and

(f) if so, the steps being taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SU. THIRUNAVUKKARASAR): (a) to (c) The Task Force on HRD in IT in its Interim Report expressed concerns about the quality of IT manpower and their low acceptance by the industry which results in underemployment and have other serious repercussions.

(d) The Interim Report of the Task Force on HRD in IT further adds that the quality concerns emanate mainly from an acute shortage of quality faculty. Almost all IT education institutions find it difficult to retain good faculty due to heavy demand from industry and better salary and other perks offered by them.

(e) As per National Association of Software and Services Companies (NASSCOM), India produces a large number of IT professionals every year and there is no shortage of skill-sets in the country.

(f) All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) is implementing several programmes to enhance the quality of teaches and their availability:

- Early Faculty Induction Programme (EFIP) encourages meritorious students of technical courses to take up teaching as a profession.
- Quality Improvement Programme (QIP) provides opportunity to technical teachers to obtain higher qualification.
- AICTE has increased scholarship amount for post-graduate courses to attract more persons.
- AICTE has also constituted an Advisory Board on Faculty Development to address the issues on shortage of faculty.

[Translation]

#### **Burns Department of SJH**

6463. SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:



(a) whether the patients visiting the burns department of Safdarjung Hospital suffer due to non-availability of dressing bandages in the department; and

(b) if so, the measures being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) No, Sir. There is no shortage of bandages and dressing material in the burns department of Safdarjung Hospital.

#### **Shortage of Staff**

6464. SHRI SAIDUZZAMA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that there is shortage of staff in the enquiry office of civil wing of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited colony located at Kali Bari, New Delhi;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the shortage of staff category-wise; and

(d) by when the shortage of the staff in the said office is likely to be met?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) There is shortage of only one carpenter since March, 2003, which occurred due to the death of carpenter posted at Kali Bari Enquiry Office.

(c) Carpenter-1 No.

(d) Necessary action to fill up the vacant post of carpenter is being taken and shall be filled up by 30th June, 2003.

[English]

#### **Eradication of Leprosy**

6465. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of lepers as on date, State-wise;

(b) whether some NGOs are working towards the identification, treatment and rehabilitation of the leprosy patients;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Central Government provides financial assistance to the NGOs; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the quantum of financial assistance provided during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) The number of leprosy patients as on date, State-wise is given in the enclosed statement.

(b) to (e) Yes, Sir. 290 NGOs are working in field of leprosy in the country. Besides, 36 NGO Institutions have been recognised for conducting Reconstructive Surgery (RCS) for Leprosy disabled cases. Reimbursement is provided to these NGOs by the respective District Leprosy Societies for conducting major surgery, ● Rs. 2,500/- per surgery and Rs. 160 per pair of protective footwear provided to the Leprosy patients.

Government of India provides financial assistance to NGOs for undertaking leprosy work under the Survey, Education and Treatment (SET) scheme. Grant-in-aid is provided under the scheme to the NGOs subject to the NGO being registered under the Societies Act, 1860 and availability of the respective State Governments' recommendation and the audited accounts/Utilization Certificate from the NGOs.

Financial assistance provided during the last three years as grant-in-aid to NGOs for carrying out survey, education and treatment activities in the population allotted by their respective State Governments, is as follows:

| Year    | Total financial assistance to NGOs under SET Scheme |
|---------|---|
| 2000-01 | Rs. 1,19,71,590                                     |
| 2001-02 | Rs. 92,48,709                                       |
| 2002-03 | Rs. 99,38,756                                       |

**Statement**

*National Leprosy Eradication Programme Cases of Leprosy on Record as per reports received for the Month Feb. 03\*\**

| S.No. | State/UT          | Cases on Record |
|-------|-------------------|-----------------|
| 1     | 2                 | 3               |
| 1.    | Andhra Pradesh    | 19667           |
| 2.    | Arunachal Pradesh | 99              |
| 3.    | Assam             | 1768            |
| 4.    | Bihar             | 47107           |
| 5.    | Chhattisgarh      | 13431           |
| 6.    | Goa               | 415             |
| 7.    | Gujarat           | 7392            |
| 8.    | Haryana           | 550             |
| 9.    | Himachal Pradesh  | 256             |
| 10.   | Jharkhand         | 24488           |
| 11.   | Jammu & Kashmir   | 724             |
| 12.   | Karnataka         | 10195           |
| 13.   | Kerala            | 2246            |
| 14.   | Madhya Pradesh    | 12420           |
| 15.   | Maharashtra       | 29680           |
| 16.   | Manipur           | 92              |
| 17.   | Meghalaya         | 84              |
| 18.   | Mizoram           | 12              |
| 19.   | Nagaland          | 49              |
| 20.   | Orissa            | 19152           |
| 21.   | Punjab            | 1196            |
| 22.   | Rajasthan         | 4378            |
| 23.   | Sikkim            | 35              |
| 24.   | Tamil Nadu        | 15572           |
| 25.   | Tripura           | 103             |
| 26.   | Uttar Pradesh     | 74219           |

| 1     | 2             | 3      |
|-------|---------------|--------|
| 27.   | Uttaranchal   | 1657   |
| 28.   | West Bengal   | 22865  |
| 29.   | A & N Islands | 50     |
| 30.   | Chandigarh    | 238    |
| 31.   | D & N Haveli  | 155    |
| 32.   | Daman & Diu   | 20     |
| 33.   | Delhi         | 6339   |
| 34.   | Lakshadweep   | 29     |
| 35.   | Pondicherry   | 132    |
| Total |               | 316815 |

\*All detected cases are initiated treatment with MDT

\*\*Final Annual figure will be compiled after receiving the March 03 reports from all States/UTs in near future.

[Translation]

**Diversion of STD/ISD Lines**

6466. SHRI RAJO SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a rise in the complaints relating to diversion of STD/ISD lines in Bihar;

(b) if so, the number of cases that has come to the notice of the Government during the last three years;

(c) whether the Government have conducted any enquiry into it;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the number of telephone exchanges in which subscribers has been provided with dynamic locking system; and

(f) by when this facility for checking the diversion of STD/ISD lines would be provided to all exchanges of Bihar?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) No, Sir. There is

no complaint in Bihar Circle regarding diversion of STD/ISD lines.

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

(e) Dynamic locking facility has been provided in all the 1072 exchanges of Bihar Circle.

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

[English]

#### **India a Destination for Pharma and Bio Informatic Companies**

6467. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Associated Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ASSOCHEM) have urged upon the Government to provide complete database solutions to major pharma and biotech companies which are not able to take a jump mainly due to lack a capital and low R&D spending;

(b) whether the country has knowledge, resources skilled personnel and a sound technology base to offer tremendous potential for clinical trials;

(c) whether the ASSOCEM have suggested that India could become the preferred destination for pharma and bio informatic companies; and

(d) if so, the reaction of the Government to the suggestion made by the ASSOCEM?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SU. THIRUNAVUKKARASAR): (a) No Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir. India has sufficient resources, skilled manpower and sound technological base offering potential for clinical trials. Some hospitals both public & private, are engaged in clinical trials. Indian Council of Medical Research has recently set up a network of institutions & hospitals to conduct human clinical trials.

(c) and (d) ASSOCEM has not requested Department of Information Technology (DIT)/Department of Bio-Technology (DBT) for any data base solutions on pharma biotech. However, during a Conference by ASSOCEM, titled "Knowledge Millennium 3" during March

2003, certain remarks were made for contract research services in Bio informatics with a view to reduce cost across the business system in biotechnology. The Government is aware about the potential of the contract research. Keeping in view the strength of the country in terms of manpower in biotechnology and information technology, the country is poised to provide such services to companies in pharma biotech.

[Translation]

#### **National Highways in J&K**

6468. SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of national highways in Jammu and Kashmir at present and the number out of them which needs to be repaired;

(b) the details of the proposals received from the State Government for constructing new national highways and repairing old national highways in the State; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS [MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI]: (a) There are 3 National Highways in Jammu & Kashmir *i.e.* NH-1A, 1B and 1C. Their maintenance and repair is a continuing process.

(b) and (c) During 2002-03, 4 proposals for declaration of new National Highways had been received from State Government and these have been returned to State Government unapproved as there is at present ban on declaration (construction) of new National Highways. As regards repair of old National Highways in the State, 4 proposals were received during 2002-03, out of which 2 No. were sanctioned. Remaining 2 proposals were returned to State Government.

[English]

#### **Setting up of Medical College**

6469. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a proposal from the Bapuji Educational Association, Davangere, Karnataka to set up a medical college is pending before the Union Government;

(b) if so, whether five proposals from Karnataka have been received by her Ministry during the year 2002-2003; and

(c) if so, the time by which Union Government likely are to clear these proposals?

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

(b) and (c) Out of the five applications received from Karnataka State, four proposals except the one from Bapuji Educational Association, Davangere were returned to the applicant as they were not fulfilling the qualifying criteria prescribed in the Regulations of Medical Council of India for establishment of new Medical Colleges. Clearance of the proposal from Bapuji Educational Association, Davangere depend on availability of infrastructural facilities and recommendations of Medical Council of India thereon. As such no time frame can be given for clearance of the proposal.

**Road Construction in Assam under  
Non-Lapsable Fund**

6470. SHRI M.K. SUBBA: Will the Minister of DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION be pleased to state:

(a) whether a road network construction project amounting to around Rs. 373 crore had been submitted

by Government of Assam in March, 2002 to be funded from the Non-lapsable Central Pool of Resources;

(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 SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) No, Sir. No project of road construction was submitted to Department of Development of North Eastern Region by Government of Assam in March, 2002. However, in February, 2003 Government of Assam has submitted a concept paper for replacement of timber bridges to RCC bridges on its road network amounting to Rs. 390.60 crore. Out of this, 35 projects worth Rs. 104.14 crore have been included in the priority list of projects submitted by the State Government for consideration under Non-Lapsable Central Pool of Resources (NLCPR) for the year 2003-04.

(b) Details are given in the enclosed statement.

(c) The priority list was considered by the Committee to administer Non-Lapsable Central Pool of Resources in its Meeting dated 4th March, 2003. These 35 projects have been retained for detailed techno-economic appraisal and the State Government has been asked to get the detailed estimates and project reports prepared.

**Statement**

*Details of Road Projects retained from Priority List submitted by Govt. of Assam for the year 2003-2004*

| Sl.No. | Conversion of Timber Bridges to<br>RCC Bridges Projects | Cost in Rs. (Crore) |
|--------|---|---------------------|
| 1      | 2   | 3                   |
| 1.     | Bhawanipur Barpeta Road (5 Nos. of bridges)             | 5.30                |
| 2.     | Dr. Jina Ram Das Road (3 Nos. of bridges)               | 3.93                |
| 3.     | Sarupeta Bhuyapara Road (2 Nos. of bridges)             | 2.08                |
| 4.     | Dhodar Ali (8 Nos. of bridges)                          | 4.21                |
| 5.     | Sepon Suffry Road (7 Nos. of bridges)                   | 4.34                |
| 6.     | Namti Ali (3 Nos. of bridges)                           | 1.18                |
| 7.     | Moran Naharkatia (2 Nos. of bridges)                    | 1.67                |

| 1     | 2   | 3      |
|-------|---|--------|
| 8.    | Gogamukh Ghilamara Road (1 No. of bridge)   | 1.87   |
| 9.    | Jonai Silapathar Link Road (3 Nos. of bridges)  | 1.58   |
| 10.   | Pukia Silapathar Link Road (1 No. of bridge)  | 1.12   |
| 11.   | Addl. Approach Road to Airport Road (2 Nos. of bridges)   | 1.00   |
| 12.   | North Guwahati Mandakata Road (2 Nos. of bridges)   | 1.00   |
| 13.   | Bagals Road (1 No. of bridge)   | 1.78   |
| 14.   | Hatigaon Bhetapara Road (1 No. of 4 lane bridge)  | 1.95   |
| 15.   | Border Road (Gar Ali) (10 Nos. of bridges)  | 5.44   |
| 16.   | Metd. Na-Ali (Titabor Borhola) (8 Nos. of bridges)  | 4.78   |
| 17.   | Nakachari Road (1 No. of bridge)  | 1.07   |
| 18.   | Met. U/M J.B. Road (2 Nos. of bridges)  | 2.97   |
| 19.   | Met. Na-Ali Jorhat Titabor (4 Nos. of bridges)  | 1.93   |
| 20.   | Mangaldoi Bhutiachang (8 Nos. of bridges)   | 9.22   |
| 21.   | Udalguri Borbengra Road (1 No. of bridges)  | 1.57   |
| 22.   | Nalbari Palla Road (1 No. of bridge)  | 1.02   |
| 23.   | Bagals Road (3 Nos. of bridges)   | 2.44   |
| 24.   | Bangaon Jagra Road (2 Nos. of bridges)  | 2.16   |
| 25.   | Haripur Sansar Ghat Road (1 No. of bridge)  | 2.44   |
| 26.   | Nagaon Bhuragaon Road via Dhing (2 Nos. of bridges)   | 4.58   |
| 27.   | Silchar Kumbhirgram Road (8 Nos. of bridges)  | 5.37   |
| 28.   | Penegeri Phillobari Road (3 Nos. of bridges)  | 3.28   |
| 29.   | Construction of RCC bridge over river Gaurang at 2nd KM on Kokrajhar Monakosha Road (1 No. of bridge)                                       | 9.65   |
| 30.   | D.L.H.S. Road (2 Nos. of bridges)   | 1.30   |
| 31.   | Construction of RCC bridge 26/3 over river Jamuna on Nagajan, Samarali, Dasgaon Road (L-62.00 Rm)   | 2.80   |
| 32.   | Construction of RCC bridge No. 1/2 over river Diphu on the Road from Manja to Hindin Teron village (L-62.00 Rm)                             | 2.73   |
| 33.   | Construction of RCC bridge No. 12/3 over river Jamuna on Bankulia Raja-Pathar Road (L-72.00 RM)   | 3.24   |
| 34.   | Construction of RCC bridge No. 24/1 on Barpathar-Bokajan Deithor-Chowkihola Road (L-20.00 Rm)   | 1.17   |
| 35.   | Construction of RCC bridge No. 40/2 over river Rongsoli on Chowkihola-Punja-Deithor-Malasi-Pathar-Deihori-Kohora (CPDMDK) Road (L-40.00 Rm) | 1.97   |
| Total |   | 104.14 |

**Cameras of INSAT-3A**

6471. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the cameras on board the INSAT-3A which was launched recently are not working properly;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) the financial loss suffered by the Government as a result thereof; and
- (d) the steps proposed to be taken to prevent recurrence of such incidents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) No, Sir. INSAT-3A carries a 3-channel Very High Resolution Radiometer and a 3-channel imager. The satellite reached its orbital slot of 93.5 deg. E on April 25, 2003. Both the cameras are working as per specifications. However, detailed characterisation of these cameras is normally carried out over a longer period *i.e.*, upto the next eclipse season in September 2003.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

**Disparity in Urban and Rural Tele-Density**

6472. DR. N. VENKATASWAMY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether digital divide between urban and rural areas is widening;
- (b) if so, the facts thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) the steps the Government propose to take to reduce the disparity between urban and rural areas in terms of tele-density;
- (d) whether the Government also propose to give subsidy in terms of telephone rent and telcalls for rural people in fixed telephony;
- (e) if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. There is digital divide between Urban and Rural Areas in regard to tele-density. The average tele-density in Rural and Urban areas are 1.51 and 14.71 respectively as on 31.03.2003. The tele-density depends on demand which is further dependent upon:-

- (i) Per capita income.
- (ii) Developmental activities.
- (iii) Business and commercial opportunities.
- (iv) Literacy rate.

Further the tele-density in urban areas is generally higher due to concentrated nature of demand and higher levels of business and commercial activities in urban area.

(c) A number of policy measures have been taken during the past few years to expand the telecom services in the rural areas. The New Telecom Policy-99 stipulates several specific objectives and time bound targets for tele-density and rural telephony. These are inter-alia, increasing the rural tele-density from current level to 4% by the year 2010 and to achieve telecom coverage of all the villages in the country and also to provide reliable media to all the telephone exchanges.

(d) Telecom Regularity Authority of India (TRA) fixes tariff for the rural and urban telephony and the operators are free to decide tariff as per their business models.

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

**Harassment of Indian Diplomat in Pakistan**

6473. SHRI SAVSHIBHAI MAKWANA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Indian High Commission in Islamabad sent two Notes Verbale in February, 2003, protesting against the incidents of harassment of Indian diplomat in Pakistan;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the response of the Pakistan thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) and (b) High Commission of India in Islamabad sent several

Notes Verbale to Pakistan Foreign Office in February 2003, including two on February 19, 2003 protesting against the incidents of harassment of Indian diplomats in Pakistan. It reminded the Government of Pakistan of its obligations under the Vienna Convention of 1961 and the bilateral 'Code of Conduct for Treatment of Diplomatic/Consular Personnel in India and Pakistan', signed by the two countries in 1992 and asked it to take necessary action so that such harassment were not repeated.

(c) There has been no response from the Government of Pakistan to the above Notes Verbale.

[*Translation*]

#### **Establishment of Post Office/Telegraph Offices**

6474. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the Region-wise and Category-wise number of post offices and telegraph offices operating in their own buildings and in rented ones in each State;

(b) the State-wise and Region-wise number of new post offices, sub-post offices and telegraph offices opened during the last year;

(c) whether the Government propose to provide postal services in each village of the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the State-wise and Region-wise number of residential colonies for posts and telegraph employees;

(f) whether these are sufficient; and

(g) if not, the steps proposed to be taken in this regard?

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

[*English*]

#### **Report on Bottled Water**

6475. SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN SHARAN SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Centre for Science and Environment, New Delhi (CSE) is an accredited laboratory under PFA;

(b) the details of each test method/process used by CSE in relation to its recent Report on bottled water;

(c) whether test findings of certain brand samples taken in Mumbai were not published by CSE;

(d) the action proposed to be taken by the Government to ensure that test methods used by CSE for testing bottled water is in accordance with those specified under latest Euro norms; and

(e) the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) As per their report, the Centre for Science and Environment (CSE), New Delhi have used a methodology approved by the United States Environment Protection Agency (USEPA) for extraction. Analysis was done by Gas chromatography (GC) with electron-capture detector using a capillary column.

(c) Test findings of samples of certain brands of Packaged Drinking Water and Mineral Water taken in Mumbai by CSE have been published in their report.

(d) and (e) In the directive issued by EEC on drinking water, the method of analysis to be used has not been given. However, the method of analysis used by CSE in the studies is the method prescribed by USEPA which is an internationally recognised method of analysis.

[*Translation*]

#### **Progress of Roads**

6476. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the progress of the roads sanctioned under Central Road Fund in Jharkhand and Bihar is satisfactory;

(b) if so, whether the physical targets are likely to be achieved as per the plan;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS [MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI]: (a) to (d) In Jharkhand and Bihar, projects amounting to Rs. 48.98 crore and Rs. 129.38 crore respectively have been approved under Central Road Fund during last three years. So far Rs. 5.39 crore and Rs. 28.19 crore have been utilized by Jharkhand and Bihar respectively. Utilization of funds, progress and timely completion of projects approved under Central Road Fund is the responsibility of the respective State Governments.

[English]

#### Number of STD/ISD/PCOs

6477. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of STD/ISD/PCOs operating under BSNL in the country;

(b) whether the number of STD/ISD/PCOs has come down during the last two years;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to retain the number of STD/ISD/PCOs under the BSNL in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) Sir, 11,58,991

| Item             | Delhi Unit        | Mumbai Unit        |
|------------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| Cost of Cable    | Rs. 211,44,49,665 | Rs. 1,41,11,93,271 |
| Cash Expenditure | Rs. 143,17,95,152 | Rs. 39,30,80,171   |
| Total            | Rs. 354,62,44,817 | Rs. 180,42,73,442  |

The area-wise details in respect of MTNL, Delhi and Mumbai are given in the enclosed statement.

(b) and (c) No case of corruption in new cable laying has come to our notice, however, a case of cable laying for rehabilitation/maintenance was referred by area

PCOs are operating under the BSNL in the country as on 28.2.2003.

(b) No, Sir.

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

[Translation]

#### Laying of Cables

6478. DR. BALIRAM: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the cost of the new cable laid in the various exchanges under various Regional General Managers in MTNL Delhi and Mumbai during January, 2000 to February, 2003 and the expenditure incurred thereon;

(b) whether any case of corruption has been found in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government propose to take an appropriate action after conducting inquiry into the matter;

(e) if so, by when the action against the erring officials is likely to be taken; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) The expenditure incurred during 1st January, 2000 to 28th February, 2003 on account of laying of new cables for development works for Delhi and Mumbai Units are:

West-I which is under investigation by Vigilance Cell of MTNL, Delhi.

(d) and (e) Sir, action against erring officials will be initiated, on receipt of report of investigation.

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



**Statement***Area-wise cost of New Cable laid in MTNL, Mumbai**From 1.1.2000 to 28.2.2003*

(Rupees in Thousand)

| Sl. No.             | Area      | 1.1.2000 to 31.3.2000 | 1.4.2000 to 31.3.2001 | 1.4.2001 to 31.3.2002 | 1.4.2002 to 28.2.2003 | Total 1.1.2000 to 28.2.2003 |
|---------------------|-----------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1.                  | East-I    | 37386.891             | 85412.121             | 81142.777             | 26842.163             | 230783.952                  |
| 2.                  | East-II   | 35186.4               | 89377.933             | 69060.44              | 43474.979             | 237099.752                  |
| 3.                  | North     | 29521.336             | 74040.814             | 40610.252             | 17488.615             | 161661.017                  |
| 4.                  | N. Mumbai | 22141                 | 54850.839             | 72796.815             | 49841.281             | 198629.935                  |
| 5.                  | Central   | 9840.445              | 25732.216             | 7478.155              | 13750.409             | 56801.225                   |
| 6.                  | South     | 3690.167              | 7060.189              | 4966.128              | 3407.424              | 19123.908                   |
| 7.                  | West-I    | 19680.891             | 47647.559             | 107919.508            | 28996.524             | 204244.482                  |
| 8.                  | West-II   | 36901.671             | 90985.063             | 86037.035             | 49393.293             | 263317.062                  |
| 9.                  | West-III  | 51662.339             | 126314.141            | 178933.001            | 75702.628             | 432612.109                  |
| Total               |           | 246011.14             | 600420.875            | 648944.111            | 308897.316            | 1804273.442                 |
| Cost of cables      |           | —                     | Rs. 141,11,93,271     |                       |                       |                             |
| Cost of expenditure |           | —                     | Rs. 39,30,80,171      |                       |                       |                             |
| Total               |           | —                     | Rs. 180,42,73,442     |                       |                       |                             |

*Area-wise cost of New Cable Laid in MTNL, Delhi**From 1.1.2000 to 28.2.2003*

(Rupees in Crores)

| Area         | Cost of Cable | Cash expenditure |
|--------------|---------------|------------------|
| 1            | 2             | 3                |
| Central      | 9             | 7                |
| East         | 9             | 8                |
| Trans Yamuna | 40            | 32               |
| North-I      | 12            | 11               |
| North-II     | 21            | 11               |
| South-I      | 16            | 12               |
| South-II     | 30            | 23               |

| 1        | 2   | 3   |
|----------|-----|-----|
| West-I   | 38  | 15  |
| West-II  | 27  | 18  |
| West-III | 9   | 6   |
| Total    | 211 | 143 |

*[English]***NHAI's Consultations with Its Counterparts**

6479. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Highways Authority of India have approached its counterparts in UK, Canada, Russia

and European Nations to find the manner in which problems of low visibility for motorists in dense fog condition is dealt with by them;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken to install variable message sign boards using special paints on all the highways for help of motorists in low visibility conditions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS [MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI]: (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Two variable message signs (VMS) have been installed at vantage locations on Kotputli-Jaipur section of NH-8 in Rajasthan which also provide guidance to the users on visibility conditions of the highway ahead. No paint is used in variable message signs.

#### **Ban on use of Tobacco**

6480. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of member countries of the World Health Organisation (WHO);

(b) whether nearly 170 member countries of the WHO have backed a tough pact against smoking, including advertising bans;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the reaction of the Union Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) The number of member countries of the World Health Organisation (WHO) is 192.

(b) to (d) 171 member countries of the WHO including India are participants in the formulation of a pact called the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC), to control tobacco supply and consumption. This international agreement would provide the necessary tools, support, targets and time-frames for the World's nations to cooperate and create comparably tight domestic policies for tobacco control and tackle cross-border issues such as advertising and trade, to save millions of lives and improve public health. "The Cigarettes and other Tobacco

products (Prohibition of Advertisement and Regulation of Trade and Commerce, Production, Supply and Distribution) Bill, 2003" introduced by the Union Government in Parliament was passed by the Rajya Sabha on 9th April, 2003 and the Lok Sabha on 30th April, 2003. The Bill, inter-alia, prohibits the advertisement of, and provides for regulation of trade and commerce in production, supply and distribution of cigarettes and tobacco products.

#### **Amount Allocated for National Waterways and Ship-building**

6481. SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount allotted for National Waterway-1 2 and 3 projects and shipbuilding (including Jetty construction) in the country during each of the last three years;

(b) whether the amount allocated/released has been fully utilised and the projects completed as per plan;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the benefits accruing to Assam, West Bengal, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and North Eastern regions from the above projects?

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

(a) The total amount allotted/released during each of the last three years is as under:

(Rupees in crore)

| Year    | Amount released |
|---------|-----------------|
| 2000-01 | 18.12           |
| 2001-02 | 27.93           |
| 2002-03 | 41.48           |

(b) and (c) The amount released has been fully utilised. However, not all the projects have been completed as per plan due to delay in land acquisition, contractual problems, etc.

(d) All improvements in facilities in the Inland Water Sector such as fairway, navigational aids, terminals, etc. in National Waterway Nos. 1 & 2 have benefited Assam, Bihar West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh and North Eastern regions in terms of availability of an alternate mode of transport in this region.

**Escort Service**

6482. SHRI RAMESH THAKUR:  
SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY:  
SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA:  
SHRI A.P. JITHENDER REDDY:  
SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL:

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

(a) whether the Government propose to provide an "escort service" to India's software professionals to guide them on visa regulations and help them secure IT jobs and make them aware of opportunities abroad;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether countries like Germany and Netherlands are the immediate targets for this; and

(d) if so, the steps taken or being taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SU. THIRUNAVUKKARASAR): (a) and (b) Department of Information Technology is working with National Association of Software and Service Companies (NASSCOM) and Electronics and Computer Software Export Promotion Council (ESC) on a proposal for Facilitation Center to help IT professionals get guidance on appropriate visa/work permit requirements in various countries.

(c) Europe is emerging as another potential market, next to North America. Germany & Netherlands are already among the top ten (10) destinations for export of software and services from India.

(d) Department of Information Technology and software industry represented through its associations like NASSCOM and ESC, are working together for market development campaign including Road Shows, advertisements, participation in International exhibitions & conferences, market potential assessment studies, one-to-one meetings etc. with emphasis on demonstrating creative and well thought out ideas, building India brand image and building alliances.

**Demand of IT Professionals**

6483. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY:  
SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA:

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

(a) whether the Government are aware about the annual demand of India IT professionals in Australia, US, UK, EU and other developed countries;

(b) if so, the number of IT professionals joining the job market alongwith the annual demand for such professionals within the country and the number of such professionals remaining unemployed;

(c) whether the Government have evolved any strategy for export of services of such professionals;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the WTO regulations under the General Agreement on Trade Services (GATS) on movement of and modes of supply of manpower present any hurdles in movement and supply of such manpower abroad; and

(f) if so, the details thereof alongwith the steps taken or being taken by the Government to obviate such problems?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SU. THIRUNAVUKKARASAR): (a) The Task Force on HRD in IT in its Interim Report has indicated the international demand for IT professionals as 20% of overall manpower requirements in the country.

(b) As per a National Association of Software and Service Companies (NASSCOM) Survey, the number of IT software and services professionals employed by the end of FY 2001-02 were 5,22,250 and the number has increased to 6,50,000 by the end of 2002. The demand for professionals will be approximately 1.1 million people by the year 2008.

(c) and (d) Department of Information Technology is working with NASSCOM and Electronics and Computer Software Export Promotion Council (ESC) on a proposal for Facilitation Centre to help IT professionals get guidance on appropriate visa/work permit requirements in various countries.

Department of Information Technology and software industry represented through its associations like NASSCOM and ESC, are working together for market development campaign including Road Shows, advertisements, participation in international exhibitions & conferences, market potential assessment studies, one-to-one meetings etc., with emphasis on demonstrating creative and well thought out ideas, building India brand image and building alliances.

(e) and (f) No Sir. The General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS) encourages liberalization and transparency in rules and regulations associated with all the four modes of services including the manpower supply.

Through the process of Trade Policy reviews, GATS also gives an opportunity to negotiate with the trading partners any kind of barriers being faced by the industry.

### Space Programmes

6484. SHRI PARSURAM MAJHI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the various space programmes launched by the Government during the last three years; and

(b) the amount spent on each such space programme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) and (b) The Space programmes undertaken during the last three years (2002-2003) and the amount spent thereon are as under:

| Sl.No. | Space programmes launched during the last three years   | Amount spent       |
|--------|---|--------------------|
| 1.     | <b>Rocket Development:</b><br>This includes Geo-synchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle (GSLV) project, Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) continuation project, Second Launch Pad at Sriharikota and other Research & Development programmes.  | Rs. 2185.26 Crores |
| 2.     | <b>Satellite Development:</b><br>This includes KALPANA (METSAT-1), Technology Experiment Satellite, Indian Remote Sensing Satellite (IRS-P5 Cartosat), IRS-P6 (Resourcesat), IRS-2A (Cartosat-2), GSAT-1, GSAT-2 and other R&D programmes.  | Rs. 634.28 Crores  |
| 3.     | <b>INSAT (Operational):</b><br>This includes INSAT-3 satellites, INSAT-4 satellites and Master Control Facility.  | Rs. 2334.30 Crores |
| 4.     | <b>Space Science, Applications &amp; other programmes:</b><br>These include National Natural Resources Management System (NNRMS), Remote Sensing Applications programmes, GRAMSAT programmes, Telemedicine, space science research at Physical Research Laboratory (PRL), sponsored research and other applications and R&D programmes. | Rs. 817.96 Crores  |

### INSAT-3A

6485. SHRI J.S. BRAR:  
SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:  
SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK:  
SHRI C.N. SINGH:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether India's multipurpose satellite INSAT-3A has been successfully launched from French Guyana space port of Kourou in South America on April 09, 2003;

(b) if so, the cost of INSAT-3A and the cost of launching in South America together with duration of its space mission and purpose thereof; and

(c) the benefits derived from earlier satellites in the series?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF

ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The cost of INSAT-3A satellite is Rs. 250.00 Crores and the cost of its launch from South America is Rs. 350.00 Crores. The in-orbit life of INSAT-3A is estimated to be 12 years. INSAT-3A augments the INSAT system capacity for telecommunications and TV broadcasting in C, Ext-C and Ku-bands. The satellite also carries Very High Resolution Radiometer (VHRR), Charge Coupled Device (CCD) and Data Relay Transponder for meteorological services and Satellite-aided Search & Rescue Transponder.

(c) The benefits derived from earlier INSAT satellites include the basic satellite communications infrastructure for telecommunications, TV and All India Radio services, meteorological services, data collection and search & rescue services.

#### **Pension to Meritorious Sportspersons**

6486. SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government provide pension to the meritorious sportspersons;

(b) if so, since when;

(c) the number of sportspersons in Madhya Pradesh and other States who has received such pension so far; and

(d) the State-wise and year-wise details thereof during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI VIKRAM VERMA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government of India has been giving life pension to meritorious sportspersons since July, 1994.

(c) There are two sportsperons belonging to Madhya Pradesh and 248 sportspersons belonging to other States/UTs at present who nave been sanctioned such pension so far.

(d) The State-wise and year-wise details of the meritorious sportspersons who have been sanctioned pension during the last three years, are as under:

| Year      | Name of the State/UT | No. of Meritorious Sportspersons |
|-----------|----------------------|----------------------------------|
| 2000-2001 | Uttar Pradesh        | 1                                |
|           | Manipur              | 1                                |
|           | West Bengal          | 1                                |
|           | Maharashtra          | 3                                |
|           | Delhi                | 3                                |
|           | Haryana              | 1                                |
|           | Karnataka            | 3                                |
| 2001-2002 | Andhra Pradesh       | 1                                |
|           | West Bengal          | 1                                |
| 2002-2003 | Tamil Nadu           | 1                                |
|           | Karnataka            | 6                                |
|           | Punjab               | 1                                |
|           | Haryana              | 1                                |
|           | Tamil Nadu           | 2                                |

#### **Upgradation of Cardiology/Nephrology Facilities In Government Hospitals**

6487. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to up-grade the cardiology, nephrology and cancer cure facilities in Safdarjung and Ram Manohar Lohia Hospitals, New Delhi, in order to reduce the pressure on the All India Institute of Medical Sciences;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government are also contemplating to set up speciality hospitals in each State to provide better health care facilities to the people; and;

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the financial allocation proposed to be made by the Government for the purpose during the current financial year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) Upgradation of medical facilities in Safdarjung Hospital and Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital is a continuous process. However, the details of upgradation

of Cardiology, Nephrology and Cancer Departments in Sardarjung Hospital and Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital are as under:-

**Sardarjung hospital:**

*Cardiology Department*

The Hospital has already installed Cath. Lab. and in addition to this two more TMT machines and 2 Hotter monitors have been procured.

*Nephrology*

There are already 4 numbers of Haemodialysis and procurement of another new dialysis machine and Reverse Osmosis Plant is under process.

*Cancer Cure Facility:*

Procurement of two rotational Cobalt Machines is under process.

**Dr. R.M.L. Hospital:**

*Cardiology*

Establishment of Nuclear Medicine Department with Thallium Screening facility has already been approved. Procurement of new Central Monitoring Station and Bed Side Station in the ICU is under process.

*Nephrology*

Upgradation/strengthening of Nephrology Department has also been approved. One Coniferous Renal Replacement Therapy (CRRT) machine and two Haemodialysis machines have been procured.

(c) and (d) Issue is under consideration.

**Pending Schemes**

6488. SHRI M.K. SUBBA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of schemes pending with the Union Government which is proposed to be funded from the Non-lapsable Central Pool of Resources (NCLPR) indicating their cost and the time since when they are pending;

(b) the reasons for the delay despite prioritization thereof by the State Government indicating the latest stage of their pendency or clearance;

(c) whether Government of Assam has lately stressed that projects of at least Rs. 300 crores from NLCPR for 2001-02 be cleared urgently and flow of funds for the ongoing projects be expedited; and

(d) if so, the details of such schemes and the Government's response thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) According to guidelines for administration of Non-lapsable Central Pool of Resources (NLCPR), North Eastern States submit a prioritized list of proposals for seeking support under NLCPR latest by month of February for ensuing financial year. Considering merit of the proposals included in the list, priority attached to it by the State Government and the NLCPR Guidelines, Committee to administer the NCLPR thereafter retains/identifies selected proposal(s) for further detailed examination. The State Governments are thereafter requested to send the Detailed Project Reports (DPR's) for such identified/retained proposals which are then sent for detailed techno-economic examination by Department/Ministry concerned in the Government of India. Based on recommendations of such examinations, the Committee takes appropriate decisions regarding final sanction of the projects. A Statement of proposals retained/identified but pending final sanction is annexed.

(b) As given in the Statement, the reasons for time gap between retention and sanction vary from project to project. In some cases, the State Governments have not submitted the Detailed Project Reports (DPR's), while in some cases the States have to clarify the queries raised by the examining agency; and in some cases the proposals are with concerned Government Departments for examination.

(c) The Chief Minister of Assam had submitted a memorandum in December, 2002 to sanction projects of at least Rs. 300 crore during the financial year (2002-03). The Committee administering the Non-lapsable Central Pool of Resources after taking into account the priority list submitted by the Government of Assam; the available funds under NLCPR, the commitments for ongoing projects and competing demands from other North Eastern States finally sanctioned 8 new projects costing Rs. 141.92 crore.

Flow of funds for ongoing projects under NLCPR depends on State's performance in implementation of specific projects and timely submission of necessary documentation in this regard such as Utilisation Certificates, Quarterly Progress Reports, Work Plan for the requisitioned amount with milestones and time frame, photographs of the works completed from earlier releases.

Rs. 90.63 crore and Rs. 140.07 crore were released in the years 2001-02 and 2002-03 respectively for the various projects in Assam under NLCPR.

(d) The details of funds released in respect of each of the projects including new projects sanctioned during 2002-03 are available on the website: [www.northeast.nic.in](http://www.northeast.nic.in).

**Statement**

| State             | Name of the project   | Estimated Cost<br>(Rs crore) | Date of retaining the project | Remarks  |
|-------------------|---|------------------------------|-------------------------------|--|
| 1                 | 2   | 3                            | 4                             | 5  |
| Arunachal Pradesh | Transmission line from Along to Pasighat  | 27.00                        | 4.1.2002                      | Technical comments have been received from Central Electricity Authority on 11.03.2003 for placement before NLCPR Committee.           |
|                   | Restoration of transmission line from Yingkiong to Pasighat                         | 1.37                         | 4.12.2002                     | The State Government has not submitted the DPR.  |
| Assam             | Maibong Hospital  | 10.31                        | 23.07.2002                    | The State Government has been advised to revise the DPR in the light of the comments of the Union Ministry of Health & Family Welfare. |
|                   | Conversion of timber bridges into RCC bridges including ROB over Maligaon (36 Nos.) | 118.74                       | 4.03.2003                     | The State Government has been asked to submit the DPR.   |
|                   | Haflong Water Supply Scheme   | 1.63                         | 4.03.2003                     | The State Government has been asked to submit the DPR.   |
|                   | Construction of approach road leading to industrial growth centre at Balipara       | 1.75                         | 4.03.2003                     | The State Government has been asked to submit the DPR.   |

| 1       | 2   | 3     | 4         | 5  |
|---------|---|-------|-----------|--|
|         | Power line to Balipara Industrial Growth Centre   | 10.47 | 4.03.2003 | The State Government has been asked to submit the DPR.   |
| Manipur | Upgradation of Thoubal Hospital to 100 bedded   | 25.00 | 4.12.2002 | The State Government has been advised to revise the DPR in the light of the comments of Union Ministry of Health & Family Welfare. |
|         | Construction of Government College of Technology Complex  | 34.54 | 4.03.2003 | The State Government has been asked to submit the DPR  |
|         | Construction of Singjamei Bridge  | 3.70  | 4.03.2003 | The State Government has been asked to submit the DPR  |
| Mizoram | Construction of two link roads to Bamboo Plantation in Mizoram  | 12.30 | 4.03.2003 | The State Government has been asked to submit the DPR  |
|         | Greater Mamit Pumping Water Supply Scheme   | 6.29  | 4.03.2003 | The State Government has been asked to submit the DPR  |
|         | Chawngte to Borapansury road upto Momtala   | 22.75 | 4.03.2003 | The State Government has been asked to submit the DPR  |
|         | Lungtian-Mamte road via Vartekkai (61 Kms)  | 36.43 | 4.03.2003 | The State Government has been asked to submit the DPR  |
|         | Single Lane Girder Bridge over River Tiawng on Aizawl-Darlung Road  | 1.86  | 4.03.2003 | The State Government has been asked to submit the DPR  |
|         | Construction of bridge over River Chawngte at Chawngte (Chawngte 'P' to Chawngte 'C') within Lai and Chakma Autonomous District Council | 3.00  | 4.03.2003 | The State Government has been asked to submit the DPR  |



| 1        | 2  | 3    | 4          | 5  |
|----------|--|------|------------|--|
|          | Single Lane Girder<br>Bridge over River<br>Chawngte on Lawngtal-<br>Diltang-Chawngte road  | 1.94 | 4.03.2003  | The State<br>Government has been<br>asked to submit the<br>DPR   |
|          | Single Lane Girder<br>Bridge over River<br>Vanva on Haulawng-<br>Bualpui-Chhipphir Road  | 1.67 | 4.03.2003  | The State<br>Government has been<br>asked to submit the<br>DPR   |
|          | Single Lane Girder<br>Bridge over River<br>Tuisih on Tuipang,<br>Zawngling, Chheihlu,<br>Mawhre road   | 1.29 | 4.03.2003  | The State<br>Government has been<br>asked to submit the<br>DPR   |
|          | Single Lane Girder<br>Bridges over River<br>Sailungrek, River<br>De, River Tuipawl, River<br>Zawlpui & river Tuisen<br>on Phairuang<br>Bunghmum road | 7.69 | 4.03.2003  | The State<br>Government has been<br>asked to submit the<br>DPR   |
| Nagaland | Drinking water supply<br>for Mon and Chui<br>Villages  | 4.00 | 19.08.2002 | The proposals has<br>been referred to<br>Department of<br>Drinking water Supply<br>for detailed<br>examination                           |
|          | Outdoor Satdium at<br>Mon town   | 1.25 | 19.08.2002 | The proposal has<br>been referred to<br>Department of Youth<br>Affairs and Sports for<br>detailed examination.                           |
|          | Upgradation of mon<br>Civil Hospital   | 1.00 | 19.08.2002 | The proposal has<br>been referred to<br>Ministries of Health &<br>Family Welfare and<br>Urban Development<br>for detailed<br>examination |

Note: The priority lists in respect of Governments of Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Tripura and Meghalaya for 2003-04 are yet to be considered by NCLPR Committee.

**Assessment of Centrally Sponsored Schemes**

6489. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Planning Commission and other professional agencies would undertake impact assessment of Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS) for which evaluation has not yet taken place;

(b) if so, the objectives of this exercise;

(c) the details of such agencies which have been selected for this work;

(d) the criteria laid down to select the agencies for such work; and

(e) the mode of payment or amount of fees which will be paid to these agencies for such work?

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

(b) The objective of the evaluation is to assess physical and financial performance & impact of schemes and suggest corrective measures in planning and implementation, if any.

(c) and (d) There is no fixed criteria to select agencies for evaluation. However, evaluation studies are assigned to agencies having experience & professional competency vis-a-vis nature of the Scheme.

(e) Normal financial procedures are followed in payment of fees and the amount of fees differs from Scheme to Scheme depending upon nature, objectives and coverage.

**Illness Assistance Fund**

6490. DR. N. VENKATASWAMY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have set up a National Illness Assistance Fund; and

(b) if so, the details of the various types of ailments which are eligible for assistance under it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) National Illness Assistance Fund was set up in 1997. The name of National Illness Assistance. Fund has been changed to "Rashtriya Arogya Nidhi" vide Government's Resolution No. W. 11011/2/2003-NIAF dated 9.4.2003.

(b) An illustrative list of diseases which are eligible for assistance under Rashtriya Arogya Nidhi is enclosed as statement.

**Statement**

An illustrative list\* of categories of diseases covered by treatment under the Fund is given below:—

**1. Cardiology & Cardiac Surgery**

Pacemakers disposable for interventional procedure including TMT, Echocardiography Coronary Angiography, Angioplasty Aheretomy, Heart surgery for Cogenital and Acquired conditions including C.A.B.G., Vascular Surgery stents and Cardiac Transplantation etc.

**2. Cancer**

Radiation treatment of all kinds.

Anti Cancer Chemotherapy

**3. Urology/Nephrology**

Dialysis alongwith consumable goods (coils and dialysis solution etc.) Vascular shunts for Dialysis, P.C.N. & P.C.N.L. Kits, Lithopripsy (for stones)-disposable and stents for endoscopic surgical procedure in Urology and Gastroneterology, Rental & Hepatee transplantation.

**4. Orthopaedics**

Artificial prosthesis for limbs, implants and total hip and knee replacement external fixaters, AO implants used in the treatment of bone disease and fractures.

**5. Miscellaneous**

Intra-ocular lens implants, hearing aids and shunts for hydrocephalus.

**6. Investigations**

Ultra-sound, Dopler shidres, Radiolneulcolide scans, CT scan Mammography, Angiography for all organs, M.R.L., E.E.G., E.M.G., Urodynamic studies.

7. **Drugs**

Immuno-suppressive drugs, Anti TB drugs, Anti D, Anti Haemophillie globulin Erythropoiten, Blood & Blood products, Plasma for patients of burn.

8. Other major illness considered appropriate for assistance by Medical Superintendent/Committee of Doctors could be added to the List.

\*The list could be modified by the Technical Committee.

**Amount Realised from Disinvestment**

6491. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount realised from the disinvestment of PSUs/Industries etc. during the last three years, year-wise till date;

(b) whether the Government have extended financial help to PSUs/Industrial Units etc. from out of the disinvestment proceeds during the said period; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) The amount realised through disinvestment in Public Sector Undertaking for the last three years is given below:

| Year      | Rs. crore |
|-----------|-----------|
| 2000-2001 | 1,868.73  |
| 2001-2002 | 5,632.25* |
| 2002-2003 | 3,348.14  |

\*Inclusive of dividend, special dividend, dividend tax, transfer from surplus cash reserves and lease rent etc.

(b) The proceeds from disinvestment are deposited in the Consolidated Fund of India. However, the Government proposes to set up a Disinvestment Proceeds Fund during the current year. The Fund will be used for financing fresh employment opportunities and investment, and for retirement of public debt.

(c) The financial assistance to Central Public Sector Undertakings (CPSUs) during the last three years is as follows:

| Years     | Plan<br>(Rs. in<br>crore) | Non-Plan<br>(Rs. in<br>crore) | Total<br>(Rs. in<br>crore) | No. of CPSUs<br>receiving<br>financial<br>assistance |
|-----------|---------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------|--|
| 1999-2000 | 4528.66                   | 1816.56                       | 6345.22                    | 142  |
| 2000-2001 | 4472.09                   | 1625.47                       | 6097.56                    | 139  |
| 2001-2002 | 4909.70                   | 1684.93                       | 6594.63                    | 123  |

[*Translation*]

**Closure of SSI in Jharkhand and Bihar**

6492. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of small scale industries have been closed in Jharkhand and Bihar;

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

(c) the steps taken to revive these industries?

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND MINISTER OF DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (DR. C.P. THAKUR): (a) and (b) As per the sample survey of registered Small Scale Industrial (SSI) units conducted during 2000-01 in respect of units registered upto 31.03.1998, it was estimated that 29% of the SSI units were closed in the country. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) compiles data on sick SSI units financed by the scheduled commercial banks. As per the latest information available with the RBI, there were 2105 and 15,181 sick SSI units as at the end of March, 2002 in the States of Jharkhand and Bihar, respectively. The main reasons of closure are inadequacy/shortage of working capital, fall in demand, changes in technology, shortage of raw materials, marketing problems, increase in competition, management inadequacies, etc.

(c) Government is fully seized of the incidence of industrial sickness among SSI units and has taken various measures to facilitate timely identification and rehabilitation of potentially violable sick units. Some specific measures for tackling sickness are as under:-

1. RBI has issued detailed revised guidelines to banks on 16th January, 2002 for detection of

sickness at an early stage and taking remedial measures for rehabilitation of sick SSI units identified as potentially viable. The revised guidelines include criteria for identifying sick units as per revised definition.

2. Setting up of Institutional mechanisms in the form of State-level Inter-Institutional Committees (SLIICs) for timely identification and rehabilitation of potentially viable units.
3. Special rehabilitation cells in banks and State financial institutions.
4. Elaborate guidelines issued by the Reserve Bank of India for extending rehabilitation assistance to eligible units.
5. A One-time Settlement formula (Samadhan Scheme) upto loan of Rs. 5 crore was announced by RBI on July 27, 2000 for one time settlement of dues.
6. RBI had announced another One-time Settlement scheme upto Rs. 10 crore on 29th January, 2003.

[English]

#### **Central Health Education Bureau**

6493. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the objectives of the Central Health Education Bureau under the DGHS;
- (b) the funds given to this bureau in 2002-2003;
- (c) the funds proposed to be given to the bureau in 2003-2004;
- (d) whether any cost/benefit study has been done regarding the work of this bureau; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) The main objective of Central Health Education Bureau (CHEB) is development of Health Education material for both print and electronic and dissemination of health information to the masses. The other objectives involve training and research in health education as well as in health behaviour, rendering technical help to official and

non-official agencies engaged in health education, collaborating with International Agencies for such purposes and acting as a Centre for Health related Vocational Studies.

(b) Budget for 2002-03.

|          |                      |
|----------|----------------------|
| Plan     | Rs. 2.20 crores      |
| Non-Plan | Rs. 1.35 crores      |
| Total    | <u>Rs. 355 crore</u> |

(c) A provision of 2.85 crores has been made in the Budget Estimates for 2003-04 as under:-

|         |                       |
|---------|-----------------------|
| Plan    | Rs. 1.50 crores       |
| No-Plan | Rs. 1.35 crores       |
| Total   | <u>Rs. 2.85 crore</u> |

(d) No cost/benefit study has been done.

(e) Does not arise.

#### **Joint Venture with Malaysia**

6494. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government have signed an agreement with Malaysia for three projects in connection with construction of national highways; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS [MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI]: (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government of India has signed a memorandum of agreement with Government of Malaysia on 19.12.2000 which was later replaced by a concession agreement signed on 27.03.2001 for following three projects:

- (i) 4-laning of Tade-Nellore section of NH-5 from Km. 52.8 to Km. 163.6.
- (ii) 4-laning of Nandigama-Ibrahimpattam section on NH-9 from Km. 217 to Km. 252.
- (iii) Operation and maintenance of 4-laned section on NH-9 between Vijayawada to Ibrahimpattam.

The project is being implemented by a Consortium promoted by CIDB Inventures Malaysia, a Government of Malaysia entity. The total project cost agreed to at Rs. 760 crores will be invested by the consortium except an element of grant amounting to Rs. 167.5 crores which shall be provided by NHAI. The entire project is to be completed by December, 2003. The concessionaire *i.e.* CIDB Inventures Malaysia has been awarded a concession period of 30 years including construction period.

#### **Suspension of Cargo from US**

6495. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether all the major shipping lines recently suspended US-bound cargo from India;

(b) if so, the extent to which this has affected Indian exports;

(c) whether the Union Government have taken up this issue with the US Government; and

(d) if so, the outcome of the said matter?

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

(a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

#### **Export of IT Services/Electronic Components**

6496. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY:  
SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA:

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

(a) the export of IT software services and electronic components during 2000-2001, 2001-2002 and 2002-2003 year-wise separately;

(b) whether a downward trend is anticipated in export of IT services, and software in the coming years; and

(c) if so, the steps taken or being taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

(SHRI SU. THIRUNAVUKKARASAR): (a) The export of Computer Software/Services & Electronic Components from 2000-2001 to 2002-2003 is as given below:

| Year      | Value (Rs. Crores) |            |
|-----------|--------------------|------------|
|           | Software           | Components |
| 2000-2001 | 28350              | 1828       |
| 2001-2002 | 36500              | 2200       |
| 2002-2003 | 46500              | 2400       |

(b) and (c) There has been a downward trend in the growth rate of export of IT Software and Services from India because of a series of negative developments. These include US economic recession, the global slow down, WTC disaster and more recently the Iraq war.

Government have taken following steps to promote exports of Computer Software and Services:

- (i) Awareness programs and focussed Road Shows in collaboration with the Industry, organized periodically in potential markets.
- (ii) Financial support to industry for organizing and participating in international fairs, exhibitions & conferences for marketing Indian strength in the sector.
- (iii) Bilateral cooperation with other countries strengthened by entering into Memorandum of Understandings (MOUs). These MOUs have been used to provide platform for the industry to establish contacts with counterparts in these countries and to explore and increase possibilities of exports.
- (iv) National Association of Software and Service Companies (NASSCOM) with active support from the Government of India, has been working very closely with US policy makers, media, legislators, customers and US Industry Associations to highlight the benefits of outsourcing, creation of jobs and competitiveness of various industries. It has also hired a reputed Public Relations firm to do the lobbying on behalf of the Indian IT Industry in the USA and UK.

#### **Features of Super Computer 'Param Padma'**

6497. SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether he has recently inaugurated the Bangalore-based Terascale Super Computing facility of the Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC) and dedicated to the nation most powerful 'desi' Super Computer the teraflop 'Param Padma';

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the salient features of the super computer Param Padma; and

(c) the names of all countries which posses TERAFLOP?

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

(b) The salient features of PARAM Padma are:

- A peak computing power of the TeraFlop (trillion floating power operations per second)
- System Area Network PARAMNet IT with data rates of 2.5 Gigabits/second as primary network with Gigabit Ethernet as backup.
- Software programming environment consisting of C-DAC Message Passing Interface (MPI), Parallel File System and Parallel Compilers.
- Primary Storage of 5 TeraBytes with a secondary storage of 12 Terabytes.

(c) Information about such capabilities are not generally announced. The countries that possess technology of teraflops Super computers include USA and Japan who may have supplied such equipment to many countries. Countries in Europe (such as UK, Germany, Norway). China, Israel are also known to possess such capability.

*[Translation]*

#### **CGHS Dispensaries in Delhi**

6498. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to expand a majority of 116 C.G.H.S. dispensaries in the capital;

(b) if so, the number of dispensaries out of them which the Government propose to expand; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government for the implementation of the expansion plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (c) No Sir, is no proposal at present to expand the existing 118 CGHS dispensaries/units under CGHS Delhi.

*[English]*

#### **Decentralisation of Public Health System**

6499. SHRI PARSURAM MAJHI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have a proposal to decentralize public health system in the country;

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

(c) the steps taken/being taken in this regard so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) Decentralization of health care is one of the focus areas included in the Tenth Five Year Plan as also in the National Health Policy-2002. The Policy lays great emphasis upon implementation of public health programmes through different levels of local self-government institutions and urges all State Governments to consider decentralizing the implementation of the disease control programmes to such institutions by 2005. The objective of the Policy of decentralization is to enable need-based allocation of resources, ensure area specific planning and monitoring, improve accountability of public health care providers and achieve intersectoral coordination.

(c) Two task forces set up by the Government have suggested specific operationalization mechanism for devolution of functions to Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) and have evolved modalities for bringing implementation of centrally sponsored schemes within the purview of PRIs. State Governments are being pursued to transfer functions, functionaries and funds to different tiers of PRIs. Guidelines of various national disease control programmes are constantly reviewed for increasing the role of PRIs in their implementation.

#### **Medicine for Treatment of SARS**

6500. SHRI J.S. BRAR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to approach experts in Ayurvedic, Yunani, Homoeopathic system of medicines to produce an effective medicine for the treatment of SARS in the absence of an allopathic medicine;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (c) A number of Ayurvedic, Unani and Homoeopathic medicines have been identified by experts which could be used in SARS cases. A final view would be taken soon on medicines to be actually used.

#### **Purchase of Ships**

6501. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Shipping Corporation of India (SCI) has purchased two new ships from South Korea;

(b) if so, whether the delivery of these ships have been taken;

(c) if so, the cost thereof;

(d) the extent to which these ships will increase the tonnage capacity of the SCI;

(e) whether the SCI propose to acquire more ships; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and the cost thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI): (a) The SCI in January, 2002 has placed orders for building of 2 Nos. LR-II Size Crude Oil Tankers at M/s. Daewoo Shipbuilding & Marine Engineering Company, South Korea.

(b) The vessels would be delivered in February and May 2004.

(c) The cost of the vessels are US \$ 48.70 million per vessel.

(d) The vessels are of 146,860 Deadweight tonnes (DWT) each and the addition of these ships would add about 2.93 lakh DWT to SCI fleet.

(e) Yes, Sir. The SCI has planned to acquire more ships during 2003-04.

(f) Presently, SCI has signed an Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Cochin Shipyard Ltd., Kochi for the construction of a 110,000 Deadweight tonnes Aframax Crude Oil Tanker at a cost of US \$ 34.70 million. Further, the company has also proposed to acquire two Very Large Crude Carriers (VLCCs) at a cost of US \$ 65.20 million per vessel from South Korea.

#### **Proto Fast Breeder Reactor**

6502. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indira Gandhi Centre for Atomic Research at Kalpakkam completed the designing of the "Proto Fast Breeder Reactor";

(b) if so, the time by which the centre is likely to complete the "designing and industrialising" of the PFBR;

(c) whether the Nuclear Power Corporation of India has agreed to execute the PFBR;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the target date set by the Government for completing the designing and industrialising of the PFBR?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) to (e) It is planned to set up 500 MWe Prototype Fast Breeder Reactor at Kalpakkam, for which a proposal for administrative and financial sanction is under process. The project is scheduled to be constructed in a period of seven years from the date of receipt of sanction.

The modalities of implementation will be finalised after the project is approved by Government.

[*Translation*]

#### **Special Category Status**

6503. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state the details of the States which are under consideration of the Government for being accorded the status of special States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): Presently, Special Category Status is accorded to the following States:—Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim, Tripura, Uttaranchal. No other state is now under consideration of the Government for being accorded the status of Special Category States.

[English]

#### Conference of Obstetrics and Gynaecology

6504. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the 46th annual All India Conference of Obstetrics and Gynaecology was held in Bangalore recently;
- (b) if so, the details of the discussions held and the outcome thereof;
- (c) the number of countries which participated; and
- (d) the steps being taken to implement the decisions taken at the Conference?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) The 46th Annual All India Conference of Obstetric and Gynaecology was held in Bangalore city from 6th January to 9th January, 2003.

Main theme of the Conference was 'Community, Obstetrics, Adolescent problems, Advances in infertility'. Besides this, there was a symposium on averting maternal death and disability, a public forum on population stabilization and public debate on PNDT Act.

(c) Thirteen countries including India participated in the Conference. Delegates and International faculties participated from USA, UK, Canada, Netherlands, New Zealand, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Israel, East Africa, South Korea, Australia and Singapore.

(d) The Federation of Obstetric & Gynaecological Society of India have informed this Ministry that it is an

annual feature to hold this All India conference of Obstetrics & Gynaecologist in the country.

Therefore, this 46th Annual All India Conference was continuum of this programme of annual conferencing.

In these conferences the focus is on deliberations and no specific decision as such are taken. Hence, no concrete propositions arise or implementation *per se*.

However, during these conferences invited national and international faculty update delegates with regard to the recent advances in the field of Obstetrics and Gynaecology. There is very useful exchange of views and update of knowledge takes place which subsequently does impact policies.

The Federation of Obstetric & Gynaecological Society of India, being a representative body of professional, is consulted as a matter of routine in formulating schemes/ interventions under the RCH programme which programme is aimed at Reproductive and Child Health and has a variety of schemes which aim to reduce maternal, infant and child mortality and improve health system in the country and it has interventions focused on maternal health such as essential obstetric care; emergency obstetric care; provision of referral transport through panchayats and provision of drugs and equipment at first referral units.

[Translation]

#### Delegation of Powers to MCI

6505. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether in order to monitor the medical education and maintain its standard in the country the Government propose to delegate more powers to the Medical Council of India (MCI);
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (c) No, Sir. The Medical Council of India is having sufficient powers to monitor the medical education and maintain its standard in the country under the Indian Medical Council Act, 1956.



[English]

### Grass Root Planning

6506. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the extent to which the Planning Commission has implemented its objective of "grass root" planning;

(b) the number of States which has submitted the necessary consolidated data in this regard to the Planning Commission; and

(c) the extent to which this will help in formulation of a better plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) The successive Five Year Plans have emphasized the need for grass root Planning. This process was given a major impetus with the enactment of 74th Constitutional Amendment act which provides for setting up District Planning Committees (DPCs) to consolidate the Plans "prepared by the Panchayats and Municipalities in the districts and to prepare a draft Development Plan for the district as a whole". In the Ninth Five Year Plan (1997-02) as also in the Tenth Five Year Plan (2002-07), the Planning Commission has clearly articulated the need to promote grass root planning.

Pursuant to the decision taken in the meeting of the National Development Council (NDC), held on 21st December, 2002, Planning Commission has constituted an Empowered Sub-Committee of the NDC on Financial and Administrative Empowerment of Panchayati Raj Institutions under the Chairmanship of Minister of Rural Development. The Committee is expected to provide direction to evolve a framework for preparation and projectisation of local plans that reflect the felt-needs and aspirations of the people so that development process becomes a people's movement.

(b) At present 14 States and 4 Union Territories have constituted DPCs. Some of the States are reluctant to constitute DPCs as the District Planning Bodies/Boards were in existence in these States before the Constitutional Amendment came into force. States have been requested to expedite the process of constitution of DPCs as mandated by the Constitution.

(c) For successful district level planning, people's preparedness to undertake planning exercise is necessary. People have to have a clear perception of the needs and resources that would be available to them in a given time frame. The training programmes that equip rural communities with rudimentary skills of planning process, therefore, become important. The training programmes in the Tenth Five Year Plan would be strengthened to impart basic skills of planning to the rural population. It is expected that these efforts would result in better plan formulation.

### Compact Licensing Mechanism

6507. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of numerous instances where drivers, whose licences were seized, would be back on roads after acquiring licences from other states;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to evolve a compact licensing mechanism so that not more than one driving licence is issued to any individual in the country; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to computerise registration of vehicles and driving licences at National Level to check the above menace?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS [MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI]: (a) Under the Motor Vehicle Regulations, issue of driving licence is done by Transport Authorities of respective States/UTs. Under the manual system in practice in several States, it is theoretically possible to obtain multiple driving licences from different States/UTs.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) This Ministry in consultation with National Informatics Centre has developed the standardized software and common minimum specifications for issue of smart card based driving licences and registration certificates for motor vehicles. The same has been made available free of cost to all the States/UTs. Implementation of the scheme of computerization of RTOs comes under the purview of States/UTs. After computerization of RTOs in States/UTs is completed and the same are linked up electronically, then it would be difficult for a person to have more than one driving licences issued.

**Task Force on Employment Opportunities**

6508. DR. N. VENKATASWAMY:  
SHRI SAVSHIBHAI MAKWANA:  
SHRIMATI JAYASHREE BANERJEE:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the "Task Force on Employment Opportunities", set up by the Planning Commission has submitted its Report;

(b) if so, the salient features of the report;

(c) whether the recommendations of the Task Force have been accepted by the Government; and

(d) if so, the time by which the recommendations of the Task Force are likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir. The Task Force on Employment Opportunities submitted its report to the Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission on 2nd July, 2001.

(b) The Task Force recommended macro economic and sectoral policies to help employment generation.

(c) and (d) The planning Commission constituted a "Special Group on Targeting 10 Million Employment Opportunities Per Year" under the Chairmanship of Member (Labour Employment & Manpower), Planning Commission, which examined the recommendations of the Task Force on Employment Opportunities, in detail, and gave its recommendations. Employment Perspective for the Tenth Five Year Plan (2002-07) was prepared on the basis of these recommendations.

**Disinvestment of HPCL & BPCL**

6509. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL:  
SHRI J.S. BRAR:  
SHRI VINAY KUMAR SORAKE:

Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government aware that the HPCL and BPCL staff unions have decided to oppose the privatisation of the respective oil companies;

(b) if so, whether the Government intend to discuss with the staff unions before going in for the privatisation; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) and (b) Employees of PSUs under disinvestment such as HPCL and BPCL do have concerns about their status, post-disinvestment. Government, therefore, engages in constant dialogue with cross-sections of PSU management/staff, and earnest efforts are made to address these concerns.

(c) Does not arise.

[Translation]

**Private Companies in Communication Sector**

6510. DR. CHARAN DAS MAHANT: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the terms and conditions/rules allowing entry of private companies in the communications sector (telephone and mobile service) has been framed alongwith details of the orders issued in this regard;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of the changes/amendments made therein upto 15th October, 2002, date-wise alongwith the details of the orders issued in this regard; and

(d) the head-wise and service-wise revenue earned by the Ministry of Communications during the year 2000-2001, 2001-2002 and till 30th September, 2002 as a result of above changes/amendments?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

**Loan for West Bengal Corridor Development Project**

6511. SHRI AKBOR ALI KHANDOKER: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government recently received US \$210 million loan for West Bengal Corridor Development Project;

(b) if so, the total cost of the project and the details of central participation therein; and

(c) by when the project is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS [MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI]: (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The total project cost estimate for National Highway component is Rs. 1085.7 crores, of which Central Government will bear Rs. 1027.89 crores. The loan component for National Highway component will be Rs. 698.89 crores (US\$ 148.7 million) and the remaining Rs. 329 crores will be counterpart funding.

(c) The project is expected to be completed by 2007.

[*Translation*]

#### **Linking of Bilaspur-Mungali-Pauri with National Highway**

6512. SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal for linking Bilaspur-Mungali-Pauri with National Highway;

(b) if so, the time by when it will be done; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS [MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI]: (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[*English*]

#### **Shifting of Petrol Pumps**

6513. SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Highway authorities have received application for no objections with regard to

shifting of Petrol Pumps in Srikakulam District of Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the number of such applications received in during the last two years, year-wise;

(c) the number out of them cleared; and

(d) by when the remaining applications will be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS [MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI]: (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The number of such applications received in the last two years is given as under:-

| Year    | Nos of applications received | Nos of applications cleared |
|---------|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 2001-02 | Nil                          | Nil                         |
| 2002-03 | 06                           | 01                          |

(d) Some additional information with respect to five pending proposals are awaited from Indian Oil Corporation Limited who have asked for permission. Further action will be taken after receipt of additional information.

#### **Road Accidents in Delhi**

6514. SHRI C. SREENIVASAN:  
SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA:  
SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE:  
DR. M.V.V.S. MURTHI:

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

(a) whether the roads in Delhi are most unsafe and accident prone as compared to other capitals of the world;

(b) if so, the number of road accidents which occurred in Delhi during the last three years, year-wise; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to make Delhi Roads free from accidents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS [MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI]: (a) A Working Group on Road Accidents, Injury Prevention and Control set up by Planning Commission in May, 2000 had concluded 'it is

difficult to make comparisons between countries because often the information is not available to allow for all the difference in traffic and travel conditions'.

(b) As per information obtained from Delhi Police, the total number of accidents that occurred during the last three years in Delhi is given below:

| Year | Road Accidents |
|------|----------------|
| 1999 | 9909           |
| 2000 | 10245          |
| 2001 | 9344           |

(c) Enforcement of provisions of Motor Vehicles Act 1988 and Central Motor Vehicles Rules 1989 for improved road safety is entirely the responsibility of State Government. Government of India has been undertaking a number of engineering and educational measures to prevent road accidents in the country as a whole including the NCT of Delhi. Some of the important steps being taken up besides highway design, for reducing the road accidents in the country are as under:

- (1) Provision of crane and ambulance to State Government/Non-Government Organisations under National Highways Accident Relief Services Scheme.
- (2) Assistance for setting up of Driving Training Schools.
- (3) Provision of refresher training to drivers of heavy motor vehicles.
- (4) Publicity campaign on road safety awareness through audio-visual-print media.
- (5) Grants-in-aid to voluntary organizations or administering road safety programmes;
- (6) Encouraging use of simulators in driver's training.
- (7) Institution of National Award for voluntary organizations/individuals for outstanding work in the field of road safety.
- (8) Organising All India Essay Competition on road safety for school children with a view to create awareness.
- (9) Tightening of fitness norms for transport vehicles.
- (10) Widening/improvement of roads. etc.

### Limitation of Short Distance Charging Area Service

6515. SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the limitation of the short distance charging area (SDCA) service and non-availability of roaming have been admitted by DOT in an affidavit before TDSAT and in written submissions in the Supreme Court;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the private WLL (Mobile) operators are publishing misleading advertisement in contravention to the above admitted stand of the DOT;

(d) if so, the details thereof indicating the names of the private operators and the date of advertisement;

(e) whether the Government propose to take action against the operators; and

(f) if so the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) It has been indicated that Basic Service Operator shall be allowed to provide mobility to its subscribers with Wireless Access Systems limited within the local area *i.e.* Short Distance Charging Area (SDCA) in which the subscriber is registered. While deploying such systems, the operator has to follow numbering plan of that Short Distance Charging Area (SDCA) and it should not be possible to authenticate and work with the subscriber terminal equipment in SDCAs other than the one in which it is registered. The system shall also be engineered so as to ensure that hand over of subscriber does not take place from one SDCA to another SDCA while communicating.

(c) and (d) Certain advertisements were published by M/s. Reliance Infocomm Ltd. indicating availability of roaming in the second week of February, 2003 in various newspapers.

(e) and (f) The matter was raised in a meeting held in the Department of Telecommunications with various basic service operators as well as cellular operators on 14th Feb. 2003. During the meeting, M/s. Reliance

Infocomm Ltd. informed that they are not violating the terms and conditions on Licence and Mobility is restricted within Short Distance Charging Area in which Subscriber is registered. Further they informed that the advertisements indicating roaming facilities shall be withdrawn with immediate effect. Since then, no such advertisement has come to notice. According to the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) Act, TRAI is to ensure that the terms and conditions of the licence are being adhered to. This matter had also come to the notice of TRAI who had called for a report from M/s Reliance Infocomm Ltd. had intimated TRAI that services proposed to be offered by them are not the same as the roaming service offered by cellular operators; and that in order to avoid any confusion in the minds of the customers they have decided to withdraw the word "roaming" from their advertisements.

[*Translation*]

#### **Retirement Benefits to MTNL Employees**

6516. SHRI SAIDUZZAMA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the MTNL employees working in Delhi and Mumbai who retired between May, 2000 and November, 2000 have been given pension, gratuity and other payments on the basis of CDA pay scales and those who retired after December, 2000 have been given pension, gratuity and other payments on the basis of IDA pay scales by the Nigam;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the time by which the Group C and D employees who retired between May, 2000 and December, 2000 will get pension, gratuity and other payments as per IDA pay scales?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Before their absorption in MTNL, the employees were sanctioned pension and other retirement benefits by the Government based on the pay drawn by them in CDA pattern. The date of absorption has been fixed as 1.11.1998. However, the process of issuance of Presidential Order followed by fixation of their pay in IDA pattern could be implemented in majority of cases only during May to November, 2000 but with retrospective effect i.e. w.e.f. 1.11.1998. The employees who retired

after fixation of their pay in IDA pay scales (December, 2000 onwards) were sanctioned pension and other retirement dues based on IDA pay scales by MTNL.

(c) The process to grant pension and other retirement dues based on IDA pay scales in respect of the employees who retired during the said period but were sanctioned pension based on CDA pay scales has already been initiated. The process involves cancellation of existing Pension Payment Orders by the Government, getting the documents returned from the disbursing bank/post offices and then issuing fresh PPOs and shall take some more time.

#### **Illegal WLL Facility**

6517. SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government and other officers in Uttar Pradesh have been given the WLL facility illegally and without issuing advice note;

(b) if so, the facts thereof, alongwith the action taken against the guilty officers of the management;

(c) the number of subscribers of Bhagaon, Manipuri and other districts who has been given telephone/WLL connections without advice note;

(d) the district-wise and priority-wise details of the phone numbers alongwith the date on which subscription amount was deposited; and

(e) the action likely to be taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) No, Sir.

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

(c) Nil.

(d) and (e) Do not arise in view of (c) above.

#### **Mobile Connection in Gujarat, Kerala and Tamil Nadu**

6518. SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL:  
SHRI ADHI SANKAR:  
SHRI G.J. JAVIYA:  
SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN:

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

(a) the number of mobile phones of various companies in Gujarat, Kerala and Tamil Nadu district-wise; and

(b) the number of new mobile connections provided in the said States since January 1, 2000 and till date company-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) and (b) Sir, for Cellular Mobile Telephone Service (CMTS) Licences, the country is divided into 23 Service Areas consisting of 4

Metro City Service Areas (viz. Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata and Chennai) and 19 Telecom Circle Service Area. A subscriber of CMTS belongs to the whole of a Service Area and not to a particular district within the Service Area.

The company-wise and Service Area-wise number of cellular mobile telephones in Gujarat, Kerala and Tamil Nadu Telecom Circle Service Areas as on 31.03.2003 and also the number of new mobile connections provided in the said states since January 2000 are all given in the enclosed statement.

#### **Statement**

| Sl No. | Telecom Circle Service Area | No. of Operators in the Service Area | Name of the Licence Companies      | No. of CMTS Subscribers as on 31.3.2003 | No. of CMTS Subscribers as on 1.1.2000 | No. of Subscribers Added during the period 1.1.2000 to 31.3.2003 |
|--------|-----------------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------|---|--|--|
| 1.     | Gujarat                     | 4                                    | Fascel Ltd.                        | 457196                                  | 79752                                  | 377444   |
|        |                             |                                      | IDEA Cellular Ltd.                 | 240029                                  | 27776                                  | 212253   |
|        |                             |                                      | Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd.          | 275691                                  | —                                      | 275691   |
|        |                             |                                      | Bharti Cellular Limited            | 72310                                   | —                                      | 72310  |
| 2.     | Kerala                      | 4                                    | BPL Cellular Limited               | 148206                                  | 39552                                  | 108654   |
|        |                             |                                      | Escotel Mobile Communications Ltd. | 250632                                  | 41229                                  | 209403   |
|        |                             |                                      | Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd.          | 203931                                  | —                                      | 203931   |
|        |                             |                                      | Bharti Cellular Limited            | 57625                                   | —                                      | 57625  |
| 3.     | Tamil Nadu                  | 4                                    | BPL Mobile Cellular Limited        | 161305                                  | 42292                                  | 119013   |
|        |                             |                                      | Aircel Ltd.                        | 229779                                  | 28861                                  | 200918   |
|        |                             |                                      | Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd.          | 160089                                  | —                                      | 160089   |
|        |                             |                                      | Bharti Cellular Limited            | 63860                                   | —                                      | 63860  |

Note:- The Subscriber figures mentioned above are as intimated by Cellular Operators Association of India (COAI) on behalf of the Cellular Operators.

#### **Mobile Phone Connection**

6519. SHRI G.J. JAVIYA:

SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL:

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

(a) the number of applications seeking mobile, STD, PCO, ISD and ordinary telephone connections registered

in Gujarat, Kerala and Tamil Nadu from January 1, 2000 till date, year-wise;

(b) the number of connections released so far;

(c) the number of connections still under consideration;

(d) the number of STD/ISD/PCO connections existing as on date; and

(e) the number of new mobile, STD, PCO ISD and ordinary telephone connections likely to be released in 2003-04?

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

[*English*]

#### **Regularisation of Specialist Doctors**

6520. SHRI BISHNU PADA RAY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the IDA Standing Committee in its meeting held on October 27, 2001 has directed the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare to take immediate action in consultation with UPSC to ensure that the locally available doctors holding specialist posts are regularized;

(b) if so, the number of doctors working as ad-hoc specialists in the Health Department of Andaman and Nicobar Administration;

(c) the steps taken by the Government so far to regularize them in the posts; and

(d) if not, by when the above decision of IDA Standing Committee would be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) IDA Standing Committee meeting held on 17.10.01 (and not on 27.10.01) had directed this Ministry to take immediate action in consultation with UPSC to ensure that the locally available doctors holding ad hoc posts are regularized.

(b) There are eight doctors working as ad-hoc Specialist in Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

(c) and (d) Specialists are appointed on regular basis only through UPSC. And ad hoc doctors have to apply as and when vacancies are advertised by the UPSC. This Ministry had invited application from candidates willing to serve in Andaman and Nicobar Islands on deputation/permanent absorption basis. Out of the 8 doctors working on ad-hoc basis in Andaman and Nicobar Islands 6 applied for deputation/absorption in response to these advertisement. UPSC has recommended 3 of these

candidates for deputation. The recommendations of UPSC are under consideration.

#### **U.S. Resolution on Kashmir**

6521. SHRI Y.V. RAO: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the New Hampshire legislature in U.S.A. has passed a resolution on Kashmir;

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

(c) whether the Union Government have taken up the matter with U.S. Administration; and

(d) if so, their response thereto?

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

(b) In February 2003, the State Legislature of New Hampshire in the United States adopted a non-binding Concurrent Resolution requesting the United States Congress to "initiate hearings to discern all relevant facts and circumstances attendant to the Kashmiri conflict so as to facilitate its just, peaceful, and rapid resolution".

(c) Legislatures in the United States function independently of the U.S. Administration. However, Government has taken steps through its diplomatic missions in the United States and the Indian-American community to apprise the members of the New Hampshire legislature as also law makers in the United States Congress and other state legislatures of the true facts relating to Jammu and Kashmir and Pakistan's sponsorship of cross-border terrorism. There have been no reports of similar moves in other State legislatures and the United States Congress.

(d) Does not arise.

#### **Health Care Activities**

6522. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR:  
SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK:  
SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL:

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

(a) the per-capita amount spent on health care activities in each State and Union Territory to achieve

the goal of health for all as on March 31, 2003 as compared to previous year; and

(b) the amount earmarked or likely to be spent in 2003-04 and also during the remaining years of the Tenth Five Year Plan for health care activities in each State and Union Territory?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) Statement-I showing per capita Government Expenditure on health in each State, for the years 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 is enclosed.

(b) State-wise allocations for various National Health Programmes are made on an annual basis and not Plan wise. The State-wise allocation for the major disease control programmes for 2003-04 for control of Malaria, Leprosy, TB and Blindness is given at enclosed Statement-II. For the AIDS control programme a budget provision of Rs. 225 crore has been made for the financial year 2003-04. Out of this provision, a sum of Rs. 138.27 crore is earmarked for release of funds to State AIDS Control Societies in the States/UTs under the World Bank assisted National AIDS Control Project and further a sum of Rs. 28 crore is provided under DFID assisted Partnership for Sexual Health Project in Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Kerala and Orissa. Besides this Rs. 2 crore has been kept under CIDA assisted project for Karnataka and Rajasthan. State-wise allocations are being finalised.

**Statement I**

*State-wise per-capita Government Expenditure on Health—1999-2000 and 2000-01*

(In Rupees)

| Sl.No. | State/UT          | Per-capita Government Expenditure on Health |         |
|--------|-------------------|---|---------|
|        |                   | 1999-2000                                   | 2000-01 |
| 1      | 2                 | 3   | 4       |
| 1.     | Andhra Pradesh    | 128.00                                      | 146.00  |
| 2.     | Arunachal Pradesh | 544.00                                      | 575.00  |
| 3.     | Assam             | 93.00                                       | 70.00   |
| 4.     | Bihar             | 64.00                                       | 60.00   |
| 5.     | Chhattisgarh      | —   | 41.00   |

| 1         | 2                | 3       | 4       |
|-----------|------------------|---------|---------|
| 6.        | Delhi            | 364.00  | 300.00  |
| 7.        | Goa              | 1021.00 | 1081.00 |
| 8.        | Gujarat          | 188.00  | 171.00  |
| 9.        | Haryana          | 164.00  | 164.00  |
| 10.       | Himachal Pradesh | 468.00  | 478.00  |
| 11.       | Jammu & Kashmir  | 379.00  | 363.00  |
| 12.       | Jharkhand        | —       | —       |
| 13.       | Karnataka        | 151.00  | 154.00  |
| 14.       | Kerala           | 238.00  | 206.00  |
| 15.       | Madhya Pradesh   | 149.00  | 147.00  |
| 16.       | Maharashtra      | 120.00  | 170.00  |
| 17.       | Manipur          | 381.00  | 322.00  |
| 18.       | Meghalaya        | 335.00  | 370.00  |
| 19.       | Mizoram          | 733.00  | 762.00  |
| 20.       | Nagaland         | 400.00  | 447.00  |
| 21.       | Orissa           | 108.00  | 129.00  |
| 22.       | Pondicherry      | 752.00  | 782.00  |
| 23.       | Punjab           | 253.00  | 276.00  |
| 24.       | Rajasthan        | 160.00  | 159.00  |
| 25.       | Sikkim           | 616.00  | 666.00  |
| 26.       | Tamil Nadu       | 190.00  | 170.00  |
| 27.       | Tripura          | 218.00  | 250.00  |
| 28.       | Uttar Pradesh    | 83.00   | 83.00   |
| 29.       | Uttaranchal      | —       | 35.00   |
| 30.       | West Bengal      | 175.00  | 206.00  |
| All India |                  | 156.00  | 167.00  |

Source: Central Statistical Organisation  
M/o Statistics and Programme Implementation



**Statement II***State-wise allocation for various National Health Programmes during the year 2003-04*

(Rs. in Lakhs)

| Sl.No. | State/UT          | NAMP*   | NLEP** | NTCP   | NPCB*** |
|--------|-------------------|---------|--------|--------|---------|
| 1      | 2                 | 3       | 4      | 5      | 6       |
| 1.     | Andhra Pradesh    | 137.96  | 111.25 | 600.00 | 400.00  |
| 2.     | Arunachal Pradesh | 314.44  | 4.88   | 30.19  | 15.00   |
| 3.     | Assam             | 2010.17 | 14.39  | 411.91 | 100.00  |
| 4.     | Bihar             | 2963.59 | 341.27 | 608.38 | 250.00  |
| 5.     | Chhattisgarh      | 669.73  | 17.58  | 333.00 | 150.00  |
| 6.     | Goa               | 8.55    | 0.76   | 13.01  | 20.00   |
| 7.     | Gujarat           | 112.69  | 63.88  | 506.28 | 250.00  |
| 8.     | Haryana           | 48.01   | 12.63  | 619.00 | 100.00  |
| 9.     | Himachal Pradesh  | 0.00    | 5.75   | 61.03  | 70.00   |
| 10.    | Jammu & Kashmir   | 40.23   | 11.13  | 86.71  | 70.00   |
| 11.    | Jharkhand         | 844.63  | 285.53 | 431.00 | 150.00  |
| 12.    | Karnataka         | 217.75  | 37.75  | 497.42 | 300.00  |
| 13.    | Kerala            | 4.10    | 38.67  | 318.17 | 150.00  |
| 14.    | Madhya Pradesh    | 281.21  | 50.16  | 545.77 | 325.00  |
| 15.    | Maharashtra       | 170.18  | 60.79  | 968.53 | 325.00  |
| 16.    | Manipur           | 101.44  | 4.01   | 65.88  | 20.00   |
| 17.    | Meghalaya         | 263.01  | 3.78   | 45.92  | 20.00   |
| 18.    | Mizoram           | 158.01  | 1.28   | 22.56  | 20.00   |
| 19.    | Nagaland          | 291.04  | 3.22   | 54.90  | 15.00   |
| 20.    | Orissa            | 882.91  | 63.68  | 515.00 | 250.00  |
| 21.    | Punjab            | 34.89   | 22.43  | 206.68 | 100.00  |
| 22.    | Rajasthan         | 745.95  | 29.57  | 565.31 | 300.00  |
| 23.    | Sikkim            | 3.30    | 1.63   | 13.72  | 10.00   |
| 24.    | Tamil Nadu        | 132.92  | 56.94  | 621.34 | 1000.00 |
| 25.    | Tripura           | 390.05  | 2.19   | 68.49  | 50.00   |
| 26.    | Uttaranchal       | 1.60    | 22.55  | 136.00 | 100.00  |

| 1     | 2                         | 3        | 4       | 5        | 6       |
|-------|---------------------------|----------|---------|----------|---------|
| 27.   | Uttar Pradesh             | 569.88   | 248.10  | 1449.76  | 700.00  |
| 28.   | West Bengal               | 694.76   | 83.82   | 802.44   | 275.00  |
| 29.   | Andaman & Nicobar Islands | 236.75   | 0.89    | 1.84     | 8.00    |
| 30.   | Chandigarh                | 34.25    | 0.91    | 9.00     | 13.00   |
| 31.   | Dadra and Nagar Haveli    | 40.92    | 5.07    | 1.23     | 7.00    |
| 32.   | Daman & Diu               | 15.15    | 2.34    | 1.23     | 7.00    |
| 33.   | Delhi                     | 88.88    | 35.06   | 138.08   | 45.00   |
| 34.   | Lakshadweep               | 6.47     | 0.51    | 1.00     | 7.00    |
| 35.   | Pondicherry               | 22.12    | 1.95    | 9.23     | 13.00   |
| Total |                           | 12537.54 | 1646.33 | 10760.01 | 5635.00 |

\*Includes Malaria/Filaria/Kala-azar and excludes EAC Component

\*\*Provisional; Excludes releases which will be made to District Societies

\*\*\*Excludes Commodity Assistance

[Translation]

#### Shortage of Cables

6523. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that in the absence of the adequate supply of cables rural people of Madhya Pradesh are not getting the benefit to telephone service; and

(b) if so, the time by which the supply of cables is likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) No, Sir.

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

[English]

#### Production of Typhoid Vaccine

6524. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE:  
SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL:

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

(a) whether the proposal to produce Typhoid Vaccine by the Halfkin Bio-Pharma Corporation, Mumbai is pending for permission with the Government since a long time;

(b) if so, the reasons for delay in clearing the proposal; and

(c) if so, by when the Government is likely to take final decision in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (c) A proposal was received in the Government for grant of permission to Halfkine Bio-Pharmaceutical Corporation Limited (HBPCL), Mumbai to restart production of Typhoid Vaccine. The Government has decided in principal to permit the production of Acetone Killed Typhoid (AKD) Vaccine by HBPCL, Mumbai to meet the requirement of typhoid vaccine for the Armed Forces. HBPCL has been requested to send its application to Drug Controller of India for seeking licence for production of AKD Vaccine. The same has not yet been received from HBPCL.

#### Rectification of Fault

6525. SHRI A.C. JOS:  
SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL:  
SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO:  
SHRI MANSINH PATEL:

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

(a) whether the Government have fixed any time limit to dispose of complaints regarding faults in MTNL landline telephones;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there are cases where despite repeated complaints, the telephone faults are not rectified and the complaints names removed from the computerised list without rectifying the fault;

(d) if so, the details of such cases;

(e) the action taken against the erring officials; and

(f) the number of telephone complaints made and disposed for after rectification of faults during the last three months in Telephone exchanges located in South Delhi?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) and (b) Sir, target for disposal of complaints regarding faults as fixed by MTNL are as follows:-

|                    | Delhi | Mumbai |
|--------------------|-------|--------|
| Same day clearance | 62%   | 65%    |
| Next day clearance | 87%   | 91%    |

Fault Rate and Fault Clearance of MTNL, Delhi is slightly poor as compared to MTNL, Mumbai due to the following reasons:-

- (i) Underground cable network of Delhi Telephones is very old consisting of predominantly paper core cables.
- (ii) Lot of digging activities have been carried out by different agencies like Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD), Delhi Jal Board (DJB), Delhi Vidyut Board (DVB), Private Telecom Service Providers, Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) etc. leading to damages to underground cable pairs.

(c) 10 such cases came to notice of MTNL, Delhi only during 2002-03.

(d) The details are as follows:

| Sl.No. | Details of complaints                                |
|--------|--|
| 1.     | Faulty service of T. No. 5825783                     |
| 2.     | False clearance detected for T. No.2415629           |
| 3.     | False clearance detected for T. No. 2373279          |
| 4.     | False clearance detected for T. No. 2384829          |
| 5.     | False clearance detected for T. No. 2183381          |
| 6.     | False clearance detected for T. No. 2045473          |
| 7.     | False clearance detected for T. No. 2175123          |
| 8.     | Faulty service of T. No. 27137820                    |
| 9.     | False clearance detected for T. No. 7043876, 7057078 |
| 10.    | Faulty service T. No. 5010874                        |

(e) Administrative warning has been issued to these officials and minor penalties have been issued to ten officials.

(f) 4,23,441 number of complaints were booked in all the Telephone Exchanges located in South Delhi (South-I and South-II areas). All these complaints have been disposed off as on date.

#### **Snapping Rail, Road Link with Pakistan**

6526. SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India unsuccessfully tried to persuade Pakistan to resume rail freight traffic between the two countries after it was snapped following the terrorist attack on Indian Parliament;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether unofficial level trade is taking place between the two countries; and

(d) if so, the volumes thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) to (d) On 21st December, 2001, Government announced termination of Samjhauta Express and Delhi-Lahore bus service with effect from 1st January, 2002. The decision

was taken following the December 13 attack on India's Parliament and Pakistan's continued sponsorship of cross border terrorism. Restrictions did not apply to the movement of railway freight traffic. However, Pakistan has since then not permitted interchange between the Indian and Pakistani Railways required for the flow of airway freight traffic. Government had sought a clarification from Pakistan about its intentions regarding freight traffic. Although Pakistan conveyed that the competent authorities had approved the movement of railway freight traffic, in reality no such movement of freight has been permitted by it since the last week of December, 2001.

*[Translation]*

#### **Development of Eye Drop**

6527. SHRI DANVE RAOSAHEB PATIL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether an eye medicine namely 'large diameter Lemler Keratoplasti' has been developed by the AIIMS; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) A new surgical technique of stem cell transplantation namely "large diameter lamellar Keratoplasty" has been developed by Dr. Rajendra Prasad centre for Ophthalmic Sciences, All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi. This surgical technique has been developed to treat severe cases of ocular alkali burns, commonly caused in India. In these patients a routine technique of cornea grafting surgery is not successful and large diameter lamellar Keratoplasty combines the use of limbal stem cell transplantation and a corneal grafting surgery. The technique involves transplantation of 12 to 13 mm in diameter lamellar corneal lenticule harvested from fresh donor eyes.

*[English]*

#### **Testing Purity of Medicine**

6528. SHRI P.R. KHUNTE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that Nicholas Piramal India Limited (NPIL) has requested the Government to test the purity of Dr. Reddy's medicine as reported in the Economic Times dated August 10, 2002;

(b) if so, the facts thereof; and

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

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

M/s. Nichoals Piramal India Limited, Mumbai is importing and marketing r-human Granulocyte Colony-Stimulating Factor (r-hu-GCSF)/Filgrastim injection brand name NEUPOGEN, since September, 1993.

Based on the efficacy and safety data generated on r-hu-GCSF inj., an anti-cancer drug in the country and clearance from GEAC, Dr. Reddy's Laboratory, Hyderabad was also accorded permission to manufacture and market r-hu-GCSF inj. on 28.6.2001. The reference given by Dr. Reddy's Laboratory for r-hu-GCSF/Filgrastim in package insert were contested by the Nicholas Piramal, as actual literature reference pertains to NEUPOGEN (Filgrastim). Dr. Reddy's Laboratory was instructed to delete such references. Presently the matter is under examination of a committee headed by DG, ICMR.

#### **Impact of Disinvestment on Employment**

6529. SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the adverse impact on the employment opportunity of persons belonging to scheduled castes and scheduled tribes and other deprived communities as a result of the disinvestment in the public sector;

(b) if so, whether any study has been made to assess the impact of disinvestment in public sector on the job prospects of the above said section of the population; and

(c) if so, the steps the Government propose to take to provide alternative sources of employment to the affected section of the population?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) There are currently no reports of any adverse impact on the employment opportunity of persons belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and other deprived communities as a result of the disinvestment of Central PSUs.

(b) and (c) Government is committed to protect the interests of all the workers including those belonging to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. With this a view, in the cases of disinvestment by Government through the strategic sale route resulting in Governments share holding going below 51%, the agreement between the Government and the Strategic Partner (SP) typically incorporates in the Recital that the SP recognize that the Government in relation to its employment policies follow certain principles for the benefit of the members of the Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes, physically handicapped persons and other socially disadvantaged categories of the society; that the SP shall use its best efforts to cause the Company to provide adequate job opportunities for such persons and that in the event of any reduction in the strength of the employees of the Company, the SP shall use its best efforts to ensure that the physically handicapped persons, Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes are retrenched at the end.

#### **Navi Mumbai Jawaharlal Nehru Port**

6530. DR. V. SAROJA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have rejected proposals of the Navi Mumbai Jawaharlal Nehru Port authorities seeking funds for the development and expansion of their facilities;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether there is a coastal regulation zone rule which restricts the development of areas upto 500 mtrs. from the high timeline;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the National Coastal Zone Management Authority (NCZMA) has sought a plan with a more reasonable time frame guided by the perspectives of coastal zone management principles; and

(f) if so, the details of the said plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI):  
(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) According to the notification issued by the Central Government *vide* S.O. 114(E) dated 19th

February, 1991 under Section 3(1) and Section 3(2) (v) of the Environment (Protection) Act 1986 and Rule 5(3) (d) of the Environment (Protection) Rules, 1986, the coastal stretches of seas, bays, estuaries, creeks, rivers and backwaters which are influenced by tidal action (in the landward side) upto 500 metres from the High Tide Line (HTL) and the land between the Low Tide Line (LTL) and the HTL have been declared as Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) and restrictions have been imposed on the setting up and expansion of industries, operations or processes, etc. in the said CRZ. Under the notification, operational constructions for ports and harbours and light houses and constructions for activities such as jetties, wharves, quays and spillways, pipelines, conveying systems including transmission lines will require environmental clearance from the Ministry of Environment and Forest, Government of India.

(e) and (f) Out of about 2584 hectares of land acquired by the Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust in 1984 for development of the Port, about 1224 hectares fall in the Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ). Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust has requested Ministry of Environment & Forests for relaxation of existing CRZ regulations to permit utilization of the land falling in CRZ-I (i), (ii) and CRZ-II for Port related/relevant activities. In a meeting held on 6.1.2003, the Jawaharlal Nehru Port Authorities, inter alia, explained to the National Coastal Zone Management Authority (NCZMA) that the land was acquired by the Port in 1984 *i.e.* prior to the issue of notification by the Ministry of Environment and Forests in 1991. Keeping in view the long term development plans of the Port, NCZMA was requested to relax the CRZ Regulations. However, NCZMA has, inter-alia, advised the Port Trust to submit a revised proposal indicating the area required for specific projects keeping in view the growth of the port during the next 10 years.

[*Translation*]

#### **Misutilisation of Fund under Gramodaya Yojana**

6531. SHRI AKHILESH YADAV: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the mechanism provided for monitoring and checking the misuse and misappropriation of funds provided under Gramodaya Yojana;

(b) whether the action taken under the said mechanism has yielded the desired result;

(c) if so, whether the Government are aware of misappropriation of funds granted for the Gramodaya Yojana in Uttar Pradesh; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government to punish the guilty officers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) The guidelines for implementation of Pradhan Mantri Gramodaya Yojana (PMGY) inter alia stipulate that periodic monitoring, both physical and financial of this programme will be carried out by the State Governments and monitoring reports in the prescribed format should be furnished to the Planning Commission. In addition, the release of Additional Central Assistance (ACA) for PMGY is conditional upon the State Governments reporting utilisation of at least 60 percent of the available funds for this programme along with utilisation certificate to this effect.

(b) The implementation of this programme so far has been satisfactory.

(c) and (d) No. Sir. No such complaint has been brought to the notice of the Government so far.

#### **Reply to Members' Letters**

6532. SHRI MANSUKHBHAI D. VASAVA:  
PROF. DUKHA BHAGAT:

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

(a) whether the Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited does not reply to the letters from Members of Parliament as per the prescribed norms;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the number of letters received by the MTNL from Members of Parliament during the last six months and the number of letters on which action was not taken as per the prescribed norms during the said period; and

(d) the action taken by the Government against the officers who did not act as per the prescribed norms?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) and (b) Sir, the letters received from Members of Parliament are replied after thorough examination, which at times involves some delay.

(c) The number of letters received in MTNL and replied to during the last six months as are under:-

| MTNL unit      | No. of Letters Received | No. of Letters Replied |
|----------------|-------------------------|------------------------|
| Delhi          | 324                     | 319                    |
| Mumbai         | 06                      | 05                     |
| Mobile Service | 03                      | 02                     |

(i) In MTNL Delhi, action is in progress for 5 letters.

(ii) In MTNL Mumbai, one case was delayed because the case was subjudice.

(iii) In Mobile Service Unit, one case received recently is under examination, for sending a reply.

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

[English]

#### **Overcharging for Calls**

6533. SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that several star hotels overcharge for the telephone calls made by the customers in their hotels;

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

(c) whether the Government have taken up the matter with Hotel Association of India;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (e) A meeting was held with the Department of Tourism who expressed their inability in enforcing any control on overcharging for telephone calls by the hotels as they do not have any regulatory powers.

#### **Visa Curb to Check AIDS**

6534. SHRI SAVSHIBHAI MAKWANA:  
SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR:

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

(a) whether the Government are aware that a number of AIDS infected foreigners debarred by their countries visit India for sexual gratification which results in sex-workers contracting communicable diseases including HIV/AIDS;

(b) if so, whether the Government have received any proposal from Bharatiya Patita Uddhar Sabha, New Delhi to incorporate the "Free from AIDS Virus" certificates into provisions for granting visas to any foreigner coming to this country; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) World Health Organisation guidelines on International Travel and Health, 1999, has specifically mentioned that any requirement for HIV antibody test certificate ("AIDS Free Certificate") is contrary to the International Health Regulations. Accordingly the Government has approved the revised policy/guidelines, after consultation with other stakeholders viz. Ministry of External Affairs, Ministry of Home Affairs, Indian Council for Cultural Research (ICCR), Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), National Law School of India, Bangalore, etc., to dispense with the requirement of mandatory HIV testing of foreigners, including foreign students with effect from 23.9.2002.

[*Translation*]

#### **Construction of By-Passes**

6535. PROF. DUKHA BHAGAT:  
SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY:

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

(a) the rules framed for constructing by-passes;

(b) the names of the cities in regard to which the proposals to construct by-passes have been received from Members of Parliament during the last two years;

(c) the number of the proposals out of them approved by the Government;

(d) the reasons for not constructing by-pass in Ranchi; and

(e) the efforts made by the Government towards construction of by-pass in Ranchi during the last two years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI): (a) The construction of bypasses is decided on techno-economic consideration of the proposal.

(b) During the last two years, proposals for the construction of bypasses for the following cities/towns were received from Members of Parliament:-

1. Akkamapet, 2. Ambur, 3. Angamaly, 4. Anjar, 5. Balarampuram, 6. Bareilly, 7. Bhimavaram, 8. Binlaur, 9. Channarayapatna, 10. Chittorgarh, 11. Choubepur, 12. Dharmapuri, 13. Dubad Nagar Panchayat, 14. Erode, 15. Gangajal Ghat, 16. Ghazipur, 17. Godhra, 18. Gorakhpur, 19. Govinapur and Makrampur, 20. Guna, 21. Hospet, 22. Islampur, 23. Kanpur, 24. Katni, 25. Keonjhar Town, 26. Kini Village, 27. Kodad, 28. Kota, 29. Kothamangalam, 30. Madnapalle, 31. Mangalgi out-skirt to Bhangoor Border, 32. Mimbahera, 33. Modi Nagar, 34. Moodabidri, 35. Muvathupuzha, 36. Nagaon, 37. Nagpur, 38. Najibabad, 39. Nawarangpur Town, 40. Needamagalam, 41. Orai, 42. Panagarh, 43. Ranchi, 44. Rasipuram, 45. Rewa, 46. Rohtak (Northern Bypass), 47. Sakleshpur, 48. Sankagiri, 49. Sankeshwar Town, 50. Shajapur, 51. Shivrajapur, 52. Silchar, 53. Sumerpur, 54. Tadepalligudem, 55. Thipunithura, 56. Tiptur, 57. Uttaripura.

(c) Out of the above, bypasses in respect of 23 cities have been considered based on traffic needs, inter-se priority and availability of resources.

(d) and (e) The Ministry has sanctioned an estimate amounting to Rs. 45.00 lakhs in March, 2001 for preparation of the Detailed Project Report for the construction of Ranchi Bypass. The survey and investigation work is in progress.

*[English]***Ban on Indian Artists**

6536. SHRI V. VETRISELVAN:  
SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK:  
SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:  
SHRI C.N. SINGH:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Pakistan has imposed a ban on the Indian artistes visiting and performing over there;

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

(c) whether some eminent persons of our country have demanded a ban on the Pakistani artistes visiting and performing in India; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) and (b) Government of Pakistan follows an extremely restrictive policy regarding permitting Indian artistes to perform in Pakistan.

(c) Several Indian artistes have complained that the more liberal policy followed by the Government of India, with respect to visas for Pakistani artistes to visit and perform in India, has placed them at a disadvantage.

(d) Government believe that greater reciprocal people to people contacts could be one of the ways of carrying forward the bilateral relations.

**Use of Banned Drugs**

6537. SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN:  
SHRI RAMJIVAN SINGH:  
SHRI DINESH CHANDRA YADAV:

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

(a) whether Indian athletes have, of late, been found using the banned drugs to enhance their performance;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of cases during the three years or so in which Indian athletes have been found using the banned drugs in the national and international games; and

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

THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI VIKRAM VERMA): (a) Some Indian athletes have, of late, tested positive for banned substances.

(b) and (c) Government is making serious efforts to prevent the menace of drugs, still a few cases of Indian Athletes having tested positive for banned substances have come to light in the recent past during national/international competitions, as per details given below:

(i) A total of 5 sports person have tested positive for banned substances in international tournaments.

(ii) During National Championships a total of 108 sportspersons were found positive for banned substances, as stated under:

| Year | Number of sportspersons tested positive for banned substances |   |
|------|---|---|
| 2000 | —   | 14  |
| 2001 | —   | 35 (including 19 who tested positive during Punjab National Games)          |
| 2002 | —   | 29 (including 22 who tested positive during Hyderabad National Games, 2002) |
| 2003 | —   | 30  |

(d) It is, primarily, the responsibility of the Indian Olympic Association and National Sports Federations (NSFs) being disciplinary authorities, to take action against the sportspersons testing positive for banned substances, as per IOC code or code/regulations of the concerned International Federations. However, the Sports Authority of India has taken a lead and made serious efforts to keep away our sports persons from use of any kind of prohibited drugs, as per details given below:

1. During the coaching camps, strict instructions have been given to the coaches, attached with the campers to educate the regularly counsel the players about the banned drugs.



2. Apart from this, the Sports medicine doctors at NS NIS, Patiala and other regional centres conduct lectures, where camps are being held, to educate the players not to use any banned drugs.
3. At the time of commencement of the camp, each player had been provided with documents, brochures about banned substances.
4. The list of banned drugs and placards for education of players are put in the rooms of the campers.
5. Rooms and belongings of the players are also searched and checked at regular periodicity to see that no banned drugs are used testing the urine sample of sportspersons during the coaching camps at random.
6. Sportspersons who have been found positive for banned substances, have been removed from the camp/SAI Schemes, where the information is available and action has been initiated against their coaches also, if found, guilty.
7. Apart from above, efforts are being made for permanent accreditation of SAI Dope Control Centre of New Delhi. ISO-9001 certification has already been obtained. Process for ISO-17025 certification is underway and thereafter application will be moved for permanent accreditation.
8. In-competition, out-of-competition testing and testing before participation in an international tournament abroad is being done.
9. Drug Controller General of India had been requested to issue instructions to all concerned to ensure that no drugs are dispensed in and around sports establishments and sports training centres without valid prescriptions from the Sports Medicine Officer.

### Allocation of Funds for Maintenance of National Highways

6538. SHRI V. VETRISLVAN: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount allocated by the Union Government to each State during each of the last three years for maintenance and upkeep of National Highways;

(b) the amount released and actually spent on different heads by each State and the names of National Highways in Tamil Nadu where the said amount has been spent;

(c) whether any inquiry has been conducted by the Government to check that the said amount had been spent properly; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS [MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI]: (a) and (b) The State-wise details of amount allocated (under different heads) and expenditure incurred for maintenance and upkeep of National Highways during the last three years are given in the enclosed statement. The expenditure for maintenance under various heads is not maintained and therefore total figure for expenditure is indicated in the annex referred to above. The amount in respect of Tamil Nadu has been spent for maintenance of National Highway Nos. 4, 5, 7, 7A, 45A, 45B, 47, 49, 66, 67, 68, 205, 207, 208, 209, 210, 219 and 220 based on requirement and inter-se priority.

(c) and (d) Regular inspection of works and monitoring at various levels are carried out to see that the allocated funds are utilised properly. No irregularity in utilisation of funds for the State of Tamil Nadu has been reported.

### Statement

*State-wise details of allocation (Under Different Sub Heads) for Maintenance and Expenditure for National Highways during last three years*

(Rs. in Lakh)

| Sl.No | Name of States/UTs | 2000-01    |        |    |     |                  | Expenditure | 2001-02    |        |    |     |                  | Expenditure | 2002-03    |        |    |     |                  |      |
|-------|--------------------|------------|--------|----|-----|------------------|-------------|------------|--------|----|-----|------------------|-------------|------------|--------|----|-----|------------------|------|
|       |                    | Allocation |        |    |     |                  |             | Allocation |        |    |     |                  |             | Allocation |        |    |     |                  |      |
|       |                    | OR         | PR/SRP | SR | FDR | Total Allocation |             | OR         | PR/SRP | SR | FDR | Total Allocation |             | OR         | PR/SRP | SR | FDR | Total Allocation |      |
| 1     | 2                  | 3          | 4      | 5  | 6   | 7                | 8           | 9          | 10     | 11 | 12  | 13               | 14          | 15         | 16     | 17 | 18  | 19               | 20   |
| 1.    | Andhra Pradesh     | 1080       | 3909   | 0  | 425 | 5414             | 5098        | 1261       | 2462   | 0  | 497 | 4220             | 4016        | 1416       | 1804   | 0  | 324 | 3544             | 3444 |
| 2.    | Arunchal Pradesh   | —          | 0      | 0  | 0   | 0                | —           | 0          | 0      | 0  | 0   | 0                | —           | 9          | —      | 0  | 0   | 9                | 9    |

| 1   | 2                | 3    | 4    | 5   | 6    | 7    | 8    | 9    | 10   | 11  | 12   | 13   | 14   | 15   | 16   | 17  | 18   | 19   | 20   |
|-----|------------------|------|------|-----|------|------|------|------|------|-----|------|------|------|------|------|-----|------|------|------|
| 3.  | Assam            | 812  | 3495 | 99  | 373  | 4779 | 3757 | 902  | 2971 | 0   | 276  | 4149 | 3990 | 502  | 1378 | 60  | 752  | 2692 | 2692 |
| 4   | Bihar            | 925  | 4313 | 267 | 944  | 6449 | 5593 | 998  | 2238 | 55  | 1225 | 4516 | 3787 | 771  | 949  | 181 | 1145 | 3046 | 3046 |
| 5.  | Chandigarh       | 18   | 27   | 0   | 0    | 45   | 28   | 12   | 34   | 0   | 0    | 46   | 10   | 22   | 52   | 0   | 0    | 74   | 64   |
| 6.  | Chhattisgarh     | 520  | 530  | 0   | 130  | 1180 | 935  | 583  | 1480 | 17  | 340  | 2420 | 2420 | 578  | 1372 | 30  | 580  | 2560 | 2520 |
| 7.  | Delhi            | 32   | 50   | 0   | 0    | 82   | 82   | 27   | 75   | 0   | 0    | 102  | 0    | 12   | —    | 0   | 0    | 12   | 12   |
| 8   | Goa              | 85   | 432  | 20  | 69   | 606  | 562  | 86   | 259  | 0   | 55   | 400  | 369  | 110  | 200  | 0   | 105  | 415  | 372  |
| 9   | Gujarat          | 550  | 1713 | 95  | 100  | 2458 | 2183 | 730  | 1389 | 234 | 229  | 2582 | 2170 | 639  | 95   | 11  | 306  | 1051 | 1040 |
| 10  | Haryana          | 410  | 1410 | 54  | 80   | 1953 | 1467 | 720  | 1164 | 0   | 59   | 1943 | 1740 | 392  | 630  | 0   | 8    | 1030 | 944  |
| 11  | Himachal Pradesh | 400  | 1990 | 14  | 947  | 3351 | 3351 | 327  | 1072 | 142 | 451  | 1992 | 1885 | 341  | 500  | 0   | 410  | 1251 | 1250 |
| 12. | Jammu & Kashmir  | 75   | 150  | 49  | 10   | 284  | 83   | 14   | 41   | 0   | 31   | 86   | 31   | 35   | —    | 46  | 7    | 88   | 43   |
| 13. | Jharkhand        | 269  | 592  | 0   | 100  | 961  | 775  | 503  | 1261 | 0   | 236  | 2000 | 1745 | 469  | 1112 | 0   | 116  | 1697 | 1650 |
| 14. | Karnataka        | 1135 | 3286 | 0   | 263  | 4684 | 4584 | 1425 | 2166 | 42  | 310  | 3943 | 4040 | 977  | 2632 | 263 | 710  | 4582 | 4550 |
| 15  | Kerala           | 410  | 1924 | 3   | 1003 | 3340 | 3331 | 1245 | 300  | 31  | 760  | 2336 | 3572 | 534  | 1270 | 68  | 502  | 2374 | 2373 |
| 16. | Madhya Pradesh   | 1040 | 7173 | 200 | 221  | 8634 | 8507 | 1480 | 4044 | 124 | 434  | 6082 | 5358 | 1572 | 2780 | 100 | 351  | 4803 | 3880 |
| 17. | Maharashtra      | 1015 | 2730 | 0   | 550  | 4295 | 4295 | 1500 | 2981 | 0   | 810  | 5291 | 6041 | 1267 | 2672 | 0   | 800  | 4739 | 4739 |
| 18  | Manipur          | 230  | 475  | 0   | 119  | 824  | 688  | 194  | 633  | 0   | 109  | 936  | 755  | 104  | 247  | 50  | 200  | 601  | 601  |
| 19. | Meghalaya        | 230  | 668  | 0   | 119  | 1017 | 875  | 256  | 768  | 0   | 111  | 1135 | 1037 | 171  | 405  | 73  | 221  | 870  | 870  |
| 20  | Mizoram          | 90   | 741  | 0   | 150  | 981  | 753  | 103  | 255  | 30  | 112  | 500  | 348  | 86   | 300  | 3   | 232  | 620  | 620  |
| 21. | Nagaland         | 80   | 150  | 0   | 131  | 361  | 361  | 80   | 56   | 0   | 67   | 203  | 346  | 51   | 48   | 0   | 87   | 186  | 186  |
| 22. | Orissa           | 830  | 2300 | 251 | 1396 | 4777 | 4150 | 1181 | 2338 | 20  | 1349 | 4888 | 4659 | 961  | 1900 | 32  | 1344 | 4237 | 4237 |
| 23. | Pondicherry      | 20   | 152  | 0   | 10   | 182  | 123  | 22   | 63   | 0   | 0    | 85   | 81   | 24   | 52   | 0   | 0    | 76   | 76   |
| 24. | Punjab           | 490  | 1596 | 0   | 0    | 2086 | 1537 | 613  | 1822 | 25  | 66   | 2526 | 1712 | 577  | 1171 | 0   | 11   | 1759 | 750  |
| 25. | Rajasthan        | 1290 | 2692 | 0   | 122  | 4104 | 3878 | 1233 | 2692 | 16  | 528  | 4469 | 4294 | 1327 | 1600 | 0   | 459  | 3386 | 2968 |
| 26. | Tamil Nadu       | 1182 | 4170 | 0   | 29   | 5381 | 5047 | 1274 | 2954 | 0   | 317  | 4545 | 3524 | 1156 | 2700 | 0   | 306  | 4162 | 3869 |
| 27. | Uttar Pradesh    | 1165 | 3807 | 14  | 1090 | 6077 | 5594 | 1503 | 4179 | 43  | 894  | 6619 | 5346 | 1490 | 1500 | 67  | 928  | 3985 | 3065 |
| 28. | Uttaranchal      | 45   | 129  | —   | 286  | 459  | 409  | 198  | 353  | 112 | 405  | 1068 | 815  | 177  | 246  | 0   | 161  | 584  | 522  |
| 29. | West Bengal      | 530  | 2995 | —   | 1850 | 5375 | 2295 | 567  | 1914 | 0   | 1721 | 4203 | 4292 | 447  | 962  | 0   | 660  | 2069 | 1970 |

Note: OR — Ordinary Repairs SR — Special Repairs  
 PR — Periodic Renewal FDR — Flood Damage Repairs  
 SRP — Special Renewal Programme

*[Translation]*

**Expenditure incurred for Development  
of National Highways**

6539. SHRI RAM SINGH KASWAN:  
YOGI ADITYA NATH:

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

(a) the funds released and expenditure incurred by the Government for the development of National Highways during the last three years till date, Year-wise;

(b) the works executed out of this fund as on date; and

(c) the provisions made for expenditure to be incurred for the development of National Highways during the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS [MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI]: (a) The details of funds allocated and expenditure incurred for the development of National Highways during the last three years are as under:—

| Year    | Amount allocated<br>(Rs. Cr.) | Expenditure<br>incurred (Rs. Cr.) |
|---------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 2000-01 | 4147.88                       | 3894.80                           |
| 2001-02 | 5060.04                       | 4890.48                           |
| 2002-03 | 5307.70                       | 5224.91                           |

(b) Development works executed are: strengthening, widening, improvement of riding quality, construction of bridges and construction of bypasses etc.

(c) The amount of Rs. 6107.74 crores has been allocated for the development of National Highways during the year 2003-04.

*[English]*

**Uniform Scam in MTNL**

6540. SHRI PRAKASH YASHWANT AMBEDKAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether C.B.I. has unearthed a uniform scam in M.T.N.L.;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether cases have been registered in this regard; and

(d) if so, the current status thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) Sir, a uniform scam in MTNL Delhi unit was unearthed during October, 2001.

(b) On the alleged irregularities in the purchase of uniform and payment of exorbitant prices for the uniform, a joint surprise check was conducted by the CBI, ACB Delhi Branch and MTNL. Samples of cloth materials for the uniform were seized.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The case is still under investigation and the final report is awaited from CBI.

**Allocation for Road Projects**

6541. SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ:  
SHRI A. NARENDRA:

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

(a) the total allocation made by the Planning Commission and actual amount released for various projects to the States during the Eighth and Ninth Plan Period for the Road Transport Sector;

(b) whether the allocation made for the purpose have been fully utilised;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the efforts to be made to utilise the funds allocated during the Tenth Plan Period and the current financial year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS [MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI]: (a) and (b) The details about the plan allocation and actual expenditure during the Eighth and Ninth Plan Period in Road Transport Sector are given in the enclosed Statements I & II respectively.

(c) Major reasons for shortfall in expenditure during Eighth Plan were of discontinuation of capital contribution to State Road Transport Corporations from 1993-1994 onwards and the transfer of Delhi Transport Corporation to the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi w.e.f. 5.8.1996. During Ninth Plan, the progress of expenditure was much better. The non utilization of funds was due to non receipt of proposals from states.

(d) During the first year of the Tenth Plan, the utilization of funds has been more than Rs. 29 crores as against annual outlay of Rs. 30 crores.

### Statement I

#### Outlay and expenditure for Eighth Plan

(Rupees in Crores)

| Important Projects/<br>Schemes       | 8th Plan<br>1992-97 |                  |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------|------------------|
|                                      | Approved<br>Outlay  | Actual<br>Expdr. |
| 1                                    | 2                   | 3                |
| 1. Delhi Transport Corp.             | 140.00              | 19.42            |
| 2. Capital Contribution to—SRTC's    | 70.00               | 27.14            |
| 3. Road Safety Prog.                 | 35.80               | 29.89            |
| Road safety Cell                     | 0.30                | 0.34             |
| Publicity Measure                    | 5.00                | 2.37             |
| Grant-in-Aid                         | 1.50                | 0.82             |
| Pollution Testing Equip.             | 10.00               | 6.87             |
| Road Safety Equip.                   | 10.00               | 14.00            |
| National Highway/Patrolling Scheme   | 9.00                | 5.49             |
| 4. Training Prog. including computer | 7.10                | 0.73             |
| Training of Instr.                   | 4.50                | 0.22             |
| Training Prog.                       | 0.10                | —                |
| Training of Driver                   | 2.00                | 0.02             |
| Computer                             | 0.50                | 0.49             |
| 5. Research & Development            | 4.00                | 0.16             |
| 6. CIRT                              | 4.50                | 1.67             |

| 1                          | 2      | 3     |
|----------------------------|--------|-------|
| 7. Misc. including Studies | 2.60   | 0.62  |
| Transport Studies          | 2.00   | 0.46  |
| Data Collection            | 0.60   | 0.16  |
| 8. New Scheme              | 0.00   | 0.55  |
| Control of V. Pollution    | 0.00   | 0.34  |
| Energy Conservation        | 0.00   | 0.21  |
| Total                      | 264.00 | 80.18 |

### Statement II

#### 9th Plan Outlay & Expenditure—Road Transport

(Rs. in Crores)

| S.No. | Scheme  | Outlay | Expend. |
|-------|---|--------|---------|
| 1     | 2   | 3      | 4       |
| 1.    | Capital Contribution to SRTC's                | 8.63   | 7.15    |
| 2.    | Road Safety Programmes                        | 37.42  | 30.74   |
|       | Road Safety Cell                              | 0.75   | 0.70    |
|       | Publicity measures                            | 8.67   | 9.11    |
|       | Grant in aid                                  | 3.00   | 1.66    |
|       | Pollution testing equipment                   | 6.00   | 5.19    |
|       | Road Safety equipment                         | 4.00   | 1.25    |
|       | National Highways Patrolling Scheme           | 15.00  | 12.83   |
| 3.    | Training & Computer                           | 4.45   | 2.60    |
|       | National Institute of road safety             | 2.00   | 0.77    |
|       | Training of drivers in unorganised sector     | 0.75   | 0.77    |
|       | Training Programme (HRD)                      | 0.50   | 0.40    |
|       | Computer system                               | 1.20   | 0.66    |
| 4.    | Research & Development &<br>Transport Studies | 2.65   | 2.26    |
| 5.    | Strengthening of CIRT, Pune                   | 4.65   | 1.40    |
| 6.    | Misc. including Studies                       | 2.20   | 1.02    |

| 1 | 2                                     | 3            | 4            |
|---|---------------------------------------|--------------|--------------|
|   | Data collection                       | 0.50         | 0.24         |
|   | National data base network            | 0.95         | 0.01         |
|   | Control of Pollution of motor vehicle | 0.75         | 0.77         |
|   | Energy Conservation                   | 0.00         | 0.00         |
|   | <b>Total</b>                          | <b>60.00</b> | <b>45.17</b> |

#### Utilisation of Funds

6542. SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount allocated by the Union Government to various States for road development during the last three years, State-wise and Year-wise;

(b) whether many States have failed to utilize the financial allocation made for the purpose;

(c) if so, the details of such States and the total amount of such unutilized money, State-wise;

(d) whether the Union Government have issued directions to each State to utilize allocated funds properly; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS [MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI]: (a) to (e) Details of allocation of funds and expenditure incurred by the States for development of National Highways during the last three years are given in the enclosed statement. Ministry has taken following steps for proper utilisation of funds by the States—

(i) Introduction of direct payment procedure.

(ii) Close monitoring of works.

#### Statement

*Allocation and Expenditure of Funds for Development of National Highways during the last three years*

(Rs. in crores)

| Sl.No. | Name of States/UTs | 2000-01    |             | 2001-02    |             | 2002-03    |             |
|--------|--------------------|------------|-------------|------------|-------------|------------|-------------|
|        |                    | Allocation | Expenditure | Allocation | Expenditure | Allocation | Expenditure |
| 1      | 2                  | 3          | 4           | 5          | 6           | 7          | 8           |
| 1.     | Andhra Pradesh     | 111.88     | 107.93      | 103.80     | 94.56       | 118.46     | 110.41      |
| 2.     | Arunchal Pradesh   | 0.00       | 0.00        | 0.00       | 0.00        | 0.45       | 0.45        |
| 3.     | Assam              | 52.54      | 48.74       | 76.05      | 74.90       | 73.75      | 73.00       |
| 4.     | Bihar              | 69.28      | 60.15       | 65.32      | 49.15       | 76.53      | 72.50       |
| 5.     | Chandigarh         | 1.44       | 1.40        | 1.50       | 1.45        | 2.70       | 2.70        |
| 6.     | Chhattisgarh       | 12.28      | 4.72        | 32.28      | 32.28       | 61.20      | 61.00       |
| 7.     | Delhi              | 4.83       | 4.83        | 6.00       | 4.82        | 6.00       | 8.38        |
| 8.     | Goa                | 23.00      | 21.38       | 20.00      | 19.75       | 8.00       | 12.83       |
| 9.     | Gujarat            | 91.00      | 86.75       | 70.43      | 53.97       | 90.00      | 90.00       |
| 10.    | Haryana            | 101.00     | 92.52       | 103.88     | 103.88      | 59.00      | 57.49       |

| 1   | 2                | 3      | 4      | 5      | 6      | 7      | 8      |
|-----|------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| 11. | Himachal Pradesh | 44.15  | 38.93  | 55.00  | 44.16  | 30.00  | 30.00  |
| 12. | Jammu & Kashmir  | 2.50   | 0.52   | 2.30   | 2.23   | 4.00   | 4.10   |
| 13. | Jharkhand        | 22.00  | 11.89  | 35.00  | 26.70  | 32.00  | 31.93  |
| 14. | Karnataka        | 81.04  | 75.54  | 109.48 | 106.07 | 89.66  | 91.00  |
| 15. | Kerala           | 89.78  | 43.91  | 92.62  | 82.25  | 75.95  | 75.25  |
| 16. | Madhya Pradesh   | 134.72 | 126.50 | 90.99  | 92.42  | 96.10  | 83.00  |
| 17. | Maharashtra      | 212.36 | 196.32 | 193.72 | 172.33 | 124.78 | 119.28 |
| 18. | Manipur          | 8.51   | 5.35   | 14.53  | 10.47  | 14.02  | 14.00  |
| 19. | Meghalaya        | 17.08  | 15.63  | 22.70  | 16.84  | 22.20  | 21.00  |
| 20. | Mizoram          | 10.00  | 9.95   | 26.00  | 21.67  | 22.00  | 22.00  |
| 21. | Nagaland         | 15.00  | 14.90  | 15.00  | 14.97  | 12.00  | 12.00  |
| 22. | Orissa           | 100.47 | 84.96  | 79.13  | 56.67  | 56.32  | 45.32  |
| 23. | Pondicherry      | 2.00   | 1.47   | 2.12   | 1.99   | 2.00   | 1.28   |
| 24. | Punjab           | 53.65  | 38.55  | 64.13  | 58.66  | 51.76  | 48.00  |
| 25. | Rajasthan        | 87.20  | 84.03  | 87.46  | 83.68  | 93.89  | 93.79  |
| 26. | Tamil Nadu       | 103.42 | 82.64  | 97.39  | 96.79  | 102.48 | 98.00  |
| 27. | Uttar Pradesh    | 149.50 | 139.39 | 146.63 | 133.69 | 137.31 | 136.31 |
| 28. | Uttaranchal      | 1.99   | 1.24   | 25.00  | 21.02  | 20.69  | 19.52  |
| 29. | West Bengal      | 128.00 | 109.83 | 84.22  | 77.86  | 114.50 | 81.44  |

### Sanction of National Highway & Bridges

6543. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of national highways and bridges sanctioned during the last three years in the country, State-wise & year-wise;

(b) the allocations made to each State during the said period for national highways and bridges separately;

(c) whether any proposal regarding national highways and bridges has been received from Maharashtra during

the said period; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and number out of them accorded sanctioned during this period and the present status of the pending proposals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI): (a) and (b) Details are given at statement-I including that of Maharashtra.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Details are given at Statement-II.

**Statement I**

| Sl. No. | Name of the State | 2000-01                    |                               |                                   | 2001-02                    |                               |                                   | 2002-03                    |                               |                                   |
|---------|-------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
|         |                   | Allocation (Rs. in crores) | No. of NH projects sanctioned | No. of Bridge projects sanctioned | Allocation (Rs. in crores) | No. of NH projects sanctioned | No. of Bridge projects sanctioned | Allocation (Rs. in crores) | No. of NH projects sanctioned | No. of Bridge projects sanctioned |
| 1       | 2                 | 3                          | 4                             | 5                                 | 6                          | 7                             | 8                                 | 9                          | 10                            | 11                                |
| 1       | Andhra Pradesh    | 111.88                     | 36                            | 3                                 | 103.80                     | 63                            | 4                                 | 108.80                     | 48                            | 7                                 |
| 2       | Arunachal Pradesh | 0.00                       | Nil                           | Nil                               | 0.00                       | Nil                           | Nil                               | 0.45                       | 4                             | Nil                               |
| 3       | Assam             | 52.54                      | 22                            | 1                                 | 76.05                      | 26                            | Nil                               | 73.00                      | 37                            | 1                                 |
| 4       | Bihar             | 69.28                      | 15                            | 10                                | 65.32                      | 39                            | 11                                | 62.30                      | 21                            | 7                                 |
| 5       | Chandigarh        | 1.44                       | 1                             | Nil                               | 1.50                       | 1                             | Nil                               | 2.70                       | Nil                           | Nil                               |
| 6       | Chhattisgarh      | 12.28                      | 34                            | 3                                 | 32.28                      | 27                            | 5                                 | 61.00                      | 35                            | 1                                 |
| 7       | Delhi             | 4.83                       | Nil                           | Nil                               | 6.00                       | 2.00                          | Nil                               | 6.00                       | 3.00                          | Nil                               |
| 8       | Goa               | 23.00                      | 5                             | Nil                               | 20.00                      | 3                             | Nil                               | 8.00                       | 5                             | Nil                               |
| 9       | Gujarat           | 90.99                      | 24                            | 1                                 | 70.43                      | 32                            | Nil                               | 75.30                      | 43                            | 1                                 |
| 10.     | Haryana           | 101.00                     | 6                             | Nil                               | 103.88                     | 23                            | Nil                               | 55.00                      | 18                            | Nil                               |
| 11.     | Himachal Pradesh  | 44.15                      | 19                            | Nil                               | 55.00                      | 7                             | 1                                 | 30.00                      | 24                            | 1                                 |
| 12.     | Jammu & Kashmir   | 2.50                       | 2                             | Nil                               | 2.30                       | 5                             | Nil                               | 4.00                       | 2                             | 1                                 |
| 13.     | Jharkhand         | 22.00                      | 13                            | 3                                 | 35.00                      | 17                            | 3                                 | 32.00                      | 13                            | 2                                 |
| 14.     | Karnataka         | 81.04                      | 25                            | 8                                 | 109.47                     | 31                            | 5                                 | 85.40                      | 69                            | 9                                 |
| 15.     | Kerala            | 89.78                      | 20                            | 1                                 | 92.61                      | 26                            | 2                                 | 70.00                      | 36                            | Nil                               |
| 16.     | Madhya Pradesh    | 134.72                     | 104                           | 17                                | 90.99                      | 33                            | 1                                 | 83.00                      | 53                            | 2                                 |
| 17.     | Maharashtra       | 212.36                     | 70                            | 18                                | 193.72                     | 57                            | 16                                | 112.00                     | 78                            | 8                                 |
| 18.     | Manipur           | 8.52                       | 1                             | Nil                               | 14.53                      | 2                             | Nil                               | 14.00                      | 5                             | Nil                               |
| 19.     | Meghalaya         | 17.08                      | 5                             | 1                                 | 22.70                      | 8                             | Nil                               | 21.00                      | 15                            | 1                                 |
| 20.     | Mizoram           | 10.00                      | 14                            | Nil                               | 26.00                      | 13                            | 1                                 | 22.00                      | 10                            | 1                                 |
| 21.     | Nagaland          | 15.00                      | 12                            | Nil                               | 15.00                      | 12                            | Nil                               | 12.00                      | 8                             | Nil                               |
| 22.     | Orissa            | 100.46                     | 7                             | 1                                 | 79.13                      | 22                            | 1                                 | 44.00                      | 43                            | 3                                 |
| 23.     | Pondicherry       | 2.00                       | 1                             | Nil                               | 2.12                       | 2                             | Nil                               | 2.00                       | 2                             | Nil                               |
| 24.     | Punjab            | 53.65                      | 19                            | 2                                 | 64.13                      | 15                            | 2                                 | 45.00                      | 25                            | 4                                 |
| 25.     | Rajasthan         | 87.20                      | 69                            | 1                                 | 87.46                      | 52                            | 1                                 | 91.20                      | 53                            | 2                                 |
| 26.     | Sikkim            | 0.00                       | Nil                           | Nil                               | 0.00                       | Nil                           | Nil                               | 0.00                       | Nil                           | Nil                               |

| 1   | 2                                   | 3       | 4   | 5   | 6       | 7   | 8   | 9       | 10  | 11  |
|-----|-------------------------------------|---------|---|-----|---------|---|-----|---------|---|-----|
| 27. | Tamil Nadu                          | 103.42  | 39  | 1   | 97.39   | 58  | 7   | 100.00  | 75  | 7   |
| 28. | Tripura                             | 0.00    | 1   | Nil | 0.00    | 1   | Nil | 0.00    | Nil   | Nil |
| 29. | Uttaranchal                         | 1.99    | 3   | Nil | 25.00   | 22  | 3   | 19.90   | 2   | 4   |
| 30. | Uttar Pradesh                       | 149.49  | 31  | 2   | 146.63  | 53  | 4   | 122.0   | 47  | Nil |
| 31. | West Bengal                         | 128.00  | 2   | 1   | 84.22   | 10  | Nil | 82.00   | 25  | Nil |
| 32. | National Highway Authority of India | 2272.80 | No year sanction is involved in NHDP projects (including bridges). The whole project for 6359 kms (phase-1) was approved by the Govt of India the year 1999 |     | 3099.70 | No year sanction is involved in NHDP projects (including bridges). The whole project for 6359 kms (phase-1) was approved by the Govt of India the year 1999 |     | 3503.00 | No year sanction is involved in NHDP projects (including bridges). The whole project for 6359 kms (phase-1) was approved by the Govt of India the year 1999 |     |
| 33. | Border Road Organisation            | 135.92  | 42  | 8   | 163.50  | 54  | 4   | 200.00  | 51  | 13  |

**Statement II**

## STATE MAHARASHTRA

| No of proposals received during |         |         | No of proposals sanctioned during |         |         | Status of pending proposals |                          |                         |
|---------------------------------|---------|---------|-----------------------------------|---------|---------|-----------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| 2000-01                         | 2001-02 | 2002-03 | 2000-01                           | 2001-02 | 2002-03 | Returned to State PWD       | Sent to Finance Ministry | Pending in the Ministry |
| 70                              | 57      | 78      | 70                                | 57      | 78      | Nil                         | Nil                      | Nil                     |

*[Translation]***Rashtriya Punarnirman Vahini Yojana**

6544. SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE:  
SHRI RAM NARESH TRIPATHEE:

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

(a) the number of districts in which the Rashtriya Punarnirman Vahini Yojana has been introduced;

(b) whether the Government are contemplating to cover more districts under the said yojana;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI VIKRAM VERMA): (a) Rashtriya Punarnirman Vahini Yojana was introduced in 80 districts in 2001-02 and in another 40 districts in 2002-03. However, it was not implemented in four districts of West Bengal due to reservations expressed by the State Government.

(b) to (d) The scheme was started on pilot basis for a period of 2 years. Planning Commission is now getting the scheme evaluated through independent agencies. Further decision about continuance of the scheme will be taken after the outcome of the evaluation.

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: Now, Papers to be laid. Shri Vikram Verma.



11.54 hrs.

## PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

*[Translation]*

THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS  
(SHRI VIKRAM VERMA): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Rajiv Gandhi National Institute of Youth Development, Sriperumbudur, for the year 2001-2002, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Rajiv Gandhi National Institute of Youth Development, Sriperumbudur, for the year 2001-2002.
- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 7665/2003]

- (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Sports Authority of India, New Delhi, for the year 1998-99, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Sports Authority of India, New Delhi, for the year 1998-99.
- (4) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (3) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 7666/2003]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF  
ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN.  
(RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI): Sir, I beg to lay on the  
Table—

- (1) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under section 10 of the National Highways Act, 1956:—
- (i) S.O. 382(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 2nd April, 2003 regarding acquisition of land for four laning of National

Highway No. 8B (Porbandar-Rajkot district border) including construction of bypass in Porbandar district in the State of Gujarat.

- (ii) S.O. 405(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 4th April, 2003 making certain amendments in the Notification No. S.O. 63(E) dated the 20th January, 2001.
- (iii) S.O. 407(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 4th April, 2003 regarding acquisition of land for building of Katraj Bypass to connect Satara-Pune of Westerly Bypass to Pune city and also for four laning of Pune-Satara Road of National Highway No. 4 in the State of Maharashtra.
- (iv) S.O. 408(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 4th April, 2003 making certain amendments in the Notification No. S.O. 673(E) dated the 16th July, 2001.
- (v) S.O. 409(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 4th April, 2003 regarding acquisition of land for four laning of National Highway No. 4 (Pune-Satara Section) in the State of Maharashtra.
- (vi) S.O. 410(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 4th April, 2003 regarding acquisition of land for four laning of National Highway No. 4 (Pune-Satara Section) in the State of Maharashtra.
- (vii) S.O. 411(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 4th April, 2003 regarding acquisition of land for four laning of National Highway No. 4 (Pune-Satara Section) in the State of Maharashtra.
- (viii) S.O. 375(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 2nd April, 2003 regarding acquisition of land for four laning of National Highway No. 46 (Krishnagiri-Ranipet Section) in the State of Tamil Nadu.
- (ix) S.O. 376(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 2nd April, 2003 regarding acquisition of land for four laning of National Highway No. 45 (Chengalpattu-Tindivanam Section) in the State of Tamil Nadu.
- (x) S.O. 377(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 2nd April, 2003 regarding

- acquisition of land for four laning of National Highway No. 46 (Krishnagiri-Ranipet Section) from Samalapuram to Vengili Village in Vellore district in the State of Tamil Nadu.
- (xi) S.O. 378(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 2nd April, 2003 regarding acquisition of land for four laning of National Highway No. 46 (Krishnagiri-Ranipet Section) from Govindambadi to Perumugai village of Vellore Taluk in the State of Tamil Nadu.
- (xii) S.O. 379(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 2nd April, 2003 regarding acquisition of land for four laning of National Highway No. 46 (Krishnagiri-Ranipet Section) from Govindambadi to Perumugai village in the State of Tamil Nadu.
- (xiii) S.O. 380(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 2nd April, 2003 regarding acquisition of land for four laning of National Highway No. 46 (Krishnagiri-Ranipet Section) from Samalapuram to Vengili Village of Vaniyambadi Taluk in Vellore district in the State of Tamil Nadu.
- (xiv) S.O. 381(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 2nd April, 2003 regarding acquisition of land for four laning of National Highway No. 46 (Krishnagiri-Ranipet Section) in the State of Tamil Nadu.
- (xv) S.O. 321(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 25th March, 2003 regarding rate of fee to be recovered from the users of four laned National Highway No. 8A (Samakhyali to Gandhidham section) in the State of Gujarat.
- (xvi) S.O. 328(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 26th March, 2003 regarding rate of fee to be recovered from the users of Assam Bridge on National Highway No. 3 (Agra-Gwalior section) in the State of Madhya Pradesh.
- (xvii) S.O. 1098(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 18th October, 2002 making certain amendments in the Notification No. S.O. 382(E) dated the 3rd May, 2001.
- (xviii) S.O. 707(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 5th July, 2002 making certain amendments in the Notification No. S.O. 383(E) dated the 3rd May, 2001.
- (xix) S.O. 708(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 5th July, 2002 making certain amendments in the Notification No. S.O. 384(E) dated the 3rd May, 2001.
- (xx) S.O. 361(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 31st March, 2003 regarding rate of fee to be recovered from the users of four laned National Highway No. 8 (Gurgaon to Kotputli) in the States of Haryana and Rajasthan.
- (xxi) S.O. 362(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 31st March, 2003 regarding rate of fee to be recovered from the users of National Highway No. 2 in certain stretches in the State of Jharkhand and West Bengal.
- (xxii) S.O. 363(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 31st March, 2003 regarding rate of fee to be recovered from the users of four laned National Highway No. 1 (Delhi-Jalandhar section).
- (xxiii) S.O. 364(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 31st March, 2003 regarding rate of fee to be recovered from mechanical vehicle users of National Highway No. 24 (Ghaziabad-Hapur section) and Hapur Bypass in the State of Uttar Pradesh.
- (xxiv) S.O. 286(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 13th March, 2003 authorising M/s Ideal Road Builders Limited, Mumbai to collect and retain fees for the use of the National Highway No. 4 in Khambatki Ghat between Pune and Satara in the State of Maharashtra.
- (xxv) S.O. 336(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 28th March, 2003 making certain amendments in the Notification No. S.O. 262(E) dated the 28th February, 2002.
- (xxvi) S.O. 342(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 31st March, 2003 regarding acquisition of land for four laning of National Highway No. 25 (Lucknow-Kanpur Road) in the State of Uttar Pradesh.

- (xxvii) S.O. 343(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 31st March, 2003 regarding acquisition of land for four laning of National Highway No. 25 (Lucknow-Kanpur Road) in the State of Uttar Pradesh.
- (xxviii) S.O. 406(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 4th April, 2003 regarding acquisition of land for four laning of National Highway No. 4 (Pune to Satara Section) in the State of Maharashtra.
- (xxix) S.O. 429(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 10th April, 2003 regarding acquisition of land for four laning of National Highway No. 4 (Harihar to Maharashtra Border) in Belgaum, Dharwad and Haveri districts in the State of Karnataka.
- (xxx) S.O. 435(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 16th April, 2003 regarding acquisition of land for four laning of National Highway No. 2 (Shaktigarh Bypass) (Palsit-Dhankuni section) in the State of West Bengal.
- (xxxi) S.O. 418(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 9th April, 2003 regarding acquisition of land for building, maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 4 (Chennai-Ranipet section) in the State of Tamil Nadu.
- (xxxii) S.O. 419(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 9th April, 2003 making certain amendments in the Notification No. S.O. 86(E) dated the 24th January, 2003.
- (xxxiii) S.O. 420(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 9th April, 2003 regarding acquisition of land for four laning of National Highway No. 4 (Chennai-Ranipet section) in Kanchipuram district in the State of Tamil Nadu.
- (xxxiv) S.O. 421(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 9th April, 2003 regarding acquisition of land for four laning of National Highway No. 4 (Chennai-Ranipet section) in the State of Tamil Nadu.
- (xxxv) S.O. 422(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 9th April, 2003 regarding acquisition of land for four laning of National Highway No. 4 (Chennai-Ranipet section) in Kanchipuram district in the State of Tamil Nadu.
- (xxxvi) S.O. 423(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 9th April, 2003 regarding acquisition of land for four laning of National Highway No. 46 (Krishnagiri-Ranipet section) in Vaniyambadi Taluk in Vellore district in the State of Tamil Nadu.
- (xxxvii) S.O. 424(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 9th April, 2003 regarding acquisition of land for four laning of National Highway No. 46 (Krishnagiri-Ranipet section) in the State of Tamil Nadu.
- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (xvii to xix) of (1) above.
- [Placed in Library. See No. LT 7667/2003]
- [English]
- THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SU. THIRUNAVUKKARASAR): Sir, on behalf of Shrimati Sumitra Mahajan, I beg to lay on the Table—
- (1) A copy of the Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India — Union Government (No. 5 of 2003) (Commercial) — Public Sector Undertakings (Telecommunications Sector) for the year ended March, 2002 under article 151(1) of the Constitution of India.
- [Placed in Library. See No. LT 7668/2003]
- (2) A copy of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (Contributory Provident Fund Rules, 2003 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 333(E) in Gazette of India dated the 10th April, 2003 under section 37 of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India Act, 1997.
- [Placed in Library. See No. LT 7669/2003]
- (3) A copy of the Memorandum of Understanding (Hindi and English versions) between the Telecommunications Consultants India Limited and the Department of Telecommunications for the year 2003-2004.
- [Placed in Library. See No. LT 7670/2003]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:—
    - (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Indian Medicines Pharmaceutical Corporation Limited, Mohan, for the year 1998-99.
    - (ii) Annual Report of the Indian Medicines Pharmaceutical Corporation Limited, Mohan, for the year 1998-99, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.
  - (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.
- [Placed in Library. See No. LT 7671/2003]
- (3)
    - (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Postgraduate Institute of Medical Education and Research, Chandigarh, for the year 2001-2002.
    - (ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Postgraduate Institute of Medical Education and Research, Chandigarh, for the year 2001-2002, together with Audit Report thereon.
    - (iii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by Government of the working of the Postgraduate Institute of Medical Education and Research, Chandigarh, for the year 2001-2002.
  - (4) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (3) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 7672/2003]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE: Sir, I beg to lay on the Table: a copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions):—

- (1) Memorandum of Understanding between the Uranium Corporation of India Limited and the Department of Atomic Energy for the year 2003-2004.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 7673/2003]

- (2) Memorandum of Understanding between the Electronics Corporation of India Limited and the Department of Atomic Energy for the year 2003-2004.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 7674/2003]

- (3) Memorandum of Understanding between the Indian Rare Earths Limited and the Department of Atomic Energy for the year 2003-2004.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 7675/2003]

- (4) Memorandum of Understanding between the Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited and the Department of Atomic Energy for the year 2003-2004.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 7676/2003]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:-
  - (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Ennore Port Limited, Chennai, for the year 2001-2002;
  - (ii) Annual Report of the Ennore Port Limited, Chennai, for the year 2001-2002, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 7677/2003]

- (3) A copy of the Merchant Shipping (Cancellation or Suspension of Certificate of Competency) Rules, 2003 (Hindi and English versions) published in

Notification No. G.S.R. 114 in Gazette of India dated the 8th March, 2003 under sub-section (3) of section 458 of the Merchant Shipping Act, 1958.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 7678/2003]

- (4) (i) A copy of the Annual Administration Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Mumbai Port Trust (erstwhile Bombay Dock Labour Board), Mumbai, for the year 2001-2002, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Mumbai Port Trust (erstwhile Bombay Dock Labour Board), Mumbai, for the year 2001-2002.
- (5) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (4) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 7679/2003]

- (6) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Kandla Dock Labour Board, Kandla, for the year 2001-2002, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Kandla Dock Labour Board, Kandla, for the year 2001-2002.
- (7) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (6) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 7680/2003]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SU. THIRUNAVUKKARASAR): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table-

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Software Technology Parks of India, New Delhi, for the year 2000-2001, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Software Technology Parks of India, New Delhi, for the year 2000-2001.

- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 7681/2003]

11.55 hrs.

### COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

#### Thirty-third Report

[English]

SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY (Chidambaram): I beg to present the Thirty-third Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions.

11.55-<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub> hrs.

### COMMITTEE ON ABSENCE OF MEMBERS FROM THE SITTINGS OF THE HOUSE

#### Thirteenth Report

[Translation]

SHRI RAJO SINGH (Begusarai): Sir, I beg to present the Thirteenth Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on Absence of Members from the sittings of the House.

11.55-<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> hrs.

### COMMITTEE ON OFFICES OF PROFIT

#### Sixth Report

[Translation]

SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR (Sagar): Sir, I beg to present the Sixth Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Joint Committee on Offices of Profit (Thirteenth Lok Sabha).

11.56 hrs.

MOTION RE: FIFTY-FIRST REPORT OF  
BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): Sir, I beg to move:

"That this House do agree with the Fifty-first Report of the Business Advisory Committee presented to the House on the 6th May, 2003."

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That this House do agree with the Fifty-first Report of the Business Advisory Committee presented to the House on the 6th May, 2003."

*The motion was adopted.*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Can you tell me what I have to do?

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I understand your sentiments. I am prepared to allow the discussion.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I am prepared to allow the discussion. Most of the Members are prepared for discussion in the House. Please go back to your seats and speak and I will ask the hon. Minister to reply.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I am bound by the rules of the House. I cannot go beyond the rules. You have framed the rules.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I am extremely sorry. I do not like this type of entering into the well. Please go back to

your seats. I am prepared to hear you. You cannot behave in a disorderly manner. I will never accept it. Please go back to your seats. I am prepared to listen to you even now. You can raise the issue during the Zero Hour. I will permit you to speak again. This is not the way you can enter the well. What type of behaviour are you talking of?

11.57 hrs.

*(At this stage, Shri N.N. Krishnadas and some other hon. Members went back to their seats.)*

MR. SPEAKER: Parliament is meant for discussion and not for this type of a behaviour. You can ask him and he is prepared to reply.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I cannot force the hon. Minister to reply in the way you want.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: That can never be done. I am requesting the hon. Minister to wait provided you want the reply from him. If you do not want the reply, nothing can be done.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU (Srikakulam): You have not given any direction to the hon. Minister. Without the hon. Minister what can we discuss? ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down. As a very special case, I am prepared to request the hon. Minister to make a statement, provided you put your questions. I am now going to the Zero Hour. Please remember this. In the Zero Hour this issue can be discussed. A few Members can speak and thereafter the hon. Minister will reply, provided you want to really listen the reply from the hon. Minister. There will be some usefulness of this, otherwise it will not be useful. Since the Members are agitated and I know the importance of the subject, as a very special case, I am taking the Calling Attention afterwards. This is with the consent of the House.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY

AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): Sir, let the Calling Attention Motion be disposed first.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Finance Minister is present here. He wants to go. Therefore, I just want to finish the Calling Attention in ten minutes. Then we will start the Zero Hour. The hon. Minister will also wait.

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Yes, Sir.

12.00 hrs.

### CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

**Situation arising out of reported illegal schemes of  
Japan Life of India and steps taken by the  
Government in regard thereto**

[English]

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY (Miryalguda): Sir, I call the attention of the Minister of Finance and Company Affairs to the following matter of urgent public importance and request that he may make a statement thereon:

"The situation arising out of reported illegal schemes of Japan Life of India and steps taken by the Government in regard thereto."

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): Mr. Speaker Sir, reports about Japan Life India in the State of Andhra Pradesh and in the Union Territory of Chandigarh, etc. as published in the Press had been brought to the notice of the Government. The allegation is that the activities of this company are in contravention of the provisions of the Prize Chits and Money Circulation Schemes (Banning) Act, 1978 (PCMCSBA).

The PCMCSBA is a Central Act that prohibits any entity from promoting or conducting any prize chit or money circulation scheme or enrolling any member of any such chit or scheme or participating in it otherwise, or from receiving or remitting any money in pursuance of such Chit or Scheme (Section 3 of the Banning Act). Under the provisions of the Banning Act, the State Governments were initially required to frame rules in

consultation with the RBI for winding up of the companies which were running in contravention of the Banning Act.

In the past, on receipt of any complaint or any information/brochure, RBI had examined the particulars and if *prima facie* the provisions of the Act were attracted, the RBI informed the police authorities that the scheme appeared to be a Prize Chit or money circulation scheme which was prohibited under the said act, advising investigation and appropriate action. There have been instances where this advice of the RBI has been treated by some police authorities as a basis for complaint/for filing a complaint. The RBI has now (February, 2003) concluded that any legal opinion, or any scheme run by different entities cannot be given by it as this is not envisaged under the said Act. The RBI has only a very limited consultative role under Sections 11, 12, 13 of the said Act. For example, in respect of exemption, winding up and rule making.

Therefore, the implementation of the Prize Chit and Money Circulation (Banning) Act falls under the purview of the State Governments. The RBI has no role for its implementation and investigation. The scheme run by Japan Life India or any other operator on multi level schemes may be investigated by the concerned States independently and if necessary in consultation with their legal officers or public prosecutors. They may take such action as may be deemed fit without any reference to RBI.

The Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution was also consulted in the matter, who have opined, after consulting the Ministry of Law that PCMCSBA are not applicable to companies dealing with distribution of goods including multi level/network marketing companies. They have also drawn interpretation of various judgements delivered by hon. Supreme Court, which implies that activities of direct/network/multi level marketing do not fall within the provisions of the aforesaid Act.

The matters relating to the activities of this company in Chandigarh, Nalgonda or elsewhere is to be dealt with by the State Government under the provisions of the Act.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: Mr. Speaker Sir, before I deal with the illegal schemes of Japan Life India, let me refer to the letter I myself wrote to the Finance Minister more than nine months back. I have long had high regard for the personal integrity, the intellectual ability

[Shri S. Jaipal Reddy]

and the debating skills of the Finance Minister. But my personal association with him has been consistently so good as to permit me to take liberty with him and say that, in the last nine months, no steps have been taken to nab the culprits. On the contrary, this interlude of nine months has been utilised to cover up the crime and defend the culprits.

Sir, Japan Life of India has been perpetrating a huge hi-tech fraud on the people of India through its illegal schemes. In fact, I came to know of its activities through its operations in my own district, Nalgonda. In Nalgonda, the Japan Life of India collected more than Rs. 1 crore through its scheme. In the State of Andhra Pradesh, it has collected more than Rs. 100 crore. May I also tell the Minister that the turnover of Japan Life of India, at the national level, is anywhere in the region of Rs. 700 to Rs. 800 crore.

This is a proprietor-run firm run by Mr. Vasant Raj in the name of M/s Frontier Trading, Mumbai. Mr. Vasant Raj is incidentally the son of Shri R.V. Pandit who wrote the famous pamphlet 'Coffingate' or the 'Coffin scam'. I do not like to get into it. The scheme mainly runs through a chain link system. The scheme is absolutely untenable. Hi-tech fraud is inherent in the scheme. It is also based on magic medical claims which have remained unproven.

I may also state that this Company has been able to wrest many customs concessions on the ground that it is a wonderful medical equipment.

Sir, when the police of Nalgonda district took initiative and went all the way to Mumbai to arrest Mr. Vasant Raj, they were summoned back. I am using this forum to state, with full sense of responsibility, that a senior member of the Cabinet rang up the concerned people in Hyderabad to sabotage this inquiry. I am not mentioning the name because I do not want to politicise the issue. I am merely referring to the wide political connections that this firm enjoys.

The Reserve Bank of India and its Legal Advisor, Shri S.R. Hegde, gave an opinion way back in September, 2001 that the schemes of Japan Life of India are in total contravention of the Prize Chits and Money Circulation Schemes (Banning) Act of 1978. After this opinion was given, to which I made a reference in my letter which I wrote as far back as September, 2002, what did the RBI do? The RBI issued a circular in February, 2003 saying that it has no role to play and its legal opinion

should be considered null and void. It is a strange shocking example of regulatory self-abnegation on the part of a premier institution like the RBI. I think Shri Jaswant Singh will take serious note of this somersault of the RBI. I know that RBI is an autonomous institution. Even then, the Minister is responsible and accountable to this House.

It is not only that. What does the RBI say in the second circular? It says that the Prize Chits and Money Circulation (Banning) Act is to be run by State Governments. The State Governments must consult their own Legal Advisors and must depend on their devices. It is fine. But later, the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution sends another circular to all the State Governments to say that multilevel marketing firms are not covered under this Act. The RBI, in its revised opinion, says that everything must depend on the State Governments, but another Ministry says that these firms should not be handled by the State Governments because they are not in contravention of the Act. Which opinion is correct?

Sir, why are they trying to shield this Company? What are the connections? Some State Governments did take action. When the SP, Nalgonda District took initiative, that inquiry was hijacked by the CB CID of the Andhra Pradesh Government. As I said earlier, the Andhra Pradesh Government rescued this firm on account of the intervention of a senior member of the Cabinet.

DR. M.V.V.S. MURTHI (Visakhapatnam): Do you have the basis for that?

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: Yes, I have it. Do not provoke me to mention names. I do not think that the Finance Minister will take the liberty to answer it.

In Chennai (Tamil Nadu), more than 85 persons have been arrested this year. In Haryana, at least five persons have been arrested and Indore (Madhya Pradesh), the Government took many steps to nab the culprits.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur): What is Japan and what is Life?

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: Sir, Shri Somnath Chatterjee has put a question. Since he is a senior Member, I cannot but respond to his question.

This Company has been selling magic mattresses. They sell four kinds of beds and they really cost only



Rs. 10,000 to Rs. 15,000 whereas they sell at Rs. 1 lakh. They are magnetic beds.

Now, the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution depended on the Supreme Court judgement of 1982 to say that multilevel marketing firms are not covered by this Act. But the Legal Advisor of RBI, in an opinion tendered, as I said earlier, in September, 2001, quotes the same Supreme Court judgement to say that the schemes of Japan Life of India are in contravention of this Act. I may quote from the judgement:

"Money Circulation Scheme means any scheme, by whatever name called, for the making of quick or easy money or for the receipt of any money or valuable thing as the consideration for a promise to pay the money."

The Legal Advisor of RBI categorically opined in September, 2001 like this:

"Independent representatives need to sell products and market them as per the rules and regulations contained in the business plan. An independent representative is prohibited from advertising the products without any written approval from the firm. The independent representatives' job is only to enrol more members so that they can get more commission."

"The business plan clearly indicates that the thrust of the plan is to make easy money rather than to sell any goods or services."

It further goes on to add:

"An individual purchasing the total sleeping system from the firm is required to pay huge sum. The only way that he can recover the amount is by promoting the products to the others and imploring them to enable more members."

Such an activity is clearly and outrightly in contravention of the Prize Chits and Money Circulation Schemes (Banning) Act. The Same RBI, in an opinion given on 1st February, 2003, reverses it. It does not reserves the opinion. It says: "No. We are not competent to give our legal opinion. Please ignore the legal opinion we tendered earlier. Please do not write to us." They are blessing like a bride. But then the Ministry of Food, Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution gushes forth like

a bridegroom and says: "No. Do not touch them. They are not under our control nor are they under your control."

Therefore, I am not saying that Japan Life is the only company which is doing this kind of a business. There is another American Company called the Amway which has been prohibited from doing this business in America. It has been able to do this business in India with absolute impunity. In America, they have the Federal Trade Commission as a Regulatory Authority to deal with such offences. In India, these schemes have become a nation-wide menace, a nation-wide financial pest...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Jaipal Reddy, there are several other companies also.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: Therefore, I would suggest that the hon. Minister should come forth with a new Act to deal with the offences. He must think of organising a Regulatory Authority to deal with these matters. I hope he will rise to the occasion and get the second circular of the RBI withdrawn. Since a Minister of this Cabinet, He must talk to the Ministry of Food, Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution to see that its gratuitous opinion should also be withdrawn.

With these words, I conclude.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Sir, I would like to know if any other hon. Member wants to speak.

MR. SPEAKER: One is enough. There are no other hon. Members. He has given a notice.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: I was given to understand that the notice stands in the name of five hon. Members. It is only because of that that I enquired and it is not for any other reason.

Sir, I will endeavour to answer all the points that have been raised by the hon. Member Shri Jaipal Reddy. Firstly, I am sorry if any inadvertent discourtesy has been caused to him by my not responding to his letter. He says that I did not respond to a letter which he wrote earlier. I checked it back. I was not in Delhi in that particular month. I cannot quite recollect now where I was then. I am not normally guilty of not responding to a letter. I think it might have happened inadvertently. So, this is not done with an intention...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: This is not important.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: It is important when you mentioned it because an act of discourtesy is an act of discourtesy.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: He will be happy now if you take action on that.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: I am just coming to it. He suggested that there is no response because there was an attempt by the Ministry of Finance or by me personally to cover up any fraud...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: It is not by you personally but it is by the Government...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: The Ministry of Finance can actually not function if it works on covering up the frauds. We really simply cannot function on these lines. It is as elementary a statement of fact as one can make.

The hon. Member also suggested that there is a certain turn over. Let me explain the certain turn over which is of a very large volume.

I tried to ascertain it. It is the Japan Life company that is incorporated in Japan and they have a product called Japan Life Total Sleeping System which is marketed in India by a company called, Frontier Trading Limited registered in Mumbai. What is being marketed is a sleeping system and because it is a sleeping system, obviously it is a mattress and in the mattress some magnets are embedded. This is what I am informed and I am also informed that because these magnets are embedded, it gives some form of therapy for certain ailments like lumbago or pains in the joints etc.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: Nobody has certified it so far.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: You can dispute it. I am not a doctor. I am not a specialist. So far as Customs are concerned, there is a dispute. In fact, what had to be established is whether there is any recognisable therapeutic value in magnets. It was determined that there was a therapeutic value in magnets. Therefore, these mattresses fall in that category. They are still taxed. It is not as if they are not taxed. But there is a differential of tax between a straightforward simple mattress and a mattress that has a therapeutic value. So, there is no fraud as such. I think, the Customs also then went into it as to whether this should not be charged to Customs duty etc. But some dispute has continued in this regard.

I do not know what state of adjudication that dispute is now, but it is not as if the Customs did not address themselves to this issue.

Sir, on the two gentlemen that he has named, Shri R.V. Pandit and Shri Vasant Pandit and also their alleged publication of pamphlets etc., I do not think that is entirely central to the question either of Frontier Trading or Japan Life. The hon. Member said that there are magical qualities claimed in the mattress. I am not aware of any claim relating to magical quality, but certainly, because, there are magnets embedded there, it is averred by them that it has beneficial effects.

I want to repeat again that no customs concession, as such, has been made to them other than a recognition that this has a therapeutic value and nobody is shielding anybody in this particular matter. Then, it is also alleged that certain telephone calls went from Delhi to the Superintendent of Police or somebody in Nalgonda. I am unable to comment on it because the hon. Member says this on the basis of information that he has, but the basis of information that I have in this regard does not inform me anything on the telephone calls and the specific issue here relates to the Japan Life Company etc.

I do wish to also share with the hon. Members that I obtained this information just now because I wanted to know about the turnover. Shri R.V. Pandit who is the owner and proprietor of Frontier Trading has paid a personal income tax of Rs. 6.21 crore in the assessment year 2001-2002 and in the assessment year 2002-03, he has paid a personal income tax of Rs. 6.62 crore. If an individual has paid these taxes, I can only assume from that that the corporation to which he belongs must also have been assessed for tax and must also have been taxed. This information, I could have certainly sent to the hon. Member subsequently because it will have to be collected.

On the question of Reserve Bank of India having one opinion that they expressed in the September of 2001 and thereafter in the February of 2003 clarifying the issue, I think the hon. Member is perhaps reading too much in the opinion of Reserve Bank of India, the Central Bank of India. The Reserve Bank of India is, in fact, a bank of very high probity and propriety and if we make allegations about our Central Bank, our Reserve Bank of India, it will be good on our part. I have no doubt that the allegation that he has made is because he is impelled by his own convictions. But I do appeal to the hon. Member that when he avers something against the Reserve Bank of India, it has to be with extreme and great care.

There is only one Reserve Bank and that belongs to India. It is a repository of the total economic and fiscal propriety of the country. It is an autonomous organisation and very distinguished Indian has earlier been the Chairman of the organisation. Currently, a very distinguished Indian is the Chairman of the Reserve Bank of India. Ultimately, whatever we say about the Reserve Bank, it devolves, of course, on the totality of the administration of the Reserve Bank, but also inevitably then on the Finance Ministry. We have a responsibility. We do not run the Reserve Bank of India. But we do have a certain role. I think, the hon. Member is right. But that role does not start with the assumption that the activities of the Reserve Bank are wrong. It is in that light that I say that if in September 2001, they expressed a view, it was because the earlier practice was that when such complaints were received, the Reserve Bank expressed an opinion. As I have said in my statement quite often that opinion was treated as some kind of a document on which first FIRs were filed and then the Reserve Bank opined that what they were conveying as an opinion to individual incidents of alleged misdemeanour were, in fact, being used by police authorities, as I have said in my statement, as evidence or as supportive of that FIR to correct that. Therefore, they said what they have. It is as per the provisions of the Banning Act. It is not for the Reserve Bank of India to give advice on the legality of any scheme. It is for the State Governments to take a view and this is very clearly laid down in the Act itself.

Something was said about the Ministry of Consumer Affairs. As it happened, I must admit, there is no conflict of interest here. But I have a very high personal regard for the Secretary of Consumer Affairs. His great father was my Commandant in the Academy and I, therefore, treat the Secretary of the Ministry of Consumer Affairs as my *Gurubhai*. I want to say this. Therefore, when Secretary, Shri Vajahat Habibullah, has clearly said what he has and which I have quoted here, I would request the hon. Member that he must take what is conveyed by the Ministry as their view point and not with as if any evil intent is implied in that. This is the view of the Ministry of the Government of India as conveyed by the Secretary, an officer of impeccable integrity. I would appeal to the hon. Member that that is all that is involved. If there is any malfeasance or any wrong doing by this or any other company, we will certainly take a note of it. He suggested that there is some American Company, which is doing this. The Calling Attention did not relate to the American Company, so I am unable to answer that.

He has also suggested that a new Act should be introduced. We will examine whether a new Act is necessary. He also suggested that I advised the Reserve Bank of India to withdraw what they have just circulated in the February of 2003. I think that would be improper on my part to advise the Reserve Bank of India. No doubt, the Reserve Bank of India and the managers of the Reserve Bank would be very carefully noting the discussions that have taken place here and also what the hon. Member has said.

I have no doubt that being the responsible organisation that they are, they will take all suitable actions.

MR. SPEAKER: Now, we go to the discussion.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: Sir, I have a few clarifications to seek. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: 'Calling Attention' is over after the Minister has replied.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: Sir, I must clarify in the first place that neither have I cast reflection on the Governor of Reserve Bank of India nor on the Secretary of the Ministry of Food, Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution. What I am trying to say is that there is a conflict between the step the RBI took in the first place and the step it took later on.

Secondly, there is that unbridgeable conflict between the opinion given by the Reserve Bank of India and the opinion given by the Ministry of Food, Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Jaipal Reddy, you are aware of the rules.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: Sir, these contradictions need to be explained and I also ask them to think of organising a regulatory authority to deal with such schemes because there are many such schemes floating in the country fleecing the unwary people of this country. Therefore, there is a need for the Finance Ministry to recover money from the Japan Life of India from its total Sleeping System, and wake up to the whole problem.

MR. SPEAKER: 'Calling Attention' is over.

Now, Shri Govindan.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: Let the Finance Minister answer. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: The magnets have changed everything, according to you. You order a proper inquiry on the magnets. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Sir, I just very briefly give my reply. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, the position is quite clear. The rule clearly says that neither the Member nor the Minister is allowed to speak after 'Calling Attention' is replied to by the Minister.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: As you say, Sir.

12.32 hrs.

## SUBMISSIONS BY MEMBERS

**Re: Increase in telephone tariff**

*[Translation]*

MR. SPEAKER: I had promised that after this item I would allow those hon'ble Members to speak who have given me notices for resolution of telephone problem.

...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Govindan has given a notice regarding increase in telephone tariff. So, I permit him to speak now.

SHRI T. GOVINDAN (Kasargod): Sir, without anticipating the furore in the House today morning, I gave my notice.

I would like to bring the attention of the Government towards the revision of telephone charges by BSNL from 1st May onwards.

I understand that the enhancement of telephone tariff is against the interest of the public and it is the anti people policies followed by the NDA Government. In rural and urban areas the number of free calls has been reduced to 50 and 30 respectively. Pulse rate of free calls has also been reduced. The call charges from land

phone to mobile phone have been increased by six times. These steps will force the common subscribers to avoid phone facilities provided to them. It is doubtful that there is a secret understanding between private mobile phone companies and the BSNL. As a result of this, private telephone companies will get a profit of Rs. 2,500 crore this year. It is stated that IT is an area, which develops every time. Development and progress should be a minimum burden on the people. But, instead of this, when the Government claims big progress in the Information Technology field, the burden on the people increases.

In the circumstances, I urge the Government to take immediate steps to restore the increased telephone charges etc., and reduce the burden on the common and middle class people of our country.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS (Muvattupuzha): Sir, my notice is also on the same issue. ...*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN (Hajipur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have also given a notice on this subject.

MR. SPEAKER: If it is so, I will give you also time.

*[English]*

SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH (Adoor): Sir, I have also given a notice on this issue. ...*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

SHRI BRAHMA NAND MANDAL (Monghyr): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have given a notice on privilege.

MR. SPEAKER: All right. Please sit down.

SHRI C.N. SINGH (Machhalishahar): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I also have given a notice on this subject and my notice is first.

MR. SPEAKER: I will give you time too.

...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: I allow all those Members who have given their notice on this issue to associate themselves on this issue.

Now, Shri P.C. Thomas.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI V.M. SUDHEERAN (Alleppey): Sir, the hon. Minister is here. Please direct him to make a statement on the exorbitant increase in telephone tariff. This is a very serious issue. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: That is the subject we are discussing now.

[Translation]

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA (Delhi Sadar): Mr. Speaker Sir, whole Delhi is in distress. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You have not given any notice.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Thomas had given me a notice.

[Translation]

SHRI C.N. SINGH: Mr. Speaker Sir, I also have given notice.

MR. SPEAKER: Your notice is on different subject.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Do you not want a reply from the Minister? Please sit down. I have specially requested the Minister to remain present during the 'Zero Hour'. He is going to reply. This question was raised during the Question Hour also. Now he will reply. Only those Members whose names are here will be permitted to speak and no others will be permitted. It is not a debate that we are starting.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Our telephone policy all through was to give adequate relief to the rural areas. Now, one thing is that the rural telephony is going to suffer a lot because the number of minimum free calls has been reduced drastically. This is going to affect the rural areas to a very large extent. This is about the number of minimum free calls.

Secondly, as regards the pulse rate, when you call from a mobile phone or from a land phone to a mobile phone, the pulse rate is such that the charges will go exceedingly high. It will work out to be more than 300 per cent. In reality, this is what is happening. Whether the pulse rate has been reduced or increased, when we work out the calls, the charges come to 300 per cent. This is rather unbearable as far as a normal subscriber is concerned.

Thirdly, now the telephone charges are increasing. There is a competition in the field of mobile.

MR. SPEAKER: Please conclude. I have not allowed a debate on this issue. During 'Zero Hour', you have to just mention it in two minutes and stop.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS: In the field of mobile phone, there is a feeling all through that some of the mobile companies are going to make undue use of these changes which have occurred. That is also something which has to be taken seriously.

And lastly, I have a very serious complaint about TRAI.

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down. You must understand that there are a number of speakers who want to speak on the issue.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Where are we to complain? When we complain about the BSNL, they say it is a company. Neither the Government nor the TRAI has a forum to listen to the complaint of the public. There is no representation of the public in TRAI. Therefore, something is to be done in this regard immediately so that the grievances are redressed. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Only the statement of Shri Palanimanickam will go on record and nothing else. Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)\*

SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM (Thanjavur): Previously, the Department of Telecommunications provided four kinds of services to the consumers within the State. They are (1) local call service (2) 91 service up to 50 kilometres, (3) 95 service up to 200 kilometres, and (4) STD service within the State. Now they have clubbed them into one under 95 service. With these kinds of services, if anyone wants to make a call to other exchanges within 200 kilometres, he is going to pay more

\*Not recorded.

than Rs. 10. What are the advantages and disadvantages to the consumers? I want to know this from the Minister. I want a concrete reply for the same.

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE (Aurangabad, Maharashtra): Mr. Speaker, Sir, where is the hon'ble Minister going?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): He is not going.

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRA KANT KHAIRE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it has already been submitted here that a three minute call from landline to mobile costs Rs. 7.20. What sort of things are happening in MTNL and BSNL. Most of the people in India are using telephone of MTNL and BSNL but they are now surrendering their telephone connections. It is because mobile phones have become cheaper whereas hon'ble Minister is saying that it has been done by the TRAI. Why did their representative not protest this move in TRAI. He says that there has been no change in pulse rate then how it has gone upto Rs. 7.20 per minute? There is a conspiracy. The conspiracy is to make BSNL and MTNL a loss making concern and then put it up for disinvestment. It is being done in collusion with a particular company. Earlier, the monthly rental was Rs. 250 and the consumers had 150 free calls, then the free calls were reduced to 75 and now it is only 30. Thus, the conspiracy is being hatched to prevent common man from using BSNL phones. We will allow the hon'ble Minister to leave only if he assures in the House that rates would once again be lowered. He ought to do that. The future Chief Minister of Delhi is present here alongwith others and all are unhappy about this decision. When we go to the people they say that rates have been hiked and here hon'ble Minister says that it has not been hiked. There is a deep rooted conspiracy. It should be inquired into and rates should be lowered, through you, this is my request to the hon'ble Minister. .. (Interruptions)

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, please ask him to withdraw the rate hike.

MR. SPEAKER: Please listen. Please maintain silence.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL (Patan): Sir, the entire House would be under your obligation because you have allowed this matter to be raised during 'Zero Hour'.

I am extremely sorry to go on record that whether it is the Insurance Regulatory Authority or the Telecom Regulatory Authority, all such Authorities are created for retired bureaucrats who are not taking the interests of the common people of this country into consideration. The Minister of Communications, Shri Arun Shourie, who is over-burdened because of the various Departments he is handling, does not know what is the pulse rate in the Telecom Department and he also does not know the pulse of the people. I just want to inform him, if he were not aware, of an agitation by a very old Gandhian, Shri Mahendra Desai, in the State of Gujarat, who is on a hunger strike for the last fifteen days on this particular issue. People all over the country, both from urban and rural areas, are very much concerned over the rates of telephone calls, particularly those charged by the Government-owned telecom companies. The telephone connections of poor people having telephones in their homes and *jhompad pattis* out of necessity and not for luxury are likely to be wiped away from the maps of both rural India and urban India because they have become very costly. I want to have an assurance from the hon. Minister. Would he give an assurance to this House today that the present rate structure, which is in force, would be kept in abeyance for three months till the entire issue is discussed with all the leaders of political parties in this House and announce a decision to that effect today? ...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI C.N. SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, when Shri Ram Vilas Paswan was the Minister of Communications, then new telephone connections on our recommendation in our constituency used to be provided within 15 days and if the telephone was dead, it used to be repaired immediately. Things were Okay even during the regin of Shri Pramod Mahajan. But after Shrimati Sushma Swaraj and now Shri Shourie assumed charge, 15 exchanges of my area have become non-functional. Nobody is there to repair them. 80 rural PCOs are lying out of order in Pratapgarh and Jaunpur district. They are not being

repaired. I have made a few recommendations for telephone connection from MPs quota. But the instruments are not being issued as CGM, Lucknow is not happy with me. For the last five months, not a single telephone connection has been provided from my quota.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon'ble Minister is present here. He is a scholar. Since the day, he assumed charge of the Ministry, there is common talk that BSNL would be sold and so that work is stalled there. All the telephone contracts in Jaunpur and Pratap Nagar are being awarded to criminals. There is a loot there. Telephone connection from MP quota should be given on priority basis. But it is not being done. The matter is very serious. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Rashid Alvi ji, please speak. I will allow you to speak only for two minutes.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI C.N. SINGH: I have not yet got telephone connection. When Shri Paswanji, who is sitting here, was the Minister of this Department, action was taken as soon as we wrote letters. But since the time Shri Shourie became a Minister, no action is being taken against the corrupt officials. ...*(Interruptions)* Through you, I would like to say that connections to be provided on priority basis from our quota are not being given. Those who give bribe are being given telephone connections. ...*(Interruptions)* This matter, related to my constituency is very serious. Through you, I would like to request the hon'ble Minister to give reply in this regard? ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You please sit down. It will not do if you do not let others to speak. Shri Rashid Alviji, now you can speak.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Only what Shri Rashid Alviji is saying will go on the record.

*[English]*

Nothing else will go on record except the speech of Shri Rashid Alvi.

...*(Interruptions)\**

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\*Not recorded.

*[Translation]*

SHRI RASHID ALVI (Amroha): Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is a very serious matter. The policy of the Government. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You should be conscious of the time limit. Since you are talking about entire constituency therefore, what you are saying is not being recorded. Rashid Alviji, only what you speak will be recorded; otherwise I would call the name of another member.

SHRI RASHID ALVI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, you please ask him to keep quiet. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Let him speak because no one can stop him.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RASHID ALVI: Why does he not sit. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: He is not disciplined.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RASHID ALVI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is a very serious matter. The Government have adopted such a policy so as to discourage the services of MTNL and BSNL. I would like to ask the Government as to why they have adopted such a policy? Mobile to Mobile connectivity is cheaper but if we have connectivity from MTNL and BSNL telephone to Mobile, then it is expensive. Even PCOs have not been allowed Mobile connectivity. The Government have taken all those measures which may prove beneficial to the private sector. ...*(Interruptions)*

I would like to ask the hon'ble Minister as to whether he can give an example of any country which has given WLL and Mobile licence to a single company. No company has been given these licences but you have given this licence to Reliance Company. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA (Gopalganj): All this is happening under the same influence. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RASHID ALVI: When Paswanji was the Minister of Communications at that time I had asked as to whether he will give licence to Reliance Company? At that time he had said that the Government had no such intention. ...*(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): It was during his tenure. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RASHID ALVI: Whenever it may be, I am concerned with the Government only. At that time, Late Madhavrao Scindiaji was the Deputy Leader of Congress. He had also said that reply to his question should be given. At that time also it was assured in the House that WLL and Mobile licence will not be given simultaneously to a single company. I would like to know the reason as to why WLL and Mobile licence has been given to Reliance Company? There is no such example in the world. I would like to ask the Government. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Dr. V. Sarojaji, now you may speak.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Listen, the debate will end at one O'clock. Hence you cannot get reply on this subject.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: The Zero Hour will end at one O'clock. Hence you cannot get the reply of hon'ble Minister. If you don't want the reply then it's okay.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: The discussion over this subject will be complete at on O'clock. We will take up next subject from two O'clock onwards.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RASHID ALVI: I would like to ask as to under whose pressure the Government are working and whether the Government would withdraw hike in telephone tariff. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: No single member can speak for 10-15 minutes.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shrimati Sarojaji, you can ask your question.

...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH: Sir, the hon. Minister is not paying attention. He is talking to the officers. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: He is taking information from the officers.

...*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, my submission is that the hon'ble Minister may be asked to give statement. ...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: I have to see that different political parties are given an opportunity.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Different political parties want to express their views. Let them express their views. After all, this is a democratic body. Dr. Saroja to ask her question.

DR. V. SAROJA (Rasipuram): Hon. Speaker, Sir, today, for the common man, the telephone facility is not a luxury but it is a basic amenity and it is needed for the day-to-day life. Let me go on record with some details about the latest rates of the telephone facilities which are available. A subscriber has to pay a security deposit of Rs. 2,000. The pulse rate ranges from fifteen seconds to one minute. For the Caller-ID facility, most of the cellular operators have to pay Rs. 90 per month. For roaming facility they have to pay for the STD rates, for the roaming facility and for airtime charge which comes to three rupees per minute. I would like to know one thing from the hon. Minister regarding BSNL in which we have invested Rs. 26,000 crore. In this financial scenario in the country, will the Government categorically state on the following points? Is it not a first step to disinvest the BSNL and encourage the private partners? I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether at the cost of the common people of India the Government of India, in every Department and in every Ministry, is encouraging private partners or not. It is at the cost of the common people.



MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Minister to reply now.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Minister, you give the reply.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI BISHNU PADA RAY (Andaman and Nicobar Islands): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the matter which I am going to raise is very urgent. In Bengal there is a some virus.  
...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I cannot allow all the hon. Members. I am sorry.

SHRI VIJAYENDRA PAL SINGH BADNORE (Bhilwara): Sir, please give me a minute. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: There are only ten minutes left. I want the hon. Minister to reply now. I must give him a minimum of ten minutes.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: Sir, I think there are two or three misapprehensions on account of which all this has arisen. I will first clarify these three points. ...(Interruptions)  
It is what you are saying. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please listen to the hon. Minister now.

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: The first point is on the monthly rental in BSNL. A misapprehension has arisen because there was an order of TRAI in January that has increased the rates a lot and there was a great apprehension among the hon. members also at that time. Sir, you were there when one of the questions was raised on it. That was the point.

On studying the order, I found that the order of TRAI was for a ceiling; it was not a mandatory order. So, in BSNL and in MTNL we had meetings and we said—'why should we go up; we will give alternative packages'. In the alternative packages' let me just mention the fact—the monthly rental has not been increased. ...(Interruptions)  
Please let me complete it.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (Balaore): Sir, the hon. Minister is giving reply. Let them hear the hon. Minister.  
...(Interruptions)

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: Sir, neither for the rural areas nor for the urban areas, neither in BSNL nor in MTNL have the monthly rentals been increased. That is the first point.

The second point is that, in fact, the TRAI had ordered precisely for the reasons which you had mentioned, that we require to make rural telephony increase and for that reason it should be viable. They had said that the rural telephony was being financed thus far by charging more for long distance telephony and international telephony.

That is how we used to subsidise rural services. Now, with the collapse of the rates of long distance telephony and international telephony, rural telephony will become so unviable that the roll outs will not be possible. For that reason, the TRAI said—we did not do it—'increase the monthly rent for rural telephones from Rs. 50 to Rs. 210'. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Why?  
...(Interruptions)

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: Give me just one second. It has not been increased. ...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH (Maharajganj, U.P.): Whether you will withdraw or not the monthly rental for rural telephones which you have increased. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: You can complete your reply. I will keep it on record. You go ahead.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You need not pay attention to what the Members speak. You complete your reply.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: That is what I am telling the hon. Minister. His reply should be....

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Member will have to listen the reply of hon'ble Minister.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: Sir, I am with you. I am saying that your concerns have been taken into account.  
...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, please address the Chair. You can only address the Chair and not the Members.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: Therefore, Sir, in spite of TRAI's orders, monthly rental for rural telephones has been kept at Rs. 50 per month. Then, the rates for intra-circle calls, long distance calls within the circle, which were Rs. 9 per minute, have been brought down to Rs. 2.40 per minute. This is a great advantage.  
...(Interruptions) Please understand.

The calls from fixed lines to fixed lines, which have been the concern of all Members here, have been kept constant. They have not been changed. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SURESH KURUP (Kottayam): Sir, you must allow me to speak. He is deliberately misleading the House. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: No, not at all. You must listen to the Minister. Let the Minister complete his reply. After his reply, you can ask a question, but not now.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: Sir, one grave concern was that the pulse rate has been changed. This is what the TRAI was saying-change the pulse rate, decrease it. The pulse rate has not been changed.

SHRI SURESH KURUP: Why? ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: If you want me to change it, then it will become more expensive. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: It is very surprising that you are asking why it is not increased.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: As Dr. Vijay Kumar Malhotra was pointing out, if the bills have been sent against these packages or instructions, then naturally, those bills will be reviewed. The TRAI is to give its final verdict on these alternate packages, which we gave, within this week. We can discuss the matter at great length. The Government is as concerned about its popular image as many Members here seem to be. So, there is no difference of opinion in this regard at all.

Now, there is one final point. Actually, it was said.  
...*(Interruptions)* There will always be some elements in the packages or huge packages like if you do this, if you do that and so on. Please bear with me that it is not a small matter. In the vital sector of power, we have kept rates down and the States have offered free power. The result is that today, nobody is investing in the power sector and it has become a sick sector in many ways. The Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh is to be applauded for he raised the power rates in spite of popular opposition and such circumstances. Yet, it is one State in which investments in power sector will take place.  
...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU: Since he has referred to Andhra Pradesh, I would like to tell that the Government of Andhra Pradesh or even the Chief Minister is going in for reforms with human face and not for everything. We decide in which sector we have to give subsidies and in which sector we have to keep rates same. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: I agree. That is why, I am appreciating him. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: He is appreciating the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh. Why are you agitated?

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU: It is okay. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: He is really appreciating him.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: Sir, I am only appreciating him.

The fixed call duration, which was to have been two minutes, has been retained at three minutes. That is also being done. So, all these points have been done. There has been ...*(Interruptions)* Just one minute.  
...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You just complete your reply.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: On one main point, an allegation has been made that all this is a design to help cellular companies.

13.00 hrs.

In fact, we have given the fullest freedom. I have personally assured the BSNL Board and the MTNL Board that they have the fullest freedom to out-compete the other operators and the result of that is that in seven months, the BSNL, in its cellular service, has captured 25 lakh subscribers. This is what is giving the real competition to the companies that Shri Alvi was rightly concerned about. We will compete, we will make these Corporations viable and strong, and the consumers interest and the sentiments of the Members will be kept in mind at all times. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You can raise the discussion under some other rule. Now, I give the floor to Shri Ramji Lal Suman.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS (Palghat): He is misleading the House. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: If you are not agreeable to what he has said, you can raise the issue again.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Is this is the only subject over which we will continue to discuss, whether other members have no importance in the House. Other members also have the right to express their views. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI K. MURALEEDHARAN (Calicut): This is a major thing; this is a very serious issue. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I have made the Minister to wait. The Minister has given the reply. You cannot force the Minister to speak in the manner in which you want him to speak.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM (Thanjavur): Sir, I have not received the answer to my question.

MR. SPEAKER: You can meet the Minister and get the answer from him.

SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM: He has not answered my question. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV (Silchar): Sir, before you adjourn the House, please give me two minutes to raise the issue pertaining to Assam.

[Translation]

SHRI BISHNU PADA RAY (Andaman and Nicobar Islands): People in Bengal are dying of a virus. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I will allow you too.

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Ferozabad): Mr. Speaker, Sir, for the last ten years, the great novelist Munshi Premchand is being ignored. He is being marginalised. Firstly, he excluded from university syllabi. Now the most important thing is that in the syllabi for class XII of the largest education board, the Board of Secondary Education, Premchand's novel 'Nirmala' has been removed and in its place 'Jyon Mehndi Ke Rang' the novel of Shrimati Mridula Sinha, the Chairperson of Samaj Kalyan Board has been prescribed. It has caused strong reaction among literatures and Hindi literary world. Shrimati Mridula Sinha is not a known name in literature. Whereas Premchand is one of the builders of our social culture. May be he is paying the price of this very fast. If Premchand is removed, Mridula Sinha can never be his substitute, Premchand was a pioneer to the cause of social justice. He is popular not only in Hindi speaking regions but also in Bengal and Maharashtra, which are non-Hindi speaking areas. Premchand is an important novelist and such novelists cannot be removed. There can be no justification of using one's political influence to promote one's literary career. The removal of Premchand's 'Nirmala' has caused deep resentment among literatures and in literary world. This is a serious matter. Mridula Sinha, at no cost, can be equivalent to Premchand. If it was necessary to remove Premchand then he should have been replaced by literature such as Agyaey, Jainendra or Renu. Therefore Government should react to such a serious issue and this step should be withdrawn.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I allow Shri Prabhunath Singh, Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh, Shri Ravi Prakash Verma and Shri Ramsagar Rawat to associate themselves with the notice given by Shri Ramji Lal Suman. I now give the floor to Shri Ram Vilas Paswan.

[Translation]

SHRI C.N. SINGH (Machhalishahar): I also may be associated.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali): I also support it.

MR. SPEAKER: I associate C.N. Singh and Raghuvansh Prasad Ji with it.

SHRI C.N. SINGH: Sir, I may also be associated with Shri Suman ji.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: I also associate myself with Suman ji...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I associate both of you with Suman ji. Please sit down.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is wrong to replace 'Nirmala'. Government should give a statement on this issue. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: The removal of Premchand's novel is a serious issue. I direct the Government to take action on it. Please sit down. I have directed the Government to take immediate action on the issue. Government will pay attention to it.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN (Hajipur): Mr. Speaker, sir, day before yesterday, I was in Ahmedabad. There Gomatipur Mohalla where the conspiracy to pit dalits against Muslims took place is quite peaceful. Both have a population of about 25,000. I had raised the issue of Haren Pandya's murder in the House. It is quite clear that his was a political murder. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR (Vadodara): Mr. Speaker, Sir, what is he saying. He should be stopped. Murderers have been arrested even then he is indulging in politics. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Father of Haren Pandya said that instead of Ram Rajya there is Ravan Rajya in Gujarat. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR: He might have been instigated by people like you. ...*(Interruptions)* Sir murderers have been arrested and they have confessed ...*(Interruptions)* It is not appropriate to raise the matter of Gujarat. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the local administration, police are arresting the Muslims there and they are being tortured. ...*(Interruptions)* Minorities are being prosecuted there and we all know how extremism is expending in the country. ...*(Interruptions)* The atrocities against minorities should be stopped forth with. I request the Government to come out with a statement on it. A Parliament committee should visit there.

[English]

You constitute a committee and send it to Gujarat.

[Translation]

How can it be that on one hand Haren Pandya has been murdered while on the other minorities are being provoked. Two things can't go together. ...*(Interruptions)*

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Government should tell the truth as to who are the real killers of Haren Pandya.

MR. SPEAKER: Raghuvanshji, please sit down.

SHRI BISHNU PADA RAY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I had recently been to Bengal in connection with Panchayat elections. The name of the village I had visited was 'Sandes sthal' and the Block is 'Meenakshi'. There are about two thousand fish farms in South Aparna. The area under prawn culture is about one lakh bighas. The entire area under prawn culture has been virus affected for the last three years. The local people call Tiger prawns as Pabda fish and prawn as Galda fish. These prawns have been under viral attack thus leading to pollution in the area. There is no agriculture there and people earn their livelihood through prawn culture. Prawn from here are sent to the markets of Japan and South East Asia. The virus attack started three years ago. If the world knows of it then the export of prawns would suffer. Union Government should take action on it. The CPM Government there is doing nothing for the last three years. It did nothing to check the spread of virus. This is the question of people's survival. Union Government must take action in the matter.

[English]

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA (Canara): Sir, I wish to raise a matter of great concern for all of us.

There are certain rules of procedure in running the Government or Ministries. The Papers have reported the other day about this and this has not been contradicted so far. I know that it is a fact because the officers have told me about that. It is a fact that the President of the BJP, Shri Venkaiah Naidu, the former Minister of Rural Development had called a meeting for which the department issued a notice summoning all the officers of the Rural Development Ministry for a meeting at his house. When the Secretary pointed out that this would be violation of rules, the notice was withdrawn. But the meeting took place.

The report has come stating that the functioning of the Rural Development Ministry was reviewed by the President of the BJP at the meeting held in his house from 8.30 a.m. up to 11.30 a.m. I am saying that in that meeting, where even the Minister of Rural Development was not present, points including the budget available to the Ministry for publicity aspect, etc. were discussed.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI VIJAY GOEL): Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is not appropriate to talk here about the persons who are not the Members of the House.

[English]

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA: All the officers from the level of Directors to Secretaries were present at his house. If it is false, let them deny it in the House. But I will produce the proof. The officers have come and informed me of what had happened in that meeting. This is a violation of all norms, where the President of BJP has summoned the officers of the Government of India to his house and held a meeting. I want a reply from the Government; I want an answer as to whether or not this is a fact. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Sir, this is a very serious issue. ...(*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: If you don't take your seat, I will not permit you to speak.

[English]

Otherwise, I will adjourn the House.

[Translation]

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH (Maharajganj, U.P.): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to raise the matter related to the sugarcane farmers of Uttar Pradesh. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: You may please raise this issue tomorrow. I will ask the hon. Minister to give reply.

[English]

SHRI ABDUL HAMID (Dhubri): Sir, there was a severe cyclone at Dhubri in Assam where about 34 people were killed and so many injured. We tried to raise this issue on the Floor of this House, but unfortunately the House was adjourned. But at the same time, this was raised in the other House and the hon. Prime Minister himself admitted that he would extend all possible assistance to the State Government. But still no Central team was sent to Assam to visit and nobody has visited the State so far. I request that a Central team may be sent to the State to assess the reality, to make *ex gratia* payment of Rs. 5 lakh to the next of kith and kin of the diseased persons and also to make suitable arrangement for their rehabilitation.

13.14 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned for Lunch till fifteen minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.*

14.15 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha re-assembled after Lunch at fifteen minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.*

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

### MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

[Translation]

- (1) **Need to construct a National Highway between Ranchi and Badbil via Chakradharpur and Chaibasa for the Development of the backward areas**

SHRI LAXMAN GILUWA (Singhbhum): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is extremely essential to construct a national highway between Ranchi and Badbil via Chakradharpur and Chaibasa. This area is predominantly

[Shri Laxman Giluwa]

inhabited by the tribals and it is on account of the absence of a national highway that this area could not be developed. Though this area is rich in minerals and raw materials however, in the absence of sufficient and modern type of roads that the raw materials of this region are not being properly exploited. For the proper economic development of this area such roads are essential which are linked with National Highway.

Through the House I urge upon the Government to construct a National Highway between Ranchi and Baddli via Chakradharpur and Chaibasa for the economic development of the backward areas.

**(ii) Need to enhance production of electricity by Chandrapur and Bakaro Thermal Power Stations in Jharkhand**

SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY (Giridih): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, as per the policy of the Central Government, under the Ninth Five Year Plan Damodar Valley Corporation had to generate 5000 Megawatt additional electricity out of which 210 megawatt was to be generated by each Chandrapur Thermal Power Station and Kodarma Thermal Power Station. But these thermal power stations of Jharkhand did not do so. Contrary to this, DVC has started the generation of additional electricity in Mezia (West Bengal) which is not as per the policy of the Government.

So, I urge upon the Central Government that as per the policy of the Government, additional electricity should be generated in Jharkhand state particularly in CTPS and BTPS.

[English]

**(iii) Need to protect the interest of the employees of Veerbhadra unit of IDPL**

SHRI MANABENDRA SHAH (Tehri Garhwal): Indian Drugs and Pharmaceutical Ltd. (IDPL) Veerbhadra was started in the year 1965 and was running till the year 1994. In spite of repeated request to Government not to close down this essential undertaking the Government had decided to close down Veerbhadra Unit which was the largest unit of Antibiotic in Asia. Final closing down is now more or less in the offing.

However, the future of the employees is still not fully settled. The future of those employees who have not been relieved is still uncertain. The uncertainty is greatly affecting those who are having short time limit of their normal retirement. Similar is the case of those who are

getting 50 per cent payment without opting deferred payment or are continuing to report for duty.

I request the Government the employees should be relieved as early as possible or the Government should follow the pattern of Hyderabad IDPL by giving them adhoc appointments. Government should not withhold 50 per cent of *ex-gratia* amount, like IDPL Hyderabad and Gurgaon, employees of Veerbhadra Unit should also be paid pending leave encashment and payment for uniform. Government should adhere to the rules which lay down that 50 per cent of gratuity should be retained till the vacation of the quarter. In Veerbhadra withholding 50 per cent of VRS amount due to the employees should be immediately released.

[Translation]

**(iv) Need to connect Khudia reservoir with Narmada river in Chhattisgarh with a view to augment irrigation facilities**

SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE (Bilaspur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, 50 year back Khudia reservoir was created by constructing dam over Maniyari river flowing in Bilaspur district of Chhattisgarh. At that time the irrigation requirement of farmers was 50,000 acres of land. Now the irrigation requirement has increased to 1,50,000 acre of land so it is not possible to irrigate that much of land the said reservoir has been renamed as Rajiv Reservoir. The irrigation capacity of this reservoir can be augmented by way of connecting it with Narmada river that originates from Amarkantak, Madhya Pradesh. It will have the length of nearly 100 km. having the cost approximately Rs. 100 to 150 crore. The said river is a perennial river but its water is not fully utilised.

So, I urge upon the Central Government to connect Khudia reservoir of Bilaspur district with Narmada river Amarkantak and as per the water augmentation policy, approval for its construction should be given by the Central Government so that people may get two crops irrigation facility and their economic condition may improve.

[English]

**(v) Need to retain Fishery Research Centre at Burla, Orissa**

SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO (Dhenkanal): It is a matter of great concern that the Central Fishery Research Centre working at Burla in Orissa has been transferred to Hoshangabad in Madhya Pradesh. The people of western Orissa are very much agitated to learn about the transfer of that Research Centre. The Research Centre at Burla was doing excellent work on development of fisheries in

the inland water. About 74 hectares of water area of Hirakund was under this Research Centre. The Burla Research Centre was established in 1963 and since then it was working there. Similar efforts were made in 1999 to shift that Research Centre from Burla. Due to requests from people's representatives, the Central Government at that time withdrew the move without any justification. Now, the only Research Centre of this kind has been shifted from Burla. In the interest of the people of Orissa, I demand the continuance of the Fishery Research Centre at Burla.

SHRI ANADI SAHU (Berhampur, Orissa): Sir, I associate myself with this.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You are allowed.

**(vi) Need to set up engineering and medical colleges in Nagaland**

SHRI K.A. SANGTAM (Nagaland): The literacy rate of Nagaland has just jumped from 23 per cent to 87 per cent within a period of 40 years since the formation of the State in 1961. Right from the beginning till date those students who are desirous to go for higher technical studies have to depend on the quota provided by the Central Government to various universities in the country and the number of students has increased almost tenfold against the quota provided by the Government in these disciplines. In many instances where students who secure very high marks are often deprived of getting the quota due to paucity of reserved seats available to the State Government. Nagaland is an insurgent-prone State where many of the youth are frustrated and find quite easy to join the insurgent groups if they do not have the facilities for education and employment opportunities.

I request the Government of India to see that an Engineering College and a Medical College are established in Nagaland without further delay so that we can put these youth who are capable of pursuing higher technical education within the State and get meaningful employment for them. This will go a long way in bringing the people to the mainstream.

**(vii) Need to set up a Bench of Kerala High Court at Trivandrum**

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil): There is a long-standing demand for establishing a Bench of the Kerala High Court at Trivandrum. The Kerala Assembly had already approved a resolution for the same.

The Central Government may take immediate steps to establish a Kerala High Court Bench at Trivandrum.

SHRI V.S. SIVAKUMAR (Thiruvananthapuram): Sir, I associate myself with this.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Today, there is an exception. You are also allowed.

[*Translation*]

**(viii) Need to accord Central University status to Allahabad University**

SHRI DHARM RAJ SINGH PATEL (Phulpur): Sir, Allahabad University is one of the oldest Universities of India. It was established in 1887 and was brought under Indian University Act in 1904. At that time the classes of Allahabad University were held not only in its campus but also in Holland Hall, KPUC and Hindu Hostel. The University campus was not confined to the university itself rather its units were dispersed which were being managed by Private Trusts. The Allahabad University, through the various departments of the Colleges affiliated with it has been working towards dissemination of education to the larger section of society. Along with that professors of University besides teaching are also involved in research work. Presently 10 colleges are affiliated to Allahabad University. The Prime Minister of the country the Chief Minister of various States, Chief Justice of Supreme Court, the ambassadors of various countries and thousands of IPS and IAS officers have received education from the Allahabad University. But till today this university has not been given Central University status.

I urge upon the Government of India to accord Central University status to Allahabad University by way of restructuring Allahabad University and its affiliated colleagues on the line of multi-campus concept like that of Delhi University.

**(ix) Need to check pollution caused by distillery factory at Naugaon Chhattarpur, Madhya Pradesh**

SHRI ASHOK KUMAR SINGH CHANDEL (Hamirpur, U.P.): Sir, M/s Cocs Distillery factory, Naugaon is located in Chhattarpur, Madhya Pradesh. Through you, I would like to draw the attention of the hon'ble Minister of Environment and Forests to the pollution caused by this factory.

M/s Cocs Distillery Factory is located along the border of Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh. Motor tyres are burnt frequently in this factory door to which the villages around factory like Dharwara, Gandhia, Ghisalli, Rawatpura, Ganj, Sikapur, Chandrapur which are located

[Shri Ashok Kumar Singh Chandel]

along Selam river are getting polluted and the villagers are in great trouble and are suffering from several diseases. The polluted water of the factory is also drained in Selam river. This river flows through long tract of land in Uttar Pradesh. The water of Selam river is so polluted and poisonous that neither the villagers can take bath in it nor their cattle can drink it. If at all they drink, they die. If this water is used for irrigation, the crops get destroyed. The attention of the administration has continuously been drawn towards this by the villagers. Pollution is affecting air water and other things around the factory completely. To what extent it is justified to run a factory by polluting the entire environment.

So, a high level enquiry should be held into the pollution caused by M/s Cocs Distillery factory so that the local people and other living-beings may live in pollution free environment.

**(x) Need to release funds to Tamil Nadu and other States for undertaking urban sector reforms**

[English]

SHRI C. SREENIVASAN (Dindigul): Sir, creation of Urban Reforms Fund was announced in last year's Budget. But unfortunately, no money has been released yet to any State so far. In the mean time a Committee was set up to prepare a framework of Urban Sector Reforms. As such seven areas have been identified. "Revision of By-Laws to streamline the approval process for construction of buildings and development of sites" is one area for reforms. At the instance of all States consulted the MoU is to be modified. The Urban Development Ministry's Committee headed by the Secretary has also promised that they will take decisions consulting the Ministries concerned. But to the contrary, Union Environment and Forest Ministry has issued a unilateral order in the name of coastline preservation. This affects the development of many urban centres of many States like Tamil Nadu which makes efforts to give a facelift to the city of Chennai. Hence, I urge upon the Union Government to entrust such responsibility only with Union urban Development Ministry as assured earlier and to release funds to the States at the earliest.

[Translation]

**(xi) Need to proper maintenance of N.H. 107 between Maheshkunt and Saharsa and N.H. 106 between Birpur and Madhepura in Bihar**

SHRI DINESH CHANDRA YADAV (Saharsa): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, common people have to face a lot

of problems due to extremely dilapidated condition of the N.H. 107 in Bihar. The Government of Bihar has also not been able to utilise the funds allocated to it by the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways of the Union Government for the development and maintenance of the National Highway.

Hon. High Court of Patna has directed the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways of the Union Government on several occasions to undertake the development and maintenance work of national highway by setting up a agency under its control as the Bihar Government has failed to utilise the funds allocated for the development and maintenance of the national highway but the Union Government have not taken any action in this regard due to which the condition of national highway of Bihar is further worsening.

Hence, it is requested that the Union Government should, in light of the directives given by the Hon. High Court, Patna, undertake the repairing work of the roads which are in dilapidated condition by setting up a agency under its control for the development and maintenance of National Highway in Bihar and also ensure the immediate repairing of 70 kilometer stretch of the National Highway No. 107 between Maheshkunt Sonvarsharaj-Simri-Bakhtiyarpur-Bariyahi and also the 70 k.m. stretch of the N.H. 106 between Birpur and Madhepura.

[English]

**(xii) Need to direct Neyveli Lignite Corporation Ltd. to undertake welfare programmes in the area**

SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY (Chidambaram): Sir, Neyveli Lignite Corporation in Tamil Nadu is not spending even half a per cent of Rs. 700 crore profit towards the welfare of the people of the peripheral area who lost all their lands in lieu of NLC. The Public Sector Undertaking should help laying of roads, providing of water for irrigation and drinking purposes including certain facilities like community hall, schools, libraries etc.

I have received a number of representations regarding poor management of NLC Hospital. The hospital is provided neither with sophisticated equipment nor with specialists for curing vital diseases. As a result, the patients are frequently referred to some big hospitals in Chennai and other places for emergency cases.

NLC should provide medical assistance to all the land evictees who have surrendered their lands to this mighty organisation as a measure of social obligation.



I am sure the Government will direct the PSU to provide one per cent profit for welfare of the people regularly.

14.33 hrs.

## THE FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY AND BUDGET MANAGEMENT BILL, 2000

*[English]*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The House shall now take up consideration and passing of Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management Bill. The time allotted for this purpose is six hours.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): Sir, before I make my introductory remarks, there is one request that I have to make. Being an important Bill, I welcome interventions by the House. But it should be finished today itself so that I can then take it to the other House and get it enacted before this Session is over.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: If the House agrees, I do not have any objection.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: My request is that we finish this Bill today itself so that I am able to deal with the rest of the formalities in the other House before the Session ends.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL (Latur): We will cooperate.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: I beg to move:

"That the Bill to provide for the responsibility of the Central Government to ensure inter-generational equity in fiscal management and long-term macro-economic stability by achieving sufficient revenue surplus eliminating fiscal deficit and removing fiscal impediments in the effective conduct of monetary policy and prudential debt management consistent with fiscal sustainability through limits on the Central Government borrowings, debt and deficits, greater transparency in fiscal operations of the Central Government and conducting fiscal policy in a medium-term framework and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto, be taken into consideration."

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, this Bill was introduced in Parliament in December 2000. Thereafter, it was referred

to the Standing Committee on Finance and after a very detailed examination of the provisions of this Bill the Standing Committee made various observations and recommendations in a Report that was tabled in November 2001. Based on these recommendations, amendments to the Bill have now been proposed.

Before the provisions of the Bill and amendments thereon are taken up for consideration, permit me Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir to say very briefly on the achievements of the Indian economy. The decade of the nineties has witnessed robust economic growth and has been marked by benign inflation, a steady growth in foreign exchange reserves and a positive balance in the current account. While macro economic parameters have been sound, there is one area that continues to cause concern and should be addressed seriously by the Government. This pertains to sound fiscal management. The Central Government has both a high revenue and a fiscal deficit. Rising deficit necessitates larger borrowings which in turn add to further accretion of debt, thus higher cost of servicing. In consequence, the outstanding liabilities of the Central Government have steadily risen over the years and, as on 31st March, 2004, total liabilities are estimated to be Rs. 18,00,000 crore. Interest burden on these liabilities itself will be Rs. 1,23,000 crore. This pre-empted almost 50 per cent of our revenue earning. It is vital that we break out of this cycle of high deficit, high debt and high interest burden. We need to work steadily towards a regime of surpluses which can then be gainfully utilised for shoring public investment and thereby economic growth, in a stable fiscal environment.

The proposed legislation is historic in the country's fiscal history. It obliges the Central Government to ensure fiscal sustainability, in the medium term, by generating a revenue surplus, thus bringing down debt stock as a ratio of GDP to reasonable levels.

As I have already mentioned, based on the recommendations of the Standing Committee on Finance, it has been decided that specific targets which were stipulated in the Bill will no more form a part of the legislation. They, however, will be included in the rules to be framed under the act so as to enable flexibility in fiscal operations.

The Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management Bill also enjoins the Government to table the following statements alongwith the Budget every year:

- (a) Medium term fiscal policy statement;

[Shri Jaswant Singh]

(b) Fiscal policy strategy statements; and

(c) Macro-economic framework statement.

This will place the budgeting exercise in a much larger macro-economic framework and long-term perspective so as to ensure transparency, stability and consistency with long-term policy objectives.

With these words, I commend the Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management Bill, alongwith the proposed amendments, for consideration and adoption by the House.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Motion moved:

"That the Bill to provide for the responsibility of the Central Government to ensure inter-generational equity in fiscal management and long-term macro-economic stability by achieving sufficient revenue surplus eliminating fiscal deficit and removing fiscal impediments in the effective conduct of monetary policy and prudential debt management consistent with fiscal sustainability through limits on the Central Government borrowings, debt and deficits, greater transparency in fiscal operations of the Central Government and conducting fiscal policy in a medium-term framework and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto, be taken into consideration."

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Sir, before I start speaking on this Bill, I would like to bring to your notice that I was the Chairman of this Committee, the Report of which was given, and before any Member raises any objection, I seek your permission to speak on this Bill. Other Members of the Committee who want to speak should also be considered. Shri Swain is sitting there. He may stand up to speak. He should also be allowed to speak.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: He himself is going to follow you.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Thank you, Sir. I would be very brief.

This is a very important piece of legislation, and the Government is very keen to see that this Bill should be passed. We are also keen to see that this Bill is passed.

We know that this Bill is not going to solve all the problems faced by us in the country in the field of economic development, fiscal responsibility and Budget management. Yet, to some extent, at least, it is going to

help us and we should, therefore, welcome it. When express my views which are not in consonance with the provisions of the Bill in some respects, it should not be taken that I am opposing the entire Bill as such. The spirit of the Bill is welcome but the details can be discussed by us. We can express our views on these different provisions.

This kind of a legislation is available in other countries also. In some countries, it has helped; in some countries, it has not helped. In some countries where it has not helped, there is a move to see that this kind of a Bill is either removed from the Statute Book or it is modified a great deal. I am not going to go into those details. I just wanted to make a mention that it has helped in some countries and it has not helped in some other countries.

When this Bill was considered by the Standing Committee, the officers were there and they were very much helpful. I would like to mention on the floor of this House that they did explain the provisions of this Bill in great detail. Experts were invited to give their views on the Bill. There were some professors and academicians also who were also invited to speak on the Bill. They gave their views on this Bill.

I am very much grateful to the Government for having accepted, I think, 99 per cent of the recommendations made by the Standing Committee. Those recommendations have been incorporated into the Bill. This is something which gives us a lot of satisfaction. This is something which will strengthen the Committee System. This is something which will help us to make laws which will be more helpful to all of us here.

The Government has rightly accepted to have the rules to fix the numerical ceiling which the law was intending to provide through the statute. This will give a lot of liberty to the Government. What we are saying is that if the Government wants to put a ceiling on the expenditure to reduce the revenue deficit and the fiscal deficit, the Government will have the right and liberty to do it. In fact, even without a Bill like this also or rules, if the Government wants to do it, the Government is at liberty to do it. But if the Government wants to have a law like this and then do it, we thought it would tie down the hands of the Government too much. If this Government is there, well, it would also face some difficulties. If some other Government comes, it will also have some difficulties. That is why, we follow the route which is not on the extreme of the position that is available here—that is to tie down the hands of the

Government and not having a legal frame-work which can really be helpful. That is why, the Committee suggested that if the Government wants to have any numerical ceiling or any specifications, it need not be done through the Bill but it can be provided through in the rules. The Government can have the rules; it can use the rules. The rules are nothing but a kind of law. They are not passed as the Bills are passed and yet the rule can help. I am very happy that the Government has accepted this suggestion given by the Committee. The Government has amended some definitions also.

One of the provisions which is causing me a little concern is this. It is given in Clause 5. It says: "The Government shall not borrow from the Reserve Bank". If the Government does not borrow from the Reserve Bank and if it needs money, where will it get it from? It can get it either by raising the revenue or if it has to borrow, it shall have to borrow from the open market or from the international financial institutions. If it gets the funds from the international financial institutions, it is very good. It is because the rate of interest that would be required to be given on the funds procured from the international financial institutions would certainly be very comfortable. But, suppose, the Government, is not in a position to get the funds from the international financial institutions and if it is required to borrow from the open market, how will it help the Government? The rate of interest which it would be required to give to the Reserve Bank would be less and the rate of interest at which it would borrow from the open market will be very high. The hon. Minister was right in saying that the debt burden has increased to Rs. 18 lakh crore and nearly Rs. 1.18 lakh crore interest is given on that. Why has this happened?

Let us consider this fact. The State Governments are also suffering. This is happening because they are also borrowing from the open market. The Union Government is not borrowing from the open market as much as the State Governments have been doing. That is why, the debt burden of the Union Government is not very uncomfortable or is not as uncomfortable as the debt burden of the State Governments is. I know some of the States have already borrowed from the open market and the rate of interest at which they have borrowed is 16 per cent, 18 per cent. If you do not borrow at 4 per cent and if you are compelled by law to borrow at 18 per cent, how is it going to help the Government to reduce this fiscal deficit, I fail to understand.

This is one of the most important things which the Government has to consider. But we are willing to allow

the Government to make use of this provision also and to see that the debt burden is reduced, the interest burden is also reduced but at the same time we would also like the Government to see that they provide funds for the development of infrastructure. Without developing the infrastructure, we will not be able to develop the industry of agriculture or other professions and it will be very difficult to strengthen the sinews of our economy. So, as far as the development of infrastructure is concerned, there should be no dearth of funds. The Government is not coming forth and saying that they do not have the funds and that is why they cannot develop the infrastructure.

Secondly, there are many things which have to be done to help the people. For instance, take the case of drinking water. Drinking water is not available in the country at many places. Supposing the Government says that they do not have the funds and the Government is not borrowing from the Reserve Bank and if drinking water is not available to the people, who will suffer? It is the people who will suffer. The Government cannot be oblivious of the difficulties that the people will suffer because of this.

Thirdly, if you want to reduce the subsidies, by all means, rationalize the subsidies. If you want to scrap the subsidies which are given on foodgrains supply, the poor people will suffer. The poor people living in this country, do not have land, do not have industry, do not have shops and do not even have the jobs that they want. If the foodgrains are to be subsidized, you will not be in a position to deny them the subsidy on the foodgrains.

Fortunately, the Government has not reduced the subsidy on foodgrains. That is a good thing. But if somebody is suggesting that you should reduce the subsidy on foodgrains, that will not be useful. If we reduce the funds which are made available to the people to provide employment, it will not help. So, my submission on this point is that the Central Government shall not borrow from the Reserve Bank. I do not know how it is going to help.

Now we are suffering from the scourge of deficit. How do we do away with the scourge of deficit? We are asked this question sometimes and the answer does not come out of a law like this. I agree that the law would help to a certain extent, but the answer would come from something else. Where the answer is going to come from? The answer is going to come from good governance. I am not going to hold the Finance Minister

[Shri Shivraj V. Patil]

responsible for good governance. I am not going to hold responsible any Minister as such good governance. It is the totality of the Government which has to be responsible for good governance. If there is no good governance and if anybody is asking the Finance Minister to collect revenue and provide funds and see that development takes place, the Finance Minister will not be in a position to do anything. Every Minister of the Government, as a whole, has to be responsible for good governance.

Now, for instance, with regard to the power that we generate, we get the report that 40 per cent of the power is stolen. Sometimes we are told that it is the responsibility of the State Governments. Sometimes we are told that they are not responsible for that. To some extent, what is stated to us is correct. It is not entirely the responsibility of the Government of India to see that the power is not stolen. It is for the State Governments also to see that the power is not stolen and the power stolen comes to 40 per cent of the power that is generated in the country. We are producing power and if that power is stolen, if we are not in a position to stop that kind of theft of power, the State Governments should be told to see that power is not stolen. The Union Government is also generating power and if that power is stolen, that should be stopped. If there are any transmission losses in taking power from the place where it is produced to the consumers, it should be stopped by adopting new technologies and if it is not done, it is not a good governance.

For instance, I had the occasion to examine the projects of the Government of India. The Committee had examined 200 projects of the Government of India. The information about this was given by the officers who appeared before the Committee and a Report was given. I am not going into all those details now and I am not going to read out from that Report. But I would like to say on the floor of the House that 200 projects of the Government of India in 2000-01 suffered from cost overruns and time overruns. What was the cost overrun involved? It was Rs. 16,000 crore over only 200 projects. If it is necessary and if anybody challenges my submission, I will get the Report and I will produce it, but I am not producing this Report now. If the cost overrun of only 200 projects is Rs. 16,000 crore, why should it not be stopped to reduce the deficit?

We have established power plants and we have constructed irrigation dams in our country. When the power plants are there and if 30 per cent of the stored water that can be used for generating power is not utilised

and wasted, who is responsible for this? Maybe, the State Governments are responsible for this to some extent. This issue should be raised in the National Development Council and the people concerned should be told that this kind of wastage is not acceptable. In some States, I am told that only 18 per cent of the capacity of the power plants is used. If only 18 per cent of the capacity of the power plants is used and nearly 85 per cent of the capacity is not used, is it not inefficient governance? It may be inefficient governance at the level of the States and may be inefficient governance at the national level also. We, as a country, are responsible for this and if there is no formal mechanism for the Union Government and the State Governments to sit together and see that these kind of wastages are avoided, it will not help us. There is, at least, the National Development Council where the Chief Ministers and other Ministers of the Union Government sit together. Should it not be discussed there? Was it discussed? If it was not discussed, why was it not discussed? If it is not discussed and if there is a deficit financing, one Minister cannot be held responsible. The entire system and all those who are governing at the national level and at the State level should be held responsible.

We want that there should be production. There is no proper planning and the plans are going haywire. I was studying the power generation. The Ninth Five Year Plan provided that 48,000 MW of electricity would be generated in five years time. It could not be. It was reduced to 28,000 MW of electricity. It could not be generated. It was reduced to 20,000 MW of electricity. What kind of planning is this? It is a wrong planning. Everything is going haywire. It speaks of inefficiency in planning. It speaks of inefficiency in implementation of the plan and this is wrong governance, inefficient Governance.

Unfortunately, we have no occasion to discuss the mid-term assessment of the Ninth Five Year Plan in Lok Sabha, to which the Government of India is responsible in financial matters and other matters. Fortunately, it was discussed in Rajya Sabha, but not in the Lok Sabha. Why was it not discussed in the Lok Sabha?

The point that I am trying to make is that unless you govern properly, unless you plan properly, unless you utilise the funds, which are available with you, you cannot reduce the deficit financing, you cannot strengthen your economy by having a piece of legislation like this. Having said that I welcome this, law. Having said that it is a welcome step, I am saying, where we are going wrong. We shall have to have a totalistic view, the holistic view.

Here we are considering financial matters and here we are not considering the problems which will be faced by the people, the problem of drinking water, the problem of foodgrains, the problem of transport, the problem of education, the problem of medical facilities, etc. If we are not considering them, then that would be a lopsided governance and it would not really help.

What are we discussing these days? These days, we are discussing disinvestment and downsizing of the Government. Disinvest, if you have to. We are not objecting to disinvestment *per se*. We are not saying that it should not be done. We are saying, 'do it in a proper manner, which can help you produce more; do it in a manner which can really help you'. All the time we are discussing downsizing of the Government. We are saying that these who are employed should be made unemployed, instead of providing employment. We are saying now that this is not going to inspire the people to put in their best to produce more. This is not going to help. The plan has to be correct. People have to be inspired. The existing strength of the country has to be developed and deployed.

What is the existing strength of the country? Natural resources, forests, water, land human resources and all these things are the strength of the country. You are not utilising them. You are trying to see that you have more money and your budget is a comfortable budget by having a law like this. It will help you, but it will not fully help you. Let us be very clear on this point. We are objecting to this kind of thing and I am taking an opportunity to highlight these side issues also which are equally important.

There is one provision in this law about which I would like to make my statement and I will take my seat, and that provision relates to the ouster of the jurisdiction of the courts. I wish you will on that point. As lawyers, we have studied it. The experts have given their opinion on this point. We are told that you may have a statute, which prohibits the courts from entertaining the cases. Probably, only by amending the Constitution, you may have it, but even the existing provisions of the Constitution have not helped and the courts have said, 'even if it is in the Constitution, they have inherent jurisdiction to do away with the patent injustice done to the people'.

15.00 hrs.

Now, this is the law. So, I am pointing out this thing just to make only this point that with this law, the Government has to be very-very careful. If the

Government slips here and there, the matter can be taken to the court of law. It would be very difficult to say that because of this provision which you have amended this provision to say that the court shall not entertain the case. Previously, the people will not take the case to the court. Now you are saying that the court shall not have the jurisdiction. It does not make any change. It will not help you totally. I wish that it helps you. I wish that there is no occasion for anybody to have a recourse to the court of law, to have the redressal or to show that what was expected was not that. That was the only point I wanted to make. I wish the Ministry all the best and I wish that this law will help you to improve. At the same time, I would like to share with you that this law alone will not help. There are so many other things which have to be done.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (Balasore): Sir, I rise to support this Bill. I congratulate the hon. Finance Minister for showing courage to bring back life to this Bill, even though the Standing Committee on Finance tried to remove all the teeth from it by making it a totally innocuous Bill only with some lofty intentions.

Sir, actually I knew that hon. Shri Shivraj Patil will initiate the talk and since he was the Chairman of the Standing Committee, I did not sit here to oppose him. I wanted to listen to him eagerly as to what he wants to say.

Sir, actually, as a Member of this Standing Committee on Finance, I had very strong objections to the recommendations made by the Standing Committee. Now, the point is—what hon. Shivraj Patil said—that the Government wanted to tie down its own hand and it wanted to tie down its down hand too much. My point is, if any Government wanted to tie down its own hand with regard to the fiscal deficit or the revenue deficit of the country, they want that it should be reduced and it should be reduced in phased manner, which should be totally eliminated after a fixed number of years then why should anybody object to it? Why should we say that it may jeopardise the policy of any future Government? When a future Government comes and if it desires that it is too much tying down their hands, it can pass another legislation. Parliament is always there. Parliament can always say that the Bill passed by the previous Government was wrong. It can always say. But when a Government desires that it wants to tie down its own hands, it wants to bring back prosperity to this country, it should not have been opposed.

[Shri Kharabela Swain]

Sir, during the last 20 years, India's economic growth has increased from three per cent to six per cent per annum. Till 1970s, the borrowing was confined mainly to financing of capital expenditure for productivity. But, after that, we started borrowing to finance the current consumption, to finance the current deficit also. Now, the hon. Finance Minister said that the total liability of the Government of India, as on now, is Rs. 18 lakh crore. This is the Report of the Committee on Fiscal Responsibility Legislation.

This Report was given on 4th July, 2000. According to that Report, the total liability of the Government of India in 2000 was Rs. 12 lakh crore. Only within a span of three years—not even three years—it has gone up by another Rs. 6 lakh crore. When it has gone up by another Rs. 6 lakh crore, is it not the responsibility of the Government to tie down its own hand, to put some pressure on itself to desist from populism? Populism has never helped any country.

I was surprised when the hon. Member, Shri Shivraj V. Patil said that this Government is only worried about downsizing the Government and disinvestment of the Public Sector Undertakings. About one and a half years back, when I had been to China, I had asked a question to the Prime Minister of China at a dinner party. I said: "About three lakh Public Sector Undertakings in China have been closed down. Why have you closed them? Yours is a proletarian country. Why have you done so? What about the people who have lost their jobs? How are you going to provide them with alternative jobs?" He said: "When we started a Communist State, we had a belief that if we provide government job to everybody, then everybody will have a source of earning. So, we tried to provide job to everybody. Where there was a possibility of one person working, we saw to it that 10 persons were employed in the same place. So, there was actually a hidden unemployment of nine persons. Now, we find that out of all these ten persons, nobody is interested to work. That is why, we have changed our policy and we now see to it that whatever number of people are actually required to work in a place are only employed and other people should be provided with alternative employment."

Sir, I am fully with Shri Shivraj V. Patil when he said that good governance is a thing which will provide employment and also provide prosperity in the country. I fully agree with him. But does it mean that just to provide employment to 19 lakh people of this country in the Public Sector Undertakings, we will get about Rs. 2,79,000 crore

stuck with the 224 Public Sector Undertakings? We have borrowed money from outside with 12 per cent interest per year but in the Public Sector Undertakings, the earning that we are getting is only 3.5 per cent per year. So, for every Rs. 100, we are losing Rs. 8.5 every year. Do we call this as 'good governance'? This is not good governance. This is what I call 'populism'.

There was a time when the private sector was not coming forward to set up industries because they did not have money at that time. So, I agree that Jawaharlal Nehru had said: "The Public Sector Undertakings are the temples of the country, which are setting up industries. These are the *navratnas* of India." Is the situation same today? The Public Sector Undertakings earned profits when they were having monopoly and there was nobody to compete with them. But in today's globalised world, they are no more profit-making.

They will never be profit-making because the Government policy is such that they cannot compete with the private sector. They cannot take any quick decision. It is simply not possible because you will have to pass the file through several Ministries, several Departments and it will pass through several hands. It will not be possible. Suppose in the Monsoon Session, you go to a private hotel and say, you give me 50 per cent rebate, immediately the manager will give you. If you go to a Government hotel, he will say how can I do it; the CBI will catch me; the Vigilance people will catch me, the C&AG will catch me; and so I will not be able to do this. So, this is what I mean to say. This is not good governance. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY (Khammam): You send all the labour force home and finish them. ...*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

What will happen of the labours working there? You have send the country. ...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO (Kalahandi): Mr. Deputy Speaker, may I just intervene? ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Today, the Public Sector Undertakings are being sold. ...*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

Today everything has come out and we have also understood. ...*(Interruptions)* He has revealed everything. ...*(Interruptions)* after all what do you want?

[*English*]

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO: It is because of the Congress misrule. I would just like to remind that 14 States are being ruled by the Congress Party and they are unable to implement the Fifth Pay Commission in toto. They are unable to pay the salaries to the staff. The growth rate has come down considerably. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: If there is any objectionable thing, I will ask him to withdraw.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: What are you talking? ...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

Have you earned it through hard work? ...(*Interruptions*)

I don't you know what is meant by earning? ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

I have just come from one of the coal mine areas. All the workers are working underground there so that these people in the Government can take money from them.

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO: Sir, 14 States are ruled by the Congress Party. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: One day, we will rule and we will show you what governance is. This has happened when an immature Government with no experience of governance rules the country. This is the way people will talk. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: No more interruptions please. We do not have time to intervene.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: You heard what the hon. Member, Shri Shivraj V. Patil said. He said he is not opposed to privatisation or disinvestment *per se*. He said only the process should be okay. That is what exactly he said. The hon. Member, who is opposing me now, was not there at that time. All of a sudden, she enters the House. She wants to make her presence felt. So, all of a sudden, she gets up and starts making a speech. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: The trade union people will tell you what presence is felt outside. What background do you have? You have no background. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: Madam, I am incapable of quarrelling with you. You are the only.....\* in this House. So how can I counter you? ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: The Women's Reservation Bill was thrown out by this Government. ...(*Interruptions*)

PROF. A.K. PREMAJAM (Badagara): That unparliamentary word should be expunged from the record. It is not parliamentary.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: That would be expunged from the record.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: That is expunged. I expunged it.

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA (Canara): He is a gentleman. It is not a joke. He cannot insult a woman Member like this.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shrimati Margaret Alva, I have already expunged that.

PROF. A.K. PREMAJAM: We have seen what happened yesterday on the Women's Reservation Bill. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Prof. Premajam, let us hear him.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: I am very happy that at least in clause 4 of the original Bill a provision was made. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: What is that laughing?

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: Sir, at least, you listen to me.

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: The trade unions are listening to you outside.

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\*Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: Sir, in the original Bill, in clause 4, it was provided that after the implementation of this Bill, every year the fiscal and the revenue deficits will be reduced by 0.5 per cent. That is what I was telling that it was the only teeth that was provided in this Bill, but actually it was removed. It was recommended by the Standing Committee on Finance that it should be removed.

I congratulate the hon. Minister of Finance for he has shown the courage and again brought that same provision and the same tooth through the rules though not through the Bill. I appeal to him that he should bring these rules as quickly as possible and tie down the hands of his own Government because only by tying down the hands of his own Government would he be able to do away with all the pressures that are exerted on him.

Another question was raised by hon. Member Shri Shivraj V. Patil as to why a provision has been made so that the Central Government shall not borrow from the Reserve Bank of India. He also mentioned that if we did not borrow it from the Reserve Bank of India, we might borrow from outside, if it were required, so that the interest rate would be increased. We asked the same question to the Governor of the Reserve Bank of India. He said that even if the Government was borrowing from the Reserve Bank of India, the Reserve Bank of India was also ultimately borrowing from outside and providing it to the Finance Minister. So, whether we borrow from the Reserve Bank of India or from outside, it means the same and by borrowing from outside we would not increase the rate of interest. Therefore, it is a very good thing that the Government should put a restriction on itself that it should not borrow from the Reserve Bank of India and I commend that.

I also commend the fact that the Bill has provided that the Budget-making process should be made transparent. It should be transparent. Now, the people of India do not know how the Budget is actually prepared. So, the Budget-making process, excepting a few things, should be made transparent. More and more people, specifically hon. Members of Parliament, should be involved in this process before the Budget is actually prepared so that it would be transparent.

Lastly, I just appeal that for the better governance of this country, the tax-GDP ratio should be increased, there should be better debt and cash management to reduce the interest burden, there should be rationalisation of subsidies and user charges, the pattern of parastatal

funding should be reviewed, the environment and forests of this country should be protected and there should be creation of employment opportunities by improving infrastructure and improving economic growth.

With these words, I conclude.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (Hoogly): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, for the last five decades, the Indian economy has been facing its own difficulties. One of the difficulties has been related to the Government's borrowings. In Article 292, the Constitution-makers had visualised a situation when Parliament would have to intervene and stop reckless and desperate borrowing by the Government. But what is coming out today, since the beginning of the reforms and 1991 experience, is as if the fiscal deficit is the villain of the piece and as if the whole economy is suffering because there is fiscal deficit. Of course, the problem of fiscal deficit is being rightly addressed and the recommendations of the Standing Committee have to a large extent rationalised the situation.

There is an over-enthusiasm of the Government towards well-worn, repeated cliches being pronounced by the Brettonwoods institutions in the name of structural adjustments. What is happening to the countries that have opted for structural adjustment? What has happened to the European Union and what has happened to the developed countries?

What has happened to the developing countries of the world? But India, as such, is a developing country, with a great potential. It is basically an agricultural country. We had the potential to grow our industry also with a strong foundation of the capital goods sector in the public sector undertakings. What is the problem of the country's economy today? There is a severe recession in demand. There is rising of unemployment. If the villain of the piece is fiscal deficit, is there any relation between the fiscal deficit and inflation? These are the studies. I have got one such study, which is a very decent study, about the relationship between the fiscal deficit, GDP and inflation. Eminent people made studies about the countries which have taken measures to curb fiscal deficit or those which have modified the Brettonwoods prescription according to needs to the country.

What we want to say is that the country needs public expenditure and the Government has, this way or that way, admitted it. For example, the Government says that in the infrastructure sector, Rs. 75,000 crore or even more than that need to be invested. The problem,



repeatedly being admitted by the Government is that for the last several years, there has not been much of public investment in agriculture in terms of irrigation and in terms of many other things. I am not elaborating it. The steps that have been taken, instead of creating employment, have taken away the employment opportunities. My question is that in the name of fiscal deficit, will it be that the capital expenditure will be allowed to suffer as it has happened in this year's Budget and as it has happened for the last several years?

Let me take up our budgetary exercise. A substantial amount has to be given to the Defence expenditure. It is almost pre-determined. I am not commenting that security concerns should be neglected or not and how much is adequate for the security management. But if you see the Defence Budget, the amount given to them is kept unutilised for quite a long period. When you are taking fiscal deficit into account, of course, the Government's consumptive expenditure is rising and rising.

What steps did they propose to control this consumptive expenditure? but I find that during the last several years, while saying so much about fiscal deficit—perhaps, in the Budget 2000-01, the hon. Minister of Finance had stated about this particular legislation they were taking—that during the pre-reform five-year period from 1990-95—at that time the Congress Government was there—the capital expenditure as a proportion of Central Government expenditure had averaged 32.62 per cent, as can be seen from the various issues of the Expenditure Budget of the Union Government. The Budget documents of the Union Budget 1996-97 show that during the reform period, the capital expenditure declined sharply from 30.18 per cent in 1990 to 24.40 per cent, and further to 24.5 per cent in 1994-95. No. You do not spend money for building up the infrastructure, for building up the institution, for building up the human resources, for building up the necessary social sector, which is essential to build up our economy. You spend only on the prescription of the Brettonwoods Institutions. I do not say that there should not be any limit, there should not be any attempt, any endeavour to curb and control the non-Plan expenditure.

But, instead of admitting this problem of consumptive expenditure during the reform period—I have mentioned about the Congress regime from 1985 to 1990 and then from 1991 onwards—there was a decline in capital expenditure although all the pious things about the Golden Quadrilateral, roads, infrastructure, ports, airports, public-private partnership, etc. have been said. But there is no

attempt to address the real situation to create the demand, to create the jobs and a borrowing is made by the Government. It is being said that the Government, through rules, on the basis of the recommendations of the Standing Committee, have decided that the ceiling and the time take will be flexible.

15.26 hrs.

[SHRIMARI MARGARET ALVA *in the Chair*]

It will be flexible rather than the rigid proposal that was there originally. This flexibility is welcome. But this mindlessness of the policy, considering the fiscal deficit as the villain of the piece, is another distortion in the philosophy of those who are advocating the so-called reforms, which has nothing to do with an Indian model of development that is necessary, with emphasis on more public expenditure in agriculture, with more public expenditure in our infrastructure.

The fiscal deficit as such is not bad if it is productive and if it ultimately gives returns after five years. As hon. Member Shri Shivraj Patil was mentioning several thousands of crores of rupees are locked up in several Central Government projects. What do they propose to do? How do they propose to rectify the situation? They are not addressing such issues. Is it not the responsibility of the Government? What do they say? They say that one of the responsibilities of the Government is revenue augmentation, building of surplus amount of revenue and utilise such amount for discharging the liabilities in excess of assets. Where is it mentioned in this Bill about that responsibility?

We would find that over the years whatever target was fixed in the Budget proposals, ultimately in the revised Budget, it had to be brought down and ultimately the actual was far too less. If that be so—I have mentioned it earlier also and I am again mentioning—then, in a country of 110 crore people, on lakh luxury cars are sold in one year and only 71,000 people declare that they have an income of more than Rs. 10 lakh in a year. If that be so, what is it that the Government is thinking about it? They have brought down the tax rates and tariffs and they have proposed to provide as much hassle-free and harassment-free system as possible and also that it should be an assessee-friendly approach. I have no objection to that. But then, why should those who are supposed to pay, should escape? The Indian money is going abroad and is being re-invested in our country. It is a known truth, admitted the world over. No one

[Shri Rupchand Pal]

discusses about the black money. Someone was comparing the Indian situation with the Chinese situation. The non-resident Chinese account for 85 per cent of the foreign investment there. They bring back the money. In our case, our money goes out only to come back to Indian in a different form. These loopholes are to be properly plugged.

Of course, it is true that it is a problem that has not suddenly cropped up as this Government came. The problem has been there. The problem of revenue deficit, the problem of budget deficit has been there, but the fiscal deficit is villain of the piece as if there is no other problem in the country. I thoroughly oppose this view. Of course, the Standing Committee has, to a large extent, modified the original proposal which was according to direct prescriptions of the Brettonwoods Institution. They have caused havoc to many people.

I am just referring to two or three studies about the relation between inflation and GDP. In the year 1985-86, the fiscal deficit increased substantially by 25.5 per cent over that of the previous year. It was a Congress regime. I do not hold any brief for any other regime because, after all, the so-called reforms were initiated in 1991 when they were in the Government. Still, what is the study? Fiscal deficit as a proportion of GDP was considerable, at 8.3 per cent, and yet, inflation was moderate at 4.5 per cent. What does it signify? Now they have come to a conclusion about post-90s. The year 1991-92 positively shows an absence of any casual connection between inflation and fiscal deficit, but ultimately, we find that later on when agriculture has done well, the industry has done well—because there is a slow down in the economy—maybe, for the last two to three months, there is some improvement here and there. From the better performance of our agricultural sector and industrial sector, it may be inferred that fiscal deficit had major impact on the inflation during the year 1994-95. It was not so. This study is making a study in the Indian situation about the inflation, about the GDP and about the fiscal deficit. Not only in a country like India, but even those who accepted the prescription of the IMF or the World Bank do consider, as we are doing, fiscal deficit as the villain of the piece. We do find that the theory that is being propounded has no basis at all. Repeatedly it is based this way or that way. The Prime Minister has also once admitted that we need public expenditure.

Madam, I will not take much time. I will complete in two or three sentences. I understand by your look that you are going to ring the bell.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: I am glad that my looks are very revealing.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: Yes.

The revenue raising responsibility of the Government is one area which is being repeatedly neglected by the Government. Of course in a society, the particular classes, the industrial houses, the rich people, the rural rich, and those who help the political class in the Government, must enjoy the concessions and the benefits, but the way we are enjoying them in a country like India is unbelievable in any developed capitalist country, even in areas of chronic capitalism.

The States have their problems of fiscal deficit also. They are trying hard and at a certain stage, they are, through their own experience, trying to improve the situation. I am just mentioning two States—West Bengal and Punjab. I am reading from a Report of the Government of India that West Bengal and Punjab have been consistent defaulters and have projected decline in the percentage of borrowings. How are they doing and how will the Central Government help them? Of course, regarding high-cost debt, there was a swap and the Government is also thinking about it with the nationalised banks and institutions in other areas.

How is it going to be helpful, and how is it going to be implemented are big questions. I am going to conclude, Madam.

Fiscal deficit is a problem and revenue deficit is a chronic problem. There have been budget deficits which resulted directly in note-printing and inflation. But what we are today on the basis of the prescriptions of the Brittonwoods institutions has nothing to do with the needs of the situation. Our economy has slowed down. There is demand recession. We need public expenditure. We need even by borrowing productive investment in the capital expenditure. This does not mean that reckless expenditure should continue, which is happening in the case of the Central Government that the Ministries are going up, the number of Ministers is going up.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: You must conclude now.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: I am concluding. There was an assurance, on the basis of a Committee's recommendation that the post of one Secretary has been

removed. That is the implementation part of it. On the other hand, hundreds and thousands of Central Government employees are being retrenched or forced to take VRS. This situation cannot be allowed. I think the recommendation of the Standing Committee has modified the situation, but the thinking of the Government is absolutely wrong. Fiscal deficit is not the villain. The villain is the philosophy of the Government, which they propounded in the name of economic reforms, on the prescription of the IMF and the World Bank.

DR. M.V.V.S. MURTHI (Visakhapatnam): Madam Chairperson, today it is a very significant step towards the physical discipline. That is what is very much needed from a responsible Government.

Many of us always feel that irresponsible spending will lead us to debt trap. That is what has happened today to the country. In 2000, the debt was Rs. 12 lakh crore. In the middle of 2003, the debt is Rs. 18 lakh crore. Every year we are adding to it by 6 per cent. This year the interest burden is Rs. 1.23 lakh crore. By next year, it will be Rs. 1.6 lakh crore. We should either improve our revenues, or curtail our expenditure.

Many of our enlightened Members, including Shri Shivraj V. Patil, have stated that it may be difficult for the Government totally to confine themselves within the framework or the parameters of not borrowing either from the revenue account or from the capital account or from the Reserve Bank or from any other source. According to me, borrowings should be confined only for the capital expenditure and not for revenue expenditure. We should not allow this country to slide down. Whatever we collect by way of taxes is not sufficient even to meet the revenue expenditure. The revenue expenditure consists of salary, wages, and interest burden. If that is the case, in the future years, it may become difficult for us even to get money from other sources. Nobody will give even if we ask for money.

This has happened a few years ago—until the Government of India had sent gold all the way from here to London, it could not borrow money. That was one of the worst situations that we had faced. Today, we may be comfortable because of the revenue earnings and NRI deposits. However, we cannot consider the NRI deposits as direct foreign investment. The money is being put in the depository account and it is likely to be withdrawn as and when they require it.

I suggest that this Act should be used by the hon. Finance Minister to curb irresponsible borrowings in the first instance. The borrowings should be confined only for developmental activities so that it will generate revenues. If we let the debt burden to come down to a reasonable level in the next five years, then we will be able to service it in the coming years. It does not matter even if it is not used in developmental work, but we should not end up spending all our revenues on repayment of the debt or on the interest. This sort of a situation has to be corrected.

In the last decade, many of the countries, which have good governance, have resorted to this sort of legislative measures, that is, budgetary management, fiscal management. In Australia, they call it 'Honest Budgetary Act'. This is a sort of reminder to the Government of its responsibility to keep its expenditure within its means and, particularly, to contain the revenue deficit, which is caused by various reasons. We are not against giving subsidies. Wherever it is necessary, subsidies should be given, and we are not against that. However, I should not be mistaken when I say that in the past, we were unnecessarily making budgetary provisions to run the public sector undertakings and to pay the salaries. We used to provide for it in the Budget. It means that public money is being wasted, and this should be corrected.

There is one danger in enacting this law. As long as we look at the angle of curtailing the fiscal deficit, the Governments may resort to rigorous taxation to cover up this. The Governments should not resort to heavy taxation to cover up the deficit. This should be kept in mind, while preparing the Budget Estimates so that people are not burdened. If you burden them, you will not get more taxes.

This is only a temporary measure; it is a balancing act. This is a very daring step. I congratulate the Finance Minister for taking such a bold step and for confining himself within the parameters of fiscal management. We are passing this Bill today, but we will see the results only after some time. In the past, there were no such limits. As and when the Governments wanted, they used to borrow money left and right. Ultimately, we have been put in this tricky situation where the debt became unserviceable. Therefore for the management of this debt in a prudent way, we require this legislation, and this Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management Bill is a step in that direction. I feel that various steps will be taken in the years to come to further prune the expenditure. If the expenditure is pruned, disposable

[Dr. M.V.V.S. Murthi]

surpluses will become available which could then be utilised for building up capital and revenues. If we do not take a step in the direction now, the country will get lopsided in its developmental activities. I feel that this Bill is necessary for the country now. This is a step in the right direction. I congratulate the Minister for bringing this Bill forward and I extend my support to the Bill.

[Translation]

SHRI DHARM RAJ SINGH PATEL (Phulpur): As I have just given a cursory glance to the Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management Bill, 2000 here only, I won't be able to say much about it. However, I would like to highlight some of the points that I have found right now. It has been mentioned in the bill that the Government of India have a liability of outstanding loan to the tune of 12 lakh crore rupees which adds an interest amount of one lakh crore rupees every year. Out of its total revenue collection, the Government of India mobilise one third from the taxpayers and the rest one third liability is left for the future generations.

Madam Chairman, Sir, I have read in the newspaper that every Indian has a debt of four thousand and five hundred rupees. I would also like our congress colleague to share the blame as they ruled India for 45 years continuously and they always presented a deficit budget during their regime. Today, the situation is that the per capita debt in our country is four and a half thousand rupees.

This Bill which has been introduced under the existing conditions is really important. I would like to thank the hon. Finance Minister for it. The fiscal policies sought to be pursued by the Government of India or by the Minister of Finance through this Bill will be conveyed to the entire country through the Parliament. I would only like to say that the people of India don't want to remain under debt. The rural masses and the people belonging to middle class in particular don't want to borrow, rather they prefer to lead the life within their means. It is the responsibility of the Union Government and the State Governments to ensure the development of the country and to provide basic facilities. However the Governments do not have the sight to put the burden of debt on its citizens. I would like to submit that the Government should muster courage to rectify the mistakes committed by the Congress Government. There is a huge amount of black money with the bureaucrats and capitalists of the country. There is a bad debt amounting to Rs. 80000 to one lakh crore.

The big industrialists who have taken loans worth one crore to 50-100 crore are not repaying it, they take breakfast with your people sometimes and I am also suggested to be a part of their company and such offers are made to us also. If the Government take certain bold steps, burden of its debt can be lessened. Why are you afraid of the bureaucrats. These are being bureaucrats in the country and we are levelling allegation against each other but it is the bureaucrats in this regard falls on we people and our Governments also. I am speaking what I feel, I have not read it anywhere. I would only like to say that the Government should take strong steps irrespective of temptation the forthcoming elections. You may know as to when you are going to hold elections. Once Shri Chidambaram announced a disclosure Income Scheme through which the black money could be converted into white money and as a result of which people converted their black money amounting to over Rs. 1000 crore with white money. I am of the view that one third of the total debt can be reduced this year itself if we deal with the big bureaucrats and capitalists strictly.

You have given many sops and concessions to the rich people in your budget. You have provided very less relief and facilities for the poor in education sector or health sector or the anatyodya scheme. You should adopt some stringent measures in the supplementary budget that you propose to bring and should reduce the burden of debt on the country. I would go so far to suggest that you should make an announcement not to take any loan in future. Shri V.P. Singh had once made such an announcement. If such an announcement is made that we won't take any loans from abroad, poor people will give all co-operation even to the extent of sacrificing one time meal. With this I conclude.

SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA (Ambala): Madam, Chairman, I rise to support the Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management Bill, 2000 introduced by honourable Jaswant Singhji. I would like to congratulate Jaswant Singh ji for that. Baba Sahib Ambedkar had realised this danger before independence. While speaking on Article 268, at present Article 292 of the Constitution of India in the constituent Assembly, Baba Ambedkar had said that if after independence we did not exercise restraint over the tendency of taking loan, in time the coming generation will be in a debt trap.

The Public Accounts Committee, the Estimates Committee, the Comptroller and Auditor General of India and the RBI made such recommendations but no earlier

Government did muster courage to exercise restraint over drawing loan which is going up by leaps and bounds. How to keep it under control? At the time when hon. Yashwant Sinha introduced this Bill there was a twelve lakh crore rupees loan on the country which is approx 6 times more than our annual revenue and today it has gone upto 18 lakh crore rupees. In this way we have to pay interest of Rs. One lakh crore every year on this principal amount which is included with it every year. We find that one third of our total expenditure goes as interest. I would like to say that there was a big challenge before India when it got independence as to which type of development we should adopt. At that time even Mahatma Gandhi set a model before the country that the economy of India should be planned at rural level. At that time Lokmanya Tilak expressed his economic thoughts in the 'Geeta Rahasya'. Similarly the President of Jansangh, Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyaya had placed a good model of unitarianism and had we adopted that model and evolved our economic policies accordingly India would not have fallen in the debt trap and it would have become a very respected country in the world. But we adopted Nehruji's model for development after independence and although our country has progressed by that model but today we see the loan burden more than Rs. 18 lakh crores on the country.

16.00 hrs.

The Congress Party had ruled over the country more than 45 years. The country has fallen in the debt trap as a result of specially those policies which were evolved in the 45 years rule of the Congress Party, the country is in the debt trap today. Once I got an opportunity to read somewhere as to how political leaders, corrupt officers and power brokers played with the economy of the country and how one scandal after the other took place in the country.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Please speak on the Bill.

SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA: I am speaking on the Bill only. I am saying as to how this Debt is entrapping us. Many years ago, I had read in a newspaper that once the Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh was coming to Delhi from Lucknow by aeroplane, when the aeroplane was about to land at Delhi Airport then he remembered that he had left his Kurta-Payejama in Lucknow. Then he flew back to Lucknow by that aeroplane. This show as to how Government's resources and money are misused for such a small thing. Not only in earlier times it is still going on even today.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Are Kurta Payjama not available in Delhi?

SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA: How the leaders help their children travel in Government aeroplanes. How the higher authorities exploiting the economy of the country, travelling by air in 1st Class and staying in big hotels. It can be known by this. I will tell the honourable Finance Minister that now the tie has come and I welcome him for the responsibility he took to bring stability and accountability in financial matters in the country. I would also like to congratulate him for his introducing Constitutional Amendment Bill yesterday to bring service tax within purview of income tax for the improvement of financial Condition of the country and the House passed that Bill. I would like to congratulate the NDA Government for presenting the Bill to limit the size of the Cabinet to 10% in order to put a check on financial institutions and for fiscal management. I also welcome it.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Please conclude.

SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA: I have not yet started.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Whatever you have written, please give it to the honourable Minister because a number of Members are to speak on this Bill.

SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA: Please give me five minutes more. I would like to congratulate the Government that such legislation has been brought and the Government dared to bring this Bill. The economy of Japan ruined when atom bombs were dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki in Japan on 5th and 9th August, 1945. They had improved the economy of the country by brining such a Bill in 1970. In the way China had adopted the same system simultaneously, as it had adopted the second model of development in 1949 alongwith India. Today a country like New Zealand has also improved its economy by enacting such a legislation. Today our Government, have made balance of payment positive which was negative for the last 24 years. Early it was 4 billion negative in 1998-99 and now it has come to 1.3 billion positive—the external debt has reduced to 3%. After independence it is for the first time that export reached 51 billion. We have registered a progress in FDI from 2.64 billion to 3.9 billion. May be it was due to UTI Act or NPA or company Act, we had made legal amendments to shape the economy of the country better. I support the Bill in its present form.

16.06 hrs.

**AIRPORTS AUTHORITY OF INDIA  
(AMENDMENT) BILL, 2003\***

*[English]*

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Before I call the next speaker, I have to inform the hon. Members that a Supplementary List of Business has been circulated, according to which the Airports Authority of India (Amendment) Bill, 2003 is to be introduced by Shri Syed Shahnawaz Hussain Minister for Civil Aviation.

Before I ask the Minister of Civil Aviation to seek leave of the House to introduce the Airports Authority of India (Amendment) Bill, 2003, I have to inform the House that the President, having been informed of the subject matter of the proposed Bill, recommends under clauses (1) and (3) of article 117 of the Constitution, the introduction and consideration of the Bill by Lok Sabha.

*[Translation]*

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): Madam Chairman, I beg to move:-

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Airports Authority of India Act, 1994."

*[English]*

MADAM CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Airports Authority of India Act, 1994."

*The motion was adopted.*

*[Translation]*

SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN: Madam Chairman, I introduce\*\* the Bill.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali): Madam Chairman, the Government should clear its stand as to why the hon'ble minister first withdrew the Bill and

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\*Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary Part-II Section-2 dated 7.5.2003

\*\*Introduced with the recommendation of the President.

then in a hurry, introduced it, what was the reason?  
...(Interruptions)

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Now this is introduction. At the time of discussion all about it will be made known.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: I would like to know whether we have a right to register protest at the time of introduction under Rule 72. The Government should make it clear as to what was the emergency to introduce the Bill right now.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: There is no such emergency. The Hon'ble Speaker gave permission. It was with the consent of the House that the hon'ble Minister was asked to introduce the Bill.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: The Government should state reasons as to why permission was given to introduce this Bill throwing all the rules to winds.

*[English]*

MADAM CHAIRMAN: I took the opinion of the House. The House agreed and as per the agreement of the House it has been introduced.

16.08 hrs.

**FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY AND BUDGET  
MANAGEMENT BILL—Contd.**

*[English]*

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Now, we will go on the next speaker on the Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management Bill. I think Shrimati Shyama Singh is not there. Shri Madhusudan Mistry may speak.

SHRI VIJAYENDRA PAL SINGH BADNORE (Bhilwara): It is not specified whether he is speaking in lieu of her.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: The Party has given his name in her place.

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY (Sabarkantha): Thank you Madam Chairman for giving me this opportunity to speak.

In fact, I welcome this Bill. The Bill says that it is trying to bring transparency. Besides, the Bill forces the Central Government to produce medium-term fiscal policy statement, fiscal policy strategy statement, macro economic framework statement, etc. All this is done to reduce the revenue deficit. But what I do not understand is why do we really need a special Bill for all this.

I am quite surprised that the Government, especially the Finance Minister, seems to have failed to restore the whole financial discipline on its own establishment. Is it not possible that without bringing this Bill, the medium term review, the medium term fiscal policy statement and fiscal policy strategy statement can't be made or is it because the Finance Minister is always under compulsion, after presenting the Budget, from members of his own party, to roll back or withdraw some of the provisions that he makes in the Parliament? Is it because it requires the Finance Minister to arm himself with this kind of an instrument and that is why, he has been forced to bring this Bill in the House?

I am also quite not in agreement with the justification that has been mentioned in the Statement of Objects and Reasons. Statement is made that this Bill is to establish equity between intergenerations. Equity has, therefore, to be addressed without delay.

Budget is an explicit instrument through which the mind of any Government and the Finance Minister can be read. Whatever, is going on in the head of the Finance Minister or, in fact, the promises that have been made in the manifesto of the respective parties get reflected in the Budget. Budget instrument also suggests whether the Government really intends to establish and distribute the financial resources which are at the hands of the Government to establish equity between sections and even equality between regions.

What has been seen over the years? In fact, regional imbalance has been increasing over the years. It is not only that. The intention seems that this alone will permit the Central Government to focus adequate attention on the much-needed intervention of the social sector programmes and other plans.

I am quite surprised to see that, to increase the social sector spending, the Government should need this kind of a Bill. Is it that the Government is thinking that this Bill would release additional amount in the hands of the Government which can then be spent on the social sector programmes? I always felt that it needs the political

will and determination to spend the money on the social sector rather than having such a Bill. Over the years, the spending on the social sector has been hardly 1.2 per cent or maximum 1.4 per cent of the GDP.

Having said this, let me come to the present situation on how the Government intends to reduce the revenue deficit and fiscal deficit. Let us look at the expenditure for a while. At present, the larger expenditure of the Government is always on interest payments and debt subsidy which is almost 30 per cent of the total revenue and capital expenditure. This has been fluctuating over the years, from 1996-97 to 2003-04.

The second largest expenditure which the Government incurred is on Defence. In 2003-04, it was Rs. 65,000 crore which was revised to Rs. 56,000 crore and again, this year, the estimate is Rs. 65,300 crore which is almost 14.88 per cent of the total revenue and capital expenditure. This is the second largest component which the Government has allocated.

The third component is on subsidy which comes to almost 11 per cent and it is Rs. 49,900 crore. That was again followed by other non-Plan expenditure. In fact, other non-Plan expenditure includes expenditure on salaries, pay and allowances of the employees of the Central Government.

I was looking at the data. To my dismay, I found that the number of Central Government employees as stated in the Budget was nearly 34 lakh. In 1995-96, the total pay and allowances, travel expenses of the Central Government employees were to the tune of Rs. 18,700 crore. It has then increased—after the Fifth Pay Commission recommendation—to Rs. 31,941 crore in the years 2001 and 2003. In between, a lot of arrears were paid to these employees. When I looked at the whole Budget of the various years, I found that a number of schemes were cut down at the time of revising the Budget. In fact, the total cut at one point of time was between Rs. 1700 crore and 2000 crore.

The second expenditure includes servicing pensions, miscellaneous general services. It comes to almost 15,107 crores. So, almost a sum of Rs. 44,000 crore has been one of the major expenditures of the Central Government on this count.

Coming back to my original statement, these are three major components which take the larger share of the Central Government expenditure. This expenditure is

[Shri Madhusudan Mistry]

incurred on interest payment, Defence expenditure, subsidies, other Non-Plan expenditure. This comes to almost 66 per cent of the total expenditure of the Government at present.

Now, let us look at the income side of the Government. I am not going into the Revenue and the Capital Expenditure of the total Budget because Capital Expenditure, in fact, has been declining year after year. It was 26 per cent in 1995-1996. It almost remains at 27.57 per cent. This is more or less the same over all these years but the Revenue Expenditure has been increasing. It also includes some portion of the Capital Expenditure. Anyway, let us look at the entire income side of the Union Government. I will then come to the implications of this Bill on the poor people and the marginalised sections of the country.

The estimated Revenue income in the year 2003-04 is Rs. 251,000 crore. In fact, in 2001-02, the estimate was Rs. 180,000 crore. If you compare the estimates of the year 2001-02 and 2003-04, you will come to know that the estimates of the year 2003-04 has increased and the increase is to the tune of 6.76 per cent. This is a major tax revenue. The major income is from the tax revenue. The revenue income from the taxes is 77 per cent. 59 per cent is the total revenue receipt. In this tax revenue, the Corporation Tax comprises 15 per cent. That is followed by tax on income and other expenditure. It is almost 13 per cent of the total income. Coming to the customs side, it is 15 per cent. In regard to the Union excise duty, the larger share is to the extent of 29 per cent. The points is that in 2001, the Corporation Tax has increased by 5.93 per cent. If you take the estimates of the year 2001, the income in respect of other taxes is to the extent of 3.6 per cent. On the customs side, in the year 2001, it has increased to 9.20 per cent. The Union excise duty has increased to 5.86 per cent. Service tax has increased a lot. Two days before, we passed a Bill for taxing the service sector. It has now been increased to a larger share of 32 per cent.

This leads to other non-tax revenue. Now, we have to see the whole composition. The non-tax revenue is, in fact, the tax on the services which the Government is providing to the people. This includes tax on wealth, communication, transport, roads and other non-tax revenue. The total share of tax non-tax revenue is 42.08 per cent. What it leads to is, the Government does not want to borrow the money from the Reserve Bank under this Bill nor does it want to borrow money from outside

except in a situation when there is a natural calamity. In that case, they will try to borrow money. That means they have to manage with whatever resources they have. Now, in managing with that, they have an alternative to cut the subsidies, which as Shri Shivraj Patil has mentioned, will affect the food subsidy, fertilizer subsidy and other subsidies which are, in fact, given to the farmers. This is what I am trying to tell the other Members who are advocating the cause of the farmers. This Bill ultimately leads to cutting down the subsidy and that is the power through this Bill which will be given to the hon. Finance Minister. It leads to either cutting other developmental expenditure which may be either in the project on drinking water or on the project of construction of a dam, project of power generation on or rural development. In fact, the expenditure on rural development is declining over the years.

So, it leaves a second option to cut the development expenditure which is going to be met out of the decreased revenue and fiscal deficit. It is largely the poor people who use these services of the Government. This means that if you increase the non-tax revenue, it is ultimately again a burden on the poor. So, the share of non-tax revenue is bound to increase because there is a possibility of getting the money either from the excise duty, customs duty, corporation tax, and other taxes. The taxes other than the corporation tax have come to a saturation point. So, the Government is unable to increase the tax. So, the other area through which they have to get income is from other non-tax revenues. Now, this would again affect the poor people. Millions of people in this country and millions of workers are working for the benefit of the poor. They will land in 'no money syndrome'. Now, you go to the Government, it will raise its hand any say that it has no money because it is tied down. When you tell them to raise the money, they say that they are being tied down with the Act. Besides that, as per the provision of this Act, the Finance Minister and others would come out so heavily on all the pro-poor programmes. If you look at the Budget trend and the Budget size, it is always that higher expenditure is shown in the Revised Estimates. Not only that, where the Supplementary Budget is presented, it is sometimes chalked out deliberately to show less deficit at the time of presenting the regular Budget. I would like to tell the hon. Finance Minister that if he wants to enhance the collection of tax, he should take this House into confidence on that. How is he trying to meet it? For example, the Government gives an increase to the Central Government employees as D.A. increase. How they would be met?



MADAM CHAIRMAN: That is what the Bill is about. He is supposed to give that statement at the time of the Budget and not now.

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY: Not only that. Is it that the Government want to come out that they want to give a wage freeze for six years and say that there will be no wage increase for the Government employees for six years because the Government are not able to meet the expenditure?

Is the Government going to say that categorically? My apprehension is, once wage increase is given to a section of the society which has the power to make the Budget and which, in fact, can distribute the resources, they first take out their own share and leave the remaining to the rest of the people. So, at a later stage, there will be such discrimination in the allocation of the resources under the shelter of this Bill and that will be detrimental to the interests of the poor.

So, the Finance Minister must assure this House that there would be no decrease in the development expenditure of the Government at the cost of the poor. The Government will have to raise the development expenditure and not cut it and that is why some people have suggested to the Government to raise the revenue through different taxes. That is the course which is left to the Finance Minister. If it is not done, then certainly this will totally go against the interests of the poor people of this country. However, I am in favour of imposing financial discipline in the country. Secondly, it is a very cautious approach. So, I support this Bill and this should be passed. But I have raised some apprehensions and the Finance Minister should reply to them when he replies to the debate.

SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI (Salem): Madam Chairperson, I thank you very much for giving me this opportunity to speak in this debate on the Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management Bill, 2000.

Madam, I welcome this Bill in all fairness. For any country, effective financial management or fiscal prudence is the need of the hour and especially so for a country like India where the situation is such that we need to promulgate such a law in order to achieve maximum financial discipline. What is the kind of situation that we are witnessing now on our financial front? Today, our country's liability, as far as the Union Government is concerned, works out to Rs. 12 lakh crore and the interest burden is Rs. One lakh crore. The liability of the

Government is almost six times more than the revenue collection. The revenue collection is only Rs. Two lakh crore whereas the liability is to the tune of Rs. 12 lakh crore and the interest burden is almost half of our revenue collection. This is the situation in which we are managing our financial front.

We have been undergoing series of revenue deficits for the last 20 years and we have been witnessing a high level of fiscal deficit for the past 15 years. It goes unconfined and 90 per cent of the Budget allocation goes to the committed liabilities like payment of interest, defence expenditure, expenditure on internal security, payment of subsidies, payment of salaries and pensions. It almost leaves little for developmental expenditure. Till 1970s, the situation was different. Any borrowing that we made was confined to financing capital expenditure. But now, the borrowing goes mainly to financing the current consumption.

Therefore, this high level of borrowing and the steady increase of fiscal deficit are causing serious concern. It would be in all fitness to quote Dr. Ambedkar, during the debate in the Constituent Assembly, under article 292. I quote with your permission Madam:

"This article specifically says that the borrowing power of the Executive shall be subject to such limitations as Parliament, may be law, prescribe. If Parliament does not make a law, it is certainly the fault of the Parliament and I should have thought it very difficult to imagine any future Parliament, which will not pay sufficient or serious attention to this matter and enact a law."

I would also quote:

"I have no doubt about it that we hope that Parliament will take this matter seriously and keep on enacting laws so as to limit the borrowing authority of the Union. I go further and say, I not only hope but expect that Parliament will discharge its duty under this article."

This is what Dr. Ambedkar visualised a situation in which we have to have a law to ensure financial discipline. Under these circumstances, I believe, this Bill would certainly go a long way in ensuring the required financial discipline. Otherwise, the present situation in the country will certainly jeopardise the required level of economic growth and will certainly ignite the inflationary situation and also we may have to witness a serious balance of payment crisis. Ultimately, you will have a chaos economic situation, Madam.

[Shri T.M. Selvaganpathi]

Therefore, we are in a situation where our finances have to be managed in such a way that it not only becomes sustainable but also conducive to the required economic growth. Now, after the passing of the Bill, the Government of India is duty bound to ensure the zero level revenue deficit, which my friend has a serious doubt, and the fiscal deficit, to rate at two per cent in three years time, and a kind of limit on the borrowing and management of the debt as well as the borrowing and the deficit.

Madam, of course, this Bill clearly distinguishes two types of deficits. It definitely discourages the excessive deficit for building up capital assets and the complete elimination of deficit for financing current consumption. But still, though we attempt on a laudable note, this Bill would certainly pave a long way, there are certain areas of concern. The economic growth of the country overall depends on both the Union finance and the State finance. My question to the hon. Minister, which I believe would be replicated in his reply, is this Bill covers only the Union of India. Should it not be essential or made applicable to the State Governments?

SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO (Jagatsinghpur): They would do not their own.

SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI: What is the gain if they are doing it on their own?

Unless the State Finances are streamlined, I think it would be difficult task, and the whole exercise, which we undergo now, will be a futile exercise.

The other area of concern is the kind of judicial activism we see in this country today. Once this is enacted as a law, tomorrow anybody may go to court and say that the Finance Minister failed and the Government failed to achieve 2 per cent. This amendment is provided.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Shri T.M. Selvaganpathi, please address to the Chair.

SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI: Okay Madam. It is on a very congenial note.

If such is the situation, why should not there be a political will for this Government to achieve this target instead of a law? It is because you lack political conviction. All these things can be managed by better governance. Nobody can stop the judicial interference.

The third area, Madam, we have to balance between the critical rule of this two percent fiscal deficit and zero revenue deficit, and a flexibility under extraordinary situation like natural calamity or during the time of war. What is the provision made? There is a serious situation like Gujarat earthquake or Orissa flood situation. Would you not borrow from RBI? It is because the Bill says that the Union Government shall not borrow from the RBI.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: There is provision in this Bill

SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI: Well Madam, I am coming to that point. When you say that you shall not borrow from RBI, under a situation you also borrow from RBI. What was the situation in RBI? It was mainly a note printing agency earlier. Then, it was switched over to the financing deficit through the creation of ad hoc Treasury Bills. Now, there is a situation that RBI is buying long-dated Government securities and fills the Budgetary gap. Only the composition changed. Even the provision, which the hon. Madam says or Shri Trilochan Kanungo says, will lead to a situation where you will find a deficit you will go for borrowing. Then, this *status quo* remains. Therefore, the composition has changed and still the RBI continues to directly fund the Government. The economy says there has to be a divorce between the spending and the borrowing from the RBI. Unless you curtail the direct funding of the RBI, you would not achieve the required target of this economic growth. The whole exercise depends on how much we reduce the direct RBI borrowing.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: No, you must wind up.

SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI: Just one minute, Madam. Just a concluding remark.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Please conclude.

SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI: You look at the macro economic changes that are taking place after the advent of globalisation. My dear friend says liberalisation. Liberalising what? Liberalising your own economy? What would happen in the free import regime the kind of international trade? There will be a definite impact on your local domestic economy, industrial economy. You will have to address these structural changes. There is a declining trend on tax buoyancy. What was the situation in the eighties? It was different. The overall tax GDP ratio declined from 11.5 per cent to 8.5 per cent. The revenue receipts grew at the rate of 14.3 per cent against 16.8 per cent in 1980s.

Unless you tried at the structural impediment, it would be very difficult. Had the Government thought about this situation? Unless you widen the tax base and unless you rationalise the Non-Plan grants to the State from the Union, the defence payments, and the subsidies, and in view of the stiff competition that the industrial economy is facing, this Bill would be a futile exercise.

Last but not least, ours is a developing economy where the country and the Government have got a serious role to play in the social sector. And tomorrow to achieve a target of two per cent fiscal deficit and zero revenue deficit, the Government can come and say that they have no money to finance drinking water supply; the Government can come and say that they cannot fund on the health front; and a serious situation will arise. Therefore, unless the economy is streamlined, tuned to that level, this exercise will be futile. Though I welcome it, the Government may take note of the present situation and take remedial measures.

[*Translation*]

SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV (Parbhani): Madam Chairman, On behalf of my party I support and welcome Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management Bill, 2000. Hon'ble Finance Minister has introduced this Bill and it is the need of the hour. Our country has a population of over 100 crores. Today state financial deficit is increasing day by day. In order to get rid of this situation there should be adequate revenue balance in fiscal management. Long term greater financial stability should be ensured for the purpose. In spite of best efforts we have not been able to remove financial deficit. The objective of the Bill is to remove states financial deficit and to maintain growth rate. The Hon'ble Finance Minister introduced this Bill with 2-3 objectives. I welcome the Bill. Our debt position is serious. We have borrowed about 18 lakh crore rupees inclusive of interest it comes to about 20 lakh crore rupees. Here in India nobody can claim that he has not debt burden on him. Even a child bears a debt burden of Rs. 5 lakh on his head. Even the person who dies leaves a debt burden of Rs. 5 Lakh. In other words, we take birth and die with a debt burden.

This is, our debt situation. According to this Bill, by 31st May 2006, financial deficit will be reduced to zero. But I cannot understand how this target is to be achieved by the year 2006. It will be good for us if the target is achieved but measures will have to be taken in this regard. Our debt is further increasing for this effective.

The loan is further rising above Rs. 18-20 lakh crores. Why such a huge amount was taken as loan? Who is responsible for that? The Government should take effective measures to reduce the debt burden, and maintain the growth rate. There is also no dearth of black money in the country. The Government should think about the black money and take measures to reduce the financial deficit.

Our NPA is of about 1,10,000 crore rupees. Why is our debt burden increasing? We have demanded many times in the House that the NPA list should be declared in advance but it is not being declared. Proper attention is not being paid to take effective measures to control the tendencies of amassing black money, increase in NPA amount and in minimising the financial deficit. How can we make progress if there is a debt burden on us. Eighty percent of our countrymen live in rural areas, in small villages, who is going to take their care? Development plans will be affected if debt burden keeps on increasing in this manner. So the Government have to take recourse to financial management at the earliest for the purpose. They will have to reduce this financial deficit and achieve growth rate. With these words, I thank you for granting me an opportunity to speak.

[*English*]

SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN (Sivaganga): Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

This Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management Bill is a better initiative towards a correct direction. We are laying our own rules by way of this Bill. There is also a target fixed for ourselves to see that by the year 2008 the entire revenue deficit comes to nil so that the Government could be in a better position to have the revenues spent for social aspects and invested properly.

In the changing scenario of globalisation, every individual's needs and every society's needs are looked after by various factors. It might have been the thing in 1947 or 1950 when the Government decided the fate of the individual but now the fate of the individual, the society and groups of people are decided by the global economy.

I would just read out a portion from today's newspaper, *The Economic Times* where it says that 47 out of 50 States in the US are facing a budget deficit in the current fiscal. It says: "States are facing a perfect storm: deteriorating tax bases and explosion in health care costs and a virtual collapse of capital gains on

[Shri E.M. Sudarsana Natchiappan]

corporate profit tax revenues”, the National Association of State Budget Officers said recently.” This is the position of the very grown up, perfect economy of the United States.

In the Indian society, every State Government is living on the paltry amount spent by the Central Government for welfare measures that have to be implemented by the State Governments. Apart from that, the State Governments are paying their employees from the revenues that are accruing every year. This is the pathetic situation of all the State Governments. If the State Governments have to be disciplined, they should have a similar type of fiscal management system. They should have a law just like the State of Karnataka has a law. Every State Government should have it. The districts, which have been given powers under the Seventy-third, Seventy-fourth and Seventy-fifth Amendments to the Constitution, should also have this type of discipline in fiscal management and revenue management. We are going in the correct path, having this law at least at the Union level.

I do not want to go very deep into this Bill because already other hon. Members have dealt with it in detail. So, I want to focus only on two points. We have put a restriction in clause 5 (i): “The Central Government shall not borrow from the Reserve Bank.” The next sub-clause itself annuls the first sub-clause. Clause 5 (ii) says: “Notwithstanding anything contained in sub-section (i), the Central Government may borrow from the Reserve Bank by way of advances to meet the temporary excess of cash disbursement over cash receipts during any financial year in accordance with the agreements which may be entered into by the Government with the Reserve Bank.” This puts an end to the first sub-clause.

Very well, we can ask the Reserve Bank, which is our own Bank, to print notes and distribute them. Is it healthy for us when we are going in for controlling our own deficits? We are allowing the notes to come out because we want to control the situation in that particular period. Moreover, if you go through the entire Bill, it gives the possibility for the Finance Minister, at the time of presenting the Budget, to give reasons why he could not do something and why he could achieve only a particular target. Therefore, while we are framing rules, we are also providing rules by which we can overcome the restrictions which are imposed in the previous rule.

Therefore, I would like to draw the attention of the Government that simply because we are having an

enactment, it does not mean that we should restrict ourselves in focussing of developing the human assets and the assets of India because Indian people’s assets are not at all properly assessed. Money of the parallel economy is going on. Five richest families in this country are holding the NPAs, which can be totally utilised for four years’ Budget of this nation. That is the thing which is happening. Our system is not working properly. Our Custom Department is not working properly and the Excise Department is not working properly. Whenever we are giving some concessions, the exemptions, etc. go to the subordinate level officials, bureaucrats and it goes against the natural phenomenon. It goes up towards the top level. That is the present situation. We have to, first of all, create a discipline in properly implementing our laws and also to see that the bureaucratic system is foolproof. It should cooperate with us so that the discipline of enforcing the laws, which are made by the Parliament, is perfect up to the maximum level.

Therefore, I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister of Finance that this is a good effort. But the Government—knowingly or unknowingly—is making it as a last Budget. I do not know whether this Government is going to present the next Budget or not. But this law is going to be notified only for the next Budget. They want to except from 2000 onwards. They do not want to have these types of restrictions for themselves, but they want to give it to the coming Government, which is going to have the power in the next election. Therefore, even the hon. Minister of Finance can enforce these laws during the current year so that they are executed in a power way for the health of the nation.

**SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO (Jagatsinghpur):**  
Madam, I stand to support the Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management Bill, 2000. It is better late than never. It should have come much earlier, but it has come late.

Madam, before going into the clauses of the Bill, it is better that we should have some knowledge and we should have some information about the history of continuous deficits in central Budgets causing serious concern and resulting in introduction of this Bill. We are talking nowadays of fiscal deficit, but fiscal deficit is a new innovation. It is only after 1991, after the liberation period, that we are talking of fiscal deficit. Prior to that, it was revenue deficit that was cause of serious concern. The revenue deficit in Central Budget was never seen up to 1978-79, except during 1971-72, Rs. 100 crore of revenue deficit was there to meet the expenditure for the Bangladeshi refugees. But before the thereafter there was

no revenue deficit at all. During 1979-80, there was revenue deficit of Rs. 18 crore only and thereafter it grew every year and if we see from 1991 Budget—ten years after 1979-80—the revenue deficit rose to Rs. 18,562 crore, which is 3.3 per cent of the GDP. During 2003-04, this year, it has been estimated to rise up to Rs. 1,12,292 crore, which is 4.1 per cent of the GDP.

17.00 hrs.

Similarly, when you come to fiscal deficit, in 1980-81 it was Rs. 7,311 crore which was 5.08 per cent of the GDP at that point of time. In 1990-91 it became Rs. 37,606 crore which was 6.61 per cent of the GDP. This year, in 2003-04, the fiscal deficit went up to Rs. 1,53,637 crore which is 5.6 per cent of the GDP. This is the situation where the revenue deficit and the fiscal deficit have gone up. Out of this fiscal deficit of 5.6 per cent of the GDP, 4.1 per cent belongs to revenue deficit alone. It is always desirable to contain the revenue deficit which was not there till 1978-79. It came after 1979-80 and it is continuously increasing at a galloping speed.

What is fiscal deficit? What is its definition? Let me tell you that as has been provided in the Bill with its amendments, the fiscal deficit is the total borrowing net of debt repayment. That is the fiscal deficit; whatever else may be as definition given, but this is the definition of the fiscal deficit. The major portion of the borrowings is to meet the revenue deficit, the current consumption expenditure. It is more dangerous to the economy and fiscal management of the country. This is a fact.

Therefore, the founding fathers of our Constitution, while enacting article 292 regarding Central Government borrowings, said:

"The executive power of the Union extends to borrowing upon the security of the Consolidated Fund of India within such limits, if any, as may from time to time be fixed by Parliament by law and to the giving of guarantees within such limits, if any, as may be so fixed."

So, a limits has to be fixed under article 292, by law enacted by Parliament. That has not done so far. Many of my colleagues have already quoted Dr. Ambedkar which has been mentioned in the Statement of Objects and Reasons of the Bill. I do not want to quote the whole thing but only two lines out of that which are very important. It says: "A law has to be enacted to limit the debt". But, that has not been done.

17.03 hrs.

[SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV *in the Chair*]

Even after 52 years, a law has not yet been enacted. Dr. Ambedkar has rightly and aptly told this thing while replying on article 292 of the present Constitution which was article 268 in the Constituent Assembly. This article specifically says:

"The borrowing power of the Executive shall be subject to such limitations as Parliament may, by law, prescribe. If Parliament does not make a law, it is certainly the fault of the Parliament and I should have thought it very difficult to imagine any future Parliament which will not pay sufficient or serious attention to this matter and enact a law."

My point is that even after 52 years, we did not enact a law to limit our debts and our borrowings. If we are borrowing and investing it as capital for some productive purpose it is well and good. But if it is to meet the current consumption expenditure, to meet the revenue deficit, then it is dangerous and disastrous for the economy and the fiscal management.

Fiscal discipline should have been enforced much earlier. For the last 24 years, from 1980 till date, we have been suffering from this chronic malady of revenue deficit and high fiscal deficit.

Having said so, I want to tell you that while supporting the Bill whole-heartedly, I have some apprehensions and the Finance Minister would definitely dispel those apprehensions and doubts. It was told three years back by the former Finance Minister Shri Yashwant Sinha that within a period of five years, from 2001 to 2006, the revenue deficit would be brought to nil level, zero level, but you will see that from 2001 to 2003, it has been going up only.

So far as revenue deficit is considered, in the Budget Estimates of 2001-2002, the revenue deficit was estimated at Rs. 78,821 crore. That was 3.4 per cent of GDP. But in the actuals, it went up to Rs. 1,00,162 crore, which was 4.3 per cent of GDP. During 2002-2003, it was estimated that the revenue deficit would be Rs. 95,377 crore, that is, 3.8 per cent of GDP. You will see in the revised estimates that it went up to Rs. 1,04,712 crore. In this year 2003-04, it is no less. From the time of Shri Yashwant Sinha to the time of hon. Shri Jaswant Singh, it has not reduced. This year 2003-04, it will go up to Rs. 1,12,292 crore.

[Shri Trilochan Kanungo]

Similar is the case of fiscal deficit also. You will see that in the year 2001-2002, it was estimated at Rs. 1,16,314 crore. That was 5.1 per cent of GDP. That went up in the actuals to Rs. 1,40,955 crore, which was 6.1 per cent of GDP. In the Budget Estimates of 2002-2003, it was estimated at Rs. 1,35,524 crore. That was 5.3 per cent of GDP. During 2003-2004, during the current Finance Minister's time, it has been estimated still higher at Rs. 1,53,631 crore.

Sir, my point is that during the last three years, since the time the announcement was made that they would bring to zero level within five years, that is, by the year 2006, Government of India could not decrease it—both revenue deficit and fiscal deficit—even by one rupee. Then, at this time when this law is going to be enacted today in this House, how can we believe that by 2008, revenue deficit will be brought back to zero level and the fiscal deficit will be brought to the level of two per cent of GDP? How can it be done? So, a very convincing reply from the hon. Finance Minister is necessary here in this House. There has not been a change of Government. Even in the same regime, it could not happen and the promise faltered. Then, how could we believe that the commitments shall be adhered to? It is not the law; it is the collective political will, it is the prudence in spending and it is the effectiveness in raising revenue that matters.

It is not a law, which would solve such a serious problem and you know it Sir. We have enacted a new law recently, that is, the Electricity Act in place of the Electricity Supply Act, 1948. In the Electricity Supply Act it was clearly mentioned in section 59 that, at least, 3 per cent return should be there by the State Electricity Board. I am saying, that it should be at least, 3 per cent but it has never happened that way. So, it is not a law that addresses the problem. It is the collective political will. Without the political will, political prudence and effective management revenue deficit would not come to nil and fiscal deficit would not be reduced to desirable level *i.e.* 2 per cent of GDP. So, I request the Finance Minister to kindly convince the House as to how we can go on with this present enactment alone, and whether this present enactment is enough.

Regarding deficit financing, some of our very esteemed colleagues have said that deficit financing is not a curse in itself. Yes, I do agree that it is not a curse in itself. If the borrowed money is spent for the productive purposes—for more production; for higher productivity and creating better productive assets—then it

is good. Again it is for a limited period. If it becomes chronic over a period; if it goes on consecutively for years together, then it becomes a serious malady which is very difficult to cure. Therefore, if deficit financing is practised, to meet the current consumption of expenditure, and if it is done consecutively for a number of years, it becomes chronic; and it turns into a serious malady. The Finance Minister also knows it, but it remains to be seen if he has the courage and political will to cure such a serious malady.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude.

SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO: Before I conclude I would like to say again that the law alone would not be sufficient. It is the prudence in spending, and effectiveness in raising revenue that matters. Without that this Bill, when passed and becomes a law, will result in a fiasco—humiliating failure.

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA (Canara): Sir, I rise to support the measures which are being mentioned in this Bill. I know they are prompted by good intentions, and I do wish the Minister success in implementing the commitments which is making. He is speaking here, rather the Bill speaks here about the revenue surpluses to be achieved; statement to be made with every Budget, explaining how he is going to implement the Budget proposals, etc. It speaks about the secrecy of the Budget going. Naturally, there are pre-Budget consultations, even now, including with the World Bank and the other funding agencies, which has become a part of the Budget process. From now, you are not supposed to borrow from the Reserve Bank. I do not know how far it will be possible.

The quarterly review is not new because we already have the review of the estimates, and later you do have Revised Budget Estimates which you produce half-way through the year.

Then you are talking about deficit reduction targets, which you have said only in case of national calamities and defence issues is supposed to be relaxed. As I said, the proposals are good; the intentions are good, but there have been any number of exercises though not through legislation to reduce fiscal deficits. We talked about zero Budgeting; we talked about everything possible, but deficit financing somehow has become part and parcel of Budgeting. I must say that financing through borrowings is really a dangerous trend in the country today, and in

many other developing countries. Our debt commitments are going on increasing, and we are literally binding future generations to repay what we are borrowing day-in and day-out.

Development planning, I do not know what has happened to it. But the whole issue that is bothering you in the Government and everybody in this country is how we reduce the dependence on borrowed money. Even to pay salaries, in some States, there is no money in our country. Money is being borrowed to do the normal day to day running of administration.

Sir, I would like to ask, "Are we really doing something about widening the tax net?" We are all talking about a growing middle-class, about the boom and everything. But the number, as far as tax-payers in this country are concerned, is abysmally low. There is no effort. The same people, like *bakras*, are being taxed, overtaxed and the tax is being increased, instead of making an effort to extend the tax net.

NPAs, we have all spoken about. I think, we are talking of Rs. 1,10,000 crore to Rs. 1,20,000 crore NPAs. What are we doing to get these NPAs working? What is the Government doing? We gave you the power. You brought in a law, and we allowed you to attach their companies to retake money. It is the small borrower that you are after—the small-scale industrialist, the small-scale industry and the small man—but what about the big people? I mentioned it in my last speech, Mr. Minister, but you did not reply to me. I talked about the big people sitting in the Prime Minister's Economic Advisory Council. Your own reply in Parliament said that they owe huge amounts to IFCI. What are you doing to recover that? Are they off the Prime Minister's Economic Advisory Council or have they repaid what they owed to IFCI? You owe an answer to Parliament and to the nation on what you are doing about these people. It is not the small man or the small borrower, it is the big ones that you have to be after, if you want to put the economy right and show some results.

Members spoke about black money. I would like to ask, "Have you really dealt with this issue?" There have been so many reports. I must say now, as a Member of the Lok Sabha, can elections be fought without black money? What are we doing about that? Everybody is talking about putting an end to black money. However, election generates a new demand for money, and the limit of Rs. 15 lakh, which Shri Seshan set at that time

for elections, we all know, is impracticable, unless there is State funding, some supporting system. Of course, that is a different issue altogether. You have to deal with this issue of black money—how it is generated and how it is used.

Corruption is another big issue. Heaps and heaps of cases are pending in the courts, pending in other place. We know the sources, we know the people, but the action, somehow or the other, stops at a particular point. Have we got the courage to deal with this issue because public funds are going into the wrong pockets all the time? Rajivji had said once, that out of every rupee sent from Delhi, fifteen to twenty paise only actually reach the grass-roots for development work. It goes into administrative costs, wastage and it goes on and on.

Sir, there is also the question of funds which are lapsing in the Ministries, funds which have not been used. I know of certain projects where you have borrowed money, money has been released to the States, but it has not been drawn. The projects are delayed, there are overruns, you have begun to pay interest, but the money utilisation has not yet started. You are far behind in the planning and implementation stages causing cost overruns and escalation in costs. What are we doing about it? Why can the responsibility or accountability be not fixed for not utilising the money which you have borrowed? You are paying interest for it; the tax-payer is paying it, but there are overruns and cost escalations. Very often, we are told, there is collusion between the administration and the multinationals, who are working on how to delay it further.

Sir, coming to the sanctity of the Budget, you are talking about now having transparency in budgeting. What is the sanctity of your Budget? You come to Parliament with a Budget, and after every two months or three months, you increase the prices of diesel outside the Budget. You increase the price of gas cylinders outside the Budget. You increase the cost of petrol three times outside the Budget. You do it all by Ordinances, by some statement in Parliament when it is in session. It goes on. How can you talk about budgeting responsibility when half of the time you are doing this outside-the-budget exercise in Parliament? What is the sanctity of that Budget? It is becoming almost routine for you. Rail fares are increased. Airline fares go down. Something else goes up. It all happens as if it is just a part of ordinary legislation without any kind of budgetary exercise to look at it.

[Shrimati Margaret Alva]

There is the problem of money that goes from the Centre to the States. I know of many States salaries for the whole year are released in March. I know of NGOs whose money gets to them only in April. The whole year they have to run orphanages, homes for women and others. Even though money is sent to the States from the Centre, since the matching grant is not put and by the States, that money is not released to the agencies which are in the field. Maybe the States are also facing problems, but then this "window dressing" in March is happening in every State. Women's organisations complain about this. There is no effort to see that proper processes of release of funds take place.

In my own case, there are amounts released under some programmes but the State Governments do not issue the cheques for the amounts to be released at the grassroots because they need the money. They say, "Please wait for 1-2 months. We will give." Till then, what happens to the actual working of the NGOs, of the small organisations, or even of local Governments today? Money that is sent does not go down on time. There has to be fiscal discipline about utilisation and the money being released.

There is the whole question of the oversized Government machinery. It has been talked about; I am saying it again. You have made the commitment of downsizing the Government. What efforts have you made to reduce the overheads? We are told that of the money of the Budget, over 50 per cent actually goes for salaries, pensions, administrative expenses, travelling expenses debt servicing takes 30% and that there is hardly anything left for actual development work at the grassroots. So you borrow.

Rajivji had one joked in the Cabinet and said that there are three funds—plan fund, non-plan fund and the calamity fund—and that most Governments are run on calamity fund. The higher the assessments made, the higher the demands made, the easier it is for them to balance the budgets in the States. There is no effort at downsizing. I give credit here to Mr. Anthony, the Chief Minister of Kerala. He had the courage and determination to cut down the Government costs saying that he had no money. They went on strike. He asked them to sit out anywhere. I know that he faced political confrontation but hard decisions have to be taken at the same time.

DA is increasing on one side. Jobs that used to be done by the Joint Secretaries in the Government of India

are today being done by the Secretary-level officers. You upgraded the posts! You multiplied the posts. To accommodate all your partners, you multiplied the Ministries. There used to be one Ministry for Transport. Civil Aviation, Railways and Shipping were under one Cabinet Minister when I was in the Government. Today, how many Ministries have you got? There are separate Ministries for Transport, Civil Aviation, Road Transport, etc., etc. The Ministries multiply because everybody has to be accommodated. It requires that much more staff and those many more cars and other facilities. And yet, you say that we are downsizing the Government.

I am talking about the trap of unproductive expenditure into which every Government is falling. There is no productive expenditure today. In one Government, I do not know many crores of rupees were spent on the birthday bash of a leader? It is all Government money. Who is responsible? Somewhere else Government money was spent on some other celebration. Look at the half-page and full-page advertisements of this Government that appear every day in the newspapers! How many crores are spent on Government advertisements? Yet, the Government says there is no money,

[Translation]

There is no money for development, nothing left out.

[English]

What are you doing? Today, I am told that there is a proposal from the Government for MPLAD fund to be raised. I do not know whether there are some other proposals or not. On the one hand, you are coming with Bills like this, saying reduce it. I think, we, the MPs have to set the example. We are talking about bureaucrats being given less. Their DA, of course, nobody can stop. It goes on multiplying. Everything goes on multiplying after the Pay Commission. But, if the MPs get anything, it gets the headlines.

[Translation]

This and that, was given to MPs. Nobody talks about what this MPs get.

[English]

But, the point is that the Government has to set the example. Only then the message will go down. Inflation has again started moving up. I am not going into the



details of it, but the trends are not at all good. Unless you take corrective action, we are going to have problems.

If you have to balance the Budget, you have got to have national savings. The small people in this country were saving and they were getting some interest out of it. You have destroyed the base of the desire to save. You are going on reducing interest rates on small savings. People had some income from their savings. There was an incentive to save. Why should they save today? On the other hand, you are giving encouragement for them to go into stocks and shares, and that kind of things. Then they go phut and they go bankrupt.

AN HON. MEMBER: There are scams also.

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA: Yes, scams also. In the case of UTI, everything went wrong. What did you have to do? You had to find the money to bail out the UTI. Because the common people had to be paid, you had to find money.

[*Translation*]

Where did it come from. It came from this Public Scam took place. The Govt. bailed it out. Whose money is this. It is tax payers' money.

[*English*]

This is the way you are balancing the Budget and trying to get out of the mess.

There is also a question of sick PSUs. The Government had promised jobs. You have to generate employment for people to be able to contribute. On the other hand, there are no jobs. Industries are closing down. Small-scale industries are closing down. Agriculture is going down. Where are the jobs? Where is the money? Savings are gone. There are no salaries for the people to be able to save now. Where is the income going to come from? Whom are you going to tax and from where are you going to raise money?

Huge funds have to be given through VRS and to make it up, subsidies are being cut, small savings interest has gone down and the Government is talking about economy.

Finally, transparency in all the dealings is necessary. My Government in Karnataka has brought the

Transparency Act. Anything which is more than Rs. five lakh has to be by public tender. At every site, a board is put up showing the amount of the project, who is the contractor doing it, the date on which the work began, the date on which the work is to be completed, the total investment which the Government has released, so that the public knows this is the contractor, this is the money and you have to see the man does the work which he is supposed to do. Even the time for completion is put on the board. Every project has a big board showing all the details for the public to know. This is what we need—accountability, responsibility and, I think a great deal of sensitivity to the needs of changing times. Otherwise, this country is going to be mortgaged for generations and we will end up being a kind of a Banana Republic where everyone who lends you will dictate terms to you. They are already trying to do it. If this country is to be strong and independent, what you have proposed must be done, but not through a law. Mr. Finance Minister, through political will. Unfortunately today, populist measures are taking precedence over good governance and more than that, regional priorities have become your national agenda. That is the tragedy of India today. Regional agendas are being dictated to you as national priorities and you have no choice but to fall in line because otherwise your coalition cracks and your Government goes. Therefore, I wish you well, I sympathise with you, I know your problems, but I do hope that you will be able to achieve what you have set in this Bill for the good of the country.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, we shall take up item no. 19, Half-an-Hour discussion. Shri Ramji Lal Suman.

[*Translation*]

If the House agrees we can take up Half-an-Hour discussion later.

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Firozabad): Mr. Chairman, Sir, let us take up Half-an-Hour discussion right now, otherwise it would not be taken up as we face the problem of quorum every day.

MR. CHAIRMAN: If the House agrees, I have no problem.

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: It was listed for 5.30 pm.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): Sir, I must admit that I am a bit taken aback by this sudden development. I was clearly told that this is a very important piece of legislation and it will be taken as a piece and the debate would go on. I had made a request at the beginning of the debate that it must be concluded today. I was told that it is going to be concluded today. But I had no idea that in between there are certain other business also. I cannot understand the gestures that are being made now.

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA: This Half-an-Hour discussion is listed in the agenda but what I am saying is that if with the permission of the Chair we could continue with this debate.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: As you know that Half-an-Hour discussion was stated for 5.30 pm. If the House agrees we can take this up after this Bill.

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: How much time will it take?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Only the Minister has to give a reply.

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Will it be over by 6 pm?

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Can it be taken up after concluding this discussion. Kindly take it up immediately after concluding discussion on this Bill.

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Mr. Chairman, Sir, kindly ask the Minister to give his reply.

MR. CHAIRMAN: All right.

[English]

We would take up Half-an-Hour discussion after this.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Sir, I am grateful to all the hon. Members that have participated in the discussion. The Government had benefited by the views expressed. It will not be possible for me to cover all the points that have been raised by each and every individual Member that participated in the discussion. A number of hon. Members spoke, the discussion being initiated by Shri Shivraj Patil, the Deputy Leader of the Opposition.

Sir, the principal point that was made is that by itself a legislation is not enough to meet the requirements of fiscal discipline in the country. It is nobody's point that simply by having a law or a Bill we will achieve what we have set out to achieve. This is an additional responsibility upon the Government to move towards the path of recognised and determined fiscal responsibility in which there are specific targets and criteria that are enjoined for achievement in a time frame. Of course, such a Bill by itself when enacted is not enough. It is nobody's point that it will be enough.

Sir, a gloomy picture has been painted and a number of other issues have been raised. Let me deal, first of all, with the issues that Shri Shivraj Patil has raised. He had one principal reservation about prohibition regarding borrowing from the Reserve Bank of India. The Reserve Bank of India does not have any money of its own to lend to Government. Earlier, the Reserve Bank of India used to, what is called, print money but this practice has been given up since 1997.

Hon. Members are aware of the adverse consequences that followed when the practice of printing money to meet the Government's requirements used to be there. In sub-section (3) of section 5 of the Bill it is provided that the Reserve Bank of India may lend to the Government on grounds of national security, national calamity or such other exceptional circumstances, as the Government may specify. This is not a licence. But it is availability and when we restrict the availability, we are putting an additional barrier in the party of loose or ill-thought expenditure. It must be done. Moreover, the Ways and Means Advances from the RBI continue to be permissible under the proposed law. Therefore, it is not as if the law would permanently shut the doors on Government being able to meet its expenditure.

There were just two points raised by hon. Smt. Margaret Alva to which I would like to refer. Besides, there are a number of other opinions which she expressed and it would be difficult for me to answer to all her opinions. These are the views she holds and I am afraid that it would be difficult for me to agree to the views which she subscribes. This is too great a country to be described as a Banana Republic now or in future. This is too great a land to be described as being pushed in one way or another, in any direction. Let that be; that is her view and she is of course free to hold her view. But, to two issues of fact, I would like to refer.

She had a complaint that the prices of petroleum products keep on going up and down. I am sure, the

hon. member recognises that the whole Administered Price Mechanism in the case of petroleum products is no longer in operation. It is not as if the Government is determining the petroleum prices. It is the Corporations that are doing so and they are doing so in accordance with the fluctuations of the international crude prices. Is there a better way to do it? I wish there were a better way to manage the international crude prices. But, at the present moment, because of the global uncertainties relating to hydrocarbon, this has happened. It is not the Government that is saying raise the prices or lower the prices. The Administered Price Mechanism no longer operates.

The other point is about the non-utilisation of funds. I am sure, the hon. Member did take note that precisely because we have taken seriously the question of proper utilisation of funds by the Ministries of the Central Government, we have in this Budget itself introduced a mechanism for utilisation of funds. According to this mechanism instead of a budgetary allocation for the entire year when all the expenditure gets concentrated towards the end of the year, we have started the process of quarterly allocation of money. I gave the details of it the other day and said that in certain select Ministries we have started the process of quarterly allocation of money in which money is allotted in accordance with the expenditure made. We are moving in that direction. Has it achieved all the results? I do not think all the results would be achieved in one go itself.

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA: What about the unutilised funds of the Defence Ministry? Rs. 5000 crore is lying unutilised. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: This point has been made very kindly by her interrupting me. She has inquired as to what happened to the Defence Ministry's funds. I had pointed it out on a number of occasions. I say it on the basis of my study, which is life-long study. It is also based on my own personal experience because I had the honour of holding that post. It is also based on what we did for the reform of the Defence Ministry. I repeat what I have then said that it is impractical to have the Defence Ministry's Budget on a twelve-month cycle alone. Weapons procurement is an extremely complex business. It is not like going into a shop and buying grocery off the shelf. There are very complex, political and economic issues that arise. Rather, there are enormously complicated technical aspects of piece of equipment that have to be tested. Therefore, the practical way to do is a 24-months cycle for weapons procurement and I wish

I had said so at the time of Budget presentation that I will stand by the requirement of the Ministry of Defence but on a 24-month cycle. We must not work on the basis that simply on a 12-month cycle, the Ministry of Defence, for one reason or the other, is not able to procure weapon system. 'A' or 'B' or 'Z' and therefore, something is wrong. It is not necessary.

I now handle the other end of the procurement system. Every rivulet, every river and every request, you know as it happens, flows into the Ministry of Finance. Every procurement and every request of the Ministry of Defence has to go through the Ministry of Finance and the whole procedure that we have got is necessary as checks and balances. The Ministry of Finance re-examines the whole thing that has been examined in the Ministry of Defence with an *in situ* Financial Advisor who is from the Ministry of Finance. We have ourselves devised this system as adequate and abundant checks and balances. Of course, it will, therefore, take time. If you wish to change all this, remove these checks and balances, we can do it but at a certain cost. That is why, when I had the honour of being in the Ministry of Defence, we had instituted a Special Procurement Cell. I also went the Cabinet with it saying that we introduced a system of accelerated procurement mechanism for the Ministry of Defence and enhanced the financial powers not simply of the Minister of Defence but all the way right down to Crops Commanders, etc. Therefore, blanket condemnation like that is perhaps not really warranted. If you ask whether there is scope for improvement, I would say, "Yes, there is, of course, scope for improvement."

SHRI K. FRANCIS GEORGE (*Idukki*): Acquisition of a major item in the Defence Ministry is at the first stage and it is the capital expenditure. But, subsequently, for the maintenance of it, if you acquire spares, it is considered as a revenue expenditure. Am I true? If it is true, does it give a correct picture of the revenue expenditure?

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: I would not go into the by lane of elaborating further the budgetary mechanism of the Ministry of Defence. But the other part of the question which the hon. Member raised really related to whether, in the procedures that we have, the revenue receipt projections are accurate or not. I can assure the hon. Member that, in what I have presented to the Parliament, the revenue projections are as accurate as is humanly possible. That is not in the Budget that we presented. I made it sure and I ensured that whatever refund that

[Shri Jaswant Singh]

had to be paid to the citizens, to the assesses, must be paid and we must not keep the refund unpaid and just artificially suggest as if the revenue receipts are high. We have done it. I do make bold to suggest that this year, the year that has gone in March, the refund ratio or level that we have achieved is really quite exceptional and it is receipts are accurately depicted. However, there is need for expanding the revenue base. There is need for cutting down expenditure. That is why, I say, Sir, that the job of the Minister of Finance is a very lonely job. The Ministry of Finance does not spend any money. It is that everybody else spends the money and it is I that have to stand up as Minister of Finance and answer all the friends when they find fault with me that I am not managing things well.

The Minister of Finance spends no money. Everybody else spends that. The States come to the Minister of Finance and say: "You must give me money because I have not got money." If I do not give them money, then, I am charged with all kinds of wrong intentions. If the Minister of Finance attempts to raise the revenue by widening the tax base or anything, then my friends sitting there or elsewhere will catch my throat and say: "You are now doing the wrong thing because you cannot collect more revenue." ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY: That is not correct. 47 per cent of it goes towards expenditure.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: I understand it. I have not created the system wherein 47 per cent goes towards expenditure. I have inherited that system. That system is not of the 12 months' making. This system requires some correction. We have a situation in which the financial situation of the States is very grave. My responsibility as the Finance Minister prohibits me from naming the States. But the situation of the finances of the States and the Union is a matter of very grave concern. I will submit that any of these unpaid liabilities, as it were, would begin to be called for encashment. Where will it all come to? All has to eventually come back to the Central Government. It is with a sense of responsibility that I say this.

I do say that the Finance Minister's job is not of one area but it is for the whole country, for all the States and the Union. I belong to a political party. I am a product of that political party. I hold that office because of that political party. But in the discharge of responsibilities as the Finance Minister, I have to look at the totality of the

financial and economic situation of the country. So, the economics of the country or the fiscal situation of the country cannot be divided politically. It cannot be divided in the sense of one State or another. We are an economic union. The fiscal situation of India is a whole. It is not a fragmented fiscal situation. It is very easy for hon. Members to stand up find fault with me saying that this State or that State has not got this or that thing. They must recognise that the integrated whole of the country as also the management of the fiscal situation is important. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO: They are to be assessed severally also because the problems of the States are also to be taken into account. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA: Mr. Minister, you have to control the international borrowings by the States.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: About the international borrowings, I am astonished that my friend Shrimati Margaret Alva should say that we are borrowing in an unrestrained fashion. In fact, please take note of one thing. Please do give me credit that ahead of time, I had paid three billion dollars just last year. It has paid ahead of time. Three billion dollars were paid back which carried high interest. Not a ripple was felt on the total foreign exchange holding situation of the country. Please do give credit for the fact to India. Please do not give me the credit but give credit to India that we have managed a situation like the Gulf war in Iraq. Not a ripple has been felt. Please do compare the situation with 1991. I do not say it to score political points. I say it only to emphasise the inherent resilience of India's economy. That Indian economy is a united whole. It is one. You cannot fragment that economy and address the issues raised by the management of that economy based only on the political persuasion that you subscribe to on your belonging to one State or another. That is the central point.

A question was raised: "Would this Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management Bill answer all these issues?" Maybe, it may not. It is a question of the collective will that all of us should bring to bear in addressing the responsibilities that we have. We have heard that this Bill has been with the Parliament, as it were, for a very long time.

It came to the Parliament in 2000. It went to the Standing Committee. The Standing Committee has spent a lot of time on it. We have also now spent a lot of time

discussing it. I think now the time has come to call a closure to this discussion. The time has come to move forward and start implementing what we are saying here. The time has, therefore, come for all of us to see that we will do what we can in this regard. This is a step in this direction. It might not be the ultimate step; it might not be the perfect step; but nevertheless it is a step in the right direction. With these words, I commend this Bill to the House and I request that the Bill be passed.

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA: Sir, I just want to ask what is the position as far as the States borrowing directly are concerned? Do you guarantee those grants? In case they do not pay, who is responsible?

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: I am sorry I did not answer that. No State of the Union can go outside to any country or establishment or organisation and borrow. You must understand that they are Central subjects which are the responsibility of the Union Government. There is no State which can go and borrow from abroad without the consent of the Finance Ministry. It is not possible. It has to take the permission of the Finance Ministry. There is a well-established procedure. We examine from whom it is borrowed and all other factors go into this.

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA: Are they guaranteed by the Central Government?

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: It is not as straightforward and simple a question as that. There are a number of borrowings that take place. But we stand guaranteed or not, in the ultimate, all the borrowings, whether commercial or otherwise, become the responsibility of the Union of India. You must recognise this. It is because the economy's fiscal management is the responsibility of the Ministry of Finance, Government of India. That is where the slang phrase goes that 'the buck stops here'. The buck does not start from here. It starts from the Reserve Bank and does stop here. We have to really consider it. I commend this Bill. Let the Bill be passed.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That the Bill to provide for the responsibility of the Central Government to ensure inter-generational equity in fiscal management and long-term macro-economic stability by achieving sufficient revenue surplus, eliminating fiscal deficit and removing fiscal impediments in the effective conduct of monetary policy and prudential debt management consistent with fiscal sustainability through limits on the Central

Government borrowings, debt and deficits, greater transparency in fiscal operations of the Central Government and conducting fiscal policy in a medium-term framework and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto, be taken into consideration."

*The motion was adopted.*

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House will now take up clause-by-clause consideration of the Bill.

## Clause 2 — Definitions

*Amendments made:*

Page 1,—

*omit* lines 9 and 10. (4)

Page 2, *for* lines 1 to 9,— *substitute*- '(a) "fiscal deficit" means the excess of total disbursements, from the Consolidated Fund of India, excluding repayment of debt, over total receipts *into* the Fund (excluding the debt receipts), during the financial year.' (5)

Page 2, line 10,—

*For* "(c)" *substitute* "(b)". (6)

Page 2, line 13,—

*For* "(d)" *substitute* "(c)". (7)

Page 2, line 16,—

*For* "(e)" *substitute* "(d)". (8)

Page 2, line 18,—

*For* "(f)" *substitute* "(3)". (9)

Page 2, line 19,—

*For* "(g)" *substitute* "(f)". (10)

(Shri Jaswant Singh)

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That clause 2, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

*The motion was adopted.*

*Clause 2, as amended, was added to the Bill.*

[Mr. Chairman]

**Clause 3—Fiscal policy statements to be laid before Parliament**

*Amendments made:*

Page 2, line 22,—

For “annual budget”, *substitute* “annual financial statement and demands for grants.” (11)

Page 3, — *after* line 3 *insert*—

“(4A) The macro-economic framework statement shall contain an assessment of the growth prospects of the economy with specification of underlying assumptions.

(4B) In particular and without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing provision, the macro-economic framework statement shall contain an assessment relating to—

- (a) the growth in the gross domestic product;
- (b) the fiscal balance of the Union Government as reflected in the revenue balance and gross fiscal balance;
- (c) the external sector balance of the economy as reflected in the current account balance of the balance of payment.” (12)

(Shri Jaswant Singh)

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

“That clause 3, as amended, stand part of the Bill.”

*The motion was adopted.*

*Clause 3, as amended, was added to the Bill.*

**Clause 4 — Fiscal management principles**

*Amendments made:*

Page 3, —

for lines 7 to 38 *substitute*—

4.(1) The Central Government shall take appropriate measures to reduce the fiscal deficit and revenue deficit so as to eliminate revenue deficit by the 31st March, 2008 and thereafter build up adequate revenue surplus.

(2) The Central Government shall, by rules made by it, specify

- (a) the annual targets for reduction of fiscal deficit and revenue deficit during the period beginning with the commencement of this Act and ending on the 31st March, 2008;
- (b) the annual targets of assuming contingent liabilities in the form of guarantees and the total liabilities as a percentage of gross domestic product; Provided that the revenue deficit and fiscal deficit may exceed such targets due to ground or grounds of national security or national calamity or such other exceptional grounds as the Central Government may specify;

Provided further that the ground or grounds specified in the first proviso shall be placed before Houses of Parliament, as soon as may be, after such deficit amount exceed the aforesaid targets.” (13)

(Shri Jaswant Singh)

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

“That clause 4, as amended, stand part of the Bill.”

*The motion was adopted.*

*Clause 4, as amended, was added to the Bill.*

**Clause 5 — Borrowing from Reserve Bank**

*Amendments made:*

Page 3, line 50, —

for “2001”, *substitute* “2003”. (14)

Page 3, after line 50, *insert*—

“Provided that the Reserve Bank may subscribe, on or after the period specified in this sub-section, to the primary issues of the Central Government securities due to ground or grounds specified in the first proviso to sub-section (2) of section 4.” (15)

(Shri Jaswant Singh)

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

“That clause 5, as amended, stand part of the Bill.”

*The motion was adopted.*

*Clause 5, as amended, was added to the Bill.*

**Clause 6 — Measures for Fiscal Transparency***Amendments made:*

Page 4, line 5, —

for “annual budget”, *substitute* “annual financial statement demands for grants.” (16)

Page 4,—

for lines 7 to 15 *substitute*—

“the Central Government shall, at the time of presentation of annual financial statement and demands for grants make such disclosures and in such form as may be prescribed.” (17)

(Shri Jaswant Singh)

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

“That clause 6, as amended, stand part of the Bill.”

*The motion was adopted.*

*Clause 6, as amended, was added to the Bill.*

**Clause 7 — Measures to enforce compliance***Amendments made:*

Page 4, —

for lines 19 to 22, *substitute*—

“(2) Whenever there is either shortfall in revenue or excess of expenditure over the prespecified levels mentioned in the Fiscal Policy Strategy Statement and the rules made under this Act during any period in a financial year, the Central Government shall take appropriate measures for increasing revenue or for reducing the expenditure (including curtailing of the sums authorized to be paid and applied from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India under any Act so as to provide for the appropriation of such sums):” (18)

Page 4, line 24,—

after “the Constitution”, *insert*—

“or to any other expenditure which is required to be incurred under any agreement or contract or such

other expenditure which cannot be postponed or curtailed.” (19)

Page 4,—

for lines 25 to 31, *substitute*—

“(3) (a) Except as provided under this Act, no deviation in meeting the obligations cast on the Central Government under this Act, shall be permissible without approval of Parliament.

(b) Where, owing to unforeseen circumstances, any deviation is made in meeting the obligations cast on the Central Government under this Act, the Minister in-charge of the Ministry of Finance shall make a statement in both Houses of Parliament explaining:

(i) any deviation in meeting the obligations cast on the Central Government under this Act;

(ii) whether such deviation is substantial and relates to the actual or the potential budgetary outcomes; and

(iii) the remedial measures the Central Government proposes to take.” (20)

(Shri Jaswant Singh)

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

“That clause 7, as amended, stand part of the Bill.”

*The motion was adopted.*

*Clause 7, as amended, was added to the Bill.*

**Clause 8 — Power to make Rules***Amendments made:*

Page 4,—

for lines 36 and 37 *substitute*—

“(a) the annual targets to be specified under sub-section (2) of section 4;

(b) the fiscal indicators to be prescribed for the purpose of sub-section (2) of section 3;” (21)

Page 4, line 38,—

for “(b)” *substitute* “(c)” (22)

[Mr. Chairman]

Page 4, —

for line 41 *substitute*—

“(d) the disclosures and form in which such disclosures shall be made under sub-section (2) of section 6”. (23)

Page 4, line 42—

for “(d)”, *substitute* “(e)”. (24)

(Shri Jaswant Singh)

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

“That clause 8, as amended, stand part of the Bill.”

*The motion was adopted.*

*Clause 8, as amended, was added to the Bill.*

*Clause 9 was added to the Bill.*

*Clause 10 was added to the Bill.*

**Motion Re: Suspension of Rule 80(I)**

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Sir, I beg to move:

“That this House do suspend clause (i) of rule 80 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha in so far as it requires that an amendment shall be within the scope of the Bill and relevant to the subject matter of the clause to which it relates, in its application to Government amendment No. 25 to the Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management Bill, 2000 and that this amendment may be allowed to be moved.”

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

“That this House do suspend clause (i) of rule 80 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha in so far as it requires that an amendment shall be within the scope of the Bill and relevant to the subject matter of the clause to which it relates, in its application to Government amendment No. 25 to the Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management Bill, 2000 and that this amendment may be allowed to be moved.”

*The motion was adopted.*

**New Clause 10A—Jurisdiction of Civil Courts barred**

*Amendment made:*

Page 5,— *after* line 9, *insert*—

10A. No civil court shall have jurisdiction to question the legality of any action taken by, or any decision of, the Central Government, under this Act.” (25)

(Shri Jaswant Singh)

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

“The New Clause 10A be added to the Bill.”

*The motion was adopted.*

*New Clause 10A was added to the Bill.*

*Clauses 11 and 12 were added to the Bill.*

**Clause 1—Short title extent and commencement**

*Amendment made:*

Page 1, line 4,—

For “2000”, *substitute* “2003”. (3)

(Shri Jaswant Singh)

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

“The Clause 1, as amended, stand part of the Bill.”

*The motion was adopted.*

*Clauses 1, as amended, was added to the Bill.*

**Enacting Formula**

*Amendment made:*

Page 1, line 1,—

For “Fifty-first”, *substitute* “Fifty-fourth”. (2)

(Shri Jaswant Singh)

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

“That the Enacting Formula, as amended, stand part of the Bill.”

*The motion was adopted.*

*That the Enacting Formula, as amended was added to the Bill.*

18.00 hrs.

**Long Title**

*Amendment made:*

Page 1, in the long title—

*omit* “eliminating fiscal deficit”. (1)

(Shri Jaswant Singh)



MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That the Long Title, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

*The motion was adopted.*

*The Long Title, as amended, was added of the Bill.*

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: I beg to move:

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed."

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed."

*The motion was adopted.*

18.02 Hrs.

## HALF-AN-HOUR DISCUSSION

### Re: National Livestock Policy

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House shall now take up Item No. 19.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Sir, it is 6 o'clock now.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I have already taken the sense of the House for half-an-hour.

[*Translation*]

I have already taken the permission of the House to take up Half-an-Hour discussion.

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Firozabad): Mr. Chairman, Sir, Hon'ble Speaker has been kind enough to accept to have an Half-an-Hour discussion on livestock policy as the Government failed to give a satisfactory reply on 28.4.2003 regarding the starred Question No. 525 concerning two issues.

Sir, although livestock is the basis of our economy, yet we do not have a livestock policy unfortunately. A draft policy was prepared in 1996 which was sent to the

States to elicit their opinion. The Minister of Agriculture stated that day that none of the States sent any suggestions and also stated that the provision for the Livestock during the Ninth Five Year Plan was Rs. 1,682.59 crores which was increased to Rs. 25,000 crores for the Tenth Five Year Plan.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the allocation of amount is not important. What is more important is that whether the amount allocated for Livestock is being utilised properly or not. The Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairy was set up separately in 1991 in the Agriculture Ministry. Its aim being to improve the health of the livestock, to make proper arrangement for their health, take steps to improve their breed and to encourage pisciculture. These four main subjects were given to the Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairy. But, it is unfortunate that certain breeds are becoming extinct. There are no Animal Health centres. Where there are such Centres, there are no doctors. Where there are doctors, medicines are inadequate and where medicines are available they are not being utilised properly. Thus, the health of the animals is not being given adequate attention, as it ought to be. There are 44 centres set up under the Animal Husbandry Programme.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, through you, I want to inform the Minister that India has world's 16% cows, 57% buffaloes 12% goats and 5% sheep. Due to these animals 110 lakh people get direct and 8 lakh people indirect employment opportunity. The important thing is that in animal husbandry women's participation is 71% and their contribution to GDP is 8%. Despite this, animal husbandry is constantly, being neglected.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, today the situation is such that milk production in our country is 88 million tonnes which is the highest in the world but from the productivity point of view the average of Indian milk cattle is far below international average. As per the figures of year 2002, there were 22 crore cows and ten crore buffaloes in the country and annual production of milk per cow was 945 litres while the world average is 2,225 litres. The same is the position of buffaloes as well. Therefore, it should be our first priority to increase productivity and there is a need for research for the purpose. As per the recommendations of the expert committee, research should be done on the breeds which are already available in the country.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, there is severe scarcity of fodder in our country. It is being stated by the government that

[Shri Ramji Lal Suman]

we are cultivating fodder on 11 million hectares of land but this fodder is inadequate to satisfy the hunger of cattle. As per the Planning Commission, there is a shortage of 47% of green fodder and 22% of husk in the country. When the cattle do not get husk and fodder, how can we expect good production of milk from them. I would like to know the efforts of the government in this regard. During 6th Five Year Plan, Centre Fodder Seed Production farm was set up in Hasiarghata in Karnataka. In 1997-98 production of fodder was 368.60 tonnes which decreased to 271.10 tonnes by 2002 AD. It shows that, fodder production is decreasing instead of increasing.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, through you, I want to ask three questions to the hon'ble Minister. Shri Hukumdeo Narayan has been my former colleague and that too a very senior colleague. A great injustice has been done to him. He was a Minister of Cabinet rank in the Chandra Shekhar Government and this Government has made him a Minister of State. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: You can ask the question part-wise, do not ask the number of question.

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am asking the question point-wise only. First of all, I would like to ask whether there is any fixed period for evolving National livestock Policy and by which time it would be evolved in our country? The most unfortunate thing is that our country, is primarily an agricultural land. The sector which gives maximum employment after agriculture sector is animal husbandry and yet there is no policy in this regard so far. By what time policy regarding livestock would be evolved. My second question is that from the viewpoint of milk-production, it is less than international average in our country. Has the Government decided that it would take steps to increase production of milk. My third question is that production of fodder is gradually going down in our country as a result of which a peculiar situation has arisen in the country. How can it be expected that we get more milk from them if the cattle do not get green fodder and husk. Therefore, one thing is to properly arrange fodder for cattle, the second is evolving of livestock policy in a fixed time frame. I would like to know what the government of India are doing to increase milk production here which is less than the international average.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer): Mr. Chairman, Sir, through you, I would like to apprise the hon'ble Minister of the severe famine situation in Rajasthan for

the last 45 years. Famine relief camps have been opened there to protect human life. They are also being provided employment. Wheat is being supplied and wages are being given and potable water is also arranged for them as well. But cattle is the biggest help of farmers. If due to famine, this cattle is lost, it would be impossible to breed it quickly. Therefore, through you, I want to know the steps the government are taking to protect cattle in the State, especially in West Rajasthan during the situation of this severe famine.

The part (b) of this is shortage of fodder. We are grateful to the Government of India that the latter are running free trains for Rajasthan for other states fodder growing regions. But do the Government propose to produce fodder on that wasteland of Rajasthan so that a fodder bank would be opened and after its opening, it could be supplied wherever famines may take place anywhere in the State.

The 'C' part of the question is about utility of cow from national viewpoint. Milk of cow is like sector. Cow has been accorded special respect in Indian culture. I would like to know the future-planning of the Government of India keeping in view the emotional and cultural affinity of cow breed.

The 'd' part of the question relates to National livestock policy. It is said that in 1996 an initiative for the framing of the policy started. In 1993, discussion started but till 1998, this policy has not been evolved. In the recent past, the Government convened a meeting of Animal Husbandry Ministers. What was discussed in that meeting and what was the outcome and by what time National Livestock Policy would be chalked out so that on that basis livestock policy could be implemented?

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali): Mr. Chairman, Sir, Sumanji has raised the question about National Livestock Policy. He is right to raise this point as to why National Livestock Policy has not been announced till now, what are the difficulties being faced by the Government? It is our firm view that livestock has a big contribution to our economy. Every year there is an earning of Rs. 1.82 lakh crore from livestock only. Livestock include cow-breeding, buffalo-breeding, sheep-breeding, poultry, goat-breeding, piggery etc.

Livestock policy should have provision for better breeding of all above mentioned livestock. First of all there is a question of improving their breeds. Till now poor people in villages are tending cows which give one to one and half a litre of milk. A calf grows to become

a cow after three years. After nurturing it for three years poor man would be able to derive same benefit from it, but if there would be improvement in breeding and all these facilities given to farmer at this doorstep it would be greatly beneficial. In the matter of milk production our country is the highest producer in the world. In milk production we were behind U.S.A. in the past but now with the co-operation and hard work of farmers, India has become number one country in milk production. But our per capita production is less. In U.S.A. per capita milk production is 900 grams whereas in our country it is 205 grams only. In Haryana and Punjab per capita production is 800-900 grams and elsewhere it is 600-700 grams so the situation is better in Haryana and Punjab. But the national average of milk production is still less. I think it may be 200 grams per person. So there is a need to improve their breed. There is Marua buffalo in Haryana elsewhere it is Jafferabadi and Nehsana buffalo in Hajaribagh. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: You please ask question only.

...(*Interruptions*)

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: I would like to ask as to what is the plan of the Government for improvement of breeding of buffaloes and cow. I want to urge that this facility should be given to farmer at this doorstep so that he could utilise this facility.

The same facility should also be provided for goat breeding. The poorest of the poor people in villages take recourse to goat breeding. Women and children are also engaged in it. It is one of their source of income. But the Government has neglected goat husbandry and livestock in every sense of the term. I can say that in India the main reason for poverty and inequality is negligence of livestock. The sector which contributes 8 percent to G.D.P. is being neglected. No discussion is ever held in this regard and no question is raised about this. That is why nobody has paid attention to it. No discussion is held regarding hard working labourers village farmers and poor men. Only populist issues are discussed here. Livestock are not felt worth discussing. So livestock is being neglected greatly. The Government should bring livestock policy so that poor farmers who are engaged in animal husbandry could be benefited.

People of villages do not know about improving feeding of animals. For example if a person do goat breeding for one year his goat will give birth to only a 10 kg. kid. If he will tend 'Bole' goat then its weight will

come to 80 kg. after a year. If there would be improvement of breeding there will be a rise in the income of poor persons. My first question is about improvement of breeding of all domestic animals like buffalo, goat etc. Second question is about their feeding. Arrangements should be made for their food and fodder. After improvement of breeding, I want to raise the question of marketing of milk. ...(*Interruptions*)

What you have to say in this matter? We are raising the question of the poor. How can they understand the issue which is related to the poor? \* fodder eaters are sitting over there. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Don't interrupt. Please maintain silence.

...(*Interruptions*)

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH:\*  
...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Ask the question.

...(*Interruptions*)

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH:\*  
...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Raghuvanshji, you are the senior member. Ask the question only. You would not be allowed to make speech during half-an-hour discussion. Ask the question only. His speech would not go on record.

...(*Interruptions*)

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: I am asking the question only. \*...(*Interruptions*) The issue is related to the poor, to those who work hard, rear cattle, plough fields, have poultry. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: You please ask the question.

...(*Interruptions*)

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: One who has poultry, lives in village, the means of his earning is that only. ...(*Interruptions*) They feel uncomfortable  
...(*Interruptions*)

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\*Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Raghuvanshi, this is a serious issue, you, therefore, ask the question only.

...(Interruptions)

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: That is why the poor is being exploited, farmers are being exploited. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Ask the question, Please ...*(Interruptions)*

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: They get restless, feel uncomfortable as soon as the issues regarding upliftment of the poor comes to the fore \* No one is there to listen to the livestock owners. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Ask the question. Please.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Producers of milk are getting lesser price for their milk. They are being exploited. The price being given to milkmen are much lesser than the price being taken from the consumers. Milkmen are getting Rs. 7-8 for a litre while consumer is paying Rs. 12/- for the same quantity. Where is the difference of Rs. 4-5 going? What is happening out here—you pay Rs. 10/- for water and Rs. 8/- for milk to the milkmen—Andher Nagari Chaupat Raja—A chaotic state; a confused ruler. This party is a bottle loving party, that is why, milk is cheaper than bottled water in its regime. Delhi and Uttar Pradesh are being supplied milk from Bihar. Why milk is not being supplied from Bihar to Kolkata? Operation Flood has come to end in the villages as co-operatives which were active became defunct. Farmers rear cattle from whom they get milk. And it is source of their income. The Government should answer these questions as these are concerned with the poor. The Government say that they will provide opportunities of employment. Livestock has the potential of generating employment. The poor may get employment from it as computers and other such things cannot provide opportunities of employment to them. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Ask the specific question, please.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: When will livestock policy be introduced. How will the facilities to improve the breed of livestock be made available at the doorstep to farmers. Natural calamity falls on farmers

when an animal falls ill. Who would be held responsible when some cow, which has been bought for Rs. 10,000-20,000 and has been reared with effort, dies of some disease. What is the status of cattle insurance plan? I would like to ask the Government that census takes place in every ten years, when animal census would be conducted. ...*(Interruptions)*. They may not feel good. In the village, an ass is given salt to. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: This part of speech would be expunged. Only question would be recorded.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: They feel uncomfortable when it comes to the farmers. The poor people. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please do not speak while sitting.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Lathi is for the people who are against the welfare of livestock, it is also for the protection of livestock and escorting them to the fields where they may graze as well. But what the Government have for the ones who are involved in the task of development of livestock. They should declare a livestock policy and should implemented it immediately so that people in rural areas may be benefited out of it. A chicken leg is very delicious to eat, but the hand which rear it cannot be tolerated. I want to expose the whole thing. Mr. Minister, please tell me how is he going to do it.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Though the rules do not permit to raise this issue during half-an-hour discussion. However, keeping in view the gravity of it I am allowing two-three hon. Members to ask a question each.

SHRI LAXMAN SINGH (Rajgarh): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to what steps have been proposed to be taken by him to increase the participation of women in co-operative sector as 71 percent of the women are engaged in livestock and fisheries?

He has not launched any special programme for fodder development in drought affected states like.

*[English]*

assistance to States for feed and fodder development.

*[Translation]*

The drought affected states have not been included in it.

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\*Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

One, drought affected States be included in it. Thirdly, the budgetary allocation of Rs. 300 crore for the livestock has been reduced to Rs. 240 crore. I would demand to let it remain at Rs. 300 crore.

[*English*]

SHRI P.S. GADHAVI (Kutch): In our country, day by day, grazing land is decreasing and is being encroached upon. So, I would like to know when the Government is going to formulate the policy.

I would also like to know from the hon. Minister what specific plan or project is being conceived by him for conservation of the grazing grounds and original breeds in the country. Sindhi breed of our buffaloes, Kankerej breed of cows, Gir breed of cows and Patanwadi breed of sheeps are well known. Has the Government got any plan or project for the preservation of these original breeds?

SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR (Vadodara): Sir, I would like to associate with Shri P.S. Gadhavi.

[*Translation*]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): Mr. Chairman, Sir, Raghuvansh Babu has also been the Minister of independent charge of this department. Hence he does not have lesser information vis-a-vis me in regard to the department. He knows all those things about which he has mentioned here including the reply to the question. I have also worked as Cabinet Colleague with Shri Ramji Lal Suman who have raised these questions. I also know about the concern expressed by him for the cattle breeders because we also belong to the same background. I am a member of cattle breeding family while other people the cattle breeding since childhood. Hence we are associated with cattle breeding not only mentally but economically, spiritually and also physically. Hence I pay more attention and remain more concerned about their development.

Some of the question raised by the hon. Member are related to the economic aspects of livestock. There is no doubt that the figures in regard to the number of persons engaged in agriculture are official hence they are not be debated here but it is true that 80 percent of the people depend on agriculture and the basis of Indian agriculture is cattle. Indian agriculture can not be imagined without cattle. There are two types of agriculture systems

in the world. One is machine based agriculture which is called horse power and another is based on cattle which is called ox-power. Indian agriculture is based on cattle. The rural transport is also based on cattle, The bullock cart is still used in villages despite the adoption of machines and tractors there. I also belong to that area to which you belong. Whether it is Orissa, Bihar, Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, bullock cart and cart pulled by donkeys, camel is used in those rural areas of these states even today whereas tractors and other vehicles are not being used there. Hence I would like to suggest emphatically to the Ministry of Agriculture to increase the share of the cattle in agriculture. The cattle population has decreased with the increasing mechanisation of agriculture. Raghuvansh Babu also know about it. He also belongs to the family of farmer and I am the son of a farmer who used to have 100-200 acres of land holding and near 10 bullocks and 10-20 buffaloes. If you visit my home not a single cattle will be found because the agriculture is being undertaken by tractor, hence the question of cattle rearing does not arise. The livestock decreased in proportion to the increased mechanisation of agriculture as the number of people engaged in cattle breeding decreased. It is a different subject. Our mentality has become materialistic due to the adoption of advance agriculture, intensive agricultural and commercial agricultural by us and the increased production as a result thereof. There are several reasons for our declining spiritual and cultural attachment towards cow progeny. It is a separate subject and a long debate can be and should be held on it.

Gadhvi Saheb has mentioned about the improvement of breed which is quite an apt suggestion. There are two kinds of breeds—One breed is hybrid and another breed is indigenous breed. Raghuvansh Babu as well as I know about hybrid animals. Big mechanised dairy farms having hybrid animals have been set up where the milk is produced in a modern and scientific manner and similarly the cattle rearing is also done in a scientific manner. The hybrid breed has been successful there to a great extent and it has also increased the milk production by much. However this hybrid experiment has not been successful in the far flung rural areas. If we compare to an American farmer who owns on average 177 hectares of land, a farmer of the countries of European community own 17 hectares of land while a farmer in Britain owns a 50 hectares of land on an average. An Indian farmer owns one and a half hectares of land on an average. We can improve the cattle rearing by improving our techniques. We can improve the breed of Indian cattle by ensuring

[Shri Hukumdeo Narayan Yadav]

that the good quality hybrid animals reach to the poor, workers and dalits in the country who are unable to feed their cattle properly. If those poor people are to be uplifted then such a affordable and accessible technique for agricultural and cattle breeding has to be evolved and proliferated which is suitable for them from geographical, climatic, cultural, social and economic point of view. The Government of India is attentive in this regard and several of our schemes are going on in this direction. There are several high yield breeds of buffaloes e.g. Murra and of cows e.g. Sahiwal Red Sindhi, Geed of Gujarat, cow of Rajasthan, Bechur breed of Kerala which is smaller in size but one of the finest cow breed in the world even though its milk yield is not very large but of very finest quality. The Government of India has started a project with the assistance of Kerala university to save it. The Government of India are trying to initiate such schemes.

As Raghuvansh Babuji was saying that these schemes be proliferated to each of the villages, I would like to remind him that any scheme launched by the Government of India is implemented through the State Governments. We undertake the work of research, experiment and also test the can give front line demonstration, but the work of extension would be done through the State Governments. All our training centres for milk production, or Fodder Research Centres of ICAR call officers from all the departments, be it horticulture, or agriculture, or fisheries, or husbandry of goats, or piggery and gives them training in modern techniques. It is also called Teachers Training Centre (TTC). These officers of the States are given training by us in these centres and then they go back to their respective States. What can the Union Government do if State Government do not want to extend the benefit of this training to the common people. We cannot compel them for doing that. Even then the Union Government do whatever is possible through Agriculture University, Agriculture science centres and by running training camps and also request the State Governments to do so.

After a long time, rather perhaps for the first time our hon. Union Minister had called for a conference of Ministers in connection with animal husbandry. We held discussion in that conference and though the discussion was fruitful, but I cannot tell at the moment as to what steps we are going to take in future on the basis of the said discussion, as it was held keeping in view the present economic and global scenario. So far as policy regarding animals is concerned, we are quite ahead in making policies for animal and are also making efforts for

promotion of livestock. We have many schemes with us. And it would take me one hour if I start mentioning about those schemes here.

Hon. Minister has raised a question with regard to Rajasthan. We have started a scheme for the Government of Rajasthan also. How much fodder do they give? Rupees 11.66 crores have already been given to them. And rupees 50 crore have been given from the NCRF to the States which are facing scarcity of fodder. So far as the establishment of fodder Bank, or any other thing is concerned, let me inform the House here that we have got the approval for the same in the Tenth Five Year Plan and we are going to start work in this regard. We are ready to extend our full co-operation to the State Governments if they intend to make fodder Banks. We are making efforts and we expect the same from the State Governments.

One point for improving the quality of fodder through urea treatment is also been raised. The Union Government are ready to grant cent percent funds for this purpose. It would be good if the State Government cooperate and utilize these funds. We would give cent percent funds for this. So far as establishing fodder Banks in sensitive areas is concerned, the Union Government would provide 75 percent and the rest 25 percent of the expenditure would be borne by State Governments.

SHRI LAXMAN SINGH: whether any scheme for providing fodder is being evolved for areas affected by drought? The Central Government would help them but State Governments cannot even afford to contribute 25 percent of the funds. Rajasthan is witnessing drought since the last 5 years.

SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV: This is a separate issue. Mutual talks with Chief Ministers and Agriculture Ministers of those States supporting them are quite often held in this regard. First Planning Commission and then Finance Ministry are made aware of their problems. He knows very well that the funds received by us through the Planning Commission and Finance Commission are utilized for implementation of schemes. Our hon. Prime Minister is quite sensitive in this regard. We are holding discussion with State Governments in this regard and the State Governments need assistance for livestock and we are providing them with partial funds. We have provided them rail bogies free of cost. We have asked them to take as much fodder as they can. We have also asked them to make a zone and gather all animals from most drought affected areas. And if they

wish. They can start relief camps for the animals. Union Government are ready to give assistance as much then required. We would not let them face any problem, but we can do this only with the co-operation of State Governments.

All Members have raised a point as to what are we doing for preventing diseases? We are running the 'Rajasthan Plague Unmoolan Scheme' since the past some time. We are providing cent percent funds for that. That too not recently, but since 1952 when the said scheme was evolved and being run. But what can we do if they do not spend money despite hundred percent assistance from our side. Hon. Raghuvansh Babu should get disturbed as I also hail from Bihar and hon. Mr. Chairman also hails from Bihar. Not only Raghuvansh Babu's but our hearts also feel pain when there is discussion on the pain, agony and sorrows of the people of Bihar. The Bihar Government did not spend even a penny out of the funds given to them between 1997 and 2002 under the 'Rashtriya Plague Unmoolan Karyakram'. What reply can I give to it? Being the Minister of Agriculture, I shall not go to each village to inject animals or vaccinate them. Whose duty is this? I have the list of persons who are given money to do this job, but that would take me sufficient time to mention it here.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: He does not intend to improve the conditions of Bihar. I am ready to tell everything to those in the ruling party who speak against Bihar. There was a separate scheme for Breed improvement in Bihar. Whether he has not done away with the scheme due to grudge?

SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV: I have no grudge. If he wishes he can make a separate demand. I would request the hon. Chairman to hold discussion on Bihar exclusively. I am ready to resign if anybody proves that any Government other than the Government under the leadership of Hon. Atal Bihari Vajpayee has given more projects to Bihar during the period of last fifty years. ...(*Interruptions*)

But instead of asking to hold discussion on this subject, the hon. Members just stand up and talk against the Government.

...(*Interruptions*)\*

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\*Not recorded.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh ji. Your statement is not going on record. Please take your seat. Mr. Minister you please continue with your speech.

...(*Interruptions*)\*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Raghuvansh Prasad ji, no statement of yours is going on record, only the reply of hon. Minister would be recorded in the proceedings.

[*English*]

Now, nothing should go on record except the speech of the hon. Minister.

...(*Interruptions*)\*

[*Translation*]

SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV: Raghuvansh Babu, this is Lok Sabha, and Dr. Lohia had said that rule is done in two ways—one on the basis of weapon and other on the basis of logic. And in Lok Sabha, it would run on logic and debate. Therefore, only logical discussion, question and replies would be furnished here. So please listen to it.

...(*Interruptions*)\*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Minister is not yielding. No statement of the Member is going on record. Hon. Minister may continue with his speech.

...(*Interruptions*)\*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Raghuvansh Babu, let hon'ble Minister reply to your question. Listen to his reply.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Vijaypal Singh ji, please take your seat. Raghuvansh Babu, please don't use such words. ...(*Interruptions*)\*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please do not use irrelevant words. What he says is not going on record.

SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV: Mr. Chairman, Sir, so far as foot and mouth disease is concerned. ...(*Interruptions*) We have formed three zones. ...(*Interruptions*)

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\*Not recorded.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Raghuvansh Babu, let reply be given to your question.

SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV: In the three zones, which contain 54 districts of the country, the foot and mouth disease control programme would be implemented actively. These identified 54 districts are most affected by the disease. After the three zones, we would also implement this programme in other areas. But on immediate basis we have covered these states in three zones—Zone I has 8 districts, zone II has 33 districts and zone III has 13 districts. Thus in the 54 districts we are fully funding the control programme. Earlier, under this programmes, Union Government used to bear 25 percent of the total cost, State Government another 25 per cent and the rest 50 percent was left for the farmers to bear. The scheme was already under implementation. Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee is fond of both cattle and the farmers, that is why he said 75 percent cost would be borne by State Governments or farmers but State Governments ought to bear it. During their reign, the share of Union and State Government was 25 percent each while hopeless farmers had to pay 50 percent. The downtrodden, backward, poor, weak, sheep herding farmers you are talking about, had to pay 50 percent of the costs. This Government have agreed to bear 75 percent of the costs while State Governments had to pay 25 percent. Therefore it cannot be said that. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Raghuvansh Babu, you are senior Member, please let the hon'ble Minister reply.

SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV: Mr. Chairman, Sir, the questions raised by Shri Ramji Lal Suman involve several figures. I would like to appreciate the fact that Shri Suman has raised this question not as a leader of a political party, but as a member of farmer family. I would like to invite him to my Ministry if he wants to have any specific information. I am his colleague, he may come to my Ministry, where he will get detailed information about all the schemes. I will enable him to interact with all the officers of Animal Husbandry Department and they will give all the information that he wants and he may also contribute to the welfare of the farmers of his area either through any NGO, or through State Government or even in his individual capacity. I would like to invite all the hon'ble Members to come to Agriculture, Cooperation and Animal Husbandry Department. It is open for them. Please come, sit with us and take benefit of those schemes. Government of India have several schemes and it often happens that our funds remain unutilised. I appeal all hon'ble Members fervently in this regard. Do you think that I get any benefit out of the funds returning unutilised to us from states. I

am really pained when funds return unutilised. At that time, I think that it would have been better had the money been spent on the poor sheep herders.

With these words, I hope that the questions raised by Shri Ramji Lal Suman and other hon'ble Members. ...*(Interruptions)*

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer): How would you utilise the vacant lands? ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Rawat ji, please sit down.

SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV: We are about to do that. I would like to tell you that Government of India is considering the problem and is having talks with State Governments. We are ready to move forward on it. Finally I would like to request Shri Raghuvansh Babu that he is also a professor and says that Ministers are like bonded labourers. Mr. Chairman is on his seat and I would like to tell Shri Raghuvansh Babu that if I were a bonded labourers, ready to accept slavery, then I would have been under the feet of Shri Laloo Yadav. I am not slave to anybody, I am a rebel. It is my nature to oppose injustice and rebel. Therefore, such language ought not to be used in the House. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: No irrelevant or unparliamentary expression will go on record.

...*(Interruptions)\**

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon'ble Minister has finished his reply. Hon'ble Minister, you should also be mindful of one thing, since the issue is very serious. Rasa Singh Rawat ji was asking a question, but I did allow him. In this question Rawat ji wanted to know about the plan of the Government with regard to cultivating fodder on vacant lands. He wanted to know about this.

SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV: Mr. Chairman, Sir, among our schemes for fodder development, one is to provide adequate support to the growers for increasing fodder production in drought affected and other areas. You may also be aware that the public lands in villages have been encroached by the people. Therefore the cattle of poor could no longer go there for fodder. There used to be 'Johads' in Punjab and Haryana where animals were washed and watered, they are also now dried up with silt or are in the process of becoming so. On all these issues, we have undertaken discussion with State Governments to ensure clean water for cattle, arrangement for their washing, improvement in their breed and we have also experimented, through ICAR, to grow new type of grass in forest or barren lands in Jhansi and other

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\*Not recorded.



places. In Bikaner, we are experimenting with growing certain varieties of grass in drought prone areas, deserts, water deficit areas, barren lands, sandy areas so that cattle could graze there or they might be kept as cut and dried fodder. Carrying of chaff on road is bothersome for traffic. For this, we have developed a machine which would make brick like cake of green fodder and thus one truck would carry the load of five truckfull of chaff. We have this technique and we want to use it for fodder development. I would also like to request all hon'ble Members to talk with the State Governments and the Minister of Animal Husbandry and assist them in bringing schemes from State Government. I assure them that we would not allow funds to be constraint in the scheme they refer. Government of India is not short of funds.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, if the House grants leave, item no. 16 be taken up and Shri Sharad Yadav be asked to introduce. Essential Commodities (Amendment) Bill, 2003 for consideration of the House.

[*English*]

SHRI C. SREENIVASAN (Dindigul): We do not want to sit for any more time, please adjourn the House. Without sufficient number of Members being present, how can we discuss it?

[*Translation*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now the half an hour discussion is over.

18.50 hrs.

### THE ESSENTIAL COMMODITIES (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2003

[*Translation*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: If the House grants leave, item no. 16 of the List of Business be taken up.

[*English*]

SHRI C. SREENIVASAN (Dindigul): Sir, how can the next item be taken up now? ...(*Interruptions*) Please adjourn the House. ...(*Interruptions*) It would be better if it can be postponed to tomorrow. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali): How can you do this from the Chair. How did you go to the next item. I do not agree to it.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Raghuvansh babu, please sit down. You are also on panel of Chairmen. How can you use such language. I am seeking the leave of House. Please take your seat.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: No, I am leaving the House.

18.51 hrs.

(*Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh and some other hon. Member then left the House*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: If the House agrees that leave be granted to Shri Sharad Yadav to introduce the Bill in the House?

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: Yes, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon'ble Minister may introduce the Bill.

[*English*]

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill further to amend the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 be taken into consideration."

[*Translation*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, the Bill has been moved. House agrees to it. Discussion may take place later.

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Ferozabad): Mr. Chairman, Sir, it is good that the Bill has been introduced today. But, in my view, discussion on it is essential. Therefore I request you to allow discussion on it tomorrow itself.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The discussion will be held. Now the House is adjourned till Eleven of the Clock tomorrow.

18.52 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Thursday, May 8, 2003/Vaisakha 18, 1825 (Saka)*

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