

# **LOK SABHA DEBATES**

## **(English Version)**

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



**Gazettes & Debates Unit**  
**Parliament Library Building**  
**Room No. P-10, 6th**  
**Block 'A'**

*(Vol. XXXII contains Nos. 11 to 20)*

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

*Price : Rs. 50.00*

## **EDITORIAL BOARD**

**G.C. Malhotra**  
**Secretary-General**  
**Lok Sabha**

**Dr. P.K. Sandhu**  
**Joint Secretary**

**Sharda Prasad**  
**Principal Chief Editor**

**Kiran Sahni**  
**Chief Editor**

**Parmesh Kumar Sharma**  
**Senior Editor**

**Manisha Tewari**  
**Assistant Editor**

---

[ORIGINAL ENGLISH PROCEEDINGS INCLUDED IN ENGLISH VERSION AND ORIGINAL HINDI PROCEEDINGS INCLUDED IN HINDI VERSION  
WILL BE TREATED AS AUTHORITATIVE AND NOT THE TRANSLATION THEREOF.]

## CONTENTS

[Thirteenth Series, Vol. XXXII, Twelfth Session, 2003/1924 (Saka)]

No. 18, Wednesday, March 12, 2003/Phalguna 21, 1924 (Saka)

SUBJECT	COLUMNS
ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS	
*Starred Question Nos. 301 to 304 & 306 .....	1—27
WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS	
Starred Question Nos. 305 and 307 to 320 .....	27—47
Unstarred Question Nos. 3072 to 3269 .....	47—285
PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE .....	286—94
MESSAGE FROM RAJYA SABHA .....	294
ESTIMATES COMMITTEE	
Twelfth Report .....	295
STATEMENT BY PRIME MINISTER	
Situation Relating to Iraq	
Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee .....	295—96
CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE	
Alleged inclusion of bogus voters in the electoral list in Madhya Pradesh .....	304—24
Shri Kirit Somaiya .....	304
Shri Arun Jaitley .....	308
Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan .....	315
Shri Prahlad Singh Patel .....	316
Shri Satyavrat Chaturvedi .....	318
MATTERS UNDER RULE 377	
(i) Need to implement 'one rank one pension' scheme for defence personnel	
Shri Suresh Chandel .....	328
(ii) Need to link Khuria reservoir with Narmada river in Chhattisgarh with a view to augment irrigation facilities in the region	
Shri Punnu Lal Mohale .....	328

---

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

SUBJECT	COLUMNS
(iii) Need to formulate Pradhan Mantri Water Harvesting Scheme in the country particularly in Rajasthan Shri Girdhari Lal Bhargava .....	328
(iv) Need for construction of a bridge on river Chambal at Atarghat to connect Madhya Pradesh with Rajasthan Shri Ashok Argal .....	329
(v) Need to look into the problems being faced by farmers due to non-procurement of paddy in Balaghat district, Madhya Pradesh Shri Prahlad Singh Patel .....	329
(vi) Need to supply additional gas to Ramgarh Power Project and also reactivate oil wells in Jaisalmer in Rajasthan Col. (Retd.) Sona Ram Choudhary .....	330
(vii) Need to provide telephone connections to all wait listed people in Nagaur district, Rajasthan Shri Ram Raghunath Chaudhary .....	330
(viii) Need to provide adequate funds for development of historical tourist places in Purana Monger district, Bihar Shri Rajo Singh .....	331
(ix) Need for construction of four-lane highways in Kerala with a view to develop tourism in the State Shri P. Rajendran .....	331
(x) Need to grant sanction for setting up an international leather complex in Nellore district, Andhra Pradesh Dr. Rajeswaramma Vukkala .....	331
(xi) Need to allocate funds from Central Road Fund for repair of Bidhar-Ghanghata-Khalilabad-Mehandawal-Karmaini road in district Sant Kabir Nagar, U.P. Shri Bhal Chandra Yadav .....	332
(xii) Need to release funds for construction of National Highway No. 103 between Hajipur and Bhusri Gharari Chowk in Bihar Shri Manjay Lal .....	332
(xiii) Need for construction of an under pass at KM 57.60 of Jagatpur-Chandikhole Section National Highway No. 5 in Orissa Shri Prabhat Samantray .....	333
(xiv) Need to bring Agricultural Produce Market Committee in the definition of local authority under Income Tax Act Shri Sadashivrao Dadoba Mandlik .....	333
(xv) Need to declare Koelwar-Nazimabad-Darihat-Rohtas Fort road in Bihar as a National Highway Shri Ram Prasad Singh .....	334

## DISCUSSION UNDER RULE 193

Atrocities on Dalits .....	334—494
Shri Ramji Lal Suman .....	334
Shri Muni Lall.....	343
Shri Ram Vilas Paswan.....	351
Shri K.H. Muniyappa .....	360
Shri Mohan Rawale .....	368
Shri Subodh Roy .....	373
Dr. Manda Jagannath.....	374
Shri Thawarchand Gehlot .....	378
Shri Shamsheer Singh Dullo .....	384
Shri Rattan Lal Kataria .....	388
Shri Dalit Ezhilmalai .....	394
Shri A. Krishnaswamy .....	400
Shri S. Ajaya Kumar .....	404
Shri Sheesh Ram Singh Ravi.....	406
Kunwar Akhilesh Singh .....	409
Dr. Bikram Sarkar.....	415
Shri Pravin Rashtrapal .....	419
Captain (Retd.) Inder Singh .....	430
Shri Ram Prasad Singh.....	436
Shri E. Ponnuswamy.....	440
Shri Bhan Singh Bhaura.....	444
Shri Harpal Singh Sathi.....	446
Shrimati Santosh Chowdhary.....	450
Shri Prakash Yashwant Ambedkar .....	452
Dr. Ram Chandra Dome .....	457
Shri Kishan Lal Diler.....	461
Shri Kodikunnil Suresh .....	466
Shri Virendra Kumar.....	468
Shri Ramdas Athawale.....	469
Shri Haribhau Shankar Mahale .....	473
Dr. Satyanarayan Jatiya .....	474
Shri Ramanand Singh .....	480
Shri Manikrao Hodlya Gavit .....	482
Shri I.D. Swami.....	484

# LOK SABHA DEBATES

## LOK SABHA

*Wednesday, March 12, 2003/Phalguna 21, 1924 (Saka)*

*The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock.*

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

[English]

SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY (Basirhat): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have given a notice for Adjournment Motion...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I will take up all the notices that I have received after the Question Hour is over.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE (Mumbai South Central): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to congratulate the Indian Cricket team for reaching the semi-final in the World Cup. Hon. Prime Minister is here. He had said that if our team makes it to the finals then he will go to match the final match. We will definitely reach the final.

11.01 hrs.

### ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

MR. SPEAKER: Q. No. 301, Shri Chandra Bhushan Singh.

[English]

#### Lending of ISRO Expertise

\*301. SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Space Research Organisation has offered to develop, design and launch remote sensing satellites of other countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the ISRO has entered into agreements with other countries in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY

OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) and (b) A proposal has been submitted to Thailand by Antrix Corporation, the commercial arm of the Indian Space Research Organisation, for the design, development and launching of a remote sensing satellite.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Government of Thailand has asked for the technique of launching the satellite through remote from Antrix Corporation. I want to know from the hon. minister when was the proposal submitted by the Government of Thailand and what is its latest position? Alongwith this I also want to know the number of countries of the world which have developed satellites and want to instal satellites in space and whether ISRO or our Government have contacted those countries so that they can also buy this technique.

[English]

SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE: Sir, so far as Thailand is concerned, the proposal was made about a year ago and they wanted a small remote sensing satellite weighing about 600 kg. to be launched. The date for the launching is 2006 and the operational life is five years. So far as other countries are concerned, ISRO has launched four satellites, one of Korea, two of Germany and one of Belgium.

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH: Whether you have got any other proposal besides this?

MR. SPEAKER: This is your second supplementary.

SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH: Yes, you have mentioned Korea and two other countries. Whether there are other countries which want you do the launching?

[English]

SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE: Yes, Sir. In fact, Singapore has approached us for launching one of their satellites.

SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, mainly satellite launching pad and other activities are there in Sriharikota in Andhra Pradesh and the Analysing Centre is there in Hyderabad, but I was given to understand that most of the activities have been shifted from Sriharikota to Bangalore in order to have infrastructural facilities for the employees.

Andhra Pradesh has given 4,000 acres of land free. A lot of people were displaced and sent out. Now, will they consider to have the activities of launching everything in Sriharikota again?

SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE: Sir, in fact, as of now, Sriharikota is the only launching pad.

SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY: But the other activities are there in Bangalore.

SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE: There is an office in Bangalore and also in Hyderabad.

SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY: But the main activities are in Bangalore. Only launching is going on in this huge island-Sriharikota.

SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE: For launching sites, usually the places near the seacoast are selected.

MR. SPEAKER: I think, whatever reply he is having, he has already given.

SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY: All right.

SHRI S. BANGARAPPA: Sir, we have launched several remote sensing satellites. These are orbiting in the space. Are our remote sensing satellites capable of sensing the activities of other countries, like Pakistan, North Korea, Iran or some such country?

Are our remote sensing facilities capable of locating the movements of nuclear missile facilities that other countries, like Pakistan and North Korea, have?

SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE: Normally, there are agreements between different countries availing of the facilities. These sensitive matters are shared with friendly countries and not others.

So far as the data are concerned, these are used commercially and also sold usually to other countries.

SHRI S. BANGARAPPA: No, no. My question is this. Are our remote sensing satellites capable of sensing the movements of nuclear missiles in the space of Pakistan, North Korea or some such other countries?

SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE: It is a very pertinent question. But I do not think it would be proper to disclose these things.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Sir, there was a landing centre at Thumba near Thiruvananthapuram. There were attempts for launching also. Now, what is the difficulty in continuing that process? It was the first of its kind in India.

SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE: So far as Thumba is concerned, I think, it was set up in 1963. Since then, many developments have taken place. Other sites have also been selected. There is no bar in selecting other sites that are more suitable.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: What is the difficulty in continuing that process at Thumba? What are the activities that you have now given to them?

SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE: It is a launching site...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Why are you getting angry?

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: There is nothing to get angry on this.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: He has stopped it. That is my information. I am representing that constituency. That is why I have put this question.

SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE: It has not been stopped. Sounding rockets are still launched from Thumba.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Then, you are misinforming...*(Interruptions)* That is my information.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Radhakrishnan, please sit down. Now, Shri Adhir Chowdhary.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: That is my information. I am subject to correction.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: On one question, the Minister is standing, the questioner is standing and another MP is also standing. There is something wrong...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You want to assist the Chair?

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: He is doing something else.

MR. SPEAKER: Yes, I know.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Now, I was putting questions and he had been answering. My learned friend is doing something else...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: He always does that. Now Shri Adhir Chowdhary.

SHRI ADHIR CHOUHDARY: Sir, whenever we discussed about space research, the memory of Kalpana Chawla haunts us. After a long and arduous odyssey in the field of space exploration, we have become a space-sharing nation in the world. Soon after the successful flight of SLV-III, the dream of Shrimati Indira Gandhi and Shri Rajiv Gandhi, including the people of India, has been realised, thanks to the brilliant scientists of our country. It is widely recognised that a good deal of Indian scientists are performing superbly in NASA.

I would like to know whether those scientists, due to non-availability of adequate research facilities in India, had left the Indian soil.

Sir, soon after the Pokhran Explosion, USA had thrust upon us an embargo on technology transfer. I would like to know whether the embargo has adversely affected so far space exploration of our country is concerned.

SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE: Sir, with great respect, although it does not really arise out of this Question, but still I would try to answer it. So far as the Space activities are concerned, India has done remarkably well and I must confess that this is despite the sanctions which are imposed after Pokhran, we on our own, with the help of our Space scientists...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Please do not disturb.

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY: I wanted to know whether we are able to launch them indigenously.

SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE: Yes, we are in a position. The position as of today is that up to two tonnes of satellite we can launch on our own. In the next Five Year Plan, we hope to launch satellites weighing three tonnes. That is the position and the research work is going on. We have developed it on our own and we are proud of this fact.

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY: I wanted to know whether the Government is going to invite the Indian scientists who have already migrated to NASA to come back to our country.

SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE: Sir, this is a free country and whoever chooses to come back is welcomed.

[*Translation*]

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, a few years ago we initiated the deal of cryogenic engine and technology transfer with Russia as we needed cryogenic engine for sending our satellite to geo-static orbit and installing it there. I do not want to go into the details of the reasons for which the deal was cancelled and the public was told that our scientist are doing research in this direction and we will succeed in manufacturing cryogenic engine indigenously. Through you I would like to know from the hon. Minister how much progress we have made in this direction and the extent of our success. Are we in a position to say that we have been able to manufacture cryogenic engine indigenously?

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE): Sir, Russia is our strong ally in the field of space. We had contacted Russia when we faced problems in procuring cryogenic engine and it was ready to help us out. Alongwith this we have been urging our scientists to move ahead in the direction of manufacturing cryogenic engines. I am pleased to inform the House that we have succeeded in making cryogenic engines.

[*English*]

#### **Terrorist Country Status to Pak**

\*302. DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have urged the US Government to declare Pakistan a terrorist State;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, whether the Government propose to mount pressure on U.S. and other countries to declare Pakistan a terrorist State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI VINOD KHANNA): (a) and (b) Government believes that Pakistan displays all the characteristics of a state sponsor of terrorism. It has consistently conveyed this assessment to the international community, including the United States. It is for the United States Government to consider whether Pakistan meets the criteria for designation as a state sponsor of terrorism under United States laws.



(c) Government uses every opportunity to apprise the international community of Pakistan's continuing sponsorship of cross-border terrorism against India and Government's firm resolve to use all appropriate means to defeat it.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: He knows the procedure, but he wanted the House to be apprised once again.

[Translation]

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Pakistan has been waging shadow war against India for the last 15 years in which our 60 thousand civilians and 6 thousand army personnel have been killed. I want to ask the hon. Minister whether India has asked America that the definition of terrorism for Afghanistan and Iraq is different from the one for Pakistan?

America's attitude towards terrorism shows that its opinion about Afghanistan and Iraq is different from its opinion about Pakistan. The Government of Pakistan is promoting terrorism. Have we held a dialogue with America in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): Mr. Speaker, Sir, Hon. Member is right that India has been a victim of terrorism for the last 15-20 years and Pakistan is the source of this terrorism. As far as international community is concerned, we draw the attention of America and other nations towards this that we have sufficient proof against Pakistan than American has against the nations whom it has held responsible for terrorism. As per their rules if any nation deserves to be in such a category, it is Pakistan. We go on telling them.

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, America has kept Pakistan in the most favoured category. It has extended financial assistance of 20 thousand crore rupees to Pakistan recently and Pakistan is spending the money received from America in waging shadow war against India. India expects friendship from America and it is supporting our barbaric enemy and biggest terrorist nation. Have we protested against this action of America.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, as per the law of America, if America puts any nation in the category of the State sponsor of terrorism then they take a follow up action. It includes various sanctions. And it is evident that America has not included Pakistan in such a list that is why it has not imposed sanctions on Pakistan. As regards the second part of the question, I

have informed the House that we do not agree with America in this regard. We draw its attention towards this whenever we get opportunity.

SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to draw the attention of the House towards the reply given by the hon. Minister. It has two things—It is said in (a) and (b) parts:

[English]

"Government believes that Pakistan displays all the characteristics of a State sponsor of terrorism."

[Translation]

It is also said-

[English]

...designation as a State sponsor of terrorism under United States laws."

[Translation]

"The question was-

[English]

"If not, whether the Government propose to mount pressure on the US and other countries to declare Pakistan as a terrorist State?"

[Translation]

Mr. Speaker, Sir, we want America to declare Pakistan a terrorist State. I want to ask the hon. Minister the criteria in our country to declare any nation a terrorist State? Whether there is any law in our country so that we can declare any nation a terrorist State. We have not yet been able to convince America to declare Pakistan a terrorist State. Whether the Government of India has been able to convince a single country in this world that Pakistan is involved in terrorist activities? If so, then we would like to know the name of the country.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, as is asked in the question whether America is declaring Pakistan a terrorist State or State sponsor of terrorism or not and whether India is mounting pressure on America or not? America has its own two laws. Their law does not have the word terrorist State, it includes the word.

[English]

'State sponsor of terrorism', where the State is the sponsor of terrorism State sponsor of terrorism.

[Translation]

There is a provision that if the Government of America concludes that any particular nation is supporting or sponsoring terrorism then it would declare that nation State sponsor of terrorism and take the follow up action defined in the American law i.e. impose various sanctions. Certain countries have been included in this list which have been categorized as State sponsor of terrorism under the American law but Pakistan has not been included in this list as America have formulated this law to protect their own interests. The law mainly covers the impact on American citizens and assets. If any country tends to be dangerous for America then it declares that nation terrorist State or State sponsor of terrorism.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, America is using this law wherever their own interests are directly involved. We all are aware and the House is also aware that America will not deal with Pakistan in the same way. In fact Pakistan is a stalwart ally for fight against terrorism. This America's policy is apparently contradictory. This contradiction is there because America is concerned about their own interests, they are not bothered about other's interests. As far as convincing other countries is concerned, India has raised the issue with international community time and again. The House is aware that during the last 12-14 months terrorist activities have increased. Many countries condemned the attack on our Parliament. It has also been accepted that Pakistan is sponsoring cross border terrorism. Those countries are mounting pressure on Pakistan to stop sponsoring terrorism but America has not taken the step of declaring Pakistan a State sponsor of terrorism.

SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, My original question was whether there is any law in India by which we can declare any nation a terrorist nation. Hon. Minister may stand up and reply.

SHRI YASWANT SINHA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, replies are always given by standing up.

MR. SPEAKER: He knows the discipline of the House and he will stand up to reply.

SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, he keeps sitting and merely nods his head.

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Ministers stand up while replying and the members keep sitting while listening to them. He is standing while he is sitting.

MR. SPEAKER: He is standing all the time.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon. Member has asked whether there is any law in our country under which we can declare any nation a terrorist nation. There is POTA to control terrorism in our country. We can declare the organizations a terrorist organization under this law but we can not deal with any country in this manner that is what I am saying...(Interruptions)

SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, he is urging upon other nations to declare Pakistan a terrorist nation, I want to know that why can not we formulate such a law in our country...(Interruptions)

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is essential to clarify that we are doing so because America has such a law...(Interruptions)

SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Our Government has convinced other nations to declare Pakistan a terrorist State but there is no such law in our country, Mr. Speaker, Sir, please ask his opinion...(Interruptions)

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI: America has granted the status of most favoured nation to Pakistan and we are asking America to declare it a terrorist State...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down, questions are not asked like this.

SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI: I have asked another question also whether you have been able to convince any nation to declare Pakistan a terrorist nation. You have replied to half of the question...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Minister, there is no need to reply to this. Please ask your question. Other people have also to ask their questions.

SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI: Has the Government convinced any country in the world to declare Pakistan a terrorist state. Barring America as it does not agree but has this Government convinced any country of the world to declare a terrorist state.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have repeatedly said that this question pertains to America as to whether America declares Pakistan a terrorist State or not and there exists a law of this kind in America. As far as other countries are concerned, I have stated in the House that other countries and groups of countries have agreed to this...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Prof. Ummareddyji, please go ahead with your question.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Pakistan is responsible for cross-border terrorism and those countries have mounted pressure on Pakistan to shun cross border terrorism...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I am not allowing these types of questions. Please sit down.

PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Mr. Speaker, Sir, consequent upon the attack of terrorists on the temple of our democracy, the Parliament of India, our country had sent several delegations to various other countries to apprise them of the situation and to condemn the brutal activity and the Pakistan-sponsored terrorism on this democratic institution. So, what is the response of these countries? What is the actual outcome? I would like to know whether these countries have stood by the principle of expressing solidarity with condemning such types of attacks. I also want to know whether this issue had been raised with them to express their solidarity with our country.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: As the hon. Member has pointed out, after the terrorist attack on our Parliament, a number of delegations went to various countries. The hon. Members of Parliament were either members or leaders of those delegations. These delegations went, represented the case of India, explained the enormity of the recalcitrance of Pakistan and the activities of Pakistan. It had its impact. It is in the sense that a very large number of countries, barring only a few, had openly condemned the terrorist attack on Indian Parliament. They fully sympathised with India. As a result of the work done by those delegations, there is a far greater understanding today in the international community about India's case vis-a-vis Pakistan. The international community has recognised that Pakistan is a sponsor of cross-border terrorism. The international community tells us that they are putting pressure; and they continue to put pressure on Pakistan to desist from it...(Interruptions)

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY: Sir, Pakistan is still getting the most favoured nation status...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: No, I have not permitted him. Please do not reply to him.

SHRI PRAKASH PARANJPE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I want to know this. When Yasser Arafat is creating terrorism in Israel, Israel never waits to get a green signal from America to attack on the residence of Yasser Arafat...(Interruptions)

SHRI SURESH KURUP: This is not the proper way...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: The Minister is there to reply.

SHRI PRAKASH PARANJPE: Let me put my question...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: The Minister is there to reply to him. If he is making a wrong statement, the Minister will correct him.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRAKASH PARANJPE: You are not my boss.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Prakash Paranjpe, do not talk to them. You please address the Chair.

SHRI PRAKASH PARANJPE: When Yasser Arafat is making attack on Israel, Israel never waits to get the green signal from America to attack on the residence of Yasser Arafat. Why is India waiting for getting a green signal from America to attack on Pak-occupied Kashmir where training centres are there for *atankawadis*?

They are attacking our nation and we are every now and then saying that we are waiting for a green signal from America, for America to declare Pakistan a terrorist nation. When are we going to learn something from countries like Israel to say, 'We are proud of our country and we would not tolerate anybody coming and attacking us'? We have to learn a lesson from Israel to attack Pakistan-occupied Kashmir and finish all the training centres without waiting for any green signal from America...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, please sit down. Let the hon. Minister reply.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: Sir, I am on a point of procedure...(Interruptions) I am not on a point of order but on a point of procedure.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Jaipal Reddyji, please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Jaipal Reddy, the hon. Member has put a question. The question is a straight question. The Minister has to reply.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Suresh Jadhav, would you please sit down?

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: The question has been put. If the hon. Minister thinks that this question really needs to be replied to, he can definitely reply to it. No other hon. Member is allowed to advise the hon. Minister in between.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Please listen to my reply.

The Government of India does not think that this reference to Israel is relevant in this context; neither does the Government of India compare Pakistan with Palestine. They are in two different categories...(Interruptions) Therefore, as far as obtaining a green signal is concerned, the Government of India is not waiting—let me assert this with all the force at my command—for a green signal from anybody. The Government of India is competent to take all its decision by itself and will take them.

We are fighting this scourge of terrorism. We will continue to fight this scourge of terrorism. We shall win this battle, we shall win this war and we shall take whatever steps are necessary to fight terrorism. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, would you please allow me to ask one question?... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: The last question on this would be by Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi. I have already given half-an-hour for this Question because of its importance.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, he has referred to Yasser Arafat as a terrorist. That should be expunged...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Where did he refer it?

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: He has compared it...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, how can be compare like that? It should be expunged. He has compared Yasser Arafat with terrorists. That should be expunged...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I have announced that Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi's question would be the last supplementary on this Question.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRAKASH PARANJPE: I have referred to Israel; I have not referred to Yasser Arafat. I had said that we should learn from Israel; I did not refer to Yasser Arafat. He is misleading the House...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi, are you putting your question or not?

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Prakash Paranjpe, please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Please allow me to put the question...(Interruptions)

Before I put this supplementary through you, my humble appeal to you on behalf of our Party is that Yasser Arafat is a friendly nation's leader, who is dear to India. Normally, it is a convention of Parliament that the name of the Head of the State of any country, which is friendly to our nation, is not taken in a derogatory fashion. So, it should be expunged from the record. That is my appeal....(Interruptions)

My supplementary to the hon. Minister is that since the hon. Minister has confessed that the United States considers the threat perception of terrorist limited to the interests of the American people and not beyond that, the global alliance, which was initiated by the Head of

the State of the United States, supported by U.K., made it clear in the first declaration meeting that it will uproot the last base of the terrorists, wherever it may be in the world. In that context, I think, the Government of India's confession today is that they have totally failed diplomatically to project the matter in the international community.

However, my straight question to the hon. Minister is that since the overwhelming people of Pakistan and India are opposed to terrorism, it is the regime of Pakistan, which is operating it. But still there are opportunities to exchange the social, intellectual and other organisations of Pakistan to isolate the terrorists in their own homeland against the regime. Why I say because I have a reason to say.

The other day, a Member of Parliament of Pakistan, Shri Imran Khan, made a statement in India...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri P.R. Dasmunsi, please put your straight question.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: He mentioned that it is a goodwill link between the two nations. I would like to know the Governments through their diplomatic efforts, shall build up a campaign within Pakistan also that the people of Pakistan reject terrorism and restore friendship between India and Pakistan, as it was in the past, because there are such people in Pakistan also. I would like to know whether diplomatic channels have overcome that...*(Interruptions)*

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Is it the Congress Party's policy which he has stated?...*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

If it is the policy of Congress, they should initiate a dialogue with Pakistan as per their Party's policy...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: The Congress Party believes that still there are people in Pakistan who are opposed to terrorism. They are not our enemies. Even an MP of Pakistan came to India and stated why to encourage all these things...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri P.R. Dasmunsi, please let him reply.

...*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

SHRI RAM NAGINA MISHRA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, their party men also rejoice. When there are jubilations in Pakistan. It is their Policy...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Now, your Government has ailed. The Minister has confessed it...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: Let the Minister reply.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri P.R. Dasmunsi, you cannot to go on replying to each and every Member. The Minister is replying to your question. Please sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: As far as the question of confession is concerned, let me clarify that I made no confession and I only stated the facts. So, there is no question of the Government of India making a confession or the Minister making a confession.

We are talking about Pakistan declared a terrorist State only in the context of the American law on this subject and, therefore, this question has arisen. Otherwise, the question will not arise...*(Interruptions)*

Secondly, as far as the failure of the Government of India on the diplomatic front is concerned, I most humbly submit for the consideration of the hon. Member that, as we are all aware, State-sponsored terrorism from Pakistan has been going on for almost 20 years against India—first in Punjab and then in Jammu and Kashmir...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please listen to the Minister.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Various Governments have been in power there...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You do not take disadvantage of the Chair.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri P.R. Dasmunsi, please sit down. I have not permitted you.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: No, Sir. I would like to place it on record that Shrimati Indra Gandhi...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Only the statement of Minister will go on record and nothing else will go on record.

...*(Interruptions)\**

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Is he condemning his own Government about diplomatic failure?...*(Interruptions)* I would like to say that as far as diplomatic failure or success or diplomatic achievements are concerned, in the last five years, we have had more achievements on the diplomatic front to our credit than any Government in the past...*(Interruptions)* The third issue is...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri P.R. Dasmunsi, I have not permitted you to speak. Whatever he says will not go on record.

...*(Interruptions)\**

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Shri P.R. Dasmunsi, you are the Chief Whip of your Party and you do not know how to...*(Interruptions)*

As far as the people of Pakistan are concerned, let me say that the people of India have no ill-will towards the people of Pakistan. We want the friendliest of relationship with Pakistan, provided Pakistan learns to behave like a responsible member of the international community. That is the bottom line...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, what about expunction of remarks?

MR. SPEAKER: Such type of remarks, which are contradictory to the policy we have adopted, will be removed from the record.

### **Creation of Global Space Force**

\*303. SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a call for the creation of global space force to protect satellites and other space assets;

(b) if so, whether India has taken any step for coordination with other countries in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether there is ample scope for exploiting space technology for various purposes; and

(e) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken to harness space technology?

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) and (c) The response of other countries, if and when received, would be studied.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) Steps have been taken in the areas of communication, remote sensing, meteorology and navigation.

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether India has initiated any steps for creation of a global force to protect the satellites and other space assets and what is the response of the international community towards this call. I also want to know whether India has entered into any agreement with any other country regarding launching of satellites on commercial basis. If any agreement has been reached at by India with any other country, please state to this august House.

SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE: Sir, the genesis, if I may say so, is the speech of our President made on the 4th January, 2003 in the 90th Indian Science Congress at Bangalore. If I may quote from his speech, he said:

"Above all, we must recognise the necessity for the world's space community to avoid terrestrial geopolitical conflict to be drawn into outer space, thus threatening the space assets belonging to all mankind. This leads to the need for an international Space Force made up of all nations willing to participate and contribute to protect world's space assets in a manner which will enable peaceful use of space on a global co-operative basis without the looming threat of conflict on earth. I am sure, India would contribute its best to the creation and sustenance of such an International Space Force."

This is the genesis. There were about six nations from all over the world which participated in this Congress. We are expecting their reaction to come as to whether

they are willing to participate in this or not. We have not heard from them as yet.

Sir, you are aware that so far as the United Nations is concerned, there are treaties. If I may just enumerate them, they are: the Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including Moon and Other Celestial Bodies; the Agreement on the Rescue of Astronauts, the Return of Astronauts and the Return of Objects Launched into Outer Space; the Convention on International Liability for Damage Caused by Space Objects; the Convention on Registration of Objects Launched into Outer Space; and Agreement Governing the Activities of States on the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies. These are the five treaties so far as the United Nations is concerned. India has played a very vital role as one of the founders of these treaties.

So far as launching is concerned, we have launched satellites on behalf of Belgium, two from Germany and one from Korea. As I said in answer to the earlier question, so far as Singapore is concerned, they also want one of their satellites to be launched by us.

There are agreements with 22 countries, so far as India is concerned, for the development of space science. That is the position.

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, we are all aware that there is ample scope for exploiting space technology for various purposes. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether India has proposed to launch a satellite to explore and harness the resources of ground water which is scarce in our country.

SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE: Our space programme is essentially a social programme. We share our remote sensing capability with other countries. We share our communication capabilities with other countries. We launch satellites for others, including, as I said, Korea, Germany and Belgium, and control operations, training and supply of specialised material.

So far as the areas are concerned, they are: nation-wide wasteland mapping, drinking water in rural areas, natural disaster management, crop production forecasting, integrated land and water resources management environment and forestry applications, ocean applications and coastal zone management. These are the spheres which are covered.

SHRI A.C. JOS: The Minister has explained the purpose and aims of satellites that are being launched. He mentioned the oceanographic products also. In Kerala,

a lot of very valuable minerals are there which could not be surveyed till date, for various reasons. Will the Government come forward to launch a satellite programme for the purpose of surveying and looking into mineral aspects of the ocean sand in Kerala and in Tamil Nadu coast?

SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE: Sir, so far as ocean sand is concerned, in fact, a joint venture agreement has been entered into. We are exploring the possibilities of finding out the material from the ocean sand for the purpose of atomic energy. So far as the other research areas are concerned, offhand I cannot give an answer. If the hon. Member wishes to ask a specific question, certainly I can answer that.

SHRI A.C. JOS: I am talking about the minerals.

SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE: I am answering that. Kerala used the remote sensing data for developing the mineral resources in that area. As I said, a joint venture agreement has been entered into with one of the companies in Kerala for the purpose not only of mining but also of converting this into use. The MOU is already there. But so far as the other spheres are concerned, research is going on. As I said, we are proud of our space scientist. They are carrying on research work in the area.

#### **Small Scale Industries in Tenth Plan**

\*304. SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN:  
SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY:

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

(a) whether the target has been fixed for development and extension of the small scale industries during the Tenth Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the anticipated number of small scale industries at the end of the plan;

(c) the number of people employed in the small scale industries at the beginning of the plan;

(d) whether the small scale industries have immense potential for the eradication of unemployment; and

(e) if so, the number of people likely to be provided jobs in such industries?

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES  
AND MINISTER OF DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENT

OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (DR. C.P. THAKUR):  
(a) to (e) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

**Statement**

(a) and (b) Target has been fixed for the promotion and development of the Small Scale Industries (SSI) in terms of production, employment and exports during the Tenth Five Year Plan. However, the target has not been fixed in terms of the number of SSI units likely to be set up during the Tenth Five Year Plan.

(c) to (e) The SSI sector has vast employment potential. The estimated number of people employed in the SSI sector at the beginning of the Tenth Five Year Plan and the target of the number of people likely to be provided jobs by the end of the Tenth Five Year Plan is as under:—

Year	Number of people likely to be provided with job
At the end of the Ninth Plan, 2001-02 (i.e. the beginning of Tenth Plan)	19.3 million
At the end of Tenth Plan i.e., 2006-07	23.7million

SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN: Sir, based on the first hand information we get from the small-scale industrial sector, we feel that this sector is breathing under sickness and strain due to negligence of policy makers.

In part (a) of my Question, I asked as to what was the target for the Tenth Plan. The Minister stated in his answer that no target was fixed as far as the number was concerned. He said that employment targets in this sector are—19.3 million by the end of the Ninth Plan, and 23.7 million by the end of the Tenth Plan. That means, 4.4 million people will get employment each year during the five years of the Tenth Plan. I would like to know from the Minister if this number is sufficient. The information we get from the small scale sector shows that the sickness is looming large. What are the specific measures which have been proposed in this plan to ensure that this sector regains health, helps in the economic development of the country and ends the unemployment problem?

DR. C.P. THAKUR: The hon. Member has asked three questions. He stated that the number of small-scale industrial has not been given. Actually, it is not compulsory

for the small-scale industries to be registered with the Government. Therefore, the number has not been fixed in the Tenth Five-Year Plan. So far as employment opportunities are concerned, the hon. Prime Minister has already announced that one crore jobs will be provided each year. So, the share of the small-scale sector is about four million. That, we will try to do. As far as the third part of the question is concerned, there are a large number of small-scale industries. Various policy measures have been suggested so that the sickness of the small-scale industries can be overcome.

SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN: Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister regarding the export potential of this sector. What are the specific measures which are to be taken in the Tenth Five Year Plan and by how much quantum the export will be increased through this sector?

DR. C.P. THAKUR: Regarding export also, because of the WTO and other things, some restriction has to be removed, and to overcome that, this industry has to face some competition. One provision has been applied for export also that if they are exporting those items, they have to export 50 per cent.

Then, we are also taking measures. One such measure is that if a small scale industry is not able to promote its growth in the foreign countries, the Ministry will do all these things. So, we are taking all steps to promote export from the small scale industries sector.

Then, we are encouraging the manufacturers to participate in different *melas* arranged in different parts of the world. The Ministry of Small Scale Industries is financing those *melas* so that export promotion is expedited.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM TAHAL CHOUDHARY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, many problems prevalent in the country can be solved through small scale industries. Problems of growing unemployment and recession and other emerging problems can only be solved by promoting small scale industries. Many items have been deleted from the list of small scale industries consequently many large companies have entered the production sector. As a result of this, small scale industries are on the verge of closure. In the recent Budget 75 items have been deleted from the list of items reserved for small scale which is not in the interest of small scale industries. Small scale industries have been producing eight thousand items but the number of items in the list reserved for them has been reduced to merely 374. I would like to know the reasons behind



dereservation of items from the list of items reserved for small scale industries. Whether they are helpful for the small scale industries and what is the response of the Government thereto?

DR. C.P. THAKUR: India is a member of WTO. Under the WTO agreement some or the other items are required to be deleted in every country. Therefore, it applies to India also. In India we are deleting them gradually in a phased manner. The hon. Member has just asked as to what promotional measures the Government are taking for small scale industries. Deletion of items from the list of items reserved for small scale industries have some disadvantages but the lifting of restrictions are also paying dividends. It will provide our small scale industries access to a better market. The restrictions which will come into force here will be applicable to other countries also.

[English]

It is a level playing field for all the countries.

[Translation]

We shall get market and besides this we can import better technology. We are not losing much in it.

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, because of the liberalisation and de-reservation in the small scale sector, a large number of small scale units have been closed down. The hon. Minister has stated about creation of jobs in the Ninth Five Year Plan as well as in the beginning and by the end of the Tenth Five Year Plan. But he has not stated as to how many people have lost their jobs because of the closure of these small scale units.

I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether there has been an adverse impact because of the liberalisation and de-reservation in small scale sector. A large number of small scale industrial units have been closed down during the last three to four years, as a result of which a large number of workers have lost their jobs.

I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to how many people have lost their jobs and how many small scale industrial units have been closed down till date.

DR. C.P. THAKUR: Sir, actually the hon. Member has asked this question that many units have been closed

down because of liberalisation and restrictions on them. But it is not the fact. The sickness of the industry is because of many factors. The Government has taken a policy measures to help the sick industries. Actually, a very large number of industries have become sick.

But only 17 per cent of NPAs is because of small-scale industries; it is mainly because of heavy industries that we have large NPAs. But the recent policy measures—we have taken many measures—would help people start small-scale industries; they can be more competitive; they can export things also.

We have taken steps; hon. Prime Minister has announced many measures to help small-scale industries. We are also emphasising that in every part of the country, the small-scale industries should be developed as a movement. This will help solve the problem of unemployment.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: How many have lost jobs?

DR. C.P. THAKUR: I stated earlier, that it is not mandatory on the part of the small-scale industries to register themselves. So, the exact number cannot be stated...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: You need not state the exact number; but have people lost jobs or not?

DR. C.P. THAKUR: Yes, that is true. They have lost jobs...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Question No. 305, Shri Vilas Muttemwar—Not present.

Question No. 306, Shri Haribhai Chaudhary.

[Translation]

### Functioning of Rural Telephones

\*306. SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY:  
SHRI MANSUKHBHAI D. VASAVA:

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

(a) whether the telephones installed in the rural areas of various States remain out of order quite often and it takes months to repair them;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) the steps taken by the Government to streamline the functioning of rural telephones; and

(d) the success achieved by the Government in this regard?

[*English*]

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

#### **Statement**

(a) Every effort is made to repair expeditiously faulty telephones in rural areas; however there are areas where due to reasons such as inadequate road infrastructure, law and order problems, erratic power supply, it occasionally becomes difficult to ensure prompt restoration.

(b) and (c) Following steps have been taken to streamline the functioning of rural telephones:—

- (i) Monitoring of fault repair by senior officers.
- (ii) Rehabilitation/upgradation of external plant.
- (iii) Replacement of long spans of overhead alignment by underground cables in phased manner.
- (iv) Daily testing of VPTs from telephone exchanges.
- (v) Formation of core groups in each SSA for prompt restoration of VPTs.
- (vi) Replacement of life expired telephone instruments in phased manner.
- (vii) Introduction of modern technologies like Wireless in Local Loop, Time Division Multiple Access/Point to Multi Point (TDMA/PMP), Satellite in rural areas.
- (viii) Provision of generator sets to take care of long duration power break down.

(d) The overall fault rate per 100 stations has come down from 13.8 during 2000-2001 to 10.3 during 2002-2003 (upto December, 2002).

[*Translation*]

SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, telephones in villages have become show-pieces. The operation of telephones in villages is not satisfactory. The Ministry has also stated that the telephones in villages

do not work because of poor facility of roads and power. I would like to tell about my constituency where there are 140 exchanges out of which 20-30 exchanges always remain closed. When ever we try to make a call, we are then told that there is no power or the generator is not in operation. At least 80 per cent telephones remain out of order everyday. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether any action has been contemplated against the erring officials or not?

[*English*]

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: Actually the extension of telephones to the rural areas has been one of the achievements of the country. By raising questions sometimes or by trying to criticise each other or finding fault with each other, we run down the achievements of the country also.

In the last three years, telephone density in the rural areas has doubled; from 0.68, it has gone to 1.3...(*Interruptions*) Please wait for just one minute.

There is no doubt that the number of faults in rural areas is more than what it is in the urban areas. I have the overall figures of fault-line. That happens for several reasons. For instance, it happens because of interrupted power supply or because the batteries that are there are not well maintained or there are areas in Andhra Pradesh and other places which are naxalite-infested. For all these reasons, attempts are being made to improve the quality of service. All the members of the House are one in that regard.

I can list the number of steps that are being taken. For instance, one of the main things that is accounting for these defects was overhead cables. They are now being replaced by underground cables of various types.

[*Translation*]

SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister has confessed that telephones are not working properly. The number of people living in my constituency today is 25 lac but there are only 96,000 telephone connections. New schemes are introduced but till now WLL has not reached there, mobile phones have not been provided there and the exchanges are not passed even after they are once allotted. 80 per cent of the telephone exchanges remain out of order there. I have raised this question here time and again I would like to know as to what do you propose to do to improve the situation in my constituency?

[English]

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: All of us would like to assist the expansion in every way.

[Translation]

Whenever you will tell about your constituency, I shall surely ask BSNL to pay attention towards that.

SHRI MANSUKHBHAI D. VASAVA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, my question is also the same.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know through you from the hon. Minister the number of villages where telephone facilities have been provided and the extent to which these have been provided and whether the private sector has worked in accordance with the agreement and fulfilled the quota of providing telephones in the villages in Rajasthan where an agreement was signed with the private sector for providing telephones in the villages. As per my information only 10 per cent of the work has been completed and the 90 per cent of that is yet to be completed. The work by the private sector companies with which the agreement was signed for providing telephone facilities in villages has not been done there as per the agreement. I would like to know whether the Government are taking any action against them.

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: The private sector parties which had given commitment to extend telephone facilities in rural areas in Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh have not surely fared well and therefore, the amount worth Rs. 35 crores which was to be forfeited from them has been forfeited. I am having talks with them. It is absolutely a fact about Rajasthan, where there is a company-Shyam Tele Links which was to provide telephones in 17000 villages and they have done so only in 693 villages till December, 2002 I am making all out efforts to see that they fulfill their commitment.

## WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

### **Disinvestment of Engineers India Limited**

\*305. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to disinvest the Engineers India Limited (EIL);

(b) if so, the present status thereof;

(c) whether the EIL falls under the category of strategic sector;

(d) if so, whether there are diverse viewpoints about the disinvestment of EIL; and

(e) 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 to divest 51% equity of Engineers India Limited (EIL) through strategic sale and 10% equity of EIL in favour of employees of EIL. M/s. ANZ Capital Private Ltd. has been appointed as Advisor to Government for this transaction. Based on the Expressions of Interest received from the interested parties, bidders have been shortlisted. The shortlisted parties have completed their data room visit and due diligence. Further process of disinvestment is on.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Does not arise.

### **Tracing of the Course of Saraswati River**

\*307. SHRI PARSURAM MAJHI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Remote Sensing Satellite has traced the course of Saraswati River under the Thar desert in Rajasthan;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Indian Space Research Organisation has done some studies in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Indian Space Research Organisation has carried out studies using data from satellites for mapping the palaeo-drainage network of ancient river systems in Western Rajasthan.

[*Translation*]

### **Road Accidents**

\*308. SHRI RAMPAL SINGH:  
SHRI SHIVAJI MANE:

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

(a) whether the number of persons killed in the road accidents in the country is the highest in the World;

(b) if so, whether the Government have conducted any survey in this regard and studied the measures adopted to check accidents in foreign countries;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government have taken any concrete steps to prevent road accidents on national highways and other 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) This Ministry does not compile accident and casualty data for other countries and hence inter-country comparison is not possible.

(b) and (c) A Working Group on Road Accidents, Injury Prevention and Control set up by Planning Commission in May, 2000 had studied this aspect and concluded that 'it is difficult to make comparisons between countries because often the information is not available to allow for all the differences in traffic and travel conditions'.

(d) and (e) Yes Sir. Some of the important steps being taken by the Govt. besides highway design to check the road accidents in the country are as under:

(1) Assistance for setting up of Driving Training Schools.

(2) Provision of refresher training to drivers of heavy motor vehicles.

(3) Publicity campaign on road safety awareness through audio-visual-print media.

(4) Grants-in-aid to voluntary organizations for administering road safety programmes.

(5) Encouraging use of simulators in driver's training.

(6) Institution of National Award for voluntary organizations/individuals for outstanding work in the field of road safety.

(7) Organising All India Essay Competition on road safety for school children with a view to create awareness.

(8) Tightening of fitness norms for transport vehicles.

(9) Widening/improvement of roads etc.

### **Approved State Plans**

\*309. SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of States have utilised less than seventy five percent funds of the approved plans during the Ninth Plan;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reasons for not utilising the said funds; and

(d) the efforts made/being made to ensure further utilisation of plan funds by the 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): (a) and (b) Only two States, Bihar and Uttar Pradesh, utilised less than 75% of plan funds during the Ninth Five Year Plan. Statement indicating utilisation of Plan Funds by the two States during the Ninth Five Year Plan is enclosed.

(c) The main reasons for the shortfall in utilization of the said funds to the extent indicated were the division of these States and the inability of these States to mobilize financial resources as projected.

(d) While the overall performance of States was fairly good in the Ninth Plan, States are encouraged during plan discussions, to generate higher level of their own

resources inter-alia by improving the performance of State level enterprises, increasing tax and non-tax revenue and

also by curtailing their non-plan expenditure so that sufficient funds are available to fulfill their Plan targets.

### **Statement**

*Plan performance of Bihar and Uttar Pradesh during the Ninth Five Year Plan (1997-2002)*

(At Current Prices)

(Rs. Crore)

Sl. No.	States	Ninth Plan 1997-2002		
		Originally Approved Outlay	Anticipated Expenditure	Percentage of Anticipated Expenditure over Approved Outlay
1.	Bihar	15,411.16	9921.38	64.38
2.	Uttar Pradesh	46,331.57	31330.85	67.62

- Note:-
1. Originally approved Outlay includes figure for undivided Bihar and Uttar Pradesh upto 2000-01.
  2. Anticipated expenditure includes figure for undivided Bihar and Uttar Pradesh upto 2000-01.
  3. Anticipated expenditure includes Actual expenditure upto 2000-01 and anticipated expenditure for 2001-02.

[English]

#### **Cases of Plague**

\*310. SHRI KALAVA SRINIVASULU:  
SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN:

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

(a) the number of cases of Plague registered during each of the last three years, State-wise;

(b) whether the medical experts have identified certain areas in the country which are focal points for plague bacteria;

(c) if so, the criteria laid down for the identification of such areas as focal points;

(d) the details of action taken by the Union as well as State Governments to prevent this disease; and

(e) the extent to which the target has been achieved in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (c) No case of plague was reported during the years 2000 and

2001. During 2002, a total of 16 cases including 5 deaths were reported in Himachal Pradesh.

The focal points for plague exist at the trijunction of Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu & Karnataka and also in the States of Maharashtra, Gujarat and Himachal Pradesh. The criteria for identification of these areas as focal points is based on occurrence of following cases:—

- Cases of plague were reported from the above areas during the pandemic from 1889-1950;
- Case of human plague was reported from Mulbagal, Kolar district in Karnataka in 1966;
- Sero surveillance for plague showed antibodies against *Y pestis* (Plague organism) in rodents in the trijunction of Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh;
- Outbreak of plague was noticed in Gujarat and Maharashtra in 1994. Occurrence of suspected outbreak of plague in 1983 and confirmed outbreak of plague in 2002 in Himachal Pradesh.

A multi-pronged approach is adopted to prevent occurrence of plague, involving improvement of environmental sanitation, rodent and vector control by using insecticides, increasing public awareness etc. The continuous surveillance of plague has helped in preventing its occurrence. In this regard, the plague surveillance

activities of State plague control units of endemic States in Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Maharashtra and Gujarat are coordinated by the field unit of National Institute of Communicable Diseases (NICD) located in Bangalore. The State of Himachal Pradesh has established a State Plague Surveillance Unit at Rohru with technical help extended by NICD.

Further, the representatives from endemic States are regularly invited in the inter-state plague coordination meetings to review the status of plague surveillance. The last such meeting was held in December, 2002, in Surat, Gujarat. For making prompt reliable diagnosis of the disease, a State of the art laboratory meeting all safety and diagnostic criteria of the WHO is in existence at NICD, Delhi.

#### **Guidelines/Assistance for AIDS**

\*311. SHRI RAGHURAJ SINGH SHAKYA:  
SHRI NARESH PUGLIA:

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

(a) whether the Government are aware of the spread of AIDS in the entire Asian Region;

(b) whether the WHO has issued any guidelines/assistance to the countries of the region to deal with the situation;

(c) if so, the details in this regard; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to check the spread of AIDS in the country?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. The summary of the guidelines is annexed.

(d) The Government of India has launched a comprehensive National AIDS Control Programme, currently under implementation throughout the country as a centrally sponsored scheme with the following components:—

- Preventive interventions for high-risk population through targeted interventions adopting a multi-pronged strategy including peer counselling and behaviour change communication.

- Preventive interventions for the general population through programmes for blood safety, voluntary counselling and testing services, information education and communication (IEC) and awareness building among adolescents.
- Provision of low cost care and support services by providing community care services, treatment of opportunistic infections and prevention of occupational exposure.
- Collaborative efforts to promote inter-sectoral programme activities including interventions and public-private partnerships.
- Building technical and managerial capacities for programme implementation through surveillance, training, monitoring and evaluation, technical resource groups, operational research and programme management.

#### **Statement**

WHO provides support to member countries in strengthening the monitoring and review of national AIDS control programmes. Assistance has also been provided for developing medium-term plans as well as annual work plans for the prevention and control of AIDS. To mobilize national and inter-country efforts, WHO plays a very important advocacy role by highlighting the extent and potential impact of this pandemic on Asia as well as by emphasizing the need to act now.

WHO has categorized the HIV/AIDS epidemic in Asia as being in the early stages. For this reason, WHO is actively promoting prevention as a major priority for national programmes. WHO support in this area includes behavioural interventions among youth and adolescents, life skills education and communication in schools, harm reduction interventions for Injecting Drug Users, interventions for safe transfusion of blood and blood products, management of sexually transmitted infections, prevention of parent-to-child transmission, ensuring safe injection practices with implementation of universal precautions in all health care settings and 100% condom promotion among known commercial sex worker situations.

The World Health Organisation (WHO), Regional Office for South-East Asia, New Delhi, has issued to HIV/AIDS Strategic Framework (2002-2006). The overall goal of the Regional AIDS Programme is to prevent and reduce the risk of HIV transmission and to alleviate the personal and social impact of HIV/AIDS. The main strategies and intervention areas are:

1. Prevention: (i) prevention of transmission of HIV through blood and blood products by ensuring blood safety, prevention of HIV among injecting drug users and ensuring safe health care practices in health care settings; (ii) prevention of sexual transmission of HIV by prevention and treatment of sexually transmitted infections, condom promotion, harm reduction among injecting drug users and integrated support to mobile populations; and (iii) prevention of mother-to child transmission (MTCT) by primary prevention of sexual transmission of HIV and providing antiretroviral drugs to infected pregnant women and their newborn babies.
2. Care and support: (i) promotion of Comprehensive care including continuum of care to persons with HIV/AIDS by voluntary counselling and testing, psychosocial support to infected persons, treatment of HIV/AIDS related diseases, palliative care and improving access to antiretroviral therapy; and (ii) reduction of the personal and social impact on the infected persons by advocacy for non-discrimination and destigmatisation with involvement of all segments of society, advocacy for legal protection for individual human rights, and promotion of wide access to relevant information.
3. Strengthening National Capacity: (i) strengthening monitoring and evaluation by HIV surveillance, surveillance for sexually transmitted infections, behavioural surveillance, programme monitoring and review through progress report; and (ii) building national capacities by training human resources, strengthening laboratory services, promoting and supporting HIV/AIDS operational research and preparing a medium term national strategic plan.

[Translation]

#### **Labs for Testing Genetically Modified Foods**

\*312. SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH:  
YOGI ADITYA NATH:

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

- (a) whether there is lack of modern labs/centres for testing genetically modified foodgrains in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to establish genetic screening centres for modified food with active participation of regional food laboratories; and

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

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (d) 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 endeavours 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 NIN, Hyderabad, for 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 Foods labs in the country.

#### **Promotion of Hockey**

\*313. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) the measures being taken by the Government to promote hockey;

(b) the number of hockey coaching centres functioning at present and the number of such centres proposed to be set up, State-wise; and

(c) the amount of funds provided to different States for promoting hockey during the last three years, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI VIKRAM VERMA): (a) Sports, as a subject, figures in the 'State List' of the Constitution and as such promotion of sports at State level is the responsibility of the concerned State Government. Moreover the promotion of a game at national level is, primarily, the responsibility of the concerned National Sports Federations (NSFs), which are registered societies and autonomous in their

functioning. Accordingly, the responsibility of promoting the game of hockey rests with Indian Hockey Federation (IHF) and Indian Women Hockey Federation (IWHF).

However, hockey is a game of national importance and the efforts of the State Governments and NSFs are supplemented by the Government of India under its various schemes. The Government provides assistance to State Governments and Sports Authority of India (SAI) for installation/replacement of artificial hockey surfaces under the Scheme:— "Grants for Installation of Synthetic Playing Surfaces". The Government also provides assistance to NSFs under its scheme:— "Assistance to National Sports Federations" for training and participation of teams in tournaments abroad, holding of national championships at sub-junior, junior and senior level, organization of international tournaments in India, coaching/training of national teams under Indian and foreign coaches, procurement of sports and scientific equipment and requisite scientific and technical back up.

Apart from the above, the Government also augments, through various schemes of Sports Authority of India (SAI), the efforts of the State Governments in promotion of sports at sub-junior, junior and senior level. SAI is implementing the following schemes for promotion and development of sports in the country:

- National Sports Talent Contest Scheme (NSTC)
- Army Boys Sports Company Scheme (ABSC)
- SAI Training Centres Scheme (STC)
- Special Area Games Scheme (SAG)
- Centre of Excellence Scheme (COE)

(b) There is no training/coaching centre exclusively for Hockey. However, under the above schemes of SAI, Hockey is also one of the disciplines for training at 50 SAI centres, throughout the country where about 1219 trainees are getting coaching. The State-wise details of such centres are as under:

State/UT	Number of Training Centres under different schemes of SAI					
	NSTC	ABSC	STC	SAG	COE	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Andhra Pradesh	-	-	1	-	-	1
Bihar	1	1	-	-	-	2
Chhattisgarh	-	-	1	-	-	1
Gujarat	-	-	1	-	-	1
Goa	1	-	-	-	-	1
Haryana	1	-	1	-	-	2
Himachal Pradesh	-	-	1	-	-	1
Karnataka	1	2	2	-	1	6
Kerala	-	-	1	-	-	1
Jharkhand	1	-	-	1	-	2
Maharashtra	1	-	1	-	-	2
Madhya Pradesh	-	1	3	-	-	4
Manipur	-	-	-	1	-	1
Orissa	2	-	-	1	-	3
Punjab	1	-	2	-	1	4
Rajasthan	1	-	1	-	-	2
Tamil Nadu	-	-	1	-	-	1



1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Uttar Pradesh	1	-	6	-	1	8
Uttaranchal	1	-	1	-	-	2
West Bengal	-	-	1	-	-	1
Delhi	-	-	1	-	1	2
Chandigarh	-	-	1	-	-	1
Pondicherry	-	-	1	-	-	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>50</b>

During 2003-04, hockey is being introduced at the SAG Centre, Aizawl for Women's Hockey.

(c) Assistance is provided to State Governments under the scheme of "Grants for Installation of Synthetic Playing Surfaces". The details of assistance, released to various State Governments, for laying/replacement of synthetic Hockey surfaces, during the last 3 years are as given below:

State/UT	(Rs. in lakhs)		
	Amount released during		
	1999-2000	2000-2001	2001-02
Delhi	50	-	37.545
Punjab	100	75	25
UP	50	-	-
Chandigarh	50	-	-
Haryana	-	100	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>250</b>	<b>175</b>	<b>62.545</b>

[English]

#### Health Care Policy for Elderly Persons

\*314. DR. (SHRIMATI) C. SUGUNA KUMARI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a report recently released by UN has stated that India is fast aging and the number of elderly persons is expected to grow from 77 million in 2000 to about 141 million by 2020;

(b) if so, whether the Government have any proposal to formulate a national social security and health care policy for the elderly persons;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (d) A report of United Nations Fund for Population Activities (World Population 2002) points out that India's older population is expected to grow from 77 million in 2000 to about 141 million in 2020.

National Policy on Older Persons (NPOP) was announced in January, 1999, by nodal Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment. NPOP aims at providing a better and meaningful life for older persons. The major areas of intervention visualized in this policy include financial security, health care and nutrition, shelter/housing, protection of life and property and to provide opportunities for development of the potential of the older people. To operationalise NPOP, the nodal Ministry has set up National Council for Older Persons (NCOP).

The Government has also announced National Health Policy, 2002, with an objective to achieve an acceptable standard of good health amongst the general population including the geriatric population of the country. This policy emphasises increased access to the decentralised public health system by establishing new infrastructure and upgrading the existing ones to ensure a more equitable access to health services across the social and geographical expanse of the country.

[*Translation*]

**Compensation to Land Outstees**

\*315. SHRI AVTAR SINGH BHADANA: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether compensation is provided on the basis of local registry against the acquisition of land for the construction of national highways;

(b) if so, whether consent of the farmers is obtained before acquisition of land;

(c) if not, the rationale behind giving compensation to them on the basis of local registry; and

(d) the criteria laid down for giving compensation to the farmers for acquisition of their land alongwith details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS [MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI]: (a) The amount of compensation to be paid is decided by the Competent Authority mainly on the following basis and not on the basis of local registry alone:—

(i) the market value of the land on the date of publication of the notification;

(ii) the damage, if any, sustained by the person interested at the time of taking possession of the land, by reason of the severing of such land from other land;

(iii) the damage, if any, sustained by the person interested at the time of taking possession of the land, by reason of the acquisition injuriously affecting his other immovable property in any manner, or his earnings;

(iv) if, in consequences of the acquisition of the land, the person interested is compelled to change his residence or place of business, the reasonable expenses, if any, incidental to such change.

(b) Opportunity is given to the affected land owner to raise objections, if any, before the Competent Authority.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) The criteria for giving compensation depends on various factors as stated in part (a) above.

**Share of Unorganised Small Scale Industries in GDP**

\*316. DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA:  
SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI:

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

(a) whether the contribution of unorganized industrial units of the small scale sector in GDP is estimated to be nearly 8%;

(b) if not, the assessment of the Government in this regard;

(c) whether the Government have got any assessment done to find out the per unit average capital investment in this sector;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps being taken by the Government to provide more facilities to this sector?

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND MINISTER OF DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (DR. C.P. THAKUR): (a) and (b) The Small Scale Industries (SSIs) have their presence in both the organised/registered and unorganised/unregistered manufacturing sectors. On the basis of quick estimates of national income at constant (1993-94) prices for the year 2001-02 released by the Central Statistical Organisation, the contribution of SSI sector in GDP is estimated to be 6.67% in 2001-02, out of which the share of unorganised industrial units of the SSI sector in GDP is estimated to be 3.69%.

(c) and (d) As per the data collected by the Small Industries Development Bank of India from State/UT Governments, the estimated per unit investment in fixed capital in the SSI sector during 1999-2000 was Rs. 2.26 lakhs. The same, adjusted for inflation, gives per unit capital investment of Rs. 2.45 lakhs for the year 2001-02.

(e) Taking into consideration, the higher potential for growth in the Small Scale Industries (SSI) sector in terms of output, employment and exports, the strategy for Tenth Plan is to strengthen the sector to enable it to remain competitive in market-led economy and generate additional jobs. For achieving these objectives, the SSI sector would be provided proper and timely inputs like:

1. Adequate credit/loans from financial institutions/banks.

2. Funds for technology upgradation and modernisation.
3. Adequate infrastructure facilities;
4. Modern testing facilities and quality certification laboratories;
5. Modern management practices and skill upgradation through advanced training facilities;
6. Marketing assistance.
7. Level playing field at par with the organised sector.

[English]

#### Launching of Satellites

\*317. SHRI CHANDRA VIJAY SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government plan to launch INSAT-3A, INSAT-3E and INSAT-3D into space;
- (b) if so, whether the Thermal Design Configuration of deployable appendages has been completed for the above Satellites;
- (c) if so, the expenditure incurred on each of the above satellites; and
- (d) by when these are likely to be put into orbit?

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 thermal design configuration of deployable appendages has been completed for INSAT-3A, INSAT-3E and INSAT-3D.

(c) Expenditure incurred so far is as given below:

INSAT-3A	-	Rs. 180 Crores
INSAT-3D	-	Rs. 100 Crores
INSAT-3E	-	Rs. 155 Crores

(d) INSAT-3A is scheduled for launch in April, 2003. INSAT-3E is scheduled for launch in 2003-04 and INSAT-3D in 2004-05.

#### Software Piracy

\*318. SHRI VINAY KUMAR SORAKE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the software piracy after recording a fall in 1999 has again recorded a spurt during 2001 and 2002;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether nearly 33% of the software packages sold in the country are pirated;
- (d) if so, whether the high-profit margin in pirated software packages is luring anti-national elements to the business; and
- (e) if so, the steps taken or being taken by the Government to check the piracy?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) to (c) The estimates for software piracy, as per National Association of Software Services Companies (NASSCOM), for the last four years, are as follows:

Year	Software Piracy (%)
1999-00	59%
2000-01	61%
2001-02	64%
2002-03	67% (provisional)

(d) No such specific case has been brought to the notice of government by the IT Software industry.

(e) Various measures taken by the government to check software piracy are as under:—

1. In India the Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) of software are covered under the copyright law, violation of which attracts both fine and punishment.
2. Government has also set-up a copyright Enforcement Advisory Council which reviews the progress of enforcement of copyright act and also advises on measures for its better enforcement.

3. Government has been supporting Anti-Piracy Campaign of NASSCOM and instructions have also been issued to various government departments to only use legal copies of software.
4. Information Technology software is exempted from Customs Duty.
5. Use of free software/open source software will also bring down piracy as it is legally permitted to copy the same at no cost.
6. Information Technology Act 2000 has provisions in dealing with software piracy and contain the problem when copyright violation is done through unauthorized access to a computer, computer system or computer network.

[*Translation*]

#### **Development of Ayurvedic Medicines**

\*319. SHRI BRAHMA NAND MANDAL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the manufacturers of the Ayurvedic medicines in a conference held on February 13, 2003, in New Delhi expressed unhappiness about the attitude of the Government towards the development of Ayurvedic Medicines;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the further steps, the Government propose to take for the development of Ayurvedic Medicines;

(d) the amount provided by the Government in the current financial year 2002-2003 for the development of Ayurvedic Medicines and the percentage thereof already spent; and

(e) the total value of turnover of Ayurvedic Medicines during the current financial year so far and the target set in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) No Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The Government have taken a number of steps which will help development of Ayurvedic medicines. Schemes relating to augmenting supply of raw drugs; standardization of drugs & quality control; assistance to

manufacturing units to upgrade infrastructure for attaining status of Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP) and creating in-house testing facilities; use of modern technology and bio-technology; grant-in-aid schemes for participation of industry in fairs, exhibitions etc., and conducting market survey have been approved. A number of policy strategies have also been envisaged in the National Policy of Indian Systems of Medicine & Homoeopathy, 2002, for the development of Ayurvedic Industry.

(d) In the Annual Plan 2002-2003, the budget allocation specifically for quality control, standardization, assistance for GMP status, availability of raw materials etc., is around Rs. 26.90 Crore. Since these schemes have very recently been sanctioned, Rs. 15.72 crore has been approved for expenditure till date.

(e) The Government do not have authentic data about the turn over of Ayurvedic medicine. However, according to Ayurvedic Drug Manufacturers Association, the annual turn over of Ayurvedic medicine is in the region of about Rs. 3500 crore.

[*English*]

#### **Interconnect User Charge**

\*320. SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India is contemplating to provide interconnect user charge for cellphone companies;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Basic Phone companies have requested TRAI not to provide such charge in view of hike in the tariff;

(d) whether the TRAI has conceded this request;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor;

(f) the stand of the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. On 24th January, 2003, Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has issued Telecommunication Interconnect Usage Charges (IUC) Regulation 2003 covering arrangements amongst service providers for

payment of interconnection usage charges for the telecommunication services to be effective from 1st April, 2003.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) TRAI is not considering the request at this stage since the matter has become sub-judice before the Telecom Disputes Settlement and Appellate Tribunal.

(f) As per Telecom Regulatory Authority of India, 1997 as amended by TRAI (Amendment) Act, 2000, powers to regulate arrangements amongst service providers of sharing their revenue derived from providing telecommunications services has been conferred upon Telecom Regulatory Authority of India. The appeal against such regulation can be preferred before a statutory Tribunal, namely, Telecom Disputes Settlement and Appellate Tribunal (TDSAT).

*[Translation]*

#### **Complaints of MPs**

3072. SHRI JAI PRAKASH: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has received complaints that the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) is neither acknowledging nor answering the letters received from the Members of Parliament;

(b) if so, the number of letters received by the Authority from the Members of Parliament during the last six months and till date including the number of letters acknowledged and replied to;

(c) the directions given by the Government to the Authority for its failure in according priority to the letters of the Members of Parliament; and

(d) the outcome of such directions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS [MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI]: (a) No such complaint has been received by the Ministry.

(b) Out of a total number of 161 letters received by NHAI from Members of Parliament during the last six months, 135 letters have been replied and 26 letters are being replied to.

(c) and (d) VIP references are being monitored closely to ensure expeditious reply by NHAI.

*[English]*

#### **Repatriation of Indians from Abroad**

3073. SHRI T. GOVINDAN:

SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Saudi Arabia and certain other countries have started repatriating Indians working in their countries;

(b) if so, the names of such countries and the number of Indians repatriated so far, country-wise;

(c) the reasons for the said action taken by the countries concerned; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI VINOD KHANNA): (a) No.

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

*[Translation]*

#### **Display of Non-Vegetarian Ingredients in Food Products**

3074. SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the display of a symbol to indicate the presence of non-vegetarian ingredients in packed food products has been made mandatory;

(b) if so, whether the producers have started to indicate the presence of non-vegetarian ingredients in their products through a declaration;

(c) if so, whether the above said display would also be made mandatory in beverages and medicines; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The provisions for indicating the presence of non-vegetarian ingredients in packaged foods products by a specified symbol and brown colour code have come into force with effect from 4.10.2001 and the same are being complied with the manufacturers/packers.

(c) and (d) The above mentioned provision is also applicable to all beverages. There is no proposal at present under consideration for amending the Drugs and

Cosmetics Rules, 1945 in respect of medicines to make it mandatory to declare the presence of non-vegetarian ingredients on the label.

#### Tour by PSU Officers

3075. DR. BALIRAM: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the countries/toured by the Managing Directors/Directors of various public sector undertakings under his Ministry during the last three years and the number of days from which they stayed there;

(b) the amount of foreign exchange given to them in the form of cash and travellers cheque by the public sector undertakings;

(c) the details of the travellers cheque not submitted for encashment;

(d) the reasons for the misutilisation of the public funds by these officers alongwith the reasons for failure in recovering those funds from them; and

(e) the steps taken for recovering the funds misappropriated by the Managing Directors and Directors and by when the recovery would be made?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) Details of the foreign tours undertaken by Managing Directors/Directors of various PSUs under the Ministry are as follows during the period 1st April, 2000-December, 2002:—

Sl. No.	PSUs	Names of the Countries	Total days of Tour
1.	BSNL	Bhutan, Thailand, Hong, Kong, Switzerland France, South Africa, Turkey, South Korea, Singapore, Sweden, Norway, Iran, Malaysia, Morocco, U.K., Canada & USA.	102
2.	ITI	France/Spain, Sweden, Hongkong, Seoul, Singapore, Iraq/Jordan, USA/Korea, Japan, Denmark, Sudan.	85
3.	TCIL	Ghana, Mauritius, France, Sweden, Finland, Hongkong, Ethiopia, KSA, Nigeria, Bangladesh, Indonesia, Zimbabwe, Kuwait, Oman, Russia, South Africa, U.K., Nepal, Brazil, Combdia, Togo, Latvia, China, Burkinafaso, Kenya, Jordan, Switzerland, Iran, Saudi Arabia, Yemen, Bhutan, Algeria	375
4.	MTNL	USA, UK, Morocco, Mauritius	65
5.	VSNL*	France, USA, Geneva, Hongkong, U.K., Germany, Amsterdam, Dakar, Equador, Cairo, Hungary, Hawaii, South Africa	222
6.	SCL/DIT	Malaysia	5

\*For the period April, 2000 to January, 2002

(b)

Name of PSU	Amount Given In the form of cash	In the form of T/C (US \$)	Details of Travellers Cheque not submitted for encashment
BSNL	20,58,407/- (INR)	N.A.	NIL
ITI	23630 (US \$)	NIL	NIL
TCIL	40,020 (US \$)	33,200 (US \$)	NIL
MTNL	25,59,550/- (INR)	NIL	NIL
VSNL	NIL	108,381 US \$	NIL
SCL	NIL	1260 US \$	NIL

(c) NIL for above PSUs.

(d) and (e) Do not arise in view of (c) above.

[English]

### Ongoing Projects

3076. SHRI C. SREENIVASAN: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of ongoing projects which are underway in the country and particularly in Tamil Nadu;

(b) the details of projects which have not been completed resulting in cost escalation, State-wise;

(c) the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken by the Union Government to speed up the projects to avoid cost escalation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS [MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI]: (a) Details are given in the enclosed statement-I including that of Tamil Nadu.

(b) and (c) Details are given in the enclosed Statement-II.

(d) The following steps have been taken by the Union Government to speed up the execution of the projects:—

- (i) The Ministry has introduced Direct Payment Procedure to expedite the payment system for timely completion of projects.
- (ii) Ministry insists on Schedule of Rates being updated regularly.
- (iii) The progress of projects is being closely monitored.
- (iv) The works sanctioned by the Ministry are de-sanctioned if the work is not started within the stipulated time.

### Statement I

Sl. No.	Name of State	Number of ongoing projects	Sanctioned cost (Rs. in crores)
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	50	118.18
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	3	7.5
3.	Assam	50	165.41
4.	Bihar	75	175.82

1	2	3	4
5.	Chandigarh	2	5.40
6.	Chhattisgarh	35	76.71
7.	Delhi	4	16.52
8.	Goa	9	38.26
9.	Gujarat	23	113.50
10.	Haryana	25	133.59
11.	Himachal Pradesh	51	149.60
12.	Jammu & Kashmir	7	7.06
13.	Jharkhand	29	70.62
14.	Karnataka	53	72.00
15.	Kerala	57	99.65
16.	Madhya Pradesh	54	125.80
17.	Maharashtra	125	251.20
18.	Manipur	28	60.99
19.	Meghalaya	32	97.48
20.	Mizoram	19	69.39
21.	Nagaland	15	30.69
22.	Orissa	63	140.65
23.	Pondicherry	5	5.81
24.	Punjab	29	73.37
25.	Rajasthan	70	13.70
26.	Tamil Nadu	74	123.05
27.	Uttaranchal	11	36.00
28.	Uttar Pradesh	69	342.15
29.	West Bengal	41	329.03
30.	National Highways Authority of India	121	25,998.00
31.	Border Road Organisation	114	832.92

**Statement II**

Sl. No.	Name of State	Name of work	NH No.	Job No. & Date of sanction	Target date of completion	Present status	Reasons for non completion of work
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh					Nil	
2.	Arunachal Pradesh					Nil	
3.	Assam					Nil	
4.	Bihar					Nil	
5.	Chandigarh					Nil	
6.	Chhattisgarh					Nil	
7.	Delhi						
8.	Goa	1. Construction of Maxim bridge and its approaches at km. 85/350 of NH 17	17	0 1 7 - G O - 99043 dt. 27.1.99	Revised target date has been fixed as June 2003 in view of the reason furnished in the last column.	Revised estimate with change in scope of work along with closing the job is under scrutiny	Ministry sanctioned this work for Rs. 259.6 lakh. The sanctioned scope of work was to construct 180 meter long vent with 52 number of 1200 MM dia. Hume Pipes with spacing of 3 m c/c including 1350 m approaches on either side. 85% works consisting of laying of 18 rows of Hume Pipes including approaches have been completed. The work however, could not be executed further as the local people apprehending flooding have



---

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

---

d e m a n d e d construction of bridge of 90m length instead of pipe culvert. The PWD had been directed earlier to complete work as per sanction since the same is considered as appropriate. The State PWD however, has pleaded that local people are not permitting the execution of work and they have therefore requested for closing the work on as completed basis. The alternative proposals including the proposal of work closing have been received with Regional Office's comments on 3.3.2003.

<p>2. Improvement of geometrics and widening between km. 133/60 of NH-17</p>	<p>4A</p>	<p>04A-GO-99046 dt. 4.8.99</p>	<p>Revised target date has been fixed as June 2003 in view of the reason furnished in the last column.</p>	<p>Land slide has taken place. Different alternatives have been received from the State PWD on 3.3.03 and are under scrutiny.</p>	<p>The improvement of geometric in a length of 3.4 km has been sanctioned by the Ministry. The work except in a length of 700m is complete. In a length of 700m during digging the earth for regarding the alignment a buried water main was located and to give clearance</p>
--	-----------	--------------------------------	--	---	--

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
							of 5.5m as is prescribed, the existing ground had to be dug deeper. This lead to a land slide which has delayed the progress of work. Improvement works now require land acquisition, filling of trench, slope treatment etc. The Ministry has suggested various alternatives. The revised proposals have been received on 3.3.03.
9.	Gujarat				Nil		
10.	Haryana				Nil		
11.	Himachal Pradesh	Raising Anchor Ropes of suspension bridge of Mandi town & other allied works on NH-20	20	0 2 0 - H P - 950224AA dt. 8-3-95	7/2002	Physical Progress 95%	Due to delay in forest clearance.
12.	Jammu & Kashmir				Nil		
13.	Jharkhand				Nil		
14.	Karnataka				Nil		
15.	Kerala	1. Construction of combined bypass for Trivandrum Neyyattinkara (Phase I construction) and Chakkai ROB	47	047 KL 960533 dt. 29.03.96	June, 99	Construction work resumed on January 2003. Physical progress is 80%. Likely to be completed by Sept.2003	During construction of foundation of Rail Over Bridge, poor soil strata was encouraged which required soil stabilization by way of removing top 1.5 meter unstable soil and also required provisions of vertical sand drains and stage construction of embankment. Design of Rail Over Bridge had to be modified due to poor soil condition.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
		2. Strengthening in km. 482-489	47	047 97539 dt. 21.03.97	KL April, 2000		Strengthening completed. Work of paved shoulder is yet to be done. Revised Estimate is to be submitted by PWD. Due to site problem, sanction of revised estimate is required. Revised estimate has not been received from the State PWD.
		3. Strengthening in km. 387/300-390/570	47	047 97540 dt. 27.08.97	KL June 99		Strengthening completed. Work of paved shoulder is yet to be done. 1st contract terminated and 2nd agency fixed. Due to slow progress by the contractor.
16.	Madhya Pradesh					Nil	
17.	Maharashtra					Nil	
18.	Manipur					Nil	
19.	Meghalaya	Widening to two lane and strengthening from Km. 64 to km. 85 Excluding Km. 77-79 and Kms. 8-85	51	051-MG-97096/19/3/98 dt. 30-3-98		21.10.01	Work in progress. Physical progress 49%. Insurgency problems and delay in handing over land
20.	Mizoram					Nil	
21.	Nagaland					Nil	
22.	Orissa	1. Construction of HL bridge on Neta Nallah at Km. 74+208 of NH 23	23	023-OR-98-157 dt. 29-12-98		26.10.01	Work in progress. Physical progress 90%. Due to delayed land acquisition, part of work was held up and there was cost escalation on this account.
		2. Construction of Minor Bridge over Bisoi nallah at Km. 244/(3-6) of NH-6	6	006-OR-99-174 dt. 31-3-1999		07.03.01	Work in progress. Physical progress 60%. The compensation for land acquired has been given to the affected people as per the

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
							awards passed by the Revenue Department. But the affected people are not satisfied, they are demanding higher compensation and are not allowing the work to progress. The District Collector and the S.P. have been apprised of the situation and both have agreed to give protection for resuming the work.
23.	Pondicherry				Nil		
24.	Punjab	1. Construction of Gurdaspur-Bypass on NH-15	15	015-PB-92-092 dt. 18.5.91	3/97	Physical progress 98%	Road work is complete except railway crossing for which Railway has revised the claim from Rs. 7 lakhs to Rs. 107.96 lakhs. Matter being perused with Railways.
25.	Rajasthan				Nil		
26.	Tamil Nadu				Nil		
27.	Uttaranchal				Nil		
28.	Uttar Pradesh	1. Construction of high level bridge over river Ghaghra at Manjighat including approaches and guide bund	19	19-UP-1999-252 dt. 18-05-99	06/2003	Work in progress physical progress 85%	Law and order situation delayed the work
		2. Shifting of utility service i.e. electricity transmission lines/electric poles & cutting of trees along with compensatory	24 & 28	24&28-UP & 2001-291 dt. 19.8.01	03/2003	Work in progress physical progress 92%	Due to delayed response of the utility Departments and State Forest Department.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
		afforestation for widening of existing segment joining NH-24 & NH-28 (East-West Corridor) to four lanes of proposed Lucknow bypass					
		3. Construction of Lalitpur Bypass from km. 87.139-94.120	26	26-UP-90-175 dt. 20.9.1990	05/2003	Work in progress physical progress 95%	Work is likely to be completed by the revised target date of completion.
29. West Bengal		1. Construction of HL Bridge over River Torsa and its approaches	31	031-WB-88-04 dt. 10.11.88	Construction of Torsa bridge was awarded to Macintosh Burn Ltd. In April, 1992 and was to be completed by April 1995. The work was rescind and re-awarded to M/s. NPCC Ltd. In September, 1999 with a new target date of completion of February, 2001. However, the work has not been completed by M/s. NPCC also and is standstill.	Work in progress physical progress 86%	Ministry had written to State Govt. of West Bengal in January, 2002 to complete the balance work at their own cost as the time and cost overruns necessitating revision of sanctioned cost had been caused due to ineffective administration of contract by State Govt. In response to this, the State Government had shown its inability to bear the cost of balance work. Subsequently, Ministry considered the option to get the work done by the present agency M/s. NPCC who wanted relaxations like deferring recovery of mobilization

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
							advance, granting secured advance on the materials, extension of time etc., which were not acceptable. As the work was originally sanctioned with the approval of Expenditure Finance Committee (EFC), the revision of sanctioned cost needs to be considered by EFC. The EFC note was requested from State PW (R)D which has not yet been received despite reminders including a D.O. letter at Secretary level on 14-1-2003.
	2 Land Acquisition for Vivekananda Bridge and shifting of utilities	2	002-WB-98-130 dt. 31.8.98	30-4-2002	Work in progress physical progress 70%		Change in the type of land from Govt. land to Pvt. Land and increase in rates and areas for the structure acquisition have led to cost overrun.
30.	National Highways Authority of India				Nil		
31.	Border Road Organisation				Nil		

#### Loss of Revenue in Missions/Posts Abroad

3077. SHRI SHEESH RAM SINGH RAVI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the deficiency in internal control and monitoring system in realisation of Visa and Consular Service fees by the Missions and Posts abroad has led

to loss of revenue of Rs. 9.25 crore as pointed out in paras 8.2 and 8.3 of CAG in its Report No. 2 of 2000;

(b) whether instructions were issued in this behalf to Missions and Posts;

(c) if so, the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to enquire into the negligence of the staff

at the Missions and Posts abroad and to fix responsibility in this regard; and

(d) the measures proposed to be taken to recover the loss of revenue of 18.15 crores (Rs. 9.25+8.90 crores)?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI VINOD KHANNA): (a) No. Ministry does not agree with the observations of audit. The lapse was due to oversight or misinterpretation of rules.

(b) It has been decided by the Ministry to circulate updated instructions to the Missions and Posts at regular intervals. Missions have themselves introduced internal control systems as suggested by Audit.

(c) and (d) Audit has not recommended any recovery.

[Translation]

#### **CGHS Dispensaries in Jharkhand**

3078. SHRI LAXMAN GILUWA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of CGHS dispensaries functioning in Jharkhand as on date, location-wise;

(b) whether the Union Government propose to open more such dispensaries in the State during the Tenth Five Year Plan; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) Ranchi is the only city in Jharkhand where CGHS facilities have been extended. The lone CGHS Allopathic dispensary is located at A.G's colony, Doranda, Ranchi and it caters only to the employees of Accountant General's office at Ranchi.

(b) and (c) A proposal for opening of an additional dispensary under CGHS, Ranchi has been included in the Tenth Five Year Plan. However, it would be subject to availability of resources and inter-se priorities.

#### **Construction of National Highway in Pratapgarh**

3079. SHRIMATI RAJKUMARI RATNA SINGH: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether no national highway passes through Pratapgarh;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS [MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI]: (a) National Highway No. 96 passes through Pratapgarh.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[English]

#### **Elections to the Homoeopathy Central Council**

3080. SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether as per the HCC (Homoeopathy Central Council) Act 1973, the elections to the Council are to be held every five years in the States;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether elections have not been held in States like Bihar, Maharashtra etc. even after the expiry of the term/tenure;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the reasons for not conducting the elections on time; and

(e) the details of steps taken/proposed to be taken to conduct elections in such States at the earliest?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The tenure of a member of Central Council of Homoeopathy as per Section 7(1) of HCC Act, 1973 is five years from date of election or till his successor is elected, whichever is longer.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) and (e) The elections are conducted as per provisions of Section 3 (1) (a) of HCC Act, 1973 and HCC Election Rules, 1975. Returning Officers are appointed by Central Government on the recommendation of State Governments. The Central Government has already appointed Returning Officers in the States of Bihar and Maharashtra. Funds have been provided to Returning Officers for conducting the election. The updated voter's list to conduct CCH election is to be provided by Registrar,

State Council/Board of Homoeopathy to Returning Officers. The Central Government is making best efforts through State Governments for holding election.

#### **Purchase of Passenger Ships**

3081. SHRI A.C. JOSE: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to acquire two more passenger ships of 500 capacity each for the benefit of the people living in Southern Group of Andaman and Nicobar Islands; and

(b) if so, steps taken in this regard?

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

(a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Two vessels of 500 passengers capacity are proposed to be acquired for the benefit of people living in Southern group of Andaman and Nicobar Islands in the 10th Five Year Plan for inter-island and mainland-island service. The EFC proposal for acquisition of one 500 passenger ship is already under circulation to the concerned Ministries for their comments.

#### **Grants to NGOs**

3082. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the items and areas for which grants are given by the Ministry to NGOs;

(b) the details of the proposals received from NGOs working in the Nagpur district in Maharashtra during the last three years;

(c) the action taken on these proposals;

(d) the number of proposals pending for clearance; and

(e) the reasons for their pendency?

THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI VIKRAM VERMA): (a) to (e) Grants are given by the Ministry to the NGOs under the following schemes:

- (i) Promotion of Youth Activities and Training: Under this scheme, grants are given for conducting Vocational Training Programmes, Entrepreneurship Development Programmes and Exhibitions for Youth. Seven proposals were received from NGOs of Nagpur district under

this scheme during the last three years, out of which one proposal was approved and the remaining were not found in order and therefore not considered for grants.

- (ii) National Integration: Under this scheme, grants are provided for conducting National Integration Camps, Inter-State Youth Exchange Programmes, Symposia and Seminars, Multi-Cultural Activities, Youth Leadership Training Programmes and Communal Harmony Programmes. Four proposals were received from NGOs of Nagpur district under this scheme during the last three years and none of them were found in order and therefore not considered for Central assistance.

- (iii) Creation of Sports Infrastructure: Under this scheme, grants on matching share basis are provided to NGOs who are active in the field of sports and for creation of sports facilities viz. Outdoor/Indoor Stadia, Development of Play fields, Swimming Pools, Water Sports facilities, Skating Rinks etc. subject to receipt of viable proposals from the State Governments/UTs. Two proposals were received from NGOs of Nagpur District during the last three years and approved for Central assistance.

#### **Widening and Expansion of National Highways in Andhra Pradesh**

3083. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of National Highways in Andhra Pradesh where the widening, expansion and repair works have been started in 2000;

(b) by when the said works are likely to be completed on the above national highways and works is likely to be started on the remaining National Highways;

(c) the details of the expenditure incurred during the last three years on these National Highways for the said works;

(d) whether the Government propose to allocate more funds for the speedy completion of the works; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS [MAJ. GEN.



(RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI: (a) and (b) There are 12 National Highways in Andhra Pradesh. Details of the National Highways in Andhra Pradesh is at Statement enclosed. Improvement works started on all these National Highways in 2000 have been completed. Works undertaken on NH 5 (Golden Quadrilateral) and NH 7 (North-South corridor) are likely to be completed by December, 2004 and December, 2007 respectively. Improvement on National Highways is a continuous

process, which is being taken up depending on the traffic volume, availability of funds and inter-se priority.

(c) Expenditure incurred on these National Highways during the last three years since 2000 is Rs. 2189.31 crores.

(d) and (e) An additional allocation of Rs. 10.00 crore was made during 2001-02 and Rs. 12.00 crore was made during 2002-03 to Andhra Pradesh for the speedy completion of the works.

### **Statement**

#### *List of National Highways in Andhra Pradesh*

Sr. No.	NH No.	Section	Important Cities in Andhra Pradesh	Length (km)
1	2	3	4	5
1.	4	Madras-Bangalore	Chittoor and Palmaner	84
	5	Madras-Vijayawada	Nellore, Ongole and Guntur	387
	5	Vijayawada-Vishakhapatnam	Eluru and Rajahmundry	396
2.	5	Vishakhapatnam-	Srikakulam	233
		Bhubaneshwar		
			Total (NH 5)	1016
3.	7	Nagpur-Hyderabad	Adilabad, Nirmal and Medchal	309
	7	Hyderabad-Bangalore	Kurnool, Gooty, Anantapur & Penukonda	464
			Total (NH 7)	773
4.	9	Pune-Hyderabad	Zahirabad & Sangareddy	120
	9	Hyderabad-Vijayawada	Suriapet & Nandigama	266
	9	Vijayawada-Machilipatnam	Pamarru	65
			Total (NH 9)	451
5.	16	Nizamabad-Jagdalpur	Amur, Metpalli, Jagdial, Lakshettipet and Chinnur	235
6.	18	Chittoor-Kurnool	Rayachoti, Cuddapah, Allagadda and Nandyal	360
7.	43	Raipur-Vishakhapatnam	Bhimunipatnam, Vizianagaram, Gajapatinagaram and Salur	90
8.	63	Ankola-Gooty	Guntakal	55
9.	202	Hyderabad-Bhopalapatnam	Bhongir, Jangoon, Warangal, Mulug and Vekatapuram	306

1	2	3	4	5
10.	205	Anantapur-Chennai	Kadiri, Madanapalle, Vayalpad, Chandragiri, Tirupati & Puttur	342
11.	214	Kathipudi-Pamaruru	Kakinada, Mummidivaram, Amalapuram, Bhimavaram, Kaikalur & Gudivada	244
12.	219	Madanapalli-Krishnagiri	Punganuru, Palmaner & Kuppam	136
Total				4092

#### Post Offices in North-East Mumbai

3084. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to open four new post offices in North-East Mumbai and reconstruct seven post offices in the same district;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when these post offices are likely to be setup/reconstructed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SU. THIRUNAVUKKARASAR): (a) to (c) There is a proposal for opening four new post offices in North-East Mumbai, at Mhada Colony—Mulund, Hiranandani Gardens—Powai, Ramabai Nagar—Ghatkopar and Pratap Nagar Road (Hanuman Nagar)—Bhandup (West), subject to availability of requisite resources and of suitable accommodation on rent. There is no proposal to construct any Departmental building for these proposed post offices or to reconstruct any existing buildings in North-East Division, Mumbai.

#### Infant Mortality Rate in Orissa

3085. SHRI ANADI SAHU: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether infant mortality in Orissa has gone up during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof, year-wise alongwith the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government have chalked out any action plan to check this upward trend; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The Infant Mortality Rate for the last three years for the State of Orissa, as per the Sample Registration System (SRS 2001) is as given below:—

#### Infant Mortality Rate

2001	-	90 per thousand live births. (*)
2000	-	95 per thousand live births.
1999	-	97 per thousand live births.
1998	-	98 per thousand live births.

\*Provisional (SRS).

(c) and (d) To reduce infant mortality and to improve the nutritional status of children, the Department has been implementing the following:— Immunization to all children against vaccine preventable diseases, management and control of acute respiratory infections and diarrhoea; provision of essential newborn care and promotion of exclusive breast feeding and appropriate complementary feeding through out the country. To prevent micro nutrient deficiencies, Vitamin A and Iron supplementary Programmes are under implementation. These are implemented as components of the Reproductive and Child Health Programme in all States including Orissa.

#### Search for Talents

3086. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state the number of sportspersons identified particularly in rural areas through the Centrally Sponsored Schemes during the last three years, year-wise and State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI VIKRAM VERMA): Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports do not have any separate Centrally Sponsored Scheme to identify sportspersons in the rural areas. However, the Government of India, through the Sports Authority of India (SAI), implements a number of Schemes which operate to scout and nurture sports talent from everywhere, including the rural areas. Further, the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports implements a Scheme of Rural Sports Programme, which too, helps in scouting sports talent from rural areas. The total number of trainees under the above schemes and programmes during the last 3 years is given below:

	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03 (till date)
Number of trainees	7,005	6,928	7,580

[Translation]

#### Shortage of Doctors In CGHS Dispensaries

3087. SHRI MAHESHWAR SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether due to the scarcity of doctors on duty in CGHS dispensaries in Delhi particularly in the Chitragupta Road and Aram Bagh dispensaries, the CGHS beneficiaries are facing great difficulties;

(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 HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) The availability of doctors in CGHS dispensaries in Delhi is by and large adequate to attend to the needs of the patients visiting the dispensaries daily.

Seven doctors are posted in CGHS dispensary Chitragupta Road (also known as Aram Bagh dispensary) which is considered adequate for catering to the average daily attendance of 300-400 patients in the dispensary keeping in view the norms given in the SIU Report of November, 1999.

(b) and (c) In view of (a) above, the questions do not arise.

[English]

#### HIV In Pregnant Women

3088. SHRI G. GANGA REDDY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a United Nations Report highlights that HIV prevalence among pregnant women has been found to be higher than one percent in Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Manipur, Nagaland and Tamilnadu;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken to contain its spread?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. The nation-wise HIV sentinel surveillance round 2001, conducted by the National AIDS Control Organisation revealed that the HIV Prevalence among pregnant women in States of Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Manipur, Nagaland and Tamilnadu was 1.5%, 1.75%, 1.75, 1.25% and 1.13% respectively.

(c) In order to prevent and control the spread of HIV/AIDS in India, Govt. of India has launched a comprehensive National AIDS Control Programme, currently under implementation throughout the country as a centrally sponsored scheme with the following components:—

- Preventive interventions for high risk populations through targeted interventions adopting a multi-pronged strategy including peer counselling and behaviour change communication.
- Preventive interventions for the general population through programmes for blood safety, voluntary counselling and testing services, prevention of parent to child transmission of HIV, information education and communication (IEC) & awareness building among adolescents and sensitization for the AIDS Vaccine Initiative.

In order to prevent transmission of HIV from an infected mother to her child, Government of India is in the process of up-scaling prevention of parent to child transmission (PPTCT) programme. The programme has already covered 74 medical colleges and 15 district hospitals in six high prevalence States viz. Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Manipur, Nagaland and Tamil Nadu.

- Provision of low cost care and support services by providing community care services, treatment of opportunistic infections and prevention of occupational exposure.
- Collaborative efforts to promote inter-sectoral programme activities including workplace interventions and public-private partnerships.

- Building technical and managerial capacities for programme implementation through Surveillance, Training, Monitoring and Evaluation, Technical resource groups, operational research and Programme management.

#### **Adverse Effects of Oxytocin**

3089. DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether use of Oxytocin injections on milch animals for extracting milk and in vegetables and fruits to enhance their growth cause adverse effects on health of bovines and humans; and

(b) if so, the steps proposed to be taken to check sale of these injections?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) No, Sir. Oxytocin injection is included in the WHO/National List of essential drugs and has medial importance in the medical and veterinary practice because it is used to induce uterine contractions in pregnant women and cattle for easy delivery. There is no reported adverse impact of this chemical on the health of humans/bovines. However, the misuse of Oxytocin injection has been reported milching animals, particularly in buffaloes, at the time of milking, under the erroneous impression that it increases milk production. Oxytocin, when injected into the animals, get rapidly metabolized in liver and kidney to undetectable levels. The half life of Oxytocin varies from 3 to 12 minutes. In humans, Oxytocin is not observed when taken orally as it is converted into aminoacids by peptide digesting enzymes in the gastro-intestinal tract. The chances that it might be filtered in milk are non-existent.

(b) To prevent any misuse of this drug, the following measures have been initiated:

- Oxytocin has been notified as a Schedule II drug and can be sold only against the prescription of the registered medical/veterinary practitioner.
- This Ministry has made it mandatory to market Oxytocin injection in single unit blister pack only.
- Instructions have also been issued to all State Drug Controllers to regulate and monitor manufacture and distribution of Oxytocin.
- Department of Animal Husbandry have also issued instructions to all the Directors of Animal

Husbandry and Veterinary Services to educate the farmers in the States about appropriate use of drug. They have also been advised to approach the State Drug Controllers for regulating the use of drug by distributors and retailers.

#### **Telecom/Postal Services in Karnataka**

3090. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR:  
SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK:

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

(a) whether telecom and postal services provided in Karnataka and Maharashtra are inadequate as compared to other States;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Union Government propose to improve the services in the telecom and postal sectors in these States during 2003-04;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether these services are proposed to be made available to each and every village in above States; and

(f) if so, the time by which the services are likely to be made available?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) No, Sir. The telecom and postal services provided in Karnataka and Maharashtra are comparable to those provided in other States.

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

(c) and (d) Sir, improvement in services are being done continuously. Some of the plans and innovative programmes for the telecom services for the year 2003-04 are given in Statement-I. In postal sector new post offices and Panchayat Sanchar Sewa Kendras are being opened in these States during the year 2003-04, subject to the norms based justification and availability of requisite resources.

(e) and (f) Sir, as per NTP 1999, basic services are to be provided in each and every village. The details of connections already provided and plans of BSNL for the year 2003-04 are given in the Statement-II. Besides the Public Sector Undertakings, private telecom operators are also required to provide services in rural areas under the

terms of their licences. At this stage of time it is not possible to give the time frame for full coverage of rural areas. The postal services of delivery and collection of mails and sale of postal stamps and stationery are available to all the villages in the country including above States.

**Statement I**

*Steps being taken to improve the telephone services in rural areas*

- (i) Provision of maintenance free battery sets and standby generators progressively in more and more under exchanges affected due to power breakdowns.
- (ii) The existing overhead lines are being replaced by underground cables in a phased manner.
- (iii) Non-life expired paper core cable is being replaced progressively by Poly Insulated Jelly Filled (PIJF) cable.
- (iv) The life expired telephone instruments are being replaced by new telephone instruments.
- (v) New technologies like WLL, C.DOT/PMP and Satellite have been deployed to provide Village Public Telephones (VPTs) in rural areas.
- (vi) The booking of telephone complaints have been centralized for small and medium exchanges at SDCA to have round the clock booking facility.
- (vii) Use of 5 pair PIJF cable along with 5 pair internal DPs instead of use to drop wire to have pole-less network.

**Statement II**

*Details of connections provided and plans of BSNL for 2003-04*

Continuous efforts for the expansion of telecom network in all the States including Karnataka and Maharashtra are being made. Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited has covered 27066 villages in Karnataka Circle and 31514 villages out of total of 42467 villages in Maharashtra Circle. BSNL has covered its full share of villages in Maharashtra and the remaining villages are to be covered by private basic service operators. Further, BSNL has planned to provide 1.44 lakh in urban area & 0.48 lakh tentative DELs in rural areas during 2003-04 in Karnataka and 2.4 urban DELs and 71,000 DELs in rural areas in Maharashtra. This includes wire line and Wireless in Local Loop (WLL) telephones subject to availability of resources.

**Indo-Russia Agreement for Supply of Nuclear Fuel**

3091. SHRI T.M. SELVAGANAPATHI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and Russia have signed a contract with regard to the supply of nuclear fuel to the Kudankulam Atomic Power Plant in Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether as per the said contract the spent nuclear fuel would not be sent back to Russia;

(d) if so, whether the spent nuclear fuel would be reprocessed and stored in India under the International Atomic Energy Agency Control; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) Nuclear Power Corporation of India Ltd. a Public Sector Undertaking of this Department, is presently setting up two units, each of 1000 MWe capacity nuclear power reactors at Kudankulam, Tamil Nadu in cooperation with Russian Federation. The Agreement provides for a sovereign guarantee by the Russian Federation for the supply of fuel during the life of the plant. A contract for the supply of fuel for these power reactors has been signed recently. The contract is for supply of fuel for the initial charge and reloads for five years.

(c) Yes Sir.

(d) and (e) Yes Sir. The spent fuel will be stored in India. This will be the property of Government of India who can put it to any use for peaceful purposes under International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Safeguards.

**Assistance to Indo-American Cancer Institute and Research Centre**

3092. SHRI Y.V. RAO: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any proposal from the Indo-American Cancer Institute for Research Centre for financial assistance;

(b) if so, whether any assistance has been provided to it so far;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) by when the proposal is likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (d) A proposal was received from the Indo-American Cancer Institute & Research Centre earlier for financial assistance for purchase of various equipment and for support of proposed cancer screening wing programme.

Under the scheme of Setting up of a Cobalt Therapy Unit an amount of Rs. 1.00 crore was released in 1999 to Smt. NBT Rama Rao Memorial Cancer Foundation, Hyderabad which has promoted by this Institute. Since this is one time grant, the request of the organization as above was not acceded to and the organization was intimated accordingly.

A proposal has also been received recently from the Indo-American Cancer Institute and Research Centre for financial assistance of Rs. 5.00 lakhs under the NGO scheme of the National Cancer Control Programme. Sanction of the grant depends upon clearance of the same by the Standing Committee on Radiotherapy Development chaired by the Director General of Health Services (DGHS).

#### **Appointment on Compassionate Ground**

3093. PROF. A.K. PREMAJAM: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons given appointment on compassionate ground in the Telecommunications and Post and Telegraph Departments during the last four years, State-wise; and

(b) the criteria adopted therefor?

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.

[*Translation*]

#### **Allocation of Funds to Bihar for Hospitals**

3094. SHRI RAJO SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of proposals received by the Union Government from Bihar for financial assistance for improving the services of the hospitals in the State during the last three years;

(b) the action taken by the Government thereon;

(c) whether the Government propose to allocate more funds to Bihar for the purpose in Tenth Five Year Plan; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) Under the Scheme, 'Assistance for Capacity Building' the following financial assistance has been provided to the Government of Bihar during the last three years:—

1. Rs. 53.00 lakhs for modernizing and updating the Indira Gandhi Central Emergency Unit of Patna Medical College Hospital, Patna during the year 1999-2000.
2. Rs. 63.50 lakhs to Indira Gandhi Institute of Medical Sciences, Patna for providing facilities of Hospital Waste Management during the year 2000-01.
3. Rs. 150.00 lakhs to Indira Gandhi Institute of Medical Sciences, Patna for establishment of a Trauma Centre during the year 2001-02.
4. Rs. 150.00 lakhs for upgradation and strengthening of emergency facilities at Model Bikram Referral Centre with Highway Trauma Centre at Patna during the year 2001-02.
5. Rs. 62.71 lakhs for upgradation and strengthening of Trauma Services at Aunsi, District Madhubani during the year 2001-02.

(c) and (d) As and when a proposal seeking financial assistance under the scheme, will be received from the Government of Bihar, the same will be considered by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare as per the guidelines of the scheme.

[*English*]

#### **National Malaria Eradication Programme**

3095. SHRI RAMJEE MANJHI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have modified the National Malaria Control Programme to National Malaria Eradication Programme to prevent/reduce deaths due to Malaria as reported by the C&AG in its Report of 1999 (Civil);

(b) if so, the achievements of the programme and the number of deaths that have taken place due to Malaria;

(c) the break-up thereof for the last five years, year-wise; and

(d) the efforts being made in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) The National Malaria Control Programme was modified in 1977 and the Modified Plan of Operation (MPO) was introduced with the objectives of prevention/reduction of morbidity and deaths due to malaria.

(b) and (c) With the launching of MPO, incidence of malaria has been brought down from 6.47 million cases during 1976 to 2.18 million cases in 1984. Since then it has been contained between 2-3 million cases annually. Number of deaths due to malaria for the last five years are as under:—

Year	Deaths
1997	879
1998	664
1999	1048
2000	932
2001 (P)	1005
2002 (P)	818

(P): Provisional.

(d) The strategies for control of malaria are to provide anti-malaria drugs for early treatment through health facilities and community volunteers and integrated vector control which include indoor residual spray in the high risk pockets in rural areas, larvicides in urban areas, use of insecticide treated bed nets, larvivorous fish and environmental measures.

A provision of Rs. 215 crores was made in 2002-03 for giving assistance to the States for the control of malaria.

*[Translation]*

### Acupuncture Therapy

3096. SHRI A. NARENDRA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Acupuncture Therapy can cure even incurable diseases;

(b) if so, whether this therapy is successful for ear, eye and liver disorders;

(c) whether the Government have any proposal to encourage physicians to take interest in this therapy; 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) Acupuncture is an important technique of Chinese traditional medicine and is considered to be beneficial in a number of diseases. The Chinese traditional medicine flowed out beyond her borders. WHO has published a document describing its usefulness in many ailments. To examine the merits of various systems of alternative medicines, including Acupuncture, a Standing Committee of Experts was constituted by Government under the Chairmanship of DG, ICMR to give its recommendations to the Government. The Committee has since submitted its report to the Government. The recommendations contained in the report are being examined.

*[English]*

### Closure of S.S.Is.

3097. SHRI RAJ NARAIN PASSI: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Small Scale Industries are closing due to higher rate of interest and variable penalty charged by the banks and financial institutions on the loans advanced/financed to the entrepreneurs before 1999-2000;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether banks/cooperative institutions are charging 15 to 18 percent on the mortgaged property from the entrepreneurs while the interest rate on fixed deposits has been reduced from 6% to 8%;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government have requested the R.B.I. to make a uniform policy on the interest/penalty in the interest of the trade/industry; and

(f) 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) to (d) Higher cost of credit is one of the various reasons responsible for the closure of Small Scale industries (SSIs). As per the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) directives the interest on advances upto Rs. 2 lakh should not exceed the Prime Lending Rates (PLR) fixed by banks with the approval of their Boards and loans above Rs. 2 lakh it is at the discretion of banks but within the maximum spread over PLR fixed by them. Banks are also free to charge interest below PLR for SSI units having good track record. Banks have also been advised to implement the policy of levying penal rates with discrimination and selectivity and to avoid indiscriminate levy of penal rates.

(e) and (f) As per the Union Budget 2003-04, the Indian Banks' Association is advising all its member banks to adopt an interest rate band of 2 per cent above and below PLR as announced by the State Bank of India.

#### **East-West Express Highway Scheme**

3098. SHRI SANSUMA KHUNGGUR BWISWMUTHIARY: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to widen the National Highways under East-West Express

Highway Scheme alongwith the National Highway Nos. 31 and 52;

(b) if so, the details thereof; 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) to (c) NH-31 from Km. 410 (Purnia) to Km. 634 (Gairkatta) and from Km. 963 (Bijni) to Km. 1126 (Guwahati) will be widened to four lane under East-West Corridor of National Highway Development Project. NH-52 does not form part of the said Corridor.

#### **Vacancies in Indian Embassies**

3099. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether several posts are lying vacant in different Indian Embassies in various countries;

(b) if so, the vacancies position, post-wise and country-wise; and

(c) the steps taken to fill up these posts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI VINOD KHANNA): (a) Out of 2038 posts in 161 Missions/Posts abroad, 33 posts are lying vacant.

(b) and (c) The list of vacancies, post-wise and country-wise, together with details of action taken to fill these vacancies is given below.

Sl. No.	Name of Mission/Post	Vacant posts	Remarks
1	2	3	4
1.	High Commission of India, Accra	First Secretary	Successor to be selected in Foreign Service Board (FSB) meeting in April 2003.
2.	Embassy of India, Beijing	First Secretary	Successor to be selected in FSB meeting in April 2003.
3.	Embassy of India, Bucharest	Ambassador	New Ambassador has been nominated and will move after completion of certain mandatory formalities.
4.	High Commission of India, Harare	High Commissioner	New High Commissioner has been nominated and will move after



1	2	3	4
			completion of certain mandatory formalities.
5.	High Commission of India, Islamabad	High Commissioner, 3 Assistants & 11 Clerks	Policy decision taken by Government to reduce the size of the Mission and to withdraw the High Commissioner following the December 13, 2001 attack on our Parliament.
6.	Consulate General of India, Jeddah	1 Clerk	Post held in abeyance for administrative reasons.
7.	Embassy of India, Kabul	1 Clerk	Post held in abeyance for administrative reasons.
8.	Embassy of India, Kyiv	First Secretary	Successor to be selected in FSB meeting in April 2003.
9.	High Commission of India, London	1 Assistant, 1 Clerk	Post held in abeyance for administrative reasons.
10.	Embassy of India, Madrid	First Secretary, 1 Clerk	Successors to be selected in FSB meeting in April 2003. Post of clerk held in abeyance for administrative reasons.
11.	High Commission of India, Nairobi	1 Clerk	Post held in abeyance for administrative reasons.
12.	Embassy of India, Paramaribo	Ambassador	New Ambassador has been nominated and will move after completion of certain mandatory formalities.
13.	Embassy of India, Sana's	Ambassador	New High Commissioner has been nominated and will move after completion of certain mandatory formalities.
14.	Consulate General of India, Toronto	1 Section Officer	Successor to be selected in the Senior Establishment Board (SEB) meeting in March 2003.
15.	Embassy of India, Ulaanbaatar	Ambassador	New Ambassador has been nominated and will move after completion of certain mandatory formalities.
16.	Embassy of India, Washington	1 Clerk	Post held in abeyance for administrative reasons.
17.	Embassy of India, Yangon	1 Clerk	Post held in abeyance for administrative reasons.

**Cosmetic Testing on Animals**

3100. SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that the European Union has banned cosmetic testing on animals;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to ban the same in the country;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) According to ICMR, no specific information is available regarding banning of use of animals in the toxicity testing of cosmetics in animals by the European Union. However, there is news item indicating that European Parliament has agreed to ban the use of animals for cosmetic testing by 2009.

(b) to (d) As non-animal alternatives for testing of cosmetics on animals has not yet been fully accepted by other regulatory agencies like European Union or US FDA, banning animal testing cannot be resorted to at the current level of knowledge.

[*Translation*]

**Mobile Service by BSNL**

3101. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that weak signals are being received in highway area in respect of (Cellphone) the mobile service of BSNL introduced in Aurangabad;

(b) if so, the steps to taken to rectify it or install new towers for this purpose;

(c) by when it is likely to be done;

(d) whether there is any proposal to increase the quota for Aurangabad keeping in view the large number of people in waiting list for mobile phones of BSNL;

(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) to (c) Highways planned for coverage around Aurangabad have weak signals as some sites are yet to be commissioned. The work of installation of equipment is still under progress and it is expected that the services will be available in around two months time.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd. (BSNL) is expanding the capacity of the existing Cellular Mobile Network further by 5600 lines at Aurangabad for which purchase order have already been placed.

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

[*English*]

**Four Laning of National Highway-8**

3102. SHRI CHINTAMAN WANAGA: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have acquired land for four laning of National Highway No.-8;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether compensation has been paid by the Government in this regard; 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) Yes, Sir.

(b) About 606 Hectares of land has been acquired and in addition about 200 Hectares are in the process of being acquired by National Highways Authority of India along National Highway-8.

(c) Depositing the compensation amount with the Competent Authority for disbursement to the affected persons is a pre-condition before possession of the land. This condition is strictly complied with.

(d) Does not arise.

[*Translation*]

**Telephone Connections to Members of TAC**

3103. SHRIMATI REENA CHOUDHARY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether telephone connections have been allotted to all the members nominated to the Telephone Advisory Committees in Uttar Pradesh, particularly in Unnav, Lucknow, Mohanlal Gunj and Lakhimpur Khiri;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) to (c) Sir, out of 764 TAC Members in UP 733 Members have been provided with telephone connections and 7 cases are under process. In Lucknow, Mohanlal Ganj, Unnao and Lakhimpur Khiri, connections have been provided to 12 out of 13 TAC Members. The reasons for non-provision of telephones to the remaining members are as under:

- (i) Defaulter of payment of bill of the existing telephone.
- (ii) Consent from the Member not received.
- (iii) Area being technically non feasible.
- (iv) Member refused to take connection.
- (v) Address of the Member not available.
- (vi) Change of Address of the Member.

[English]

#### **Non-availability of Leukeran**

3104. SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether non-availability of Leukeran an essential drug for Blood Cancer is causing great hardships to the patients;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to include this drug in the list of essential drugs;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the price control thereof has caused the pharmaceutical companies to stop production of the drug; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (e) The medicine namely Leukeran is marketed by M/s Glaxo Smithkline which is used in the treatment of blood cancer. The non availability of this medicine was reported by Drugs Controller, Delhi in December, 2002. The National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) had raised the issue with M/s. Glaxo Smithkline. It was informed by the company that this medicine was being imported by them for sale in India. In view of low offtake of this medicine, the import and manufacture of this medicine has been suspended by the company. However, other medicines based on drug Cyclophosphamide, Ifosamide, Chlorambucil, etc. used in the treatment of cancer are available in the market.

The non-availability/stoppage of production of Leukeran cannot be attributed to the price control as medicine Leukeran is out of price control under DPCO, 1995.

#### **OFC in Telephone Exchanges**

3105. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL:  
SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK:

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

(a) whether all the telephone exchanges have been provided with OFC in Maharashtra and Karnataka;

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

(c) if not, by when all the telephone exchanges are likely to be provided with OFC in these States?

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

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

(c) 4603 out of total 4734 exchanges in Maharashtra Circle and all the 2678 exchanges in Karnataka Circle have been provided with reliable media. Remaining exchanges in Maharashtra Circle are likely to be connected with reliable media by 30.06.2003. There is no plan to provide all exchanges with optical fibre cable.

In MTNL Mumbai, all the exchanges (96 Main and 93 RLU/RSU/RDLU exchanges) have been interlinked with OFC cable.

### Dumping Prices

3106. SHRI RAMJEE MANJHI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Standing Committee on Information and Technology in its 22nd Report has stated that prices quoted by L-1 bidders are dumping prices adversely affecting ITI and other indigenous companies; and

(b) if so, the measures taken to check the dumping prices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Action Taken Report was sent to Lok Sabha Secretariat which was considered and adopted by the Standing Committee on Information Technology (2002) (Thirteenth Lok Sabha), Ministry of Communications and Information Technology (Department of Telecommunications) in its sitting held on 20.2.2002. The extracts are given in the enclosed Statement.

#### Statement

*Extracts from Twenty-Ninth Report of Standing Committee on Information Technology (2002) (Thirteenth Lok Sabha), Ministry of Communications and Information Technology (Department of Telecommunications)*

*Presented to Lok Sabha on 13th March, 2002*

#### CHAPTER-III

RECOMMENDATIONS/OBSERVATIONS WHICH THE COMMITTEE DOES NOT DESIRE TO PURSUE IN VIEW OF THE REPLIES OF THE GOVERNMENT

XXX      XXX      XXX      XXX      XXX

Recommendations/Observation of the Committee  
(Paragraph No. 135)

The Committee also notes that in a recent tender floated by the Department, prices quoted by L-1, bidder was alleged to be dumping prices which apparently affected the interest of ITI and other indigenous companies. The Committee, therefore, desires the Department to see whether any mechanism can be evolved to establish whether the price quoted by a particular vendor is anyway dumping so that the interest of the indigenous companies can be well protected.

#### Action Taken by Government

Procurement of telecom equipment in DOT now BSNL is made through open competitive tenders. The process

of open tendering is well established in the Govt. of India and the system is quite transparent and therefore price quoted by L-1 bidder cannot be considered a dumping price. Moreover no evidence is available to substantiate that L-1 prices are dumping prices.

### Postal and Telecom Facilities

3107. SHRI C.N. SINGH:  
SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:

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

(a) whether the Government are aware of the poor quality of the essential services in the areas of post, telegraph and telecommunications in Uttar Pradesh and Maharashtra, particularly in hilly and rural areas;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the directions issued by the Government to improve the services of the post, telegraph and telecommunications in these States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SU. THIRUNAVUKKARASAR): (a) and (b) Basic postal services in terms of daily delivery and collection of mails have been provided to all the rural areas throughout the length and breadth of the country including Uttar Pradesh and Maharashtra. In addition sale of stamps and stationery is also done through delivery agents when undertaking deliveries in areas where no post office exists.

The quality of telegraph services measured has consistently shown satisfactory performance above 91% in Uttar Pradesh and above 95% in Maharashtra. Information relating to telecommunication facilities is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(c) Continuous efforts are made by the Department of Posts to expand the postal network by opening Post Offices and Panchayat Sanchar Sewa Kendras (PSSKs) subject to fulfillment of relevant norms and availability of resources. During 2002-2003 the targets allocated for opening of post offices and Panchayat Sanchar Sewa Kendras (PSSKs) in Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh are given in the enclosed Statement.

Regarding telegraph facilities, improvement in quality of service is an ongoing process and standard instructions are available in this regard. Regarding telecommunications services, the information will be laid on the Table of the House shortly.

**Statement****Targets for opening of Post Offices and PSSKs for the year 2002-2003**

Sl. No.	Circles	EDBOs		DSOs		PSSKs
		Normal	Tribal	Normal	Tribal	
1.	Maharashtra	25	5	6	1	150
2.	Uttar Pradesh	18	Nil	1	Nil	200

**Services by MTNL**

3108. SHRI AJAY SINGH CHAUTALA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the services of MTNL and its mobile services are not up to the mark;

(b) if so, whether the Government have received any complaints regarding the services of Garuda etc.; and

(c) if so, the steps taken to improve the services?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) Sir, overall quality of services of MTNL including its cellular Mobile Services (Dolphin) are at satisfactory level.

(b) Some complaints in respect of its Garuda, Wireless in Local Loop-Mobile (WLL-M) Services in MTNL, Mumbai were received, which include coverage problem in some areas, unavailability of Calling Line Identification Presentation (CLIP), false ring back tone and quality of handsets.

(c) The steps taken to improve the quality of Garuda and Mobile Services are given in the enclosed Statement.

**Statement**

The steps taken to improve the quality of Garuda and Mobile Services are given below:

1. Expansion of the existing network and enhancing the coverage in all major areas in a phased manner.
2. Provision of CLIP facility during the expansion of the network.
3. Problem regarding false ring back tone being pursued with the vendor M/s. Fujitsu, for early solution.

4. Better quality of handsets being procured.

The following steps are being taken to improve the Cellular Mobile services further:

1. Continuous Radio Frequency optimization is being carried out to improve signal strength.
2. More Base-Trans-Receiver (BTS) are being added to provide uniform coverage in the entire service areas.
3. 25 seats call centre in Mumbai and 20 seats call centre in Delhi have been provided for better customer care.
4. New customer care centres are being opened to provide easy access by the customers.

[Translation]

**Denigration of Gandhiji in Foreign Magazine**

3109. DR. ASHOK PATEL:  
SHRI TARACHAND BHAGORA:  
DR. CHARAN DAS MAHANT:  
SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH RAJUKHEDI:  
SHRI BHERULAL MEENA:  
SHRI RAJO SINGH:  
SHRI Y.V. RAO:  
SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT:  
SHRI T.M. SELVAGANAPATHI:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that a foreign magazine has denigrated the Father of the Nation, Gandhiji;

(b) if so, the details of the matter thereof;

(c) whether a protest has been lodged by the Government against the said magazine; and

(d) if so, the outcome thereof?

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

(b) and (c) The US magazine 'Maxim', in its February 2003 issue, carried an alleged 'humour' piece depicting a man beating up an image of Mahatma Gandhi. The article hurt the sensibilities of the Indian community and others, who strongly objected to it. The Indian Embassy also took up the matter with the magazine's Editor-in-Chief.

(d) The Editor-in-Chief of 'Maxim' tendered an apology and explained that no offence was intended to Mahatma Gandhi; that the magazine believed in Mahatma Gandhi's teachings of peace; and that Gandhiji was chosen as the subject of the magazine's cartoon because he was the "least likely target of aggression imaginable". The explanation and apology offered by the magazine suggested that the article in question was published due to a misplaced sense of humour, rather than as a deliberate act of insult.

[*English*]

#### **Funding of Centrally Sponsored Schemes**

3110. SHRI SUNIL KHAN:  
SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether decision has been taken by the Government for direct funding of Centrally sponsored schemes;

(b) if so, the details of the modalities thereof;

(c) the details of amount released for Centrally Sponsored Schemes through the consolidated funds of the States and also the amounts released to the implementing agencies directly by the Centre during each of the last three years;

(d) the details of the percentage spending of these funds;

(e) whether the percentage of spending by the implementing agencies directly funded by the Centre was less than the funds released by the States;

(f) if so, the reasons for the decision of direct funding to the implementing agencies bypassing the States; and

(g) 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), (b), (f) and (g) In the meeting of Chief Ministers held on 18th October, 2002 at New Delhi under the Chairmanship of the Prime Minister, there was a consensus that henceforth all releases under Centrally Sponsored Schemes should be made through Consolidated Fund of the States and not directly to the project implementing agencies. It was also agreed that, as pre-condition, the States will pass on the funds of the end-users within a stipulated time of three weeks, and inform the Administrative Ministry in the Government of India of having done so. Instructions have been issued accordingly by the Ministry of Finance.

(c) to (e) Information is being collected for parts (c) to (e).

[*Translation*]

#### **Retrenchment Notice in BALCO**

3111. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY: Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the assets and fixed deposits of BALCO have been transferred/sold to Sterlite Company after its disinvestment;

(b) if so, the value of raw materials, stores material under process, ready products, spare parts scrap metal and fixed deposits, etc. of Korba Aluminium Plant of BALCO; and

(c) the number of employees given notice of retrenchment by the Sterlite Company and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No employees of BALCO has been given notice for retrenchment.

#### **Export of Electronic Components**

3112. SHRI RAM SINGH KASWAN:  
SHRI RAMDAS RUPALA GAVIT:  
SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK:

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

(a) the quantum and value of the electronic components exported by the country during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) the foreign exchange earned therefrom during the aforesaid period;

(c) whether there has been an increase in the export of electronic components during the year 2002-2003;

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the target of export for the year 2003-2004;

(e) whether the above-said target is likely to be achieved; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SU. THIRUNAVUKKARASAR): (a) The export of Electronic Components from India during the last three years are as below:—

2001-02	Rs. 2200 crores
2000-01	Rs. 1828 crores
1999-2000	Rs. 1200 crores

(b) Since the export of Electronic Components has been to the General Currency Area, the value given above may be treated as foreign exchange earned through export of Electronic Components.

(c) to (f) Yes, Sir. From the export trend observed during the first three quarters i.e. between April to December of the financial year 2002-2003, a growth of 13.64% has been observed in export of electronic components as compared to the export during the same period in the financial year 2001-2002. The main items of exports are as below:—

1. Memory Card
2. Connectors (parts thereof)
3. Transformers for Electronic equipments (other than EHT)
4. Soft Ferrite
5. Other Semiconductor devices
6. Electronics Components N.E.S.
7. Colour Picture Tube 14"
8. Unpopulated Printed Circuit Board

9. Resistors N.E.S.

10. Wiring Harness

The Electronics and Computer Software Export Promotion Council has fixed a target of Rs. 2500/- crores for export of electronic components during the year 2002-03 and in view of the performance during the first three quarters, it is expected that the same will be achieved.

[English]

#### Disinvestment of NALCO

3113. SHRIMATI MINATI SEN: Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to disinvest the NALCO at price of Rs. 3000 crores while it earns Rs. 300 crores yearly as foreign exchange and whose asset value is more than Rs. 15,000 crores;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government propose to make any alternative arrangement for the livelihood of 17,000 workers after the disinvestment of the NALCO; 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 to disinvest 30% of NALCO's equity through public offer of shares, 10% of which would be in domestic market and 20% through ADR issue to be followed soon after by sale of 29.15% equity through a strategic partner bringing the Government equity down to 26% after reserving upto 2% of the equity for NALCO employees. The amount likely to be realised through disinvestment depends of the timing of the disinvestment, performance of the company, level of competition, other market related factors and cannot be estimated with confidence. As per the present procedure, the valuation of the company will be done by professional advisors prior to disinvestment using the four internationally accepted methods namely, Discounted Cash Flow Method, Balance Sheet Method, Asset Valuation Method, and Transaction Multiple Method to determine the reserve price.

(c) and (d) Protection of employees' interest is an integral part of the disinvestment policy. Adequate provisions are made in the Transactions Agreements, executed as a part of strategic sale, to ensure that there

is no retrenchment of employees for one year after disinvestment and even thereafter separation is possible only under the Voluntary Retirement Scheme as applicable under DPE guidelines or the Voluntary Retirement Scheme which was prevailing in the company prior to disinvestment whichever is more beneficial for the employees. A Typical provision likely to be incorporated in the Transaction Agreement entered with the strategic partner at the time of disinvestment of Government's equity in a PSU is given in the enclosed Statement.

#### **Statement**

Typical provisions related to employees' interest incorporated in Transaction Agreement are as follow:—

#### **Recitals**

- Subject to the substantives clauses in this regard, the Parties envision that all Employees of the Company on the date hereof will continue in the employment of the Company.
- The SP recognises that the government in relation to its employment policies follows 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. The SP shall use its best efforts to cause the Company to provide adequate job opportunities for such persons. Further, 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.

#### **Substantive Clauses**

- Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in this Article, the Government, shall at any time and at its sole discretion, have the option of selling shares from its shareholding in the company, representing not more than of the share capital of the company existing as of date of this Agreement, to the employees of the Company ("employees sell share"). In the event that the Government exercises its option to sell part of its shares to the employees, the employees shall be issued fresh share certificates for the shares transferred to the employees. The Shareholders agree that, upon the completion of transfer, the shares transferred to the employees pursuant to this sub-clause shall not be subject to any restrictions in this Agreement, whether by way of a voting arrangement or a right of first refusal.

- The SP covenants with the Government that
  - (a) notwithstanding anything to the contrary in this Agreement, it shall not retrench any of the Employees of the Company for a period of 1 (one) year from the Closing Date other than any dismissal or termination of Employees of the Company from their employment in accordance with the applicable staff regulations and standing orders of the Company or applicable Laws;
  - (b) notwithstanding anything to the contrary in this Agreement, but subject to Sub-Clause (a) above, any restructuring of the labour force of the Company shall be implemented in the manner recommended by the Board and in accordance with all applicable Laws;
  - (c) notwithstanding anything to the contrary in this Agreement, but subject to Sub-Clause (a) above, in the event of any reduction of the strength of the Company's Employees, the SP shall ensure that the Company offers its Employees an option to voluntarily retire on terms that are not, in any manner, less favourable than the VRS applicable before disinvestment.

#### **Indo-US Export Pact**

3114. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY:  
SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA:  
SHRI KALAVA SRINIVASULU:  
SHRI TUFANI SAROJ:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the present trade volume between India and U.S.A.;
- (b) whether India and the U.S.A. signed an export pact on February 6, 2003 in Washington in the form of a Statement of Principle to improve and promote Indo-U.S. trade relations;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) the likely boost in trade with the U.S. including that in high technology sector with the adoption and implementation of this principle during 2003-04-05 as compared to the trade during 2002-2003 and 2001-2002;
- (e) whether the Statement of Principle contemplates setting up of a high technology cooperation group; and
- (f) if so, the composition and precise functions of the group?



THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI VINOD KHANNA): (a) India-U.S. merchandise trade in 2002 was U.S. \$ 15.9 billion. In addition, bilateral trade in information technology and related services estimated to be U.S. \$ 8.8 billion in 2002.

(b) and (c) Yes, India and the United States signed, on 5 February 2003 in Washington D.C., a Statement of Principles to further promote and facilitate high technology commerce, including trade in 'dual use' goods and technologies.

(d) The implementation of the Statement of Principles is expected to accelerate India-U.S. trade in goods and services, which grew by 15% in 2002 over the level in 2001. Further, it would also enhance India's access to controlled 'dual use' goods and technologies from the United States.

(e) Yes.

(f) The bilateral High Technology Cooperation Group (HTCG) will comprise representatives of all concerned ministries and departments of the two governments. The HTCG will engage in consultations and facilitate promotional and outreach activities, in partnership with the private sector of the two countries, to implement the Statement of Principles, including addressing the regulatory and policy issues relating to exports of U.S. "dual use" goods and technologies to India.

#### **Allocation for Central Sponsored Projects**

3115. SHRI J.S. BRAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether plan allocation of Central sponsored projects has been reduced for 2003-04;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the details of the projects likely to be affected by the reduced allocation?

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.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

#### **Uranium Reserves**

3116. SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the coastal belt from Srikakulam to Visakhapatnam has vast Uranium reserves; and

(b) if so, the steps taken to extract the same?

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. It may be added that uranium deposits are not found along coastal track of the country.

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

[Translation]

#### **Vacancy for SCs/STs/OBCs**

3117. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether certain posts reserved for the candidates belonging to the SCs/STs/OBCs in different categories in various departments, undertakings and autonomous institutions under his Ministry are lying vacant;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the employees working in these departments and undertakings/institutions have been promoted and fresh recruitments also been made during the last three years;

(d) if so, the year-wise and category-wise details in regard to fresh appointments made during this period and in the current year so far;

(e) whether the prescribed rules have been followed in recruitment and promotion of the candidates belonging to SC/ST/OBC categories; and

(f) if not, the remedial steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (f) The requisite information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[*English*]

#### Four Lane Road System

3118. SHRI P. RAJENDRAN: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are planning to construct four lane road system for National Highways;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any specific plan has been finalised for widening the National Highway 47 in Kerala; 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) Yes, Sir. Four-laning of National Highways in the country has been taken up under the National Highway Development Project (NHDP), which consists of the following two components:

(i) **Golden Quadrilateral:** Four/six-laning of National Highways connecting the four metro cities of Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai and Kolkata having a total length 5846 km.

(ii) **North-South & East-West corridors:** Four/six-laning of Highways connecting Srinagar to Kanyakumari (including Kochi-Salem Spur) and Highways connecting Silchar to Porbandar having a total length 7300 km.

Besides above, port connectivity projects and 4-laning of other identified National Highways having a total length of 1016 km are also taken up.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The Kochi-Salem section of National Highway 47 is being four-laned as part of NHDP. This has a total length of 348 km, out of which 17 km are already four-laned. Four-laning in 16 km length is under implementation. The whole length is targeted to be 4-laned by December, 2007.

[*Translation*]

#### Irradiation Project

3119. SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH RAJUKHEDI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to set up an irradiation project in Indore, Madhya Pradesh, for processing of agricultural produces;

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

(c) by when this project is likely to be set up?

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 (c) Yes, Sir. A project for a radiation processing facility at Indore, Madhya Pradesh for processing agricultural products has been sanctioned for execution during the X Plan period. Work on the project has already started and the facility is likely to be set up by end of the X Plan/beginning of the XI Plan.

[*English*]

#### Indians Languishing in Ukraine Jails

3120. SHRI BHASKARRAO PATIL:  
SHRI NARESH PUGLIA:  
SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY:  
SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether hundreds of Indians are languishing in Ukraine jails as reported in the *Statesman* dated January 29, 2003;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government for their early release?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI VINOD KHANNA): (a) to (c) There are currently, 369 persons claiming to be Indian citizens under detention in Ukraine who were arrested for entering the country illegally.

(d) The Indian Embassy in Kyiv actively seeks the release and the repatriation to India of those illegal immigrants whose Indian citizenship has been established after verification from the Passport Office or State Governments concerned.

**Institution of Chair by ISRO**

3121. SHRI R.L. JALAPPA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Space Research Organisation has agreed to institute a chair on space application, research and development in Bangalore University in memory of Sir M. Visvesvaraya;

(b) if so, by when it is likely to be instituted;

(c) whether the ISRO will also institute similar chairs in other universities of Karnataka; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) It is likely to be instituted by middle of 2003.

(c) No other proposals are under consideration currently.

(d) Does not arise.

*[Translation]*

**Dope Test Policy**

3122. SHRI BRAHMA NAND MANDAL: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any policy for Dope Test of Indian sports persons;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any Dope Test Board exists for this purpose;

(d) if so, the composition thereof; and

(e) if not, whether the Government propose to constitute such a board?

THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI VIKRAM VERMA): (a) and (b) All matters, concerning dope control are regulated by the provisions of the Charter of the International Olympic Committee and constitution of the concerned International/National Sports Federations.

The Government has also decided to introduce a new Scheme on Dope Test during the X Plan and the scheme is in the process of finalization.

However, as per the existing instructions in this regard, sportspersons are being tested during the national coaching camps, at random, during the domestic competitions and prior to their departure for any International competition.

(c) to (e) Indian Olympic Association has set up a Medical Commission (Anti-Doping Cell) under the Chairmanship of an eminent person from Medical field, Dr. Manmohan Singh. Presently, the Government is not proposing to set up a Dope Test Board.

*[English]*

**Agreements with Private Operators**

3123. SHRI SHEESH RAM SINGH RAVI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether 25 new agreements with Private Basic Service Operators to bring competition in various service areas was signed by DOT;

(b) if so, the details thereof and advantages accrued to the subscribers therefrom;

(c) whether the private operators have failed to provide rural telephony, especially Village Public Telephones (VPTs), and were asked to show tangible results by mid-June, 2002;

(d) if so, the details of tangible results shown by the private operators in providing rural telephones especially VPTs; and

(e) the action the Government propose to take for not fulfilling the commitments made by the private operators?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The details of Private Basic Telephone Service Operators is given in the Statement enclosed. The competition results in better service and not limited reduction in tariff and provision on various supplementary services.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The details are as follows:

Date	Total No. of VPTs reported to be provided by six private basic service operators
31.03.2002	846
30.06.2002	2934
28.02.2003	8545

(e) The Government has recovered Liquidated Damage (LD) charges for delay in performance by the six private basic service operators. The Government has asked to fulfil their roll out obligations by 31st March 2003. Further, Government has already taken appropriate steps to resolve problems raised by them.

**Statement**

*Basic Telephone Service Licences*

Sl. No.	Service Area	Name of Licensee	Effective date
1.	Andaman & Nicobar Island	M/s Reliance Infocomm Ltd.	20.07.2001
2.	Andhra Pradesh	M/s Tata Teleservices Ltd. M/s Reliance Infocomm Ltd.	30.9.1997 20.07.2001
3.	Bihar	M/s Reliance Infocomm Ltd.	20.07.2001
4.	Delhi	M/s Bharati Telenet Ltd. M/s Reliance Infocomm Ltd. M/s Tata Teleservices Ltd.	29.10.2001 20.07.2001 31.08.2001
5.	Gujarat	M/s Reliance Infocomm Ltd. M/s Tata Teleservices Ltd.	30.09.1998 31.08.2001
6.	Haryana	M/s Bharati Telenet Ltd. M/s Reliance Infocomm Ltd.	08.10.2001 20.07.2001
7.	Himachal Pradesh	M/s Reliance Infocomm Ltd.	20.07.2001
8.	Karnataka	M/s Bharati Telenet Ltd. M/s Reliance Infocomm Ltd. M/s Tata Teleservices Ltd.	29.10.2001 20.07.2001 31.08.2001
9.	Kerala	M/s Reliance Infocomm Ltd.	20.07.2001
10.	Madhya Pradesh	M/s Bharati Telenet Ltd. M/s Reliance Infocomm Ltd.	30.09.1997 20.07.2001
11.	Maharashtra	M/s Hughes Telecom. Ltd. M/s Reliance Infocomm Ltd.	30.09.1997 20.07.2001
12.	Orissa	M/s Reliance Infocomm Ltd.	20.07.2001
13.	Punjab	M/s HFCL Infotel Ltd. M/s Reliance Infocomm Ltd.	30.09.1997 20.07.2001
14.	Rajasthan	M/s Shyam Telelink Ltd. M/s Reliance Infocomm Ltd.	04.03.1998 20.07.2001
15.	Tamil Nadu	M/s Bharati Telenet Ltd. M/s Reliance Infocomm Ltd. M/s Tata Teleservices Ltd.	29.10.2001 26.09.2001 31.08.2001
16.	Uttar Pradesh (W)	M/s Reliance Infocomm Ltd.	20.07.2001
17.	Uttar Pradesh (E)	M/s Reliance Infocomm Ltd.	20.07.2001
18.	West Bengal	M/s Reliance Infocomm Ltd.	20.07.2001

**Setting up of Ayurvedic Universities**

3124. SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the number of Ayurvedic Colleges and Universities existing in the country at present, State-wise;

(b) whether the Government propose to set up Ayurvedic Universities in various parts of the country particularly in Karnataka; and

(c) if so, the time by when these Universities are likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) List of Ayurvedic colleges is enclosed as Statement.

At present only Gujarat Ayurveda University, Jamnagar and the recently set up Rajasthan Ayurveda University at Jodhpur, Rajasthan exist in the country.

(b) No such proposal is under consideration.

(c) Question does not arise.

**Statement***State-wise list of Ayurvedic Colleges*

S.No.	State	College
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	04
2.	Assam	01
3.	Bihar	11
4.	Chhattisgarh	02
5.	Chandigarh	01
6.	Delhi	01
7.	Goa	01
8.	Gujarat	10
9.	Haryana	06
10.	Himachal Pradesh	01
11.	Jammu & Kashmir	01
12.	Jharkhand	01

1	2	3
13.	Karnataka	47
14.	Kerala	10
15.	Madhya Pradesh	14
16.	Maharashtra	54
17.	Orissa	06
18.	Punjab	11
19.	Rajasthan	04
20.	Tamil Nadu	06
21.	Uttar Pradesh	13
22.	Uttaranchal	03
23.	West Bengal	03
Total		211

**Closure of SSI Units in Punjab**

3125. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of small scale industries in border areas of Punjab have closed down;

(b) if so, the number of such industries and the reasons for their closure; and

(c) the steps taken to save them?

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND MINISTER OF DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (DR. C.P. THAKUR): (a) and (b) The information on closed units is not maintained centrally. However, 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, the number of sick SSI units in the State of Punjab including the border areas as at the end of March, 2002 was 1902.

The main reasons for closure/sickness are inadequacy of credit; technological obsolescence, marketing problems, managerial inadequacies, etc.

(c) The Government is fully seized of incidence of industrial sickness among SSI units and has taken various measures to facilitate timely identification and rehabilitation

of potentially viable sick units, which inter-alia include institutional mechanism in the form of State-level Inter-Institutional Committees (SLIICs), Special Rehabilitation Cells in banks and State Financial Institutions and elaborate guidelines issued by the RBI for extending rehabilitation assistance to eligible units. Based on the recommendations of the Working Group constituted under the Chairmanship of Shri S.S. Kohli, the RBI has drawn up revised guidelines for rehabilitation of sick SSI units, which include inter-alia change in the definition of sick SSI units, norms for deciding on their viability, etc. The RBI has circulated the revised guidelines on 16th January, 2002 to all the Banks for implementation. The new industrial policy of the State Government of Punjab envisages setting up of State Level Forum for the revival of sick SSI units in the State including the border area.

#### **Cost of Hardware/Software**

3126. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any representations from social scientists/activists and NGOs to encourage cheaper software/hardware;

(b) if so, the details of the representations received in this regard during 2002-2003; and

(c) the details of any plans to make computers and software affordable?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Affordability of computers depends on a number of factors including cost of hardware, software, applications, contents etc. These are being addressed by Industry, Industry associations and government on an on-going basis through fiscal measures, expansion of user base thus bringing economies of scale benefits, localization etc. Steps taken by government to promote hardware sector are enclosed as statement.

In respect of software, one of the factors to make the cost of legal software affordable is use of free software/open source software for operating system and/or applications wherever they are available and meet the needs. In this respect, a project on Linux India Initiative is contemplated by Department of Information Technology, Government of India which is intended to address, among

other things, a set of steps to make software solutions more cost effective for people in the country. Besides, Department of Information Technology has funded localization efforts in a number of agencies including its own societies. These have enabled low cost solutions including those in Linux platform.

#### **Statement**

##### *Steps taken by the Government to promote the Hardware Sector*

1. Export Promotion Capital Goods scheme (EPCG) has been rationalised and extended uniformly to all sectors without any threshold limit on payment of 5% duty.
2. Approvals for all foreign direct investment proposals relating to the Information Technology sector, with the exception of Business-to-consumer (B2C) e-commerce are under the automatic route.
3. Electronics Hardware Technology Park (EHTP) is implemented under the aegis of the Department of Information Technology, Ministry of Communications and Information Technology, through a single window mechanism of the Inter-Ministerial Standing Committee (IMSC).
4. Supplies of Information Technology Agreement (ITA-1) items in the Domestic Tariff Area (DTA) by EHTP/EQU/EPZ units shall be counted towards fulfillment of minimum Net Foreign Exchange earning as a Percentage of exports (NFEP) and the minimum Export Performance (EP), provided that the items are manufactured in the unit and attract zero rate of basic customs duty. Positive NFEP is required to be achieved in 5 years instead of every year.
5. DTA access upto 50% of the FOB value of export is permitted for electronics hardware units under EQU/EPZ/EHTP schemes.
6. Accelerated depreciation norms extended to computers and computer peripherals to all units and capital goods of IT hardware units under Export Oriented schemes (EQU/EPZ/STP/EHTP). These shall stand depreciated to overall limit 90% over a period of 3 years.
7. Special Economic Zones are being set up to enable hassle free manufacturing and trading for export purposes.
8. The Depreciation of Computers is allowed @ 60%.

9. In the Budget 2002-03, the peak rate of customs duty has been reduced from 35% to 30%. Customs duty has been reduced on stepper motors for computers/printers from 5% to 0%, floppy diskette and unrecorded magnetic tape from 15% to 10%, ink cartridges/ribbon assembly/ribbon gear assembly/ribbon gear carriage for use in printers for computers from 25% to 5%, 56 items of capital goods for manufacture of semiconductors from 5% to 0%, 24 items of capital goods (around 200 sub-items) for manufacture of electronic components from 25-35% to 15%, tools/moulds/dies for electronics industry from 25% to 15% and on 46 items of raw materials for manufacture of electronic components from 25-35% to 5%.
- Customs duty on Computers and Peripherals continues to be @ 15% and all storage devices, integrated circuits, microprocessors, data display tubes and deflection components of colour monitors continue at 0%. The concessional rate of customs duty @ 5% for specified raw materials for the electronic industry (121 items) continues. Customs duty on Information Technology Agreement (ITA-1) items of WTO (IT and Telecom products) continues @ 15%, parts of Telecom continue @ 5%, parts, components and accessories of mobile handsets including cellular telephones continue at 0%.
10. The Central Excise duty structure was rationalised from multiple rates to single rate of 16% and single rate of Special Excise Duty (SED) @ 16%, in the Budget 2001-02, and continues.
11. Second hand capital goods upto 10 years are freely importable.
12. EOU/EPZ/EHTP units are eligible for Income Tax benefit on export profits, upto 2010, in terms of Sections 10A and 10B of the Income Tax Act.
13. Exemption of withholding tax on interest on External Commercial Borrowings (ECBs) is available to the IT sector.
14. DEPB rate will be same for a product whether exported as CBU or in CKD/SKD condition.
15. Threshold limit for obtaining "Export House" status reduced to Rs. 5 crores from Rs. 15 crores for Small Scale Industry, tiny sector, cottage sector, units located in North East States/Sikkim/J&K; exporters exporting to countries in Latin America/CIS/Sub Sahara Africa and units having ISO 9000 (Series) status. The status holders are eligible for the following new/ special facilities:
- \* 100% retention of foreign exchange in Exchange Earners' Foreign Currency (EEFC) account;
  - \* Enhancement in normal repatriation period from 180 days to 360 days.
16. Tax holiday under provisions of Section 80-IA (Infrastructure Status) has been extended to Internet Service Providers (ISPs) and Broadband Network providers.
17. With a view to give a boost to the manufacturing sector, it is proposed in the Budget announcements 2002-03, to allow a deduction of a further sum of 15% of the actual cost of such machinery or plant acquired and installed after 31.3.2002 in case of new industrial undertaking or substantial expansion by an existing industrial undertaking. The proposed amendment will take effect from 1.4.2003 and will, accordingly, apply in relation to the assessment year 2003-04 and subsequent years.
18. To encourage re-location of industries to India, plant and machineries would be permitted to be imported without a licence, where the depreciated value of such relocating plants exceeds Rs. 50 crores.
19. To induce more investment for R&D activities, a weighted deduction of 125% on the sums paid to any university, college or an institution or a Scientific research association for the purposes of scientific, social or statistical research is available.
20. For reduction of transaction time for export/import clearances, Ministry of Civil Aviation has finalised the scheme of "Known-Shippers" for doing away with the 24 hours cooling off period.
21. Two shifts have been introduced on week days and single shift on holidays at the Air Cargo Complexes at Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai, Bangalore, Hyderabad, Delhi and Goa.
22. Information Technology Act 2000 dealing with Cyber Security, Cyber Crime and other information security related legal aspects is in place to encourage expansion of e-commerce through internet.

**Members of NHA and NHDP**

3127. SHRI P.D. ELANGOVA: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have appointed full time and part time members in the National Highways Authority of India and National Highways Development Project; and

(b) if so, the composition thereof including the tasks assigned to them?

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

(b) The National Highways Authority of India Act, 1988, provides for the appointment of not more than 5 full-time Members and not more than 4 part-time Members.

The following 4 full-time Members have been appointed:

- (1) Member-Administration.
- (2) Member-Finance.
- (3) Member-Technical.
- (4) Member-Technical.

The following are the ex-officio part-time Members:

- (1) Secretary, Ministry of Road Transport & Highways.
- (2) Secretary, Ministry of Finance, Department of Expenditure.
- (3) Secretary, Planning Commission.
- (4) Director General (Road Development) & Additional Secretary, Ministry of Road Transport and Highways.

**Handing over of Surplus Land to Gujarat**

3128. SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal under the consideration of the Government to hand over surplus land presently in the possession of Kandla Port Trust to Gujarat for development;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) when a final decision is likely to be taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI): (a) to (c) A Committee has been constituted to explore the possibility of transferring surplus land of Kandla Port Trust including Gandhidham township to the State Government of Gujarat. The Committee is yet to submit its report.

**Representation by COAI**

3129. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY:  
SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH:

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

(a) whether the Cellular Operators Association of India (COAI) has represented to TRAI that WLL Companies are misleading public as reported in the *Hindustan Times* dated February 7, 2003;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) whether the COAI has urged the Government and TRAI to take suitable action in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) to (d) Sir, Cellular Operators Association of India (COAI) on behalf of the Cellular Operators has inter-alia represented against the way the Private Basic Service Operators are advertising and providing the service to their subscribers using Wireless in Local Loop (WLL) equipment. This matter was also brought to the notice of Telecom Disputes Settlement and Appellate Tribunal (TDSAT) during hearing of a petition. The matter is sub-judice.

**Pilot Project on Oral Health Care**

3130. SHRI ANANT GUDHE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a pilot project on oral health care has been started in some States;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the name of the States which are being benefited from it;



(c) whether the oral health care programme is likely to be extended to other States; and

(d) if so, the criteria laid down for selection of areas/States?

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

(b) The Pilot Project on Comprehensive Oral Health Care was launched in Delhi, Punjab, Maharashtra, Kerala & North-Eastern States. The main emphasis in this Pilot project is on preventive care by the community through self-care measure focusing on use of fluorides, reduction in sugar consumption and smoking and improved cleanliness.

(c) and (d) The Project is to be extended to other States in the country in phased manner subject to availability of funds.

#### **Telephone Bills**

3131. SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether all the Post Offices are eligible for collecting telephone bills;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the BSNL has requested for permission for allowing Co-operative Banks also to collect telephone bills in the States particularly in Kerala;

(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 (SHRI SU. THIRUNAVUKKARASAR): (a) and (b) All departmental Post Offices have been allowed to collect telephone bills. In addition, extra departmental branch and sub-post offices have also been authorized to collect telephone bills on selective basis.

(c) No, Sir. BSNL does not utilize the services of Co-operative Banks for collection of telephone bills as a policy.

(d) and (e) Do not arise in view of (c) above.

#### **Swimming Pools**

3132. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have a scheme to finance the construction of Olympic size swimming pools for our athletes;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of such swimming pools constructed during the last three years;

(d) whether such swimming pools are being properly used; and

(e) if not, the steps taken or proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI VIKRAM VERMA): (a) and (b) Under the Scheme "Grants for Creation of Sports Infrastructure", Central assistance is provided for construction of Cat. I, Swimming Pool of size, 50x21 mt., with 8 lanes. For such swimming pools, Central assistance is provided on 75:25 basis, as between the Central Government and the concerned State Government, in respect of the Special Category States & Hilly/Tribal areas, subject to a maximum of Rs. 90.00 lakhs and for other areas, the Central assistance is provided on 50:50 basis, subject to a maximum of Rs. 60.00 lakhs.

(c) During the last three years, construction of 20 (category-I) Swimming pools has been approved by the Government, involving a Central assistance of Rs. 11.623 crores. These projects are at different stages of construction.

(d) and (e) Proper utilization and maintenance of sports infrastructure, created with Central assistance, is the responsibility of the State Government.

#### **Special Fund for SSI**

3133. SHRI V. VETRISELVAN: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have created a special fund to encourage small scale industries in various States;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the States which have been covered under the said fund;

(d) whether Tamil Nadu is one of them; and

(e) if so, the achievements made by the State in this regard?

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

(a) to (e) Perhaps the reference is to the Credit Guarantee Fund Scheme for Small Industries being implemented by the Government through the Credit Guarantee Fund Trust for Small Industries with the corpus fund shared by the Government of India and the Small Industries Development Bank of India in the ratio of 4:1. The objective is to extend guarantee cover for mitigating credit risk upto 75% of the collateral free credits subject to maximum credit of Rs. 25 lakh per unit. The scheme is being operated all over the country including Tamil Nadu. As on 28th February, 2003, 349 projects were approved for guarantee cover for aggregate loans of Rs. 961 lakhs from the State of Tamil Nadu.

#### **Visit of Foreign Minister to Russia**

3134. SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether he had visited Russia recently; and

(b) if so, the details of the discussions held and the outcome thereof?

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

(b) Shri Yashwant Sinha, Minister of External Affairs, visited Moscow on 19-20 February 2003. During the visit, he held wide ranging talks with the Russian leaders on issues of mutual interest. He met Mr. Vladimir V. Putin, President of the Russian Federation, Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov, Defence Minister Sergei Ivanov and Industry and Science & Technology Minister Ilya Klefanov. In these talks, the two sides reviewed their bilateral relations and noted the convergence of views on major international issues. They agreed that Pakistan should fulfil its commitments to cease cross-border terrorism, stop infiltration of terrorists into India and destroy the infrastructure on its territory which supports, trains or otherwise abets terrorists. It was also decided that the next session of the Indo-Russian Inter-Governmental Commission on Trade, Economic, Scientific, Technological and Cultural Cooperation will be held in Moscow.

#### **Cut In Non-Plan Expenditure**

3135. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the MTNL has followed Government directives to cut 10 percent non-plan non-salary expenditure during 2002-2003;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the results achieved as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) As per un-audited figures upto December, 2002, total expenditure on major non-plan items is lower by more than 10% as compared to corresponding period of last year.

[*Translation*]

#### **Financial Assistance to Madhya Pradesh**

3136. SHRI RAMANAND SINGH: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of financial assistance provided to Madhya Pradesh for Youth Affairs during 2001-2002 and 2002-2003;

(b) the details of the said assistance, location-wise; and

(c) the number of sports persons from Madhya Pradesh who participated in the national level games?

THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI VIKRAM VERMA): (a) and (b) The details of Financial Assistance provided to Madhya Pradesh for Youth Affairs during 2001-2002 and 2002-2003 are as follows:

(i) Under the Scheme of Financial Assistance for Promotion of Youth Activities and Training, total grants of Rs. 62,74,804/- during 2001-2002 and Rs. 41,48,370/- during 2002-2003 (as of February) were provided for various projects in the districts of Tikamgarh, Dewa, Mandla, Jabalpur, Narsinghpur, Bhopal, Sehore, Ujjain, Raigarh, Balaghat, Bhind, Raisen, Katni and Seoni in Madhya Pradesh.

- (ii) Under the Scheme of Youth Hostels, total grants of Rs. 23,40,000/- during 2001-2002 and Rs. 25,72,000/- during 2002-2003 (as of February) were provided for the Youth Hostels at Chhattarpur, Bhopal and Jabalpur.
- (iii) Under the Scheme of Promotion of National Integration, total grants of Rs. 12,82,977/- during 2001-2002 and Rs. 7,61,876/- during 2002-2003 (as of February) were released for various projects in Tikamgarh, Sehore, Shivpuri, Bhind, Raisen, Damoh, Sagar, Bhopal, Indore, Gwalior, Hosangabad, Morena, Narsinghpur and Mandsaur districts of Madhya Pradesh.
- (iv) Under the National Service Scheme, total grants of Rs. 62,37,422/- during 2001-2002 and Rs. 64,84,938/- during 2002-2003 (as of February) were provided to the Government of Madhya Pradesh for implementation of the scheme. Grants under the scheme are not released by the Govt. of India for specific locations.

(c) Under various sports promotional schemes of the Sports Authority of India, an autonomous body under the Ministry, 201 trainees during 2001-2002, and 211 trainees during 2002-2003 (as of February) from Madhya Pradesh have participated in various national level games.

[English]

#### Small Scale Industries in Bihar

3137. SHRI RAM PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of small scale industries at present in the country, State-wise and location-wise;

(b) whether the Government have taken new initiatives for setting up SSI Units in backward and tribal regions of Bihar;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government are aware of the fact that cottage industries in backward and Tribal areas are facing many problems; and

(e) if so, the steps being taken or proposed to be taken to promote the cottage industries?

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND MINISTER OF DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (DR. C.P. THAKUR):  
(a) The estimated number of Small Scale Industries (SSI)

both the registered and the unregistered as at the end of March, 2002 was 34.42 lakhs. The State-wise break up of the SSI units registered with State Directorate of Industries as the end of March, 2002 is given in the Statement enclosed. Location-wise information is not maintained centrally.

(b) to (d) While the development of Small Scale Industries and Cottage Industries in the States is primarily the responsibility of the concerned State Governments, the Central Government has been helping the States including Bihar in their endeavour of developing these industries by implementing various schemes such as Integrated Infrastructure Development, Consultancy facilities and Service facilities for technological upgradation, entrepreneurship development etc. The Government of Bihar have also been taking special initiatives to encourage SSI/Tiny/artisan units in backward and tribal regions of the State in fruit processing, processing of aromatic & herbal plants, other agro based industries etc. In addition, the Government of Bihar has also identified cluster units in backward and tribal regions with a view to rehabilitate them.

(e) As the cottage industries have grown on cluster basis in the backward and tribal regions, the Government of Bihar have taken steps for extending technological support and marketing support to these clusters.

#### Statement

*All India Cumulative Number of Permanently Registered SSI units as the end of March, 2002*

Sl. No.	State/Union Territory	Cumulative No. of Units
1	2	3
1.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	1284
2.	Andhra Pradesh	131685
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	653
4.	Assam	26358
5.	Bihar	92095
6.	Chandigarh	3102
7.	Chhattisgarh	72883
8.	Dadar & Nagar Haveli	1317
9.	Daman & Diu	1874

1	2	3
10.	Delhi	19804
11.	Goa	6389
12.	Gujarat	194435
13.	Haryana	55409
14.	Himachal Pradesh	17740
15.	Jammu & Kashmir	32245
16.	Jharkhand	41089
17.	Karnataka	178330
18.	Kerala	238431
19.	Lakshadweep	82
20.	Madhya Pradesh	220100
21.	Maharashtra	150996
22.	Manipur	5975
23.	Meghalaya	3029
24.	Mizoram	4911
25.	Nagaland	1643
26.	Orissa	23264
27.	Pondicherry	5152
28.	Punjab	155197
29.	Rajasthan	90366
30.	Sikkim	342
31.	Tamil Nadu	375262
32.	Tripura	2127
33.	Uttar Pradesh	389013
34.	Uttaranchal	34920
35.	West Bengal	153670
All India Total		27,31,172

#### Move for Tariff Amendment

3138. SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Association of Basic Telecom Operators (ABTO) has represented against the TRAI's move for tariff amendment equating WLL (Mobility) service with regard to Interconnect Usage Charges (IUC);

(b) if so, the details of the representation; and

(c) the Government's reaction thereto?

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

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

#### Malpractices in Cable Digging Works

3139. SHRI K.E. KRISHNAMURTHY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the BSNL is taking services of National Federation of Labour Cooperatives regarding labour related works;

(b) if so, whether any malpractices have been detected with regard to cable digging works and other labour related works;

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

(d) the remedial steps taken in this regard?

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.

#### Spurious Drugs

3140. SHRI P.R. KHUNTE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a meeting was recently convened by his Ministry to deal with the menace of spurious drugs in the market;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the persons who had attended the meeting;

(d) the issues discussed in the meeting;

(e) the outcome thereof; and

(f) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to check the spurious drugs menace?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Union Minister of Health and Family

Welfare had invited the representatives of pharmaceutical industry on 27.1.2003 to have a general discussion on the problem of spurious drugs as part of the various measures taken to address this issue and to seek the active participation of the industry to fight the menace of manufacture and sale of spurious drugs.

(c) List of participants who attended the meeting is given in the Statement enclosed.

(d) and (e) The industry representatives expressed their appreciation for the initiatives taken by the Government and assured to extend all necessary cooperation. During the discussion, a need was expressed for improved uniformity in the enforcement strategies adopted by the State Governments and for the adequacy of drug regulatory infrastructure etc. Some industry representatives advocated adoption of packing and labelling techniques which make it more difficult for the antisocial elements to copy. A need for adequate police assistance and speedy trials was also voiced.

(f) Since manufacture and sale of spurious drugs is a clandestine activity indulged in by anti-social persons, steps are taken from time to time by enforcement authorities of the States to detect and unearth spurious/fake drugs in the interstate commerce. Govt. of India has taken the following steps:

- (i) The Drugs Controller General (India) has advised the State Drugs Controllers to take the following measures for curbing the incidence of spurious drugs:
  - (a) Constitution/reactivation of the State Drug Advisory Committee in which various State and industry associations as well consumer associations should find representation.
  - (b) Establishment of separate intelligence-cum-legal machinery with police assistance. Training should be provided to selected officials of Drugs Control Administration in the modalities of intelligence work, prosecution etc. in respect of spurious/counterfeit drugs.
  - (c) To ensure speedy analysis of drug samples by establishing own State level drug testing facilities.
  - (d) State Drugs Control Authorities should be cautious while approving licences for drug products to ensure that "look-alike" products are not encouraged.

- (e) To develop efficient communication facilities and recall procedures.
- (f) Surveillance of suspected dealers.
- (g) Engaging experienced counsel for fighting spurious drug cases.
- (h) Cooperation of pharmaceutical industry by regular interaction with them.
- (i) Collection of survey samples under National Survey Quality Evaluation of Drugs (NSQED) Programme.
- (ii) The Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare had written on Oct. 2002 to all the Chief Ministers seeking their personal intervention to ensure that adequate measures are taken in each State to deal with this problem. Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare also convened a meeting of the Health Ministers and senior officials of 13 major States of the country on 12.11.2002 to discuss measures to ensure concerted action required to check movement of spurious drugs in the country and to involve all stakeholders, including pharma industry, to curb the menace of manufacture and marketing of spurious/fake medicines.
- (iii) Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare constituted a Committee under the chairmanship of DGHS to examine the extent of problem and suggest remedial measures. Committee report has been submitted along with its recommendation in July 2002. A copy of the report of the committee constituted by the Government of India to examine the issues concerning availability of spurious drugs in the market and measures recommended thereof have been sent to all the State Drugs Controllers for their implementation.
- (iv) Government of India has set up an expert committee on January 27, 2003 under the Chairmanship of Dr. R.A. Mashalkar, DG, CSIR, Secy. to Govt. of India to look into various issues related to Drugs Control administration including the matter of effectively tackling the problem of spurious drugs.
- (v) Central Government have taken steps to augment the drugs testing facilities of State laboratories. Strengthening information system through computer networking is also under implementation.

**Statement**

*List of Participants who attended the meeting conducted by Union Minister of Health on 27th January, 2003 in the Committee Room No. 249-A, Nirman Bhawan, New Delhi, regarding Spurious Drug*

Sl. No.	Name	Organization
1	2	3
1.	Secretary (Health)	Ministry of Health & F.W.
2.	DGHS	Ministry of Health & F.W.
3.	Deepak Gupta, JS	Ministry of Health & F.W.
4.	Ashwini Kumar, Drugs Controller General (India)	
5.	Dr. S.R. Gupta, JDC (I)	Ministry of Health & F.W.
6.	J.S. Chaudhary, Dy. Secretary	Dte. GHS
7.	Y.R. Majundar	President, IDMA
8.	Dr. Ajit Dangi	President, OPPI
9.	Z.H. Charna	OPPI
10.	Dr. Vinay Nayak	Cipla
11.	Rajesh Jain	Panacea Biotec
12.	K. Shiv Kumar	GSK
13.	Hirinder S. Sikka	Nicolas & Piramal
14.	R. Bala	Torrent Pharma
15.	Ramesh Subrahmanian	Aventis Pharma
16.	Vijay Karan	Ex-Director, CBI
17.	Sanjiv D. Kaul	Ranbaxy
18.	Dr. Adeep Bagati	Ranbaxy
19.	Ajay Sahni	Wockhardt Ltd.
20.	R.J. Khanna	Wockhardt Ltd.
21.	V.K. Chandrasekhan	Dr. Reddy's Lab.
22.	Arvind Vasudeva	Dr. Reddy's Lab
23.	N.S. Yadav	Dr. Reddy's Lab
24.	A.S. Krishna	Pfizer Ltd.
25.	S.P. Sharma	Bayer
26.	R. Aggarwal	Bayer

1	2	3
27.	T.R. Grover	Glenmark Pharma
28.	S.B. Lal	Themis Medicare Ltd.
29.	Dr. Archana Ray	Sun Pharma
30.	P.H. Shroff	Expert
31.	Ulhas A.H. Joshi	Gujarat Glass (Piramal Group)
32.	Ankur Agarwal	Gujarat Glass Pvt. Ltd.
33.	S. Ramesh	Associated Capsules Group
34.	Ajit Singh, President	President, Associated Capsules Group
35.	Ashok Narain	Director (PR) PIB
36.	Brijesh Regal	WHO Consultant to DCG (I)
37.	G. Wakanker	IDMA
38.	S.K. Arya	IDMA
39.	N.R. Munjol	IDMA

IDMA-Indian Drugs Manufacturers Association.

IPA-Indian Pharmaceutical Alliance.

OPPI-Organisation of Pharmaceuticals Producers of India.

[*Translation*]

**Extension of N.H. No. 8A**

3141. SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are contemplating to extend the National Highway No. 8A (Delhi-Kandla) upto Mandavi; and

(b) if so, by when the extension work of this highway is likely to be completed alongwith the details of the funds likely to be spent thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS [MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI]: (a) and (b) National Highway No. 8A starting from Ahmedabad to Kandla has already been extended up to Mandvi vide Gazette notification dated 6th January, 1999. A total Rs. 12.40 crores have been spent so far on improvement of this extended National Highway from Kandla to Mandvi.

[English]

### National Reconstruction Project

3142. SHRI BHIM DAHAL: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of the National Reconstruction project started during 2001 and 2002 in N.E. States including Sikkim;

(b) the objectives of the said project;

(c) the amount released for the implementation of the said project;

(d) whether the project is running behind schedule;

(e) if so, the reasons therefor; and

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

THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI VIKRAM VERMA): (a) 10 Districts from the North Eastern States and Sikkim were selected during 2001-2002 for implementation of NRC Scheme. 6 more Districts were added for implementation of the NRC Scheme during 2002-2003.

(b) The primary objective of NRC is to provide an opportunity to the youth to participate in the process of nation building. Working for and with the community, understanding the problems of real life and utilizing their skills and knowledge in solving these problems will be an enriching experience for them, which would prepare them for the challenges of later life.

(c) An amount of Rs. 2,60,33,500/- has so far been released to North Eastern States and Sikkim to implement the scheme.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) and (f) Do not arise.

### National Youth Policy

3143. SHRI LAKSHMAN SETH: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have formulated a National Policy on youth; and

(b) if so, the salient features of the said policy?

THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI VIKRAM VERMA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The

Government had formulated and tabled the National Youth Policy in 1988. However, need was felt to revise the National Youth Policy, taking into consideration, the emergent needs of the Youth and rapid socio-economic changes in the country. Accordingly, a draft new National Youth Policy has been formulated. The draft Policy proposes to lower the defining age of Youth from 15-35 years to 13-35 years so as to include therein a large segment of the adolescents.

2. The thrust areas, according to the draft Policy are:—

- (i) Youth Empowerment;
- (ii) Gender Justice;
- (iii) Inter-Sectoral Approach; and
- (iv) Information and Research Network.

3. The draft Policy also recognizes the following sectors as the key-sectors of concern for the Youth:—

- (a) Education
- (b) Training and Employment
- (c) Health and Family Welfare
- (d) Preservation of Environment, Ecology and Wild life
- (e) Recreation and Sports
- (f) Arts and Culture
- (g) Science and Technology; and
- (h) Civics and Citizenship.

### Indo-French Bilateral Relations

3144. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and France held top-level consultations in Paris on December 16, 2002;

(b) if so, whether the Indian Foreign Secretary held a meeting with his French counterpart;

(c) if so, whether this was the 12th meeting between the two foreign secretaries;

(d) if so, the details of the deliberations held between the two countries and the outcome thereof;

(e) whether the seventh round of Indo-French strategic dialogue is still going on; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) to (d) The 8th round of Foreign Office Consultations between India and France at Foreign Secretary level, took place on 16-17 December 2002 in Paris. Both sides reviewed bilateral cooperation and exchanged views on regional and international issues of mutual concern. The French side was fully sensitised to our core concerns, including on the continuation of cross border terrorism.

(e) and (f) The Ninth round of Indo-French Strategic Dialogue was held on 6th January 2003 in New Delhi. India and France discussed bilateral, regional and global security issues of mutual concern.

#### Cardiology Unit in RML Hospital

3145. SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that Cardiology Unit in O.P.D. of Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital functions of only half-day twice a week;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether even for minor tests like ECHO, Cardiology patients have to wait for months for their turn;

(d) if so, whether the Government propose to increase the frequency of functioning of the Cardiology Unit and arrange for more ECHO machines in the hospital; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) Cardiology OPD's are run twice a week in the afternoon being a Super Speciality clinic. All the Super Specialities are run only in the afternoon. However, patients are seen on other days also by appointments given by the specialists. At present there is no proposal to increase the number of OPD days.

(c) to (e) Though there is some time lag in routine ECHO dates, emergency cases are done on the same day or at the earliest depending on the clinical condition of the patient. Further, the Cardiology Unit of the Hospital is being augmented by procuring a new ECHO machine.

#### Expected Length of National Highways in Tenth Plan

3146. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the State-wise length of National Highways (NH) at the end of Eighth Five Year Plan and Ninth Five Year Plan; and

(b) the proposals for Tenth Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS [MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI]: (a) The details are enclosed as statement.

(b) Presently there is a ban on declaration of new National Highways due to fund constraints. The Government may, however, consider conversion of very limited length of a new State Highways into National Highways during the course of the 10th Five Year Plan, keeping in view the traffic needs, interse priority and availability of funds, after the ban is lifted.

#### Statement

##### *State-wise Length of National Highways at the end of Eighth Five Year Plan and Ninth Five Year Plan*

Sl. No.	States	Total at the end of VIII Plan	Total NH length as of today
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	2888	4002
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	330	392
3.	Assam	2296	2836
4.	Bihar	1272	3312
5.	Chandigarh	24	24
6.	Chhattisgarh	840	1810
7.	Delhi	72	72
8.	Goa	229	269
9.	Gujarat	1631	2461
10.	Haryana	698	1357
11.	Himachal Pradesh	854	1188
12.	Jammu & Kashmir	648	823



1	2	3	4
13.	Jharkhand	965	1603
14.	Karnataka	1996	3570
15.	Kerala	940	1440
16.	Madhya Pradesh	2106	4664
17.	Maharashtra	2918	3626
18.	Manipur	431	954
19.	Meghalaya	472	717
20.	Mizoram	551	927
21.	Nagaland	113	369
22.	Orissa	1649	3301
23.	Pondicherry	23	53
24.	Punjab	892	1557
25.	Rajasthan	2931	4597
26.	Sikkim	62	62
27.	Tamil Nadu	1896	3758
28.	Tripura	200	400
29.	Uttaranchal	0	1075
30.	Uttar Pradesh	2733	4942
31.	West Bengal	1638	1951

#### **Establishment of RPO, Nagaland**

3147. SHRI K.A. SANGTAM: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to open a Regional Passport Office in Nagaland;

(b) if so, by when; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI VINOD KHANNA): (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) As per the recommendations of the Standing Committee of Parliament for External Affairs, a new passport office should receive an average of at least 50,000 applications per annum over a period of three

years. The number of passport applications received from the State of Nagaland is approximately 800 per annum which does not meet the criterion for opening of a new passport office in the State.

As over half of the passport applications in the North East States are generated from Assam, a Regional Passport Office had been opened at Guwahati on 5th April, 1979, to cater to the North-East States even though the total number of passport applications generated in the North East States are less than the stipulated number of 50,000.

In addition, for the convenience of the public in North-East States, Passport Application Collection Centres at Agartala, Aizawal, Imphal, Itanagar, Shillong and Siliguri, and District Passport Cells in all District Head Quarters in Assam, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Manipur, Arunachal Pradesh and Nagaland have been established.

#### **Maintenance of National Highway-102**

3148. DR. RAGHUVANSH PRAŚAD SINGH: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Chhapara-Rewaghat-Muzaffarpur road has been recently upgraded to the National Highway (NH-102);

(b) if so, whether the road from Rewa to Muzaffarpur portion is in a dilapidated condition; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by the Government for the repair and improvement of this portion of the road?

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

(b) Road from Rewaghat to Muzaffarpur is kept in traffic-worthy condition with the allocated funds.

(c) Improvement of this section will be taken up in the Annual Plan 2003-04 subjected to availability of funds.

#### **Telecom facility to Gram Panchayats**

3149. SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK:  
SHRI C.N. SINGH:

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

(a) whether the Government have provided telephone facility to all the Gram Panchayats in the country;

(b) if so, the number of Gram Panchayats in Maharashtra and UP where telephone facility has not been provided so far, district-wise; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to provide better telephone service to the Gram Panchayats?

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

(b) All the 66469 Gram Panchayats in Uttar Pradesh have already been provided with telecom facility. In Maharashtra out of total 24937 Gram Panchayats, 22917 have already been provided with telecom facility. The remaining 2020 Gram Panchayats are yet to be provided. The district-wise details are given in the Statement enclosed.

(c) (i) Wireless in Local Loop (WLL), the latest technology is being used to provide telephones.

(ii) Telephones working on overhead are being replaced by underground cables.

(iii) Faulty MARR based telephones are being replaced by either WLL or land line.

### **Statement**

#### *Status of Villages with Gram Panchayats in Maharashtra & Goa*

Sl. No.	Name of District	Total GPs villages	Total GPs provided	Balance GP
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Ahmednagar	1180	1141	19
2.	Akola	488	470	10
3.	Washim	450	450	6
	Amravati	804	731	73
4.	Aurangabad	693	683	0
5.	Beed	924	893	31
6.	Bhandara	546	542	4
	Gondia	500	450	50
7.	Buldhana	828	783	45
8.	Chandrapur	804	758	48
9.	Dhule	480	447	33
	Nandurbar	482	448	34

1	2	3	4	5
10.	Gadchiroli	458	363	95
11.	Jalgaon	1082	1062	0
12.	Jalna	557	557	0
13.	Kalyan (Thane)	882	787	95
14.	Kolhapur	913	913	0
15.	Latur	637	582	75
16.	Nagpur	710	687	23
17.	Nanded	1183	1100	63
18.	Nasik	1224	1224	0
19.	Osmanabad	544	468	76
20.	Parbhani	573	492	81
	Hingoli	500	490	10
21.	Pune	1177	1032	145
22.	Raigad	880	585	75
23.	Ratnagiri	768	453	315
24.	Sangli	631	610	21
25.	Satara	1213	894	319
26.	Sindhudurg	388	220	188
27.	Solapur	931	931	0
28.	Wardha	481	458	25
29.	Yeotmal	1123	1042	81
	<b>Total</b>	<b>24762</b>	<b>22732</b>	<b>2020</b>
30.	Goa	185	185	0
	<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>24937</b>	<b>22917</b>	<b>2020</b>

### **Replacement of Milestones**

3150. SHRI A. KRISHNASWAMY: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have issued any directives to replace the milestones on National Highways in which indications are in a regional language and English by those with indications in Hindi and English as reported in the *Dinamani* dated February 9, 2003;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the drivers with knowledge of only regional language are likely to face difficulties due to this; and

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

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) No, Sir. The three language formulae is being followed.

(d) Does not arise.

[Translation]

#### **Cases of Malaria**

3151. DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Malaria cases reported during each of the last three years till date, State-wise;

(b) the number of deaths occurred due to Malaria during the above said period;

(c) the funds allocated to the State Governments for the prevention of this disease; and

(d) the actual amount of funds spent for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) A statement showing number of Malaria Cases and Deaths reported during each of the last three years, State-wise is given as Statement-I.

(c) and (d) A statement showing details of Central assistance provided for prevention and control of this disease during the last three years, State-wise is enclosed as Statement-II.

#### **Statement I**

##### *Number of Malaria Cases and Deaths from 1999 to 2002*

Name of the States/UTs	1999		2000		2001		2002(P)	
	Malaria cases	Deaths due to malaria	Malaria cases	Deaths due to malaria	Malaria cases	Deaths due to malaria	Malaria cases	Deaths due to malaria
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Andhra Pradesh	129020	11	80557	6	57735	1	35498	0
Arunachal Pradesh	58243	1	46165	0	56030	14	38795	0
Assam	131048	111	84915	43	95142	122	72009	71
Bihar	131898	131	9509	2	4108	0	2032	2
Chhattisgarh	—		359155	63	290666	32	235434	.3
Goa	15380	17	9164	11	12331	12	16818	15
Gujarat	64130	7	36712	2	81347	19	80983	9
Haryana	2604	0	1050	0	1202	0	934	0
Himachal Pradesh	700	0	491	0	349	0	176	0
Jammu & Kashmir	3574	0	3045	0	912	0	477	0
Jharkhand	—		133453	16	130784	21	71621	36
Karnataka	97274	11	109118	14	197625	21	129306	33

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Kerala	5141	7	2940	9	2289	9	2985	8
Madhya Pradesh	527510	50	194689	93	183118	81	105651	24
Maharashtra	137712	46	81406	40	56043	50	45613	42
Manipur	2662	8	1064	0	943	5	1268	9
Meghalaya	14798	5	13699	11	20630	17	17005	36
Mizoram	14437	73	9059	33	10929	43	3703	16
Nagaland	4396	12	3443	0	4318	1	3504	0
Orissa	483095	399	509497	467	454541	305	428128	362
Punjab	1113	0	483	1	604	0	263	0
Rajasthan	53154	0	35973	10	129233	36	68081	6
Sikkim	14	0	16	0	31	0	53	2
Tamil Nadu	56366	2	43053	1	31551	0	27337	0
Tripura	14408	11	12245	6	18502	9	13322	5
Uttaranchal	—		2008	0	1196	0	1675	0
Uttar Pradesh	99632	0	96971	0	94524	15	81018	0
West Bengal	227480	144	145322	103	145053	191	181272	139
A & N Islands	937	2	1002	1	925	1	865	0
Chandigarh	456	0	256	0	298	0	157	0
Dadra and Nagar Haveli	3303	0	2415	0	848	0	493	0
Daman & Diu	352	0	132	0	87	0	173	0
Delhi	3996	0	2631	0	1484	0	694	0
Lakshadweep	1	0	5	0	0	0	8	0
Pondicherry	149	0	137	0	106	0	103	0
Grand Total	2284713	1048	2031790	932	2085484	1005	1667454	818

P = Provisional.

**Statement II**

*State-wise distribution of Central Assistance during 1999-2000 to 2001-2002 under National Anti Malaria Programme (NAMP)*  
(Rs. in lakhs)

States/UTs	1999-2000	2000-2001	2001-2002
1	2	3	4
Andhra Pradesh	663.30	644.13	408.88
Arunachal Pradesh	229.22	293.79	364.67

1	2	3	4
Assam	2616.73	2657.86	2377.47
Bihar	578.66	83.20	525.94
Chhattisgarh	—	—	620.62
Goa	4.54	0.98	6.17
Gujarat	349.95	211.24	115.63
Haryana	160.95	78.35	18.42
Himachal Pradesh	92.45	89.06	36.78
Jammu & Kashmir	103.40	84.28	69.62
Jharkhand	—	—	585.62
Karnataka	229.29	233.36	369.55
Kerala	49.63	75.92	42.78
Madhya Pradesh	443.28	711.53	1090.25
Maharashtra	181.51	286.74	518.50
Manipur	219.53	235.72	275.28
Meghalaya	212.27	303.58	290.37
Mizoram	190.05	235.26	345.85
Nagaland	308.33	278.91	368.08
Orissa	436.17	547.64	824.12
Punjab	148.45	148.31	94.09
Rajasthan	1075.71	286.86	788.45
Sikkim	7.90	0.12	0.14
Tamil Nadu	114.91	133.90	85.72
Tripura	379.31	480.94	505.76
Uttar Pradesh	527.80	544.11	637.44
Uttaranchal	—	—	39.19
West Bengal	501.99	454.44	701.72
Delhi	20.10	100.45	89.57
Pondicherry	11.28	13.56	8.30
A & N Islands	111.28	231.73	220.78
Chandigarh	34.55	44.81	35.51
Dadra and Nagar Haveli	34.85	18.12	40.67
Daman & Diu	12.97	9.90	18.64
Lakshadweep	5.82	5.57	5.29
<b>Total</b>	<b>10055.84</b>	<b>9524.39</b>	<b>12525.87</b>

**New Telephone Exchanges in Rural Areas**

3152. SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of new telephone exchanges opened during each of the last three years, State-wise;

(b) whether the Government have received any request for opening new telephone exchanges in rural areas during 2003-04, State-wise and location-wise; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

(SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) The details of the new telephone exchanges opened during each of the last three years circle-wise are given in the statement-I enclosed.

(b) Yes, Sir. The details of the requests received to open new telephone exchanges in rural areas during 2003-2004, circle-wise and location-wise are given in the statement-II enclosed.

(c) Requests for opening of new telephone exchanges will be considered as per the present policy for planning of telephone exchanges in rural areas, preferably on Wireless in Local Loop (WLL). However, if WLL solution is not workable due to technical reasons a new telephone exchange will be planned with minimum registration of 75.

**Statement I***New Telephone Exchanges opened in Rural Areas during the last three years*

Sl. No.	Circle	2000-2001	2001-2002	2002-2003 (upto 21.2.2003)
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andaman & Nicobar	6	4	0
2.	Andhra Pradesh	300	215	74
3.	Assam	56	20	35
4.	Bihar	258	0	3
5.	Jharkhand	0	97	10
6.	Gujarat	577	326	110
7.	Haryana	11	30	7
8.	Himachal Pradesh	65	119	29
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	0	41	54
10.	Karnataka	118	100	36
11.	Kerala	49	76	47
12.	Madhya Pradesh	3	0	19
13.	Chhattisgarh	0	178	11
14.	Maharashtra	920	271	68
15.	North East-I	22	0	25
16.	North East-II	0	22	6
17.	Orissa	114	58	22

1	2	3	4	5
18.	Punjab	84	106	28
19.	Rajasthan	88	145	13
20.	Tamil Nadu	85	34	416
21.	Uttar Pradesh (East)	352	131	17
22.	Uttar Pradesh (West)	97	0	6
23.	Uttaranchal	0	46	10
24.	West Bengal	166	129	43
Total		3201	2080	1089

**Statement II***Request received for opening of new Telephone Exchanges*

Sl.No.	Circle	District	Location
1	2	3	4
1.	Assam	Goalpara Sonitpur Nawgaon Dibrugarh Kamrup	1. Chotamatia 2. Simlitola 3. Behalilac 4. Lumdinglac 5. Duliajan 6. Dhobargaon
2.	Gujarat	Surender Nagar Jamnagar Sultanpur	7. Chorvira 8. Taluka Halwad 9. Sanarkhala 10. Menipur Gram Panchayat
3.	Haryana	Sirsa Bhiwani Rewari Hissar Panipat	11. Kheri 12. Gurera GP 13. Gudyani 14. Taialanwari 15. Seenk & Pathri
4.	Himachal Pradesh	Solan Chamba	16. Kararaghat 17. Badagara 18. Bharmour
5.	Chhattisgarh	Raigarh	19. Padi Gaon 20. Sankara
6.	North East-II	Ukhrul (Manipur)	21. Chingjaroi CV 22. Chingjaroi Kullen 23. Jessami
7.	Madhya Pradesh	Devas Dindaori Umaria	24. Thank-Khurd 25. Amera 26. Parh Khuri

1	2	3	4
		Shayopur Nasingpur Mandla	27. Vijaypur 28. Bhoreir 29. Limrua 30. Kakaiya 31. Dithori 32. Motinala 33. Raipur Sonapuri
8.	Orissa	Rewa  Angul Deogarh Sambalpur  Balasore   Angul   Puri Jagatsinghpur Malkangiri  Cuttack  Khurda	34. Chasagurujanga 35. Budhupal 36. Kataradaga 37. Balasore SDCA 38. Basantia 39. Silandi 40. Adalapanka 41. Badapokhari 42. Balimunda 43. Jharanaghati 44. Brahmana Gaon 45. Derenga 46. Sahargurujang 47. Injidi Block 48. Nagira Block 49. Narenderpur 50. Deriki 51. Pangama 52. Kotamata 53. Potteru 54. MV55 55. Simlihand 56. Govindpur 57. Kantamal Ankula 58. Abhaya Mukhi
9.	Rajasthan	Bharatpur Dungarpur Swaimadhampur Barmer Bikaner Jaisalmer Nagaur  Barmer  Jalore Jodhpur  Udaipur Chittorgarh	59. Tyohari 60. Metali 61. Khandar Tehsil 62. Ratanpura 63. Raowala GP Bhaluri 64. Jhabra 65. Rajlya 66. Muwana 67. Lunwa 68. Ratanpura 69. Bakharpura 70. Vedia GP Bhimguda 71. Kalauna 72. Hariyadhana 73. Sinyarhsar 74. Mandavi 75. Bairav



1	2	3	4
		Alwar Pali	76. Javdha 77. Agar 78. Kharachi
10.	West Bengal	24 Paraganas Midnapur Purulia  Uttar Dinajpur	79. South Sunderbans 80. Mirgoda 81. Arsha 82. Jargo 83. Burda 84. Goagaon
11.	Bihar	Motihari Araria	85. Bathuaha 86. Mathathawa Bazar
12.	Jammu & Kashmir	Kathuna Awantipur Kashmir	87. Tharakalawal 88. Wehbajh
13.	Maharashtra	Beed Buldhana Ahmednagar	89. Nirgudi 90. Khapar Khoradhula 91. Dhotra
14.	UP (East)	Ghazipur	92. Baragaon
15.	Andhra Pradesh	Vijaya Nagaram	93. Venkatavhripuram
16.	Karnataka	Gulbarga	94. Masalwal

### Talcher Heavy Water Plant

3153. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the production at Heavy Water Plant, Talcher in Orissa, has stopped;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government have a proposal to improve the performance of Heavy Water Plant at Talcher; and

(d) if so, the steps taken in this regard?

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 production of heavy water at Talcher has been suspended since 1994.

(b) The functioning of Heavy Water Plant (HWP) at Talcher is totally dependent upon the functioning of the

ammonia plant of the Fertilizer Corporation of India Limited (FCI) Plant at Talcher. Since the FCI could not supply the required quantity of ammonia synthesis gas used as feed stock on sustained basis, a decision was taken to suspend operation of the HWP and keep the Plant under preservation mode.

(c) The operation of the Fertilizer Plant has been completely stopped from April 1999 and the unit is being wound up. Hence there is no possibility of restarting the HWP, Talcher for production of heavy water in the present form.

(d) Does not arise.

### Cirrhosis Cases

3154. SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of people who suffered cirrhosis in the country during each of the last three years, State-wise;

(b) whether there is an increase in the number of cirrhosis patients;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken to contain the spread of the disease?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (d) The data on number of cirrhosis cases is not centrally maintained. However, the health care delivery system in the country is well equipped to tackle the disease.

[*Translation*]

#### **Telephone Connections at Reduced Rates**

3155. SHRI NAGMANI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether applications for fresh telephone connection at reduced rates are not being accepted by the Telecom Department in Jharkhand;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps 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 case has been reported in Jharkhand. Requests for fresh connections are being accepted and processed as per the prevailing rules and tariff of the BSNL.

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

[*English*]

#### **Medical Research Activities**

3156. SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that the proper attention is not being paid by ICMR on medical research activities in the country;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government have reviewed the research work done by ICMR during the last three years; and

(d) if so, the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (d) The ICMR is the nodal agency for medical research in the country and it conducts research activities through intramural and extramural research programmes. The intramural research is conducted through its 26 institutes and regional medical centres which address mainly to diseases specific to the region where it is established. The extramural research programme is carried out by various medical institutions, other research institutes in the country through financial assistance of ICMR. The ICMR has a peer review system wherein extramural projects are evaluated by specific Project Review Committees, Advisory Committees, Expert Groups, which has got representatives of other institutions thereby external assessment of the research projects is undertaken. The intramural research programmes are reviewed by the Scientific Advisory Committee constituted for individual institutes with external members. These are further evaluated by Scientific Advisory Board expert members drawn from various institutions across the country. The research results of ICMR are published in peer reviewed national and internal journals.

#### **Trilateral understanding among India, Myanmar and Thailand**

3157. SHRI HOLKHOMANG HAOKIP: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any trilateral understanding among India, Myanmar and Thailand for transport linkage;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is any proposal to construct a Highway connecting these countries and extending upto Singapore;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Union Government have started constructing road inside Myanmar; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI VINOD KHANNA): (a) Yes.

(b) EAM attended the India-Myanmar-Thailand Ministerial Meeting on Transport Linkages held on April 5-6, 2002 in Myanmar. The three Foreign Ministers agreed to development of transport linkages inter-connecting the three countries, focusing on construction of a highway through Myanmar that would promote trade, investment,

tourism and people-to-people interaction. This will promote cooperation between South Asian and South-East Asia. The following areas of cooperation were agreed.

- (i) Construction of a highway from Moreh in India to Mae Sot in Thailand through Bagan in Myanmar.
- (ii) Promotion of a highway from Kanchanaburi in Thailand to Dawei deep seaport in Myanmar and shipping links to seaports in India as part and parcel of one integrated package.
- (iii) Promotion of trade, investment and tourism through facilitation of transit of goods and people across the border.
- (iv) Cooperation in human resource development.

Two task forces have been set up for implementation of this project, the one on financing chaired by Thailand and the one on technical matters chaired by India. The two task forces met from December 2-4, 2002 in Yangon where details on the alignment of the highway, upgradation of the existing roads that would form part of the highway, its physical verification and modalities of funding were discussed.

(c) No.

(d) to (f) Does not apply.

#### **Mumbai Trans Harbour Sea Link Project**

3158. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have received any request from Maharashtra regarding Mumbai Trans Harbour Sea Link Project;

(b) if so, whether Mumbai Port Trust has issued NOC for the same; and

(c) if not, the time by which a final decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

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

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The in-principle approval for the purpose of obtaining environmental clearance for the Mumbai Trans Harbour Sea Link Project has been communicated by the Mumbai Port Trust to Maharashtra State Road Development Corporation, the nodal agency appointed by

the Government of Maharashtra for execution of the project, subject to relocation of old Pir Pau Jetty on cost sharing basis and certain other conditions.

#### **Reduction in Custom Duty**

3159. SHRI VILAS MUTTEWMAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Telecom Equipment Manufacturers Association (TEMA) have urged the Government to reduce the custom duty on the import of finished equipment;

(b) if so, the present rate of custom duty levied on the import of the telecom equipment and the reduction in duty sought by the TEMA;

(c) whether the National Telecom Policy, 1999 envisaged that encouragement and incentives be provided to domestic equipment manufacturing industry;

(d) if so, whether this policy has not been implemented by the Government so far; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor and the steps being taken by the Government to meet the demands of the TEMA?

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.

(d) and (e) The Government has given a number of incentives to promote domestic equipment manufacturing industry. Some of the incentives are:

(i) Manufacturing sector has been delicensed and 100% FDI is allowed under automatic route through Reserve Bank of India (RBI). A technical know-how fee of US\$ 2 million and royalty @ 5% for the domestic sales and @ 8% for the export are also allowed under automatic route.

(ii) The Telecom Service Operators have been allowed to issue from 'C' under Central Sales Tax Act, 1956 enabling telecom equipment manufacturing industry to avail concessional Sales Tax benefits.

(iii) Electronics Hardware Technology Park Scheme has been modified to boost indigenous telecom manufacturing industry.

### Seamless Air Navigation

3160. SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) proposes to build a satellite-based augmentation system to support seamless air navigation over the Indian space;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the progress achieved in this regard; and

(c) by when it is likely to become operational?

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 Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) in coordination with the Airports Authority of India has taken up a Proof of Concept Technology Demonstration System (TDS) for Satellite Based Augmentation System (SBAS).

(b) The TDS will have the necessary infrastructure in Space and on ground to demonstrate the concept. Initially, for the demonstration, a network of ground reference stations and master control station, ground uplink station and satellite navigation payload in space is planned.

(c) A time-frame of four years is anticipated for the Proof of concept demonstration.

### Committee on Implementation of Projects

3161. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Committee on the implementation of projects has since submitted its report;

(b) if so, the salient points of the report;

(c) whether the Government have accepted the report; and

(d) if so, the details of the action proposed to be taken thereon?

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 Committee was set up to examine the existing procedures for investment approval and implementation of projects and to suggest measures to simplify and expedite the process for investments in public and private projects. The Committee has submitted its report in two parts. Part-I of the report covers upstream issues arising from conceptualisation of projects to the stage of investment approval in respect of Government and Public Sector projects. It contains recommendations for re-engineering the project cycle for public investments so as to achieve greater professionalisation of project preparation, appraisal and post evaluation stages of the cycle. Part-II of the report deals with downstream issues arising from the stage of investment approval till the completion of projects and extending to their operational phase. The Report includes recommendations relating to re-engineering of regulatory processes at the Central and State levels for simplification of the procedures relating to the grant of various approvals and rationalisation of the inspection, record keeping and reporting requirements. The recommendations also envisage greater use of information technology tools in the administration of approvals.

(c) Yes Sir.

(d) The nodal Ministries concerned have been asked to take appropriate action for implementing the recommendation contained in the Report.

[*Translation*]

### Reservation of Posts for Sports Persons

3162. SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN:  
SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY:

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

(a) the Ministry-wise and category-wise number of posts reserved for sports persons in the central Ministries;

(b) whether this reservation is considered to be adequate;

(c) whether the Government propose to include Judo-Karate in the reservation quota;

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

(e) the steps being taken by the Government to promote sports in the country?

THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI VIKRAM VERMA): (a) As per the extant Government instructions, upto 5% vacancies, in respect of Group "C" and Group "D" posts, in various Government Ministries/Departments/Establishments, can be filled by meritorious sportspersons by relaxing the recruitment rules, through advertisement, from time to time.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) Judo-Karate is already one of the qualifying sports disciplines.

(e) Government is taking the following steps with a view to promoting Sports in the country:

- (i) The National Sports Federations are, primarily, responsible for the promotion of their concerned sports disciplines. The National Sports Federations (NSFs) have formulated Long Term Development Plans (LTDPs), covering various aspects, in consultation, inter-alia, with the Sports Authority of India (SAI). The NSFs are being assisted for coaching of sportspersons included in the National Teams, with the help of Indian and foreign coaches, provision of requisite equipment and scientific support through the SAI.
- (ii) The federations are also assisted in holding National level championships and in sending sportspersons for participation in International sports events.
- (iii) Promising sports persons are also provided a package of assistance (upto Rs. 5 lakhs) for training and up-gradation of their skills. Supporting personnel, such as, coaches and sports scientists are also assisted to undergo specialized training in India and abroad.
- (iv) Assistance is provided for creation of sports infrastructure, including laying of synthetic surfaces.
- (v) With a view to further motivating the sports persons, awards and pensions are given.
- (vi) With a view to broad-basing sports and achieving excellence in sports at the National and International levels, Government has launched New National Sports Policy-2001.

#### **Dental X-Rays in RML Hospital**

3163. SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:  
SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI:

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

(a) whether X-rays in the dental department of Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital are being conducted by unskilled technicians without adopting radiation safety measures;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken to follow the safety measures strictly in the dental department of said hospital?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The X-rays in the Dental Department of Dr. RML Hospital are being conducted by the trained dental technicians after taking proper radiation protective measures.

(c) Does not arise.

*[English]*

#### **Ship and Port facility Security Code**

3164. SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the International Maritime Organisation has formulated an international ship and port facility security code; and

(b) if so, the Government's stand thereon including the benefits likely to accrue to Indian ports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Contracting parties to the International Convention for Safety of Life at Sea, 1974 (SOLAS 74) adopted amendments to SOLAS 74 and the International Ship and Port facility Security (ISPS) Code during the Diplomatic Conference held at International Maritime Organization (IMO), London in December, 2002. Being a party to SOLAS 74, the Government of India welcomes the new maritime security measures. Implementation of these enhanced security measures would greatly reduce the risk from piracy, armed robbery, theft and terrorist attacks against India's ship and port facilities.

*[Translation]*

#### **Local Purchase of Unani and Ayurvedic Medicines**

3165. SHRI A. NARENDRA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any provision for local purchase (Indent System) of Unani and Ayurvedic medicines in Unani and Ayurvedic Dispensaries under CGHS;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) by when the local purchase of medicines is likely to be started; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. There is a provision for local purchase (indent system) of medicines in CGHS dispensaries/units of Unani/Ayurvedic system functioning under CGHS Delhi, CGHS Lucknow and CGHS Hyderabad.

However, in the remaining CGHS units outside Delhi, the authorised local chemists under CGHS could not be appointed as no chemist came forward in response to the advertisement issued by the CGHS calling for tenders. In such CGHS cities, the beneficiaries are allowed to purchase from the open market the Ayurvedic and Unani medicines prescribed by the Government specialists and not available in the dispensaries and the Government reimburses this amount.

In the case of CGHS, Delhi, the contract of the earlier chemist was terminated due to irregularities and therefore, steps have been initiated for appointment of a fresh batch of authorised local chemists for day-to-day supply of Ayurvedic/Unani medicines to the CGHS dispensaries/units.

[English]

### Construction of Coastal Highway

3166. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have a proposal to construct a coastal Highway from Digha in West Bengal to Gopalpur in Orissa;

(b) if so, the estimated cost and the present status thereof;

(c) the target date set for the completion of it; and

(d) the details thereof?

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

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

### Funds for Expansion and Modernisation of Ports

3167. SHRI PARSURAM MAJHI: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) the funds earmarked for the expansion and modernisation of major ports in the country during the Tenth Plan; and

(b) the details of the various plans formulated therefor, port-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI): (a) and (b) During the Tenth Plan, an amount of Rs. 4531.29 crores has been allocated for development including expansion and modernisation of major ports. Out of this, Rs. 450.00 crores are to be provided as budgetary support from the Government and Rs. 4081.29 crores are to be raised by the ports concerned through their own internal and extra budgetary resources. In addition, an investment of about Rs. 11257.00 crores by the private sector is also envisaged in major ports during the Tenth Plan Period. Port-wise details are given below:

Sl. No.	Name of the Port	Funds allocated in 10th Plan (Rs. in crores)	Private Sector investment envisaged (Rs. in crores)	Important Schemes for creation of additional capacity
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Kolkata	789.42	666.11	Construction of Multipurpose Berth No. 4A and Berth No. 13 at Haldia Dock Complex.
2.	Mumbai	880.20	730.00	Modernisation of Marine Oil Terminal Berths and construction of Berth at Pir Pau for handling coal, second Liquid Chemical Berth at Pir Pau and Container Offshore Berths.
3.	JL Nehru	262.75	1700.00	Construction of Shallow Water Berth, Marine Chemical Terminal and conversion of Bulk Terminal to Container Terminal.

1	2	3	4	5
4.	Chennai	326.70	400.00	Extension of existing container terminal, additional container handling facilities and modernization of West Quay, South Quay 3 and East Quay Berths.
5.	Cochin	366.51	2040.00	Construction of International Transshipment Container Terminal, crude handling facilities and LNG/LPG handling facilities.
6.	Vizag	240.84	1268.00	Construction of Multipurpose Berth WQ7, EQ8 and EQ9, extension of OR-I and OR-II Berths as Multipurpose Berths at Inner Harbour, construction of WQ6 on captive basis and modernization of Ore Handling Complex.
7.	Kandla	416.71	885.81	Development of container handling facilities, construction of Cargo Berth and creation of port facilities by M/s. Essar at Vadinar, setting up of mechanized cargo handling facilities at Berth No. 5A by APEDA.
8.	Mormugao	348.06	322.00	Construction of Berths 5A and 6A and at Vasco Bay.
9.	Paradip	222.70	230.00	Construction of Oil Berth and Clean Cargo Berth.
10.	New Mangalore	147.40	1075.00	Creation of port facilities for MRPL expansion, construction of Multipurpose Berth and additional General Cargo Berth and Captive Coal Jetty for NPCL.
11.	Tuticorin	230.00	1780.00	Construction of Captive Coal Berth, 2 Edible Oil Jetties and provision of equipment by PSA.
12.	Ennore	300.00	160.00	Construction of 2 Coal Berths and 2 Berths for Chemicals and LNG.
Total		4531.29	11256.92	

The major ports have planned to modernize their cargo handling equipment through schemes for replacement/upgradation. These include replacement of existing cranes, procurement of additional cranes and replacement of floating crafts.

#### **VSAT System of Money Orders**

3168. SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the VSAT system for transmission of money orders has not been successful;

(b) if so, the expenditure incurred for their installation in Post Offices circle-wise;

(c) the number of complains for non-receipt of money orders during last year, circle-wise;

(d) the number of duplicate money orders issued due to non-receipt of money orders sent through VSAT;

(e) whether the Government propose to review the usefulness of this system so as to provide better service; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SU. THIRUNAVUKKARASAR): (a) The Department has installed Very Small Aperture Terminals (VSAT) for transmission of money orders in two phases. During 1995-97,

77 VSATs were installed on Department of Telecommunication's Remote Area Business Message Network (RABMN). Money orders are being successfully transmitted through these VSATs. In addition, 150 High Speed VSATs were installed during 2001-2002. The original software for these High Speed VSATs developed certain problems. The new software, which has been developed in-house, is under test.

(b) The VSAT project being a central Plan Scheme, the expenditure was controlled by the Directorate and not Circle-wise. While Rs. 4.7 Crores was spent for the VSATs procured during 1995-1997, an investment of Rs. 12.4 crores was made on the High Speed VSATs.

(c) The Circle-wise number of complaints for non-receipt of money orders during the last year is given in the enclosed statement.

(d) A total of 2,17,788 duplicate money orders were issued during the last year due to non-receipt of money orders sent through traditional mode (manual) and through VSAT network.

(e) and (f) The system has been introduced for better service. There is no proposal for review of the system.

#### **Statement**

*Number of money order complaints received during the year 2001-02*

Sl. No.	Name of Circle	No. of Complaints received
1	2	3
1.	Assam	8334
2.	Andhra Pradesh	24763
3.	Bihar	4265
4.	Chhattisgarh	8491
5.	Delhi	96355
6.	Gujarat	22912
7.	Haryana	32019
8.	Himachal Pradesh	4109
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	5008
10.	Jharkhand	7561
11.	Karnataka	23188

1	2	3
12.	Kerala	8241
13.	Madhya Pradesh	15889
14.	Maharashtra	68611
15.	North East	5056
16.	Orissa	4437
17.	Punjab	45812
18.	Rajasthan	13499
19.	Tamil Nadu	18644
20.	Uttaranchal	7599
21.	Uttar Pradesh	31386
22.	West Bengal	25772
23.	Army Postal Service	10550
Total		492501

#### **Employees of Disinvested PSUs**

3169. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK:  
SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR:

Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether about 11% employees have been thrown out of jobs from disinvested PSUs as reported in the '*Dainik Jagran*' dated February 28, 2003;

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

(c) the reaction of the Union Government thereto; and

(d) the steps being taken by the Government to save the employees likely to become jobless due to the Government's policy of disinvestment?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) to (c) No, Sir. The data compiled for non disinvested companies and ten hotels of ITDC and one hotel of Hotel Corporation India shows that against an initial employment level of 43,171 at the time of disinvestment there was a total attrition of 3,733 employees, while 964 employees have been recruited. Therefore, the net loss in employment



was 2,769, which is around 6% of employment at the time of disinvestment, of which 663 were on account of retirement and resignation. In the case of CMC there has been a net addition in employment of 425 against the employees strength of 3119 at the time of disinvestment.

(d) The experience, so far, shows that disinvestment cannot be directly related to unemployment. There was a net reduction in employment in Public Sector Undertakings from a level of 2.179 million employees in 1991-92 to a level of 1.806 million in 1999-2000, even before disinvestment through strategic sale commenced. In comparison, the loss of employment in disinvested companies has been much less while in some cases it has increased through fresh recruitment. There have been no cases of retrenchment. Protection of employees' interest is an integral part of the disinvestment policy. Adequate provisions are made in the Transactions Agreements, executed as a part of strategic sale, to ensure that there is no retrenchment of employees for one year after disinvestment and even thereafter separation is possible only under the Voluntary Retirement Scheme as applicable under DPE guidelines or the Voluntary Retirement Scheme which was prevailing in the company prior to disinvestment whichever is more beneficial for the employees. Major expansion plans have been set afoot in enterprises such as BALCO; these will make the enterprises more competitive and thereby provide the best guarantee of continued employment; they are also the one sustainable way of ensuring expansion of employment.

#### **Allocation of Funds to Atomic Projects**

3170. SHRI C. SREENIVASAN:  
SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Atomic Energy Department has expressed its serious apprehensions about some atomic projects getting delayed due to less allocations;

(b) if so, the projects likely to be delayed due to the less budgetary allocation;

(c) the total cost and time overrun of these projects; and

(d) the steps taken by the Union Government in this regard?

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 nuclear power projects that are under construction at present are progressing as per the approved schedules, for which the necessary budgetary support has been provided from time to time.

(b) to (d) Not applicable in view of (a) above.

#### **Discarded Medical Equipment**

3171. SHRI C.N. SINGH:  
SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:  
SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI:  
SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:

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

(a) whether discarded medical equipment from America are finding their way to India for the treatment of patients as reported in the '*Rashtriya Sahara*' dated December 30, 2002;

(b) if so, the facts of the matter reported therein;

(c) the agency through which the said equipment are being imported;

(d) whether these equipment are actually useful for the country; and

(e) if not, the steps taken/being taken by the Union Government to check the import of such equipment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (e) The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has no knowledge of import of discarded medical equipment from America through any agency.

#### **American Aid to Pakistan**

3172. SHRI Y.V. RAO:  
SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN:  
SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI:  
SHRI V. VETRISELVAN:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the U.S. aid to India is only about 1/6th of the amount earmarked for Pakistan;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the amount of aid proposed to be provided to Pakistan including military aid;

(d) whether the Government have made any assessment of its impact on India's defence preparedness; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI VINOD KHANNA): (a) Yes.

(b) According to available data, the actual and proposed aid by the United States to Pakistan for the U.S. fiscal years 2002, 2003 and 2004 amounts to U.S.\$ 1.74 billion. For the same period, U.S. aid to India aggregates to U.S. \$ 324 million.

(c) According to available data, actual and proposed U.S. military aid to Pakistan for the U.S. fiscal years 2002, 2003 and 2004 amount to U.S. \$ 3.56 million under the Foreign Military Financing Programme, International Military Education and Training programme and assistance for peacekeeping operations.

(d) and (e) The current level of U.S. military aid to Pakistan will not have an adverse impact on India's defence preparedness. Government has, however, conveyed to the United States that it must remain conscious of India's security interests and India-U.S. relations in deciding on the level of military aid or sale of defence equipment to Pakistan.

#### **Indian community under threat in Venezuela**

3173. SHRI VINAY KUMAR SORAKE: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a contingent of Indian workers, skilled in oil rigging operation, was requisitioned by the Venezuelan Government due to on-going strike by local oil riggers in Venezuela;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the engagement of Indian workmen had caused much resentment and riots in Venezuela, posing a threat to the Indian community living there; and

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the present status of the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI VINOD KHANNA): (a) Yes. A group of six Indian oil tanker crew (not for oil rigging operations) was recruited by the Venezuelan State Oil Corporation (PDVSA) through an agency in Mumbai.

(b) to (d) PDVSA had brought six oil tanker crew directly from India through an agency in Mumbai on 15 December, 2002 to operate their tankers, because the Venezuelan crew had joined the general strike of the Opposition seeking the exit of President Chavez of Venezuela. The Venezuelan Opposition, including the PDVSA employees, who were on strike, reacted adversely to this development and organised a demonstration in front of the Indian Embassy on 15 December, 2002. This had caused concern to the Indian community in Venezuela. The Indian crew had, however, been relieved the very next day at their request as they feared for their own safety. The general strike was withdrawn in the first week of February 2003 and the controversy about the Indian crew has died down.

[*Translation*]

#### **Vacant Posts of SCs/STs**

3174. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether some posts of SCs/STs under various categories are lying vacant under the Ministry;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether various categories of the employees working under the Ministry have been promoted and fresh recruitments also been made during the last three years;

(d) if so, the details of fresh recruitments made under various categories during the said period and the current year till date, year-wise and category-wise;

(e) whether the prescribed rules have been followed with regard to the recruitment and promotion of persons belong to SC/ST categories; and

(f) if not, the remedial steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI BHAVNABEN DEVRAJBHAI CHIKHALIA): (a) There is no post of SC/ST lying vacant under the Ministry.

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

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Details are given in statement enclosed.

(e) Yes, Sir.

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

**Statement**

*Details of fresh recruitment made during the last three years & current year till 28.02.2003*

Sl. No.	Year	No. of fresh recruitment made	Name of the Post	Category
1.	1999-2000	Nil	N.A.	N.A.
2.	2000-2001	2	Peon	Gen-1 OBC-1
3.	2001-2002	Nil	N.A.	N.A.
4.	2002-2003 till 28.02.2003	6	Assistant	Gen-4 OBC-2

[English]

**Court Directions for Burn Patients**

3175. SHRI SAIDUZZAMA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether as per recent directions of the Delhi High Court, burn patients are not to be turned away by the hospitals;

(b) if so, whether these directions are being complied with by all the hospitals especially those which have received land and other assistance from the Government; and

(c) if not, the remedial steps proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (c) The Government of NCT of Delhi has intimated that as far back in 1998 such direction of the High Court of Delhi were received and the same were conveyed to all concerned for compliance. They have also intimated that these directions were being complied with by all the hospitals in Delhi including those which have received land and other assistance from the Government. In so far as Central Government Hospitals are concerned, as a matter of policy, no patient including burn patient is turned away and adequate facilities for treatment of burn patients are available in Safdarjung Hospital and Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital.

**Loss Incurred by BSNL**

3176. SHRI P. RAJENDRAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the loss incurred by BSNL for providing telephones in villages/remote areas since its Corporatisation in October, 2000;

(b) whether this amount has been recouped to the BSNL by the Government; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) The estimate of loss incurred by Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited for providing Telephones in villages/remote area since its Corporatisation in October, 2000 is furnished below:

(1)	Estimated loss for the period of 18 months w.e.f. 1.10.2000 to 31.3.2002	Rs. 6000 crores*
	(i) 1.10.2000 to 31.3.2001 (6 months) and	
	(ii) 2001-02 (12 months)	
(2)	Estimated loss for the period 1.4.2002 till 31.12.2002 (9 months)	Rs. 3000 crores*
	Total estimated loss w.e.f. 1.10.2000 to 31.12.2002	Rs. 9000 crores

\*Based on annual estimated loss of Rs. 4000 crores for providing telephones in villages/remote areas.

(b) and (c) The Government has provided reimbursement of Licence fee of Rs. 2300 crore in 2001-02. Further, an amount of Rs. 2300 crores has been provided in the budget of Department of Telecommunications for reimbursement for the year 2002-03. Government has also agreed to exempt Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited from payment of some of the additional expenditures arising out of conversion of Department of Telecomm Operations/Department of Telecom Services into a Corporation, as follows:

- (i) Payment of dividend on preference equity of Rs. 7,500 crores up to 31.3.2004 and on equity share capital of Rs. 5000 crores up to 31.3.2002, the dividend on equity for 2002-03 and 2003-04 shall be waived by 50% and 25% respectively.
- (ii) Licence fee and spectrum charges shall be set off against reimbursement upto 31.3.2003 of losses incurred on account of rural telephony operations and other socially desirable projects, as decided by the Government.

(iii) There will be a moratorium on repayment of principal and interest upto 31.3.2004 on Government loan of Rs. 7500 crores which has been determined to be part of capital structure of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited.

(iv) Government has granted to Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited an amount of Rs. 720 crores as an interest free loan in perpetuity (i.e. no repayment of principle) for implementation of Village Public Telephones during 2001-02.

[*Translation*]

### Registered SSI Units

3177. DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA:  
SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN:

Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state the number of registered Small Scale units in urban and rural areas separately, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND MINISTER OF DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (DR. C.P. THAKUR):  
The State-wise position of number of registered Small Scale units by the end of March, 2002 is given in the statement enclosed. The rural-urban break-up is not maintained centrally. However, the latest sample survey on registered Small Scale units for the reference period 1999-00 estimated the number of working units located in rural areas at 47%.

### Statement

*Cumulative number of permanently registered SSI units by the end of March, 2002*

S. No.	State/Union Territory	Cumulative No. of Units
1	2	3
1.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	1284
2.	Andhra Pradesh	131685
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	653
4.	Assam	26358
5.	Bihar	92095
6.	Chandigarh	3102

1	2	3
7.	Chhattisgarh	72883
8.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	1317
9.	Daman & Diu	1874
10.	Delhi	19804
11.	Goa	6389
12.	Gujarat	194435
13.	Haryana	55409
14.	Himachal Pradesh	17740
15.	Jammu & Kashmir	32245
16.	Jharkhand	41089
17.	Karnataka	178330
18.	Kerala	238431
19.	Lakshadweep	82
20.	Madhya Pradesh	220100
21.	Maharashtra	150996
22.	Manipur	5975
23.	Meghalaya	3029
24.	Mizoram	4911
25.	Nagaland	1643
26.	Orissa	23264
27.	Pondicherry	5152
28.	Punjab	155197
29.	Rajasthan	90366
30.	Sikkim	342
31.	Tamil Nadu	375262
32.	Tripura	2127
33.	Uttar Pradesh	389013
34.	Uttaranchal	34920
35.	West Bengal	153670
All India Total		27,31,172

[English]

#### **Accidents on NH-24**

3178. SHRI CHANDRA VIJAY SINGH: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of accidents reported on the by-pass on NH-24 since its commissioning in 2002 at Moradabad;

(b) whether this new by-pass has been declared technically too narrow for the volume of traffic it serves; and

(c) if so, by when the Government propose to widen the by-pass and make it safer for the traffic?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS [MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI]: (a) 40 accidents have been reported on Moradabad Bypass after commissioning of complete Bypass in July, 2002.

(b) and (c) No, Sir. The Highway should be a 4-lane facility when the traffic volume is more than 35,000 Passenger Car Units (PCUs) per day. Traffic on this Bypass, at present, is around 14,000 PCUs.

#### **Driving Tracks**

3179. SHRI R.L. JALAPPA: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Karnataka has urged the Centre to provide financial assistance for the establishment of driving tracks at all regional transport offices;

(b) if so, whether the Centre has agreed to provide financial assistance to the State Government; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) to (c) Do not arise.

#### **Registered Pharmacists**

3180. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether as per provisions of the Pharmacy Act, 1948 and Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940, the drugs can

be dispensed under the supervision of the registered pharmacists only;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is shortage of registered pharmacists in the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) As per the provisions of Pharmacy Act, 1948 and Drugs & Cosmetics Act, 1940, drugs against prescription of Registered Medical Practitioners are required to be dispensed under the supervisions of registered pharmacists. As per Section 42 of the Pharmacy Act, 1948, no person other than a registered pharmacist shall compound, prepare, mix or dispense any medicine on the prescription of a medical practitioner and whoever contravenes it shall be punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to six months, or with fine not exceeding one thousand rupees or with both.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Question does not arise.

#### **Linux Software System**

3181. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any policy to encourage Linux software;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the funds allotted for this purpose; and

(d) the funds spent in 2002-2003 to encourage Linux software system?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SU. THIRUNAVUKKARASAR): (a) and (b) Department of Information Technology, Government of India is planning "Linux India Initiative" programme to address these concerns.

C-DAC, Mumbai (erstwhile NCST) has developed INDIX, that is Linux with Hindi Language support and development is underway for supporting other Indian Languages also.

(c) and (d) Rs. 150 lakhs is proposed for Linux India Initiative.

Funds will be spent from out of this project after formal approval.

Funds allocated for development of INDIX (Localization of Linux-Phase-I during 2000-2002) is Rs. 39.00 lakhs.

Fund spent in 2002-03 for Localization of Linux (phase-II) is Rs. 50.00 lakhs.

**Financial Assistance for National Highways  
in Tamil Nadu**

3182. SHRI P.D. ELANGO VAN: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have allocated additional financial support for the construction and maintenance of National Highways in Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the list of National Highway works carried out in Tamil Nadu including the project cost of each section of the National Highway?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS [MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI]: (a) and (b) Additional funds have been allocated for construction and maintenance of National Highways comprising National Highway Plan works and National Highways Development Project (NHDP) in Tamil Nadu as per the details given below:—

Year	Rs. in crore		
	2000-2001	2001-2002	2002-2003
Plan Works	103.42	97.39	102.48
Maintenance Works	53.80	42.67	43.86
NHDP	113.33	274.67	358.62
<b>Total</b>	<b>270.55</b>	<b>414.73</b>	<b>504.96</b>

(c) Details of the works sanctioned for each National Highway in Tamil Nadu for the last three years is enclosed as Statement.

**Statement**

*Financial Assistance for National Highways in Tamil Nadu*

(Rs. in lakh)

Sl. No.	NH No.	Sanctions during 2000-2001		Sanctions during 2001-2002		Sanctions during 2002-2003	
		Nos.	Amount	Nos.	Amount	Nos.	Amount
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	4	0	0	0	0	2	191.99
2.	5	1	10.6	0	0	0	0
3.	7	7	1297.46	6	1217.05	0	0
4.	7A	0	0	0	0	1	109.01
5.	45A & Ext.	3	587.25	5	481.69	5	700.99
6.	47	2	121.65	3	234.6	2	202.39
7.	49 & 49 Ext.	2	592.16	12	2157.41	6	1069.72
8.	66	4	482.56	8	1184.2	9	1131.71
9.	67 & 67 Ext.	6	1513.74	13	2397.82	12	1826.46

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
10.	68	0	0	3	322.45	0	0
11.	205	4	430.33	1	255.64	1	91.09
12.	207	0	0	1	21.08	2	104.97
13.	208	4	606.94	4	556.2	6	940.26
14.	209	10	1726.71	10	1522.1	7	1496.49
15.	210	1	339.72	9	1284.92	7	1374.32
16.	219	0	0	2	336.81	1	37.64
17.	220	0	0	2	417.64	2	433.24
18.	45-B	5	1287.69	3	276.81	15	3154.43
		49	8996.81	82	12666.42	78	12864.71

**NHDP Works**

1.	4	0	0	2	34100	0	0
2.	5	0	0	1	23300	0	0
3.	7	0	0	3	31689	0	0
4.	45	0	0	0	0	1	37500
5.	46	0	0	3	62900	0	0
		0	0	9	151989	1	37500

**Research Activities in Road Safety**

3183. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL:  
SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR:

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

(a) whether a large number of organisations, autonomous bodies and educational institutions are engaged in research activities in the field of road safety in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of funds provided by the Government to them during each of the last three years; and,

(d) the achievements thereof during the said period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS [MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI]: (a) and (b) This Ministry does not maintain details of all the organisations, autonomous bodies and educational institutions engaged in research activities in the field of road safety in the country.

(c) and (d) No funds were provided by this Ministry to the organisations, autonomous bodies and educational institutions engaged in research activities in the field of road safety during the Ninth Five Year Plan Period other than to Central Institute of Road Transport (CIRT), Pune who were provided Rs. 1 crore as corpus fund to set up a center for excellence, as also a sum of Rs. 30 lakh to set up a center of road safety. The center has carried out studies on road safety scenario and analysis of road accident data in the States of UP, Lucknow City, Tamil Nadu, Patna City, Bangalore City, Chennai City, NH-5, Maharashtra State, NH-8 and Sikkim. CIRT has also been

entrusted with a study of the cases of tyre burst on Mumbai-Pune Expressway.

### **Disinvestment Policy**

3184. SHRI SHIVAJI MANE:  
SHRIMATI RAJKUMARI RATNA SINGH:

Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether assets of public sector hotels have not been properly evaluated under the present disinvestment policy;

(b) if so, whether assets worth Rs. 500 crores have been sold for Rs. 50 crores due to this evaluation system;

(c) if so, whether the Government propose to fix accountability in this regard; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) and (b) No, Sir. During the process of disinvestment, the assets of the PSUs, including public sector hotels, are properly evaluated in accordance with approved procedure. The strategic disinvestments are made through open competitive bidding and sale finalised in favour of the highest bidder through a transparent process. The upset price calculation is only a benchmark to enable the Government to take a decision.

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

*[Translation]*

### **Norms laid down for MPLADS**

3185. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the norms laid down to ensure the quality of construction works carried out under the Members of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme;

(b) whether the Government are aware that most of the construction works do not meet the quality norms; and

(c) if so, the action taken in this regard?

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 MPLADS works are executed following the established work procedures of the State Governments concerned. As such, the quality norms laid down by the State Governments are applicable in respect of the works.

(b) Some complaints of low quality in the execution of MPLADS works have been received.

(c) Complaints pertaining to quality of execution of MPLADS works are referred to the District Heads/State Governments concerned and they are advised to take remedial steps, including action against officials responsible.

*[English]*

### **Setting up of Committee of Drug Experts**

3186. SHRI ANANT GUDHE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state the details of the progress made by the committee of experts constituted to suggest remedial measures to combat the menace of manufacture and sale of spurious drugs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): Government of India had constituted a Committee of experts on January, 27, 2003 under the chairmanship of Dr. R.A. Mashelkar, Director General, Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) to undertake comprehensive review of the drugs system in the country including evaluation of the extent of spurious and substandard drugs and recommend remedial measures to deal with this problem effectively. The Committee held its first meeting on February 26, 2003.

### **Boat Race**

3187. SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Boat Race is an approved sport;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of the important Boat Races and the total number of persons participating therein;

(d) whether Indian teams participated in international events in this discipline;



(e) if so, the details of steps taken to promote Boat Race in the country;

(f) whether tourism has boosted Boat Race; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI VIKRAM VERMA): (a) to (g) The Government of India has recognized National Sports Federations for promotion of various sports disciplines including Rowing, Yachting, Kayaking and Canoeing. Teams of these disciplines have participated in international events, too. However, for Boat racing, Government has not recognized any National Sports Federation. As such, no records are maintained by Government regarding the boat races.

#### **AIDS Awareness Camps**

3188. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of AIDS awareness camps organised by NACO (National AIDS Control Organisation) during 2001-2002 and the current year respectively;

(b) the approximate number of people reached through such camps by NACO;

(c) whether such camps had any impact on the anti-AIDS campaign;

(d) if so, the cost of conducting such camps by NACO; and

(e) the details of the strategy of NACO to create mass awareness about AIDS?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) The National AIDS Control Organization (NACO) organized two rounds of AIDS awareness camps (Family Health Awareness Campaign) one in each year i.e. 2001 and 2002 to raise awareness among rural and slum populations about prevention and treatment of HIV/AIDS and RTIs (Reproductive Tract Infections).

No such camp has been conducted in the current year so far.

(b) The approximate number of people in the age group of 15 to 49 years reached through such camps is as follows:

Year 2001	—	71.2 million
Year 2002	—	52.65 million

(c) Yes Sir. An independent external evaluation was conducted by India CLEN (India Clinical Epidemiology Network), AIIMS, New Delhi, during FHAC 2002.

The salient findings of evaluation were as follows:

- Target beneficiaries visited by health workers during house-to-house visits were having correct knowledge about symptoms, complications of Reproductive Tract Infections including Sexually Transmitted Infections and prevention of HIV/AIDS, 2.41, 2.06 and 1.54 times higher respectively, than those not visited by health care workers.

(d) The amount released to State AIDS Control Societies for conduction of these camp (FHAC) were as under:

Year 2001	Rs. 22.07 Crores
Year 2002	Rs. 34.84 Crores

(e) Government gives highest priority to an effective and sustained awareness campaign through Information, Education, and Communications (IEC).

The government's programme for awareness generation follows a multi media approach, which includes television, radio, press, print, and outdoor publicity and interpersonal communication and advocacy. These are carried out extensively through the State AIDS Control Societies and linkages with media units of Information and Broadcasting Ministry and through inter sectoral partnerships with other ministries and sectors.

For sensitization of children and young people, the School AIDS Education Programme, the Universities Talk AIDS and Village Talk AIDS programmes are being implemented in collaboration with Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports.

#### **Doctor-Patient/Patient-Nurse Ratio**

3189. SHRI SUNIL KHAN:  
SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA:

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

(a) the details of doctor-patient and patient-nurse ratio in the country as compared to other developed and developing countries; and

(b) the steps taken by the Government to increase the present ratios to International Standards?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) The doctor-patient ratio and patient-nurse ratio varies from case to case depending upon various factors like the type of disease, nature of specialization, type of patient-care required viz. indoor/outdoor. As per Medical Council of India, the doctor-population ratio at present works out to approximately 1:1800. Apart from this, there are 6,81,124 registered medical practitioners of Indian Systems of Medicine and Homoeopathy and there are, therefore, sufficient number of doctors to take care of health care services. Relative data in regard to the doctor-patient and patient-nurse ratio etc. compared to other developed and developing countries is not maintained by this Ministry.

### Talking Computer

3190. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY:  
SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA:

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

(a) whether a new hand held indigenous talking computer is nearing production;

(b) if so, the main features thereof; and

(c) the steps taken and being taken for its commercial production?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SU. THIRUNAVUKKARASAR): (a) No, Sir. There is no development at the moment in India of a hand-held computer which can take voice as input, process it and produce output in voice form.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[Translation]

### Appointment of Sportspersons

3191. DR. BALIRAM: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of sportspersons appointed on various posts against sports quota in M.T.N.L. and BSNL during the last one year;

(b) whether the Government propose to allot Government accommodation to the women sportsperson appointed against the sports quota; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) MTNL Delhi Unit has appointed 18 sportspersons (8 women in basketball, 5 women in wrestling & 5 men in wrestling). Out of total 18, 16 persons have been appointed in group 'C' and 2 in group 'B'.

No sports persons have been appointed in BSNL under sports quota during the last one year.

(b) Sportspersons after their appointment in MTNL who secure 1st/IIrd/IIIrd position in recognized national, international competition are eligible for allotment of Government accommodation on over-riding priority basis.

(c) In view of above ruling, case will be considered for allotment if any, of candidate who applies for the same.

[English]

### Treatment of CGHS Beneficiaries in Private Hospitals

3192. SHRI RAMJEE MANJHI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that Central Government employees go to private hospitals/clinics because of low client satisfaction in CGHS and Government Hospitals;

(b) if so, whether there is any proposal to regularize taking treatment from private recognized hospitals by the CGHS beneficiaries without being referred to them either by CGHS or Government Hospitals; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) CGHS beneficiaries are referred to private hospitals/diagnostic centres recognised under CGHS for obtaining specific medical producers/treatment/diagnostic tests with a view to reduce inconvenience to the beneficiaries.

(b) No, Sir. CGHS beneficiaries (both serving and pensioners) have the option of availing general/specialized treatment and diagnostic procedure at private hospitals/diagnostic centres recognised under CGHS in various CGHS covered cities after obtaining the recommendation regarding line of treatment from the specialist of CGHS/

Government hospital/CMO In-charge of the dispensary and prior permission from the concerned office/Department in the case of serving employees and from the CMO In-charge of CGHS dispensaries in the case of pensioner beneficiaries. However, during emergency, the beneficiary can directly go to any private hospital/clinic for taking treatment.

(c) In view of (b) above, the question does not arise.

#### **Arrest of Polaris CMD**

3193. SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH:  
DR. MANDA JAGANNATH:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether in the embroil between Indonesian Bank and Polaris Software Lab's CMD, the later was jailed in Indonesia;

(b) if so, the details of events which culminated to his arrest;

(c) whether a high-level diplomatic intervention by India led to his release;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the effective steps proposed to be taken to avoid such occurrences?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI VINOD KHANNA): (a) to (e) Shri Arun Jain, Chairman & Managing Director of M/s Polaris Software Lab Ltd., together with Shri Rajiv Malhotra, Vice-President of the same company, were taken into custody by the Indonesian police in Jakarta on 13.12.2002 on the basis of a criminal complaint lodged by Bank Artha Graha of Indonesia in connection with later's commercial dispute with Polaris.

2. The Embassy of India in Jakarta intervened with the Indonesian authorities for the release of Polaris officials. The Indonesian Ambassador in New Delhi was also summoned by the Ministry of External Affairs in this connection. The External Affairs Minister spoke to his Indonesian counterpart on telephone. These efforts led to the release of Polaris officials on 20th December 2002.

3. Commercial disputes between Indian companies and foreign entities can and do occur from time to time. They are with directly by the Indian companies concerned in keeping with the applicable law and/or arbitration

procedures as called for in commercial contracts. The Government intervenes only when either party takes recourse to actions outside the arbitration clauses.

[Translation]

#### **New SSI Units**

3194. SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL:  
SHRI ADHI SANKAR:  
SHRI G.J. JAVIYA:

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

(a) the details of new small scale industries set-up in Gujarat and Tamil Nadu during 2001 and till date, location-wise;

(b) the goods being manufactured therein;

(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 the said States in 2003; and

(e) by when these industries are likely to commence 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 Governments of Gujarat and Tamil Nadu, the new Small Scale Industries (SSIs) registered during 2001 and from 01.01.2002 to 30.09.2002 is given below:

	Name of the State	Number of SSI units registered during	
		1.1.2001 to 31.12.2001	1.1.2002 to 30.9.2002
1.	Gujarat	7674	4746
2.	Tamil Nadu	31142	18389

The location-wise information is not maintained centrally. However, District-wise break-up of these industries break-up of these industries is given in the enclosed Statement-I and Statement-II for Gujarat and Tamil Nadu, respectively.

(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 Industries 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 I**

*District-wise Number of Registered SSI Units in the State Gujarat during 2001 and for the period from 1.1.2002 to 30.9.2002*

Sl. No.	Name of District	No. of SSI units registered during	
		2001	1.1.2002 to 30.9.2002
1	2	3	4
1.	Ahmedabad	709	483
2.	Amreli	183	156
3.	Banaskantha	343	299
4.	Bharuch	544	88
5.	Bhavnagar	182	6
6.	Dang	0	0
7.	Gandhinagar	149	87
8.	Jamnagar	473	426
9.	Junagadh	57	15
10.	Kheda (Nadiad)	312	218
11.	Kutch (Bhuj)	190	75
12.	Mehsana	424	304
13.	Panchamahals	168	26
14.	Rajkot	903	58
15.	Sabarkantha	254	213
16.	Surat	479	577
17.	Surendranagar	233	125
18.	Vadodara	666	318
19.	Valsad	289	393

1	2	3	4
20.	Anand	226	161
21.	Dahod	68	6
22.	Narmada	42	48
23.	Navsari	420	300
24.	Patan	309	336
25.	Porbandar	51	28
State Total		7674	4746

**Statement II**

*District-wise Number of registered SSI units in the State Tamil Nadu during 2001 and for the period from 1.1.2002 to 30.9.2002*

Sl. No.	Name of District	No. of SSI units registered during	
		2001	1.1.2002 to 30.9.2002
1	2	3	4
1.	Vellore	1307	687
2.	Cuddalore	973	518
3.	Kancheepuram	1365	815
4.	Coimbatore	3321	1243
5.	Dharmapuri	1060	726
6.	Kanyakumari	946	545
7.	Chennai	3654	1554
8.	Madurai	1087	635
9.	Nilgiris	263	194
10.	Ramanathapuram	411	445
11.	Salem	1905	1168
12.	Thanjavur	493	379
13.	Tiruchirapalli	684	439
14.	Tirunelveli	975	662
15.	Pudukottai	833	533
16.	Erode	1702	1042

1	2	3	4
17.	Virudhunagar	726	473
18.	Sivaganga	664	437
19.	Dingigul	813	754
20.	Thoothukudi	1434	922
21.	Tiruvannamalai	572	269
22.	Nagapattinam	395	209
23.	Villupuram	589	420
24.	Karur	528	321
25.	Perambalur	292	225
26.	Theni	570	454
27.	Thiruvavur	392	231
28.	Thiruvallur	2099	1523
29.	Namakkal	1089	566
State Total		31142	18389

[English]

#### Research for Medicines/Vaccines

3195. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the success attained by the Government in the development of anti-retro viral medicines and vaccines;

(b) whether any proposal to make prices of these drugs cheaper and affordable is under the consideration of the Government;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the follow up research projects going on in the Ministry and its various units;

(e) whether any agreement has been signed with any UN Agency/Pharmaceuticals Research Institute in this regard; and

(f) if so, the details of the coordination with HRD Ministry, Departments of Science, NACO, ICMR, NARI in this regard?

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

to (f) The Indian Council of Medical Research and the Department of Biotechnology are supporting research in the area of anti retroviral drugs and vaccines against HIV/AIDS.

The National AIDS Research Institute (NARI), Pune, under the Indian Council of Medical Research is engaged in R&D and clinical trials of anti-retroviral drugs for HIV. The National Institute for Research in Reproductive Health, Mumbai has also developed vaginal Microbicides, two of which are undergoing clinical trials.

There is no proposal under consideration to reduce the prices of these anti-retroviral medicines and vaccines as they are outside the price control under the provisions of Drugs (Price Control) Order, 1995.

The National AIDS Control Organisation (NACO) and the Indian Council of Medical Research have entered into a tripartite partnership with International AIDS Vaccine Initiative (IAVI), USA to develop a vaccine using six genes representing relevant antigens of the Indian HIV Strain. The prototype of the vaccine has undergone animal testing and the clinical trials will commence by the last quarter of 2003 at Pune, Maharashtra.

[Translation]

#### Capital Requirement of SSI Units

3196. SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI:  
SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN:

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

(a) whether the financial institutions of the country particularly the banks are unable to meet the capital requirements of industrial units of the small scale sector;

(b) if not, the current status in this regard;

(c) whether there has been a decline in the loan amount given by the banks to this sector;

(d) if so, the facts thereof;

(e) whether the percentage of loans to all small scale sector out of the total amount of banks loans is expected to be lower in 2002-03 as compared to 1999-00; and

(f) if so, the reasons therefor?

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

(a) The Banks have comfortable liquidity for lending to the industrial units of small scale sector to meet their credit requirements provided the projects are both viable and bankable.

(b) to (f) The flow of credit to SSI sector from the Public Sector Banks has gone up from Rs. 38,109 crores in March, 1998 to Rs. 49,743 crores in March, 2002. However, as per the information received from the Reserve Bank of India the percentage of SSI advances to Net Bank Credit (NBC) shows a declining trend from 15.6 per cent at the end of March, 2000 to 12.5 per cent at the end of March, 2002 (latest available). This decline could be attributed to the overall increase in the net bank credit, technical, write offs of bad debts to SSI borrowers by the banks, and recoveries made under the special scheme of compromise settlements of NPAs under SSI segments, increase in the advances to other areas under priority sector lending, etc.

[English]

#### **Fault Rectification Scheme**

3197. SHRI K.E. KRISHNAMURTHY:  
SHRI RAJO SINGH:

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

(a) whether the Government are aware that rural subscribers of BSNL including C-Dot and SMPS of Rural Exchanges are facing the problem of faulty services and frequent interruptions;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the matter has been enquired into;

(d) if so, whether the Government propose to launch faulty rectification scheme in different States; and

(e) if so, by when the scheme is likely to be implemented in different States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) No, Sir, telecom services of rural areas of BSNL are generally satisfactory including C-DOT and SMPS of Rural Exchanges.

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

(d) and (e) BSNL has already implemented the following fault rectification schemes in different states in a phased manner.

(i) Computerization of Fault Repair Service.

(ii) Interactive Voice Response System (IVRS) based centralized booking at Short Distance Charging Centre (SDCC).

#### **Fast Track Approval of Drugs**

3198. SHRI P.R. KHUNTE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some of the new Drugs are being cleared on fast track basis;

(b) if so, the criteria for the selection of such drugs for fast track approvals; and

(c) the details of the experts under different categories to whom such applications are referred to for expert opinion?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) Certain critical drugs like anti-cancer, anti-HIV/anti-retrovirals and Immuno-suppressants etc. which are critical from the point of view of public health, are cleared on a fast track basis. This is however, subject to the submission of all required as per provisions of Schedule Y of Drugs and Cosmetics Rules and opinion from the experts.

(c) The experts are mainly the Heads of Departments of the subjects concerned in various renowned Medical Institutions/Government Hospitals in the country, renowned Medical Oncologists and experts from NACO etc.

#### **Diversion of STD/ISD Lines**

3199. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether complaints regarding diversion of STD/ISD lines are increasing year after year in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the number of such cases detected by the Government during the last three years;

(c) whether the Government have conducted any inquiry into it;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the number of telephone exchange where dynamic locking system has been provided to subscribers; and

(f) by when this facility is likely to be provided in all the exchanges in Andhra Pradesh to stop diversion of STD/ISD lines?

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

(b) Information is given in the enclosed statement.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Information is given in the enclosed statement.

(e) All 3093 Telephone exchanges are having dynamic locking system.

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

#### **Statement**

Sl. No.	Year	No. of cases detected	Status
1.	2000	8	Disciplinary action initiated against 16 officers/officials.
2.	2001	6	Disciplinary Action initiated against 37 officers/officials.
3.	2002	—	

#### **Fate of Fiji Indians**

3200. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of Indians presently living in Fiji;

(b) the details of the problems faced by them;

(c) whether the Government have taken up this issue with Fiji Government, including the assistance proposed to be extended to them;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Fiji Indians in this regard have also petitioned the UN Committee on Elimination of all forms of Racial Discrimination; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI VINOD KHANNA): (a) to (f) In Fiji, according to the 1996 census, 337,000 (43.6%) out of a total population of 773,000 are of Indian origin. They face political, economic and social problems.

(i) In the 2001 elections, the Fiji Labour Party led by Mr. Mahendra Chaudhary emerged as the second largest party. It was not included in the Government though the Constitution has provisions under Article 99(5) that Prime Minister should offer Cabinet positions to all parties which have 10% or more representation in the House on a proportionate basis. The Fiji Labour Party took the matter to the High Court which ruled in April 2002 in their favour. The Fijian Government, however, filed an appeal in the Supreme court and the hearing is scheduled in June 2003.

(ii) The non-renewal of land leases to farmers of Indian origin has led to their evacuation from the land and resulting migration.

(iii) Socially, they generally feel discriminated by the Fijian establishment which is illustrated by lack of adequate representation in the higher echelons of bureaucracy, police and the armed forces. The Social Justice Act enacted by the present Government has introduced affirmative action programme based on race, which has been resented by the Indo-Fijian community.

2. The Government of India remains in touch with the Government of Fiji as well as the leaders of the people of Indian origin with a view to ensuring equitable political, economic and social rights for all its citizens. In addition, the Government is working with the Commonwealth Ministerial Action Group (CMAG), of which India is a member, to keep Fiji active on its agenda until the resolution of the Constitutional case on power sharing.

3. It is understood that the National Farmers Union, led by Mr. Mahendra Chaudhary, has made submission to the UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD) on 'Discriminatory Policies and Practices in Fiji'. Citizens Constitutional Forum, an NGO, has also made a similar submission on Fiji to the CERD. The Fiji case is scheduled to be examined by the Committee in Geneva on 11-12 March, 2003.

**Cardiology Wing for CGHS Beneficiaries**

3201. SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Estimates Committee had recommended for setting up a hospital in New Delhi exclusively for CGHS beneficiaries;

(b) if so, whether consequent to that a separate medical wing for CGHS beneficiaries was set up in Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital;

(c) if so, whether the Government propose to set up a separate Cardiology Wing on the lines of Medical Wing exclusively for CGHS beneficiaries in Dr. R.M.L. Hospital;

(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) No, Sir.

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

**Pilot Project of Hepatitis 'B'**

3202. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the location-wise details regarding the results of the Pilot Project of Hepatitis-B vaccination which was started in some districts of the country;

(b) whether the Government propose to extend this Pilot Project to all the districts of the country; and

(c) if so, the details of the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) The pilot project is being introduced in a Phased manner in the country. In 2002-2003, it is being introduced in the slums of 15 cities and in 2003-2004 in 32 districts. The details of the cities and Districts are enclosed as statement-I and II.

(b) and (c) The Hepatitis-B vaccine will be administered alongwith the three doses of primary DPT vaccination. At the end of the two years, the experience

from the first phase of Introduction would form the basis of a long term policy for expanding introduction of Hepatitis-B in the country and its integration into the Universal Immunization Programme (UIP) in the remaining part of the Tenth Five Year Plan (2004-2008).

**Statement***List of Cities*

Sl. No.	Name
1.	Greater Mumbai
2.	Kolkata
3.	Chennai
4.	Delhi
5.	Hyderabad
6.	Bangalore
7.	Ahmedabad
8.	Kanpur
9.	Pune
10.	Lucknow
11.	Vadodra
12.	Jaipur
13.	Indore
14.	Patna
15.	Bhopal

**Statement***List of Districts*

Sl.No.	State	District
1	2	3
1.	Tamil Nadu	1. Madurai 2. Nilgiri 3. Virudhunagar 4. Ramanathapuram
2.	Kerala	5. Alappuzha 6. Ernakulam 7. Pathanamthitta
3.	Karnataka	8. Kodagu (Kurg) 9. Shimoga



1	2	3	4
		10. Mysore	
4.	Andhra Pradesh	11. Chittoor	
		12. Vizianagaram	
5.	Goa	13. Goa	
6.	Maharashtra	14. Ratnagiri	
		15. Chandrapur	
		16. Satara	
7.	Madhya Pradesh	17. Balaghat	
8.	Orissa	18. Sundergarh	
9.	Punjab	19. Ropar	
		20. Hoshiarpur	
10.	Haryana	21. Panchkula	
		22. Ambala	
11.	Himachal Pradesh	23. Hamirpur	
		24. Solan	
12.	Uttaranchal	25. Nainital	
13.	Pondicherry	26. Pondicherry	
14.	Lakshadweep	27. Lakshadweep	
15.	Assam	28. Jorhat	
		29. Sibsagar	
16.	J & K	30. Rajouri	
		31. Udhampur	
17.	Gujarat	32. Surat	

[Translation]

#### Trauma Centres

3203. DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of trauma centres set up in Delhi as on date;

(b) whether these trauma centres are adequate to meet the requirements of Delhi;

(c) if not, whether the Government have any proposal to set up more trauma centres in Delhi; and

(d) if so, by when?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (d) Government of NCT of Delhi has informed that there are two trauma centres functioning under Delhi Government at Sushrut Trauma Centre under the control of LNJP Hospital and the other under the control of Guru Teg Bahadur Hospital and that a 140 bedded new trauma centre is under construction at Deen Dayal Upadhyay Hospital which is likely to be commissioned during 2003-04.

In so far as Central Government Hospitals are concerned, a Trauma Centre namely Jai Prakash Narayan Trauma Centre at All India Institute of Medical Sciences is being set up and its construction work is expected to be completed by the end of 2003. A proposal for expansion and upgradation of existing casualty and emergency services of Dr. RML Hospital has also been approved. Apart from this, all Central Government Hospitals are well equipped to attend to accident and trauma cases.

[English]

#### National Highways in Southern States

3204. SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of National Highways which passes through Tamil Nadu and Kerala;

(b) the number of districts of the above said States that are covered by the National Highways;

(c) whether the Government propose to cover the remaining districts of the States; and

(d) if so, the details thereof indicating the area particularly in the Sivaganga district of Tamil Nadu?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS [MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI]: (a) National Highway No. 47, 49 Extn., 208 and 220 pass through Tamil Nadu and Kerala.

(b) Twenty eight of twenty nine districts in Tamil Nadu and all the fourteen districts in Kerala are covered by National Highways.

(c) Guidelines for declaration of National Highways do not provide for connectivity to districts.

(d) Does not arise.

**Indo-Myanmar Border Trade**

3205. SHRI HOLKHOMANG HAKKIP: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal for further expansion of Indo-Myanmar Border Trade;

(b) whether there is any scope to increase the number of trade items under this border trade;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the ongoing Indo-Myanmar border trade is based on barter system;

(e) if so, the expected time limit for the continuation of this system;

(f) whether there is any move to set up a foreign currency exchange centre at Moreh or Tamu so as to make the trading more convenient to both sides; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI VINOD KHANNA): (a) Yes. Government is in the process of setting up a Joint Trade Committee chaired by the respective Ministers of Commerce to promote bilateral trade.

(b) and (c) A Border Trade Agreement between India and Myanmar was signed in January 1994 and became operational from April 12, 1995. Out of the 23 items traded, the principal items are agricultural namely soyabari from India and red-kidney beans from Myanmar. 7 more items i.e. wood, bamboo, tomato, sunflower seeds, resin, catechu and betel leaves have been included for border trade vide Department of Revenue Notification dated March 1, 2002. Border trade between the two countries has been taken place from the trading point of Moreh on the Indian side and Tamu on the Myanmar side. It should be possible to increase the number of items traded even further. However, the existence of only one border trading point is a constraint. Under the Border Trade Agreement there is a provision for opening of a second route viz. Champai (India) and Rih (Myanmar) which is yet to be operationalised. Myanmar side has indicated that the road on its side is not yet motorable. For promotion of border trade between India and Myanmar, early opening of this route would be helpful. Government of India has taken this up with the Government of Myanmar.

(d) and (e) No. Barter as a form of border trade was stopped by Myanmar Government in 1997 with all its neighbouring countries, including India, through all border trading points. Since then trade with India has been conducted on normal foreign exchange basis.

(f) and (g) No. Does not apply.

[*Translation*]

**Protest by Officers of BSNL**

3206. SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:  
SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI:

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

(a) whether the officers of the BSNL had registered their protest by observing silence at Rajghat in December, 2002; and

(b) if so, the demands put forth by them and the action being taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Their demands *inter-alia* includes extension of five year limit for deemed deputation, continuous recruitment to 'Indian Telecom Service' cadre through Union Public Service Commission, cadre review of Indian Telecom Service, upgradation of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited Board and financial viability of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited.

The demands of the Officers of BSNL are under the consideration in consultation with the concerned Departments/Ministries. To ensure the financial viability of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited, the Government has agreed to provide certain package of measures viz., moratorium on repayment of principal and interest upto 31.3.2004 on Government loans, exemption from payment of dividend on preference share capital upto 31.3.2004. BSNL will also enjoy 50% and 25% waiver on dividend due on equity for the years 2002-03 and 2003-04 respectively. Payment of license fee and spectrum charges by Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited will be set off against reimbursements upto 31.3.2003 of losses incurred on account of rural telephony operations or other socially desirable projects.

*[English]***Conservation into Four Lane Carriageways**

3207. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have a proposal for conversion of two lane carriageways on the high traffic density corridors of NH-6 and NH-42 to four lane carriageways; 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) NH-6 is from Hajira in Gujarat to Kolkata in West Bengal. It has a total length of 1949 km. and passes through the States of Gujarat, Maharashtra, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Orissa and West Bengal. The sections considered for four laning are as below:

1. km. 7.4 to 13.2 in Gujarat State—Proposal under consideration.
2. km. 282-308 in Chhattisgarh—Work is at award stage
3. km. 17.6 to 132.45 in West Bengal—It is a part of NHDP project being implemented by NHAI and targeted for substantial completion by December, 2003.

Presently, there is no proposal of four laning of NH-42 and the balance length of NH-6.

*[Translation]***Road Projects of Jammu and Kashmir**

3208. SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of proposals sent by Jammu and Kashmir from March 1, 2001 to October, 2002 regarding construction of by-passes, four laning of national highways and construction of bridges on national highways;

(b) the action taken thereon and the funds allocated for each of the proposals;

(c) whether the Government have prescribed any time limit for the completion of these works; 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) No proposal for construction of new bypasses, four laning of National Highways and construction of bridges on National Highways were received from Jammu and Kashmir between March 1, 2001 and October, 2002.

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

*[English]***Construction of National Highway**

3209. SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any proposal from Maharashtra for the construction of National Highway from Nagpur to Solapur via Kolhapur-Miran;

(b) if so, whether the Government have examined the proposal; and

(c) if so, the present status thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS [MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI]: (a) to (c) All the proposals for conversion of State Highways into National Highways have been returned to the respective State Governments. Presently there is a ban on declaration of new National Highways due to fund constraints. The Government may, however, consider conversion of very limited lengths of a few State Highways into National Highways during the course of the 10th Five Year Plan, keeping in view the traffic needs, inter-se priority and availability of funds, after the ban is lifted.

**Breakthrough in Diabetes Treatment**

3210. SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the scientists have identified a saturated fat by-product as a potential contributor to the development of type-II diabetes as reported in *'The Hindu'* dated January 29, 2003;

(b) if so, whether the breakthrough has the potential to lead to novel treatments for diabetes; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (c) According to the Indian Council of Medical Research, the scientists of Colorado State University, U.S.A. have not identified a Saturated Fat by product as a potential contributor to the development of Type-II Diabetes, but only reported to have established the Bio-Chemical Mechanism of how Saturated Fatty Acids inhibit Insulin Signaling. They observed that the Saturated Fatty Acids result in the accumulation of Ceramide which inhibits Insulin Signaling in Cultured Muscle Cells. Thus the findings, at best, point out towards the role of Ceramide in inducing Saturated Fatty Acid—Mediated Insulin Resistance. Indian Council of Medical Research says that it is premature to make positive claims on the findings for treatment of Diabetic patients in India and further research is required to establish the role of Ceramide as a sole contributor in Insulin resistance.

[*Translation*]

#### Vacant Posts of SCs/STs

3211. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether some posts of SCs and STs under various categories are lying vacant in Department of Space and its subordinate offices;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether various categories of the employees working in the said Department and offices have been promoted and fresh appointments made during the last three years;

(d) if so, the year-wise and category-wise appointments made under various categories during the said period and current year, till date;

(e) whether the prescribed rules have been followed regarding the recruitment and promotion of candidates from the SCs and STs categories; and

(f) if not, the remedial steps taken in this regard?

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 information is furnished in Statement-I enclosed.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The information is furnished in Statement-II enclosed.

(e) Yes, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

#### Statement I

*Details of number of posts reserved for SCs/STs, Group-wise, lying vacant in the Department of Space and its Subordinate Offices*

Category	Group 'A'	Group 'B'	Group 'C'	Group 'D'
Scheduled Castes	—	13	17	—
Scheduled Tribes	01	13	20	—

#### Statement II

*Details of Group-wise appointments made from the year 2000 to till date*

Year	Group 'A'	Group 'B'	Group 'C'	Group 'D'
2000	122	—	99	17
2001	163	03	74	14
2002	103	05	24	14
2003 (till 28.2.2003)	11	—	03	03

[*English*]

#### Maintenance of Separate Accounts

3212. SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India has directed telephone companies to maintain separate accounts for different services they provide;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by TRAI to ensure prevention of cross-subsidisation in services provided by telephone companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government has notified "Telecom Regulatory Authority of India, Service Providers (Maintenance of Books of Accounts and other Documents) Rules, 2002" under which telecom service providers are required to maintain books of accounts to reflect service-wise operational expenses, revenues and fixed assets.

(c) In accordance with the provisions of Telecommunications Tariff Order (TTO), 1999, all operators are required to report tariffs to the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI). This requirement provides an opportunity to TRAI to monitor the tariffs with respect to cross subsidization, predatory pricing etc. TRAI intervenes on tariffs either *suo moto* or on the basis of a reference to it from any affected party on specified grounds including cross subsidization. Further, TRAI has also formulated a System on Accounting Separation (SAS), which would assist in identifying cross subsidization practices.

#### Commission to PCO/STD Booth Operators

3213. SHRI VINAY KUMAR SORAKE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the PCO/STD booth operators have sent any representation to the Government for increasing commission;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the decision taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Representations have been received from individual PCO booth operators and their associations.

(c) The commission of the STD/PCO franchisees was raised with effect from 1st April, 2001. It has not been found feasible to increase the rates of commission any further. STD/PCO booth owners can increase their earnings through provision of additional facilities.

#### 6-Laning of National Highways

3214. PROF. UMMARREDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Highway Development Project involves 6-laning of some portions of the National Highway network;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the stretches which will be upgraded to 6-lanes; and

(d) the time by which 6-laning will be completed?

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

(b) to (d) Given in the enclosed statement.

#### Statement

##### Details of six-laning of National Highway Development Project

S. No.	Section	NH No.	Total Length (in Km.)	Date of Completion/ Anticipated date of completion
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Six laning of Kamaspur to Haryana/Delhi Border.	1	15	November, 2001
2.	Six laning of Panchi Gujran to Kamaspur (Sonepat)	1	22	April, 2004
3.	Eighth laning of Haryana/Delhi Border to Mukarba Chowk	1	13	February, 2004

1	2	3	4	5
4.	Eighth laning of Mukarba Chowk to Mall Road (Delhi)	1	8	November, 2003
5.	Panipat Elevated Highway	1	10	December, 2006
6.	Panipat to Panchigujran	1	20	December, 2007
7.	Ram Bagh to Tundla	2	23	March, 2005
8.	Avathi village of Nandi Hills cross.	7	3	July, 2001
9.	Nandi Hills Cross to Devagiri village & Meenukunte village to Habbal	7	8	March, 2004
10.	Jaipur to Kishangarh (BOT) Project	8	90	July, 2005
11.	Delhi-Gurgaon (Access Controlled)-on BOT	8	28	April, 2005

#### **Agreements with Foreign Countries for NHs Development**

3215. SHRI A. NARENDRA: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state.

(a) whether the Government have signed any agreements with foreign countries for development of four laning of National Highways in the country;

(b) if so, the details of the agreements signed with each country; and

(c) the expenditure likely to be incurred thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS [MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI]: (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Government has signed a memorandum of agreement with Government of Malayasia on 19.12.2002 which was later replaced by a concession agreement signed on 27.03.2001 for the following three projects:

- (i) 4 laning of Tada-Nellore section of NH-5 from km. 52.8 to km. 163.6.
- (ii) 4 laning of Nandigama-Ibrahimpattanam section on NH-9 from km. 217 to km. 252.
- (iii) Operation and maintenance of 4 laned section of NH-9 between Vijayawada to Ibrahimpattanam.

These are BOT projects and are being implemented by a Consortium laid by CIDB Inventures Malaysia, a

Government of Malaysia entity. The total project cost agreed to at Rs. 760 crores will be invested by consortium except an portion of grant amounting Rs. 167.5 crores which is being provided by National Highways Authority of India. The projects are 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.

#### **Conversion of State Highways Into National Highways**

3216. SHRI P.D. ELANGOVAN: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have plans to convert more State Highways into National Highways in the coming years;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the State Highways that have already been converted into National Highways in the last five years in Tamil Nadu, location-wise and the expenditure incurred on the same; and

(c) the details of the expenditure incurred for the conversion and maintenance of State Highways into National Highways in the country, State-wise, Year-wise in each of the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS [MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI]: (a) Presently there is a ban

on declaration of new National Highways due to fund constraints. The Government may, however, consider conversion of very limited length of a new State Highways into National Highways during the course of the 10th Five Year Plan, keeping in view the traffic needs, inter-se priority and availability of funds, after the ban is lifted.

(b) The details of State roads converted into National Highways during last 5 years in Tamil Nadu are in the enclosed Statement-I. The allocation of funds is not done National Highway-wise but State-wise. During last 5 years an expenditure of Rs. 288.93 crore was incurred for development works on National Highways in Tamil Nadu.

(c) The State-wise and year-wise details of expenditure incurred for development and maintenance of National Highways during the last three years in Tamil Nadu are in the enclosed Statement-II.

**Statement I***Details of National Highways declared during the last five years in Tamil Nadu*

Sl. No.	NH No.	Route	Length ( in Km)
1.	45A Extn	Pondicherry-Chidambaram-Nagapattinam	130
2.	45B	Trichy-Madurai-Tuticorin	257
3.	66	Pondicherry-Tindivanam-Gingee-Krishnagiri	234
4.	67	Nagapattinam-Trichy-Karur	217
5.	67 Extn	Karur-Coimbatore	140
6.	68	Ullundurpet-Salem	134
7.	205	Ananthapur-Tirupatti-Chennai	82
8.	207	Hosur-Surjapur-Devanhalli-Nelamangala	20
9.	208	Kollam-Tenkasi-thirumanglam	125
10.	209	Dindigul-Coimbatore-Annur-Kollegal-Bangalore	286
11.	210	Trichy-Pudukottai-Ramathapuram	160
12.	219	Madnapalli-Kuppam-Krishgiri	22
13.	220	Kollam-Teni	55
Total			1862

**Statement II***State-wise details of Expenditure incurred for Development and Maintenance of National Highways during the Last Three years*

(Rs. in crores)

Sl.No.	Name of States/UTs	Development			Maintenance		
		1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	37.37	107.93	94.56	50.68	50.98	40.16
2.	Assam	27.70	48.74	74.90	30.68	37.57	39.90
3.	Bihar	59.50	60.15	49.15	90.59	55.93	37.87
4.	Chandigarh	0.74	1.40	1.45	1.18	0.28	0.10
5.	Chhattisgarh	0	4.72	32.28	—	9.35	24.20
6.	Delhi	4.22	4.83	4.82	1.33	0.82	0.00
7.	Goa	16.70	21.38	19.75	10.49	5.62	3.69
8.	Gujarat	86.83	86.75	53.97	36.61	21.83	21.70
9.	Haryana	90.45	92.52	103.88	15.45	14.67	17.40
10.	Himachal Pradesh	35.03	38.93	44.16	24.28	33.51	18.85
11.	Jammu & Kashmir	0.91	0.52	2.23	0.24	0.83	0.31
12.	Jharkhand	—	11.89	26.70	—	7.75	17.45

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
13.	Karnataka	68.46	75.54	106.07	68.16	45.84	40.40
14.	Kerala	108.09	43.91	82.25	47.69	33.31	35.72
15.	Madhya Pradesh	115.47	126.50	92.42	53.03	85.07	53.58
16.	Maharashtra	166.62	196.32	172.33	85.29	42.95	60.41
17.	Manipur	8.95	5.35	10.47	5.85	6.88	7.55
18.	Meghalaya	13.73	15.63	16.84	8.15	8.75	10.37
19.	Mizoram	2.83	9.95	21.67	5.38	7.53	3.48
20.	Nagaland	8.86	14.90	14.97	10.22	3.61	3.46
21.	Orissa	91.98	84.96	56.67	47.13	41.50	46.59
22.	Pondicherry	2.81	1.47	1.99	1.52	1.23	0.81
23.	Punjab	42.33	38.55	58.66	4.69	15.37	17.12
24.	Rajasthan	43.12	84.03	83.68	63.37	38.78	42.94
25.	Tamil Nadu	53.48	82.64	96.79	53.83	50.47	35.24
26.	Tripura	—	—	—	0.24	—	—
27.	Uttar Pradesh	117.76	139.39	133.69	101.19	55.94	53.46
28.	Uttaranchal	—	1.24	21.02	0.00	4.09	8.15
29.	West Bengal	80.73	109.83	77.86	47.57	22.95	42.92

#### P&T Facilities in Rural Areas

3217. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL:  
SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK:  
SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR:

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

(a) the per capita availability of post and telegraph facilities in the rural sector at present and the extent to which it compares with the urban sector in the country particularly in Maharashtra and Karnataka;

(b) whether the Government propose to increase the number of post and telegraph offices in the rural areas of these States during 2003-04;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) the various steps initiated by the Government for modernization of the telegraph services in these States during 2002-03;

(f) if so, the details thereof including the funds allocated for the purpose; and

(g) the time by which the modernization of services is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SU. THIRUNAVUKKARASAR): (a) The availability of Post Offices in rural and urban areas of Maharashtra and Karnataka as on 31.3.2002 is given in the enclosed statement-I. With reference to availability of telegraph facilities in Maharashtra and Karnataka, the information is given in the enclosed Statement-II.

(b) to (d) Efforts are continuously made by the Department of Posts in order to expand the postal network by opening post offices as per plan targets subject to fulfillment of relevant norms and availability of requisite resources. There is no proposal to increase telegraph offices in rural areas in the country, including Maharashtra and Karnataka during 2003-2004 as there is proposal to cover all villages by Telecom facilities, expansion of



telecom network and introduction of various related facilities in rural areas. Consequent on provision of STD/ISD/FAX services and Mobile phone facilities covering entire Karnataka State, a reduction has been noted in booking of telegraphs STD/ISD calls in CTOs/TOs.

(e) and (f) In Karnataka Internet services has been introduced in CTO Bangalore/Mysore and Telegraph office Tumkur on experimental basis. No funds have been allocated.

(g) As the Internet services have been introduced only on experimental basis in Karnataka, no time frame can be fixed.

#### **Statement I**

##### Population Served per Post Office

Circle	Urban	Rural
Maharashtra	29217	4978
Karnataka	13423	4064
National Average	17318	5343

#### **Statement II**

##### The per capita telegraph facilities

Circle	Urban	Rural
Maharashtra	1:81388	1:32880
Karnataka	1:27285	1:9077
National Average	1:38839	1:17703

#### **Kung-FU Competitions**

3218. SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Kung-Fu has been approved by the Sports Council of India;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether Kung-Fu competitions have been organized in several States;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether the Government have aided the said competitions; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI VIKRAM VERMA): (a) to (c) The National Sports Federations are recognized by the Government of India and not approved by the Sports Council of India. No Federation for Kung-Fu discipline has been recognized by the Government since comments of the Indian Olympic Association on the proposal have not been received.

(d) to (g) As per information contained in the proposal of Kung-Fu Federation of India, it has conducted first National Championship in 1995 and since 1999, it has been conducting National Championships every year. Government extends financial assistance to recognized National Sports Federations only. Since no Federation is recognized by the Government for Kung-Fu, no financial assistance has been extended.

#### **WHO Assistance to NACO**

3219. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National AIDS Control Organisation (NACO) interacts frequently with WHO;

(b) if so, whether there is any substantial funding by WHO for NACO's activities;

(c) if so, the details of funding given by WHO in 2001-2002 and 2002-2003 for NACO's activities;

(d) whether the NACO deputed officials to WHO's meetings in Geneva on a weekly basis;

(e) if so, the extent to which WHO bears foreign travel expenditure of such officials; and

(f) the details thereof?

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

(b) WHO provides funds to NACO in the form of Local Cost Subsidy (LCS) as per activities approved for funding under the bienniums (i.e. two yearly action plans) After completion of the activity NACO sends expenditure statements along with unspent balances, if any, in respect of each activity.

(c) Funds given by WHO in the 2001-2002 and 2002-2003 bienniums for NACO activities are enclosed in the Statement-I and Statement-II.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) and (f) Does not arise. A listing of official tours funded by WHO is also enclosed.

**Statement I**

S. No.	WHO Biennium 2000-2001 Activity	Amount Received from WHO
1	2	3
1.	Training of Microbiologists and Lab Technicians at Kolkata, Nagpur, Hyderabad, Chennai	Rs. 21,91,000.00
2.	Conference of Deans/Principals of Medical Colleges and Medical Superintendents of large hospitals at Northern Region, Eastern Region, Southern Region, Western Region	Rs. 42,29,000.00
3.	Seminar on National AIDS/STD Control Programmed, Safe Blood and Blood Product, New Delhi	Rs. 4,30,000.00
4.	Training of Trainers in Planning of HIV/AIDS Communication in all States/UTs	Rs. 20,00,000.00
5.	District Nodal Officers Training at Ranchi, Mumbai and Raipur	Rs. 10,00,000.00
6.	Microbiologists and Lab Technicians for Intersectoral Collaborations	Rs. 9,74,230.00
7.	Expert Group meeting on development of State Art Model Blood Banks in India	Rs. 1,90,000.00
8.	Regional Meeting on Quality Assurance in Blood Banks, Guwahati, Chennai, Chandigarh, Mumbai, and Bhubaneswar	Rs. 11,24,632.00
9.	Expert Group Meeting of Bio-Statistician and Epidemiologist on Projection and AIDS cases and deaths, Chennai	Rs. 4,12,383.00
10.	Regional Dissemination, Meeting on Integrated guidelines for HIV/AIDS/STD Surveillance, Mumbai, Jaipur, Bangalore, Shillong	Rs. 8,00,000.00

1	2	3
11.	Studies on Prevalence of STD in Delhi, Nagpur, Chennai, Hyderabad and Calcutta.	Rs. 50,50,000.00
12.	Feasibility studies on use of female condoms among Commercial Sex Workers in Mumbai and Chennai	Rs. 5,24,000.00
13.	Prepare and develop integrated guidelines on HIV/AIDS/STD Surveillance	Rs. 50,000.00
14.	Visit by Members of Task Force on Surveillance	Rs. 2,75,000.00

**Statement II**

S. No.	WHO Biennium 2002-2002 Activity	Amount Received from WHO
1.	Hands on Training of Clinicians, Chennai, Mumbai, New Delhi and Imphal.	Rs. 43,90,000.00
2.	Training Workshop for donor organizers in VNRD Recruitment at Calcutta, Delhi, Jaipur, Chandigarh and Mumbai	Rs. 22,57,800.00
3.	To compile develop document and dissemination of guidelines and scientific evidence	Rs. 50,000.00
4.	HIV Sentinel Surveillance Programme, New Delhi (29.10.2002)	Rs. 1,58,000.00
5.	Hands on Training of Clinicians Assessment of impact of training	Rs. 1,00,000.00
6.	Visit of Task Force Members on surveillance under extraordinary response to HIV in India	Rs. 4,00,000.00
7.	HIV Sentinel Surveillance Programmed, New Delhi (30.12.2002)	Rs. 1,58,000.00
8.	LCS Consultation for reviewing the evidence and validation of assumptions, New Delhi	Rs. 3,03,250.00

**Officials Tours 2000-2002, funded by WHO**

S. No.	Month	Duration	Country Visited	Purpose
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Jan. 2002	3 days	Bangkok	To attend regional consultation on global health sector strategy on HIV/AIDS
2.	Feb. 2002	3 days	Beijing	To attend GFATM Meeting
3.	July-Aug. 2002	10 days	Thailand	Workshop on clinical management

1	2	3	4	5
4.	Sept.-Oct. 2001	38 days	Indonesia Thailand	Inter Country workshop on planning for HIV/AIDS
5.	Feb. 2001	4 days	Philippine	To attend WHO/SEARO informal meeting on Behavioural surveillance
6.	June 2001	4 days	Myanmar	International workshop on Management of STI
7.	June 2000	4 days	Nepal	To attend "HIV/AIDS" costing workshop on Intervention in context of SEARO countries.

### **Endless Wait of a Mute Sportsman**

3220. SHRI SUNIL KHAN: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether receiving reimbursement from SAI has become an endless wait for a mute shuttler as reported in the Hindustan Times dated February 12, 2003;

(b) if so, the facts of the matter reported therein; and

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

THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI VIKRAM VERMA): (a) to (c) The press report relates to reimbursement of the expenditure, incurred by Shri Rohit Bhasker, a SAI trainee in respect of an international exposure. The position in the case is that Shri Rohit Bhasker submitted his claim on 17.02.03 to the Sports Authority of India and after processing the case, an amount of Rs. 37,717/- was released to him on 5.3.2003.

### **Agreement between Western Union and Postal Department**

3221. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the terms, conditions and agreement between Western Union and Postal Department;

(b) the income earned by the post offices, turn over transaction fees;

(c) the details of the cost for the Postal Department after taking into consideration the space made available, alongwith manpower etc.;

(d) the total business share of post offices in the Western Union as compared to their other agents;

(e) whether the Postal Department includes the charges of its goodwill and credibility for services made available to Western Union; and

(f) if so, whether the Department will reconsider the same and insist for minimum commission, fees charges from post offices from the Western Union?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SU. THIRUNAVUKKARASAR): (a) The Department of Posts entered into an agreement with Western Union Financial Services International on January 24, 2001. The agreement provides for availability of International Money Transfer Service from identified post offices. As a result of this collaboration the recipients can collect the money from Post Offices immediately after the remittance has been made by the sender from abroad. At present under the scheme, only inward remittance service to India is available from more than 185 countries. The agreement is valid for 5 years.

(b) to (e) The Department has earned an income of more than Rs. 3 crores since the inception of this service. Its income includes a percentage of the charges levied on the sender and a percentage of the foreign exchange gains per transaction. The service has brought in foreign exchange of more than 40 million US Dollars since inception. Besides providing customers a reliable channel for receiving remittances from across the globe and bringing valuable foreign exchange the partnership also optimizes utilization of the existing network and resources of the Department including buildings, manpower, hardware, software as well as brand identity. The Department only incurs marginal additional costs on items such as telephony, forms and stationery and marketing. The Department operates this service on a cost plus

basis after consideration of all the factors. It has a 11% market share in the business.

(f) No, Sir. There is no such proposal at present in view of the position explained above.

#### Permission for New Drugs

3222. DR. BALIRAM:  
SHRI P.R. KHUNTE:

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

(a) whether in certain cases the permission for new drugs has been granted within a short period of one month's time whereas in most of the other cases the time taken is much more;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of the applications received for the new drug permissions, alongwith the date of receipt and the date of approval by DCGI during 2002;

(d) the details of pending applications including the names of the drugs and companies;

(e) the number of drugs whose clinical trials is being done alongwith the names of the drugs, companies and the centres approved for the trial; and

(f) the manner in which the authenticity of such trials is monitored?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) No Sir. Evaluation of new drug applications is a complex process and time taken varies according to the nature of the application.

(c) in the year 2002, about 1017 applications of various categories of new drugs were received. A list of new drugs approved during the year 2002 alongwith date is enclosed statement.

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

(f) Clinical trial are required to be conducted by qualified clinical investigators as per Good Clinical Practice (GCP) guidelines and after due approval by Institutional Ethics Committee. The Ethics Committee are also required to follow "Ethical Guidelines for Biomedical Research on Human Subjects" published by ICMR and monitor the trial.

#### Statement

##### *New Drugs Approved from 1.1.2002 to 31.12.2002*

S. No.	Name of the Drug	Application Date	Approval Date
1	2	3	4
1.	Meropenan Inj.	07-08-2001	08-01-2002
2.	Dimatoprost-Opth.	28-03-2001	08-01-2002
3.	Fosinopril Sod.	23-03-2001	10-01-2002
4.	Zaleplon	30-05-2001	17-01-2002
5.	Montelukast Sodium	07-11-2000	13-02-2002
6.	DtaP Vaccine	16-07-1997	01-02-2002
7.	Thymogen	15-12-1997	12-02-2002
8.	Mifepristone	25-06-1996	13-02-2002
9.	Mecobalamin Inj.	03-01-2002	14-02-2002
10.	Dexrazoxen	27-09-2000	26-02-2002
11.	Bicalutamide	21-05-2001	07-03-2002
12.	Apraclonidene	27-01-1998	15-03-2002
13.	Mizolastine	20-07-2001	15-03-2002
14.	Miltefosine	27-02-2002 (C/T initiated on 12-11-1996)	15-03-2002
15.	Loteprednol	31-07-2001	15-03-2002
16.	Ziprasidone	09-04-2001	15-03-2002
17.	Tranexamic Acid	24-04-2001	16-03-2002
18.	Abcavir	11-06-2001	22-03-2002
19.	Nadifloxacin	07-12-1998	28-03-2002
20.	Famcyclovir	25-11-2000	11-04-2002
21.	Tamsulosin	20-08-1998	15-04-2002
22.	Nateglinide	05-07-2000	01-05-2002
23.	Larcanidipine	10-01-2002	07-05-2002
24.	Quetiapine	07-11-2001	31-05-2002
25.	Itopride	27-9-1999	09-05-2002
26.	Alprostradil	10-12-1997	09-05-2002
27.	Isotretinoin	16-01-2000	21-06-2002

1	2	3	4
28.	Nebivolol	19-04-2000	12-07-2002
29.	Pygenum A. Extract	20-06-1995	30-07-2002
30.	Serolimus	09-07-1999	15-07-2002
31.	Drotrecogin alpha	27-03-2002	23-07-2002
32.	Valdecoxib	09-04-2002	01-09-2002
33.	Thalidomide	23-04-2002	12-08-2002
34.	(S)-Amlodipine	26-06-2001	16-08-2002
35.	Cabergoline	20-08-2001	05-09-2002
36.	Butorphenol	13-03-2000	11-09-2002
37.	Gemtuzumab	02-11-2000	12-09-2002
38.	Quinapril	18-07-2001	19-09-2002
39.	Valacyclovir	16-09-1998	25-09-2002
40.	Fosphenytoin	05-11-2001	01-10-2002
41.	Ceftiofur	11-02-2002	08-10-2002
42.	Metaxalon	23-11-2001	08-10-2002
43.	Acamprosate	16-07-2001	30-10-2002
44.	Cefepime	31-07-2001	30-10-2002
45.	Tegaserod Maleate	21-3-2002	01-11-2002
46.	Aztreonam	01-05-2001	01-11-2002
47.	Parecoxib	14-06-2002	01-11-2002
48.	Balasalazide disodium	27-6-2001	12-11-2002
49.	Cefetamet Pivoxil	20-11-2000	14-11-2002
50.	Telmisartan	11-2-2002	25-11-2002
51.	Levocetizine	15-3-2002	12-12-2002
52.	Poractant a	01-05-2002	24-12-2002
53.	Reboxetine	01-11-2001	31-12-2002

#### **Constitution of Committee on Cellphones**

3223. SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH:  
DR. MANDA JAGANNATH:  
SHRI ANANTA NAYAK:

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

(a) whether any major tangles in the telecom sector have come to Government's notice recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to constitute a committee to look into the various issues concerning the WLL mobile and cellphone services;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) by when the committee is likely to submit its report to the Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) and (b) Sir, mainly, differences between the Cellular and basic Service Operators, with regard to the Limited Mobility Service using Wireless in Local Loop provided by the Basic Service Operators, came to the notice of the Government.

(c) and (d) Although, the matter is before the statutory Tribunal, namely, the Telecom Disputes Settlement and Appellate Tribunal, a Committee consisting of the representatives of the concerned parties has been constituted with a view to explore the possibility of amicable resolution of the differences.

(e) No formal report is required to be submitted by the committee.

#### **Foreign Assistance to AP for PHCs**

3224. SHRI Y.V. RAO: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Andhra Pradesh has sent any proposal to the Union Government for financial and technical assistance from Federal Republic of Germany for upgradation of Primary Health Centres in the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when the proposal is likely to be cleared?

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

(b) The proposal titled 'Upgradation of left over hospitals and balance PHCs' seeking financial assistance of Rs. 220 crores under Bilateral Development Corporation Agreement with the Federal Republic of Germany—Financial and Technical Assistance to Indian Projects was

posed to the German authorities in June, 2002 for necessary funding.

(c) After appraising the project, the German Authorities would take a view on providing assistance to the project.

#### **Radiation Technology for Medical/Food Products**

3225. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether radiation technology is being used for medical and food products;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken to apply radiation technology in health care and food preservation?

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) Yes, Sir. The Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) is involved in utilising radiation technology for sterilisation of medical products and processing of food products. Three plants have been developed: one for the sterilisation of medical products, another for the hygenisation of spices and other products, and the third for sprout inhabitation in onions.

(c) Seminars and symposia have been organised across the country create awareness about the advantages of irradiation technology in healthcare and food preservation. Medical physicists and radiation technologists are being trained to staff facilities in the area of nuclear medicine in various hospitals of the country. Many professional organisations in the field of radiation technology have also shown keen interest in the popularisation of the benefits of this technology through various means.

[*Translation*]

#### **Report of National Sample Survey Organisation**

3226. SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI:  
SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN:

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

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the 56th survey report of the National Sample

Survey Organisation regarding the challenges being faced by the unorganized industrial units of small scale industries;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the percentage of units being affected as a result thereof; and

(c) the facilities proposed to be given by the Government to this sector to meet the said challenges?

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND MINISTER OF DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (DR. C.P. THAKUR): (a) and (b) The National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO) in its 56th Round conducted an all India sample survey of unorganized manufacturing enterprises comprising those that were not covered under the Annual Survey of Industries (ASI) conducted by them. The ASI is conducted every year by NSSO to survey all the manufacturing enterprises that are registered under Sections 2 (m) (i) and 2 (m) (ii) of Factories Act, 1948 and under the Bidi and Cigar Workers (Conditions of Employment) Act, 1966. The main criteria for coverage under ASI is that the manufacturing enterprises should be engaging 10 or more workers and using power of engaging 20 or more workers and not using power. Since the definition of small scale industries (SSI) sector is in terms of upper ceiling of original value of plant and sector is in terms of upper ceiling of original value of plant and machinery, some part of the SSI sector is covered in ASI and another part is *inter alia* covered in the sample survey of unorganized manufacturing. Hence, the 56th Round survey conducted by NSSO is not a comprehensive survey of the SSI sector. However, the problems being faced by the unorganized manufacturing as reported by the NSSO in its 56th Round are shortage of capital, problem of marketing of products, power problems, competition from larger units etc.

(c) Taking into consideration, the higher potential for growth in the Small Scale Industries (SSI) sector in terms of output, employment and exports, the strategy for Tenth Plan is to strengthen the sector to enable it to remain competitive in market-led economy and generate additional jobs. For achieving these objectives, the SSI sector would be provided proper and timely inputs like:

1. Adequate credit/loans from financial institutions/banks.
2. Funds for technology upgradation and modernisation.
3. Adequate infrastructure facilities;
4. Modern testing facilities and quality certification laboratories;

5. Modern management practices and skill upgradation through advanced training facilities;
6. Marketing assistance.
7. Level playing field at par with the organised sector.

[English]

#### **Indo-Yugoslav Ties**

3227. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether in a major initiative to give a fillip to their relations, India and Yugoslavia have signed two agreements for promotion and protection of bilateral investment;

(b) if so, the details of the agreements signed;

(c) whether the agreements will help in improving the relations between the two countries; and

(d) if so, the various fields in which the two countries have agreed for mutual cooperation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) India and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (renamed Serbia and Montenegro in February 2003) signed an Agreement on Promotion and Protection of Mutual Investments on 31 January, 2003.

(b) The Agreement provides for encouraging and creating favourable conditions by each of the countries for the investors of the other country for making investments in its territory, including fair and equitable treatment to investments and return on investments, full legal protection and security. The investments from one country into the other shall be accorded most-favoured-nation status and cannot be expropriated or nationalized. The investments and return on investments will be freely transferable without unreasonable delay and on a non-discriminatory basis. The Agreement also provides for a detailed mechanism for settling any disputes between investor and the country in which the investment is made. The Agreement will enter into force upon exchange of instruments of ratification and shall remain in force for a period of ten years. It shall be deemed to have been automatically extended unless one Party gives another a written notice to terminate it.

(c) Yes

(d) During the Foreign Office Consultations held in Belgrade in January 2003, the two countries agreed to further develop their bilateral cooperation in all spheres, including political exchanges, trade and commerce, defence, culture and education.

#### **Pension to Employees of BSNL**

3228. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the employees of BSNL have not been paid their pension arrears for services rendered in DoT;

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

(c) the efforts initiated by the Government for early payment of pension to the employees?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) No, Sir. Employees retired from BSNL have already been paid pension for period of service rendered in DoT in CDA Scales. However, the arrears of pension as per the IDA Pay scales are being paid progressively.

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

#### **New Herbal Medicines**

3229. SHRI C.N. SINGH:  
SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADODA MANDLIK:

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

(a) whether the Government have identified different herbs and prepared formulations from their abstracts during the last one year and till date;

(b) if so, the details of new herbal medicines which have been introduced in the country;

(c) whether education in Ayurvedic, Unani and Homoeopathy disciplines have not become popular in the country;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps taken/being taken by the Union Government to promote these systems of medicines in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) There is no such scheme under implementation.

(c) and (d) There is significant increase in the number of Ayurveda, Unani and Homoeopathy colleges. Presently, there are 211 Ayurvedic, 36 Unani and 182 Homoeopathy colleges in the country.

(e) The Government has taken following steps for the development of Indian Systems of Medicines:

- (i) A separate ISM and H Policy 2002, has been announced to provide proper development of ISM&H sector.
- (ii) Medicinal Plants Board has been established to facilitate availability of quality raw drugs for domestic and export products.
- (iii) Labeling provisions under the Drugs and Cosmetics Rules 1945 has been relaxed to meet the requirements of importing countries for marketing of Ayurvedic/herbal medicines in the importing countries.
- (iv) Good Manufacturing Practices have been notified.
- (v) Enabling provision has been made to recognize private laboratories.
- (vi) Ayurvedic Formulary and Pharmacopoeia have been published to bring uniformity and quality standard of Ayurvedic medicines.
- (vii) Industry has been encouraged to participate in Fairs and Exhibitions abroad.
- (viii) Government have also sent delegations abroad to propagate our systems for the development of Ayurvedic medicines.
- (ix) State pharmacies and drug testing laboratories have been assisted.
- (x) A number of other schemes have been implemented to upgrade education, research, quality control and drugs standardization.

#### **Surveillance System**

3230. SHRI S.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to establish Surveillance System in the country to monitor the stroke

cases or other neurological disorders at national and regional level;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the details of the available Surveillance System in the country to monitor such diseases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (d) At present surveillance of communicable diseases is undertaken through the pilot project of National Surveillance Programme for Communicable Diseases, which is in operation since 1997-98. Surveillance of Polio, Tuberculosis, AIDS and Malaria is also carried out under various national Health Programmes. An Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme is envisaged to undertake surveillance of communicable as well as non-communicable diseases, which includes neurological disorders like meningitis-encephalitis, risk factors of stroke etc.

#### **Allocation for National Highways**

3231. SHRI HOLKHOMANG HAOKIP: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the amount allocated for the refurbishment and widening of National Highway Nos. 39, 53 and 150 in between Churachandpur and Aizawal during each of the last three years;

(b) the details of the progress of work in these three National Highways;

(c) whether special security measures have been provided for the persons/vehicles passing through the above National Highways; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS [MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI]: (a) Allocation of funds is made State-wise and not NH-wise. The allocation under National Highways (Original Works) and Maintenance and Repairs (M&R) during the last 3 years for the States of Assam, Manipur, Mizoram and Nagaland through which the National Highways No. 39, 53 and 150 pass are given below:—



(Rs. in lakhs)

State	NH (Original) Works			N.H. (M & R)		
	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02
Assam	6496.32	9233.00	14262.19	3677.46	3131.12	4284.97
Manipur	1649.81	1592.00	2534.00	1235.26	1000.25	1423.72
Mizoram	1669.99	2511.00	3944.00	1127.10	1664.86	1886.06
Nagaland	844.53	1600.00	1572.00	848.65	675.82	535.15

(b) The development and maintenance of National Highways is a continuous process. The details of on-going original works on these National Highways (State-wise) which are at different stages of progress are as under:—

(Rs. in Lakhs)		
National Highway No.	No. of on-going works	Sanctioned Cost
39	29	7388.5
53	17	12766
150	11	2466.43

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

[Translation]

#### Upgradation of Post Offices in J&K

3232. SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any proposal for upgrading the post offices of Jammu and Kashmir; and

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

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

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

#### Construction of Telephone Exchange Buildings

3223. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the places where the Government have constructed buildings for the telephone exchanges during the last three years, State-wise;

(b) the amount spent on building of each exchange, year-wise;

(c) whether the construction of buildings for telephone exchanges in Delhi is at present on;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the amount being spent thereon so far; and

(f) by when the construction is likely to be completed?

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

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) to (f) Details are given in the enclosed statement.

#### Statement

##### Details of Construction of Telephone Exchange Buildings in Delhi

Sl. No.	Telephone Exchange Buildings under construction	Amount incurred	Likely date of completion
1	2	3	4
1.	TE Building, Mayur Vihar Ph. I	2.08 crores	December, 2004

1	2	3	4
2.	TE Building, JL Nehru Marg	16.48 crores	May, 2004
3.	TE Building, Sarita Vihar	55 lakhs	November, 2003
4.	TE Building, Dwarka, Sector 19	Nil	April, 2004
5.	TE Building, Rohini, Sector-14 (Prashant Vihar)	Nil	March, 2004
6.	TE Building, Narela	Nil	March, 2005
7.	TE Building, Saraswati Vihar	Nil	March, 2005
8.	TE Building, Sunlight Colony	Nil	June, 2005
9.	TE Building, Sector IX, Rohini	Nil	March, 2005

[English]

**Fate of Laxmi Vilas Palace Hotel**

3234. SHRI VINAY KUMAR SORAKE:  
SHRI SUNIL KHAN:

Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a local court has set aside the sale/transfer of Laxmi Vilas Palace Hotel in Udaipur under the ITDC disinvestment programme;

(b) if so, whether the Court has held that the property belongs to Rajasthan Government; and

(c) if so, the stand of the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) to (c) The Deputy District Collector, Girwa, Udaipur, in his capacity of Estate Officer has passed orders under the Rajasthan Public Premises (Eviction of Unauthorised Occupants) Act, 1964 on 11.2.2003 holding that Laxmi Vilas Palace is a property of the State of Rajasthan and that M/s Bharat Hotel Ltd. and M/s. Hindustan Zinc Ltd. are unauthorised occupants. The Estate Officer has further held that the said premises should be vacated and India Tourism Development Corporation Ltd (ITDC), Bharat Hotels Ltd. through Udaipur Hotels Pvt. Ltd and Hindustan, Zinc Ltd should pay rent together with arrears, compensation and 6 percent interest thereon to the State Government.

Appeals against the above orders of the Estate Officer dated 11.2.2003 have been filed by ITDC and Bharat

Hotels Limited. The District Court, on 4.3.03, has stayed the order dated 11.2.03 of the Estate Officer till final disposal of the appeals.

**Share of NHAI from Road Cess**

3235. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the share of NHAI from the road cess collected in 2001-2002 and 2002-2003 from diesel and petrol;

(b) whether the NHAI has sought a higher share of the road cess for its needs;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the NHAI is expending too much funds on construction; and

(e) if so, reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS [MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI]: (a) Allocation of cess fund to NHAI for the year 2001-2002 and 2002-2003 is as under:

(i)	2001-2002	Rs. 2100 crore
(ii)	2002-2003	Rs. 2000 crore

(b) and (c) The Union Budget of 2003-2004 has made a provision of additional levy of cess of 50 paise on fuel.

(d) No, Sir. Bids for NHAI works are finalised after competitive bidding.

(e) Does not arise.

**Human Genome Study**

3236. SHRI A. NARENDRA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have implemented/ approved any project to reap benefit of Human Genome study conducted at the international level;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of funds allocated for this purpose, project-wise; and

(d) the stand of the Government on the establishment of bio-information centres?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) Human Genome project is an international effort. The Department of Bio-Technology and Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) have initiated major programmes in the area of human genetics and genome analysis for the last ten years for identifying, mapping and characterizing genes associated with genetic disorders prevalent in India. The Department of Bio-technology has also implemented several projects in the area of functional genomics and human genome diversity and has set up 16 genetic diagnosis cum counseling units, benefiting 18,000 families. The ICMR has launched a major programme on Genomic and Molecular Medicine in February, 2001 to get benefit out of recent announcement of the genomic map for health care.

(c) The ICMR has approved 114 projects in the area of Genomics and Molecular Medicine. Implementation of projects depend upon the availability of funds during the 10th Plan.

(d) The ICMR has initiated the process for establishment of six bio-informatic centres in six premier medical institutions located in different parts of the country with ICMR Headquarters acting as coordinating unit. The Department of Bio-Technology has established six-one Bio-Informatic centres spread all over the country in various research institutions to serve as knowledge pathways.

**Road Projects undertaken by NHAI**

3237. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH:  
SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA:  
SHRI RAMJIVAN SINGH:  
SHRI NARESH PUGLIA:

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

(a) whether the road projects undertaken by the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) have been stalled in certain States as reported in the Indian Express dated February 6, 2003;

(b) if so, the names of the States where law and order problems have stalled road building activities; and

(c) the details of the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to complete all road works under NHAI in time?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS [MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI]: (a) The progress of projects of National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) in some States has been hampered due to law and order problems and other issues like delay in land acquisition, removal of utilities and slow mobilisation by contractors.

(b) In the States of Bihar, Jharkhand and Orissa, law and order problems have slowed down the progress on projects.

(c) The matter has been taken up at the highest level of the Chief Ministers of concerned States for providing more security. Contractors for these projects are also being persuaded to complete the works as per the target date.

**Pharmaceutical Policy, 2002**

3238. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to move the Supreme Court against a recent Bangalore High Court order regarding abrogating the price control mechanism in the Pharmaceutical Policy, 2002; and

(b) if so, the details thereof including the manner other than the court in which the Government propose to resolve the differences in Pharmaceutical Policy, 2002?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) As per the information made available by the Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals, Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers, a Public Interest Litigation in Karnataka High Court has resulted in an order dated 12.11.2002 which stops the Government from implementing the price control regime of the Pharmaceutical Policy, 2002. A Special Leave Petition has been filed in the Supreme Court against this order of the Karnataka High Court.

**Joint Ventures with Mauritius**

3239. SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are exploring the possibilities of floating joint ventures in small and medium scale industries with Mauritius;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government intend to make similar efforts with other countries; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken in this direction?

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

(a) to (d) No, Sir. However, the Ministry of Food Processing Industries is encouraging joint ventures in Food Processing Sector with various countries and 13 joint ventures have been approved since liberalization till 31.10.2002 with Mauritius. Ministry of Food Processing does not itself set up joint ventures, but, facilitates setting up of such joint ventures with foreign companies.

**Quadrilateral Project**

3240. SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN:  
SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO:

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

(a) the details of Golden Quadrilateral National Project with present status of on-going projects;

(b) the details of highway projects connecting Srinagar to Kanyakumri and Silchar to Porbander, State-wise, and by when these are likely to be completed;

(c) whether the Government propose to offer certain incentive for timely completion or penalty for late completion of road projects;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS [MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI]: (a) Golden Quadrilateral connecting the 4 metropolitan cities of Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai and Kolkata has a total length of 5846 km. Its present status is as under:

Already 4-laned 1327 km

Yet to be 4-laned

(a) Under implementation 4383 km

(b) To be awarded 136 km

(b) The State-wise details are given in the enclosed Statement. The project is targeted for substantial completion by December, 2007.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Bonus and penalty clauses have been included in the contracts to ensure completion of the projects well in time. For bonus an amount equivalent to 1% of contract value per month of early completion becomes payable to contractor subject to maximum of 6%. For delay in completion, an amount equivalent to 1/2000 of the contract value becomes recoverable from contractors for each day of delay (i.e. about 1.5% per month), subject to a maximum of 10% of contract value.

(e) Does not arise.

**Statement**

*The State-wise details of Highway projects connecting Srinagar to Kanyakumari and Silchar to Porbandar are given below*

Sl. No.	State	Corridors		
		North-South	East-West	Total
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	753	—	753
2.	Assam	—	753	753
3.	Bihar	—	517	517
4.	Delhi	34	—	34
5.	Gujarat	—	654	654
6.	Haryana	180	—	180
7.	Himachal Pradesh	14	—	14
8.	Jammu & Kashmir	405	—	405
9.	Karnataka	125	—	125
10.	Kerala	160	—	160
11.	Madhya Pradesh	524	142	666
12.	Maharashtra	232	—	232
13.	Punjab	296	—	296

1	2	3	4	5
14. Rajasthan		32	480	512
15. Tamil Nadu		851	—	851
16. Uttar Pradesh		268	548	816
17. West Bengal		—	366	366
Total		3874	3460	7334

### Telegraphic Traffic

3241. SHRI VINAY KUMAR SORAKE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether alongwith the postal (mail) services, the telegraphic services also face the problem of being economically unviable;

(b) if so, whether Fax/e-mail facilities have made telegraphs redundant in the present day context; and

(c) if so, the plans on the anvil to diversify the existing staff and infrastructure in both Telegraph/Telex Teleprinter segments?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) Postal (mail) services are running with deficit of revenue, but this is not due to volume of mail traffic. The rate of postal services are decided based on various factors such as user profile, price elasticity, demands of various segments of society etc. The postal services also have to fulfill the social objective of being affordable for all the segments of the society. To achieve this, pricing of the postal (mail) services is done in such a way that it is less than its cost of operations.

So far as telegraphic services are concerned, they are treated as part and parcel of telecommunication services like village panchayat telephones (VPTs) and hence the question of evaluating revenue in terms of traffic does not arise.

(b) No, Sir. Fax and E-mail facilities have not made telegrams redundant since there still persists a demand for telegraph services. However, the E-mail facility has an impact on the telegraph traffic. The fax traffic itself is under decline.

(c) The infrastructure and staff are part of the telecommunications services and suitable adjustments are made as and when required.

### Winding up of C-Dot

3242. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to wind up the Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DoT);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the privatizing C-Dot is also being examined;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the MTNL and the BSNL have been allotting any work to C-Dot; and

(f) if so, the details of the value of the works undertaken by C-DOT in 2002-2003?

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) No, Sir.

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

(e) and (f) C-DOT develops technologies which are transferred to the industry and the required equipment is purchased from these manufacturers by BSNL and MTNL. Also, some of the software intensive and other value-engineered solutions are directly retrofitted by C-DOT in the network of BSNL and MTNL. Overall value of the work, therefore, is not quantified.

### Infrastructure Status to Ship Building/Repair Industry

3243. SHRI A. NARENDRA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to accord infrastructure status to the ship building and repair industry for attracting investment for modernisation and capacity augmentation;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Government have reviewed the functioning of the subsidy scheme for the ship-building industry; and

(e) if so, the progress made by the ship-building industry since the inception of this scheme?

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

(a) to (c) The Apex Committee on Shipbuilding appointed by the Government has, inter alia, recommended to give infrastructure status to the Shipbuilding and Ship repair Industry. Committee on Public Undertakings has also made a recommendation to this effect. However, grant of any such status has to be preceded by inter-Ministerial consideration and examination.

(d) Yes, Sir. The Government has extended the Shipbuilding Subsidy Scheme which expired in August, 2002 for a further period of five years to all the Shipyards including Private Sector Shipyards.

(e) Two Central Public Sector Shipyards viz. Hindustan Shipyard Limited and Cochin Shipyard Limited have constructed and delivered a number of Ocean going vessels and have improved their order book position. The subsidy has enabled most of the Central Public Sector Shipyards to face international competition in securing orders for construction of Ocean going vessels.

#### Role of NACO

3244. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the extent to which National Aids Control Organisation (NACO) is likely to help to control AIDS in the country;

(b) the details of the efforts made by NACO to control AIDS in various parts of the country;

(c) whether the Government have issued any guidelines to NACO to strengthen its activities; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) The National AIDS Control Organisation has been conducting nation-wise sentinel surveillance to track the

spread of HIV infection in the country. The data obtained is also used for estimation of total HIV infections taking into consideration certain assumptions arrived at after consultation with national and international experts. The HIV estimates were 3.5 million in 1998; 3.7 million 1995; 3.86 million in 2000; and 3.97 million in the year 2001; indicating that there has been to upsurge in the spread of HIV infection in the country. However, even this number is a cause for concern and there can be no slackening of efforts to prevent and control the spread of this disease. With the ongoing comprehensive National AIDS Control Programme being implemented in the entire country, we are confident that the HIV epidemic will begin to plateau soon.

(b) The National AIDS Control Organisation (NACO) was set up in 1992 under the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare to implement the National AIDS Control programme in the country. The main role of NACO is to provide policy and technical leadership; standard setting; national HIV surveillance; monitoring and evaluation; operational research & development; and overall financial management. The National AIDS Control Organisation is implementing a comprehensive National AIDS Control programme through States AIDS Control Societies in the entire country with the following components:

- Preventive interventions for high risk populations through targeted interventions adopting a multi-pronged strategy including peer counseling and behaviour change communication.
- Preventive interventions for the general population through programmes for blood safety, voluntary counseling and testing services, information education and communication (IEC) and awareness building among adolescents.
- Provision of low cost care and support services by providing community care services, treatment of opportunistic and prevention of occupational exposure.
- Collaborative efforts to promote inter-sectoral programme activities including interventions and public-private partnerships.
- Building technical and managerial capacities for programme implementation through surveillance, training, monitoring & evaluation, technical resource groups, operational research and programme management.

(c) and (d) Government of India has approved the National AIDS Prevention & Control Policy and the National Blood Policy in April, 2002 with the aim of

adopting a more holistic approach towards prevention and control of HIV/AIDS, while looking at HIV/AIDS as a development problem and not as a public health issue. The National AIDS Control Policy principally aims at the following strategies for prevention and control of AIDS:

1. Prevention of further spread of the disease by:
  - (i) making the people aware of its implications and provide them with the necessary tools for protecting themselves;
  - (ii) controlling sexually transmitted diseases among vulnerable sections together with promotion of condom use as a preventive measure;
  - (iii) ensuring availability of safe blood and blood products; and
  - (iv) reinforcing the traditional Indian moral values among youth and other impressionable groups of population.
2. To create an enabling socio-economic environment so that all sections of population can protect themselves from the infection and families and communities can provide care and support to people living with HIV/AIDS.
3. Improving services for the care of people living with AIDS in time of sickness both in hospitals and at homes through community healthcare.

*[Translation]*

#### **Denial of Treatment to AIDS Victim**

3245. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Delhi High Court has recently sought an explanation from the six hospitals of Delhi including AIIMS which denied treatment to the patient who allegedly got AIDS infection during the treatment in a hospital; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) Hon'ble Delhi High Court issued suo-motto notice taking into cognisance of press report "Indian Express—November 12, 2002" regarding denial of treatment to a HIV/AIDS patient by all major hospital in Delhi viz. All India Institute of Medical Sciences, St. Stephens Hospital,

Sanjay Gandhi Memorial Hospital, Rathi Medical Centre, Maharaja Agarsen Hospital, Lok Nayak Jaiprakash Narain Hospital. Consequently, a Civil Writ Petition No. 7220/2002 was registered. Out of six hospitals, five have in their reply stated that they have not denied treatment to the HIV/AIDS patient mentioned in the Writ Petition; and one viz. Rathi Medical Centre, Sultanpuri Road, Delhi has said that the patient in question has not reported to them for treatment. Two more Civil Writ Petition Nos. 7719 and 7793 of 2002 in this regard are also lying before the Hon'ble High Court. The matter is sub-judicial and is pending before the Hon'ble High Court.

*[English]*

#### **Plan Outlay for WGDP**

3246. SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of plan outlay in respect of Western Ghat Development Programme (WGDP) in Maharashtra during the Ninth Plan period;

(b) whether the plan outlay has been adequately spent;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the details of schemes undertaken under WGDP in Maharashtra during the above 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) to (c) Under Western Ghats Development Programme (WGDP), a total outlay of Rs. 97.89 crore was approved for Maharashtra during the Ninth Plan (1997-98 to 2001-02) period as Special Central Assistance. The State Government have reported an expenditure of Rs. 96.32 crore which represents 98.4% of the total approved outlay.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) The schemes undertaken during the Ninth Plan period under Western Ghats Development Programme (WGDP) in Maharashtra included works for maintaining ecological balance in sectors such as Horticulture, Minor Irrigation, Soil and Water Conservation, Forestry and Social Forestry; and for employment generation in sector such as Animal Husbandry, Fisheries, Dairy Development,

Sericulture, Bee-keeping, etc. In addition, schemes for infrastructure development such as Foot Bridges were also undertaken for the benefit of the people of the region.

### **E-Learning Project in Schools**

3247. SHRI K. MURALEEDHARAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have launched a pilot "E-learning" project in 20 schools spread across seven districts of the country;

(b) if so, the salient features of the said project;

(c) if so, the financial benefit likely to accrue to these schools with the introduction of this facility; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SU. THIRUNAVUKKARASAR): (a) and (b) The Department of Information Technology has formulated a specific programme "Vidya Vahini" for implementation during the Tenth Five Year Plan, to integrated internet tools and computer aided techniques into the learning environment.

To start with, a pilot project is being implemented in 7 districts, namely Kuppam (Andhra Pradesh), Gandhinagar (Gujarat), Hazaribagh (Jharkhand), South 24-Parganas (West Bengal), Parlivaijnath (Maharashtra), Lucknow and Allahabad (Uttar Pradesh).

Under this pilot project, 20 schools have been selected in each of the above districts and a training lab is set up in each district to train the teachers. In each of the selected schools, a Server, 10 Multimedia PCs connected over Local Area Network (LAN), a Network Printer, UPS, CVT, 29" Color TV and a VSAT is installed. Relevant Software such as Office Tools, Encyclopedia, Anti-Virus, Productivity Tools and some Course Curriculum has been installed in the PCs.

(c) and (d) Computer equipment worth 10 lakhs have been installed in each of the selected school. VSAT license fee of Rs. 25,000/- per school has been waived off. One-quarter transponder worth Rs. 90 lakhs has been allocated for providing internet connectivity to the schools.

### **Afro-Asian Games**

3248. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the decision of the Union Government against India's participation in SAF Games to be held in Pakistan in March, 03 would have an adverse effect on the Afro-Asian Games to be held in India later this year;

(b) if so, whether Members of Parliament have appealed to the Government to allow the Indian contingent's participation in the SAF Games; and

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

THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI VIKRAM VERMA): (a) At present, it is not perceived that non-participation of India in the SAF Games might affect the Afro-Asian Games, inter alia, since Afro-Asian Games are Inter-continental games where in four teams from either continent (Asia and Africa) would participate.

(b) and (c) Keeping in view the security perception, Government had advised the Indian Olympic Association that Indian Contingent should not participate in the SAF Games. However, one Hon. Member of Parliament had appealed to the Government to reconsider its view. The Hon. Member of the Parliament has been informed that there has been no perceptible change in the scenario, meriting reconsidering of earlier position in the matter. Besides, this matter has also been raised during the Zero Hours of Parliament, recently.

### **Pilot Project for Rural Areas**

3249. SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether USA has desired that India to launch a pilot project to disseminate agro-meteorological information and monsoon research to rural areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether teams of both the countries held any discussions in this regard;

(d) if so, the details of discussions held and outcome thereof; and

(e) the benefits likely to accrue to both the countries from this project?

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) A team of scientists from USA held discussions with Department of Science & Technology in February 2003 on possible co-operative projects under the umbrella of Indo-US collaboration. The themes included a pilot demonstration project on Diffusion of Agro-metrological Information and Monsoon Research and dissemination to remote areas through Radio & Internet (RANET). The project is aimed towards dissemination of agro-meteorological and monsoon related information to rural areas towards helping agricultural operations.

[Translation]

#### **Progress under CRF in Madhya Pradesh**

3250. SHRIMATI JAYASHREE BANERJEE: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the progress of sanctioned roads in Madhya Pradesh under the Central Road Funds is satisfactory;

(b) if so, whether the physical targets will be achieved as per the plan;

(c) if so, whether there are reports of differences between the bidders and the workers departments of the Madhya Pradesh Government;

(d) if so, whether the bidders have held the works departments and the technical advisors responsible for not making progress as per the plan; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS [MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI]: (a) 37 works costing Rs. 141.63 crore were sanctioned in the State of Madhya Pradesh during 2000-01, additional 15 works, amounting to Rs. 47.52 crore, were sanctioned during the year 2001-02 and 2002-03. Out of these 52 works, State PWD have so far completed 11 works, 6 works are in advanced stage of progress, about 17 works are yet to start. Remaining works are in various stages of progress.

(b) As per the extant policy, the completion of the projects is not to exceed 24 months and most of the ongoing works are adhering to this time limit so far. The total funds released to the State of Madhya Pradesh is

Rs. 100.95 crore and Utilisation certificate of Rs. 99.53 crore has been received till January, 2003.

(c) No such report has been received by the Ministry.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

#### **National Waterway from Allahabad to Haldia**

3251. KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) the date on which the scheme for making the stretch of the Ganga River from Allahabad upto Haldia as National Waterway was started;

(b) the amount spent thereon; and

(c) by when the work on the said National Waterway is likely to be completed and the estimated amount to be incurred thereon?

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

(a) The river Ganga from Allahabad to Haldia was declared as National Waterway through Inland Waterways Authority of India Act 1985 by amending National Waterway (Allahabad-Haldia stretch of the Ganga Bhagirathi Hooghly River) Act, 1982 (49 of 82).

(b) The amount spent out on development and maintenance of National Waterway no. 1 from 1986-87 to 2001-02 is of the order of Rs. 96 crores.

(c) The development of inland waterways, particularly the big alluvial river like Ganga which carries huge quantity of sediment is a continuous process and therefore, improvement works on such waterways will have to be carried out regularly on year to year basis.

#### **Telecom Services In Jharkhand**

3252. PROF. RITA VERMA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount spent to make telecom services better in Jharkhand circle during the last two years;

(b) the heads under which the said amount was spent;

(c) the extent to which telecom services improved during the said period;

(d) whether any complaint of irregularity was received in the run up to the upgradation of telephone exchanges; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) Jharkhand Telecom circle was created after bifurcation of Bihar Telecom circle in the month of January 2001. The amount spent to telecom services better in the Jharkhand Telecom circle is as under:

Sl. No.	Year	Amount Spent
1.	2001-02	Rs. 392.06 crores
2.	2002-03	Rs. 236.36 crores (Provision made)

(b) The said amount was spent for the development of telecom services under the head of account-Tribal Area, (since the Jharkhand State as a whole is considered as Tribal Area) in the following schemes:

Sl. No.	Scheme	Amount (In crores of Rupees)	
		2001-02	2002-03*
1.	Telegraph & Telex	Nil	Nil
2.	Local Telephone System	354.80	151.95
3.	Long Distance Switching	2.40	9.18
4.	Long Distance Transmission	22.33	66.52
5.	Ancillary System	4.43	4.13
6.	Other Land & Building	8.09	4.58
Total		392.05	236.36

\*Provisional

(c) The expansion which took place during the last two years is as follows:

Sl. No.	Year	No. of Exchange Capacity added	No of DELs added
1.	2000-01	1,06,612	81,712
2.	2001-02	1,03,784	79,608

The waiting list of Telephone applicants in Jharkhand as on 31-12-2002 is only 18,344 which is 4.6% of 3,96,694 telephone working on that date against an all India average of 6.3%.

(d) No complaint of irregularity was received in the run up to the upgradation of telephone exchanges.

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

[English]

#### Development of Inland Waterways in Kerala

3253. SHRI SURESH KURUP: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any plan to develop Inland Waterways in Kerala;

(b) if so, whether the State Government has given any specific plan to develop this sector; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI): (a) Yes, Sir. The West Coast Canal from Kottapuram to Kollam along with Udyogmandal and Champakara canal has been declared as National Waterway for shipping and navigation. A proposal for declaration of extension of this National Waterway from Kollam to Kovalam in the south and Kottapuram to Kasargode in the north has been prepared. In addition, under Centrally Sponsored Scheme grant assistance is provided by the Central Government to the States for development of Inland Water Transport. Govt. of Kerala can avail of this facility to develop other waterway of the State.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

[Translation]

#### Implementation of Official Language in BSNL/MTNL

3254. SHRI RAM RATI BIND: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Hindi Translators/Assistant Directors and Deputy Directors (Rajbhasha) working in the BSNL and MTNL, Delhi and Mumbai;

(b) whether the objectives of implementation of official language are not being achieved owing to their engagement in other jobs;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the concrete measures being taken to rectify this situation?

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]

### Regional Disparities

3255. SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Tenth Plan proposals aim at reducing regional disparities both Inter-State and Intra-State;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the per capita income at current prices of each State at the end of each plan period till the end of the Ninth Plan period and their position vis-a-vis the States having highest per capita income;

(d) whether regional disparities so far as per capita income of the States is concerned have grown despite completion of Ninth Five Year Plan and other plans;

(e) if so, the reasons therefor; and

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

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 issue of regional disparities amongst the States are addressed through the

Gadgil-Mukherjee Formula for allocation of Plan funds to the States and through Central Assistance for earmarked sectors/schemes. According to the Gadgil-Mukherjee Formula, due weightage is given to factors such as income of the State as compared to the National average and to special problems of the States, amongst others, while allocating Central Assistance. In addition, a core element in the Planning Commission's Tenth Plan strategy towards reducing regional disparities is the targeting of less developed areas with provisions of funds for capital investments and innovative delivery mechanisms linked to institutional reforms. A new scheme called the Rashtriya Sam Vikas Yojana (RSVY) has been introduced from the Tenth Plan to assist the development of less developed regions and districts.

(c) Statement indicating the position of per capita income of States at current prices till the end of the Ninth Plan period is enclosed.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) and (f) Historical inequalities, differences in initial infrastructure endowments, differences in policies pursued, efficacy of implementation and levels of people's participation in development programmes are the main reasons for regional disparities. In the Tenth Five Year Plan, Planning Commission in consultation with State Governments have set out State-wise break up of the broad developmental targets, including targets for growth rates and poverty reduction. State specific targets take into account the potentialities and constraints present in each State and the scope for improvement in performance given those constraints. The efforts of the States in this regard would be supplemented through various Special Programmes like National Social Assistance Programme & Annapurna, Border Area Development Programme, Rashtriya Sam Vikas Yojana, Hill Areas Development Programme, Nutrition Programme for Adolescent Girls, Pradhan Mantri Gramodaya Yojana etc.

### Statement

*Per Capita Income of the States at Current Prices at the end of each Five Year Plan*

(In Rs. at Current Prices)

Sl. No.	States	Per Capita Income of States at the end of Five Year Plan							
		III Plan (1965-66)	IV Plan (1973-74)	V Plan (1978-79)	VI Plan (1984-85)	VII Plan (1989-90)	VIII Plan (1996-97)	IX Plan (2000-01)	X Plan (2001-02)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1.	Andhra Pradesh	387	857	1083	2068	3899	11224	16373	NA
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	NA	513	1227	2877	4461	10871	14587	NA

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
3.	Assam	NA	648	987	2430	3723	7394	10467	10951
4.	Bihar	332	573	772	1504	2312	4965	5108	5466
5.	Goa	NA	1284	2119	NA	NA	23396	45105	NA
6.	Gujarat	498	1116	1573	3188	5304	16287	19228	NA
7.	Haryana	450	1216	1889	3365	6233	16454	23742	NA
8.	Himachal Pradesh	NA	913	1249	2249	4375	10728	18920	NA
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	NA	716	1222	2669	3618	8667	12399	NA
10.	Karnataka	448	907	1142	2416	4044	11772	18041	NA
11.	Kerala	380	811	1121	2296	3718	13050	19463	21310
12.	Madhya Pradesh	298	733	892	1822	3306	8689	10803	NA
13.	Maharashtra	534	1087	1803	3375	6570	17825	23726	NA
14.	Manipur	268	711	947	2205	3574	7961	12823	13213
15.	Meghalaya	NA	598	1012	NA	NA	8566	13114	14510
16.	Mizoram	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	11648	NA	NA
17.	Nagaland	NA	761	1212	2412	4300	11805	NA	NA
18.	Orissa	329	701	872	1846	3218	6401	8547	NA
19.	Punjab	562	1513	2351	4123	7624	17447	25048	NA
20.	Rajasthan	373	863	1142	1849	3241	10171	11986	13116
21.	Sikkim	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	9901	15550	16143
22.	Tamil Nadu	403	793	1069	2341	4370	13382	19889	20975
23.	Tripura	333	649	1019	1904	3185	7440	14348	NA
24.	Uttar Pradesh	373	669	935	1784	3087	7743	9721	NA
25.	West Bengal	532	944	1329	2771	4220	9886	16072	NA

- Note
1. Meaningful comparative data for First and Second Plan are not available
  2. Data are not strictly comparable owing to different methodology used in computation.
  3. Figures for the new States of Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand and Uttaranchal are not available.

Source: Central Statistical Organisation.

### Consumption Expenditure in Rural Areas

3256. SHRI KALAVA SRINIVASULU: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the consumption expenditure has declined in rural areas as pointed out in the National Human Development report 2001;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor, State-wise; and

(c) the action plan of the Government to improve the consumption expenditure of rural 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) No, Sir. The National Human

Development Report 2001 has pointed out that the consumption expenditure in the rural areas has increased steadily between the years 1983 and 2000.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The Government has introduced specific targeted programmes for supplementing the incomes of the various segments of rural poor. It also provides foodgrains to them at subsidized rates which improve their consumption levels.

Under Sampoorna Gramin Rozgar Yojana (SGRY), 5 Kilo Gram (kg) per person day is provided as part of wages. Targetted public distribution system provides foodgrains at subsidized rates to the poor people. Moreover Antodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) has been introduced to provide 25 kg. of foodgrains per family to one crore poorest of the poor in rural areas at highly subsidized rates *i.e.* Rs. 2 per kg. for wheat and Rs. 3 kg. for rice. The quantity of foodgrains under AAY has been further increased to 35 kg. per family and 50 lakh more families would be covered under the scheme.

[Translation]

#### **Free Medical Treatment in Private Hospitals**

3257. SHRI AVTAR SINGH BHADANA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that Delhi High Court has served a notice to the enquiry team constituted to enquire into free medical treatment of poor people in Private Hospitals as reported in the *Dainik Jagran* dated January 15, 2003;

(b) if so, the factual information in this regard including the stand of the Government thereon; and

(c) by when the committee is likely to submit its report?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

#### **Timely Payment for Works under MPLADS**

3258. PROF. A.K. PREMAJAM: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that treasury restrictions are imposed on payment of bills related to works under Members of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS) by various State Governments;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government of Kerala has been imposing such restrictions on payment of bills related to works under MPLADS;

(d) if so, whether the State Governments are authorised to impose such treasury restrictions on MPLADS funds and if so, the grounds thereof; and

(e) if so, the directions issued by the Union Government to the State Governments to clear the bills related to MPLADS without any treasury restrictions?

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.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) One case of non-payment of bills in respect of works under the Member of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS) in Kerala was reported. The DC, Kozhikode clarified that there was some confusion during the transitional phase when the MPLADS accounts were closed in the Government Treasury and transferred to the nationalized banks as a result of which some cheques submitted to the Treasury could not be honoured. The issue of non-payment of bills was sorted out after funds had been transferred to the nationalized banks.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

#### **Setting up of Steering Group**

3259. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the government propose to set up a steering group for monitoring the implementation of economic reforms;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) to (c) No, Sir. However, a Cabinet Committee on Economic Reforms (CCER) was set up in November 2001 under the chairmanship of the Prime Minister to monitor economic reforms.

#### **Faulty Measurement of State Domestic Product**

3260. SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether measurement of State Domestic Product is both conceptually and methodologically wrong;

(b) if so, the steps being taken to assess correct SDP;

(c) whether remittances from abroad and outside the State are taken into consideration in the measurement of SDP;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether local conditions are considered in spreading sample survey data of other States while measuring SDP;

(f) if not, the reasons therefor;

(g) whether old sample surveys have been updated; and

(h) if so, the number of such sample surveys used?

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.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) The estimates of SDP are compiled using the income originating approach. Hence, the remittances out of the income of economic activities, which are to carried out within the State in question, are not included in the SDP estimates.

(e) To the extent possible, the results of sample surveys pertaining to a State are used for measuring the estimates of SDP of that State. The norms of an adjoining State or the national norms are applied, only if the data in respect of a particular items are not available, or are not considered reliable.

(f) As explained in (e) above.

(g) Sample surveys are conducted regularly to estimate the GDP and SDP in respect of manufacturing and services sectors. The sample survey on registered manufacturing sector is conducted every year. Sample surveys on unregistered manufacturing and services sectors are conducted approximately once in every five years. In addition, the results of Quinquennial Employment & Unemployment Surveys, periodic All India Debt & Investment Survey, Livestock Census and Population Census, etc. are also used in the estimation of GDP & SDP.

(h) The number of sample surveys relied upon in the estimation of SDP would vary from State to State and year to year.

[*Translation*]

#### **Funds for Bihar in Tenth Plan**

3261. DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the funds allocated to Bihar under Centrally Sponsored Schemes and the amounts out of them utilised by the State during the Ninth Five Year Plan; and

(b) the action taken to ensure that Bihar is not deprived of its share of funds during the Tenth Five Year 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) As per the information received from the Government of Bihar, an amount of Rs. 6914.90 crore was sanctioned under Centrally Sponsored during the Ninth Five Year Plan, of which Rs. 5628.31 crore was utilised by the State.

(b) The question of Bihar getting deprived of its share during the Tenth Five Year Plan does not arise since each State gets its share of funds according to the standard norms and guidelines.

[English]

**Financial Assistance for National Highways**

3262. SHRI P.D. ELANGO VAN: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have allocated additional financial support for the construction and maintenance of bridges and roads over bridges on the National Highways in Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the list of works sanctioned in Tamil Nadu and the project-wise thereof; and

(d) the details of the expenditure incurred for the construction and maintenance of bridges and roads over bridges on the National Highways in the country, State-wise year-wise during each of the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS [MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI]: (a) and (b) Government of

India allocates funds to respective states for construction and maintenance of National Highways which includes construction and maintenance of bridges and Roads Over bridges on National Highways. Allocation of funds is made State-wise and not work-wise. Additional funds have been allocated for construction and maintenance of National Highways comprising National Highways Plan works and National Highways Development Project (NHDP) in Tamil Nadu as per the details given below:—

(Rs. n crore)

Year	2000-2001	2001-2002	2002-2003
Plan Works	103.43	97.39	102.48
Maintenance Works	53.8	42.67	43.86
NHDP	113.33	274.67	358.62
Total	270.55	414.73	504.96

(c) List of works sanctioned in Tamil Nadu during the last three years is enclosed as statement-I.

(d) Details of expenditure State-wise, year-wise during the last three years is placed enclosed as Statement-II.

**Statement I***Details of Works Sanctioned in Tamil Nadu during the last three years***Sanctions during the year 2000-2001**

Sl. No.	NH	Name of work	Length in km	Sanctioned cost Rs. in lakh
1	2	3	4	5
1.	45A	IRQP 134-146 of NH 45A	12	202.23
2.	7	IRQP 42/0-51/0 of NH 7MK	9	176.39
3.	7	IRQP 180-190 of NH 7 MK	10	164.66
4.	209	IRQP 241-256 of NH 209	15	287.51
5.	209	IRQP 159/8-162/0, 175/0-180/500, 191/0-198/0 & 222/0-223/0 OF NH 209	15.7	362.63
6.	67	IRQP 83/0-103/0 of NH 67	20	317.58
7.	67	IRQP 208/6-212/8 & 213/8-218/2 of NH 67	8.6	230.56
8.	205	IRQP 11/0-23/0 of NH 205	12	173.35
9.	67	IRQP in km 230/- 231/0, 233/0-235/0, 236/0-2349/0, 242/0-245/0 and 249/0-252/0	15	268.45

1	2	3	4	5
10.	67	IRQP in km 300/0-306/0 and 308/0-320/0	20	322.13
11.	7	IRQP in km 291/0-292/4, 306/0-308/0-309/0-310/0, 314/0-315/0, 318/4-322/0, 324/0-326/0 & 333/0-337/0	15	268.45
12.	45B	IRQP 171/4-186 of NH 45B	14.6	323.62
13.	209	IRQP in km 3/0-5/0 and km 37/0-56/0 (excluding km 38/0-39/0, 42/0-43/0, 45/0-46/0 and 48/0- 50/0)	16	372.31
14.	66	Widening 129/0-154 NH 66	25	397.79
15.	7	IRQP 74-80, 87-92, 121-123 & 139-143 of NH 7	17	297.29
16.	66	Re Construction of culvert @ 144/6 & 152/6 of NH 66		13.13
17.	210	Widening 128/0-138/0 NH 210	10	339.72
18.	47	IRQP 626/0-631/4 of NH 47	5.4	79.60
19.	208	Re-construction of Minor Bridge at km 163/4 of 208		47.71
20.	66	Re construction of culvert @ 9/10 and 12/10 of NH 66		21.88
21.	209	Raising the dip in km 89/0-90/0 NH 209	1	46.68
22.	49	Forming approaches to the minor bridge at Km. 10/2 of NH 49. Ramnad Division.		49.87
23.	5	LA for construction of additional two lane bridge and improvements to the existing bridge across Kosasthalayar at Km. 26/4 of NH 5. Chennai Division		10.60
24.	66	Construction of drains at 65/4-65/8, 66/4-66/8 & 87/400-88/230 of NH 66		49.76
25.	209	Raising the dip 88/0-89/0 of NH 209	1	49.79
26.	205	Re construction of 15 nos of culvert in NH 205		38.01
27.	47	IRQP in Km 56/8-59/0 of NH-47	2.2	42.05
28.	209	Providing V shaped drain in km 245-255 of NH 209		49.90
29.	45B	IRQP 186-205 (excluding Km 192/0-193/0) NH 45B	18	260.67
30.	45B	IRQP 207-218 NH 45B	11	159.25
31.	45B	IRQP 222-234 (excluding Km 229/0-230/0) NH 45 B	10	143.90
32.	67	IRQP 285-300 (excluding 293/0-294/0) NH 67	14	206.87
33.	67	IRQP 218/2-229 NH 67	10.8	168.15
34.	205	IRQP 23-30 NH 205	7	94.23
35.	205	IRQP 52-59, 69-70 NH 205	8	124.74



1	2	3	4	5
36.	209	IRQP 76/2-89 NH 209	9.8	150.33
37.	209	IRQP 131-138/2 NH 209	7.2	110.27
38.	209	IRQP 256-265/8 NH 209	5.43	81.58
39.	7	IRQP 249/8-254/8 NH 7BM	5	95.90
Sub Total				6599.54

**Sanctions during the year 2001-2002**

Sl. No.	Name of work	Length in km	Sanctioned cost Rs. in lakh
1	2	3	4
1.	IRQP 72/8-80/0 of NH 49 Extn	7.2	215.14
2.	IRQP 253/0-294/0 of NH 67	21	406.52
3.	IRQP 130/0-134/0, 135-137 & 146/0-153/0 of NH 208	13	257.81
4.	IRQP 68/730-76/0 of NH 45 A	7.27	125.77
5.	IRQP 350/0-374/5 of NH 7 BSM	20.5	434.96
6.	IRQP 16/0-25/0 of NH 49 Extn	9	165.30
7.	Strengthening km 9/0-16/9 of NH 66	7.9	163.39
8.	Strengthening km 19/8-34/0 of NH 66	14.2	293.69
9.	Strengthening km 117/6-134/2 of NH 68	16.6	278.55
10.	IRQP 9/0-19/0 of NH 219	10	182.69
11.	Strengthening from km 180/5-191/0 (except 185-186) of NH 209	9.5	221.74
12.	Strengthening from km 138/2-148/8 of NH 209	10.6	257.80
13.	IRQP 103-113 of NH 7 MK	10	177.05
14.	Strengthening from km 78/0-86/0 & 91/0-97/0 of NH 66	14	296.41
15.	Widening from km 69/0-75/2 of NH 210	6.2	151.31
16.	IRQP in km 102-116 of NH 45B	7	126.15
17.	Strengthening from km 149/0-158/0 of NH 67	7	162.73
18.	Strengthening from km 119/0-125/2 of NH 67	6.2	147.88
19.	IRQP in km 0-9 of NH 219	9	154.12
20.	Widening the existing SL to two lane carriageway from km 120/0-128/0 of NH 210	7.8	171.86
21.	Widening from km 138/0-145/4 of NH 210	7.4	156.58

1	2	3	4
22.	Consultancy (Phase I-II) for rehabilitation of Annai Indira Gandhi bridge (Pamban bridge) of NH 49	23.45	26.06
23.	Conducting Feasibility studies for newly declared NHs in Tamil Nadu Package I on NH 66 & 205	293	30.90
24.	Conducting Feasibility studies for newly declared NHs in Tamil Nadu Package V of NH 67 & 210	292	30.90
25.	Conducting Feasibility studies for newly declared NHs in Tamil Nadu Package III of NH 209	266	30.90
26.	IRQP 76.3-120 of NH 220	10.1	190.56
27.	Strengthening from km 45/0-54/0 of NH 67	8.9	233.64
28.	Strengthening from km 163/0-170/0 & 183/0-186/0 of NH 208	10	224.08
29.	Widening from km 36/0-48/0 of NH 210	12	153.06
30.	Strengthening from km 11/0-24/0 of NH 210	13	288.99
31.	IRQP in Km 40/0-41/0, 42/0-43/0 & 49/0-52/0 of NH 45 B	5	119.16
32.	Strengthening from km 0/0-11/0 of NH 67	11	290.82
33.	Strengthening the weak two-lane pavement in Km 114/0-117/6 of NH 209	3.6	148.58
34.	IRQP 38/5-42/5, 50/0-53/0, 54/4-56/0 & 58/8-62/0 of NH 49 Extn	11.80	217.10
35.	IRQP 398-400, 424/0-426/0 and 429/0-432/0 of NH 7	7.00	162.87
36.	IRQP 5/2-10/6 of Nh 49 Extn	5.40	167.46
37.	IRQP in km 148/8-156/2 of Nh 209	7.4	198.86
38.	Construction of 6 nos of Culverts in km 78/2-181/0 and reconstruction of 3 nos of culverts in km 178/4-192/6 of NH 209		34.46
39.	IRQP 227/0-241/0 of NH 209	14.00	312.06
40.	Reconstruction of minor bridge Km 121/4-7 of NH 209		37.15
41.	Constructoin of minor bridge Km 323/8 of NH 67		84.00
42.	Reconstruction of bridge Km 42/8 of NH 66 (Pondy-Krishnagiri road)		26.45
43.	Reconstruction of minor bridge Km 107/4 of NH 68 (Salem-Ulundurpet road)		26.47
44.	Conducting Feasibility studies for newly declared NHs in Tamil Nadu Package IV [NH 45A Extn & NH 67]	334	39.50

1	2	3	4
45.	Conducting Feasibility studies for newly declared NHs in Tamil Nadu Package II (NH 66 & NH 207]	153	21.075
46.	Conducting Feasibility studies for newly declared NHs in Tamil Nadu Package VI [NH 45B]	264	31.50
47.	Conducting Feasibility studies for newly declared NHs in Tamil Nadu Package VII [NH 208]	150	21.19
48.	Reconstruction of bridge at Km 19/6 of NH 66 (Pondy-Krishnagiri road)		54.35
49.	IRQP in Km 101-105, 107-109, 111-119 of NH 49 extn. (By substitution)	14	148.65
50.	IRQP 0-11 (excluding 8/2) of NH 205	12	255.64
51.	Reconstruction of minor bridge at Km. 118/6 of Nh 209		53.69
52.	IRQP 13-18, 47-49, 50-52 of NH 67	9	144.60
53.	IRQP in Km 67.5-78 of NH 66 (By substitution)	10.5	200.90
54.	IRQP 55/2-60/0, 63/0-70/0 of NH 67 (By substitution)	11.8	291.92
55.	Widening 80-99 of NH 49 extn.	18	748.84
56.	Reconstruction of 7 nos. culverts in Km. 47/10-93/2 (at Km 47/10, 53/4, 55/4, 73/10, 76/2, 78/8 & 93/2) of NH 49 Ext.		72.53
57.	Reconstruction of minor bridge at Km. 77/10 of NH 45A		80.86
58.	(Misc. works) Special repair to the damages due to the heavy earth slip in Km 107/4-115/6 & 117/2 of NH-49 extn.		51.49
<b>Total</b>			<b>9798.72</b>

**Sanctions during the year 2002-2003**

1.	IRQP km 82/0-83/0, 84/0-86/0, 88/0-91/0, 93/0-96/0 & 97/0-99/0 (total length 11.0 km) of NH 45B	11	288.46
2.	IRQP in km 123/7-133/4 (total length 10.0 km) of NH 4	9.7	162.79
3.	IRQP in km 32/6-33/0, 34/0, 35/0, 37/0-38/0, 42/0-45/0, 59/0-61/0, 63/0-64/0, 68/0-69/0 and 73/0-77/0 (total length 14.2 km) of Nh 49	14.2	286.9
4.	IRQP in km 90/0-91/0, 97/0-99/0, 100/0-103/0 and 114/0-119/0 (total length 11.0 km) of NH 66	11	226.09
5.	IRQP in km 48/0-53/6 & 55/2-61/0 and (total length 11.76 km) of NH 210	11.76	214.38
6.	IRQP in km 131/0-132/4, 134/8-135/8, 136/8-140/0, 140/4-141/8, 146/2-146/6, 147/8-148/6, 150/2-150/8, 152/2-153/0, 154/0-154/2 and 154/6-155/230 of NH 66	10.7	258.36

1	2	3	4
7.	IRQP in km 32/0-33/0, 34/0-38/0, 41/0-42/0, 43/0-44/0, 46/0-m47/0, 55/0-56/0 & 59/0-62/0 of NH 45B	12	291.6
8.	IRQP in km 66/0-68/0, 69/0-70/0, 70/0-71/0, 72/0-78/0 and 79/0-81/0 (total length 12.0 km) of NH 45B	12	333.48
9.	IRQP in km 100/0-102/0, 103/0-105/0, 106/0-109/0, 110/0-111/0, 113/0-114/0, 116/0-121/0 of NH 45B	14	338.2
10.	IRQP in km 10/6-16/0 of NH 49 Extn.	5.4	98.88
11.	IRQP in km 92/6-93/0, 104/4-105/0, 107/6-108/0, 112/0-112/5, 124/0-125/8, 129/0-130/0, 131/0-132/0, 133/150-133/750 of NH 220	6.3	141.03
12.	IRQP in km 0/0-3/0, 9/0-12/0, 18/0-19/0 and 21/0-23/0 of NH 45B	9	202.8
13.	IRQP in Km 160/0-161/0, 172/0-173/0, 176/0-177/0, 188/0-190/0 and 226/0-231/6 of NH 208	10.6	203.18
14.	IRQP in km 11/0-14/0, 15/0-17/0 and 18/0-21/0 (total length of 8.0 km) of NH 49	8	206.93
15.	IRQP in km 81/0-82/0, 83/0-84/0, 96/0-97/0 and 114/6-125/0 (13.4 km) and provision of paved shoulder in km 114/6-117/0 (2.4 km) of NH 49	13.4	287.86
16.	IRQP in km 53/0-53/4 and 62/0-70/0 of NH 49 Extn.		
17.	IRQP in 185/8-194/0 (excluding 180 m length of bridge at km 186/6-8) of NH 45A Extn.	8.02	161.3
Sub Total IRQP			3855.6
<b>NH(O)</b>			
18.	Strengthening in km 192/0-193/0 & 195/0-199/0 (total length 5.0 km) of NH 208	5	159.68
19.	Providing paved shoulders in km 3/520-9/0 of NH 66	5.48	70.61
20.	Providing paved shoulders in km 262/0-264/0 including covering of the wearing surface of the existing carriageway of NH 45B	2	72.9
21.	Reconstruction of culverts at km 177/4 and 191/6 of NH 208		15.48
22.	Providing paved shoulders to the carriageway in km 61/980-63/500 (excluding bridge portion) & 66/0-66/8 of NH 45A	1.9	25
23.	Reconstruction of minor bridges at km 137/6, 138/6 of NH 208		48
24.	Reconstruction of minor bridges at km 154/6, 167/8 and 193/4 of NH 45B		94.96

1	2	3	4
25.	Providing paved shoulders to existing carriageway in km 167/0-168/9 of NH 209	1.9	27.63
26.	Reconstruction of 2 nos. of culverts at km 117/2 and 117/4 of NH 67		21.23
27.	Strengthening in km 109/0-119/5 of NH 45A Extn.	10.5	268.53
28.	Strengthening in km 217/0-226/0 of NH 208	9	292.43
29.	Strengthening from 20/0-24/6, 29/2-29/2-29/8 and 36/0-39/0 (8.2 km) of NH 67	9.18	278.18
30.	Strengthening from km 11/0-20/0 of NH 67	9	269.96
31.	Strengthening from km 156/2-159/8 of NH 209	3.6	154.58
32.	Strengthening from km 127/0-134/0 of NH 45A Extn.	7	198.94
33.	Widening the single lane to two lane from km 152/6-160/0 of NH 210 (7.4 km) on NH 210	7.4	239.52
34.	Strengthening in km 188/0-194/0 (6 km) of NH 67	6	173.35
35.	Widening the single lane to two lane from km 166/2-0-176/8 (5.7 km) of NH 210	5.7	227.26
36.	Widening the single lane to two lane from km 146/0-152/6 of NH 210 (6.6 km) on NH 210	6.6	221.66
37.	Strengthening in km 181/0-188/0 of NH 67	7	157.19
38.	Widening the single lane to two lane from km 160/0-166/2 of NH 210 (6.2 km) on NH 210	6.2	191.88
39.	Construction of minor bridge in place of existing causeway at km 12/2 of NH 219		37.64
40.	Strengthening in km 209/0-211/0 and 212/0-217/0 of NH 208	7	246.55
41.	Reconstructoin of culverts at km 1/4 (i) 7 (ii) and construction of new culverts in place of existing causeway at km 3/8 & in place of dip at km 1/6 and improvement of reach in km 0/0-2/0 on NH 207		60.44
42.	Strengthening from km 145/0-152/0 of NH 45B	7	233.67
43.	Strengthening from km 152/0-158/0 of NH 45B	6	198.01
44.	Strengthening from km 158/0-166/0 of NH 45B	8	265.15
45.	Strengthening in km 176/2-181/0 (4.8 km) of NH 67	4.8	139.58
46.	Widening the existing single lane/intermediate lane to two lane in km 159/6-174/0 (7.6 km) of NH 66	7.6	177.39
47.	Land Acquisition for construction of Lalapet ROB at km 183/4 of NH-67		102.7

1	2	3	4
48.	Repair & rehabilitation of minor bridge at km 139/10 of NH 66		8.72
49.	Widening the existing intermediate lane to two lane with geometric improvements in km 79/950-85/0 and 96/0-101/0 (10.4 km) of NH 220	10.4	292.21
50.	Construction of two separate two lane bridge with footpath adjacent to each other minor bridge at km 164/4 of NH 209		110.56
51.	Reconstruction of minor bridge at km 52/8 of NH 66		33.16
52.	Widening the existing single lane/intermediate lane to two lane in km 177/4-194/4 (8.6 km) of NH 66	8.6	185.54
53.	Construction of bypass for Palani Town Branching from km 52/8 and Joining at km 57/6 of NH 209	6.936	814.63
54.	Strengthening the existing carriageway in km 218/0-222/0 (4.0 km) of NH 45B	4	119.07
55.	Strengthening the existing carriageway in km 166/0-171/4 (5.4 km) of NH 45B	5.4	149.63
56.	Raising of dip of km 74/8-75/0 (200 m) including side drains on both sides in km 74/8-75/250 (450 m) and improvement of reach in km 74/800-75/5 (700m) of NH 49	0.7	35.79
57.	Strengthening the existing carriageway in km 233/0-239/0 (6.0 km) of NH 45B	6	168.28
58.	Strengthening the existing carriageway in km 252/0-259/0 (7.0 km) including paved shoulders in km 258/0-259/0 (1.0 km) of NH 45B	7	236.66
Sub Total NH (O)			6824.35
Total [NH (O)+IRQP]			10679.95

**Statement II****Plan Works**

Sl. No.	State	Expenditure incurred (Rs. in crore)		
		2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	8.36	8.97	4.91
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	10.49	11.43	6.48
3.	Assam	2.98	4.6	0.77

1	2	3	4	5
4.	Bihar	7.31	8.09	10.53
5.	Chandigarh	0	0	0
6.	Chhattisgarh	1.57	1.22	3.55
7.	Delhi	0	0	0
8.	Goa	5.45	1.25	0.16
9.	Gujarat	0.7	7.35	5.79
10.	Haryana	0	0.32	0.04
11.	Himachal Pradesh	0	0	0.15
12.	Jammu & Kashmir	0	0	0
13.	Jharkhand	1.84	1.33	1.44
14.	Karnataka	13.07	17.67	6.6
15.	Kerala	16.94	15.03	5.63
16.	Madhya Pradesh	10.04	9.67	4.14
17.	Maharashtra	10.16	1.18	9.24
18.	Manipur	0.69	0.04	0.9
19.	Meghalaya	4.68	8.13	4.5
20.	Mizoram	0	0	0
21.	Nagaland	0	0	0
22.	Orissa	0	0.78	0.37
23.	Pondicherry	0	0	0
24.	Punjab	0	0	0
25.	Rajasthan	0	0	0
26.	Tamil Nadu	1.73	4.13	3.6
27.	Tripura	0.58	0.78	0.22
28.	Uttar Pradesh	29.03	18.73	10.17
29.	Uttaranchal	0.12	0.15	18.24
30.	West Bengal	0	0.44	0.17
	<b>Total</b>	<b>125.7</b>	<b>121.29</b>	<b>97.6</b>

**NHDP Works:**

NHAI awards the projects on package basis which includes the development of National Highways including

the bridges in the packages; the State-wise and year-wise funds allocated by NHAI for Construction and Maintenance of National Highways:

Sl. No.	State	Expenditure incurred (Rs. in crore)		
		2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
1.	Andhra Pradesh	195.71	793.4	1060.58
2.	Assam	12.91	33.53	43.87
3.	Bihar	18.46	188.58	100.52
4.	Chhattisgarh	21.5	0	0
5.	Delhi	3.83	18.68	5.58
6.	Goa	0	1.56	6
7.	Gujarat	184.6	407.32	385.54
8.	Haryana	138.25	61.09	18.73
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	0.29	10.31	3.84
10.	Jharkhand	46.11	75.71	46.5
11.	Himachal Pradesh	0	0	0.36
12.	Karnataka	30.59	233.87	498.42
13.	Kerala	0.83	22.62	25.88
14.	Madhya Pradesh	4.78	37.27	55.5
15.	Maharashtra	128.56	341.81	336.69
16.	Orissa	59.05	395.26	278.51
17.	Punjab	16.83	42.49	30.6
18.	Rajasthan	80.55	260.95	379.43
19.	Tamil Nadu	88.62	325.26	329.95
20.	Uttar Pradesh	208.46	470.75	482.31
21.	West Bengal	135.92	332.17	437.15

**Post Disinvestment Claims**

3263. SHRI SUNIL KHAN: Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received a number of claims from the private companies to whom public sector undertakings have been disinvested;

(b) if so, whether most of the claims are on account of post-disinvestment settlements;

(c) the amount paid to M/s Hindustan Lever as post-disinvestment settlement in respect of Modern Food Limited; and

(d) the amount claimed by M/s Sterlite and M/s Luari Maroe Pvt. as post-closure settlement of BALCO and Paradeep Phosphate Ltd. respectively?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF



DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) and (b) Provision for post closure adjustment are made in the transaction agreements in the case of unlisted Public Sector Undertakings being disinvested. Against this provision claims have been received.

(c) An amount of Rs. 12.64 crore has been paid to M/s Hindustan Lever Ltd. towards post-closing adjustment in respect of Modern Food Industries (India) Ltd.

(d) The post-closing settlement of Bharat Aluminum Company Ltd. (BALCO) has not been finalised so far. In respect of the Paradeep Phosphates Ltd. (PPL), M/s Zuari Maroc Phosphates Pvt. Ltd. have submitted a claim of Rs. 151.55 crore (approx.) to the Department of Fertilizers towards post-closure adjustment.

### **Supply of Essential Drugs**

3264. SHRI RAMJEE MANJHI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the drug producers, voluntary health associations and others had suggested that essential drugs to be supplied through public distribution system so as to expand the ambit of access to modern medicine to 90 per cent of the population;

(b) if so, whether the suggestion has been considered; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Standing Committee on Petroleum and Chemical (2001) in its 15th Report (13th Lok Sabha) regarding 'Pricing and Availability of Drugs/ Pharmaceuticals' had agreed to the common suggestion made by drug producers, voluntary health associations and others that supply of essential drugs should be attached with public distribution system. The suggestion of the Committee was considered by the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare and not agreed to. The diseases that primarily afflict poor are mostly covered under the National Programmes of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare where essential drugs are supplied free by the Government through State Governments.

### **Zero Base Budgeting in Centrally Sponsored Health Schemes**

3265. SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the basis for the assistance extended to the States under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme in his Ministry;

(b) whether zero based budgeting has been introduced in these Centrally Sponsored Schemes; and

(c) if so, the impact on each of the States since the introduction of zero based budgeting?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (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 various Centrally Sponsored Health programmes for control of major diseases like Malaria, TB, Blindness, Leprosy and AIDS.

(b) and (c) A review of ongoing health schemes is undertaken periodically and in the context of zero based budgeting exercise. The Centrally Sponsored Schemes for control of major diseases have been continued since these are crucial in order to bring down the levels of morbidity and mortality due to various diseases in the country. 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.

### **Major Ongoing Project in NER**

3266. SHRI HOLKHOMANG HAOKIP: Will the Minister of DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION be pleased to state:

(a) the major on-going projects in NER and the amount of money estimated for each project;

(b) the progress made in respect of those projects and the amount of money spent so far for each project;

(c) the total funds allocated to NER during the last two years; and

(d) the share of money each member States including Sikkim received during the last two years from the NER for project, schemes etc. State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND MINISTER OF DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (DR. C.P. THAKUR): (a) and (b) The Department of Development of North Eastern Region is supporting projects in the North Eastern Region through Non-Lapsable Central Pool of Resources and North Eastern Council. The detailed State-wise information on the projects supported from the Non-Lapsable Central Pool of Resources including amounts released for each project, year-wise, is on the Department's website: [www.northeast.nic.in](http://www.northeast.nic.in)

The information on major projects funded by the North Eastern Council is as under:

(Rs. in Lakhs)

Project Name	Location	Estimated Cost	Funds released by NEC so far
Sherkhan Bhagabazar Road	Inter-State road in Mizoram and Assam	*5206.00	5235.00
Passyih-Garampani Road	Inter-State road in Assam	4980.00	2231.00
Wokha-Bokajan Road	Inter-State road in Nagaland and Assam	5715.00	4772.00
Dhodar Ali Road	Inter-State road in Assam	5817.00	3303.00
Pakka-Seijosa-Itakhola Road	Inter-State road in Arunachal Pradesh and Assam	5818.00	5216.00
North Eastern Region community Resource Management for Upland Area	Meghalaya, Manipur and Assam	15940.00	2356.30
Regional Institute of Medical Sciences, Imphal	Manipur (it caters needs of entire NE Region)	*42500.00	18695.00
Ranganadi HEP (3x135 MW)	Arunachal Pradesh (caters to Arunachal Pradesh and Regional/National Grid)	145545.00	83485.00
Baramura Gas Based Power Project (1x21 MW)	Tripura (caters to Tripura and Regional/National Grid)	9674.00	8949.45
Ranganadi Transmission Line	Arunachal Pradesh (for Regional/National Grid)	17243.00	11918.00
Doyang Transmission Line	Nagaland (for National/Regional Grid)	11778.00	9953.00
Doyang HEP (3x25 MW)	Nagaland (caters to Nagaland and Regional/National Grid)	75870.00	49985.00

\*Provisional figures—Revised estimates are yet to be finalized.

(c) and (d) The total funds allocated to North Eastern Region from Non-Lapsable Central Pool of Resources for 2000-2001 and 2001-2002 State-wise is as under:

State	*(Rs. in Lakhs)	
	Release 2000-01	Release 2001-02
1	2	3
Common to NER	946	0.00
Arunachal Pradesh	4948	7424
Assam	6929	9063
Manipur	1821	1856

1	2	3
Meghalaya	3188	2239
Mizoram	2672	6986
Nagaland	1557	5216
Sikkim	2228	4971
Tripura	6636	11571

\*Provisional figures

In so far as North Eastern Council is concerned, as the thrust is on projects with a regional nature, the

allocations are for the North Eastern Region as a whole and generally not State specific. The total funds spent in the North Eastern Council in 2000-2001 were Rs. 40948 lakh and in 2001-2002 were Rs. 42699 lakh.

#### **Reserved Posts**

3267. SHRI P.D. ELANGOVAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY 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 Gazette job or Class I and Class II employments are concerned;

(b) if so, the details thereof, Autonomous institution-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 Government 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 therefor and the steps taken by the Government to fill up such vacant posts?

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.

#### **Review of Telephone Services**

3268. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL:  
SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK:

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

(a) whether the Government have made any review in regard to the functioning of telephone services in Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the outcome thereof;

(c) whether the complaints are not being attended to properly by the Department resulting in inconvenience to the consumers;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the Union Government have received any representations/suggestions from individuals/NGOs in this regard; and

(f) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken by Government for providing regular/better telephone services?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) and (b) Sir, functioning of telephone services in various circles including Maharashtra is reviewed periodically and is found satisfactory.

(c) to (e) All the complaints received are attended to and faults are cleared promptly by the Government owned telecom services PSUs viz. the Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) in the metro areas of Mumbai and Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) in other parts of Maharashtra. Every effort is made to keep the telecom services to the satisfaction of customers. However, occasionally, difficulties are faced in maintenance work due to poor infrastructure like non motorable roads and erratic power supply.

(f) The improvement of telephone services is a continuous process. Steps taken to improve further given in the enclosed Statement.

#### **Statement**

- (i) Replacement of non-life expired paper core cable by Poly Insulated Jelly Filled (PIJF) cable in a phased manner.
- (ii) Replacement of life expired telephone instruments by new telephone instruments.
- (iii) Opening of more and expired Remote Line Units (RLUs)/Remote Subscriber Units (RSUs) for reducing the serving area of the exchange and corresponding reduction in cable length.
- (iv) Use of 5 pair PIJF cable along with 5 pair internal DP to have pole-less network.
- (v) Upgradation and rehabilitation of external plant.
- (vi) Computerisation of fault repair services of more and more exchanges in a phased manner for better monitoring of faults. The entire metro area of Mumbai served by MTNL already has this facility. The computerised system ensures booking of telephone complaints round the clock

and gives status of the fault, including the fault docket number instantaneously.

- (vii) Booking of telephone complaints centralized for small and medium exchanges at Short Distance Charging Area to have round the clock booking facility.
- (viii) Provision of maintenance free battery sets and standby generators progressively in more and more exchanges of rural areas to overcome the problem of non-reliable commercial power supply.

#### Disinvestment of Fertilizer PSUs

3269. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the fertiliser cooperative giant IFFCO was allowed to bid for all the three fertiliser PSUs which were to be put for sale by the Ministry;

(b) if so, whether a detailed and thorough study has been undertaken in NFL, MFL and FACT to ascertain their worth and make an assessment of the manner in which each of these companies performed;

(c) whether any final decision for bidding has been taken;

(d) if so, whether the IFFCO has been successful in getting these fertilizer PSUs; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) Multi State Cooperative Societies under the Department of Fertilizers have been allowed to participate in the disinvestment of fertilizer PSUs.

(b) Business valuations of National Fertilizers Limited (NFL), Madras Fertilizers Limited (MFL) and Fertilizers and Chemicals Travancore Limited (FACT) have not yet been carried out. While undertaking the valuation exercise, the transaction Advisors would make detailed and thorough study of the concerned companies to ascertain their worth and the manner in which these companies performed.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Do not arise in view of reply to (c) above.

12.01 hrs.

[English]

#### PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): Sir, on behalf of Shri Jaswant Singh, I beg to lay on the Table—

(1) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) of sub-section (3) of section 641 of the Companies Act, 1956:—

(i) G.S.R. 751 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 2nd November, 2002 making certain amendments in the Schedule V of the Companies Act, 1956.

(ii) G.S.R. 762 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 13th November, 2002 making certain amendments in the Schedule VI of the Companies Act, 1956.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 7190/2003]

(2) A copy of the Forty Sixth Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) on the working and administration of the Companies Act, 1956 under section 638 of the said Act.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 7191/2003]

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of External Affairs for the year 2003-2004.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 7192/2003]

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare for the year 2003-2004.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 7193/2003]

[English]

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAG MOHAN): I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Tourism and Culture (Department of Culture) for the year 2003-2004.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 7194/2003]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI BHAVNABEN DEVRAJBHAI CHIKHALIA): On behalf of Shri Ajit Singh, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Agriculture for the year 2003-2004.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 7195/2003]

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JUAL ORAM): I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs for the year 2003-2004.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 7196/2003]

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution for the year 2003-2004.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 7197/2003]

[English]

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Law and Justice for the year 2003-2004.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 7198/2003]

THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises for the year 2003-2004.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 7199/2003]

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SAHIB SINGH VERMA): I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Labour for the year 2003-2004.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 7200/2003]

THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI VIKRAM VERMA): I beg to lay on the Table a copy of Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports for the year 2003-2004.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 7201/2003]

[English]

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND MINISTER OF DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (DR. C.P. THAKUR): I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) A copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Small Scale Industries for the year 2003-2004.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 7202/2003]

- (2) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:—

- (a) (i) Statement regarding Review by the Government of the working of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands Integrated Development Corporation Limited, Port Blair, for the year 2001-2002.

- (ii) Annual Report of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands Integrated Development Corporation Limited, Port Blair, for the year 2001-2002, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 7203/2003]

- (b) (i) Statement regarding Review by the Government of the working of the North Eastern Handicrafts and Handlooms Development Corporation Limited, Shillong, for the year 2001-2002.

- (ii) Annual Report of the North Eastern Handicrafts and Handlooms Development Corporation Limited, Shillong, for the year 2001-2002, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 7204/2003]

- (c) (i) Statement regarding Review by the Government of the working of the North

Eastern Regional Agricultural Marketing Corporation Limited, Guwahati, for the year 2001-2002.

- (ii) Annual Report of the North Eastern Regional Agricultural Marketing Corporation Limited, Guwahati, for the year 2001-2002, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.
- (3) Three statements (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (2) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 7205/2003]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS [MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI]: I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) A copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways for the year 2003-2004.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 7206/2003]

- (2) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under section 10 of the National Highways Act, 1956:—

(i) S.O. 182 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 14th February, 2003 making certain amendments in the Notification No. S.O. 137 (E) dated the 18th February, 2002.

(ii) S.O. 183 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 17th February, 2003 regarding acquisition of land for four laning of National Highway No. 8 (Surat to Manor in Palsana) in the District of Surat in the State of Gujarat.

(iii) S.O. 1208 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 16th November, 2002 regarding acquisition of land for widening of National Highway No. 6 (Kolaghat-Kharagpur Section) in the State of West Bengal.

(iv) S.O. 176 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 14th February, 2003 regarding acquisition of land for four laning of National Highway No. 4 (Pune-Satara Section) in the District of Satara in the State of Maharashtra.

(v) S.O. 177 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 14th February, 2003 regarding acquisition of

land for four laning of National Highway No. 4 (Pune to Satara Section) in the District of Satara in the State of Maharashtra.

(vi) S.O. 178 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 14th February, 2003 regarding acquisition of land for four laning of National Highway No. 4 (Pune to Satara Section) in the District of Satara in the State of Maharashtra.

(vii) S.O. 179 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 14th February, 2003 regarding acquisition of land for four laning of National Highway No. 4 (Pune to Satara Section) in the District of Satara in the State of Maharashtra.

- (3) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (2) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 7207/2003]

- (4) A copy 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 Road Construction Corporation Limited, New Delhi, for the period from the 29th June, 2001 to the 28th June, 2002.

(ii) Annual Report of the Indian Road Construction Corporation Limited, New Delhi, for the period from the 29th June, 2001 to the 28th June, 2002, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 7208/2003]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY): I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Steel for the year 2003-2004.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 7209/2003]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI BHAVNABEN DEVRAJBHAI CHIKHALIA): On behalf of Shri Ramesh Bais, I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) A copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Mines for the year 2003-2004.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 7210/2003]

- (2) A copy of the Memorandum of Understanding (Hindi and English versions) between the Hindustan Copper Limited and the Ministry of Mines for the year 2002-2003.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 7211/2003]

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) A copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology (Department of Telecommunications) for the year 2003-2004.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 7212/2003]

- (2) A copy of the Telecommunication Interconnection Usage Charges (IUC) Regulation 2003 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. 311-1/2003-Econ. in Gazette of India dated the 29th January, 2003 under section 37 of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India Act, 1997.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 7213/2003]

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) A copy of the Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (Regulation and Prevention of Misuse) Amendment Rules, 2003 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 109 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 14th February, 2003 under section 34 of the Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (Regulation and Prevention of Misuse) Act, 1994.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 7214/2003]

- (2) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Institute of Post-graduate Teaching and Research in Ayurveda, Jamnagar, for the year 2001-2002, along with Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Institute of Post-graduate Teaching and Research in Ayurveda, Jamnagar, for the year 2001-2002.

- (3) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (2) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 7215/2003]

- (4) A copy of the Prevention of Food Adulteration (Eighth Amendment) Rules, 2002 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 853 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 30th December, 2002 under sub section (2) of the section 23 of the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 7216/2003]

- (5) A copy of the S.O. 111 (E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated 31st January, 2003 constituting the Drugs Technical Advisory Board consisting the members mentioned therein issued under sub-sections (1) and (2) of section 5 of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 7217/2003]

THE MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): On behalf of Shri Gingee N. Ramachandran, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Parliament, Secretariats of the President and Vice-President for the year 2003-2004.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 7218/2003]

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 DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) A copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation for the year 2003-2004.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 7219/2003]

- (2) A copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Planning for the year 2003-2004.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 7220/2003]

- (3) A copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Department of Atomic Energy for the year 2003-2004.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 7221/2003]

- (4) A copy of the National Commission on Population (Hindi and English versions) on Conference of State Population Commissions/Councils (Proceedings and an overview of the demographic scenario in India), New Delhi.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 7222/2003]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI BHAVNABEN DEVRAJBHAI CHIKHALIA): I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs for the year 2003-2004.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 7223/2003]

[*Translation*]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) A copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Shipping for the year 2003-2004.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 7224/2003]

- (2) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:—

(i) Review by the Government of the working of the Ennore Port Limited, Chennai, for the period from the 11th October, 1999 to the 31st March, 2001.

(i) Annual Report of the Ennore Port Limited, Chennai, for the period from the 11th October, 1999 to the 31st March, 2001, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

- (3) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (2) above.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 7225/2003]

- (4) (i) A copy of the Annual Administration Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Chennai Port

Trust, Chennai, for the year 2001-2002, along with Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Chennai Port Trust, Chennai, 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. L.T. 7226/2003]

[*English*]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV): I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Environment and Forests for the year 2003-2004.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 7227/2003]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SU THIRUNAVUKKARASAR): I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Department of Posts for the year 2003-2004.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 7228/2003]

12.07 hrs.

[*English*]

### MESSAGE FROM RAJYA SABHA

SECRETARY-GENERAL: Sir, I have to report the following message received from the Secretary-General of Rajya Sabha:—

"In accordance with the provisions of sub-rule (6) of rule 186 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to return herewith the Customs Tariff (Amendment) Bill, 2003, which was passed by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 3rd March, 2003 and transmitted to the Rajya Sabha for its recommendations and to state that this House has no recommendations to make to the Lok Sabha in regard to the said Bill."



12.07<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> hrs.

[English]

## COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES

### Twelfth Report

PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU (Tenali): Sir, I beg to present the Twelfth Report (Hindi and English versions) of Estimates Committee on the Ministry of Railways (Railways Board)— 'Shifting of North-Western Railway Zonal Headquarters from Jaipur to Ajmer'....(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA (Jaipur): The Zonal office of the Railways has been opened at Jaipur with great difficulty. That should remain there. Therefore this report should be withdrawn.

12.08 hrs.

## \*STATEMENT BY PRIME MINISTER

### Situation relating to Iraq

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the situation relating to Iraq has been rapidly changing over the past few weeks. India has consistently stood for a peaceful resolution of the Iraq issue. The peace and prosperity of the Gulf is of vital interest to India give our long standing political, cultural and economic ties with the countries of the region. There are over 3.5 million Indians working in the gulf, whose welfare is of great concern to us. Their remittances are an important source of foreign exchange for the country. Over 60 percent of India's crude oil imports are sourced from the region. The Gulf countries have also emerged as important destinations for our exports.

India recognized the validity of the unanimous decision of the UN Security Council in its Resolution 1441, which provides for the disarmament of Iraq and also reaffirms the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Iraq, Kuwait and the neighbouring States. Resolution 1441 provides a stringent regime of inspections designed to meet the international community's desire that weapons of mass destruction are eliminated from Iraq. We believe that Iraq must cooperate actively with the inspection process and comply fully with all relevant Security Council Resolutions. If the pace of this cooperation had been

quicker, it may have enabled UNMOVIC and IAEA to certify to the UN Security Council that Iraq was in full compliance of Resolution 1441.

The work of the Inspectors is continuing in Iraq. The Security Council should decide on what further action needs to be taken. The international community must take a very careful look both at the objective of achieving Iraq's full compliance with UN resolutions and at the means to be adopted to reach this goal. This can best be achieved by a collective decision through the United Nations. If permitting more time and formulation of clearer criteria can facilitate a decision within the UN framework, we believe this option should be given a chance. We hope that the members of the Security Council will harmonise their positions to ensure that its final decision enhances the legitimacy and credibility of the United Nations. If unilateralism prevails, the U.N. would be deeply scarred, with disastrous consequences for the world order. The Government of India would strongly urge that no military action be taken, which does not have the collective concurrence of the international community.

India has voiced its concern on various occasions about the difficult humanitarian situation in Iraq. The Iraqi people have suffered severe shortages and hardships for over a decade. We have consistently stated that if Iraq complies fully with the provisions of relevant Security Council resolutions, then sanctions against that country should be lifted.

While we sincerely hope, in the interest of all humanity, that the matter can be resolved peacefully through the United Nations, my Government has drawn up contingency plans to deal with any eventuality. There are less than 50 Indian nationals in Iraq at present and they have all been advised to leave the country in the coming days. It is unlikely that there would be any large-scale dislocation of the Indian communities in the neighbouring countries on a possible outbreak of hostilities. Nevertheless the Ministry of Civil Aviation has drawn up plans to evacuate Indians, if necessary. The Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas has taken steps to shore up our inventories of crude oil. While no major dislocation in crude oil imports is envisaged, India has adequate foreign exchange reserves to meet a higher crude oil import bill if prices continue to rise in the short run.

[English]

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH (Maharajanji, U.P.): Sir, I have given a notice of adjournment motion....(Interruptions)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, you are aware that the hon. Prime Minister has made a statement on a very important issue. In normal course, in our House, classificatory questions are not asked on such statements. But as a special case, in this particular case, I am prepared to allow a very few leaders to put their questions considering the importance of the matter. I hope the House will agree and if the hon. Prime Minister agrees, then I will ask the hon. Members to ask questions.

Hon. Prime Minister, after your statement, a few hon. Members have desired that they would like to put questions and they would always be careful that the House has a unanimous view as far as possible on this issue. If you are prepared to reply, then I may allow them to put their questions.

[*Translation*]

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am ready to reply the questions. But there is a difficulty that right now I have to give a statement in Rajya Sabha also.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL (Latur): Sir, we express our thanks to you. Some questions come out to our mind after the statement of the hon. Prime Minister which we will put to him and we expect the replies thereof from him. First of all some outside powers are talking about change of Governments in Iraq. It is against the spirit of democracy.

It will also be apt to clarify that what would be the policy of our country and that of our Government in this regard. NAM has passed some resolutions in which some issues have been raised. It also becomes necessary to think about the stand of our country and that of our Government on those issues and whether we will fully act upon them or whether our stand will be somewhat different. Besides this some resolutions are also coming in the U.N. Security Council. Though, we have got some indication from the statement of the Prime Minister on what would be our response to those resolutions but the Government needs to come out with full details on this issue. It is also essential to explain as to how much importance we attach to implement any resolution and what would be the policy of our country if the Security Council passes the resolution that they are against the use of force. We know that our Government can defend our country if it works with a sense of responsibility and along with this we can put forth the view of our country also.

When we express our views at a right time and in proper way and for a genuine cause, it leaves good impression not only upon us but on the world also....(*Interruptions*) We have seen in our country, when we seek to protect our interests, along with that, we also uphold our principles. What would be the stand of the Government in this regard?...(*Interruptions*)

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi): Reply covers every aspect...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur): Let there be a proper discussion. After his Rajya Sabha business, let the hon. Prime Minister come back here and let us start a discussion on this, if the hon. Members are so impatient. We do not mind this...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Please keep silence in the House. Let a few questions be asked.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: We wanted that on this matter the country should speak in a united voice. That is why we said that this is a matter on which there should be no ambivalence or uncertainty in the stand of the country, which is the leader in the NAM. I am again requesting the hon. Prime Minister to state whether he agrees to have a Resolution passed in this House categorically stating our position very clearly to the entire international community that we shall never support any war as is being threatened by USA or UK and some other countries like Spain. We shall never be supportive of the threat of war or the actual war.

The hon. Prime Minister said, 'no military action without collective decision'. I do not know whether the Government of India today will approve of military action if the United Nations passes a Resolution by majority. This is a very vital question. The hon. Prime Minister has said that Iraq should fully comply with UN Resolution 1441...(*Interruptions*)

Can Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee not look after himself? Does he want your help?

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Somnath Chatterjee, you can continue.

[*Translation*]

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Do not try to divide the House on this issue. The House is unanimous on it.

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Therefore, I want the hon. Prime Minister of India to categorically state that we shall never support any war and we condemn all threats of war that have been held up.

Thirdly, a reference has been made by the hon. Prime Minister regarding the Inspector's Report. As far as we have been able to understand, the last report of Mr. Blix says that there is no cause of alarm at the moment. He is satisfied after all sorts of investigation that there is a sincere attempt by Iraq to fully comply with Resolution 1441. Then, what is the necessity of all these military threats and all that? What is the reaction of the Government of India when this superpower says that they do not want anybody's permission to go to war? They do not comply with it and they do not care or wait for the United Nations or Security Council decision. Therefore, should we not make our position clear that we object to such unilateral action on the part of a super power?...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY (Calcutta North West): Sir, we unanimously endorse the statement made by the Prime Minister...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: The Member has raised a clarification.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Therefore, we should express our opposition to this unilateral threat over the head of the Security Council that is being given and the arrogance that is being shown that they do not need anybody's permission to go to war. Not a single comment has been made by the hon. Prime Minister on this point. We want a categorical assurance by the Prime Minister of India that if in the event a war starts, India will not afford any facilities so far as military operations are concerned...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY: Sir, Prime Minister's statement is very categorical and clear. He is unnecessarily creating problems in the House...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, whatever the hon. Prime Minister has told in Hindi, he said that thing in English here. There is no difference in it.

MR. SPEAKER: This is the only difference.

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Sir, I cannot match with his Hindi. I cannot go anywhere near him on that point. And I can speak in perfect English...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRAKASH MANI TRIPATHI (Deoria): Sir, I am on a point of order.

MR. SPEAKER: What is your point of order?

[Translation]

SHRI PRAKASH MANI TRIPATHI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, pushing aside a special provision, you have given an opportunity to raise a question. My first point of order is that it is expected that it will not become a tradition and the Lok Sabha will not transform into the Rajya Sabha. My point of order is that there is provision under Rule 372 that no question can be raised after the Statement of the hon. Minister. If you have allowed to raise a question, only clarificatory question should be raised but here it has been changed into a discussion. This is the reason that after the Minister's statement questions are not raised in the Lok Sabha. Speeches are being delivered here and it is being said that we want this and that, whereas there is no such provision in the rule...*(Interruptions)*

Hon. Minister can only raise question. In view of it you have allowed the hon. Members. How discussion can be initiated on this issue...*(Interruptions)* There is no such provision...*(Interruptions)* The hon. Members have started misusing the rule.

[English]

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA (Canara): Sir, is he challenging the Chair's decision? It is the Speaker's decision. How can he raise a point of order?...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: He is not challenging the ruling of the Chair. He has brought the right rule to the notice of the Speaker. Therefore, I have said that I will allow only two or three Members to put questions and not to give speeches. Shri Tripathy, I agree with your point of order.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Ramji Lal Suman, you can only ask question. You cannot deliver speech.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Athawaleji, you can ask question after the reply of the hon. Prime Minister.

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Firozabad): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the issue of Iraq is a very important question. The Hon. Prime Minister has made his statement recently. Shri Shivraj Patil and Shri Somnath Chatterjee both have expressed their views. The House should be unanimous on this issue; there should not be division in the House on this issue. It is a serious issue...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj): What is happening in this House? I do not understand. Even on such a serious matter, Members from the ruling party are not serious.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Firozabad): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the most important thing is that Arms Inspectors have submitted their report but there is no psychological impact on America. Regarding Afghanistan, we helped America without any support resulting which world opinion was in favour of America. It is our duty that not only we should remain neutral in this case but lead in this regard. America has repeatedly said that irrespective of any decision of the United Nations, they will attack. Foreign Secretary of America Shri Powell's statements are coming. I, through you, would like to urge that we should not talk about any political issue. But, I would like to say that America's purpose of attack is to occupy the oil reserves of Iraq. Moreover, there is no clear policy of America. It is a serious question, therefore, we want your protection. We want that the House should not be divided on this issue and India should play a meaningful role instead of remaining neutral.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the whole House would be unanimous on the point that today the world is undergoing a scenario in which war is looming large. We are against war. It should not take place. This problem should be solved through peaceful dialogue. Therefore, I said that if there is need of more time, it should be provided. If there is need to increase the number of Arms Inspectors, it should be done. The results of the inspection are not so disappointing. They have obtained some information and some information is yet to be obtained. Efforts should be made to obtain the information which is yet to be obtained. Therefore, it is very difficult to say whether war will take place or not. I hope that war will not take place. Therefore, there is no need to give reply of the question if war takes place....

[*English*]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Your ambivalence will create problems.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: This is the problem with your Government.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: The Government should anticipate situations and be ready for that.

[*Translation*]

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is a problem of diplomacy. You would have been doing this when you were in power.

[*English*]

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY (Miryalguda): Why do you not adopt the same approach as that of Russia, Germany and France? They are not quibbling. They are not prevaricating. Why are you prevaricating?

MR. SPEAKER: Let him complete the reply.

[*Translation*]

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: Mr. Speaker...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: You do not condemn.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, therefore, I say that I hope that unilateral action will not be taken. When I say that some action will be taken, they will be condemned.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: You should do it first.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: Shri Shivraj Patilji has raised one more question. That important question is as to how the Government would be changed. We all know that the Governments are changed with public opinion and they should remain with the public opinion...(*Interruptions*)

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: It is happening with America's opinion...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: It is wrong if some outside power changes the regime of any country arbitrarily with force and assume power, we will not support that.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: That is exactly what they want to do; you must condemn it...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I do not understand that there is difference over this issue.

*(English)*

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: It only requires some questions from us for you to come out with an answer!...*(Interruptions)*

*(Translation)*

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: I have replied that, I cannot say how things develop today and I reiterate there will be no unilateral action; it is my belief...*(Interruptions)* Since the unilateral action tantamounts to setting United Nations at naught and throw the world into a crisis.

*(English)*

MR. SPEAKER: The reply is over. I have received a number of Adjournment Motions. I have refused permission to all of them.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Sir, sometimes, on a very urgent issue, it has helped...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Ramdas Athawale's issue about the atrocities on *dalits* will be discussed in the House today. Therefore, we are now going to the Calling Attention.

I have received a notice of Calling Attention from Shri Kirit Somaiya. Shri Kirit Somaiya to call the attention of the hon. Minister now.

...*(Interruptions)*

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE (Calcutta South); Sir, we want to raise the issue of atrocities on women...*(Interruptions)* We want to raise the Dhantala issue. Everyday, we are trying to raise it...*(Interruptions)* We are trying to raise it for a long time...*(Interruptions)* It is a very important issue. We are waiting for one month to raise it...*(Interruptions)*

*(Translation)*

SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN (Vidisha): Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is Calling Attention Motion on Madhya Pradesh...*(Interruptions)*

*(English)*

MR. SPEAKER: I will allow during the 'Zero Hour'. There is a Calling Attention which has already been taken up. Please sit down. I will call you during the 'Zero Hour'.

...*(Interruptions)*

12.33 hrs.

*(English)*

## CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

### **Alleged inclusion of bogus voters in the electoral list in Madhya Pradesh**

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA (Mumbai North East): Sir, I call the attention of the Minister of Law and Justice to the following matter of urgent public importance and request that he may make a statement thereon:

"The alleged inclusion of bogus voters in the electoral list in Madhya Pradesh and steps taken by the Government in regard thereto."

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj): Sir, I am on a point of order...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: What is your point of order?

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: My point of order is this...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please keep silence in the House.

...*(Interruptions)*

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE (Calcutta South); Sir, we are waiting since one month to raise the Dhantala issue...*(Interruptions)* Everyday, they are raising the issues. We are not allowed to raise this issue...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I have already told you that during the 'Zero Hour' you can raise the issue and not now.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: My humble submission is this...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I have already started the Calling Attention. After the Calling Attention, I am going to the

'Zero Hour'. During the 'Zero Hour', you can raise the issue.

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY (Calcutta North West): Sir, the hon. Deputy Prime Minister is present. Please allow us to raise it...(*Interruptions*)

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: This is a very serious matter. I would request Shri Dasmunsi to take his seat for one minute...(*Interruptions*)

This is a very serious matter. The House should know that atrocities on women are so high in Dhantala. The marriage party was coming back from the marriage ceremony and the women were gang-raped by the ruling party cadres there...(*Interruptions*) After 18 days, an FIR was lodged...(*Interruptions*) It is about atrocities on women. I did not mention the name of the Party. I have said that the ruling party cadres were involved in it...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): Sir, this matter is being discussed in the State Assembly. The Assembly is in Session. This is a State issue. Why are you allowing this here?

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: The rape issue is not a State subject. It is about the gang-rape of women...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Kumari Mamata Banerjee, you want to raise an important issue. I do agree with you. Let the House be aware that we go according to the rules before us.

I have no objection to your raising this issue, but you can raise it during 'Zero Hour'. Yesterday also, the same case was there. I have permitted the Calling Attention first and thereafter I have allowed other issues to be raised during 'Zero Hour'. Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi has not raised this issue. He is on a point of order relating to the Calling Attention raised by Shri Kirit Somaiya and some other Members. According to them, their issue is also equally important and therefore I have gone to that issue. I have already started it. As soon as it is completed, I will permit you to speak.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, why should a State subject be raised here?...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Basu Deb Acharia, you can raise your objection when the issue is raised in the House.

SHRI ANADI SAHU (Berhampur, Orissa): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I also went to Danthola...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, an editorial is also published in *The Hindustan Times* today about this matter.

MR. SPEAKER: I know that this is important. You will be allowed to speak.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: I am going to permit you to speak very soon. Please take your seat.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to raise a point of order. Under Rule 197 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha, you are the sole custodian and authority of this House and you are competent to allow any matter to be raised under Calling Attention and no Member has a right to question your competence. I am not questioning that. What I am questioning is, under the Practice and Procedure in Parliament by Kaul and Shakdhar, the procedure is very clear that all Calling Attention matters concerning the Union Government can be taken up. I am not questioning the admissibility of the Calling Attention. The text of the motion says:

"To call the attention of the Minister of Law and Justice to alleged inclusion of bogus voters in the electoral list in Madhya Pradesh and steps taken by the Government in regard thereto."

Now, article 324 (1) of the Constitution says:

"The superintendence, direction and control of the preparation of the electoral rolls for, and the conduct of, all elections to Parliament and to the Legislature of every State and of elections to the offices of President and Vice-President held under this Constitution shall be vested in a Commission (referred to in this Constitution as the Election Commission)."

The entire authority in all matters relating to election, as per article 324 of the Constitution, is with the Election Commission. Certainly, the Law Minister can communicate to the House on behalf of the Election Commission. I am not questioning that. But the matter precisely lies with the Election Commission and not with any State Government, be it Madhya Pradesh or any other State. Therefore, I desire and I seek your guidance and ruling as to whether a matter of this nature, which is still being investigated by the Election Commission under article 324 of the Constitution, can be raised in the House through

[Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi]

a Calling Attention. I feel that the Union Government and the Law Ministry has no jurisdiction in the matter.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Central Government can do nothing in this matter.

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi): No; it can intervene...*(Interruptions)*

[*Translation*]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Tell, what will the government do?

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: If the State do not adhere to the instructions of the Election Commission-

[*English*]

the Central Government can give them a directive and the Central Government can dismiss that Government...*(Interruptions)* If the Election Commission's directives are not accepted by them, why can it not be done?...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I have heard the point of order very carefully and I have gone through article 324 (1) of the Constitution also. I went through the notice that was given to me and in the notice I do not find any allegation against the Election Commission. There is only a reference to the words 'Election Commission', because the orders for preparing the list was given by the Election Commission. The text of the Calling Attention says:

"To call the attention of the Minister of Law and Justice to alleged inclusion of bogus voters in the electoral list in Madhya Pradesh and steps taken by the Government in regard thereto."

It means that there seems to be some irregularity on the part of the Government of Madhya Pradesh. That is what the Member has said in the notice.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, how can a matter pertaining to the Government of Madhya Pradesh be taken up with the Law Minister here?

MR. SPEAKER: Therefore, I have gone through this and I have come to the conclusion.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRAKASH YASHWANT AMBEDKAR (Akola): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to submit that under the Representation of People Act...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: When the Speaker is giving a ruling, how can you stand up in between?

How can you stand up like that?

SHRI PRAKASH YASHWANT AMBEDKAR: Sir, I am just helping you in this matter...*(Interruptions)* If you kindly hear me for a minute, I would help you.

MR. SPEAKER: If I want help from the other Member, I will ask him to help.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Considering the authority of the Speaker, this particular question can be discussed under the Rule relating to Calling Attention Notice. Therefore, I have permitted Shri Kirit Somaiya to go ahead.

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: I have drawn the attention of the Minister. Now, the Minister has to reply...*(Interruptions)*

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER: The Member whose names are given in the Calling Attention Motion list can only express their views. If your name is in the said list, then you can express your views.

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI (Khajuraho): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have sought your permission in writing to expressing my views.

MR. SPEAKER: Yes.

[*English*]

I want the other side to come.

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): Sir, the Election Commission of India through the Chief Electoral Officer (CEO), Madhya Pradesh and District Election Officers (DEOs) took up the special revision of intensive nature of electoral rolls in the State of Madhya Pradesh in May, 2002. After house-to-house enumeration based on preliminary list generated on the basis of existing rolls, the draft rolls were published in 11 districts on 26th December, 2002 and in the remaining 34 districts on 20th January, 2003 for inviting claims and objections. When the second tranche of the draft rolls were published on 20th January, 2003, a number of complaints were received in the Commission alleging large-scale omissions, mistakes and irregularities.

A representative of the Commission visited Bhopal on 30th January, 2003 to review the rolls. Some of the political parties through their representatives submitted representations in Bhopal and later in Delhi, highlighting discrepancies and alleging large-scale irregularities.

The Commission after taking the note of these representations decided to say the process of revision on 'as is where is' basis and directed the CEO to conduct a thorough review of the draft rolls on 3rd February, 2003.

The CEO after a detailed review submitted a report in respect of 40 districts on 22nd February, 2003. He also sent a special report in respect of Rewa district on 19th February, 2003. These reports indicated, *inter alia*, the following types of errors in the rolls:—

- (i) A number of emunerated electors left out in the printed draft electoral rolls.
- (ii) A large number of duplicate entries found in the rolls.
- (iii) A number of electors, who should have been deleted, were not deleted in the draft rolls.
- (iv) A number of minor printing errors in respect of electors (e.g. mistakes in name, relation, age, sex, house number, etc).

The CEO after analysing the data identified the Assembly Constituencies with excessive errors based on the following criteria:—

- (i) Number of electors left out to be printed in the draft rolls is more than five per cent of the total number of electors or more than 60 per part on an average basis.
- (ii) Number of entries replicated more than once is more than five per cent of the total number of electors or more than 60 per cent on an average basis.
- (iii) Number of electors who should have been deleted but were not deleted in the draft rolls is more than five per cent of the total number of electors or more than 60 per cent on an average basis.

Based on the above criteria, 41 Assembly Constituencies spread over 16 districts were identified having excessive errors. The remaining 189 Assembly Constituencies had manageable errors limits that can be corrected without resorting to fresh draft publication. The CEO also reported that the DEOs of five districts failed to furnish the data.

The Commission after considering the reports of the CEO desired that draft publication of electoral rolls may be done afresh in respect of 41 Assembly Constituencies where excessive errors have been found, after making the corrections based on the manuscript generated during the enumerations. In respect of remaining 189 Assembly Constituencies, the Commission decided that the errors should be corrected under the provisions of Rules 21, 21(A) and 22 of the Registration of Electors Rules, 1960 that provide for *suo motu* corrections by the Electoral Registration Officers (EROs). The EROs will display such corrections in their offices and also at every Polling Station (the part in which corrections have been carried out). The Commission approved the following schedule for final publication of rolls after incorporating the necessary corrections.

(i) The draft electoral rolls shall be republished in 41 Assembly constituencies as per schedule below:—

- |  |                           |
|--|---------------------------|
| (a) Republication of the draft electoral rolls :           | 28.3.2003                 |
| (b) Period for inviting claims and objections :            | 28.3.2003 to<br>17.4.2003 |
| (c) Disposal of claims and objections                      | 18.4.2003 to<br>2.5.2003  |
| (d) Final publication of electoral rolls                   | 21.5.2003                 |
| (ii) In respect of remaining 189 Assembly constituencies:— |                           |
| (a) Period for filing claims and objections :              | Up to 28.3.2003           |
| (b) Disposal of claims and objections                      | 29.3.2003 to<br>17.4.2003 |
| (c) Final publication of electoral rolls                   | 8.5.2003                  |

The Commission felt that in certain districts due care and diligence was not displayed by the concerned DEOs and Deputy District Election Officers in preparation of draft rolls which is a fundamental and integral part of election exercise and a statutory duty under Section 13 AA of Representation of People Act, 1950.

The Commission found excessive errors in Rewa, Shahdol and Khargone districts. In Rewa, the rolls for all seven Assembly constituencies were substantially defective. In Shahdol all six Assembly constituencies had defective rolls and in Khargone rolls five out of six Assembly constituencies were found defective. In respect of Rewa, the separate enquiry by CEO revealed that the DEO as well as Dy. DEO ignored the representations made by various political parties pointing out irregularities and defects and failed to take any corrective action in different stages. The Commission after considering all the facts decided to recommend to the State Government of Madhya Pradesh suspension of Collectors-cum-DEOs and Dy. DEOs of these three districts with immediate effect.



[Shri Arun Jaitley]

The Commission also recommended initiation of departmental proceedings (under the relevant service rules) leading to major penalty against the Collectors-cum-DEOs and Dy. DEOs of five districts, namely, Jabalpur, Dhindori, Katni, Damoh and Narsingpur who failed to furnish the required information in time despite clear directives from the CEO and the Commission. The act of not submitting the reports in time amounted to gross indiscipline and irresponsibility in meeting the requirement of a major task connected with the conduct of elections.

The CEO, Madhya Pradesh has given following figures in respect of errors in the draft rolls for all the constituencies in the State.

Sl. No.	Errors	No. of Errors
1.	Number of electors left to be printed in the draft rolls	6,40,319
2.	Number of entries replicated more than once in the draft rolls	1,86,449
3.	Number of electors who should have been deleted but were not deleted in the draft rolls	3,36,205
4.	Number of electors whose entries have minor printing errors.	16,30,666

MR. SPEAKER: After the Statement, there is a list of 41 Assembly constituencies where draft rolls have to be republished, which would be treated as laid.

*Annexure 'A'*

\*SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: Sir, I lay the list.

*List of 41 Assembly Constituencies where draft rolls have to be republished*

[English]

1. 16-Lashkar East
2. 18-Morar
3. 41-Rehli
4. 66-Rewa
5. 67-Gurh
6. 79-Beohari

7. 83-Kotma (ST)
8. 85-Sohagpur
9. 131-Pandhurna
10. 132-Piparia
11. 133-Hoshangabad
12. 148-Govindpura
13. 163-Sarangpur (SC)
14. 165-Khilchipur
15. 173-Khachrod
16. 175-Ghathiya (SC)
17. 176-Ujjain North
18. 177-Ujjain South
19. 181-Indore-2
20. 183-Indore-4
21. 184-Indore-5
22. 190-Khategaon
23. 194-Khandwa
24. 198-Bhikangaon
25. 200-Maheshwar (SC)
26. 201-Kasrawad
27. 202-Khargone
28. 203-Dhulkot (ST)
29. 204-Sendhwa (ST)
30. 205-Anjad (ST)
31. 207-Badwani (ST)
32. 218-Thandla (ST)
33. 226-Suwasara (ST)
34. 68-Mangawan
35. 69-Sirmaur
36. 70-Teonthar
37. 71-Deotalab (SC)
38. 72-Mauganj
39. 82-Jaisinghnagar
40. 84-Anuppur (ST)
41. 86-Pushparajgarh

\* As the Speaker subsequently did not accord the necessary permission, the list was not treated as laid on the Table.

SHRI E. AHAMED (Manjeri): Sir, I am on a procedural matter. The hon. Minister has given the details. Has he got something from the State Government or from Election Commission or from source? We would like to know the source of information on which the hon. Minister has made a statement here.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, I would like to thank you for giving this ruling. It will give opportunity to every Member to bring their issues regarding State electoral rolls in future in this House.

MR. SPEAKER: That was according to the convention in the House.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, it is simple. The Law Minister will have to oblige the House on such details regarding every State electoral rolls.

MR. SPEAKER: Yesterday, when Shri Chandra Shekhar raised this issue I said, 'let us sit together and discuss whether the State matters can be brought'.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: I am not saying that. I thanked you that you gave this opportunity to all of us.

MR. SPEAKER: I am thankful to you that at least once you have thanked the Chair!

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down. When the hon. Minister replies to this, he will answer your question. Shri Kirit Somaiya to speak now.

Let me make the rule clear to the hon. Members. You can only ask clarificatory questions and nothing more than that. I will not be allowing speeches on this Calling Attention Notice because the rule has to be observed.

Secondly, instead of going to the resolution, which was moved by Shri Anandrao Vithoba Adsul in the House, at 2 o'clock we are going to start the debate on Dalits Issue, which is an important issue, if the House agrees.

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: Hon. Speaker Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Election Commission's directives have been implemented or not. If the same have not been implemented what would happen? As per article 324—Shri Dasmunsi has read article 324 of the Constitution, so I am not going to read the whole article—and after that article 325 are very much clear that the same rules which are to be prepared for Assembly elections will be used for Lok Sabha elections.

I would also like to know from the hon. Minister whether it is true that the same roll will be used for the Lok Sabha election. I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister that yesterday, in the Madhya Pradesh Vidhan Sabha—it is reported in a newspaper—that the hon. Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh has said that though he refute the directive from the Election Commission, he is going to conduct his own inquiry. It is also reported that he has called a meeting of the officials consisting of the Chief Secretary and also the Chief Electoral Officer of that State. It is reported that he has called a meeting of the officials to discuss, which was also attended by the Chief Electoral Officer of Madhya Pradesh. I would like to know from the hon. Minister, whether, after receiving a directive from the Election Commission, the Chief Minister can call such a meeting and he can ask the Chief Electoral Officer of the State to attend this meeting.

I would also like to know from the hon. Minister—he has made it very clear in his reply—whether it is true that the whole process of misrepresentation or manipulation in the electoral list have been brought to the notice of the Government, to the Chief Election Commissioner, to the Election Commission and to the officials concerned since January 2003. If it is brought to the notice of the Government, to the Chief Election Commissioner, to the Election Commission and to the officials concerned, what measures the State Government have taken for the last two months?

I would like to mention what the Chief Minister has said, which I would like to quote:

"Mr. Singh finds the Election Commission's recommendations very harsh."

Is it a democratic language, which the Chief Minister can use against the Chief Election Commissioner and the Election Commission? Further he said:

"We will take up the matter with the Poll Panel. It does not accept that there are any irregularities in the list. There might have been some printing mistake."

Is it democratic to challenge the *bona fide* of the intention and the decision of the Election Commission?

Lastly, if the Government of Madhya Pradesh does not accept the directive of the Election Commission, then what are the provisions in the Act, and what a common citizen, whose name has been deleted and not included in the Electoral List, has to do?

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Shivraj ji, you can ask clarificatory question, you should ask only that much which is necessary.

SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN (Vidisha): Mr. Speaker, Sir, as is clear from the reply of the hon. Minister, large scale irregularities have been made in electoral list in Madhya Pradesh on the indication of the Chief Minister. It has been done deliberately to make a particular party win in the State...*(Interruptions)* I am not saying this, it is clear from the reply of the hon. Minister...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I had already told you to ask the question.

SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am asking the question straightway.

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, I strongly object to this. This is not the way. The Calling Attention Motion was not against the Chief Minister...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want one clarification from you. I would like to know whether we are discussing the question of electoral roll or we are going to discuss the conduct of the Chief Minister. I think, it is very objectionable. Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi has correctly raised this issue. Everyday it is happening in other States. Where were the Members when these things were happening in Gujarat? Much more serious things against the Election Commission were said. Anybody could have raised that matter but it was not done. In many States, things are being done, which are against the Constitution, against the conduct of any civilised society, and we are keeping quiet about it...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, no one raised question on the Gujarat issue at that time and...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Chandra Shekhar, the State subject should not be discussed. Therefore, yesterday I made it clear that let all the leaders come together and decide on this issue. I have no objection in stopping it. But till then, whatever the present practice is there, it is continued.

[Translation]

SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister has stated in his reply...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I will not allow you to raise issues against the Chief Minister individually. You can only put the questions on your grievance.

[Translation]

SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the names of 16 lakh voters have been allegedly included or excluded in the electoral list. They have been deprived of franchise. The Election Commission has found out all these irregularities. This was no party allegation. Thereafter, the Election Commission recommended the State Government to suspend those three Collectors who deliberately committed irregularities and also to take stern action against more than half a dozen other officers. There are clear directives because recommendations of the Election Commission is considered as instruction. But the State Government is not accepting the directions. Today is the sixth day; neither the action have been taken against these Collectors nor against other officers. If the State Government do not adhere to the recommendations of the Election Commission, it will become impossible to conduct fair and free election. I think that in this situation the State Government is not taking action as per the provisions of the Constitution. I would like to know what measures would be taken to ensure compliance of the recommendations of the Election Commission. Even after that, if the State Government do not take action against those officers, will a recommendation of suspending that Govt. under article 356 be made to the President in view of constitutional crisis consequent upon non compliance of the provisions of the constitution by the State Govt.?

SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL (Balaghat): Mr. Speaker, Sir, thank you very much. I will start with this submission that the question is not of party feeling. Basically, the question is that the Election Commission has not taken action against the election officers who have not shown dedication and alertness while performing their duty. This is the question. I do not go into to find, on whose direction it was done or not done. I would not like to comment on it. It is expecting from the officer of the Election Commission that he will show alertness and on the basis of his dedication will also ensure voting right in the democracy. There have been lapses. You

should know that when the MPs of the Bhartiya Janata Party of Madhya Pradesh went to the Election Commission, we initiated this issue. It is clear that these officers did not apprise the Election Commission of the blunders. I would like to take one minute more. Even after some information are yet to be furnished. I have an authentic electoral list. In the electoral list of Panagar Assembly Constituency in Jabalpur district, names of 1773 bogus voters were included in the electoral list in a single polling centre in which there is no reference of House No. in this electoral list. The age of the first voter is 125 years and that of the last voter is 18 years. I would like to say that 1773 names have been included in a single polling centre and it is said that it is a printing mistake, it does not seem to hold water...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: You may please lay this electoral list on the Table of the House...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL: I would like to request the government and the House that two things arise out of it. The Minister of Law may please tell whether action would be taken against those officers who have not done their duty in a right manner or not followed the directions of the Election Commission. The other thing I would like to say is that an all party Parliamentary delegation can go there and examine the truth. Thereafter, will you admit that it is a very serious matter. Now the question is that what action the Minister of Law will take. I would like to say that once things are proved, both type of actions be taken. First, I would also like to request that we may please be allowed to lay this copy on the Table of the House and the other is about the issues we have not raised. This is about Collector, Jabalpur who has resolved the discrepancy of Panagar. Let this reference may be placed on the record. I would like to say two things about that polling centre. Block 208 is Subhash Chander Bose Ward. Two months have passed. The House numbers from No. 1 to 797 and thereafter from 798 to 1773 in the electoral list are not mentioned. It can not be a misprint. Thereafter in Block 207, Shri Subhash Chander Ward, in the same polling station someone house no. is shown as zero. In this list the house number from 1 to 765 and the name of EWS colony has been written in English...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: You should not give such a lengthy detail...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL: Thereafter, there are 773 to 1225 voters. It may not be a misprint. If we write the age of the entire village from 18 years to 21 years, does it mean that the people of same age group live in the village?

13.00 hrs.

The Collector of Katni and Jabalpur have not apprise the Election Commission of such a blunder till date. Should not action be taken against them? If we do not protest it being workers of political party, it is not the responsibility of the Returning Officer to apprise the Election Commission of the fact. It is a serious question. I wonder, what the Minister of Law will do on this issue. My submission is that he should reply in this regard.

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Kumari Uma Bharati is not present in the House now. She was very much insisting that this question should be raised in the House. I wanted to permit her because she was very much disturbed on this issue.

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: Sir, the hon. President has given her time at one O'clock for an appointment. That is why she has gone there...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

But Prahlad Ji would like to lay the electoral list on the Table of the House...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, with your permission, I would like to lay the voter's list on the Table of the House...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Yes, You can present it.

[*Translation*]

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI (Khajuraho): Mr. Speaker, Sir, here we all including you are political workers. We know that...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Satyavratji, you can also ask a question.

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI: So much has been said here...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: As a special case, I am permitting Shri Satyavrat Chaturvedi because he would make the case of the other side clear before the House.

[Translation]

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI: Like other States, in Madhya Pradesh also the work of preparation of voter lists is being done under the supervision of Election Commission. As we all know that some lapses and errors may be committed while preparing voter list at village level. In view of this possibility a provision has been made that in the first instance preliminary voter lists will be published and after their publication on each polling booth, voters will have the right to file their claims and objections, if any discrepancies or errors exist in voter list or names of the voters are missing or there are some additions in the lists. You might have noticed during the hon. Minister's reply that as of now a preliminary publication of voter lists has been made at this stage...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the date had elapsed.

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down.

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI: Claims and objections will be invited upto the month of April in certain places and May in others and hearing will also take place on this issue and concerned authorities will bring about necessary amendments and then voters lists will be finally published. This is the process. So my humble request is that attempts are being made to make an issue out of a non-issue. It is totally baseless to allege that deliberate attempts are being made in favour of a particular party so that it benefits.

I would like to bring two things to your notice and these are very essential. As soon as the Chief Minister received a letter from the Election Commission on the evening of 9th of the month, he immediately convened a meeting in this regard with the Chief Secretary and the Chief Electoral Officer of Madhya Pradesh and enquired about the places and types of errors that have been committed. Preliminary investigation in this regard revealed that in only three districts complaints of irregularities have been received. The Election Commission did not make a mention about the irregularities in voter lists of other districts-Rewa, Khargaun and Shahdol as the report was delayed so they recommended to initiated departmental inquiry into this. It is a very serious matter. The whole procedure of preliminary publication of lists is conducted under the supervision of the Election Commission and State Government does not have any direct role in this process and the responsibility rests squarely with the Election Commission. It was found in preliminary investigation that the manuscripts of voter lists have been correctly prepared but many names were added at the

printing stage and that is where the anomalies crept in.

So the question is that this matter should be thoroughly investigated. It should be ascertained as to who is accountable. It should be investigated as to at which stage irregularities have been committed whether it is at the lower level, the electoral officer's level or the printing level. The Chief Minister stated that on this issue he will be constantly in touch with the Election Commission...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: Sir, the hon. Member is...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: The Minister is capable to remove all the misunderstandings.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI: I would like to ask a question through you...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You should have asked the question at the first place.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I have called the Minister to reply to the debate.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI: I am asking a question through you and the honourable Minister may kindly state that the lists which have been published...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY: Mr. Speaker, Sir I would also like to ask a question...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: This issue does not concern you. He is concerned with this subject.

...*(Interruptions)*

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: This is of our concern.

MR. SPEAKER: You will have to give another notice for that purpose.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: The voters lists have been cancelled.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: You can give me another notice about West Bengal.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI: I will ask a direct question and expect that he will give a direct reply...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You are not asking the question. You ask the question.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI: Whether the lists which have been recently published, are the final lists. Whether these are not subject to any revision and whether forthcoming elections are going to be conducted on the basis of these unrevised lists thus published?...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I have not permitted any Member to speak now. Nothing will go on record except the Minister's reply.

...(Interruptions)\*

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: A number of questions have been raised by the hon. Members.

As far as the question is concerned, after we got the notice, we have sought a report or response from the State Government. But, obviously, the time was inadequate. The State Government sources might not have received it as yet.

Shri Kirit Somaiya wanted to know whether the directions have been implemented or not. Several other questions have been raised with regard to who has really the authority in this matter because the prerogative is of the Election Commission and the sole responsibility to prepare the electoral rolls. But the Election Commission does it with the assistance of the staff of the Union Government or the State Government. This staff is not

under the disciplinary jurisdiction of the State Government or the Central Government. But they are on election duty and to that extent they are under the Election Commission. Therefore, the dispute has been carried on between the Centre, the States and the Election Commission for several years in the past. Now this question has arisen as to what will happen when a staff member, who is under the disciplinary control of the State Government, misconducts in matters relating to the elections. What are the powers of the Election Commission or would the Election Commission be powerless in those matters?...(Interruptions)

SHRI A.C. JOS (Trichur): Did you not bring it in the case of Gujarat?...(Interruptions)

13.08 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Satyavrat Chaturvedi, let the Minister answer.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: The whole issue of power of the Election Commission in regard to staff working under the State Governments was finally resolved in a litigation before the Supreme Court on 21st September, 2000, by way of a settlement between the Government and the Election Commission. The terms of those settlements were incorporated as a part of the Supreme Court's order itself. I will just read out the three paragraph:

"The disciplinary functions of the Election Commission over officers, staff and police deputed to perform election duties shall extend to:

- (a) suspending any official or police personnel for insubordination or dereliction of duty;
- (b) substituting any officer, official or police personnel by another such person and returning the substituted individual to the cadre to which he belongs, with appropriate reports of his conduct;
- (c) making recommendation to the competent authority for taking disciplinary action for any act of insubordination or dereliction of duty while on election duty. Such recommendation shall be promptly acted upon by the disciplinary authority and action taken will be communicated to the Election Commission within a period of six months from the date of the Election Commission's recommendations."

\*Not recorded.

[Shri Arun Jaitley]

These terms of settlement have now been incorporated as part of Supreme Court's order itself because this settlement was arrived at before the Supreme Court. Therefore, the Election Commission, pursuant to this power, has made the recommendations to the appropriate authority, which is the State Government, and in this matter, it is expected that the recommendation having been made, the State Government will appropriately act in accordance with the recommendation itself.

Thank you...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: The question is whether the State Government has taken any action. If the State Government has actually taken any action, what is the action taken?...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRAKASH YASHWANT AMBEDKAR: What is an administrative matter is now going to be a part of the proceedings of the House...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: We have no communication with regard to any action the State Government has taken so far. Depending on how the State Government eventually reacts to this, in terms of article 324 and other provisions of the Constitutions, the Election Commission will then take appropriate action...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: I thank the Law Minister for reporting the correct position. According to him, it is the disciplinary authority who can implement the recommendation within six months and the Election Commission will react only after that. That is fine...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, 'Zero Hour' starts. Kumari Mamata Banerjee.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: What information he had, he has already shared with the House. Now, 'Zero Hour' starts.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, 'Zero Hour' has started.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, the hon. Members want to know from the hon. Minister whether the existing rolls will be the basis for elections or the

final roll...*(Interruptions)* Why is he not answering that question?...*(Interruptions)* The question he should answer is whether the existing rolls of voters will be final...*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI: I had asked whether the existing rolls be the basis for elections? This has not been answered...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I think, he has shared the information with the House.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Why is he keeping quiet?...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Minister, do you want to add anything?

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: Sir, if the hon. Member had cared to go through my initial statement, the reply to his question was already there. The question was not necessary. In my first paragraph itself, I have stated that this was a special revision carried on. The special revision was published and thereafter, the complaints with regard to this preliminary list generated on the basis of house to house survey, which was published, was received. The Election Commission then sent an officer to check into all these complaints and found a number of complaints to be valid....*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, 'Zero Hour'. Kumari Mamata Banerjee.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: We have the liberty to bring Privilege Motion tomorrow...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You have. I cannot come in the way.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: He is not answering the question in the right direction. The question is whether the existing list is final...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE (Calcutta South): Sir, I want to raise a very important matter...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.

...(Interruptions)\*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You have every right. In whatever form you want, you can bring it. Now, Kumari Mamata Banerjee will speak.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: That is over now.

Nothing will go on record except what Kumari Mamata Banerjee speaks.

...(Interruptions)\*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record except what Kumari Mamata Banerjee speaks.

...(Interruptions)\*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record except what Kumari Mamata Banerjee says.

...(Interruptions)\*

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: Sir, I want to raise a very unfortunate matter in this House. On the 5th of February, in Dhantalla of Nadia District, a marriage party of women was attacked and gang-raped...(Interruptions) We went to the spot and met the victims. We were told that till 18 days after the incident, police were not prepared to lodge the FIR...(Interruptions) Medical tests were not conducted till 72 hours after the incident. A person who came forward to recognise the perpetrators of the crime was murdered...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Speaker has given permission for her to arise this issue. Please, let her speak.

...(Interruptions)

13.17 hrs.

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

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please return to your seats.

...(Interruptions)

13.18 hrs.

(At this stage, Shri Adhir Chowdhary came and stood on the floor near the Table.)

...(Interruptions)

13.18 1/2 hrs.

(At this stage, Shri Sudip Bandyopadhyay, Shri Adhir Chowdhary and some other hon. Members went back to their seats)

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have given the floor to Kumari Mamata Banerjee. Let her say what she wants to.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): She wants to politicise the issue...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: She has given notice and hon. Speaker has given permission to her.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN (Vidisha): Mr. Deputy Speaker, whatever he is saying is not correct. When these people are saying here like that what they would be saying outside. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: We will have to take up Discussion under Rule 193 at 3 o'clock. Will you please sit down?

...(Interruptions)

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: After our agitation, a team from the National Commission of Women visited the State and corroborated these facts...(Interruptions) A team of BJP Members of Parliament visited the spot. False cases were registered by the State Police on those three BJP Members of Parliament who visited the place to find out the truth...(Interruptions)

\*Not recorded.



SHRI ANADI SAHU (Berhampur, Orissa): Sir, I led the team of BJP Members of Parliament...(Interruptions) One Minister and an MLA belonging to the ruling party in West Bengal had obliterated the evidence...(Interruptions)

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: The doctor who had gone there to conduct medical test was murdered. This is a serious matter...(Interruptions) The State Government is not taking interest in the investigation because these are cases of State-sponsored atrocities on women...(Interruptions) We demand a CBI inquiry into these inhuman incidents. The Government of India must intervene in this matter and protect the interests of women...(Interruptions) If necessary, the Government may send an all-party delegation to examine this incident...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned to meet again at 2 p.m.

13.20 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Fourteen of the Clock.*

14.06 hrs.

*Lok Sabha re-assembled at six minutes past fourteen of the clock.*

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Matters under Rule 377 will be treated as laid on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJO SINGH (Begusarai): Mr. Speaker, Sir, when our turn comes, the papers are laid on the Table but when there is the turn of the other people, they are asked to read these out.

MR. SPEAKER: It is not like that. The issue of dalits was not discussed during last few days. Now we want to take it up and that is why we have take up this issue.

## \*MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

### (i) Need to implement 'one rank one pension' scheme for defence Personnel.

SHRI SURESH CHANDEL (Hamirpur, HP): Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to draw attention of the Government that there are many discrepancies in pension of retired or being retired defence personnel of armed forces due to which dissatisfaction is propping up among them. Ex-servicemen have been requesting for many years to implement 'one rank one pension'. As a member of 12th and now as a Member of 13th Lok Sabha I raised questions in this regard so many times and I have personally requested the hon. Minister of Defence, but still no solution has been done.

After recommendations of Fifth Pay Commission the Minister of Defence had constituted a special committee in this regard, which had to give its recommendations to solve this problem but we have not got any information about the recommendations. So there is a lot of discontentment and dissatisfaction due to discrepancies in pension of defence personnel of different ranks in the country.

Sir, I request the Central Government through you that 'one rank one pension' scheme may be implemented soon so that long pending denounce of Ex-servicemen could be fulfilled.

### (ii) Need to link Khuria reservoir with Narmada river in Chhattisgarh with a view to augment irrigation facilities in the region.

SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE (Bilaspur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, Khuria reservoir of the Maniyari river of Chhattisgarh may be linked with the Narmada river of Amarkantak so that two lakhs farmers could get irrigation facilities. The Khuria reservoir covers evenly thousand acres of land. Not a single crop of Kharif season gets irrigated. By linking Khuria reservoir with the Narmada river of Amarkantak the crop of both the Kharif and Rabi season could be irrigated. So I request to Central Government that Khuria reservoir of Chhattisgarh-Bilaspur may be linked with the Narmada river of Amarkantak under water Harvesting Scheme.

### (iii) Need to formulate Pradhan Mantri Water Harvesting Scheme in the country particularly in Rajasthan.

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA (Jaipur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the State Government had received fifty

\*Treated as laid on the Table.

three crores rupees from Eleventh Finance Commission. Renovation of conventional water resources has been done by this amount. Water resources in Rajasthan have been depleted and ponds have dried.

So, I urge upon the Central Government that the Government should introduce Pradhan Mantri Water Harvesting Scheme on the line of Pradhan Mantri Gramin Rojgar Yojana and a special fund for construction, renovation and development of conventional water resources should be created and all the expenditure on these works should be done so that scarcity of water resources during this drought situation be avoided.

**(iv) Need for construction of a bridge on river Chambal at Atarghat to connect Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan.**

SHRI ASHOK ARGAL (Muraina): Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is necessity of construction of a bridge on river Chambal at Atarghat to connect Madhya Pradesh with Rajasthan. Every year a pontoon bridge is made on this bank and the Government funds go waste. The life and property of passengers also remain at risk. By construction of this bridge would facilitate the movement of lakhs of vehicles which goes upto Karoly Wali Mata Shrine. The Government's slogan of 'save oil' will also get a boost. I urge upon the Central Government to construct a bridge on the river Chambal at Ataghar.

**(v) Need to look into the problems being faced by farmers due to non-procurement of paddy in Balaghat district, Madhya Pradesh.**

SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL (Balaghat): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the production of paddy in Balaghat district of Madhya Pradesh is highest. There are more than hundred rice miles. Production and quality of paddy had declined due to drought during last year. But in spite of low production and low procurement of paddy in the district. The levy rice has registered a record growth. Many mill owners have believed to produce 500 to 1000 quintal of levy rice whereas the capacity of the said mills are not more than 200 quintal and the electricity bills of these mills are also at the minimum. The paddy of farmers could not be procured due to connivance of the middlemen and officers and the paddy procured by the societies was returned after four months on the pretext of inferior quality, thereby both the societies and farmers have been ruined. Guilty persons should be punished by making high level investigation of this whole incident in Balaghat district.

**(vi) Need to supply additional gas to Ramgarh Power Project and also reactivate oil wells in Jaisalmer in Rajasthan.**

COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHAUDHARY (Barmer): Mr. Speaker, Sir, Gas turbine of a 35.5 MW capacity in Ramgarh power project has been functioning since January 1996. An economic-technical approval had been given by CEA during February, 2001 to give another gas turbine of 35.5 MW capacity to this project under which five lakhs SCMG gas has to be supplied for fifteen years to this project.

A number of viable gas wells of Jaisalmer district had been either closed or operation of these had been stopped due to tension on border areas during last year. Recently a huge reserve of oil and gas has been found in Barmer-Jaisalmer-Jalore belt. Some blocks can be handed over to Indian and foreign companies for exploration of oil to meet the additional requirement of Ramgarh power project.

Therefore my submission to the honourable Prime Minister is that instruction may be issued to Gas Authority of India Limited (GAIL) to supply five lakhs SCMD gas for fifteen years to Ramgarh Extension Project, to start operation work in present oil wells of Jaisalmer district and to meet additional requirement of gas to Western Rajasthan.

Some other oil blocks of Gudamalany area should be handed over to GAIL, Oil India Limited and other foreign companies and refineries should be set up in Barmer for testing and refining of crude oil.

**(vii) Need to provide telephone connections to all wait listed people in Nagaur district, Rajasthan**

SHRI RAM RAGHUNATH CHAUDHARY (Nagaur): I belong to Nagaur district which is a leading district of Rajasthan in terms of agriculture and animal husbandry. The communication system is not up to the mark in this district. Whereas the whole country is getting benefit of communication revolution, hundreds of villages are still deprived of the communication facilities. A lot of villages have deposited thousands of rupees with the Sanchar Nigam Ltd. and are looking forward for the last 7-8 years to getting telephone facilities, however proper action is not being taken by the department. Unable to communicate with anybody the villagers are up against the wall.

Therefore, through you, I urge upon the Central Government to provide telephone connections to the waitlisted villagers who have long ago duly applied for it and also deposited the requisite amount.

**(viii) Need to provide adequate funds for development of historical tourist places in Purana Monger district, Bihar**

SHRI RAJO SINGH (Begusarai): Mr. Speaker, Sir, through this August House I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards the extent of vast tourism potential in old Monger district of Bihar in terms of historical, archaeological, cultural, natural, industrial; mineral and religious spots of tourism which have no parallel to any other States small or big. For example, there is Bhim bandh, a hot water stream in Khodagpur. Secondly Lachhwar in Jamui; Thirdly Sitakund in Monghyr; Fourthly Shrangirishi in Suryogadh; Fifth Rishikund in Khodogpur; Sixth Karna chora in Maughr; Seventh Sitacharan, In the Ganges, Eight Ashokdham at Lakhisarai, Ninth—Hala panchkumari in Khadagpur, Tenth—Mandarhil at Bause; Eleventh—Vikramshila at Bhagalpur, and twelfth—Simultall, Jhajha, Jamui.

Therefore, I request the Central Government to expeditiously allocate sufficient funds to the Deptt. of Culture, Government of Bihar so as to enable it to boost the development of tourism and culture and earn a reputation for department.

**(ix) Need for construction of four-lane highways in Kerala with a view to develop tourism in the State.**

*[English]*

SHRI P. RAJENDRAN (Quilon): Kerala is a State which has notified tourism as an industry and it has immense potential for tourism development. But the biggest impediment to the development on tourism front is the deplorable condition of the roads including and National Highways. The narrow width of the NH 17, 47, 208 has made traffic congestion and blockade and order of the day. The high density of population in the State, huge number of commuters and the ever increasing number of vehicles on the road have thrown the transport system efficient and user-friendly, only alternative is to construct a four-lane National Highways which interlinks the airports, seaports, tourism centres, industrial areas and other important spots of the State.

I would urge upon the Central Government through this House to expedite steps to facilitate a better transport system for the State of Kerala.

**(x) Need to grant sanction for setting up an international leather complex in Nellore district, Andhra Pradesh**

DR. RAJESWARAMMA VUKKALA (Nellore): The leather industry provides an excellent source of

employment generation and keeping this in view the Andhra Pradesh Government have prepared in ambitious plan to develop leather industrial parks in the State. In this connection, a proposal has been approved, in principle to set up an international leather complex in Nellore District. In this connection, discussions have been held with officials of Department of Commerce, Government of India. Necessary preparatory work has been completed for identification of land in Nellore district.

I request the Central Government to kindly expedite the formal sanction of the project so that necessary work can be commenced.

**(xi) Need to allocate funds from Central Road Fund for repair of Bidhar-Ghanghata-Khalilabad—Mehndawal-Karmaini road in district Sant Kabir Nagar, Uttar Pradesh**

*[Translation]*

SHRI BHAL CHANDRA YADAV (Khalilabad): Mr. Speaker, Sir, Bidaharghat—Ghanghata-Khalilabad-Mahadarwal-Karmaini road falling within the geographical boundaries of my parliamentary constituency viz. Khalilabad, district Sant Kabir Nagar, Uttar Pradesh a approx. 60 Kilometre long stretching from one end. Sant Kabir nagar up to the other end. Shri Ramjanki road joins it at Ghanghat and National Highway No. 28 i.e. Lucknow-Gorakhpur Road at Khalilabad. Sant Kabir Das enlightenment spot Maghar, Gautam Buddha's legendary spot Kopia (Anupia)-Tehsil Head quarters-Mehhadawal and Vakhira Bird sanctuary are located along its route. The U.P. Government has sanctioned the proposal of construction of a bridge across Saryu river at Birahgir ghat-which is likely to be completed in a few months. In this way, Virhar Ghanghata—Khalilabad Menhedawal Karmaini road will be directly linked with Ambedkar Nagar, Ajamgarh, Ayodhya, Faizabad, Varanasi and Allahabad towards south. This road was extensively damaged during the seven floods in 1998. Currently, this road is in a very dilapidated condition.

Therefore, I request the Central Government to construct the 60 K.M. long Virhar-Ghanghata—Khalilabad-Menhadabad-Karmaini road under the Central road fund scheme.

**(xii) Need to release funds for construction of National Highway No. 103 between Hajipur and Bhusri Gharari Chowk in Bihar**

SHRI MANJAY LAL (Samastipur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the availability of roads is of great significance in the development of States. Generally speaking, the roads of

Bihar are in a very poor condition. The road selected to be transformed into National Highway does not receive the attention of Bihar Government on the pretext that now it will be repaired with the funds flowing from the Central Government. National Highway No. 103 which runs from Hajipur, in Vaishali district and Jons. N.H.-28 at Bhusari Gharari chowk in Samastipur district via Jandaha, the foundation stone whereof was laid by the hon. Minister of Road Transport and National Highways at Hajipur hasn't been repaired by either the State Government or the Central Government. Having bifurcated the road the Government of Bihar has requested the Central Government to allocate funds for repairing the road but funds have not been released. Currently the road is not commutable. People are faced with lots of problems. Therefore, I request the Government to construct the selected National Highway No. 103 located in Bihar immediately in the Public interest.

**(xiii) Need for construction of an underpass at KM 57.60 of Jagatpur-Chandikhole Section National Highway No. 5 in Orissa**

*[English]*

SHRI PRABHAT SAMANTRAY (Kendrapara): Construction of an underpass at 57.60 km on Jagatpur-Chandikhole Section of NH-5 to overcome difficulties for conveyance of the people of two districts—Jajpur and Cuttack and check growing incidence of road mishap near the busy Badachana intersection used by residents of adjoining villages everyday to go to Jute mill hospital, Government offices and more importantly for cultivation with particular reference to students attending schools/colleges. NHAI authorities are aware of problem.

I request the Government of India to consider his human problem and provide an underpass at 57.60 km of Jagatpur-Chandikhole Section of NH-5.

**(xiv) Need to bring Agricultural Produce Market Committee in the definition of local authority under Income Tax Act**

SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK (Kolhapur): Sir, the new amendments to Income-Tax have excluded the Agricultural Produce Market Committees from the definition of local authority. The section 10(29) of Income-Tax Act initially included them (APMC) in the definition of local bodies as such they were not liable for payment of Income-tax since these committees are not profit-making bodies. APMCs recover a very marginal fee by way of tax from traders and use it for providing basic storage and trading facility to the farmers in the surrounding areas. Profit-making is not the motive of a APMCs, so to levy Income-Tax is a great injustice to them and then the entire marketing system used for the benefit of poor farmers will collapse.

Sir, I request the Finance Minister through your Honour to remove these anomalies by (i) including APMCs as local authority in the Income-Tax Act as it was originally included and (ii) in the meanwhile issue the necessary instructions to all the Income-Tax Commissioner to stop issuing notices to APMCs.

**(xv) Need to declare Koelwar-Nazimabad-Darihat-Rohtas Fort road in Bihar as a National Highway**

*[Translation]*

SHRI RAM PRASAD SINGH (Arah): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the main road leading to Rohtas district from Bhojpur district of Bihar via Koilwar, Akhigaon, Najimabad, Sahardanbar, Nasiriganj, Abhiwar Darhit via Dehri-on-son upto Rohtas Fort is a one way road. This road leads to Rohtas via the bordering areas of Sonnad. In this way, this road extends to Rohtas district crossing the National Highway 30 from Koilwar and National Highway 2 (Shershah Suri road). This road passes through the terrorism infested area. This is stretched to the length of 120 kilometres. Anti-social elements easily reach the other area by crossing Sonnad after having committed the crime in one area. The squad, too find it difficult to reach there in time due to the lack of communication facility. The life of ordinary public farmers, labourers and the affluent people has become miserable. People are leaving the area. Civic life has been disturbed. Industries and agriculture is being affected and making a livelihood is going to be increasingly more and more difficult.

Therefore, I request the Central Government through you to acquire this long road as a National Highway in public interest.

14.06<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> hrs.

**DISCUSSION UNDER RULE 193**

**Atrocities on Dalits**

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: We will take up an important discussion regarding atrocities on dalits. There are two names—Shri Ramji Lal Suman and Shri Ram Vilas Paswan.

Shri Ramji Lal Suman may please initiate.

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Firozabad): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am thankful to you for taking up an important

[Shri Ramjilal Suman]

discussion regarding atrocities on dalits across the country. This issue has not been debated in the House for a very long time.

You may recall that during the last session, Mr. Pramod Mahajan who was the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs had ensured us after consulting you that a discussion over the atrocities on dalits will be taken immediately after the President's Address. However, there were other priorities. To my view, these priorities were not less significant, which is why we are discussing this issue today. Even after 52-53 years of independence, dalits are being exploited and harassed which is obviously an issue of larger concern and shame. Hardly any day pass when atrocities on dalits are not reported in newspapers. Before Durban Conference our Government and society announced that there is no such thing as untouchability in existence in our country. It has become a thing of the past. Our country has Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe Atrocity Prevention Act in existence in our country. I mean that simply law cannot resolve any problem. It is the question of our mindset, thought, values as well as our attitude. Whatever is happening in the country is the result of our mindset. A few of us are not ready to compromise with their attitudinal frame even now. This is the reason why dalits are being victimised with atrocities. So far as the question of data is concerned, the State is not governed by statistics/data. Right from the days of Jawaharlal Nehru and from the days of Chief Ministership of Dr. Sampurnanand, every successive Government in U.P. have been laying claims of their achievements. Any Prime Minister or Chief Minister can prove their good governance on the basis of data. But only the public can judge the best. Only the impression received from the majority of common man can be used as barometer to form some opinion about the Government's functioning. The same is in practice in our country. Nowadays, the cases of atrocities upon dalits are on the rise. Our colleague Shri Ram Vilas Paswan and I on what took place in Jhajjar in the recent past...*(Interruptions)*. Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is not right. They may have their say when their turn come. First, let me conclude. Whatever happened there is unfortunate. I wished to refer to that incident just because on December 9, hon. Minister of Home Affairs had given a statement that the incidents of atrocities on dalits have declined but on November 29, the Minister in charge of the Ministry of Social Empowerment stated that as per the records of National Commission for SC and STs the cases of atrocities on dalits are on the rise. Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is indeed a matter of concern when the two Ministers of the same Government pass contradicting statements. The Government is not interested in it.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Jhajjar incident was raised here. It is not the question whether the incident took place at Jhajjar or somewhere else, the point is that there has been an alarming increase in these events. However, I do not want to say anything relating to Jhajjar but I must except the fact that the objective behind the formation of a State was largely based on the concept to evolve a system to avert loot, turmoil and the allied evils from society so that anarchy is not prevailed. At Jhajjar common man was deliberately murdered and the police watched the ongoing incidents as a mute spectator. But situation could have been well-controlled and the administrative power exercised tear-gas used, air-firing undertaken. Jhajjar incident was not an ordinary one. The way 5 people were killed raises a serious issue. The statement made by the hon. Minister of Home Affairs on December 9, is devoid of reality.

Simply a rumour was spread in the name of cow-slaughter. When the Chief Minister of Haryana made a statement that it was not the case of cow-slaughter as she had died her natural death and it is no way related to this incident...*(Interruptions)*

CAPT. (RETD.) INDER SINGH (Rohtak): You are simply distorting the facts. It was not the question of dalit or non-dalits. You are doing all this to garner votes. The event occurred there was sudden and instantaneous...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: If it is wrong, you may advance it in your views.

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is difficult to speak in such a condition. I need your protection.

MR. SPEAKER: Which is why I am telling them to speak when their turn comes.

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, whatever happened is unfortunate. The reason why I am referring this issue is that the people who are supposed to protect us. Police are supposed to protect us. But if people are dragged out of the police station and are burnt alive. What could be more serious than this one.

So far as atrocities on dalits are concerned, we set up Commission of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes to resolve the problem of dalits. But I am very sorry to say that the report of this Commission has never come up for a discussion in the House. The report is drafted after considerable labour. But we do not hold discussion over it. Report of the year 1998-99 has been laid on the Table of the House but the 6th Report of

year 2000 has been forwarded directly to the President and has not been laid on the Table of the House. I request you to hold discussion over this report in the forthcoming time. Unless there is a discussion over the Report submitted by the Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, I do not think we will be able to derive good results for the welfare of dalits. As far as the atrocities on dalits is concerned, the data of year 2000 is available to us. Going by the data, the figures of atrocities on dalits in the year 2000 goes this way. 9067 in Maharashtra, 8247 in Rajasthan, 5923 in Karnataka, 5887 in Orissa, 2921 in Tamil Nadu, 2186 in Kerala and 77963 in Uttar Pradesh. 77963 crimes have been registered in U.P. If any State figures at the top in the list of crimes of atrocities on dalits, it is Uttar Pradesh. This question is not important as to which caste we belong to, the more important question is what we think about what is our method of performing a work. People target to run the Government. I had submitted earlier also that this is not important how long the Government runs, what is important is whether that Government have undertaken or not the public welfare works. Whether the Government runs for four days or forty days, but its direction should remain meaningful. In Uttar Pradesh, there is a single point programme that the Government should run at any cost.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, in connection with the draft proposal for the Tenth Five Year Plan, I would like to submit that out of the crime cases that have been got registered in Uttar Pradesh, only 39 per cent registered crimes have been investigated, the remaining crimes have not been investigated, and out the 77963 crimes registered in Uttar Pradesh in the year 2000 only 3660 cases have been disposed of. In only 592 cases the accused were convicted and in 3065 cases court granted acquittals. This is the ratio of disposal pertaining to the cases of atrocities committed against the dalits. Over all the situation is not good. I think that this is not the question of a particular party. We should seriously deliberate over all these questions.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I just mentioned about Haryana. News pertaining to the atrocities committed on the dalits come not only from Haryana but from all the places. In Phagi Tehsil located at 60 kms away from Jaipur the capital of Rajasthan atrocities were committed against dalits on the issue of taking bath in the pond. On 5th September, 2002 in the village Kondumpatti of the district Indigul of Tamil Nadu one dalit named Shankar was forced to drink urine. Today itself news to this effect has been published in *Jansatta* that in the Kachnauda villages of the Muraina district a 16 year old adolescent girl was raped when found lonely and when her family members

got a FIR registered in the police station, they were threatened with dire consequences. Thereafter father of the culprit murdered the girl who had got the rape case registered while she was alone. I specifically mentioned to you about Uttar Pradesh on 8th of December in the Ambedkar Inter-college, Meerut a rally against Hindu terrorism was organised. A pandal was set up and people were waiting to vent their feelings. The youth of Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha went over there from here. They broke the pandal and the mike and tore the picture of Baba Ambedkar and Maharishi Valmiki. They caused rampage there. At the first instance the police dispersed the workers of the Bhartiya Janata Yuva Morcha when they found that their behaviour was objectionable. But later on under duress of the Government and at the behest of a Minister of the Government cases were registered against the innocent dalits who wanted to peacefully express their views and such serious allegations as treason were levelled against them.

14.22 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, this is a very serious issue. In the constituency of the Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh a dalit woman Anju was raped. There were two culprits in that crime. One culprit was sent to jail but the second culprit Kripal Singh was not sent to jail because he was the brother of the District BSP President. Three four months have gone by but so far no action has been taken against him because he is the brother of the District President of the ruling party. On the 5th September, 2002 rape was committed in the village Rasulpur under the Ganghalhedi police station of the Harauda Assembly constituency. No action was taken. In Baraut Bagpat 30 acres of sugarcane crop and cotton of the dalits had been burnt down. This incident of the 7th November has been published in the newspapers. In the Harda village of Meerut plots of the dalits were forcibly occupied but no action was taken. In Uttar Pradesh a situation of might is right is prevailing. A similar incident was also reported from Noida on 24th August. In Aurangabad village under the Dankaur police station Shrimati Rajan Devi wife of Shyami was gang raped on 1st August. No action was taken against the culprits and even FIR was not lodged.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, these incidents are continually taking place. On 11.2002 Kamala daughter of Rishipal of village Dungarpur under the Pugana police station at Muzaffamagar was hanged to death. The police refused to lodge the FIR. Rape of the girl was confirmed but till date no action has been taken.

[Shri Ramji Lal Suman]

So far Uttar Pradesh is concerned, National Human Right Commission has said that Uttar Pradesh police is at number one in fake encounters. Commenting upon the Uttar Pradesh police the Supreme Court has asked it to become more humane. Today the dalits of Uttar Pradesh are feeling most insecure. The Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh has a one-point programme to run the Government resulting which the dalits of that State are being totally neglected. No justice is being meted out to them.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you I would like to make one more submission. Whenever the question of conversion is raised in the House much brouhaha happen, but I would like to ask my friends about the root cause of conversions. Let us know it first. Yesterday, or day before yesterday, Vinay Katiyar was sitting here and was quoting Ambedkar. Whenever he has to make a statement against Mayawati he makes a mention of Ambedkar. This is another matter that when Vajpayee scolds him he does not muster the courage to again give such statement. But he has never tried to know why the public goes for conversion. This caste system, this untouchability and this social disparity...*(Interruptions)*

Shri Digvijay Singh, Swami Dayanand Saraswati, Swami Vivekanand and Mahatma Gandhi had said that if Hindu religion could not become a religion of equality I would like this religion to perish. Today whatever incidents are taking place and when allegation are being levelled that conversions are being carried out by the missionaries, have you ever done the introspection as to what sort of behaviour you indulge in and what are you doing?

Mr. Deputy Speaker, the hon. Members of Haryana may please pardon me. I would like to make a submission as to why the workers of Vishwa Hindu Parishad, RSS and Bajrang Dal celebrate the killings of five dalits in Jhajhar and contend that they would give rewards to the killers of five dalits...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAMCHANDER BAINDA (Faridabad): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the hon. Member is saying completely wrong. Neither RSS nor Vishwa Hindu Parishad did any celebrations. the hon. Member should be prevented from making such a wrong statement...*(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI BHAVNABEN DEVRAJBHAI CHIKHALIA): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the hon. Member should not give such a wrong information in the House. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Ramji Lal Suman, this is a very serious issue. Do not bring in any controversy in this regard. Speak on your subject.

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I myself am saying that this is a very serious issue. This news has been published in the newspapers that celebrations were made there, protection to the killers was provided and it was said that they would be rewarded and congratulated.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, if celebrations and mirth were made over the demise of a Christian or Dalit, then no one can prevent conversion in the country. This is the result of the misdeeds of a handful of people. There is no other reason besides it. This is the situation in our country and I beg your pardon, in the Haroḡa constituency of the Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Mayawati, 30 dalit families have converted and this sequence of events is going on in the whole country.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is the question of respect and honour. The Dalit of today is not the Dalit of 200 years back. He has read about the revolutions of Russia and France. The youth of today is not ready to accept the prevailing situation. Today he is witnessing the changes which are taking place in the society. At present two tendencies are being witnessed in the society. Feeling of self righteousness has developed among the dalits. They are not ready to accept the old condition and feudal mentality which expects them to live in the scenario in which their ancestors were living. This is the reason why religious conversions are being reported extensively by the newspapers.

Sir, several times discussion has been held here on the issue of reservation. Our friend Rashtrapalji is sitting here. on 21st of March, 2003 a point was put forth in the Rajya Sabha as to whether after independence and especially since the enactment of this constituency the provision for reservation was reviewed by the Government to ascertain if any benefit has trickled down to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. The reply of the Government was that they have got no such estimate, assessment or review done. Further, I want to know how much is this Government serious about the question of reservation. Several laws get passed through this Parliament. Sir, the issue of reservation in promotions for the Dalits is a very important question. They go to the Supreme Court due to small technical lacunae and the issue then becomes subjudice. I have made a submission several times that a committee should be constituted comprising of the Ministry of Law, Ministry of Personnel, Ministry of Home Affairs and other concerned Ministries

to expedite all the cases pertaining to the Dalits pending in various courts. Until the Government purposes those cases vigorously, they would remain pending and the Dalits would not get justice. Despite repeated requests the Government have not taken any initiative till date in this regard. Until the Government takes initiative it would be concluded that the Government is not serious over the matter of doing justice of the Dalits and to give them reservation in promotion. We discuss the issue of disinvestment. The class to be affected most by disinvestment is the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. After the industry and undertakings are handed over to the private sector, these will decide as to whom they have to keep on roll and to whom they have not to keep in employment. Instead of giving employment to the Dalits a conspiracy is being hatched to comprehensively erode the provision of reservation and to throw out people from employment.

Sir, the Finance Minister mentioned in the budget speech that Rs. 5 lacs would be given to those taking VRS and there would be no income tax thereon. It's direct implication was to attract people to opt for VRS so that they could leave their jobs to take up self employment. The Government is not serious over the question of reservation. The policy of reservation is going to be severely affected by disinvestment. Undertakings are not incurring losses for want of funds....(*Interruptions*)

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (Maharajanj, Bihar): You may please dwell on the atrocities committed against the Harijans...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: This disinvestment is also an atrocity on the Dalits. Prabhunathji, less atrocities are being committed against you people and more against the Dalits. First of all, they will be retrenched, as others will manoeuvre one way or the other. People like you will watch their own interests well in whichever field they are involved.

Sir, due to disinvestment also the Dalits are going to suffer the most. This year's budget allocation of Rs. 4,38,795 crores is not in accordance with the population of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. It is observed that the amount the Government of India gives to the State Governments for the sake of the Dalits and the poor is not properly utilized and is misappropriated. All the State Governments do not even send utilization certificates. I would like to cite an example involving the Dalits. The State Government had given scholarships to the Dalit students of the private schools of Muzaffarnagar, Uttar Pradesh while the Dalit students of the Government schools did not get the scholarship. In Muzaffarnagar U.P.

80 thousand dalit students were deprived of the scholarship. The most important thing is not the allocation of funds, but to monitor the funds provided to the State Governments to ensure proper utilization. During the ninth five year plan, out of the funds allocated to the various States for the sake of Dalits, Rs. 900 crores remained unspent. It directly indicates that those who are involved in the implementation of these schemes have got no interest in the welfare of Dalits. Through you I made a submission...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I urged him...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: If he yields, you may speak. Are you yielding?

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: He will not speak anything useful...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: I would speak something useful for you...(*Interruptions*) I would have conducted my submission during this period. I want to say that here the topic of atrocities on Dalits is being discussed, but in this House one Dalit is perpetrating atrocity on another Dalit. When Ramji Lal Sumanji is criticising Mayawati so much, then I want to know what sort of atrocity is he talking about?

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am not attacking any particular person. I am criticising the policies. I belong to the socialist movement. So I do not have any faith in the caste system and Prabhunath Singh ji, I have never suffered from inferiority complex. If any individual has got the talent and capability, he/she would carve out a niche for himself/herself, wherever he/she remains. No power in the world can stop the person. I am talking about policies and there could be no bigger misunderstanding than to think that a person of a particular caste can do the welfare of the people of that caste...(*Interruptions*) I am concluding. Dr. Ambedkar studies various religions and then why did he choose at last the path of Gautam Buddha. Gautam Buddha was not born in a dalit family. Gautam Buddha was a kshatriya, but Dr. Ambedkar accepted that if there is any road to welfare of people it is none but Buddhism. Therefore, Prabhunath Singh ji, the question is not of case but of policy. I am to submit that in Uttar Pradesh the one-point programme of Mayawati is to run her Government and not to ameliorate the lot of the Dalits.

I reiterate that the number of atrocities being perpetrated on the Dalits in Uttar Pradesh has no parallel in numbers in any other part of India. The facts and figures testify all this.



[Shri Ramji Lal Suman]

Thanks for giving me the time to speak...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN (Hajipur): My name is second in the list of the Members of desirous of speaking on this issue...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You know very well that you would get an opportunity to speak during the discussion held under the rule 193 only if your name comes along with the name of the mover.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: I have no objection, if you want to call him. However, my name is second...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please be seated. You will get the opportunity as per the procedure. Keep patience.

SHRI MUNI LALL (Sasaram): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am a Member of this House since 1996 but today, it is an occasion of great honour for 'dalits' because we are discussing the problems of dalits. Shri Ramji Lal Sumanji has just spoken about oppression and exploitation of dalits. He spoke at length on the extent of exploitation. I would like to submit that the history of exploitation of 'dalits' is at least five thousand years old, but the data is not available. Even after independence exact data can not be found. I would like to begin my speech by quoting a couplet.

"Jamin ka chappa chappa katl gahe adamiyat Hai,  
Khuda Mahfuj rakhe, aaye din katil badal de."

History of atrocities on dalits is not chronicled and no ruler did anything for the upliftment of dalits. India is a caste based (Varna) country. Initially the caste system had a lot of merits. The 'Varna' system was purely based on professional and employment. At that time the works were allocated and villages became self reliant. In a single village, a chamar (cobbler) made shoes, Kumhar (potter) made pots and a Barai (carpenter) did the wood work. The village became self reliant on this basis. Today, we talk of global village. Under the 'varna system', the village was self reliant, but unfortunately with the passage of time that 'varna' system got shattered. The 'varna system' came to be identified as caste system and the history of exploitation started. In the 'varna system' there were four 'varnas' and 'shudra' was kept at the lowest rung of social hierarchy. Today he is called a 'dalit' or 'harijan'. He has been given different names during the course of history. I want to submit about the sort of treatment that was meted out to Shudras? I do not call a shudra a shudra. The servant of all the three 'varnas' is called shudra. He has not received any thing from the society,

but rather has given to the society. He cleanses their dirty colonies, washes their clothes and makes shoes. He has in a way served the society. But how he was treated is a point to ponder over. The injustice this society has done to the dalits can not be described. There is no word in any dictionary which may describe this sort of atrocity.

I would like to say with profound regret that various atrocities—social, political and economic etc. have been committed against the dalits. Suman ji just highlighted some aspects he highlighted their plight very well. He is a dalit. So he understands their pain and anguish...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Not only I am a dalit, but I am his relative also...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MUNI LALL: A very dear relative. He is my son-in-law...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: BJP has deliberately chosen him as he happens to be my father-in-law. His daughter is married to my younger brother who is IAS officer. He has been deliberately put up against me...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, he was one of the Food Ministers in the Government. He belongs to the Scheduled Castes Community. This Government did not even allow him to continue!

*[Translation]*

SHRI MUNI LALL: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, who himself is not a dalit and who does not share the agony of the Dalits what can he say about the problems of dalits (Jake Pair Na Pare Bawai, so Kya Jane Pir Parai). The dalit history is ridden with atrocities. I shall not dwell at length since our senior leader Shri Ram Vilas Paswanji will speak over it. However, I will speak about the exploitation, this community has been subjected to. The atrocities committed against women today, is a very serious matter. This issue was never raised in this House by anybody. I was talking of 'varna' system. Whole of the society is tormented by the 'varna' system. Howsoever highly placed a man may be yet there exists caste feeling in some corner of this heart which springs up on every occasion.

Hon'ble Soniaji is present in the House. When she assumed the command of the Congress, a person like me was very happy, because there is someone in the

House who is above the caste system. When the dalit massacre occurred in Jahanabad, Bihar, Smt. Sonia Gandhiji went there. She gave a statement against that Government. There were high hopes at that time that here is a leader who is raising the issues of dalits. However, the tone and tenor of the speech of Smt. Sonia Gandhiji changed as she came to Delhi from Jahanabad. Nothing could be attributed for this change and the hope that arose in the hearts of dalits also waned.

The main opposition party, Congress did not care for dalits, during the 41 year period it was at the helm of affairs. The dalit community supported en masse the Congress but what did it get from the Congress? Smt. Soniaji had given a statement in a meeting of dalit community. Today, social exploitation, is being seen and excesses are being committed against the dalits. It is well known how the dalit women work in agricultural farms, industries, brick kilns, and how they are harassed and how the inspector behaves when they go to the police station to report the case. It is known to all what happens to dalits in Bihar and how many were massacred...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAM PRASAD SINGH (Arrah): Come out with data about the dalits...(*Interruptions*) I know how much you care for the dalits...(*Interruptions*) how many dalits have been made Ministers...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.

...(*Interruptions*)\*

[*Translation*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You are a senior Member. Please sit down.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI MUNI LALL: Untouchability has not been eradicated from the society...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You are addressing them. Hence the disturbance.

...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Muni Lall, please address the chair.

\*Not recorded.

[*Translation*]

SHRI MUNI LALL: Untouchability is a curse in society. Every fourth person in the country is a dalit...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: What is this. No commentary while sitting.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI MUNI LALL: Having tolerated exploitation at the hands of this society, 'dalit' remains and will continue to be with this society. We talk of Hinduism. If there is any ardent Hindu in this country today, it is the dalit community and has not converted to any other religion. The dalit has not revolted till today and has tolerated all sorts of harassment by the society and has never ushered in any revolution. Dalit has tolerated all kinds of excesses at the hands of this society. The data furnished by Sumanji is incomplete. Nowhere can we get record of how much atrocities are committed against the dalits. Community officials give data but that does not solve the problems. The saga of dalit atrocities is not merely social but it is political also. When the country got independence the dalits cherished the hope that now they would be redeemed and would join the mainstream of the society, but that was not to be. I am not commenting for or against anybody, but the political parties have exploited 'dalits' so much as has not been done by anyone else. I want to give an example. The owner of a circus keeps a lion so that audience may watch the animal. He gives the lion as much food as is sufficient for his survival. The political parties also project dalits to improve their image. The political parties give that much power to dalit leaders which may desist them from switching loyalty. When a lion becomes furious the animal is shot dead or is left alone in the jungle. Similarly, when a dalit leader becomes powerful, he is shown the door as was done in case of persons like Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar and Shri Jagjivan Ram. It is known to all how they were banished from the political spectrum. Even in politics exploitation is there and people do not give any importance to the dalits.

Nobody is there to lead them in politics. The most disturbing fact is that they are not given any share in power to ameliorate the lot of dalits. Shri Ram Vilas Paswanji and Shri Ramjilal Sumanji are representing them in this House. There are leaders on our side also, but none is there to match the stature of personalities like Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkarji and Late Shri Jagjivan Ram ji. I want to know why? It is a political conspiracy, hatched by the political parties. The House should be aware of this. Our dalit brethren should have the maturity and understanding...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it could be gauged from the absence of the Hon. Prime Minister and the hon. Home Minister in this House how seriously they take this debate. I do not think they understand the seriousness of the subject. It is a very serious issue...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The concerned Minister is present in the House.

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Where are the Hon. Prime Minister and the hon. Home Minister? Please call them....*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI BHAVNABEN DEVRAJBHAI CHIKHALIA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, the hon. Minister of State is present here and we all are listening attentively. How can Sumanji comment like this?...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The hon. Minister of State is here and so also the concerned hon. Minister.

SHRI MUNI LALL: Please also see to what extent the dalits have been exploited economically...*(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, even Sumanji is also sitting alone. Where are the other hon. Members of his party?...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Pradhan ji, you are a Minister.

SHRI MUNI LALL: There were traditional vocations available for dalits in villages when 'varna vyavastha' was in vogue, but with the ending of that system and the technological and scientific development in the country the traditional employment avenues have become extinct and there is no work available in the villages. The 77% dalits who depend on agriculture have no work today. They sow paddy even in the mud but when it comes to harvesting, it is got done by the Harvesting Machines and the dalits are deprived of work, wages and contractorship in agriculture. They are on the verge of starvation. Sumanji has spoken of reservation in services. Policy of liberalisation has been adopted. In that too, reservation of depleting and the private companies which have entered here have no provision for reservation. I would like to request the Government and the hon. Prime Minister that a clause should be incorporated into the MOUs to be signed with the private concerns for providing reservation on the lines of reservation in the Government services otherwise the situation of dalits will become from bad to worse. When economic deprivation takes place,

poverty is seen in its worst form. Even after 56 years of independence, 77% people of dalit community are living below the poverty line. Nobody cares about them. Today, dalit community has been reduced to a mere vote bank. They are not considered a part of civilised human society. Nobody thinks about the dalits that they are after all human beings and they too need protection. They serve society but this is not appreciated and they are exploited. So, as long as the exploitation of 'Dalit' is not stopped, there would be no welfare of dalits. Regarding the exploitation of dalits I would like to quote a couplet.

"Na Daman Par Koi chhint,

Na Khanzar par koi daag,

Tum Katl Karo ho ya karmat karo ho."

It is known to all how the dalit community is massacred. The exploitation and hardships of dalits will not end unless they get their share in the democracy.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, some laws have been enacted by the Government to check the exploitation of dalits. Civil Rights, Protection of Atrocities on Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. However, the Inspector in my constituency is not aware of any Act to protect dalits and if there is any law, he does not know how it is to be implemented? No Government till now have taken any effective step for dalits.

"Julm Sahte huye Insano ka Maktal Mein

Farda Tassavur se koi kahan tak Bole.

Rengte Rahne ki saja hai Jeena, Ek Do Din

Ki Ajyat Ho to Koi Sah ley,"

How long will we depend on data. The atrocity on Navjyoti at Morena occurs every day but it goes unreported. I would like to appeal to the House that it should be considered sympathetically and every political party should make dalit exploitation an issue and endeavour to wipe it out. But, it seems difficult to end dalit exploitation as long as caste system continues.

None of the Governments which came to power during the last 56 years thought seriously about ending the dalit exploitation. Sir, several Governments came to power in the past which projected themselves as the champions of social justice, but the dalit interests were put in jeopardy by them only and the Supreme Court of India had put its stamp of disapproval thereon. However, when the pressure was built up by the 'dalit' organizations a two day seminar was held in the Parliament House Annexe Building. The Hon'ble Prime Minister and the

Hon'ble Deputy Prime Minister were also present in that Seminar. We requested the Hon'ble Prime Minister that this problem relating to dalits should be resolved through a constitutional amendment and the dalits should get the facility of reservation. In view of that there were three Constitutional amendment and the reservation for dalits continued unhindered. However, the problem will not be solved unless rules are made relating to reservation and are incorporated into the ninth Scheduled of the Constitution. For this, I would like to urge both sides ruling and opposition—otherwise this reservation is not going to continue in future.

Hon. Prime Minister immediately after taking over as Prime Minister extended the reservation facility for further period of en years. Besides, this it was said on behalf of the dalit society as to why he was removed from the Council of Ministers. I want to say that during the last 56 years till date the different Governments came to power, the maximum number of Ministers from dalit communities has been included in this Government...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAM PRASAD SINGH: Muni Lalji, we know your nature. Even if you do not talk of your portfolio and we also know the nature of the party to which you belong...(Interruptions)

15.00 hrs.

Your Hindu society is the feeder thereof, what are you doing?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Ram Prasad Singhji, you are a senior Member and getting up several times, you are saying so many things. You can go out, if you are not interested in the business going on here. You cannot disturb time and again like this. Shri Muni Lalji, please speak by addressing the Chair.

SHRI MUNI LALL: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to thank the hon. Prime Minister and the present Government as they have made a dalit woman Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh thrice. No other Government did like this so far. This is the thinking of our Government, our Prime Minister and Deputy Prime Minister. So far as Ms. Mayawati is concerned, many thins are said about her. But I would definitely like to say one thing that after a dalit woman takes over as Chief Minister there can be some efforts in the procedure of working of that Government. But the intention of hat Government is not wrong. She is a tortured woman. Why should we not be cooperative, if she is in power today? Now she is being disregarded and condemned. This is not proper...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record except what Shri Muni Lal says.

...(Interruptions)\*

[Translation]

SHRI MUNI LALL: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Ms. Mayawati is the voice of Dalits, She is just like a storm. This society will remain weak even after the emergence of many women like Mayawati, if there will not be welfare of the dalits in the society and if the dalits will not be protected against the exploitation of the society...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, many many thanks as these people have made Ms. Mayawati the Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh. But they should remember that there will not be anyone in Uttar Pradesh to make a mention of their name...(Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): Why they are worried about it.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Sumanji, he is not yielding.

SHRI MUNI LALL: Sir, I am not yielding. Hon. Sumanji has come to know of the fact that BJP has made a dalit woman the Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh at the cost of its party. Why other parties are not doing so? The BJP has sacrificed its party and has positioned a dalit woman in power. Ms. Mayawati has become the voice of dalits. The society wherein dalits used to carry a brides' palanquin, now a woman belonging to that community has become worthy to ride therein. These people are not bearing with a woman. The BJP has kept a woman positioned there. Those who speak against Ms. Mayawati are not responding the dalits.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want to say a few words about the poverty of dalits. The dalits who are the most backward...

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please conclude now. There are 8-10 members of your party, who have to speak as yet. You have taken about half an hour.

SHRI MUNI LALL: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am concluding. The Land Reforms Act brought forward by the Government after independence has not proved to

\*Not recorded.

[Shri Muni Lall]

be effective for the dalits who are engaged as labourers in agro based jobs. The dalits have not got their share due to strong nexus between politicians and bureaucracy. Attention is required to be paid towards it. The people of every party should pay attention towards it.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, in the end I would say this much that all were our well-wishers but there is a broken feather in our wing. We have well-wished everybody, but nobody has served our cause. Therefore, I would request that the House should consider over it. The issue of dalits is an important one. Neither I will say that it is controversial issue. If there is a discussion on this issue at least once, nor I want to condemn the Government. But I am talking about a policy matter. The whole country feels disturbed and the House also feels concerned if there is atrocity even against a single person belonging to the minority. But there is no disturbance or discussion when thousands of dalits are killed. There cannot be anything since long we are not get relieved from the existing caste system in the society.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am thankful to you for giving me time to speak. At last, I would like to say this much only that the problem of dalits is very serious one and the society should guess what will be its situation when there will be emergence of thousands of women like Mayawati. With this, I conclude my statement.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to thank you, as you have taken this important issue for discussion and I think that it would be more beneficial if we talk about some basic problems setting aside the party-politics. Otherwise, this matter would also be hushed up in levelling charges and counter-charges. There are discriminations in the whole world. There are different types of discriminations in the whole world. You can see that five types of discrimination are prevalent in the whole world. One type of discrimination is prevalent in the name of race and other are in the name of white-black. There are four types of people in the whole world. Alike we some are white, some are coloured, some are black and some other are Mangolian type. But the white people behave treating themselves as superiors. For example, the people of England and America etc. One type of the discrimination is meted out in the name of race and second one in the name of gender i.e. man or woman and naturally the men think themselves as superiors. In the whole world Asian countries are little bit progressive in this regard. This includes Indian, Bangladesh, Srilanka, Pakistan etc. The women have attained the highest post in these countries. But in the country like America where there have been

70 Presidents from Washington to Bush, even a single woman could not become the President till now, which means that there is man dominated mentality in the whole world and they are enjoying the power.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the third type of discrimination is being meted out in the name of religion. Where there are minority communities, they remain under fear and the people in majority consider themselves as superiors. The Hinduism about which we raise slogans. Our brother Pathak ji is from Gujarat. The maximum number of Gujaraties live in foreign countries. But we can better understand that what will be the plight of the Hindus living in Gujarat, if the issue of white-black starts there in that manner. Therefore, there is different role of the developed countries.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, how much the American President felt feared, when an incident took place in that country on 11th September. He had been travelling in aeroplane for two hours. As he was feared that there can be attack on White House also. After landing he appeared on television in a very angry mood. He said that either America or terrorism will survive. Either Osama Ben Laden or Bush will survive. In other words he also said that war is against Osama Ben Laden. The war is neither against the minorities nor against the Muslims, as there is no difference between Hindu-Muslims. If our Muslim brethren get their shave cleared all Hindu-Muslims are alike. We do not differentiate among Hindus-Muslims-Sikhs. I was just reading that a sikh was killed. He was hanged within two months. But his dead body was not traced. His dead body was not shown on any TV channel, as they were feared that there can be riots between White-Black people, if the dead body is shown on TV screen.

Alike the issue of man-woman, white-black or religion, the fourth one is prevalent in India and its nearby countries. These are rich and poors, white and black in other countries, but the poison of caste is prevalent in India. The disturbed form thereof is prevalent here. No caste is untouched thereof. We may give a number of abuses that Muslims are the posterity of Babar or the posterity of this or that community, but who was ruling in the country when Babar came here? Ibrahim Lodhi was ruling at that time. Ibrahim Lodhi was also a Muslim. There was Khilji dynasty before the Ibrahim Lodhi. There was Tuglak dynasty before the Khilji dynasty. There was Gulam dynasty before the Tuglak dynasty. There was Mohammed Gauri before the Gulam Dynasty. How many Muslims came with Babar here? About 1200 Muslims came here with him and what is their population today? There are 45 crores of Muslims now, if we include people

of Hindustan, Bangladesh and Pakistan together. The 45 crores Muslims are not the posterity of 1200 people. All have gone out of it. We have also seen that there are Syed, Ansari and people of every community there. Not only that when there has been wave for the change of religion in this country, the members of dalit caste adopted it first of all and that too for getting respect. The dalits are the most backward—economically, socially, educationally or religiously in this country. We call them dalits today. Baba Saheb Ambedkar had renamed them the scheduled castes and the scheduled tribes. Gandhiji used to say them Harijans. Prior to Harijans they were called untouchable. The untouchables mean to whom no one can touch. Those who say that there are four castes, but I say that there are five castes not the four. The matter has not been that difficult, if they have remained limited to Brahmin, Kashtriya, Vaish or Shudra. But even after the Shudra, a new caste emerged which was called untouchables to whom nobody can touch. This whole evil episode started when it was said that they have no right to eat, live or wear superior clothes. The gravity of sin is equal in killing the Shudra as in killing of dog, cat or mainah.. It is not a matter concerning any party.

The agitation had to be organised for getting potable water out of the pond located in chakbara of Rajasthan and thereafter had been atrocities on dalits. They were made to drink urine in Tamil Nadu. Choudhary Om Prakash Chautala is our friend. Devial ji is our leader and there has been a background of Haryana...(Interruptions)

[English]

DR. V. SAROJA (Rasipuram): Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, no such incident has taken place in Tamil Nadu...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: I am referring to the newspapers. If you want, I can give you the names of places where it has happened...(Interruptions) There was an incident on the 5th September, 2002 in Kondampatti village in Dindigul district where they were made to drink urine. On 22nd May, 2002 in Chinnam village, Trichy district

[Translation]

two dalits namely Murugesan and Ramaswami were forced to consume sewage.

[English]

So, please do not say anything like that. I do not want to go into controversies...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Ram Vilas Paswan, it would be better if you do not run into controversies. This is a very serious matter.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (Pandharpur): Whose Government is in Tamil Nadu?...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Athawale ji, your views are not being recorded. Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)\*

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: I am not casting aspersions against any Government. There is a system that there is no respect of the person who works today. The persons who is doing less work is getting more money and whereas he who is doing more is getting less. Even there is no hawai chappals in the feet of his son who makes shoes. There is no cloth on the head of his son who manufacture cloth. There is no dwelling unit for his own living who constructs palace. The safai labourer who clears the sewage of all resides in the dirtiest place. The son of farmer who produce foodgrains for consumption of all, sleeps starved. He come during the night and says his mother to serve him food. Visit in the tribal areas of Bihar. If the son during night says his mother to serve him food, the mother will say that my son you will be served food tomorrow morning. The child keeps on crying and persistently asks for something to eat. The mother tries to sooth him by telling that he will get it in the morning and then beats him up when he does not stop crying. The child cries himself to sleep. The child questions his mother in the morning that he was only asking for something to eat then why did she slap him. The mother does not know what to say.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we want to fight with the system. Party politics will continue to exist in this country. The country has been free for 52 years. Party politics has always been there and incidents of allegations and counter allegations will continue to take place but the point is that no significant change is going to take place until we fight for a change in the system along with the change in the Government.

Shri Om Prakash Chautalaji is our leader. I respect him a lot. He has given each dalit victim 5 or 10 lakh of rupees as the case may be. We can not even give one lakh rupees to dalits after their death is such cases and it is laudable that he is doing so much to help them out in Haryana. Haryana is the state where the great saint Swami Dayanand Saraswati laid the foundation of Arya Samaj. If one reads the books of Arya Samaj, he would find how it is explained in very simple words through stories regarding discrimination, own a child of Jaat family

\*Not recorded.

[Shri Ram Vilas Paswan]

was crying from hunger while another child from brahmin community was being fed with cow milk and how Swami Dayanand Saraswati helped the dalits, it is explained through the stories and it is also a fact that there are very few temples in Haryana and it is shameful that five dalits were burnt to death over there. We appreciate that hon. Chief Minister, Shri Om Prakash Chautala has extended help to them...(Interruptions)

DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV (Alwar): Even in your community people from scheduled castes do not marry the harijans and the harijans not marry dhanaks and dhanaks...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Ram Vilas Paswan, are you yielding?

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: No, Sir.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Whatever the hon. Member is saying will not go on record and only the speech of Shri Ram Vilas Paswan will go on record.

...(Interruptions)\*

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I do not understand why the hon. Member is saying so. I am saying it myself that we need to fight the system. It is like a rock. The system is like one rock set upon another. We should see that justice is whenever this kind of incident occurs.

I want to say something about Mayawatiji. There was an Act in Uttar Pradesh which provides for stringent action against persons who commit atrocities on dalits. Mayawatiji has repealed this law. Earlier we all got united and stopped the Uttar Pradesh Government from doing away with this Act but Mayawatiji has repealed it and now it is being implemented only in the cases of murder. Muni Lalji, whatever you achieved has been done away with. We will speak in support of the right things that are being done away with. Mayawatiji says that she is a dalit woman and would see to it if atrocities are committed on dalit women. What does it mean? I do not want to get involved in this controversy. I only to say that our fight is to bring in a change in the system.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Babu Jagjivan Ram was not from our party. He left the Congress party too later

on. It became a big issue when his bungalow at 6 Krishna Menon Marg was being converted into his memorial. The Government are not willing to give a bungalow. It has made it an issue of prestige. In 1990. Hon. Atal Bihari Vajpayee, Shrimati Sonia Gandhi, Shri George Fernandez etc. gave it in writing that 6 Krishna Menon Marg be converted into his memorial. When I read Shri Atalji's letter and I immediately said to Shri Vishwanath Pratap Singhji that now I would vacate it and I went to live at 12 Janpath. The issue continued to be the bone of contention since 1996. Members from each party wrote to the Speaker in the regard. The Government said that it will not get it vacated but electricity and water supply at 6 Krishna Menon Marg was cut off. There is nothing...(Interruptions)

15.19 hrs.

[SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV in the Chair]

Mr. Chairman, Sir, it is not a matter of shame only but I want to ask why is this kind of mentality developing.

I was elected for the first time in 1977. It was the first time that I become the Member of Parliament. I had won with the highest margin not only in India but all over the world. I made the record of winning the election with highest margin. At that time we used to sit on treasury benches. The incident of Belchi took place. I took a firm stand against the Government. I did the job of collecting the remains and putting them on the Table of the House. Had I wanted I would have become a Minister very easily but I did not do so. Chaudharyji was our leader at that time. I did the job of putting the remains on the table in the interests of the dalits. It angered many people...(Interruptions)

I want to tell Soniaji that she is a leader of a big party and she should not listen to the leader of his party and take a stand against any incident of atrocity against SC and ST. A Government is a Government, it is always the Government of India not the NDA Government and it works according to the rules. In the States where Congress Party is in power or Congress have given support to form the Government, it should pay attention wherever atrocities are committed on dalits. People always raise technical issue which should not be done. Our friends from Jharkhand are sitting here. I do not want to go into the issue of Jharkhand and other things but I would say that 12 percent population belongs to SC and ST. There was a SC cooperative functioning there. We have got a letter from "Anusuchit Jati Sahkarita Vikas Nigam" which was functioning earlier has been dismantled. Sanjay Paswan ji visited that place and set the things

right. If I mention this thing here, the people sitting on other side would say that I am indulging in party politics. Please ask them whether what they did was right or wrong. The Parliamentary forum related to SC, ST visited Mumbai. People complained to the SC & ST forum about custom excise Department and said that they were not getting justice. A CBI enquiry was conducted in this regard. The house of the guilty officer was raised and he was suspended. Yesterday it was the issue from Kerala. I would like to tell Soniaji not to say anything, this issue dates back to 1975. People from SC, ST should be given what has been taken away from them. This issue dates back to 1975, it is not a new one. The High Court has issued orders twice that tribals should be given what is their right but this has not been done. I only want to say that none of the tribal community is asking for the land that been taken from him, he is merely asking for another piece of land. The agreement that hon. Minister has signed should be implemented. It has been implemented partially but much more is left to be done the Government should not give opportunity to level allegations towards anyone, be it a person from this side or the other. That is why I am saying that one should indulge in politics but please do not play party politics when the weakest section of society is at stake.

Sir, I have told the Prime Minister that day that according to the official data, property worth 30 thousand crore rupees has been sold out of the total property worth 40 thousand crore rupees. Whether disinvestment is right or wrong, it is another issue, it is a political issue whether it should be there or not but if the property of 30 thousand crore rupees has been sold then what about the 22½ per cent share of ST and SC. Earlier SC and ST had 22½ percent and other backward castes had 27 per cent reservation in jobs in those institutions. Now they have been handed over to the private sector where there is no reservation. If the Government hand over an institution to the private sector then get reservation implemented there too. Here we have three types of systems. We discuss the issue in legislative assemblies and Lok Sabha and pass the law but the problem comes when it reaches in the hands of the Executive which is the implementing agency and when it is approved there also then the Judiciary creates problems because there is no representative of SCs and STs over there so they will not get justice from there. That is why I have said that we need to fight at each level. We should come up with concrete suggestions while discussing these things in the House. We want the hon. Prime Minister and Home Minister to be present in the House. We respect Umraoji, Vinod Khannaji and Swamiji. As per the Parliamentary system people elect MP and he becomes the Prime Minister and forms his Cabinet. If the Prime Minister is

honest, the Cabinet is honest and if the Prime Minister is dishonest, the Cabinet too is dishonest. If the Government is honest then the administration is effective. Eventually it is the Prime Minister who has all the powers.

That is why whenever there is any serious discussion, the Prime Minister should be present and if he is not available then the Deputy Prime Minister should be here otherwise what is he for. His presence instills a seriousness. The incident of Dulina has diminished the image of Haryana. Haryana is a great State and I want a reply from the Government. I do not know who is going to reply. Swamiji or someone else, but I want a reply. The newspapers have repeatedly published that police consulted Swami Paramhans, a leader of Vishwa Hindu Parishad to give it a different colour. My friend has rightly said that this issue does not need enquiry. We have gone to jail for a cause. One person named Tyagi from that village Badshahpur condemned the incident and went to jail. The Pradhan of that village is a Bhardwaj. Only Veer Singh belongs to Scheduled Caste, the rest of the village is united. The police demanded money when it was not given, they took Kailash Thekedar who had five thousand rupees and another two persons who had 10,000 and 3950 rupees to the police station and beat them up brutally. When they died they found that things were out of control, they telephoned Swami Paramhans to put a different complexion on it. He said that they were burnt alive because they were skinning a cow alive. I am not speaking against the Government...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: I have not allowed you to speak. Why are you standing up?

[*Translation*]

CAPT. (RETD.) INDER SINGH: He is giving a wrong statement, it is a fig of his imagination.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please take your seat, you are an experienced member and still you stand up without the permission of the Chair.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: I only want to say that the Chief Minister said that they were killed due to a misunderstanding. What does he mean by a misunderstanding. Could the Government justify it if it was done to a Muslim. The Government mean to say it was wrong since dalits were involved, it would have been right if it was done to Muslims. There is no need to start this controversy, the fact is that no one can do the act of slaughtering a cow nearby police station at 4 O'clock



[Shri Ram Vilas Paswan]

on the day of Dussehra. The Government say that it respects and worships the cow and have its milk and when it is dead, it is left to dalits to do away with the dead body and otherwise such slogans would be raised that the cow is sacred.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please address the Chair, Shri Ram Vilas Paswan.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Cow is not sacred.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: I stand corrected. Athawaleji you are right, I agree with you. Cow might be a better and useful animal than most of the animals but if you grant it a sacrosanct place then do not leave its dead body to us for disposal.

The issue of scavengers has been raised. I will conclude in a minute. There is a Commission for the scavengers. There should a discussion on its report. There is Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, Minorities and women too and there should be discussion on their reports separately in the House. No such discussion takes place, it should be done at least once a year. The scavengers have to clean the dirty drains below the sewer. Can a man in a normal condition clean excreta? We have made a law that the system to clear excreta and carry it on head has been abolished but it is still there. 20 thousand people are still doing this job in Patna. This system still exists in all the States. No man can clean excreta in a normal state. Some of them drinks to keep away the stench. It affects the whole family. The jobs of sweeping and cleaning are done at night all over the world but here husband and wife have to do this job in the morning and their child sits neglected. Can such a family prosper? It is being said that it is only a part time job, they have to work only for two or three hours and then they are free for the day. Give them job, they do not want to sit idle. They are never made permanent. Despite our unwillingness, people from other castes are posted in the place of scheduled castes and scheduled tribes. Even I was the Railway Minister. A particular job cannot be provided only to the persons belonging to a particular community. The fact is that persons who are not scavengers be they from dalit community or upper castes, they are posted but they do not do the work of cleaning. These are all problems which we should consider seriously.

I want to say that reservation which is a constitutional right is losing its significance due to privatisation.

Reservation should be implemented in the private sector. Members of all parties have put up this demand before the Prime Minister through the Parliamentary forum. Secondly, there should be a law to provide for penalty against officers irrespective of the rank for not giving a job to a suitable candidate. I want to say that cutting across all these things and keeping aside the issue of power, we should think of changing the system. The interests of the persons from the dalit community or from any section of the society can not be looked after until the system is changed. We should move the discussion forward with this point of view. I conclude with these words. I thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali): What can you expect from the Government?...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA (Ambala): There is no much discrimination in Bihar...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please do not interrupt.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record except what Shri Muniyappa says.

...*(Interruptions)\**

SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA (Kolar): Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for giving me this opportunity.

I would like to remind the august House and particularly the BJP-led NDA Government, the pathetic conditions of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the country under the rule of the NDA Government.

Under the leadership of Mahatma Gandhi, India fought for freedom. At that time, irrespective of the caste and creed, Hindus, Muslims, Christians and all others fought for freedom. Many people sacrificed their lives.

I would like to bring to the attention of the House the sacrifice made by a small village, my native place, called Kambalahalli in Sirilugatta Taluka of Kolar District. There were fifty houses in that villages and 40 people took part in the freedom struggle. In 1939, my father joined them in the freedom struggle. They were jailed for six months in the Central Jail of Bangalore. The NDA Government and the BJP do not know the sacrifices made by the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes for the freedom of the country. Many people sacrificed their lives.

---

\*Not recorded.

The programmes launched by Shrimati Indira Gandhi have been stopped by this Government on the pretext of renaming them. I would like to inform the House that Shrimati Indira Gandhi opened the eyes of the weaker sections of the society by launching the 20-point programme. The weaker sections were freed from their debt. Banks in rural areas were opened to take care of the welfare of the farming community, agricultural labour, the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes. Today, the NDA Government is closing the banks in rural areas and shifting them to urban areas. This is the contribution made by the NDA Government to the farming community, the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes people.

Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru once said that this country would not be able to become strong enough to compete at the international level until the last person in the society does not come up to the level of the forward community socially, economically and educationally.

These are the words expressed by the freedom fighters and the senior leaders who fought their lives in the freedom struggle.

Indiraji, at one session, also said that until and unless the last person gets a 2-square meals and a shelter, there is no meaning of freedom. From the time of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru till the time of Rajiv Gandhi, the ideology of Mahatma Gandhiji has been taken into consideration. They have followed and implemented the ideology of Mahatma Gandhi and developed this country like anything. Under their regime, the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe people have developed like anything.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would also like to quote that during the regime of Shrimati Indira Gandhi, opportunities were given and the ways were opened for the Chief Ministers like Shri D. Sanjivayya in Andhra Pradesh, Shri Jagannath Paharia in Rajasthan; and Indian National Congress President Shri Jagjiwan Ram. This is the ideology of the Indian National Congress.

Recently, our Indian National Congress Party President Soniaji has given a way in Maharashtra for the Chief Minister Shri Sushil Kumar Shinde. That is what the Congress is doing.

But what is the NDA headed by the BJP is doing? Now, I would quote a simple example. The Government issued a DoPT circular in 1997, after the Congress Government, in regard to SC&ST. All the Members of Parliament irrespective of party lines had supported it unanimously. But when there was a direction given by the Supreme Court in this regard, the SC&ST Forum represented before the hon. Prime Minister. We asked

that the DoPT circular be withdrawn. We asked that a direction should go to all the State Governments. The Amendment was passed in this House unanimously. Our thanks to all the political parties. It was not only the BJP which did it but it was done unanimously by all the parties. The 82nd Amendment was passed by this House unanimously.

But what is happening today regarding its implementation? It is only on the record. There is no implementation. There is no direction to the States; there is no direction to the Chief Ministers or the Chief Secretaries of the States to implement it. Sir, till today, it is only on paper. It is only the lip sympathy that has been shown by the NDA Government to the SC&ST people. Sir, the Amendment was supported and passed unanimously by the CPI(M), CPI, SP and others. But it has not been implemented so far.

If it is not implemented then what is the use of this DoPT circular? The SCST Forum has requested to put this matter in the 9th Schedule. But they have not agreed to it. Again, after the Constitution Amendment, the people went to the Supreme Court on the same issue. So, what is the supremacy of the Parliament? I seek a clarification.

Sir, a very important debate is going on. But it is very unfortunate that even the hon. Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment, and the hon. Home Minister are not present in the House. Only the hon. Minister of Tribal Affairs is sitting here. This is the seriousness of this Government!

Sir, 30 per cent of our population belong to the SC ST comprising 22 per cent from SC category and eight per cent from ST category. So, 30 crore people of this country are suffering from atrocities. But nobody is there to look after their interests. This shows as to how much this NDA Government headed by the BJP is interested and concerned about the SCST people... (*Interruptions*)

Ashok Pradhanji, please sincerely take this up. Kindly tell your Prime Minister and the Cabinet. You are also a Minister of this Government. Is this the way to help these people?

Sir, I would like to inform this august House that when Shri Rajiv Gandhi was there, the backlog of vacancies meant for SC&ST people was filled up quickly. He had given the instructions to all the States that 'within a year we have to complete the backlog of SC&ST people in the service.' So, thousands and thousands of these people had been included in the service and their posts were filled up.

[Shri K.H. Muniyappa]

After that, it was stopped. Now, lakhs of vacancies are there for SCs and STs. Are there any steps taken by this Government to fill the vacancies? Let them come out as to how many people have been inducted and how many people have been recruited to clear the backlog and to fill up the posts. They have no voice to say all these things.

After Shri Rajiv Gandhi, no one has filled up the posts till today. This shows that the Government is not in favour of SCs and STs. I am not talking about atrocities. We have to think over it. This is a matter on which intention has to come from within. One may be the Member of Parliament, but we all have to have conscience. It cannot be made with the help of rules. You are not in a position to formulate any rules or Acts to protect the SCs and STs. Action against untouchability was taken by the Government of the Indian National Congress. Action against atrocities was taken by the Government of the Indian National Congress. You have not come forward to protect 30 per cent of the people today. What are the steps taken by you to protect people from these atrocities? You can cite me one single example.

I have mentioned about the DOPT circulars. No instructions were issued till today. Shri Pradhan is present here; Shri Jual Oram is here; they have no interest. They are not strong enough to talk to the authorities; they are controlled by Financial Advisors in the respective Departments. Dr. Jatiya is also here; they are Ministers, but they have nothing to do with these things. They are controlled by the Financial Advisors or the bureaucracy not to implement things. What can they do? They cannot come up openly because they are in the Government. I know their problem. I am working in the Consultative Committee attached to the Ministry of Welfare. When Shri Sitaram Kesari was a Minister in the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, we fought for it and we identified 48 districts where girls had a low literacy of 3-5 per cent. On that day, we had decided to start residential schools in each district to develop educationally, the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe girls. Out of 48 districts, in how many districts they had started it? We have no information on that. I have requested them to give information in the Consultative Committee, but there is no proper response. This is the way, the NDA Government is functioning.

I do not want to mention anything about atrocities on *dalits*. When there is no programme for development of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, where is the question of protection for them? Shri Jual Oram is here; he is very keen; he is dynamic; and he wants to do;

something for the poor people. But there is no opportunity. They are controlled by the people from behind the scenes. He is not able to sanction even a small project for the last six months. When this is not done, what is the use of speaking on atrocities? I appeal to the House; we have to follow Gandhian principles. If the nation is to be strong and strong at the international level, the common citizen or the last person of the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe should be economically developed. This is the duty of the Government—State or the Centre. We have to follow the ideologies of Gandhi. Until the unless we do it, we cannot come forward. There is no proper education. They are not able to come up. They are not able to organise themselves. The Governments have to give proper education and then only, they can survive educationally. We are talking on the issue of *go maatha*. I agree; I am a pure vegetarian; I am Gandhian; I am a secular man. But you are taking advantage of this. So many States have banned this. India is a secular country. Please do not forget that India is a secular country. We have to move together. Hindus, Muslims and Christians, all fought together for the freedom of this country. Not only Hindus but also all Muslims and Christians had sacrificed their lives for the freedom of this country. All have to live together in this country.

Baba Sahib Ambedkar has given us the Constitution. It is not for the welfare of the Scheduled Caste people alone but for the people of the weaker sections as well. They have to come up in life. As per the provisions of the Directive Principles of the Constitution, we have to protect the interests of the weaker sections. I think, you have forgotten the Buddhism which has been there for the last thousand years. *Manu Dharmashastra* is the creator of Hinduism. Before that, there was no creed and people were happy during those days. I am a Hindu. I think you have forgotten the *Manu Shastra* and the Hinduism. *Manavta*, humanity is supreme. You must come out of it. Otherwise, recent elections in some of the States have shown you the results. Where is your *Hindutva* card? *Manavta* card has played its trick. People of this country, in Himachal Pradesh, Meghalaya and Tripura, have proved...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please maintain decorum in the House and don't speak while sitting.

[English]

SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA: I am not against *Hinduism*. But, please do not play this *Hindutva* card. It is not correct on your part. Do not forget that the Indian National Congress has got 14 to 15 States. This Government seems to have forgotten the Gandhian ideology. We, the

Indians cannot just be the Hindus, Muslims or the Christians. We are Indians first. We have to live together and unitedly fight together for the security of this nation.

I do not want to mention just one incident. There are a number of incidents of atrocities committed on Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. The Government should make up its mind. The Gandhian principles will survive. People are coming up and you cannot stop them. You cannot ignore 30 per cent of the population of this country. You should make proper laws to protect them. You can educate them that we are all one human being. Various Atrocities Acts are being misused. One just cannot physically handle them and put them behind the bar. You can make use of the atrocities Acts. These Scheduled Castes are made the scapegoats. The majority community people are using the weapon of atrocity on the Scheduled Caste people. I do not appreciate it. We have to move together. We should follow the Gandhian ideology.

Finally, I would like to inform the august House that a day will come when the Indian National Congress, headed by Shrimati Sonia Gandhi, will come to the rescue of this country.

Under the leadership of Shrimati Sonia Gandhi, the Indian National Congress would come to power. The Congress Party would save all the people of the country whether it is Hindus or Muslims or Christians.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL (Latur): Sir, I just wanted to bring it to the notice of this august House that the Treasury Benches are empty. We are discussing the atrocities on Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and only one Minister is sitting here...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Why are you standing? Please sit down.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: This is a telling commentary on the seriousness of the Government on this issue. The people belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes are suffering and this is the kind of interest shown by the Members of the Ruling Party. We object to it, and we complain about it. I think, what is happening in this country is happening because of this attitude of the Government...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am on a point of order.

MR. CHAIRMAN: What is your point of order.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Mr. Chairman, Sir, this matter is related to atrocities on the Scheduled Castes. There should be two Ministers present in the House. The Minister of Home Affairs should be present here. Otherwise, there is separate portfolio pertaining to SC, ST which is under Dr. Satyanarayan Jatia. Someone should have been present here from his Ministry. Shri Oram is the Minister of Tribal Affairs. The Cabinet Minister of Home Affairs should have been present here. We can go to this technicality that Shri Oram is a Cabinet rank Minister. But keeping in view the seriousness of the issue, I would say this much only that if we implement something, they can do nothing. We have seen earlier also. Therefore, I only wished the Minister of Home Affairs were present here.

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JUAL ORAM): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs is taking down notes on behalf of the Government.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Minister, please take your seat. The point of order raised by Shri Paswanji is not a point of order, rather it is point of information. Four of the Ministers namely the Minister of State in the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs, the Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs and the Minister of Tribal Affairs etc. are already present here.

[*English*]

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Sir, it is not the question of a Minister...(*Interruptions*) It is a question of the representation of the people belonging to a particular party...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please take your seat.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I want to know from your goodself that whether any other Minister can reply, if the question is related to Ministry of Railway.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Paswan ji, please take your seat. Technically it is proper that the Ministers are sitting here...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Mr. Chairman, Sir, whole of the members of opposition parties are sitting in the House, but the concerned minister to not present here...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: He do not listen when we speak and when others speak, they do not sit here to listen them.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The issue is very serious and important one. The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs or perhaps you, if want to speak on that issue can speak, otherwise I am calling Shri Mohan Rawale to speak.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: I am on my legs. Please take your seats.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: The Minister of Social Justice is not present here please call him...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing, accept what Shri Mohan Rawale is saying, would go on record.

...(Interruptions)\*

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record, what you are saying.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Lakshman Singh ji, please take your seat. Nothing is going on record. Please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Minister is on his legs, please listen him. Let him speak.

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY (Khammam): He is on his legs, because I have insisted to call him...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: This debate is going on the issue of Tribals and on the dalits. The concerned Minister is not present here...(Interruptions)

MR CHAIRMAN: Please take your seat, as Mr. Minister, Dr. Sanjay paswan is saying something.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SANJAY PASWAN): Mr. Chairman, Sir, this Government has

appointed nine Ministers from the dalit society and I myself present here, but he is not seeing. Shri Ram Vilas Paswan is not able to see the other Paswan. ...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Rawaleji, please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing, accept what Shri Mohan Rawale is saying, would go on record.

...(Interruptions)\*

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Please call the Minister of Home Affairs otherwise there will be no use of this debate. We are leaving the House.

15.59 hrs.

[Shri Ram Vilas Paswan then left the House]

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Please call the Minister of Home Affairs...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Ramdas, please take your seat.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE (Mumbai South Central): Mr. Chairman, Sir, hon. Member from Congress party Shri Muniyappaji was speaking just now and he was saying that we feel proud that Shri Sushil Kumar Shinde took over as the Chief Minister of Maharashtra. I would like to inform the House that now the Congress is mentioning the name of Baba Saheb Ambedkar and is talking about the dalits. But I have been elected from Mumbai South Central four times...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing will on record except what Shri Rawaleji is saying.

16.00 hrs.

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Sir, I have won elections four times from the constituency from which I am usually elected. Baba Saheb Ambedkar had also contested elections from the same constituency and the Congress

Party had fielded a candidate against him...*(Interruptions)*.  
The Members of Congress Party do not have any right  
to mention him...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: You should not try to provoke other  
Members.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: I want to put forth my views  
in view of what they are saying. We are also proud of  
it. The Chief Minister of Maharashtra is from dalit  
community, we are proud of him. The Congress party  
had opposed when Shri Balyogi was elevated to the post  
of Speaker where was their attachment to dalits at that  
time? Was Balyogiji not a dalit? Discussion on atrocities  
on dalits are going on, but I do not want  
that...*(Interruptions)* I have been elected from that  
constituency from where Baba Saheb Ambedkar had  
contested elections. The candidate of Congress party was  
fielded against him...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Rawale, please address the  
Chair. Why do you address other Members?

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Hon. Shri Shivraji Patil is  
sitting here...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record except  
Shri Mohan Rawale's speech.

...*(Interruptions)*\*

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: When Baba Sahib contested  
the election, it was the Congress which defeated him.  
They have right to use the name of Baba Sahib  
Ambedkar...*(Interruptions)*. The opposition has not got  
elected as much dalits as the Shiv Sena and the BJP  
have. The Shiv Sena has got the most number of dalits  
elected in India. You see the history. I can show them  
the book if they so desire...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please address the Chair.

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Sir, I am to leave by flight  
at 5'0 Clock...*(Interruptions)* Please do not indulge in  
petty politics so much. This politics has been started by  
your for votes...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: You please address the Chair.

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: I can bring and show them  
a book if they want. After that either they apologise or  
otherwise I will. If I am proved wrong, I will apologise in  
writing. It is a bitter truth which they find unpleasant  
Shivraj Patilji in sitting here. We respect him, we respect  
the Madam but they know that they had fielded a  
candidate from the Congress Party against Baba Saheb  
Ambedkar and he lost the election...*(Interruptions)* They  
are staging a walkout? It shows about how much they  
are concerned. The discussion on dalits is going on and  
they are walking out of the House...*(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF  
PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF  
STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI VIJAY  
GOEL): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to reply to the  
question raised by Shivraj Patil ji that the Minister of  
State for Home is sitting here, the Minister of State for  
Social Welfare Mr. Sanjay Paswan is also here and the  
Minister for Tribal Affairs is also present here and still  
the number of Members present in the House from the  
ruling side is far greater than that of the opposition. At  
present 8 ministers belong to SC and ST and we have  
more than 46 members which is far greater than the  
number of dalits members from the opposition. Therefore,  
it is wrong to say that the Government is not concerned.  
It also shows how much serious the leaders of Congress  
are about this issue...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: It is the duty of the  
Government to ensure equitable justice to all in our  
country. The most severe punishment should be given to  
the guilty of any brother or sister belonging to dalit  
community is subjected to oppression...*(Interruptions)*

Mr. Chairman, Sir, our experience about Maharashtra  
is that the Atrocities Act is used there for taking political  
advantage. As and when elections are held there, the  
Atrocities Act is misused. The people from Congress have  
filed cases against each and every one even children of  
every village in our Maharashtra. I say that the misuse  
of this Act for political purposes should be stopped.  
...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA (Jhabua): You are pleading  
for these influential people who commit atrocities against  
dalits...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record except what Shri Mohan Rawale says.

...(Interruptions)\*

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Mr. Chairman, Sir, when elections were held in Maharashtra, most of the Shiv Sena and BJP candidates who won elections belong to dalit society and most of them got minister's portfolio also.

[English]

I would like to state about Maharashtra...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record.

...(Interruptions)\*

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Shiv Sena supremo respected Balasaheb Thackrey had proposed renaming of the Marathwara Vidyapeeth as Dr. Baba Saheb Ambedkar Marathwara Vidyapeeth long ago but the people belonging to the Congress Party did not accede to that and it could not materialise at that time owing to politics of votes as these people believe in creating a rift between dalits but after 15 years the same proposal of respectable Bala Saheb Thackrey was accepted and that Vidyapeeth was renamed as Dr. Baba Saheb Ambedkar Marathwada Vidyapeeth.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, Baba Saheb Ambedkar had contested election from the constituency from which I am elected...(Interruptions)

SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA (Jhabua): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to submit for the knowledge of Mohan Rawaleji that the Government of Madhya Pradesh has established a Vidyapeeth at Mahu near Indore which is the birth place of Baba Saheb Ambedkarji where thousands of students are studying.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Rawale, please address the Chair.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Mr. Chairman, Sir, this act should be used like a shield and not like a sword.

Sir, when we decided to elect late G.M.C. Balyogi as the Speaker of the Lok Sabha for the first time, the Congress party had opposed it. After that he was elected unopposed. These very people had opposed him...(Interruptions). Today, you have separated people like Shri Ramdas Athawale and Shri Prakash Ambedkar...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: The Congress party has not splintered us...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing will not go on record except what Shri Rawale says.

...(Interruptions)\*

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Mr. Chairman, Sir, in Bihar most of the killings are of dalits. Then why do they keep their mum...(Interruptions). Dalits are being killed, we regret it. We do not support that...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Rawaleji, please wind up.

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Sir, I submit that we are happy that Sushil Kumar Shindeji still a Member of the Lok Sabha has become the Chief Minister of Maharashtra. We respect him very much. A number of people have been subjected to injustice and oppression. I have stated in the very beginning that if a law is made it should not be such as would do justice to a person on the one hand and become an instrument of injustice and oppression for the other.

Sir, atrocities were committed on many people in Maharashtra a number of cases have been filed. I urge therefore that firstly this act should be repealed and the provision of punishment should be made so much stringent for atrocities against dalits that hands and feet of the guilty may be amputated...(Interruptions) The cases filed against the workers of the Shiv Sena should be reviewed and withdrawal. Thank you...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAMANAND SINGH (Satna): Sir, I may also be given time to speak. I have also sent my name on behalf of my party...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: I have a list and I am calling out names according to that. You will be called when your turn comes. Right now, please sit down, do not speak.

16.13 hrs.

SHRI SUBODH ROY (Bhagalpur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the issue of atrocities against dalits is one of the major national issues and it is a slur on our society and nation. The question is who wants to remove this stigma and who has taken initiative in this regard. It is a fact that atrocities are committed on dalits in Bihar. Ranvir Sena is responsible for a series of heinous acts which have shattered the society of Bihar and the nation but it is also true that Bihar was the first State where Muzaffarpur University was named after Baba Saheb Ambedkar to show respect towards the dalit community. Bihar is the first State where Bhagalpur University was named after tribal leader Tilaka Manjhi to show respect towards him but due to our social condition, feudal system and mentality, the incidents of atrocities on dalits continue to take place not only in Bihar but all over the country. Despite various laws and provisions in the Constitution, incidents of atrocities have not come down during the last 56 years. Such incidents are increasing in those States of India which claim to be developed and prosperous. The data verifies this fact that such incidents are taking place everywhere be it Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan or Tamil Nadu. It is clear that despite numerous laws and constitutional provisions such incidents are increasing. According to the report of 1999 the number of incidents of atrocities against dalits in Uttar Pradesh was 6122 and the number of such incidents in Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh was 5623 and 4667 respectively. It amounts to 65.4 per cent of the total incidents in the whole country. As per the data of 2000 a total of 1,61,131 such incidents have taken place. Only 12,956 cases have been dealt with out of the total cases of atrocities against dalits lying pending in special courts and harijan police stations. As far as taking action against the guilty persons is concerned, litigations have been initiated against a total of 982 persons, the target is still way beyond. Persons guilty of committing atrocities against dalits should be hanged, stringent action should be taken against them and their property should be seized and distributed among the dalits of the area.

The way the land reforms have been ignored have rendered large number of dalits from both urban and rural areas landless and poor. They are living in infernal conditions in dirty slums.

16.17 hrs.

[DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA *in the Chair*]

We cannot sit with them when we visit their areas because there is no sitting arrangement. They live in

very hard conditions, the conditions of their schools are even worse, they are not given any medical services and do not have access to any social programme.

As far as reservation is concerned, you can see that despite this policy, large number of seats have remained vacant and only 3450 seats were given to dalits and tribals at the university level. It is the result of this kind of mentality that this Government which has been in power for four years, now has neither even once discussed the recommendations of Commission on Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes nor taken any step to implement these. What does it reveal? It shows a negligent attitude towards this problem. I only want to say this that the Government should adopt a serious approach towards this problem and make efforts with all sincerity to implement the recommendations of the Commission on SC and ST for the redressal of this problem. Today the tribals are compelled to leave jungles and are being committed against them by the landowners. The mafia, the nouveau rich and the contractors want to usurp the land of harijan areas to build complexes and big farms. In the name of privatisation and liberalisation schemes against dalits are being implemented regularly. It should be stopped. Land reform programme should be implemented all over the country in a big way so that its benefits might reach landless labourers and agricultural labourers. The Government should make all efforts to ensure that the dalits and the tribals get the land on which they are living, it might be the railway land, forest land, waste land or an extra piece of land after ceiling but it is a regret that the Government of India's inclination...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SUBODH ROY: The policy of the Government shows that this Government is of the rich and prosperous people who commit atrocities on dalits. It is concerned only about them. The report of the Commission in this regard should be reviewed in each district. An all party meeting should be called so that effective steps may be taken immediately to get the recommendations of the Commission implemented.

[*English*]

DR. MANDA JAGANNATH (Nagar Kurnool): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thank you very much for giving me an opportunity to participate in this discussion. I feel that, when such an important issue relating to the killing and rape of thousands of oppressed people in this country is being discussed in the House, at least, the Deputy-Prime Minister should have been present in the House.



[Dr. Manda Jagannath]

Sir, we have organised a Special Session of Parliament to celebrate the Golden Jubilee of our Independence with pride and remembered the aspirations of our forefathers who struggled for freeing India from the clutches of foreign rule. The Father of the Nation, Mahatma Gandhi thought of wiping away the last tear from the eyes of every citizen of India, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru thought of 'Destiny with Tryst' and Dr. B.R. Ambedkar thought that the weaker sections of the society would join the mainstream of the country from thousands of years of social injustice once the country achieved freedom. Have we really achieved the goals thought of by our forefathers? If we look at our achievements, as the time passed, the aspirations of our founding fathers lie shattered and, to be frank, their souls must be bleeding with agony and they must be feeling sorry for the prevailing state of affairs of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes in our country.

Sir, atrocities on *dalits* are on the increase. As the society is getting civilised, casteism is growing. Society has become jealous of the upcoming of the weaker sections.

When we look at implementation of the constitutional guarantees towards the *dalits*, one has to bow his or her head in shame. On one pretext or the other, the constitutional rights meant for the weaker sections are violated wilfully. The successive Governments are showing a lukewarm attitude whenever these are brought to the notice of the concerned authorities in so far as the implementation of the constitutional guarantees are concerned. That is the situation even after 55 years of our Independence. Murders, rapes and social boycotts are committed unabated because the successive Governments are not showing much concern as is being shown to the lives of some of the animals which our society thinks 'more sacred than the lives of the *dalits*'. This is the situation in our country. It is very shameful.

As far as the statistics relating to crimes maintained by the National Crime Records Bureau under the Ministry of Home Affairs are concerned, there is an increase in the incidence of crime against the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes in successive years. The number of cases registered in 2000 were 29,645 while in the year 2001, the figure was 29,683. But actually, the cases that were not registered could definitely be three or four times more than the registered ones because most of the cases of atrocities go unregistered. It is so because of various reasons, such as, socio-economic, fear and terror created by the crime abettors and apathy shown by the police officials in registering such cases.

The Acts passed by the Parliament to safeguard the interests of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes are also not properly implemented. The Protection of Civic Rights Act, 1955 and the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989—No. 33 of 1989—are just lying on the papers. Their implementation is very negligible. In fact, sometimes, these are rather misused by the feudal and upper caste people in settling scores against each other by making the innocent *dalits* as scapegoats.

The district administration, many a time, instead of registering the cases, does not pay heed to the problems of such people. The police people do not even go to the places where the atrocities had been committed. I have come across IPS officers who happened to be Additional SPs in districts. Some of them do not know anything about the PCR Act and the SC & ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act. They were just asking me where it had been written. It is very clearly mentioned in the Act that whenever an atrocity has been committed on the people belonging to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, and the information is received, the police personnel of the DSP or ASP level should immediately go to that particular place. Rather they asked me to show them where it had been written. It is very much mentioned in these Acts. Such is the condition with the police officials in the districts.

Some of the police people do not even know the provisions of the Acts. Some of them, even though they know about such provisions, do not bother to take action as had happened at Jhajjar in Haryana where the police had played a spectator's role when the *dalits* were lynched.

As per the provisions of the above-mentioned Acts, if a police person or any other officer who has been entrusted an investigation in a case of untouchability and atrocity and not attending properly, he should be deemed to be abetting the crime. No action is initiated against such type of officers. No accountability is fixed by the officer concerned with investigation of offences against the *dalits*. If such an official does not act immediately and it is found that it was his duty, he should be deemed to have abetted in that act. Hence, action should be taken immediately against such type of negligent officers.

An Andhra Pradesh, a number of rape cases are committed. In one particular case, the Judge felt that the rape was committed because of 'lust for sex' rather than thinking that the woman was a *dalit* woman. I wonder if it is lust for sex. Why are only *dalit* women chosen? Why are not women in one's family chosen for committing

a rape? They are also women. Be it a *dalit* woman or a woman in an upper caste family, the anatomy of their bodies is the same.

This very clearly shows that the rape against the *Dalit* women are committed because they are unprotected in all the ways and the abettor or the accused gets away without any punishment.

I support the hon. Deputy Prime Minister's observation made sometime back that if all parties agree, the Government is ready for death sentence for those who commit rape.

The judgements in such type of rape cases come against the *Dalits* because the witnesses are purchased by Upper Caste people by money or by intimidation, and the witnesses are made hostile. As there are very few number of judges from lower courts up to High Courts and the Supreme Court belonging to weaker sections, the judgements are not given on the merits of the cases. Unless there are SC/ST/OBC judges in proportionate number of judges from lower courts to the Supreme Court on population basis, the judgements will not be favouring the *Dalits* in most of the cases.

If you look at the judiciary, the entire judiciary is full of non-SC/ST/OBC Judges. The statistics say that out of 650 judges, the number of SC/ST judges is 15 and the number of OBC judges is 35. In the Supreme court, out of 26 judges, the number of SC/ST judges is one and it is nil as far as OBC judges are concerned. In the Allahabad High Court, out of 70 judges, the number of SC/ST judges is three and the number of OBC judges is one. In the case of Delhi High Court there are no SC/ST or OBC judges. In these circumstances, it is very difficult to get justice from the judiciary for the *Dalit* people. So, I demand that there should be proportionate representation of judges in the judiciary from all sections of the society, including SC/ST/OBCs on population proportion. As we all know, the Government is planning to have a Judicial Commission, I would request the Government to include this clause in the proposed Judicial Commission as a guideline in recruitment of judges from lower courts to the Supreme Court.

With regard to the police apathy towards the *Dalits*, I would say that some of the police people do not even know the provisions of the Acts and some of them even though they know the provisions, do not bother to take action. Take, for instance, the Jhajjar incident in Haryana where the police played the spectator's role when the *Dalits* were lynched. Though it was a dead cow, rumours were spread that these people have lynched a living cow.

The police was there as spectators along with the mob that gathered there and lynched these *Dalit* persons. In such types of cases, immediate action should be taken against such type of negligent officers. They should be immediately removed from the service and criminal cases to be booked against such officers.

Finally, I would like to say that if the Government wants to stop such types of atrocities against *Dalits*, the Government should come out with more stringent laws like death sentence for people who commit rape.

Severe and immediate action should be taken against those officers who neglect their duties in respect of cases of atrocities on SC/ST people.

As I said earlier, a clause should be included in the proposed Judicial Commission with regard to recruitment of judges in the Courts on population proportion to SC/ST/OBC so that there is a sincere and effective implementation of Constitutional rights of the *Dalits* in letter and spirit. An Act has to be made and put in the Ninth Schedule of the Constitution.

Then the reservation has to be extended to the private sector also.

There should be adequate compensation and rehabilitation of the victims of atrocities on a long-term basis rather than merely giving one or two lakh rupees as compensation. These meagre sum will not help them for their whole life, so there should be a long-term procedure and the Government has to see that they are rehabilitated properly.

Incentives should be given to those who marry the rape victims.

There should be a programme for *Dalits* in a big way like the Andhra Pradesh Government have taken up to create awareness among the common masses about the untouchability and acts concerning the *Dalit* aspects through the country by the Government of India.

The subject matter of atrocities should be brought under the Home Ministry rather than putting it under the Social Welfare Ministry.

Finally, the Government should empower the SC/STs in all the fields.

[*Translation*]

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT (Shajapur): Hon'ble Chairman, Sir after a long time the issue of atrocities on

[Shri Thawar Chand Gehlot]

Dalits is being discussed in the House. When it was decided in the B.A.C. that a discussion on this issue should be held in the House, I had the curiosity to go to the library to find out when a discussion on this issue was held last time and what were the conclusions and the action taken thereon? I was surprised to note that such type of discussion with regard to Dalits was never held since 1984-85. I am stating this on the basis of the information I could get from the library...*(Interruptions)* It is a different thing if the discussion would have held by way of different issues or by way of Calling Attention Motion or the Adjournment Motion but it was never held like such a way...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Your unawareness does not mean that a discussion was not held. The discussion has been held under Rule 193 in this very House.

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT: I.....the Government for the discussion being held...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: I would like to put it on record that this discussion has not been initiated by a Member from the Government side. A Member of the Opposition Party gave a notice for this discussion, which has been accepted by the Business Advisory Committee. The hon. Member must now that...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT: First, you listen to me. I would like to express my thanks to the Government, all the parties and particularly the chair. This subject came up to the B.A.C. and a discussion is being held under Rule 193...*(Interruptions)* I would also like to add further that this Government also deserves thanks for this as well that perhaps it is for the first time that in the N.D.A. Government 11 Ministers have been inducted from the S.C. and S.T. Communities. Hardly such numbers of ministers might have been inducted before this...*(Interruptions)* Many hon'ble Members had been stating that the number of S.C. and S.T. members with the B.J.P. is not too much. I would like to add further that at present the maximum number of M.Ps belonging to the S.C. and S.T. category are with the BJP and the NDA Government. It has also been heard during the discussion that the attitude or interest of this Government is not for the protection of interests of the Dalits, and the people belonging to S.Cs and S.Ts. I would like to submit that as the period of reservation for Dalits which expired since 1996-97, there was backlog of vacancies, and the

exemptions being given in Government jobs in reservation had been banned in view of the Supreme Court order but this Government in order to do justice for the people belonging to Dalit, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribe withdraw three of the five office orders issued by D.O.P.T. in this regard and restored the earlier exemptions being given in reservation. Along with this it also restored the recruitment if a back-log is more than 50% which had been banned earlier. Even if the back-log is 75-80%, orders for recruitment have been issued...*(Interruptions)*

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the architects of Indian Constitution had made provisions and laws to promote the interests of S.C., S.T. and Dalits and to alleviate the miseries and suffering of exploited people. For this a provision was made for the Commission for the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes people under article 338 of the Constitution. As far as I know 7-8 reports of the Commission have been submitted to the President of India as yet but they have not been presented to the House so far. Out of them 4-5 reports have been discussed in the House but for the rest no discussion has been held till date. I would like to submit through you Sir, about the reports that this Government constituted only one commission for SC and ST people which was overburdened and due to the multiplicity of problems it was not able to solve the problems in the scheduled time frame. Moreover, the reports did not reach the concerned places after their finalisation. Therefore, this Government constituted separate commissions for SC and ST. This is a historic step taken by this Government. This commission was extremely necessary for SC and ST. All the hon'ble Members have extended their cooperation for this cause. All of us deserve congratulations since the bill to this effect has been passed here by two-third majority we have discharged our duty. For this I want to extend my thanks to all Members. But, this Government have taken this step only because of its will power.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, today, the discussion is being held in the House regarding atrocities being committed on 'Dalits'. I want to know the reasons behind these atrocities. What is in the origin of these atrocities. These need to be strike. It is immaterial that you may discuss in this regard number of time unless we do not strike these will continue to rise instead of abating. Many laws have been enacted and various provisions have been made but these are not being implemented sincerely. This is the main reason. I can also go for data. I have also got data of some years. Atrocities Act has been enacted. The incidents of injustice, atrocities, murders as well as the rapes and physical assault continue to happen against SC, ST and Dalits. When an FIR is filed, charge-sheet is framed against these incidents which is followed by

sentence or acquittals, if you go through the data, it will be seen that the judicial process needs definitely to be reformed. If we go through the data for the year 1998, we shall find that 6868 cases were registered of which 2915 were charge sheeted, 240 were convicted and acquittals were 1600. Similarly in 1999, 6838 cases were registered, 3921 here charge sheeted, 236 were convicted and 2359 were acquittals. It was replied to the question No. 3915 asked by Shri Kailash Meghwal on 9.8.02 that out of the total No. of cases for which FIR were registered and charge sheeted during the year 2001, 2002, only half of the people were convicted and the rest of them were acquitted. The conclusion drawn from the above is that the people belonging to the categories of SC, ST and Dalits are poor, they do not engage good legal counsel, who can argue in their favour or the courts are influenced by other factors and the culprits are acquitted. Now it cannot be held that these reports are wrong, I would like to say that there are 4-5 States which are most prone to higher incidence of atrocities against SC, ST and Dalits. Out of these U.P. is number one at the top which is followed by M.P., Rajasthan, Bihar and Gujarat etc. at number 2nd, 3rd and 4th place respectively.

Why such atrocities are committed in those States with more than 1500 crimes per year. The Governments change and the Chief Ministers also change. If we look at the States as per numbers, there may be some let up but why the incidents of crime, atrocity and injustice occur most in these States. It requires some in-depth study and if we go in depth we shall find that casteism is constantly on the rise, may be of any category. Casteism is on the rise hence the incidence of crimes, are increasing it needs to strike at the roots of this casteism. I remember a statement of a great saint. Every one enters all the four varna's by way of pone's day long activities everyday. He said that every one is a 'shudra' till one gets up in the morning and takes a bath and worship whether one may be a Brahmin or kshatriya, or a Vaishya or a 'Shudra'. But one person becomes a 'Brahmin' when he does some worship after taking bath, the some person be comes a 'Vaishya' when he sits in the shop after some time or does business becomes a Kshatriya when the some gets infuriated an creates a scene. In this way all the four varnas are inherent in every one's nature and it needs to be checked. The solution to this problem could be possible if we try to take an initiative to see that a person remains 'Shudra' for the minimum period otherwise impossible.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I want to tell one thing to the people belonging to the Scheduled Castes as well as of the upper caste also. You know from which caste of

Madhya Pradesh I belong to—I am from the Scheduled Caste. Once I got an invitation of marriage party from a person of a 'Mehtar' Community in our neighbourhood. It was in 1968. I attended the marriage function and dined with them sitting in a que. The people of my Community objected to it and they started confabulations amongst themselves. Later on they demanded to out caste me. If such is the tendency of the people of Scheduled Caste Category which is a group of 150, 200 or 400, then we can never hope to wipe out discrimination. If we do not like to dine with the people belonging the castes lower than that of us, we have no right to sit and dine with the people of the upper castes.

I would like to say one more thing and request the members of the upper castes that they should not take it otherwise. I am Jagan Nath, a 'Charamkar' (Cobbler) by caste. I worship 33 crores of your deities. I voluntarily jump at the forefront to fight for saving your temples and your religion and uphold the dignity of your religion. But you do not let me come near your Kitchen, do not give any respect or regard to me and practice unsociability. But, if the other day I change my name to George and the name of my father remains the same Ram Lal and I convert to Christianity, you give me access to your kitchen and welcome me as Mesih ji. If the other day Ramchandra Charamkar adopt Islam religion and rechristen himself as Rahim Khan though the name of his father remains the same you will welcome and say welcome Khan Sahib. The tendency of access to Kitchen is reflected from this and when one observes this situation it occurs to a person that if change of name and religion bring respectability, then convert the name and religion. This trend is growing in our society. It needs to be checked. If we do not strive for checking this trend, it will lead, if not today but in the days to come to the formation to two classes and a situation of class conflict will be created...(*Interruptions*) If you want to view my speech from a political perspective...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Tell them.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Ram Das ji, please sit down.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am delivering an apolitical speech and if I am provoked to make a political speech. I am ready to say that the B.J.P. was the first political party which tried to make Shri Jagjivan Ram ji Prime Minister but the people sitting in front did not let him become Prime Minister. If you want to hear a political speech I have to say that these were the people sitting in front who did not allow

[Shri Thawar Chand Gehlot]

Ambedkar Ji to come to this House. The people sitting in front of us worked for the defeat of Ambedkar Ji in election...*(Interruptions)* I want to speak apolitical. I was talking about Dalits. If the people from that side make political speeches, I am ready to say and I can also say...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Athawale Ji please sit down. You are not permitted to speak. Whatever you are saying will not go on record.

...*(Interruptions)\**

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to point out that the Congress of Gandhiji which had worked for the protection of Dalit interests ceased to exist in 1948 after independence. The Congress which has survived today is the Congress which foments trouble and quarrels between Dalits and upper castes...*(Interruptions)* I am being tempted to give political speech....*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Gehlot ji, please wind up.

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT: I will conclude within two minutes...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Athawale Ji do not interrupt your words are not going on record.

...*(Interruptions)\**

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to further add on this occasion that the great persons who had won freedom for the country had envisioned that in the coming ten years the phenomenon of untouchability would be wiped out, the chasm between richness and poverty will cease to exist and the people of Dalits, exploited and vulnerable sections would get equal status but it is unfortunate that even after 56 years of freedom and about 52 years since Indian Constitution came into force, but their will has not materialised. If some one has sinned by not fulfilling their wishes, if there could be a sinner, they are the people sitting over that side who could be sinners but our Government cannot be. This Government have not done one but many works in the interests of the S.Cs. and S.Ts and I say that our party is the only party which has no room for 'Varna' system....*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Shamsheer Singh Dullo. I have called another Member.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record except what Shri Shamsheer Singh Dullo says.

...*(Interruptions)\**

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Kanti Lal ji, Sit down; please sit down Chaudhary Ji.

[English]

I have called Shri Shamsheer Singh Dullo.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing is going on record except what Shri Shamsheer Singh Dullo says.

...*(Interruptions)\**

[Translation]

SHRI SHAMSHER SINGH DULLO (Ropar): Mr. Chairman Sir, I am thankful to you for giving me time to speak...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Ramdas Athawale, you can speak when your turn comes.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI SHAMSHER SINGH DULLO: Mr. Chairman Sir, the discussion is going on today in this House on the atrocities continuing against the crores of Dalits in India. It is said that India is a country of saints and Sages. Who are the people who introduced the caste system here and tarnished the country?

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the 'Manuities' who call themselves superior Indians, who have divided the Society and those who have talked of Hinduism and these who swear in the name of the Hindu Nation have divided this society into castes. We continued to be enslaved sometimes by Muslims and sometimes by the Englishmen for centuries as a reaction to this and under the same slavery we and our ancestors struggled. Had we Dalit not made any contribution in winning freedom for the India which remained dependent for centuries together. Our ancestors made many great sacrifices for the freedom of the country.

The Punjabis had also played a great role in this. Freedom fighters of every State of India put their lives at stake as a result of this we got independence. But I have to say this with deep regret that a little development that has taken place has not satisfied the whole of the society as the people of lower sections of our society could not get their due share. They continued to be poor, they could not be uplifted.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the prosperous, and those who were associated with politics became Ministers and some of them became I.A.S. and I.P.S. and this way they got good jobs but what could the rest of them get? If you see the poor in India they are still in the same miserable condition. It is said that nobody sleeps hungry here in India but I say go to the villages and see that there are so many who sleep hungry are ill and there is no arrangements for their food, ailments and shelter.

Sir, I would like to speak about atrocities on Dalit. Mahatma Gandhi Ji, Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru Ji and other leaders won freedom. Doctor Baba Saheb Ambedkar framed the constitution. Even today atrocities are committed against Dalits and injustice is being done to them in India whether it is politically, socially, economically or educationally but today, the greatest injustice is being done psychologically. The only criteria to measure the status of a person is by his birth. There is no other criteria. However great one may be his status is always misused in terms of his caste. There is an urgent need to change this attitude.

Sir, Even before Independence, Jinnah demanded Pakistan for the Muslim Community whereas the scheduled castes and scheduled tribes of the country remained aligned to the country and chose to live in India. They didn't demand a separate country for themselves. They decided to live in India because it was their country however now they are being victimised with injustice.

Sir, as such an important issue is being debated here but, the Prime Minister, Deputy Prime Minister and Hon'ble Minister of Home Affairs are not present in the House. Simply we are for namesakes so that they can say that nine persons belonging to scheduled castes and scheduled tribes have been inducted in the cabinet but in reality no rights and powers been conferred on them. The way our leader Mrs. Sonia Gandhi made Mr. Shinde, the CM from Dalit Community. How many dalits have been elevated in the such a manner in your party. If provision for reservation in the Constitution would not have been there, barely one to two persons would have joined Parliament. There would not have been large No.

of MPs as we see today. Dr. Ambedkar who drafted the Constitution made provisions for reservation therein, thanks to his benevolence that people have joined Parliament in such large number. I would like to ask the persons holding office in the NDA Government as to how many of Dalits have been appointed CM or Deputy CM. I am talking of atrocities on Dalits...(*Interruptions*) and what sort of changes did you bring about?

17.00 hrs.

Ajit Jogi has been appointed. Sonia ji has appointed two CMs belonging to SC category—first one is Mr. Ajit Jogi and second, Mr. Ashok Gehlot belonging to Backward class has been appointed Chief Minister of Rajasthan. In the meantime, Mr. Shinde has been made the Chief Minister. You talk of SCs but favour those who are superiors.

Sir, my brother said that the letter issued by DOPT has been withdrawn. The Members of opposition party had also resolved here unanimously, the credit of making amends in the Constitution doesn't solely goes to you, everyone was in favour of such amendment. However, the greater degree of responsibility goes to those in the ruling party enjoying powers. You speak of scheduled castes and do favour to others. If you've made amendments, it's obligatory on your part to implement them also. Where it is in force? In the current scenario no judge of the supreme court belongs to the scheduled castes community. How many Distt. session Judges are there under the Jurisdiction of High Court. There is none belonging to scheduled caste. They constitute 25 percent of the population and they claim that 11 of them have been given the portfolio of Ministers. Have you made them according to the ratios. There are nearly 85 ministers how many of them are SCs, it deserves consideration. The report submitted by SC & ST Commission should be presented here for discussion. People should be apprised of the problem lying therein. There is a Valmiki Society. I would like to ask people looking upon Rama as God that it was Valmiki who wrote the Ramayana centuries earlier. Sita is Venerated as mother and it was he who imparted training of arms and ammunitions to Luare and Kush. When Sita Ji was disowned and asked to led the home, Valmikijee provided him shelter. On one hand, you pronounce Rama as God, at the same time, you don't Venerate Valmiki as God, it needs to be pondered over. He is addressed as Shudra. Babu Jagjivan Ramjee too refer to the some mindset. Whenever he went to temple to worship and pay respect to God. These people washed the statue with the sacred water of the Ganges. We have ten Gurus. I come from Punjab and I can say with pride that we don't have any discrimination on the

[Shri Shamsher Singh Dullo]

basis of Caste. It's over here only. Here you have separate colonies. Our Guru Govind Singhji has had made great sacrifice. Be it Indo-Pak war or Indo-China war you would have known that maximum sacrifices made during these wars was from SC, ST community.

Sir, I can say with an air of pride that it was none but we people who fought these wars. We fight in the wars and the credit goes to you. We want our share. It is country's fund. You make plans and budget formulated by you. Have you made the allocation of 25 percent for SCs. You haven't. The amount allotted to States under Component plans is in the name of SC, STs but it is only on paper the amount doesn't reach them. ...*(Interruptions)* you take your seat, whatsoever you may do, they want to make you the minister. After land reforms, the land should be distributed among Scheduled castes so that every poor man may get the land you privatise. PSUs through disinvestment, transferred the public property to private sector. Now is it possible to any body to avail reservation benefits in employment.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude, other members of your party have to put forward their views.

SHRI SHAMSHER SINGH DULLO: I would like to submit the fact. Where is the share of scheduled castes and scheduled tribes. There has been major scam in disinvestment, they sold off such an important unit like BALCO and are very much bent upon selling the country. There should be an Act for reservation in services, there should be a legislation that in case of non-observation of Reservation policy in any office, there should be a provision that the person held responsible for the same should be punished. Such provision shore etc. made under 20 point programme. Mrs. Indira Gandhi did not nationalise the banks so that 55 crores rupees remain outstanding against the big Industrialist, implements of the country. If a person belonging to scheduled caste has to take a loan of Rs. 10 thousand, it is not sanctioned to him.

I talked report of the Commission, landless people and Act for reservation, you please ensure that 25 percent of the budget should exclusively be allotted to the people belonging to SCs. Babu Jagjivan Ram's memorial should not be at his residence. The Govt. has taken over the place and has disconnected water and electricity. Swami Vivekanand has remarked.

*[English]*

"The idea that one is born superior to another has no meaning in Vedanta."

MR. CHAIRMAN: I am calling another Member now. Please resume your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shamsher Singhjee, there will be no time left for your colleague's therefore, please conclude.

SHRI SHAMSHER SINGH DULLO: Guru Govind Singh has said MANAS KI JAT, SAB EK HI PEHCHANE", Justice Krishna Ayer has said.

*[English]*

"We want that judges and administrators who understand and share tears and tyranny of the dalits must guide us. It is a job of every institution of governance to eradicate the caste discrimination."

*[Translation]*

SHRI SHAMSHER SINGH DULLO: Mr. Chairman Sir, I like to thank you for giving me an opportunity to give my views. I would urge upon the Govt. to maintain the balance all right and bring improvement in the system because it's just not your issue rather it's a national issue. Crores of SCs and STs are being victimised of High handedness. We are part of the nation on every fronts; be it in services or in politics. We're not slaves. Therefore, we want to enjoy freedom in the free India.

SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA (Ambala): Mr. Chairman, Sir, today this august House is discussing the issue of atrocities over the scheduled castes and scheduled tribes.

The atrocities on Dalits which have been continuing for centuries, can be divided in five categories. First category is Murder of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. Grievous injuries fall in the second category while rape of SC and ST women come under the third category and the myriad of other offences are in the fifth category. Lakhs of such incidences recur in various States of this country in a year. This issue is discussed in Parliament as well as in the legislative assemblies of States from time to time. Under the dynamic leadership of Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee we have been continuously taking steps for the welfare of these classes for the last five years. A number of times we have called up meetings of the MPs belonging to all political parties and have attempted to remove the hurdles in their economic and social upliftment.

I would like to urge that we should rise above the political considerations when we discuss this issue since it's a sensitive issue. I recall that in the year 1980, when incidents of atrocities over Dalits took place at Devali and Sadulpur, at that time Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee our esteemed leader marched from Devali to Sadulpur on foot. The Central Govt. is seriously concerned about the atrocities over Dalits today though this issue is related to the state Govts. however, this is of utmost significance to our national unity and integrity. Nearly 4-5 years back when as many as 50 Dalits were massacred at Lakshmanpur Bathe in Bihar, national leaders went there to console the Dalits there Smt. Sonia Gandhi too visited the place to sympathise with them. Given the magnitude of atrocities over Dalits during the last eight to ten years. Smt. Sonia Gandhi had remarked that Rabri Government ought to be removed...(*Interruptions*)

17.13 hrs.

[DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH *in the Chair*]

That issue was referred even to the President but Mrs. Sonia Gandhi changed her stand after coming to Delhi. The Congress Party again developed intimacy with Shri Laloo Prasad Yadav and Rabri Devi. Now-a-days the killings of Dalits in Bihar...(*Interruptions*) Killings are taking place under that regime....(*Interruptions*) At one time 50 people get killed while sometimes 30 people are killed in another incident. But even then Rabri Government is surviving for vested political interests...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA: What about U.P?...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Mr. Chairman, Sir, such an important issue is being discussed here. The leader of the opposition is sitting here to hear everyone's views but the person who is being admired is not present. Neither the Prime Minister nor the Finance Minister is here. Nobody is here. When the issue of cow slaughter was being debated yesterday, the whole of the House was fully packed but today when the issue of Dalit slaughter is being discussed nobody is present. This shows how sympathetic the Government is to them and reflects the image of the Government...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA: Mr. Chairman Sir, just think how serious this Government is about this issue. The debate is focussed on Dalits and all are away.

SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA: As I was submitting in this august House that we should not take up the issue of atrocities over Dalits and give a Political colour to it. I belong to Haryana. There was a big incident with

Dalits at Tulina village in Jhajjar District. At that time the meeting of the BJP National Working Committee was going on in Mumbai. Our party President Mr. Venkaiah Naidu asked Shri Harshwardhanjee, National President, to visit the spot. Immediately we took an account of the whole situation.

The Prime Minister Publicly ordered the Chief Minister of Haryana, Shri Om Prakash Chautala to take action in that matter immediately after that Hon'ble Deputy Prime Minister Shri L.K. Advani made efforts to get the culprits apprehended. As a result, Rs. ten lakh was given to each of the Dalit families and their dependants were offered Jobs. A commission of Enquiry was set up and action was taken accordingly by Haryana Government we would like the same for Dalits...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: But for Sonia Gandhijee visit there, your Government wouldn't have taken any action...(*Interruptions*). This happened after her visit...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA: The Deputy Prime Minister released the sensitivity of the issue and ordered the state Government to take prompt action without any delay. The Prime Minister took up the issue publicly and the Chief Minister took it seriously and took immediate action. The Chief Minister took the right action.

A moment earlier, our colleague from Karnataka Shri Muniyappa was saying that the ruling party is not taking any action. In Karnataka, over the last three years....

[*English*]

there were 4,000 cases of atrocities on Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, but not even a single person has been convicted during the last three years...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA: Sir, that is wrong...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA: I would like to speak with statistics that I have with me, that in Karnataka...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have already spoken.

[*English*]

SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA: This is not correct. It should be corrected...(*Interruptions*)



[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA: One atrocity took place in February, 2000 in which seven people died. Shrimati Sonia Gandhi visited; she instructed the Chief Minister, they constructed 100 houses; and they have been rehabilitated. They constructed 100 houses for their livelihood and they have given 100 milch-cows. It has been done under the direction of Shrimati Sonia Gandhi. This is what the Karnataka Government has done. I agree that the figure is 1,000 and not 4,000.

[Translation]

SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA: I have a newspaper clipping wherein it is stated—

[English]

There has not been a single conviction in Karnataka during the last three years regarding cases pertaining to atrocities on Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI PRAKASH YASHWANT AMBEDKAR: This is not limited to Karnataka only. It is true throughout the nation has...(Interruptions)

SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VERMA (Dhandhuka): Had stringent action been embarked upon earlier, the atrocities on Dalits would not have continued...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYARANJAN DASMUNSI: When Panditjee and Indirajee supported the Dalits, your Govt. ....(Interruptions). This is why we are witnessing such things in society...(Interruptions) RSS strictly observed a rule where no person belonging to scheduled caste was allowed to sit in the row in which Brahmins sat to take meals...(Interruptions) this is the obvious reason why even now, out of top five personalities of RSS...(Interruptions)

SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VERMA: Due to RSS and Dalits the Congress...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Name any of the Dalits from amongst top five personalities of RSS. Name any Dalit right from, the Days of Golwarkar to date...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing except what Shri Kataria says will go on record. Please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)\*

SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA: I would like to submit that when Shri Ram Vilas Paswan was participating in this discussion he raised a finger over VHP. Being the Haryana BJP President, I can say with full sense of responsibility that neither the Vishwa Hindu Parishad has anything to do with the Jhajhar-incident nor any such comment was passed by the VHP, rather all our MPs right from top to bottom have condemned the Jhajhar incident and even today we condemn this incident in this august House that has stigmatised Haryana the world over. However, we are highly appreciative of the actions taken in this matter.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude now.

SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA: I've not even started as yet. These members took much of my time. Now in the cases of atrocities on Dalits Zero acquittal is being reported and nobody is being convicted...(Interruptions) The basic reason behind nil conviction report is that the advocates appointed in these cases, hired by the state Governments are not outstanding I would like to urge the Government to engage eminent advocates in order that there may be convictions and final judgement in these cases. Likewise, in the areas prone to atrocities proper attention should be paid. For instance in the Jhajhar incident, we found that the police post was located at such place that even of one person would have kicked at if the structure would have collapsed. There was no such building where five people would have been kept. People came and demolished everything. Therefore, we would like the police stations be set up in such sensitive areas where forces could be available immediately. Proper attention should also be paid towards the cases pending in the special courts. Sometime it happens that the victim can not reach to attend the hearing, as he does not have fare to travel to and fro. I would like to say that victims should be paid daily allowances so as to get better results. Likewise, the rule of law should be implemented properly. Bhimrao Ambedkar ji has framed the constitution. We are neither asking anybody to do some uphill task, nor we are demanding to do something special. We are saying this much only.

[English]

The law of land should be implemented and every guilty person, howsoever powerful he may be, should be punished.

\*Not recorded.

[Translation]

We demand that any person, howsoever powerful he may be, should be punished under the Indian Penal Code. No one of this type of cruel nature should be allowed to escape from the hands of law. A demand was raised here that the bungalow located at 6, Krishna Menon Marg should be restored. We support this view as Babu Jagjivan Ram dedicated himself for the welfare of the society since 1935 till his last. Likewise the Act, Protection Civil Rights Act, 1955, which was later amended due to its ineffectiveness in 1989 and now known as the Prevention of Atrocities Act should be effectively implemented and the concerned implementing machinery should be geared up. Similarly, it has been said by Bhimrao Ambedkarji, who gave us the constitution that:

[English]

Today, we have got political freedom but until and unless we get economic and social freedom.

[Translation]

This is the main reason for the increasing incidents of atrocities. We have gained political freedom but that would be in danger due to it. Similarly the population of SC/STs has increased to 26-27 percent of our total population. It is all right that there are Ministers among them. Scheduled Castes people want that they may or may not be provided relaxation in educational qualification or in height etc. but they should be recruited for military. They want that though they have not got the right to survive, atleast the right to die for the country should be given to them. They are demanding reservation in army. We have already met the President in this regard.

Today some students of the scheduled castes are securing more than 90 percent marks and they want to become IAS, IPS and Professors too. But as per the figures available, the names of the wards of the Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes do not appear on these posts. Similarly, the eligible candidates, who are working on lower posts of IAS should also be promoted to the post of Cabinet Secretary. There should be no hindrance to attain that post by them. Many people come to me with such cases. There are hundreds of such areas in the country, wherein Scheduled Castes or Scheduled Tribe candidates who can rise to higher posts but their promotions are held up for years by making some adverse entries in their CR. We want the Government should look into all such cases. We have also expressed our concern in this regard before the Hon'ble Prime Minister.

We would like to thank the Hon'ble Prime Minister for withdrawing three office Memoranda (OMs) out of the five OMs issued through the DOPT during the tenure of the Hon'ble Deve Gowdaji. Fourth is in the interest of the Scheduled Castes and fifth is still pending. We would meet the Hon'ble Prime Minister and demand that the same should also be withdrawn, so that the backward, exploited and dalit people of country could get their rights. Today, we resolve that we would work for the unity and integrity of India and would move ahead to make India a leading country in the world.

The Members of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes are the backward of this country and if any anyone tries to weaken them, is weakening this country. With these words, I conclude.

[English]

SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI (Tiruchirappalli): Mr. Speaker, Sir, at the outset, I wish to thank the hon. Speaker and the Leaders of the Parties as well as the Members of the BAC who have very kindly agreed to allow this much of time for discussing this subject. Of course, we should have discussed this matter in the last Session itself but I am happy that we are, at least, now discussing this subject with the cooperation of all the Parties.

The unanimous opinion of all the Parties in Parliament, of course, has to be recognized. They are very much concerned about the welfare and the protection of *dalits* and the tribals in this country. Several speakers have spoken very eloquently but I have come to say a few words on this subject. Neither I belong to the Ruling Party nor to the principal Opposition Party. My Party keeps equi-distance from both the sides and both the groups consider us as their rivals. It does not matter but as you and everybody know that I am a born untouchable. I have brought up in such a situation that I have faced, undergone, and experienced horrible experiences in this society, which is based on the value system of complete inequality.

There is a graded system, there is the *Vedic* system, there is the caste system. This is the foundation on which this country is being ruled. I am unable to say that I have today come up to this stage and is standing before you because of this system. Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar, the father of the Indian Constitution was even denied an opportunity to make his last statement in this House. He was the architect and the tallest intellectual of this country after the great Lord Buddha. People recognise it. People all over the world have so far never repudiated this claim.

[Shri Dalit Ezhilmalai]

Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar gave the Constitution to the largest democracy in the world.

Sir, the deputy-leader of the Congress Party, Shri Shivraj Patil was rightly concerned and angry about the vacant seats in the Treasury Benches when the Members from the Opposition Parties as well as other Members are expressing their views on this subject in this august House. Fortunately, there has been an introspection and now the people who claim to have won freedom for this country seem to be filling up the seats and are listening to the views that are being expressed. Though it is too late, yet they are listening.

Sir, somebody referred about the number of members from the reserved constituencies represented in this House are much more in the Treasury Benches. If that is a fact, then the Congress Party, which has ruled this country for 45 to 50 years would have to consider the reasons as to why these ordinary and unthinking people have switched over to that side in a such a short time. Forty-five to fifty years in the history of a free nation is not a very long time. But then so much of a political change has taken place within these five decades. But we hardly see any social change. The society is not changing and we know very well that it will not change. According Dr. Ambedkar, if you have to closed mindset, then nothing will change. Change would only come through those people who are neglected, agonised and are suffering.

Sir, according to some Survey, in this country in our hour at least 100 women are being raped; thousands of houses are being burnt down and in one week several villages are wiped out. This is according to the statistics collected by a Commission consisting of a handful of ten to fifteen persons. People sitting in this capital city are not able to compile the figures that have been provided by the State Governments. That is the position.

That is the position even after these several decades.

While opening the debate, our friend Shri Ramji Lal Suman was referring to a Conference that was held in Durban, South Africa. I was very much present in that Conference. Some other hon. Members were also there sponsored by the Government. Hon. Members Shri Ramdas Athawale, Shri Prakash Ambedkar, Shri Pravin Rashtrapal were also there in that Conference. Our Government was represented in Durban by a junior Minister to say that there was no discrimination, no atrocity, no injustice, and nothing wrong happening in this great country. The theme of the Conference was against racism, anarchism, intolerance and geno-phobia. The Conference was organised by the United Nations.

The UN Human Rights Chairman Mr. Rabinson was also there.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude.

SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI: Nobody from my Party other than me is going to speak. Please allow me some more time. I have to narrate to so many things. I have never spoken in this House before. I had not even given my maiden speech in the last Lok Sabha. The moment I entered the Lok Sabha last time, I was made a Minister and I was keeping quiet. So, you can be considerate to me. I think my friends Shri Shivraj Patil and his colleagues will also allow me to speak.

MR. CHAIRMAN: There are 26 Members in the list.

SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI: The UN Secretary-General Mr. Kofi Annan came to the mike and was speaking to the audience. He said that he suffered so much of inequality and racist problems. He himself is black and therefore he needs no second-hand information. He was asking about the problems giving a chance to the audience. Shri Prakash Ambedkar raised some question about the prevailing conditions in this country. He said it was a matter of statement; there was nothing that he could answer. Then I asked him in the mike, as the Secretary-General of the UN where he stood. Did he stand against the discrimination against the oppressed people? Oppression is very much visible. There are around 400 million oppressed people in our country. Somebody said that there are about 25 per cent SC people and 10 per cent ST people, making it to 35 per cent of our total population. They are all suffering the discrimination day in and day out. The chastity of a woman is not protected. The life is not safe. There is no security of employment. Even students in the hostels of Delhi University were dragged out, bundled up and beaten. Therefore, my country is languishing in such a situation. I asked him to respond as the Secretary-General of the United Nations. He did not say anything because he was expecting somehow to go about it and simply to get something more for his good service to the white people and the western people. It does not matter. I know very well. If I have to go up, I have to behave like a slave enjoying the slavery. Therefore, the system in this country is going on like this. The terms and terminologies do not matter. Statistics on the conditions apart, atrocities on these people and the problems will go on unending.

It all began long back. Our friend was referring to the declaration of Baba Saheb Ambedkar on the first day of the Republic, the 26th January 1950, that we ourselves can now claim that we are a political democracy. But if

we do not achieve the social equality and economic democracy at the earliest possible time, it will be very difficult to keep up the structure on which this pyramid is made up. So, the earlier, the better. If it is not done, the structure itself will be blown up into pieces. Those were the prophetic words of Dr. Baba Saheb Ambedkar.

I come from Tamil Nadu where the reform movement and rationalist movement began from Periyar in close association with Baba Saheb Ambedkar, followed by Anna. Then, rationalists like MGR came and today a lady Chief Minister is ruling my State.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude.

SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI: I have not come to the regional affair at all.

Whether it was Pipra or Belchi, Madam Indira Gandhi was very kind. She was very good. She had an elephant on which she traveled to Belchi in 1977. In 1978 when the Marathwada caste war began in Maharashtra where Baba Saheb Ambedkar belongs to, it took ten to fifteen years to change the name of a university.

We have hundreds of universities in this country. There is no equal and no parallel to this one. You cannot equate anybody with the tallest personality of Dr. Ambedkar. But this cursed country was never prepared to do it. Even today, the recognition of the erudite scholar is in question. Dr. Ambedkar himself is a history. Talking in Parliament, he said that we have built up a temple of democracy with so much of labour. What to do? Unfortunately, the devils have taken possession of it. Now, it is for us to drive out the devils and break down the temple. That was what he said.

As you all know, there was an attack on Parliament on 13th December, Several Watch and Ward people were killed on the spot. We saluted them and we accorded our salute to them. There was an inspector named Mr. Nanak Chand amongst the several people who were killed. He belonged to Haryana. Immediately after hearing the death of Mr. Nanak Chand, his mother was shocked. His mother was living in a calm, remote and useless place next to the ghettos. India is divided into two. One is for the touchables and the other is for the untouchables. Wherever you go, you come across a colony called the Ambedkar Colony. Invariably, it is a place where untouchables live. Mr. Nanak Chand's house was in Haryana, living like that. That mother lost her son in the protection of this great Parliament. We all salute him. When she was trying to place a stone in the memory of his son, that place was denied and she was just chased

away for all the service and sacrifice of her son's life. Even in death, dignity is denied.

Dr. Ambedkar was a Member in the Rajya Sabha. He was very much worried during his late times. He was openly crying seeing the faces of the people. He was saying that if these Members opened up their mouths, much of the misery, problems, agony, the pain and pinch of the people would have been solved long back. But persons who prefer to go to Parliament, who get nominated after getting party tickets and contesting elections become lame ducks that they cannot even talk about such poor people. They do not bother about anything. Therefore, Dr. Ambedkar clearly said that the party was responsible for all this chaos beginning from 1917 when Montek Chelmsford visited India. He goes on enumerating that in 1918, the South Brough Committee was there, in 1927 the Simon Commission came and 1932 was a historic time. It was before 70 years as this year is 2003. In 1932, there was a crisis in the whole country. There was a man, a person who claimed to fight for the freedom of the people. But Dr. B.R. Ambedkar was worried about the untouchables, the tribals and the women.

Then was an agreement between the British and Dr. Ambedkar. The British conceded to it, the Christians agreed to it and the conscious people agreed to it. They came up with an award called the Communal Award, giving protection, giving safety, giving some due honour for the untouchables who are indigenous people and sons of this soil. That was resisted by the Congress Party and the Congress leader. Everybody including Shri Shyama Prasad Mukherjee, Dr. Madan Mohan Malaviya was there. There was no difference between that side and this side. But everyone together was there to resist the rights of the untouchables. So, from 1932 till his death in 1956, Dr. Ambedkar was so conscious.

If there were somebody who have to be remembered all the time in the footsteps of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, it was Periyar, and Anna who propagated the rationalism and fought against injustice...*(Interruptions)*

One can become a Councillor; one can become an MLA; one can become a Member of Parliament; one can become a Minister in the Cabinet; and can become a President of India. It is possible. When the President of India goes to Paris and stays in the Palace, in France, the country which faced the revolution long back, 200 years ago, from there a message comes, 'untouchable pollutes the Palace, the French Palace. He has become the President of India. But even after that the pollution goes along with him wherever he goes.

[Shri Dalit Ezhilmalai]

Therefore, Mr. Chairman, Sir, what the *dalits* and the tribals in this country today demand is not some doll or help or sympathy or somebody's mercy. No, certainly not. Shri Ram Vilas Paswan was saying that we were the builders; we were the workers and we are the sufferers. We are starving all the time. Therefore, we do not want anybody's mercy or sympathy. What we want is the net. We know how to fish.

Therefore, Mr. Chairman, today what the *dalits* need is the declamation of human personality. Nothing less than that and nothing more than that. What we need is the reclamation of human personality. You can recognise the people in Africa; you can recognise the people in Nairobi; you are very much concerned about Afghanistan; and you are certainly bothered about Baghdad. You are worried about everybody else in the world, but you are not concerned about your own neighbour who is living close by and who is living nearby. What is it all about? In the world platform, if not today, on some day you will have to answer. This country has to answer...*(Interruptions)*

The other day, all the MPs consisting of Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe Forum went to meet the Prime Minister. At that time I asked him a simple question...*(Interruptions)* I told him: 'We have seen several Prime Ministers. They have made promises and their promises remained only in paper. But you have not promised anything so far. Have you got any idea of doing something instead of promising? Can you do something? What is that have you to do?'. I asked him: 'Can you think of distributing surplus wastelands?'...*(Interruptions)*

No, he did not promise. I know this. I was listening to him. I only put the question to the Prime Minister. He did not respond. He completely kept silence. Therefore, the same position is continuing even today. I do not want to mention the names of all the former Prime Minister who had promised something but broke their promises later. But that should not continue.

Therefore, my only appeal to the Government as well as all our colleagues is that, allow untouchables to live a decent life, recognise them as human beings. In this direction, I would like to say what is happening in my State. My State is the State where the rationalist movement gained momentum...*(Interruptions)* it is a social disease. We have to come out of this. The liberation of *dalits* or the emancipation of *dalits* cannot be separated. This is a combined issue.

Sir, in my State, Madam Jayalalitha, who is ruling the State now, has spotted dalit girls from the higher

secondary and higher levels and she gave them cycles to support them...*(Interruptions)* The children from the remote villages will ride the cycles and go to schools and colleges. This is the position...*(Interruptions)* Thank you very much.

SHRI A. KRISHNASWAMY (Sriperumbudur): Sir, I thank you for the opportunity given to me to participate in this discussion.

The DMK Party in Tamil Nadu has got a very lengthy history in the development of the Scheduled Caste and the Scheduled Tribe people in the State of Tamil Nadu. Even our party's policy is against God. We are not against God as such. The point is that we are against the upper caste people who handle the affairs relating to God worship. Our eminent leader Periyar E.V. Ramasamy was against that aspect.

It is not only that. We are against the practice of untouchability. The respectable leader Periyar E.V. Ramasamy is called as *Vaikom Veerar* because he fought in the land of Kerala, in *Vaikom*, against the practice of untouchability. Our respectable leader Arignar Anna was the follower of Periyar. He toured everywhere in the State of Tamil Nadu and conducted inter-caste marriages to eradicate untouchability. Today, our respected leader, hon. Dr. Kalaingar M. Karunanidhi, who was the former Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, has high regards for Dr. B.R. Ambedkar. He arranged to construct the first Memorial Hall in the State of Tamil Nadu. It is not only that. He named the Law University as Dr. Ambedkar Law University. Earlier, he fought for the cause of Maharashtra also. To change the name of the Marathwada University into that of Ambedkar University, he fought. From Tamil Nadu, we sent lakhs of telegrams to the then Governor.

Sir, we see that every year we discuss the atrocities committed on the Scheduled Caste and the Scheduled Tribe people. But the number of atrocities is not coming down. Day by day, the atrocities are increasing. The atrocities are not increasing on the physical plane alone. They are increasing orally and on the mental plane. They are also increasing in the official circles. So, the atrocities are taking place everywhere. To avoid this, to frame the cases, we are having the PCR Wing. It is there particularly in Tamil Nadu. As an advocate, I know about the PCR Wing. We can see the PCR Wing functioning in a small room having an Inspector and a DSP. Whenever we make a complaint, the Inspector will not register the case. To file an FIR, it will take one week's time. Within one week, the accused person will get in touch with the higher officers and by giving some bribe, he will come out of the case. This is what is happening.

Today, I have gone through the Chennai edition of *The Hindu*. The news item says that one of the IPS officers has told that the State Government has given instructions not to register cases by the PCR. In the year 1989, they brought into effect the Scheduled Caste and the Scheduled Tribe (Atrocities) Act. This Act is a very powerful Act. Any assault on the Scheduled Caste and the Scheduled Tribe people can be dealt with by this Act. The authorities concerned can register a case against any person uttering insulting words in respect of the Scheduled Caste and the Scheduled Tribe people under Section 10, Sub-Section 3 of the Act. But the police people do not register the case because the accused person will not get the anticipatory bail in that particular case. So, the police officials themselves are not registering the case, particularly in this type of a case. So, I would urge upon the hon. Minister to find out a new solution as to how to charge those people who are insulting the Scheduled Caste and the Scheduled Tribe people.

There should be some reforms in the PCR Wing. Then only we can take action against such people. We have to start a special course for those people who conduct trials in case relating to atrocities committed on the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes. This Government has opened many Fast Track Courts. Similarly we have to open Special Courts to try the cases relating to atrocities on the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes in every district in the country, for speedy trial of cases.

Sir, in Tamil Nadu, there are two villages, namely Papparapatty and Keeripatty. In these two villages, in the election to the panchayat, the Scheduled Castes were not allowed to file nomination papers. With much effort from several leaders, in the recent elections they were allowed to file nominations and they won in the election. But immediately after winning, the upper caste people forced them to resign their posts and till today these posts are lying vacant because the upper caste people do not want a person from the Scheduled Caste to be the President of that village panchayat. In this connection, I urge upon the Government to intervene immediately through the Election Commission of India and see that the people belonging to the Scheduled Castes get elected to these posts.

Sir, in the State of Madhya Pradesh, a *dalit* woman was raped because she contested and won an election to a panchayat by defeating a person belonging to an upper caste. I read about this incident in the newspaper. Then, the people belonging to the Scheduled Castes are not allowed to worship in temples even today. In my constituency, in a place called Gummidipoondy, the

Scheduled Caste people were not allowed to enter into a temple. So, they went to the Police Station and lodged a complaint, but the police officials refused to register the case.

With regard to promotion in services, the Scheduled Castes are suffering very much. In the year 2000, this Government brought an Amendment to the Constitution to fill up the backlog of vacancies in promotion, but we are regularly getting several complaints from the Scheduled Castes that they are not getting promotions even after the Bill has been passed by Parliament. I would request the hon. Minister to look into the matter and do the needful. Justice Shri Balakrishnan from Kerala was the Chief Justice of the Madras High Court earlier and he has not been promoted as a Supreme Court Judge for more than two years now because if a person belonging to the Scheduled Caste is promoted as a Supreme Court Judge at a young age, then he would be the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court for more than five years. This was not acceptable to the people belonging to the upper castes and so his promotion was delayed.

Sir, there is a person, namely Shri Chellapathy belonging to my constituency. Today, I received a complaint from him. He is aged about 45 years and he has been promoted as the Deputy Chief Engineer in the Integral Coach Factory at Chennai, but the General Manager of the Integral Coach factory made some adverse remarks in his Confidential Report and so he is not being regularised in his present post, because if adverse remarks are made in the Confidential Report of a person, he cannot be regularised according to rules. Since he is belonging to a Scheduled Caste, the General Manager of the Integral Coach Factory is not willing to regularise him and he is being insulted.

So far as reservation to the Scheduled Castes are concerned, the Government should take some serious steps immediately to fill up all the vacant posts in Government service. During the tenure of the Government led by D.M.K., the then Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Dr. Kalamannar passed an order that the posts reserved for the Scheduled Castes would not lapse even after a certain period and only people belonging to the Scheduled Castes would be appointed to those posts so that they can enjoy the benefits given to them under the Constitution.

18.00 hrs.

In BHEL at Tiruchirappalli, one Shri Manikam has not been promoted from the rank of DGM to that of GM. Not only that, even in the Judiciary, there are several

[Shri A. Krishnaswami]

Judges. But the Judges belonging to the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes are very few in the Judiciary. It is a long-pending demand. These Judges should also be appointed as per our policy about reservations.

In Tamil Nadu, the staff in the Indian Overseas Bank has been victimised since they belonged to the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes. To eradicate untouchability and to avoid such discrimination in that State, the then Chief Minister Dr. Kalaingar Karunanidhi brought forward a new scheme, called 'Samadhuvapuram'.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: If the House agrees, the proceedings of the House is extended for one hour more, as more members have yet to speak. All the members can participate in the debate if all the members try to speak in brief otherwise there would be difficulty.

[English]

SHRI A. KRISHNASWAMY: 'Samadhuvapuram' is a colony where people belonging to all the communities are living together. To eradicate untouchability and discrimination, the then Chief Minister started that scheme in every district. But today, the present Government has removed that scheme which helped the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes.

I would like to put it in my own words: Vision-2020 for India. We welcome it. In that vision, proper care should also be taken about the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

Shri Ram Vilas Paswan said about 'two-tumbler system' in my States. In Kudapetty village of Dindigul district, one Shri Murugesan and another person, Shri Karupiah, had been compelled to take urine and stool. It is very shameful.

I would like to request the hon. Minister to provide for reservation in all the categories, including Judiciary and also in the private sector.

Today, the world-famous game is cricket. Fifty-six years have passed since our Independence, but no person belonging to the Scheduled Castes has played this game. This game has been treated as a game meant for the upper castes. We too watch it on TV. We fire crackers. So, in the interest of national integration, a Scheduled Caste person should also be there in such a cricket team.

SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI: Sir, I represent Tiruchirappalli in this House. Our friend has referred to an incident....(Interruptions) Let me put the record straight.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: You can not speak for the second time. Nothing will go on record.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

\*SHRI S. AJAYA KUMAR (Ottapalam): Sir, this House witnesses session after session discussions regarding SC/STs, heated arguments regarding the atrocities committed against them and the ways and means to mitigate their feelings. But the fact remains that the number of such incidents is on the rise year after year. National Commission for SC/ST has prepared a report. It says that between 1989 and 1991, 2116 dalits were killed, 60565 cases were registered regarding atrocities against them. But between 1994 and 1996, 98349 cases got registered out of which 38483 cases were incidents against SC/STs. During 1995 to 2000, 3449 dalits were brutally murdered. 1034 dalit women were raped. This shows that each day about 100 dalits are attacked in one way or other. But why is this rise in atrocities against dalits despite these discussions voicing our concerns, despite the laws safeguarding the interest of dalits and despite the various Commissions on SC/STs? Let us look into the statistics. In our country in three States the data shows that the violence against the dalits is consistently showing a steep slide. These are the States where land reforms were implemented and the credit goes to Kerala, Bengal and Tripura. So the need of the hour is not words, not compassionate speeches but action. I would like to know whether this Government has the will to give land to these landless SC/ST people. I would like to know from them through you Sir, whether this BJP led Government would show such a gesture.

Instead of doing such positive things, what are they doing today? We have an array of religions and beliefs in our country. The BJP led Government is playing politics to continue in power by inciting volatile communal feelings by pepping up pseudo-national feelings and playing one against another in the name of religion. Let me know whether this Government would give land to the dalits, to the SC/ST people. Moreover, the disinvestment policy of this Government has resulted in the denial of reserved employment opportunities to these discriminated groups.

---

\*Translation of the speech originally delivered in Malayalam.

I would like to know whether this Government would take steps to ensure job reservation in these disinvested organisations also. Instead of taking such positive steps this Government is using temples and mosques to continue in power. Sir, even today in many States and rural areas the SC/ST people are denied entry to temples and other places of worship. In the construction of your temples, your Ram temples—you exploit the services of dalits who are never even considered for becoming a priest in those temples. Will the VHP or the BJP ever consider a Sanskrit dalit scholar who could recite all the so called Sanskrit shlokas as your priest in your Ram temple in Ayodhya? Will you ever show the courage and magnanimity to do that? Something next to impossible! On the other hand they will sponsor the lynching of five tribals in the State of Haryana. In a nutshell, this Government clandestinely propagate the ideals of 'Manu'. In Andhra Pradesh Tamil Nadu, untouchability still exist in its own various manifestations. But we the people of Kerala could say it with pride that we have grown above all such castiest discriminations. This was made possible by the land reform of the revolutionary Communist governance of Kerala which came to power through ballot in 1957. Unfortunately in the last 2 years the atrocities against SC/STs in the State is on the rise. We are ashamed to state that in the last one year about 100 dalits got killed in our State. Our Prime Minister in his visit to Kerala hailed it as God's own country. It is not only a land Gods, ours is a land of struggles too. Through these struggles we wiped away the social evils like untouchability from our society. But the existing Government in Kerala under the banner of Congress...(Interruptions)

SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH (Adoor): Mr. Chairman, Sir, he is misleading the House...(Interruptions) What he says is totally wrong. He is misleading the House...(Interruptions) Sir, how can you allow him to speak like this? This allegation is totally false...(Interruptions)

SHRI S. AJAYA KUMAR: I do agree that Congress with a legacy of about 45 years of ruling experience has done a lot to the overall development of this country. It was a party which made a dalit as the President of this country for the first time. It was a party which let a Scheduled Caste person to be the Speaker of this House. It had a dalit as its party president. At the same time I am constrained to say that the Antony Government has brought shame to that party by killing a Tribal in a police firing perhaps for the first time in the history of this country. No waters can ever wash off the Stains of such a heinous crime from the robes of Congress party. This happened in Muthanga in Wynad in Kerala. The tribals

who have been on a struggle for a piece of land had encroached into forest land and have been living there for about 40 days. Without any provocation the Antony Government gave a green signal to the forest officials to evict them through any means. In the ensuing struggle these tribals were fired at and brutally murdered by the police forces. The Congress Minister of SC/ST in Kerala Shri Kuttappan himself had said in a press briefing that about 5 dalits were killed in the incident. Later their bodies were charred and buried by the police. A lot of tribals are still missing. Among those 141 missing, even infant babies are there. About 40 children below the age of 15 are put behind bars. Even then demand for a judicial probe is denied.

SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH: Sir, 10 women were raped in West Bengal, which is ruled by the Left Front. What is your reaction to that?...(Interruptions) If your Government is always the champion of women, what is your reaction? Why are you keeping quiet?...(Interruptions)

SHRI S. AJAYA KUMAR: Hence I would like to urge upon the Congress President Mr. Sonia Gandhi and Mr. Shivraj Patil to intervene and to make Mr. Antony to order for a judicial enquiry into the matter. At the same time the Central Government should immediately look into the matter and the hon. Minister for Tribal Affairs Shri Jual Oram should see to it that a Joint Parliamentary Committee is constituted and they visit Nuthanga to enquire into the incident.

With these words, I conclude.

[Translation]

SHRI SHEESH RAM SINGH RAVI (Bijnore): Mr. Chairman, Sir, today, the discussion on the problems of dalits has been going on in the House for quite some time. I am very thankful to you sir, for giving me this chance to participate in this discussion. The Hon'ble Members of Parliament who have spoken before me have given the details of different types of incidents of atrocities on dalits committed in the country and in different states. From this the House definitely realise that the dalits of India, the biggest democratic country of the world should really get the status of equality. They should get respect and their economic status should be raised. This is the feeling of the entire House.

When our country attained freedom, the Chairman of the then Constituent Assembly and our God Dr. Ambedkar made provision in constitution for granting equal status to dalits within the next ten years to bring them at par with others. He desired that we would bring them at par economically and socially within a period of ten years. But no efforts were made by the then Government in



[Shri Sheesh Ram Singh Ravi]

this direction. The Congress Government took no steps for the welfare of dalits between 1950 and 1960. They took a step that one third of land in the name of cooperative farming society took in their possession by transferring the same in the names of Tata, Birla and senior leaders of Congress in their names. All this was done with the apprehension that the land of the village Dowety, which was barren and useless, may not be distributed among the dalits and they by putting labour thereon may not become rich and came at par with them. Ambedkar has said that you may pass as many laws or formulate a number of policies, but that would not prove fruitful, if the intention of ruler is not good.

The registration of the cooperative farming society was banned in 1965. Land ceiling on possession not more than 60 bigha or 12 acres of land by a common farmer in all states of the country was imposed. But no ceiling was imposed on names of those farming societies or no methodology was implemented to check them from tax evasion. I think the poverty of all the dalits can be eliminated, if all the political parties jointly and the whole House decide that the so much land which is in the possession of farming societies under fake name, is distributed among the dalits, scheduled castes and the scheduled tribes by dissolving all such societies. The poverty is the biggest evil in the world. We would have to take resolve to eliminate poverty. The earlier Congress Government had mentioned to provide a cycle, a sewing machine and a Kucha house for dalits in the name of their upliftment. At that time, neither SRY or JRY, nor Indira Awas Yojana was there. No such scheme was there before 1977. In 1977 Janta Party came to power. It launched Antodya Yojna which benefited Dalits at large scale. But the Congress Party did not allow that Government to function even for two and half years thinking that if this Government remain in power for five to ten years, it would bring Dalit at par with them in the society.

A scheme for providing jobs was implemented at that time. In 1977, the Janta Dal Government did work for the development and upliftment of poor and Dalits. But the Congress did not allow that Government to function after two and half year. The Congress toppled that Government after two and a half year. The Congress feared that if that Government functions for five to ten years, it would bring poor at par with the rich men. The Congress party came to power thereafter. But they formulated no scheme for poor to bring them at par with others in the society. They trapped Dalits in the name of reservation and asked them to follow Congress. Neither they ever made any serious efforts to bring poor and

Dalits at par with other section of the society nor did they ever think of doing it. In 1989, the Janta Dal Government again came to power and Hon. Atal Bihari Vajpayee was also a part of that Government.

[English]

SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL (Patan): Sir, I am on a point of order. I do not want to intervene. I am only raising a point of order...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

I will trace out in the rules, Please give you ruling?

[English]

Sir, I would like to know whether the discussion is on atrocities on Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes or on what the Congress has done or not done. Please decide that. After that, I would sit down...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Such political discussions should not allowed here and refrain from trading charges. Please express your own views.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please take your seat.

SHRI SHEESH RAM SINGH RAVI: Sir, when the reservation facility was extended for a period of ten years in the year 1980, Hon'ble Atal Bihar Vajpayeeji was in the Government at that times also...(Interruptions) You will have to go through the history sheets. You will have to recall that atrocities have been committed on poors...(Interruptions) Athawaleji, please go through the history.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please speak on atrocities on Dalits.

SHRI SHEESH RAM SINGH RAVI: I am telling about atrocities on Dalits. When the reservation facility was extended for a period of ten years, Hon'ble Atal Bihari Vajpayeeji was in the Government at that time and in the year 2000 when it was further extended, he was in the Government at that time also. You have said that they are "Manuwadi". I want to prove that there are Manuwadi in Congress...(Interruptions) The BJP has made a Dalit women as the Chief Minister third time....(Interruptions) Discussion is being held on the issue of atrocities on Dalits...(Interruptions) I am not arguing for BJP. I am expressing my views on exploitation. Economic disparity and exploitation is the root cause of atrocities. Today, a poor man is not getting job. For

pension, he has to suffer a lot of hardships. There is a need to find out the root cause of exploitation of Dalits. Atrocities are being committed on them due to their poverty. The Speakers earlier to me have said many things. I am expressing my views very honestly and the same viewpoint has also been expressed by several other. Hon'ble Members that no other Government has extended to Dalits so much cooperation as has been extended by the NDA Government. There are 72 Members of Parliament in NDA Government belonging to the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes. The NDA Government is working in the interest of poor and I too have faced extreme poverty. I know as to what poverty is, for I was born in poverty. I know, the atrocities which are inflicted on poors because I have suffered it. Had I not been a poor, I could have made a lot of progress. This evil seed has been sown by Congress. That is why I have said about what they have done during the last fifty years. Today, the cases of Dalit atrocities are reported from Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Bihar, as there are Congress Governments in those States. Therefore, we have to enact a law. Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to request you that such laws should be enacted for Dalits through which they can get justice. 56 years have passed since independence, but very few Dalits are getting benefit. The person living below poverty line are not able to get the benefit thereof. The situation should be corrected properly. If someone is elected and remains MP or MLA for 5 to 10 years or someone is appointed as IAS or IPS the benefit of reservation should not be given to his children. Only poor should get the benefit of reservation. I request the Government to bring legislation for this purpose. The Government should think all about different steps to be taken to check atrocities on them rather than consulting this or that law.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, 21 percent reservation should be provided to Dalits in allotment of Petrol Pumps and gas agencies in our country. This will not only remove unemployment among these poor people but also help to save them from atrocities. There should be 21 percent reservation for Dalits in Judiciary also. With these words I conclude.

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH (Maharajanj, UP): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am thankful to your for permitting me to participate in discussion on atrocities on Dalits. The Samajwadi Party is committed for a egalitarian society. Samajwadi Party is the leader of the movement for social change.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I heard the views expressed just now in the House by several Hon'ble Members. Out of discussion, we have got two form of opinion. On one side there are views expressed by Shri Ram Vilas

Paswan, Shri Ramji Lal Suman and on the other there are news expressed by Shri Muni Lall, the senior retired administrative officer, Member of Parliament and also has been a Minister, after hearing their views I have concluded that even today the people of Dalit community despite getting the high positions have not came out of that pain. Keeping in view their plight if the House and the Government both do not take it seriously, then I think there is no meaning of the ongoing discussion in the House regarding atrocities on Dalits.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, when the recommendations of the Mandal Commission were implemented in this country, the Samajwadi Party was the first to start this movement of social change in Uttar Pradesh. Not only this House but also the whole country is aware of the wide protest seen after the implementation of those recommendations. It seemed that the whole system would collapse. Had we come together against the people who worked for creating hurdles in this movement of social change, such a situation would move have arisen. I very humbly would like to say that this country attained freedom in 1947. More than 55 years have passed. I do not think it proper to say that this movement had started at the time of independence. Thousands years ago Guatam Buddha was born in this country. Gautam Buddha took birth in a royal family. His heart moved when he saw untouchability, discrimination, superstitions, evils, injustice and disparity in the society. He gave up his royal life style and adopted a middle path to convey the message of mankind and teach the lesson of human being. The History is witness that countries like China, Japan, Thailand, Korea, Bangkok etc. followed the way shown by Gautam Buddha. The countries which moved on the path told by Buddha have today touched the highest level of progress whereas we are staggering far behind. If we think over it, we will definitely realise that if we had followed the way of Gautam Buddha thousands years ago, we would not have faced with this kind of situation today.

I would like to tell those who curse Dr. Ambedkar, Shri Vishwanath Pratap Singh, Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav, Shri Laloo Yadav, Shri Ram Vilas Paswan and Shri Jawahar Lal Nehru for social change by the social movement started in the country that this social change has not taken place only in India but it has taken place in the whole of the world. If we go through American History, even these has been a conflict between Black and Whites. Martin Luther King and Abraham Lincoln led the Blacks and the history is the witness that when the Black people got rights equal to that of Whites, America has emerged as the most powerful nation of the world.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, likewise when we see the history of the South Africa, Mahatma Gandhi became a victim of

apartheid when he went to South Africa for the upliftment of Indians there and only then did he realise that agony and after the realisation of that agony Karamchand Gandhi became Mahatma Gandhi. I am of the firm opinion that Dr. Ambedkar and Gandhiji were influenced the most by the ideas of Gautam Buddha. If there emerged any true disciples of Gautam Buddha, in India those kind great personalities—were Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar and Mahatma Gandhi, Mahatma Gandhi learnt the message of truth, compassion and non violence from Gautam Buddha and Ambedkar followed the path of Gautam Buddha to fight the social evils inequality and disparity prevalent in the society. I would like to submit that if you want to have honest debate on this issue. Earnestly we will have to follow the principles of Gautam Buddha, Mahatma Gandhi and Dr. Ambedkar and expose those forces which created hurdles for the movement of social change. Then only can we step up the pace of social movement.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, Shri Dalit Ezhilmalai has just stated that the number of MP's belonging to SCs and STs category in the BJP is increasing. Though it is a fact yet the reality will have to be acknowledged that your number is increasing on the strength of those forces which have been your exploiters. The statements made by Shri Ramji Lal Suman and Shri Ram Vilas Paswan shows the differences. Try to understand the differences between Shri Muni Lalji's and other Members. I still believe that there is no change at present in the Dalit colonies after 55 years of independence. If you go today to make a study of the Dalit colonies realistically you will find the Dalit people in the same condition. He is compelled to experience the same complex and agony.

I had also stated when a Bill was brought in the House recently seeking to provide free education to the children of 6-14 years that if we want to make a civil society, we will not be able to do so unless the Government makes arrangements for the nurturing and education of children right from their being in womb i.e. from Zero to their adulthood. A child of Dalit and Backward becomes the victim of the same complexes and undergoes the humiliation by society even when he/she is in womb. You please try to realise that pain. The instance of Abhimanyu of the Mahabharat who was trained in warfare by his father while he was in the womb of his mother, testifies this. This indicates that social and familiar environment have an impact on the psyche of a child while it is in the womb. Do not care for additional expenditure if you want to create a civil society Take a resolve today that government will arrange for free education for all children of 0-18 years of age. Then only can we build up a civil society.

Shri Dalit Ezhilmalai Sahib has said about economic and social equality and economic democracy I endorse his views. How will this economic Democracy come. If you talk of economic equality, how will it be possible in a democracy in which corruption has assumed alarming proportions.

Someone has just referred to distributions of land. Shri Sheesh Ram Singh Raviji is not here. I come from an agricultural family. I can feel that pain. The maximum limit of land has fixed 18 acres in UP under the land ceiling Act. I do not know about the other States. Unless you fix a ceiling for possessing money, economic equality will elude us. Fix a maximum limit for possessing money for bringing about economic equality. If allocation of 1 or 2 acres of land can bring about the change in a Dalit's life, I am ready to donate 1 or 2 acres of my land to a Dalit family. Please do this experiment trial and see whether that Dalit family ekes out their living from those two acres of land. I would to say that the backwards and dalits of society will have to be given equal share in every field of society, only then the backwards and dalits will be able to enjoy equal social status.

As far the Samajwadi Party is concerned, Ram Vilas Paswanjee had alleged that Mulayam Singh Yadavjee had protested against the Act relating to prevention of atrocities on Dalits. I would like to bring it to the notice of the House that Prevention of atrocity on Dalits Act was first effected by Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav during his first tenure as the Chief Minister. First of all, we started implementing Ambedkar Gram Yojana in Uttar Pradesh. We were the first to take meaningful initiative to stop the practice of scavenging. We raised our protest only when people started misusing the Act in the name of atrocities on Dalits. Upper castes of society misused the Act to exploit the situation which was against Dalits. They started to use Dalits as instruments in their hands and used them against their rivals. This war opposed by the Samajwadi Party. Had we not opposed, such misuse of the Act, it would have led to flare-up in the society. It was only because of this apprehension that Samajwadi Party decided to oppose the misuse of this Act. We were ready even to take to streets and to fight our battle even inside the Parliament in case misuse of the Act was not stopped immediately. In all humility I would like to say that in the post independence period, be it the backward class or Dalits...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Now it's being misused, why don't you stop it now?...*(Interruptions)*

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: Definitely, we are speaking even today also. I have said just now. Shri

Ram Vilas Paswan is sitting here. You have given datas. I will give you five instances of Dalit atrocity and in case any of them turns out to be true, I will resign from the Membership of Parliament...(Interruptions) I have not named Mayawati why are you feeling irritated at her name. I am not quoting Mayawati's name at all...(Interruptions) I myself don't want to fight elections and come back here again, leave aside the issue of winning elections. I am totally disenchanted with this House...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: I would like to make it clear that I have even said that Mulayam Singh Yadav had opposed Dalit Act. Actually I had said that there were few leaders who were saying that Mulayam Singh Yadav was opposing Dalit Act and to this effect I had produced documentary evidence and when the Minister of Home Affairs gives his reply, he will let the House know that only two clauses pertaining to rape and murder were left in Uttar Pradesh, and rest of other matters registered under Dalit Act have been closed by orders. If a Dalit Chief Minister works against Dalit Act and dilutes its effect then it is good but when another non-Dalit persons protests against misuse of the Act then you people start making much hue and cry. That is not good on your part.

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: Thanks. Ram Vilas jee made his position clear and if there was any misunderstanding, I make a formal apology to him.

MR. CHAIRMAN: He made it clear. Now, you may conclude.

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: Give me two minutes times, Sir. Mr. Chairman, Sir, just now, our colleagues traded charges and allegations against one another on the issue of Dalit atrocities. Honestly, I would like to refer to those who have misled the Dalits, backward and deprived classes, and have misdirected the movement of social change. They were against the mandal agitation or it did not serve their political purpose and, hence, they changed it into kamandal agitation. But the irony is that today the same affected people are expecting justice from the people who believe in Kamandal politics. But sadly it is not going to happen. I would like to say with all politeness that those who have spoiled their present and future...(Interruptions) They are siding with them and expecting justice from them then they are totally misled and they will never achieve this. Today they say that there should be reservation in judiciary, and in the industrial sector. The opposition had been continually reiterating this demand that Public Sectors Companies are being closed down through disinvestment and you have

not made any provision for SCs and STs in private sector, therefore, it is obvious that opportunities for them are decreasing due to which Dalits and SC/ST people are suffering huge losses...(Interruptions)

Sir, I want to bring it to your kind notice that 50 percent reservation for backward classes and dalits in medical and engineering colleges of Uttar Pradesh was ensured, when Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav was the Chief Minister of this state. Please support the Samajwadi Party, if you want that there should be social justice in the country. I want to assure you that you will definitely get justice, if you support the Samajwadi Party...(Interruptions)

Mr. Chairman, Sir, through your goodself I want to say very humbly that the members sitting on the other side have said that they have elected a dalit woman as Chief Minister three times...(Interruptions) I want to tell you about Amar Singhji that he is not a son of a Tata or a Birla. He is a person who believes in 'Karma' i.e. action. As these people are having doubts about us therefore, I am dispelling their doubts.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, just now it was said from the other side that they elected a daughter of dalit as Chief Minister thrice. I want to tell you that first time, your party supported her to be elected as Chief Minister for four months and thereafter she was removed. Second time your party supported her to be elected as Chief Minister for six months and thereafter your party was instrumental to split her party and when your party elected her Chief Minister third time, you have not done so because she is a dalit or you are having any affection for her, rather you have elected her a Chief Minister under pressure. You were having fear of the President of the Samajwadi Party and our leader, Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav. With your party's support.

Ms. Mayawati was elected Chief Minister just to prevent Shri Mulayam Singh ji from becoming Chief Minister. Now Ms. Mayawati has not been palatable for your party. It has put your party in catch 22 situation. the new record of corruption being set in Uttar Pradesh will definitely lead your party to the hell. As you are time and again asking me to stop, therefore I conclude.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): Mr. Chairman, Sir, through you I want to tell hon'ble Shri Akhilesh ji that anyhow we have elected her Chief Minister thrice though for the first time for four months and for the second for six months, but when Ms. Mayawati elected your party leader, Shri Mulayam Singh ji Chief Minister you may recall, how he behaved with her in the Guest House. It could be imagined and what could have been her plight...(Interruptions)

SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VERMA: Why do you become imbalanced, when there is a mention of Ms. Mayawati...*(Interruptions)*

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I want to bring it to the kind notice of Shri Ashok Pradhan ji that it was not Ms Mayawati but Shri Kashiram Rana ji who had helped hon'ble Mulayam Sing ji to be the Chief Minister at that time. Now he has gone in the background and Ms. Mayawati ji has come in the front line...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Mr. Chairman, Sir, through your goodself I would like to say Shri Ashok Pradhan ji that may good sense prevail on him, and he should break his tie up with Ms. Mayawati ji the earliest, otherwise it would be difficult to win elections...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

DR. BIKRAM SARKAR (Panskura): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am grateful to you for having given me this opportunity to participate in the discussion on atrocities on *dalits*.

I have had the opportunity of hearing a large number of hon. Members on both the sides and I feel very said that we are doing politics and nothing but politics on the issue of atrocities on *dalits*. The fact remains, irrespective of the party in power in the last 55 years, that the cause of the development of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes got the lowest priority, if at all it got any priority. If you look at any of the number of Starred Questions—I am sorry, Sir, to tell you but it is a fact—you would not find a single Starred Question on the development of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the last so many years, all Unstarred Questions.

It may be by accident or by a coincidence that all the Questions relating to the welfare of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes have been only Unstarred Questions. Some of the so-called important things do come up for discussion.

I am coming to the seriousness of the business of Parliament, of which I happen to be a Member second time. The Reports of the then Commission for the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes and after the formation of the National Commission on the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes which has been given a constitutional status, have all been neglected like anything. Can anybody enlighten me as to which Report of the National Commission on the Scheduled

Castes and the Scheduled Tribes was last discussed on the floor of this House?

SHRI PRAKASH YASHWANT AMBEDKAR (Akola): It was discussed last time in 1988.

DR. BIKRAM SARKAR: Now it is 2003.

This shows the mind block irrespective of the party one belongs to. I do not like to do politics with this. I had an opportunity, being a Scheduled Caste, holding the charge of a Joint Secretary in the Ministry of Home Affairs for five years from 1982 to 1987 dealing with this particular subject. I know a to z of this subject. I have seen one thing, and I am sorry to say that there is no change.

But I must give the credit to Madam Indira Gandhi. She was the Prime Minister who, in 1980-81, came up with the idea of Special Component Plan for the Scheduled Castes. It was a grand idea. I did work on that.

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: It was in 1977.

DR. BIKRAM SARKAR: But it took shape in 1980-81. It was said that: 'we do not want any charity.' The Scheduled Castes want only their due share, their demand. The constitute more than one-fourth of the total population of India. Right from the First Five Year Plan, so much was provided for the development of the Scheduled Castes. But, Mr. Minister, for the development of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes, nothing had happened. Even today, nothing has changed because of the mind block.

Sir, we had the Untouchability Abolition Act. But nothing happened. Then, it was thought in 1976 that the change of name to "Protection of Civil Rights Act" would do miracles. But it did not do it.

Sir, I had an occasion to administer that. In everything, all the hon. Members incharge of that thing in those days, and even today, the Members incharge say that 'it is a State matter; it is a public order; and it is a State subject. Therefore, it is depending on the States and the States will do whatever is necessary. We are monitoring.'

Let me give you certain figures of monitoring. In the Report of 2000 of the National Commission on the SCs and STs, there is a mention of a statement showing disposal of cases by courts and the pendency of the cases for the year 1996...*(Interruptions)*

[*Translation*]

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: Sushmaji will you arrange lunch...(*Interruptions*)

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): There will be atrocities on dalits, if I would not arrange for lunch...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

DR. BIKRAM SARKAR: It may be a laughing matter for you Kunwar Akhileshji, but it is a very serious matter so far as the Scheduled Castes are concerned. Be careful about that...(*Interruptions*)

Sir, I am referring to page 241 of the Report of the National Commission on the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes. It shows a statement showing disposal of cases by courts, and pendency. Here, I find that these States—I am stating a few names of the States—Gujarat, Haryana, Orissa, Punjab, Karnataka, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal, even my own State, West Bengal,— did not even care to send any Report even four years after the year 1996...(*Interruptions*) So, this is the condition. Eight States did not even care to send information to the Central Government or to the National Commission on the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes. The Report says that no discussion was held so far. We do not know what is happening.

Sir, anywhere, the main cause of atrocities on the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes is that wherever they have shown the temerity to come up to organise and protest to get their due share, they get harassed.

Their women were raped. They were killed. All these things happened. We always thought that some new law would help them. Therefore, another law was enacted in 1989; it was a great law. It was Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989...(*Interruptions*)

Sir, I have just started. If you say that what I am saying is irrelevant, I will sit down. But if you feel that it is relevant, then I urge upon you to give me ten more minutes.

[*Translation*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: There is time constraint. Your party was allotted four minutes time, you have already spoken for eight minutes. Please take two minutes more.

[*English*]

DR. BIKRAM SARKAR: Sir, I just mentioned about the new Act which was passed in 1989; it was passed in all seriousness. But no thought was given as to how that would be administered and how that would be acted upon. Due to that, it led to this state. As you know, I mentioned the names of States. It is there even in Bihar. Bihar is no exception. 79 cases of murder took place, but only one person was brought to book. This is the position. There is no exception. I am not talking only about 'Left' or 'Right' or something like that. Our Party would not like to do any politics at least as far as atrocities on Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes are concerned.

There is a definition of atrocities in that Act. The SC and ST (POA) Act, 1989, specified the atrocities which are liable to penalties under the Act as these; forcing the eating of obnoxious substances, dumping waste matter onland, denudation, wrongful occupation of land, dispossession, bonded labour, intimidation during voting— Sir, this is happening day in and day out,—mischievous litigation, false information, public humiliation, outrage of modesty, sexual exploitation, fouling of water resource, obstruction of entry to a place of public resort, eviction from habitation, mischief with explosives, destruction of buildings, and suppression of evidence. These 18 acts were given there.

When you look at the reports of the Home Ministry or the Ministry of Social Justice, you would find that nothing is being reflected. This is the kind of position that is happening. After a few years of passing of this Act, when Shri Indrajit Gupta was the Home Minister, he took a meeting of Home Secretaries and Directors-General and Inspectors-General of Police of all the States. They said that it needs a small amendment. What is that amendment? The amendment says: it was agreed that section 4 of the SC and ST (POA) Act, 1989 should be amended to include all the officers including SC/ST for neglecting their duties. As such, the words 'but not being the member of SC/ST' in line 2 of the section should be deleted. This is the amendment.

It appears to me that the main issue of economic development, social justice, etc. is totally given a go-by. We are discussing only the non-issues. We passed the Act, and it was supposed to be implemented or enforced by the State Governments. If the State Governments do not do it, we throw up our hands in despair and say that we could not do anything. This is the state of affairs.

I would therefore suggest two things. One is that the Central Government should take up in all earnestness

[Dr. Bikram Sarkar]

and seriousness the reports of the National Commission for discussion—not half-an-hour or one hour or for a day—for two days to find out a solution. During that discussion, hon. Prime Minister, Deputy Prime Minister, the Leader of Opposition, and all other leaders should be present. Today it appears to me that this discussion is for the Scheduled Castes, of the Scheduled Castes and by the Scheduled Castes. This should be avoided.

SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL (Patan): Mr. Chairman, Sir, let me remind this House and particularly the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs that it was me who raised the matter concerning the discussion on the 5th and 6th Report of the National Commission on Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and a Special Report prepared by the 7-member Committee of Governors of this country, which was presented to the Indian President. It was my request.

It was made by the me during 'Zero Hour' on 29.11.2002. I am yet to receive a written communication from the Government, whether my demand made in 'Zero Hour' is accepted or not. I also take this opportunity to draw the attention of the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs—I have got with me the proceedings of the House dated 20th December, 2002—to what the then Minister of Parliamentary Affairs had said. It is on record and I quote:

[Translation]

"During the next session I should not be blamed later on, as next session is a Budget session and there will be presidential Address that time. In that session first business is to move motion of thanks on the Presidential address. Thereafter, there will be general discussions on the issue of dalits first of all and there will be no time limit therefore. The reply would not be given, i.e., the Hon'ble Minister will not stand up to reply until the House announces that their discussion is complete."

[English]

This was the assurance given to the House. So, I would request the Chair not to ring the bell when I am speaking because now the floor is given to me.  
...(Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI BHAVNABEN DEVRAJBHAI CHIKHALIA): I am reiterating what Shri Pravin Rashtrapal has just said that Hon'ble Minister will not reply until you ask him to do so... (Interruptions)

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Please take your seat, as Shrimati Sushma Swaraj is also present here. It is a new business for you, therefore, please take your seat.  
...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: As members of other parties are observing time limit, he also will have to follow the suit.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL: I am saying for the sake of all instead of speaking for myself only.... (Interruptions)

[English]

The hon. Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment as also Shri I.D. Swami is here in the House. Before I go into the details, I would like to highlight the issues which I am going to touch so that they can respond accordingly.

My first priority is, atrocities on Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. What are the reasons of atrocities and their remedy. How can we take preventive steps and how can we take steps subsequent to the untoward incident?

My second priority is, land to landless Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. What is the progress in this particular area during the last five or ten years?

My third subject is reservation in Government services; implementation of the reservation policy including the three DOP circulars which we have revived, removed or amended after passing the Constitution amendment. What is the position at the floor level?

My fourth subject is, Special Component Plan and Tribal Sub-plan, which were introduced by the then Government. Incidentally, it was the Congress Government. You will have to accept, as pointed out by Shri Bikram Sarkar. What is the state of affairs of SCP and TSP and whether the State Governments are giving their shares? Who is monitoring that?

My fifth priority is, allocation of funds by the Planning Commission, *vis-a-vis*, the Finance Minister every year. I want to help Shri Jatiya. You may inform the House as to whether the money given to his Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment is sufficient for the work allocated to that Ministry. This is my fifth subject which I am going to touch.

My last item will be the stand taken by the NDA-National Disaster Alliance—Government in Durban

Conference. My objection is only about the stand taken and let me go on record that discrimination of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in this country is there not because of your party's Government but it is there because it has a religious sanction. So, you need not worry. Why did you not admit in Durban that there is a discrimination on the basis of castes in this country? These are my six priority areas.

I do not want to go into the details of atrocities because it is the agony of my own brothers and sisters. There have been many Parliamentary questions and many answers. Statistics are there, but I will, in nutshell, inform you what the Statutory Commission appointed by the Government has in short reported. It is not what Shri Rashtrapal or Shri Ramjilal Suman say. It is the National Commission's Report and I would like to quote its fifth Report.

19.00 hrs.

"It may also be observed that the incidents of crimes against Scheduled Tribes are increasing in Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, and Orissa."

This is a statement of the National Commission on Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. The second statement by the Commission is:

"Passing of Central legislation to enforce reservation in Government services, public sector undertakings, banks, universities, grant-in-aid bodies, etc. is the urgent need of the country."

It also said:

"The poverty alleviation programmes are not making the desired dent on the poverty in the case of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes."

This is what is reported in the Fifth Report of the Commission. The Sixth Report, which has already been presented to the hon. President but has not been discussed in Parliament said:

"The Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes who are mainly from the rural areas do not have access to good quality education and are thus found wanting."

It is a subject which is most linked by my senior colleague and the Deputy Leader of the House, Shri Shivraj Patil because there are no education facilities. What is the use of introducing compulsory primary education when children have no schools in their villages?

As regards reservation, the Commission again goes on record:

"The implementation of reservation policy through Executive instructions which are frequently subjected to judicial intervention has failed to achieve the desired objective."

Even the Commission has gone on record that the Executive instructions are subjected to judicial intervention. So, the Commission wanted that reservation Act should be passed and it should be put in the Ninth Schedule.

The Commission has referred to the Workshop on Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Members of Parliament which was conducted in the month of December, 1999. I congratulate the Prime Minister for that. The Workshop was conducted for three days and it was attended by Governors, Chairmen and many other senior people, and all the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe Members. Shri Ram Jethmalani was the Minister of Law and Justice at that time. The then Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment also attended the Workshop. The Prime Minister also came twice—once for inauguration and then for the concluding session. It was in this session where the Prime Minister gave an assurance to the country that the five DoPT circulars which are against the interest of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes will be withdrawn immediately. Now, I want to know from the Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment about this. In fact, there are no five circulars. There are six circulars which are against the interest of the Scheduled Castes. The sixth circular is very serious which nobody knows.

There is a circular issued by the Department of Personnel in the year 1998 regarding the compensatory appointment. The appointment of kith and kin of the deceased will be made only if there is a vacancy in the particular roster point of the deceased father or mother. If that employee belonged to Scheduled Caste, he will get a compensatory appointment and he will be adjusted against the roster point. If a peon belonging to Scheduled Caste dies and if there is no vacancy in the roster, his kith and kin would not be appointed even if he is fit for compensatory appointment. According to my knowledge, when a man dies, he has no caste. The compensatory appointment is given to a person in place of an employee who dies in service for taking care of his family. If there is a vacancy for Scheduled Caste or Scheduled Tribe or OBC, he should be taken in the job. Nobody knows about this DoPT circular. I know about this circular and I will give a copy of this circular to the hon. Minister, Dr. Jatiya. I want that this circular should be revised first and then you go to the remaining two circulars.



[Pravin Rashtrapal]

As regards the first three circulars which you have revived or amended, what is the reason for that? I want to know one thing from my colleague from Gujarat. Before three days back, it came in the newspaper that 48,000 backlog vacancies are there in the State of Gujarat.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: With the consent of the House the time of proceedings of the House is extended for one more hour.

[English]

SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL: It is because I know about it and I come from that State. That may be the situation all over the country. More than 40,000 backlog vacancies are there in the State of Gujarat. A question was put in the State Assembly and the reply given by senior Revenue Minister of Gujarat was that the Government of Gujarat has decided not to fill in the backlog vacancies. Where is the DOPT Circular? Please verify this. If I am wrong I will apologise before this House but if the Government is proved wrong, then they must take remedial measures.

I would also like to know from the Government that as decided by the Congress Government at the Central level to improve the economic condition of the Scheduled Castes, a Leather Development Corporation was proposed to be set up some 12 years ago in Gujarat. There was a proposal to set up a Handloom Development Corporation before 12 years. Now please verify as to whether the Leather Development Corporation or the Handloom Development Corporation is functioning in the State of Gujarat or not. This aspect may please be verified.

Sir, I am a Member of the Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe. Shri Gehlot is a Member of the Committee. Shri Ratilal Verma is the Chairman of that Committee. Now, how many cases of injustice against the people belonging to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes we are coming across in that Committee? We visited two States to verify whether the SCP share was given by the Government or not. One particular state had not given.

Sir, I will give you the figures from the Union Budget. I do not want to make it a political issue. But I would like to have serious discussion and I also want to have a decision. Otherwise there is no use wasting the valuable time of the House. The total Revenue Receipts, as reported in the Budget, is Rs. 2,53,935 crore. What is the amount that Shri Jatiya, the hon. Minister for Social

Welfare is likely to receive from the hon. Finance Minister? He may be from the State of Rajasthan or from the State of Madhya Pradesh, but he is from the same Party. For the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and for the Other Backward Classes, out of the figure that I just mentioned, during the year 2002-03, only a sum of Rs. 240 crore was given. The total percentage of Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribe and Other Backward Classes of the total population is more than sixty per cent. Scheduled Caste population is 20 per cent; The Scheduled Tribe Population is 8 per cent and the population of the OBC is 40 per cent.

[Translation]

What is now the aggregate population?

[English]

But the amount allocated was only Rs. 240 crore. It was reported in this House. But nobody knows that this amount was revised to Rs. 168 crore. I would like to know, since I represent a reserved constituency, why this amount was revised to Rs. 168 crore. This year also the hon. Finance Minister has allocated the same amount of Rs. 240 crore. It means the Government is not applying mind. Last year, the total allocation was Rs. 240 crore. It was revised to Rs. 168 crore and the actual expenditure was hardly Rs. 150 crore. In percentage terms it comes to only 0.01 per cent. This is nothing but an insult to the people belonging to the Scheduled Castes, the Scheduled Tribes and the Other Backward Classes.

Sir, this Government has allocated Rs. 1000 crore for building Convention Centres in this country.

[Translation]

There should be an AC Hall. High level conferences have to be organised.

[English]

Government that has allocated a sum of Rs. 1,000 crore for building Convention Centre in the metropolitan cities has allocated only a sum of Rs. 240 crore and is likely to spend only Rs. 150 crore. I would like to know as to what welfare activities could be carried out by the Department of Social Justice and Empowerment with this amount.

Sir, now I come to the Special Component Plan. What was the intention of the SCP? It was neither a gift or a dole. The main purpose was to bring the below poverty line families belonging to the Scheduled Castes

the Scheduled Tribes and the Other Backward Classes above poverty line.

For Scheduled Castes, the amount allocated for this year is only Rs. 377 crore. According to the 1991 census, the population of Scheduled Castes in this country was 16.48 per cent and that of Scheduled Tribes was 8.56 per cent. I want to know from Dr. Jatiya, if the official figure according to 1991 census, the population was 16.48 per cent, why was the reservation kept at 15 per cent only in the Central Government? Who is responsible for this shortfall of 1.48 per cent? Please count the recruitment made from 1991 till date and you will know the shortfall. Similarly, in the case of Scheduled Tribes, though their population was above eight per cent, reservation was only seven per cent. I want a reply to this question. I have raised this question earlier also, but nobody is giving reply.

A child may make a mistake, but not the father. If a private employer makes a mistake, the Central Government will punish it. But, if the Central Government makes a mistake, that too a Hindu Government, then who will punish it? As my leader rightly points out, this House has the power to punish the Central Government by passing a Censure Motion against it. Then these people will have no right to sit here because they do not know what are the rules of law.

Now I come to a very important issue, that is land to the landless.

*[Translation]*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now conclude please. Many hon. Members are still to speak.

SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL: I am just concluding.

*[English]*

I know you cannot provide employment. According to the 2001 census, the population in this country is 112 crore. This is the official figure. Now the Scheduled Castes population is 20 per cent and that of the Scheduled Tribes is eight or nine per cent. We are now 30 per cent of the total population. Again, one figure puts rural India as having 70 per cent of the total population whereas urban India is having only 30 per cent of the total population. How can you provide them employment? The only livelihood for a Scheduled Castes man or a Scheduled Tribes man who is in the rural India is by cultivating the land. You cannot provide employment in Government

offices or factories. No MNC is going to set up factories in a tribal area. That is why we want the land.

My colleague Shri Madhusudan Mistry will correct me if I am wrong. It was ten or twelve years before that nearly 67 thousand families were given land *pattas* in Gujarat. After that no work is done. I am a witness in Surendranagar District and my senior colleague Shri Ratilal Varma will also agree with me. Thousands of acres of land was given to people belonging to Scheduled Castes in Surendranagar District. That is the district where the highest number of Scheduled Castes people are living. It is a very poor district also. The land has been given; the land record is also there in their names. But even now they are not allowed to cultivate in that land. Who will help these poor people and enable them to cultivate in that land which has been given to them not by any landlord, but by the then State Government? I want your help on this particular issue.

Reservation in the Government service is an issue which is livelihood for the Scheduled Castes people in this country. They do not have industry, they do not have land either. The only source of income is Government service with a job of a peon or a clerk or an inspector or an officer. They will get this job only if the reservation policy is implemented. You know that the reservation policy is not properly implemented in this country. So, we want to know from you whether the recommendation of the Commission to have legislation regarding reservation will be passed in this Session or in the coming Session.

It is because in the workshop, a committee of 12 members was appointed. Shri Verma was a member in it. I was a member in it. Shri Ramdas Athawale, Shri Ram Vilas Pawan were members in it and the popular and the famous Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh was also a member in it. They gave a unanimous report that these are the actions which the Government of India should take. The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment has sent those resolutions to the respective Departments. This House may be informed about the progress made by the respective Departments in regard to the resolution passed by the 12 Member Committee. It was an all-Party Committee. So, that may be given here.

Now, I am coming to the last but important point on how we can stop the atrocities. The police cannot help in stopping atrocities. It was only during Mahatma Gandhi and Dr. Ambedkar's time that other than the Government, the socio-religious organisations went out and moved from place to place for doing it. I can give the names from Maharashtra, Gujarat, UP and Bihar also...*(Interruptions)*

[Shri Pravin Rashtrapal]

They came out and I request the party which is attaching great importance to Hinduism on one point.

19.17 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

Mahatma Gandhi has gone on record to say that untouchability is a black dot on Hinduism...*(Interruptions)* He has used another word. He told that it is venom in milk.

[*Translation*]

It is a black dot on Hinduism. We have to stamp it out.

[*English*]

Now, how can we eradicate this one? No police can do it. You will have to take preventive steps. We have talked about eradication of malaria programme. We have programmes for eradication of AIDS and polio. Do you have a programme for eradication of discrimination, eradication of untouchability and eradication of social discrimination? You have no programme for that. It is not there in your agenda. It is not there in the agenda of the BJP or the NDA. It is not there at all. Please include this item in the agenda of the Government of the day that we should remove this discrimination.

The oath was taken by the socio-religious leaders during 1932 that we will remove untouchability from this country. You are talking of extending reservation. It is only political reservation which is being extended. There should not be confusion regarding reservation in service and reservation in education for which there is no time limit. Every Government, whether it is the BJP Government or the Congress Government or the JD Government, has extended the limit of ten years for political reservations.

I will be failing in my duty if I do not refer to Dr. Ambedkar and I would request that we should all read the historical lecture given by him in the World Peace Conference in 1943. It was about the human rights of untouchables in India...*(Interruptions)* I will read the first line because a lot of things are being discussed about *Hindutva* and cultural nationalism. I am quoting from the first paragraph of Dr. Ambedkar. So, let there not be any misunderstanding that Dr. Ambedkar was the leader of the Hindus. He never preferred that particular ideology.

I would like to quote Dr. B.R. Ambedkar. He said:

"Most parts of the world have had their type of what Ward calls the lowly. The Romans had their slaves, the Spartans their helots, the British their velleins, the Americans their Negroes and the Germans their Jews. So the Hindus have their untouchables."

It was he who demanded three things in this Conference. He said that if you want to uplift the lot of Scheduled Castes, you give them reservation in services; you give them reservation in education; and you give them separate electorate, and then separate settlement. I am extremely sorry for the situation that is existing in this country.

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA (Sirsa): Do you want separate *dalit* land?

SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL: No, do not misunderstand. It is not Dalitstan that we want. Please listen to me.

Dr. Ambedkar demanded separate electorate.

[*Translation*]

Separate franchise. It would be easy to speak in Hindi.

[*English*]

He demanded separate settlement.

[*Translation*]

Separate settlement. We won't commit such mistakes. The country is ours.

[*English*]

We are the owners of this land.

[*Translation*]

DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA: Your thoughts are reflective of such feelings. You wish to convey this message to Dalits that they want to lead this country towards disintegration.

[*English*]

SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL: Dr. Ambedkar, never demanded separate land.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: He is quoting Dr. Ambedkar. Do not mistake it.

SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL: Let us make it very clear.

[Translation]

DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA: I mean that wrong message must not go to the Dalits from this House that they are being subjected to injustice.

[English]

The issue is very serious.

[Translation]

Their separate settlement. You please make a visit to Friends' Colony. How many STs are there? Let me quote Baba Saheb Ambedkar what he said in 1943.

[English]

Dr. Ambedkar said:

"It is the considered opinion of this Conference,

(a) that so long as the Scheduled Castes continue to live on the outskirts of the Hindu village—he was very particular, he says Hindu village—with no source of livelihood and in small number as compared to Hindus, they will continue to remain Untouchables and subject to the tyranny and oppression of the Hindus and will not be able to enjoy free and full life."

So, the solution was that the Constitution should provide for the transfer of Scheduled Castes from their present habitation and form separate villages.

[Translation]

It will not be a settlement, it will be rather a village.

[English]

He said that it should be villages away from and independent of Hindu villages. I agree that in Ahmedabad there is no untouchability....(Interruptions) I am not yielding.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Do not disturb him. I want him to conclude. You are further provoking him.

[Translation]

DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA: After facing lots of troubles, the Dalits have been able to get mixed up with

the other groups. Do you want that this condition should be like back to square.

[English]

SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL: Let me cite an incident that happened in my State. In a village in Amreli district, the Scheduled Castes are facing social boycott over the last two months. They do not get water and foodgrains. They do not get anything from the village. How will they survive? They say we are not doing anything to them. Socially boycotting the Scheduled Castes is the worst form of punishment in the villages. It is happening not only in Gujarat. But I will talk about Gujarat and I can give you the details about it. Right now the social boycott is going on for the last two months. They do not get water; they do not get milk. If they have buffaloes and cows at their homes, from them milk will not be purchased by the Dairy.

This is happening in the land of Mahatma Gandhi and Sardar Patel. I have quoted this to show what Dr. Ambedkar said in 1943. I can appreciate one thing. What I mean is that in a village a man is identified by his caste. If I go to my village, the people will say that Rashtrapal ji, Member of Parliament, has come. Everybody in my village knows that I belong to Scheduled Caste. But when I move on the streets of Ahmedabad, caste vanishes. Dr. Ambedkar wanted that the small *bastis* of Scheduled Caste people should be taken to a place near the towns because it is in the towns and cities where untouchability vanishes. Suppose they do not approve of this idea. I want that my brothers and sisters should be safe in the villages. There should be no murder, no rape committed against them. For that, this House should take up the issue very seriously and take a decision in the coming day.

With these words, I conclude. I thank you very much for giving me this opportunity.

[Translation]

CAPT. (RETD.) INDER SINGH (Rohtak): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak. I am participating in the discussion on atrocities on Dalits on behalf of my party viz. the Indian National Lok Dal. After a patient hearing of about 5 hours debate in this House. I have arrived at the conclusion that the people belonging to Dalit Community and their representatives elaborately explained their suffering or spoke of their troubles at length. There appeared political motive in the arguments advanced by both the sides. The problem lies with the Dalit class and the Dalit society. This problem goes as much way back as since the days,

[Capt. (Retd.) Inder Singh]

of Mahatma Buddha, Swami Dayanand Saraswati, Swami Vivekanand, Dr. Bhim Rao Ambedkar and it is deep sealed even today. The problem which forms the basis of all complications finds its origin in society. If we want to give it a political colour just to glean votes, it won't be fair. Until we bring about a change in our tendency, there won't be end of this basic problem. It needs to be changed. How did this system evolve? This trend has been continuing for thousands of years in India and its reason is attributed to strength, intellect and wealth. These three forces are very strong in our social circles and the entire society is based on them. Its unfortunate that these forces continued to be misused. Nature has endowed us with these powers to that the strong way help the weak, the rich may help the poor and the wise may enlighten the ignorant ones.

But these things didn't take place that is why. Just not today but earlier too, this issue continued to be debated time and again. As it appears to me, this will go on infinitely. Unless these three strengths are put to their fair application, this problem can't be sorted out as this is a social problem. Come the day when the strong will help the weak and will extend their love would be no inequality and there would be rather unity in the society.

[English]

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY (Sabarkantha): We do not want patronage; we want our rights.

CAPT. (RETD.) INDER SINGH: I am talking about patronage. I am talking, about what we are doing today and what we have been doing in the past. In the past, we were doing things in a wrong way.

[Translation]

No two men have had been found equal in the world nor they can be. You can't expect everyone to be wise. If God has endowed the wise with intellect, he can equip himself with more knowledge, if put to fair application, he will excel. This will remove inequality in society. Until we go into the root of the issue, we won't find its resolve. All of us should undertake it in a cohesive spirit it doesn't pertain to one side only. I don't even subscribe to the idea that finding ways to resolve this issue, it should be linked with politics. It has been observed that quite often, attempts are made to link it with politics. It is going on even today. For instance I would like to refer to the incident occurred in Haryana. No Dalit was involved in that incident and at the time of occurrence nobody knew who is de-skinning the cows, whether these are Dalits or anybody else.

SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL: Other than they who could have de-skilled?...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: No one's view there than Capt. Inder Singh's will be placed on record.

CAPT. (RETD.) INDER SINGH: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, this incident occurred in my parliamentary constituency. I am aware of it. It was unfortunate and we condemn it. It was not fair, however, it was wrong to give it a political colour.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record, except what Inder Singh says.

...*(Interruptions)\**

[Translation]

CAPT. (RETD.) INDER SINGH: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it was political house and no attempt should be taken to mislead/misguide the people. If you wish to discuss politics do so properly.\*\* Don't do so by speaking or by causing confusion. It has been falsely articulated that the police beat them by taking bribe. Thereafter, the whole mess was created by propagating it through someone. Hon'ble Minister of state of Home Affairs has given his statement. The contents of the Report submitted by the Commission for SC&STs have been published in the newspapers....*(Interruptions)* Inquiry has been conducted by the Commission....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL: Which of them had been killed.

CAPT. (RETD.) INDER SINGH: The Killers were also Dalits.

[English]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: It is highly objectionable.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: He is not yielding to you.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Capt. Inder Singh, are you yielding to him?

---

\*Not record.

\*\*Expunged as ordered by the claim

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: I'll just take a minute...(Interruptions)

CAPT. (RETD.) INDER SINGH: While he was speaking, I didn't interrupt...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: He is not yielding. I can't do anything.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: My problem is that statements of both the persons can't be placed on record.

CAPT. (RETD.) INDER SINGH: Sir, how can both of us speak up simultaneously. If he too will speak and so will I how will it do...(Interruptions) If he wants to reply he should speak up later on by getting the required permission. I didn't interrupt him. I didn't interrupt Shri Ram Vilas Paswanjee. I simply said that what he was saying was...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, this is quite wrong. The persons were killed after being dragged out of the police station. It's intolerable.

[English]

This is the basic issue. We cannot tolerate it.

[Translation]

Those who are accountable for the safety of people's life the villagers murdered them after dragging them out of the police station and burnt them...(Interruptions) How serious issue it is, the people were murdered after being dragged out of the police station and the police witnessed all this silently.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You are a mover of the Motion.

[Translation]

Were you to say anything, you should have said at the time of moving the motion.

CAPT. (RETD.) INDER SINGH: I've said it not for once but three times and when I reply to it, they don't accept...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, five Dalits were murdered there. The guilty ones should be severely punished.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Athawale, will you please yield?

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Sumanjee, you are the leader of your party. Just listen to me. Ramdasjee, please take your seat. If somebody wants to say something or has to seek any clarifications, he should yield.

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: He says that I have uttered. I strongly oppose it. What have I said. Five persons were murdered after being dragged out of the police post. What is in it. I have visited the spot twice.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Even you won't let me speak up. What is this?

CAPT. (RETD.) INDER SINGH: I am saying that, what did I say, I can't say that five persons were killed. I am just going to point out that he said that the police greased their palms...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.

...(Interruptions)\*

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI VIJAY GOEL): Sir, all these three Rams are standing before you namely Colonel Ram Singh, Ramdas Athawale and Ramji Lal Suman. All these three Rams are quarrelling among themselves.

CAPT. (RETD.) INDER SINGH: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to clarify that Shri Ramji Lal Suman has already said this. Even Shri Ram Vilas Paswanjee has also said the same. They will continue to repeat the same. I don't want to check them but I would like to request them to speak the truth. The reason why I was saying this is that...(Interruptions)

\*Not recorded.

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to know what is wrong with my statement.

[English]

I strongly object to this...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

CAPT. (RETD.) INDER SINGH: I will tell you. Please listen to me.

I would like to clear that point once more. Five men were beaten to death by the crowd. There were five police-personnels. They could not do anything. They were helpless. But it is wrong to say that the policeman demanded money from them and when they refused to do so, policemen demanded money from them and when they killed two persons and thereafter they spread rumour. I am saying that it is wrong. Who is saying that five persons were not killed? I also say that it is condemnable. The Government have taken whatever action was required.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): We have suspended them and charge-sheeted them.

CAPT. (RETD.) INDER SINGH: The required legal action has been taken. I would like to say only this much that such things should not be politicalised with a view to get more votes. This act is not going to fetch them more votes.

So far Haryana is concerned, I would like to say that we are implementing those policies, which were laid down by Choudhary Devi Lal in Haryana. Under which, Haryana is the only State where the provision of Choupal has been made so that the dalits can get together there and share and resolve their problems. Nowhere else choupal is provided to Dalit community. Arrangements have been made for lodging of Barat. Haryana is the only state where a sum of Rs. 5100 is provided as "Kanyadan" to the daughter of a dalit in her marriage. This facility is not provided in any other states. Financial assistance is given at the time of delivery. Today, out of 18 reserved seats in Haryana, seventeen are with our party. They belong to dalit community. The reason therefore is that the Government is functioning without any discrimination. There is no law and order problem. There is no casteism and no classism. The Government is functioning after taking into account everything and it is, therefore, not proper to level any allegations against our Government. I wanted to clear this thing and beyond it I do not wish to say anything more.

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, listen to me. I am having only one point to make.

CAPT. (RETD.) INDER SINGH: You are interrupting me again.

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: I am not opposing you...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: He has not yet finished his speech. How are you interrupting in between?

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: He has finished.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Have you finished your speech?

CAPT. (RETD.) INDER SINGH: It is not yet finished. Just now I have made a mention about him...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please conclude.

CAPT. (RETD.) INDER SINGH: I am just concluding. Whole of my time has been consumed by him.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Why are you looking at him. Please conclude now.

CAPT. (RETD.) INDER SINGH: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, whatever is possible for dalits is being done by the Haryana Government...*(Interruptions)* What you have done in 55 years? You will repeat the same question? They are again irritating me. If I open your record then it will be very difficult for you...*(Interruptions)* This situation is like a man who want to console a bereaved family and asked as to whose cow has died without knowing actually who has died.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Capt. Inder Singh ji, please conclude immediately.

CAPT. (RETD.) INDER SINGH: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I want to request this much only that it is a very serious issue. We have to rise above petty party consideration and take concrete steps separately to remove the prevalent disparity among various communities in India, so that the dalit community is brought at par with other higher communities. It is the only solution therefor. Besides it there can be no other solution for it. With this I conclude my speech and take my seat.

SHRI RAM PRASAD SINGH (Arrah): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am very thankful to you for giving me a chance to speak in favour of social justice and upliftment of dalits.

The issue is very serious and the fact is that atrocities on dalits are being committed in every state of the country. Just now it has been said that no corner of the country has been left where atrocities on dalits are not being committed. It is very correct if it would be useless to find a place where dalits are not being subjected to various kind of atrocities. Degree may vary from one place to another.

Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, Mahatma Gandhiji had cherished a dream that after independence the dalits and backward classes in the society will get the right, there will be prosperity in their families and an atmosphere of love and affection would prevail in the country and the dalits and backward classes would make progress. But that has not happened.

Sir, I have elected to this House thrice since 1989 and the issue of atrocities on dalits have been discussed several times in this House, but without any solution. Their situation is as it was earlier. We are only discussing this issue. The incidence of atrocities on them is increasing. Their exploitation is also increasing continuously. They are not getting their legitimate rights. The reasons therefor is dalits society itself, as it has allowed itself to remain neglected for centuries together.

Sir, the dalit community is still living in miserable condition. They are victims of starvation and discrimination. Irony is that one fourth of population of this country is dalit. Dalits are major part of our population. If Dalits are awakened the society will change and the Government will change. Today, Dalits are coming forward. They are a aware community now. They are acquiring knowledge. They are becoming aware of their rights and duties and are fighting themselves for their rights. Today's dalits have changed a lot.

Sir, much a society suffers humiliation, exploitation and injustice and much it gives sacrifices, much it becomes vocal and vibrant. We can not confine it to the frontiers of laws. We can not keep that category within like oceans and water, atrocities on dalits are also endless. Therefore, dalits themselves will end their problems. Today dalits is an awakened society.

Sir, one-fourth of our population is of dalit. They are waiting that once they gain the rein of power, they will not beg from anyone. Rather they will be aware of their rights and will uplift themselves on their own. They will not be dependent on anybody instead they will provide quality education to their children and they will uplift themselves by being aware of their rights and duties. In this way there will then be no problem of religion and hypocrisy in the country.

Sir, they call themselves Hindus and they dream of a Hindu Nation. Have you ever thought why a dalit converts his religion? Even today a dalit is not allowed to enter a temple. Dalits were not allowed to enter a temple in the past and the situation remains the same. Even today, there are no proper arrangements for the education of their children in schools. They are not able to send their children to private and good schools due to poverty, misery and starvation. What do you do for the dalits? Crying and bemoaning in this House will not help. Accusations and counter accusations will not help. An attitude is required, we will have to change our mentality, then only dalits will get their rights and the atrocities committed against them will end. It is also an irony that this is not happening in this country. The personalities like Dr. Ambedkar and Valmiki were born in the dalit community who created 'Ramayana'. Baba Ambedkar framed the Constitution. Eklavya was born in a dalit family who donated his thumb. The participation of dalits has been the most in all the wars fought in the country. Whenever there have been wars in the country, the dalits have vigorously participated. The son of a dalit Babu Jag Jivanramji became the Defence Minister, I remember the date, it was in December, 1971 when Babuji had said to Pakistan while speaking at the Gandhi Maidan in Patna. I had also gone there. Then there was attack from Pakistan side. Babuji had stated at that time his war will not be fought on the soil of India but on the Pakistani soil and Pakistan will be divided into two parts and he made it a reality as the Defence Minister. Pakistan was divided. Pakistan's division took place and Bangladesh was created. It is the history of Dalits...*(Interruptions)*

Sir, not only this, due to its division Pakistan has lost courage. These people talk of terrorism. Pakistan can never dare to attack India. Babuji had stated that if it attacked, we will give Pakistan a befitting reply but they lack such courage. Babuji was borne in a dalit family the charge of whichever Ministry he assumed whether it was Telecommunication, Railway, Agriculture or Defence, he was always a successful Minister. I represent the same constituency which he had. You talk of social justice. It is a fact that when Shri V.P. Singhji had given the slogan of social justice, the people sitting over that side had toppled his Government. We also got justice from the judiciary. Whatever you may say, dalits, poor oppressed and backward people have faith in Laloo Yadav of Bihar, that is why he has been ruling there for so many years. Where is his Government heading for? Mulayam Singh ji, backed out that day...*(Interruptions)*

DR. RAMKRISHNA KUSMARIA (Damoh): Dalits are attacked in Bihar...*(Interruptions)*



[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Dr. Ramkrishna Kusmaria, please resume your seat.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.

...(Interruptions)\*

[Translation]

SHRI RAM PRASAD SINGH: You speak about Madhya Pradesh. Do not remain in illusion. How so ever you denigrate Laloo Yadav he shall not be degraded as dalit poor, exploited and vulnerable people are with him...(Interruptions). The minorities who are eradicators of communalism are with him...(Interruptions). You have tried by contesting and forming alliance...(Interruptions). Your Prime Minister and Advani become conscious before Lalooji. It is not because Lalooji supports communalism, but because he favours dalits and poor that is why they tremble before him. I want you not to do so...(Interruptions). Even today, all the hon. Member in the House have only one feeling for them that Justice Commission be constituted and make provision of reservation for dalits. Today, we function under the shadow of judiciary as this Government have become incapacitated. Sometimes we are shocked and dismayed when the persons like the Prime Minister says that judiciary is involved while in judiciary dalits have no share. You were saying that you have made 12 dalits Ministers out of 84 while they constitute 22.5% of the population. I calculated that the number of their Ministers should be 20. You have not given Ministry to proper number of dalits. Akhilesh Bhai was rightly saying that they are your followers. You are putting dalits against dalits. You talk of Mayawati. She has become a problem for you, if you desert her your Government will go and if you continue with her, the persons like Rajnath Singh from your side will cry.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please do not take names of persons who are not here.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAM PRASAD SINGH: Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we need to wage a war against dalit oppression and

\*Not recorded.

outrage. We need to strictly implement land reforms. If there are atrocities on dalits, the judiciary should also be given exemplary punishment and dalits should be given compensation. The vacant posts reserved for dalits should be filled which have not been done.

People say that do not play politics on this issue but this House is meant for politics only are we expected to worship here, if we do not do politics here. Is this House meant for offering milk or for saffronisation? It is not only an arena of politics but if seasoned politicians come here they will work in the interests of the country and express their sufferings and sentiments.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now please conclude.

SHRI RAM PRASAD SINGH: The large and vital industrial units and factories are being disinvested and sold and the sick one's are not being sold. They are being sold at throw away prices and profits are being earned therefrom. I would like to know whether the backwards and dalits will get the benefit of reservation there, will they get services? You are also understanding their identity. You are creating such an atmosphere in the country in which dalits are exploited and there are growing atrocities against dalits. Along with this there is communalism in the country, it is being disintegrated. I would request to shun this ideology and we all should make a law for the protection of dalits and ensure their welfare.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Captain Inder Singhji and Ramji Lal Sumanji, the unparliamentary words used here will be expunged.

[English]

SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY (Chidambaram): Thank you very much, Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir.

I rise to participate in the discussions on atrocities on dalits. It is quite evident from the scene here how interest we all show on the interests of the dalits here.

I have been patiently waiting for five hours to have a few minutes from you. Here, I do not want to blame any individual or this Government or that Government for the plight of the dalits today, which has also been their plight for centuries together. Orthodoxy is the reason for the plight of the dalits.

I do not know who called me an 'untouchable' and why.

20.00 hrs.

Why should a particular group of people be called by so many names like Harijan, Scheduled Caste, depressed or oppressed or *Dalit*? I do not know what sin these people have committed.

Since one is born as a Dalit, the nation thinks that it has no name for him. More than 30 per cent of the population of this country are denied their rightful rights. They have been completely obliterated by *Chaturvarana*.

Sir, the man's four characters are the *Brahman*, *Kshatriyam*, *Vaishyam* and *Shudram*. That is knowledge, strength, trade and labour. These four characters have been converted into four castes. But this unfortunate group of people has been kept away from this *Chaturvarna*. They have been kept away as 'untouchables' and they can call themselves as 'Awarhas'. But this very system, by the orthodoxy, made the plight of this group of people worse today. Even after 55 years of Independence and Centuries together...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri E. Ponnuswamy, the time of the House was extended from 7.00 p.m. to 8.00 p.m. Now, it is 8.00 p.m. Is it the pleasure of the House to extend the time of the House for one more hour?

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: Yes, Sir.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: So, the time of the House is extended upto 9.00 p.m.

[*Translation*]

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, one hour will not suffice. 10 more speakers are yet to speak, therefore, kindly extend the time for two hours rightly away...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Please, fix my speech tomorrow at the time of reply...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Let the speech go on for the time being.

...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY: Sir, in this august House my esteemed colleagues have forcefully and in a focussed manner have spoken on the atrocities on *Dalits*. They have also reeled out ream of facts and figures. Of course, nothing is going to be changed unless it is implemented.

No amount of law can do anything to change the situation unless the change of heart is there. Not any particular Government—I do not want to blame any particular Government—can do anything by even scores of laws and provisions, as the figure shows. Nothing can be done unless there is sincerity, and there is a change of heart. I would like to say that nothing else could change the situation.

Mahatma Gandhi has accepted Dr. B.R. Ambedkar as one of the three intellectuals or the tallest leaders of the world, but our nation denies this rightful position to this national leader. However, he is called a *Dalit* leader. So, the nation is responsible for this system. I do not want to blame any individual. Right from the British period and Centuries together the system of *Manu Dharma* was there.

So, the change of heart is quite essential for removal of not only untouchability but also caste system. As Mahatma Gandhi rightly said, this is a blot on the face of the society. But it is a man-made thing. So the blot must be removed only by a man. Even God cannot do anything. Man has created God; not God has created man. Man is responsible for all the ills. I do not know what sins these people have committed, to be kept away from the mainstream.

Sir, I was seated away from the main class room in school and I was kept away from the mainstream of my village. Even today, after so many years of Independence, my village people are divided. They are not able to draw water from a common well. They cannot walk on the streets where Hindus live. So, what is happening in this nation?

We have more than 100 crore people, and the nation is proud of our population.

But one single largest group of population, these *dalit* people have been denied and are being denied their rightful share of this nation. Sir, change of heart is needed. I understand that once Dr. Ambedkar was jocularly making the comment: 'When these people wanted *Ramayana*, they went to Valmiki who was a Scheduled Caste; when they wanted Maha *Bharat*, they went to Vyasa, who was also a Scheduled Caste; and when they wanted Constitution, they came to me and I am a Scheduled Caste.' Such intelligence these people possess! Sir, these people are second to none in intelligence and in hard working. In all the fields, these people have contributed. I can say that they have contributed the largest share in the development of this country, but still a single individual, a Scheduled Caste boy in my

[Shri E. Ponnuswamy]

constituency is not able to get a loan of one lakh rupees from the bank. He went from pillar to post, but he was thrown out. Even after one year, he is yet to get loan in spite of my recommendation. This is the situation.

Sir, no amount of law, no amount of provision, no amount of Government administration can do anything to change this plight of this group of people unless there is sincerity, there is a change of heart. Only very sincere implementation do something. I appeal to the nation through this august House 'change yourself'. Time and again, you have been thrashing these people for centuries together for no fault of theirs. You have called them untouchables. I do not know why you have called them untouchables. After 25 years of hard work. Dr. Ambedkar wrote a classic masterpiece called *Who are shudras and Untouchables*. Everyone should read it. I do not want to politicise this issue. The issue of atrocities an *dalits* is a national issue.

Whoever is there in the seat of Administration, he is responsible for the plight of people of this group, but unless there is sincerity of purpose, there is a change of heart, there is a change of mind, nothing can happen and nobody can change their plight. No amount of law can change the situation.

I would request the hon. Members of this House as they are leaders of every constituency of this nation to think and think again what we shall do for this largest group of people of this nation. They have contributed their might. They suffer and they live in *bastis* which have no basic facility. In 1,400 villages of my constituency, 1,400 colonies are there. Even drinking water is not there. For drinking water, they go miles and miles to fetch a bucket full of water. There is no road. There is no electricity. There is no provision. What I can say is that if it rains, or shines only the sky is their roof. Like that, people are being thrashed. One hon. Member from the other side of the House has given all the facts and figures. Here also, our esteemed colleague has forcefully—I do not know his name—spoken all the truth of the situation and the plight of these people.

All the Members cutting across the party lines give all the facts and figures, but the figures remain figures. The writing is there on the wall, but our younger generation has begun to question. They cannot keep quiet. I mean to say whether it is the plight of *dalits*, non-*dalits* or any other section of the society, they should think of the poor people. The poorest of the poor people are *dalits*. They should be uplifted by the very of the people who did them wrong. Whoever rules this nation, they should think that this majority of people could no longer be kept away from the mainstream.

Sir, Swami Vivekanand said: 'He is a fellow who takes only the grovel, *rugi kanji* and is able to build this nation quite high and supreme.' If he is given all the facilities of five-star standard, what will be his strength, what will he do? As he has constructed, as he has contributed to the development of the nation so far for centuries together, he will do wonders. Anyway, I am really grateful to my esteemed colleagues who are sitting here who are nearly three dozen Members. All the 543 Members of this House should think that this group is more important because this group is their vote bank.

You are treating them as pawns on the board; you are treating them as a 'vote bank'. All the leaders claim that this group is electing them as representatives of the people.

You should give them their due share. Through this august House and through you, Sir, I appeal to the nation to think about this unfortunate group, to think of their plight and think of their situation. Their situation is becoming from bad to worse. This should change, yes, to the better.

I will just conclude my speech in one sentence. As I have already stated, our younger generation is restless and they want their due share. Whoever is responsible must give them their due place so that the country will flourish, the nation will develop and, with their due share, these people will also be uplifted.

Thank you very much for the opportunity that you have given to me.

[Translation]

SHRI BHAN SINGH BHAURA (Bhatinda): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, atrocities are being committed on dalits and we are having a debate thereon. This issue is going on ever since India has become free, the Government of India have also given slogans like 'Garibi hatao' but nothing has been done. You are aware that three things bread, cloth and shelter are required for alleviation of poverty. Every thing will be alright. If these three are available but they are not available. There are 40 crore people Below Poverty Line in India and 90 per cent of them are SC's and STs. They have also the problem of housing. Punjab is the most prosperous State. Even there 50 per cent of the SC people have their houses but they are not worth living. They have a small house in which animals also cohabit. There are no arrangements made for cattle. The education facilities provided for their children is also of inferior quality. The standard of education in the Government schools is quite low and the wards of rich people go to the public schools. Therefore, the

children of most of the people are not able to get education. The incidence of atrocity against dalits is higher in those states which are governed in the name of religion. We have got the figures. The incidence of atrocities is the highest in Uttar Pradesh followed by Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat. There are no atrocities in the States governed by the left parties. The figures in West Bengal are zero in 1997 but there are four cases in 2001. In Punjab there were 11 cases in 1997 and 33 cases in 2001 in Punjab that too when the Government of the BJP was there in power. So, we find that the people of upper cast commit atrocities. It is the most essential that the poor people should be organised to fight against their oppression. One of our colleagues has spoken just now that allotment of one or two acres of land would not be sufficient. I would like to say that land is a matter of status, therefore, what to speak of two acres only, one acre will do. In such a situation nobody will prevent a dalit from entering into his land. The poor and landless dalits should get land. Big land lords get away with all the land and they exploit the poor. So, land reform is required to be carried out in the entire country. There should be division of land and the poor should get it.

As far as the checking of atrocities is concerned, we have found in most of the cases that accused get acquitted. In such cases the Government machinery has not succeeded till now. I have a report. According to that 6858 cases were registered in 1998. Out of that charge sheets could be filed for only 2915 cases and of which 240 persons were convicted and 1600 were acquitted. Likewise in 1999 total registered cases were 6838, 392 cases were charge-sheeted, 236 were convicted and 2359 were acquitted. Similarly in year 2000 the total number of registered cases were 6679, there were 3057 chargesheets, 293 convictions and 2109 acquittals. In 2001, 5915 cases were registered, there were charge sheets in 1996 cases, there were 290 convictions and 1678 acquittals. This means that the policemen do not follow the cases in a proper way and that is the reason why most of the oppressors go unpunished. The persons involved in oppressors think that they have nothing to fear and they continue to commit atrocities. I understand that the Government should evolve such a machinery which may punish the persons committing atrocities on dalits.

Today, facilities of reservation is being abolished. Reservation is being abolished due to the process of disinvestment and privatisation. It is therefore our demand that there should be reservation in the private sector as well. The land should be divided and distributed among the people belonging to SCs and STs. If the Government

pay attention to all these issues the atrocities on dalits can be properly tackled and there can be a reduction in them. I support views expressed here by some hon. Members like Shamsher Singh Dulloji. All people should unite and rise above the party lines to fight the oppression against dalits and work in their favour. In this way we can fight against the atrocities being committed against dalits.

SHRI HARPAL SINGH SATHI (Haridwar): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the discussion on the issue of atrocities on dalit society is being held in this House. But I would like to say that I am not able to make out the meaning of the word dalit in particular. This word has been used in political jargon. Nowhere in our constitution this word has been used. The society, which has been called dalit, is not a dalit society. We call that person a dalit, whose job is to steal, commit robbery, tell a lie, weight less and works against the democratic system.

[English]

SHRI PRAKASH YASHWANT AMBEDKAR (Akola): Sir, I am on a point of order...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

If it his new definitions of Dalit?

SHRI HARPAL SINGH SATHI: These are my views.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: It is his own definition of dalit. How can you object to it?

[Translation]

It is his own definition, what is the problems with you?

...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL: Sir, the word dalit came from the word 'depressed'. It is an English word which was translated...(Interruptions) But here, he is giving another definition of dalit...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: At least, he already said, what he speaks, does not go below his throat.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: How can you object to it?

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL: He is defining *dalit* in a wrong way. That is the objection. It is going on record...(Interruptions) I am proud of being a *dalit*. I was born as *dalit*...(Interruptions)

SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI: It is his interpretation...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI HARPAL SINGH SATHI: I want to repeat that the society, which has been called *dalit*, is the best society. It is the society under which the children of Lord Rama took education. Will you call Valmikiji, a *dalit* in whose temple the sons of Lord Rama took education. Will you call that society, a *dalit* society in which Baba Saheb Ambedkar took birth? With you call that society a *dalit* society or can you call the people belonging to that society. Scheduled Castes in which Ved Vyas the author of Mahabharat was born? There are three popular and famous books in the Hindu society i.e. the Ramayana, the Mahabharat and the Constitution of India. The authors of all these epics belong to the Scheduled Castes, but we cannot call them as *dalits*. Therefore, I want to make an appeal to the House and to Hon'ble Rashtrapal ji, please do not take my opinions otherwise...(Interruptions).

You are one of very good speakers, an intellectual personality and I honour your views. I have said so, as several things have been discussed here regarding *dalits*. Just see that except Shri Akhileshji, all the hon. Members belonging to the Scheduled Castes are sitting here. Terming Member of persons from the scheduled castes attend the Ramlila's during the Dusshra festival and celebrate when there is any festival of the Peer or the Hindus. But only the members belonging to the Scheduled Castes are present here as the speakers and listeners while the discussion on the issue of atrocities is going on this House. I am not talking about any political party. There are Members on both the sides, who trust in Lord Rama. Some people say that the Members of this side are Hindus. But I believe that there are Hindus on both the sides. Today, I have to say it regretfully that particularly the Hindus-Muslims-Christians all should have participated in such discussion, so that the members of the Scheduled Castes may not feel that atrocities are really being committed on them...(Interruptions)

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: When the persons committing atrocities are not present here, how will they listen?...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAMANAND SINGH: Sir, I have also to express my view in its support...(Interruptions)

SHRI HARPAL SINGH SATHI: This class, which belong to the Scheduled Castes have been whiling away their life by facing such a situation for many centuries. They survived even though they were inhabited outside the village. They survived even after consuming meal of dead animals. But we neither left this society nor did anything wrong to it. We never separated from this society, but the people of that society itself commit atrocities on the Scheduled Castes. The female members belonging to this community are molested. They are forced to live outside the village. They are tortured, disturbed when their sons are get married. It is very disturbing thing. After all, we are also human beings and our forefathers have also contributed in this society. I am a follower of Maharishi Dayanandji. He had said the removal of evil of untouchability was talked or done from political point of view. A mentra of bringing about equality has been made owing to political reasons. My point is that the mention of bringing about equality and removing untouchability has been made only due to Maharishi Dayanandji. He by moving door-do-door granted the right of donning, right to perform 'Yagya' and the right to sit at par with other castes of the society. Maharishi Dayanandji has done the work of awakening the society. I want to say one thing that the education is not an equal footing even after 40 years of attaining independence. Sukhrumji has just said that the reservation facility should be discontinued. I want to say that before it is discontinued, there should be uniformity in imparting education. If the word of a rich person and also that of a poor person get educated in the same school and both clear examinations of High School and 12th Class in that school, the reservation facility may be discontinued thereafter. There will be no need for reservation. But it will not be proper if there is lack of education if the ward of a poor person or of scheduled castes gets his education in a school without any roofs or rooms and if the ward of a rich person gets his education from the Doon School. How there will be equality, if it continues so? I want to know whether is it not a society? Is merely physical assault would be called atrocity? I was feeling as if the Members of some family started weeping on receipt of letter about some mishappening and observing this the ladies of neighbourhood also joined them. Under the situation all started discussion about their individual problems instead of mourning over the mishappening. Such a situation was being observed. It was being said that our leader has said like this or he has played such a trick. Our leader uplifted the scheduled castes I can give the figures also about the progress made so far after 55 years of independence. There is no decline.

There is no decline in the death rate. Atrocities are still being committed on them. I am also having the figures in this regard. It is asked as to what has been done by the Government during its five years tenure. I want to say that the war of Bangladesh was fought under the leadership of Babu Jagjivan Ram, but the Bharat Ratna was awarded to Shrimati Indira Gandhi. Was Babu Jagjivan Ram not eligible for that? One lakh army personnel of Bangladesh were made captive under his leadership. The war fought under the leadership of Babu Jagjivan Ram was a record not only in Hindustan but also in the whole world. Bangladesi were brought to India as captive. Didn't Jagjivan Ramji deserve the award Bharat Ratna? How long will such discriminations continue?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please conclude now.

SHRI HARPAL SINGH SATHI: The Members keep on expressing their views for long.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The other Members also from your party have to speak.

SHRI HARPAL SINGH SATHI: There are Members in the House belonging to caste Hindus. I have been elected from Haridwar. I often settle any dispute there between the Members of the Scheduled Castes and the Caste Hindus in my constituency. Let us resolve that we shall not allow atrocities to be committed against the members of the Scheduled castes. We shall struggle for their justice but it is not like that. High sounding speeches are achieved, big public meetings are organised to serve political ends, but the actual work is not done. Thereafter, the issues pertaining to their relatives, family members and other nears and dears are discussed. But the issues relating to the Members of the Scheduled Castes or the lady are not touched.

Friends, if you actually want to welfare of the members of the Scheduled Castes and help them getting equal status in the society, you have to come forward. Come forward and vow that we shall work day and night of that Members of the Scheduled Castes too and shall help them get equal status by treating them equal, so that there is no problem at all.

There is another society which is called Muslim society, which comprises of oil merchants, the weavers and carpenters etc. But they regularly sit together. There is another society in which we are included. It will be strong thing, if there is a matter of sitting together. This problem cannot be solved until and unless there is no issue of giving equal status. Such atrocities are being committed uninterruptedly and in future too these happening will continue. Give them equal status and treat

them equal, if you want to boost their morale and if you want to bring about confidence in the members of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. I want to say this only much.

SHRIMATI SANTOSH CHOWDHARY (Phillaur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, a debate focused on atrocities on dalits has been going on for the last five and a half hours. This issue must have been debated several times during the last 55 years. However, to everyone's knowledge, nothing come out of it. Earlier, Shri Gehlotji was saying that he had to consult a few books in the library. He also mentioned that this issue has come up for discussion in this House after 1984. Right now, he is not here. I want to know from him the reasons due to which we got an opportunity to discuss the issue of atrocities on dalits after a period of 16-17 years. Those hon. Members who took part in the debate expressed their views. When we tour our constituencies we come to know through newspapers and media that dalits are being victimised everyday. We did formulate an Act to put a check on it but to no avail. If this House takes pains to resolve the issue of atrocities on dalits in our respective constituencies, the problem will be considerably solved. Here, we politicise every issue and try to derive political mileage in the name of poor. However, it is said that one must not indulge in politics but what's the reality? The poor constitute one third population of India and it is only they who send us to Parliament. What do they expect from us today? Some heated arguments were witnessed among Members during the discussion today. No one talked of the solution.

I wanted to express the same views which were expressed by Rashtrapaljee, M.P. from the Congress Party. I take pride in the fact that in the year 1975 Smt. Indira Gandhi appointed me Member of the Punjab Public Service Commission. After being in the position of a Member for a period of six years, I was lucky enough to assume the office of Chairman also for six years. I have witnessed the inhuman treatment meted out to the dalits over a period of 12 years. We attempted to find a solution to the problem and were successful in our endeavour. In so far as the issue of providing jobs to the dalits, the first thing as that the dalits do not apply. Even if they apply, the application is rejected. If fortunately the application gets cleared, interview letters are not issued to them. Even if an interview letter is issued, they are declared fail at the stage of final selection. In case they get selected finally they are declared medically unfit. Even if they are given jobs they are posted far away from their families. They find it difficult to make both ends meet in meagre salary. Quite often, I discuss the issue with Dr. Jatia. A Parliamentary Committee on SCs has

[Smt. Santosh Chowdhary]

also been constituted of which I have been a member. Just not me, my father and father-in-law had also been Members of that Committee. The Committee in reality does not have any power to fix accountability. Officers visit the places of incidents. It's reported in the newspapers that some dalits has been immolated and killed but the atrocity is stretched right from school to university. Not just collector but also an IPS is being subjected to tyranny. Poor, labourers are victims. However, still the issue remains unresolved.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, when I entered Parliament after completing tenure in Public Service Commission I was informed by the Notice Office that a Bill relating to prevention of atrocities on dalits is going to be passed soon. I rushed to the Lobby and was quite moved and tears came into my eyes because an hon. Member was speaking on the issue of atrocities on dalit women. At that time I was very young and trying to carve out a niche for myself. Baba Saheb Ambedkar had emphasised that it is a necessary to be educated and struggle and get organised. These words were dear to my heart. The reason why I am saying these things is that all the hon. Members are not present in the House on such an occasion when this issue is being debated. Why not the hon. Members belonging to forward castes are given sufficient time to put forth their views? The persons focussed at getting their votes should have taken part in the debate and we would have got the opportunity to hear their views. We are in the know of their troubles and know quite well that there is no remedy to all this unless we take pains.

Sir, I hail from Punjab. Earlier Punjab ranked number one but now it has slipped down. The water coming out of dalits house is not allowed to be drained out of the entire village. It remains stagnant there only. Dalit dwell at such places only. Only our deeds hold key to the future. People relented and allowed a pipe to be installed for the drainage of water. Such sort of endeavours are required to be taken. If we debate like this and engage ourselves in mudslinging exercise, no remedy will fall in place. Mentally needs to be changed. It is nothing but mindset that does not let us rise above. If any dalit is well-read, it's okay. However, the moment one comes to know that the person is an SC, the opinion changes. I have experienced and even witnessed all this from close quarters. During the Prime Ministership of Shri Rajiv Gandhi, lots of good work were done. It was he who made provisions of reservation at the Panchayat and Taluka level wherein provision for reservation of women was also made. Women are also subjected to the same torture as in the case of people belong to SC category.

He provided for reservations for women and the Scheduled Castes and as a result of which now lakhs of SCs and STs are Sarpanches and are discharging their duties in the Panchayats and in the Municipalities.

Sir, through you, I would like to say something more. Unless this system is introduced in the judiciary, the problem won't be remedied because if a case is instituted against Scheduled Castes or Scheduled Tribes the justice cannot be expected. Right now, the issue of DPTO has been raised. The issue was raised in Parliament when people came out on to the streets. After a few months it was referred to the States and the people belonging to general category approached the courts and it has not so far been implemented in Punjab. Such tendency will have to be avoided. No SC and ST is in the Judiciary. I mean they are in negligible number. In all the recruiting bodies be it Banks or Public Service Commissions the Chairman do not belong to SC and ST categories and even in services the representation of SC and ST is minimal. Unless these people are placed in high position, nobody can share their trials and tribulations. This is my conviction and I have made a headway by executing functions in that way. Those days too, even in Punjab nobody was recruited out of the people belonging to SC and ST category. Everybody was summarily rejected. However, I did not leave any post vacant by struggling this way as is enshrined in the Constitution and a provision has also been made therein that the SC and ST candidates must be provided with reservation facility.

Sir, I do associate myself with the words put forth by Shri Pravin Rashtrapaljee. He made several points which included land problem also and I too had certain points in my mind. I would like to take up these issues very seriously.

With these words I conclude.

[English]

SHRI PRAKASH YASHWANT AMBEDKAR (Akola):  
Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, thank you very much for giving me this opportunity to speak on this subject. I have been in this Parliament for the last 12 years. But this is only for the second time I find that this issue of atrocities on Dalit and the reports of the Commission are being discussed in the House.

Sir, it is a question of how we look at the issue. We know that we have many laws in the country for doing away the practice of untouchability and for doing away the practice of discrimination in the society. I would like to comment on the attitude of the Government.

Sir, with due respect to the hon. Minister of State for Home, Shri I.D. Swami, I would like to submit that the message that will go to the Administration, who is going to implement the policies on ground, is most important, according to me. It is the message that is most important. The message, as I see it, that will go from this discussion is that the Ruling Party has taken this discussion very lightly. This is because none of the senior Ministers who are concerned with the implementation of the *Dalit* issues are present here. It is not only the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment that is responsible for it but there are other aspects to it like the Tribal Development Plan, the Special Component Plan. These issues are to be dealt with by other Ministries that are responsible for the development of the *Dalits*.

Sir, I would not dwell much on this for a long time. The atrocities over a period of time are changing in nature. It is a good and healthy sign and I accept that the society is changing.

But the pace at which it is changing is a very slow and that too in a very small space. Atrocities which were being committed on an entire community has now turned into individual cases of atrocities, as far as physical atrocity is concerned. I divided atrocities into two parts; one is physical in nature, which can be seen and therefore can be demonstrated. But there are other kinds of atrocities which are physical, but mental in nature which are unseen and can only be felt. What we have addressed till today are the atrocities which are physical in nature. The atrocities that are mental and which can only be felt are yet to be addressed in this country.

With this in mind, I can say that I was responsible to bring about a change. In 1989-90 when an alternative Government was being thought of and a manifesto was being prepared for the Janata Dal, we had made one important provision. That provision was to bring an amendment to the Constitution to effect a change from 'Commissioner' to 'Commission'. This was a major change that was sought to be brought about by way of this Constitutional amendment. Previously, the recommendation of the Commission was only recommendatory. It was not binding on the Government; nor was it implemented. The only thing that was happening was that it used to be laid on the Table of the House and discussed occasionally. The Ministry had to do the rest. We, who were fighting for the cause of the backward classes and Dalits, said that unless there is a machinery which looks into it and investigate it independently, the process of sensitisation will not start and sincerity in the Government processes will not come about. Therefore, in 1990 the amendment was brought about.

I will tell you one experience of mine which I wanted to share with this House. The first Chairman of the Commission, Shri Ramdhan and I happened to travel in his constituency, Gorakhpur. That was our first visit to Gorakhpur after that amendment. Let me tell you that not just one Collector or District Magistrate, from the Gorakhpur Commissionerate all the District Collectors were present there to receive him. There were all the SPs present to receive him. Being on the opposite side all the time, we thought that something must have happened and they had come to arrest us. We just enquired with them as to why all the District Magistrates and SPs were present there. They said that they had heard the discussion in Parliament on the Bill and they were not so worried about the Government, but were worried about what order the Commission was going to pass. That was the threat which that Constitution amendment had brought about in the administration.

Let me also say that to the expectation of all of us, some of the orders passed by the Commission were challenged in the Supreme Court. The Supreme Court in its own wisdom passed a judgement which again said that the orders of the Commission were recommendatory. Today, let me say that the Commission has been made absolutely redundant. It is only toothless, it is a waste, it is waste of time, waste of Government money and harassment to the administration and nothing more than that. Whatever orders they passed, not a single one has been implemented after the judgement was given in 1995.

If this Government wishes to do something for the benefit of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. I may request the Government to very seriously think as to how and in what manner they can again amend the relevant article of the Constitution.

In that, judgement given by the Supreme Court can be overcome and the Commission's strength can be retained. Hon. Minister, may I request you to look into the figures during 1991-94? They speak of a situation which I do not want to quote. But you can look into the figures. The rate of atrocities have come down and the rate of conviction, which my hon. friends, have been quoting here and where cases have been lodged was only 5 per cent. During those four years, the conviction rate had gone up to 22 per cent. That was the change. That was the fear that was created in the administration. Social changes are not changes which are accepted by the people because change means giving up something. And nobody likes to give up the privileges which they enjoy. If the changes are to be brought about, then the changes need to be brought about in a manner in which they are acceptable. But behind that, there has to be



[Shri Prakash Yashwant Ambedkar]

force and strength of the Government and that constitutional amendment brought about has been taken away.

May I again refer to another issue which is an important issue? It is a tribal issue. I do not know whether the Government had studied the consequences of the Forest Conservation Act, 1980 or not. I would give the Government the parameters because I have worked with the *adivasis* for quite a long time. Before 1980, the child mortality among the *adivasis* was less than two per cent. The reason is that the Britishers who framed the Forest Conservation Act in 1920 took away all their rights but gave them the right of enjoying the available fruits in the forest, gave them the right over animals whose life span was less than three years, gave them rights to live in the a village and the environment which they like. If you study the Act of 1980, you may see that it took away their right to enjoy the available fruits in the forest and the right over those animals whose life span was less than three years. What was the consequence?

Tribals live in an area which during the rainy season become interlocked. I will come to the area starting from Garhchiroli upto Buxar which comes upto Jharkhand. For four months, till there were roads and bridges, the Collector used to go in the month of May and he used to come out of that area only in the month of October. These areas were totally landlocked by rivers. They were inaccessible and the Collector was responsible. Even in those adverse conditions, the child mortality rate was only two per cent and today, you may see that the child mortality among tribals has increased to 22 per cent. May I ask the Government to kindly amend the Forest Conservation Act? There are certain ways of life which people live. You cannot make them change overnight. It takes generations for people to change. If you are going to take away their basic food during those crucial months, then you are going to have child mortality and nothing more than that.

Lastly, I will come to one important issue of national importance. My friends have already spoken of the Government's stand taken in Durban.

Let me advise the Government. The United Nations has a membership of 186 countries. The Resolution that we have moved with all the Government backing will be defeated in the General Assembly. It is not that because they are supporting us. There are nearly seventy countries which are facing issues relating to discrimination in their own countries. It might not be on the issue of caste. It is not on the issue of caste. They are having

discrimination on other issues. They do not know what is the way out.

I was there in Durban for about a month. There were representatives from nearly 52 countries. They had discussions with us to know as to what means we have adopted to do away with this discrimination. We gave them plethora of laws that we have. We had showed them the institutions that we have developed. We had said that we have all the institutions to do away with discrimination, and what remains to be done is to sensitise the administration and the people who are administering it. Once we do that we will do away with this. They stood by us. We were nobody. We did not have the Government backing. We were just seven members working in that United Nations' Conference. We were there right from 1994.

Let me tell you that I have been able to defeat the Government of India on every issue related to social discrimination at every place. I am not scoring a point. While we are saying that in our Constitution discrimination exists, the representatives of the Government comes and says on the floor of the House that there is no discrimination in the country. Then the Government of India is becoming launching stock.

In these Conferences, there is a system which is being followed. Shri Akhilesh was there. Let me tell you that it is very pitiable to see some of my friends reading out speeches without having a heart in it. This Parliament has its own identity. I would request you that at least in the international Parliament forums, this Parliament should not be bound by the Government of India decisions.

[Translation]

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: Sir, I would like to give clarification on this issue. You can go through my speech that I have delivered in Durban Conference. I did not put forth the views of the Government. I drafted my speech then and there...*(Interruptions)*. I have its copies in my possession...*(Interruptions)*. I drafted my speech there. Bansalji was leader of the delegation and you can ask him. Gehlotji had accompanied us there too. I did not read the text of the speech given by the Government. I myself drafted my speech there and read it in the Conference. I have also its copies in my possession...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRAKASH YASHWANT AMBEDKAR: I would like to inform you that when they were asked to deliver speech, they delivered their speech, but the remaining...*(Interruptions)*. I agree to this point that the views of the Government of India should be put forth at international fora by the MPs. But in case of International

Parliamentary Forum, where only the Members of Parliament participate, I think the speeches to be delivered by the Members of Parliament should be sent through you or the Secretariat of the Parliament. Because they are in such a bad shape that later on they do not remain to face the public. They deliver the speech without any homework and then scoot away.

21.00 hrs.

Because the fact and the circumstances are such complex that they do not give them a proper shade. Therefore, I urge upon the Government that it should pay attention on this issue and keep in mind that the Members should not get humiliated. The Government should pay attention towards the suggestions given by me about the constitutional amendment.

With these words, I take my seat.

[English]

DR. RAM CHANDRA DOME (Birbhum): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I am thankful to you for allowing me to take part in the discussion on atrocities on *dalits*. The atrocities on *dalits* are the legacy of hundreds and thousands of years of our Indian society...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: We have extended the time of the House by one hour. The names of 4-5 Members are in the list and the Government will give reply too. Therefore, if the House agrees the proceedings of the House will go on till the Government completes its reply.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Alright.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The time of the House has been extended till the proceedings of the House are over.

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: It would be good if its reply is given tomorrow because only a few hon. Members are present in the House and it is an important issue...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Ramdasji, please take your seat. In the meeting of the Business Advisory Committee it was decided that the debate on the issue of drought would take place under rule 193. Therefore, it is difficult to postpone this issue for tomorrow.

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Sir, please do not postpone this issue for tomorrow. The reply could be given tomorrow...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please take your seat, you will also get an opportunity. We all are present in the House. Ramdasji's number would be last but one. Last number would be mine as I have to adjourn the House.

[English]

DR. RAM CHANDRA DOME: So, what I want to say is that the atrocities on *dalits* are going on since thousands of years of our Indian society. I can cite a single example from our great Epic the *Mahabharata*. What was the fate of Ekalavya? The great Ekalavya's thumb was cut. He had to cut his thumb at the instruction of Dronacharya. It is a great example in our Indian society. This legacy has not started in our times. From time immemorial, it has been going on. It is continuing till date. It is going on and the other Ekalavyas are being treated this way. The very socio-economic structure has not changed. The very feudal mindset, the very semi-feudal and semi-capital structure of our society is basically responsible for this sort of a mindset. This is the causative factor to continue the atrocities on the oppressed sections of our society like the *dalits* or the tribals or the minorities. These sorts of things are going on.

The dalit people of our country, who constitute about one-third of the population of India, are subjugated and oppressed in our society. The highly prevalent caste system in India is responsible for this. The dalit people are at the lower strata of the social order. Even after 56 years of Independence, the basic human rights enshrined in the constitution of India are denied to those people. Although untouchability is a crime under Article 17 of the Constitution, even though so many legislations were passed like the PCR Act of 1955, the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities Act), 1989, yet the practice of untouchability in many forums is prevalent in the society in our country.

They are not even allowed to walk on the streets with *chappals* and ride cycles on the upper caste streets in some places. Entering in the temples and praying the God is denied for them even today. Fetching water from the common well and bathing in the common tank are denied. In many villages, there are even separate burial grounds for them. They are denied access to the common burial ground in many places. This type of atrocities against *dalits* are going in our society even today.

Sir, it is needless to say that the rules of our country are not interested in implementing the constitutional provisions and also the Acts passed to abolish this inhuman practice of untouchability because of their class interest. Not even institutional arrangements like setting

[Dr. Ram Chandra Dome]

up of Monitoring Committees and Special Courts are done as required by the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989, thus defeating the very purposes of the Act.

Sir, education is considered one of the effective instruments for promoting socio-economic development. The literacy rate of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes as per 1991 Census was 37.41 per cent and 29.60 per cent respectively against 57.69 per cent for other communities. As per the Annual Report of the University Grants Commission, the proportion of the Scheduled Caste in graduate and post-graduate courses was 8.37 per cent and 8 per cent respectively and the proportion of the Scheduled Tribes was 3 per cent and 2.14 per cent. Another important feature of SC/ST education is lack of access to quality education to compete for higher level positions in Government.

The atrocities on dalits are on increase everyday. They are brutally attacked, murdered, harassed and intimidated. Their houses have been ransacked and set on fire all these years by the upper castes. Recently, five dalits have been brutally murdered in the State of Haryana in an unprecedented way. I hope that this sort of things would not happen in future.

In Tamil Nadu, near Trichy, a *dalit* was forced to eat human waste and another *dalit* was forced to drink the urine of the upper caste people near Dindigul. The *dalits* are being treated in the most inhuman way even today in our country. According to reports available, over 50 cases of atrocities on *dalits* are reported, 3 *dalit* women are raped, 2 *dalits* are murdered, 5 cases of riots and 2 cases of arson against their families are reported in a day. Incidentally, these are only reported cases. Hundreds of cases against them go unreported. In most of the cases, dalits are not in a position to get the cases registered against the culprits.

As a result, the crimes against dalits are largely ignored, and police brutality and custodial deaths of the community are common these days. The States of Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh have the highest incidents of atrocities against the Scheduled Castes. These three States accounted for 65.4 per cent of the total cases of atrocities committed against the Scheduled Castes in 1999. As far as the incidents of atrocities against the Scheduled Tribes is concerned, it was the highest in Madhya Pradesh in 1999, followed by Rajasthan.

In 2000, out of 1,16,131 pending cases, only 12,956 cases were disposed of. In only 982 cases, the offenders were imprisoned in the whole country. In Uttar Pradesh, 74,307 are cases pending in the courts. Under the present level of disposal they would need more than 20 years to dispose of all the pending cases.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please conclude now.

DR. RAM CHANDRA DOME: I am concluding within two minutes.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You have already taken 11 minutes.

DR. RAM CHANDRA DOME: Landlessness is one of the causes of the dalit people remaining socially and economically backward. A majority of the *dalit* masses are living in the villages. Most of them are engaged in agriculture. But nearly 80 per cent of them are landless agricultural workers.

*Dalits*, who constitute nearly 17 per cent of the population, own only two per cent of the total cultivable land. In contrast, the upper castes, who constitute roughly about 15 per cent of the population, own and control more than 65 per cent of the land. This is the picture after 56 years of our Independence.

Regarding employment, what is the situation? Out of 78,450 vacancies created under the reservation categories at the university level, the *dalit* and tribal candidates have filled up only about 3,450. The same state of affairs remains in appointments made by the Central and the State Governments. The appointments of SC candidates as on 1st January, 2000 was 11.29 per cent in Group 'A' services of Government of India and 12.68 per cent in Group 'B' services as against their population percentage of about 16.5.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I am asking you to conclude now.

DR. RAM CHANDRA DOME: The only way to protect the interests of the *dalits* is to go beyond political lines. We should have definite political and social goals to implement the programmes and schemes. The programmes relating to land reforms should also be expedited...*(Interruptions)* Their properties should be protected. The facilities for their education should be made available to them. The employment opportunities for them should be protected. In this regime, globalisation and privatisation are there.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, nothing will go on record.

...(Interruptions)\*

DR. RAM CHANDRA DOME: The interests of dalits should be protected. There should not be any partisan attitude towards them. With these words, I would conclude.

[Translation]

SHRI KISHAN LAL DILER (Hathras): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would give my statement in very brief. I would like to thank you for giving me a chance to participate in the discussion on the issue of atrocities on Harijan. I have brought in writing also what I want to speak. But the same thing has already been said in the statements made by many of the Hon'ble Members. Therefore, that will be a repetition. I do not want to express same views again. I will speak in brief. Discussions are being held on the issue of atrocities. Today, even after 50 to 55 years of our independence, the evil of atrocities or untouchability could not be wiped out from our country. It is a bad name of our country. We know that so far as this issue is concerned, our country is lagging behind in comparison to other countries. We can not say it with proved that there is no discrimination or casteism in our country. But even though participating the today's discussion, I am ready to say that I do not want to pass any remarks or level charges—counter charges, as our political parties and Hon'ble remarks have done. It is not as good thing, as there has hardly been any discussion on the issue of atrocities on Harijans and it does not look nice, if we show politics therein. I am of the opinion that we all should throw light on the issue which has been left by using similar language and expressing similar thoughts but if we could not do that I would put blame on various Governments. Our safai-karamchari category has been neglected the most by all the Governments formed in our country. It does not matter ever party has been in power. That category has been ignored and no attention has been given towards them. All the Members would agree. They have been exploited by the Government. The salary is not being paid in time to the safai-karamchari category in municipalities and municipal corporations. In town areas their salary is being disbursed even after 5 to 8 months. Please think that what else can be the more atrocity than that? How, the category which is solely dependent on its waters, would pass his livelihood and provide education to their words, the salary is paid to that category for several months. It is a very big problem. I have demanded several times earlier also and have said so in

the Assembly too that the Safai Karamcharis should be declared the Government employees so that they can provide education to their children by getting their salaries in time. The Law and Justice Minister is present here, I would request him to pay attention towards this category, as they are the most dalit among the dalits. If this category is not drawing the attention of the government then which other category will draw the attention? All the Hon'ble Members have mentioned in dalits about it. Today, the discussion is being held here on the issue of atrocities on Harijans. I associate myself with them who are bearing such atrocities. But I can also agree with those Members who have given political suggestions except their political matters. Therefore, I through you request the Government that all the State Governments should be instructed to declare the safai karamcharis as the government employees. Their problem is very serious. As my friends have already spoken that the children of the safai karamcharis are not adjusted and partisan attitude is also meted out with them in the interviews. Member of Balmiki society is included in such a selection committee only to show that he belongs to that society while no power is given to him. I am of the opinion interviews should be held properly without any position attitude towards them so that they can get their jobs. I would like to request the Hon'ble Minister to think over for the upliftment of this category. As one other friend and Shri Ramji Lal Suman had said that the atrocities are being committed on dalits in Uttar Pradesh on large scale whereas in other states comparatively the level of such atrocities is very less. I do not agree with their views as the Chief Minister of that State belongs to Harijan. She is personally looking after it. They have also said that there will be no one to call the name of the BJP since long. Mrs. Mayawati is in power there. I want to tell you that you are getting advantage of it.

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: She is taking care of dalits as well as of you people also. Therefore, do not worry.

SHRI KISHAN LAL DILER: You should be happy, as you are getting political advantage. Akhilesh Singh ji had said that there is politics of Mandal-Kamandal. It was alleged that we the members of the Scheduled Castes are enjoying the shelter of Kamandal. I want to tell you that we have been in this party not from today but from 1967, when I was elected Member of Legislative Assembly for the first time.

I have been in this party since long the ideas of my colleagues I have not find any such discrimination in the BJP. All are equally, treated by them. Therefore, it is not proper to level such charges. All shall have to express

\*Not recorded.

[Shri Kishan Lal Diler]

their viewpoint clearly in their favour instead of playing politics on doing leadership, if the Harijan is to be uplifted in true sense.

[English]

SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH (Adoor): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I thank you for giving me this opportunity to participate in the discussion regarding atrocities on Dalits.

Once again, this august House has discussed about the atrocities on Dalits in this country. In the past, we had discussed this serious matter in this House on several occasions. Many hon. Members had participated in the debate and they had raised their serious concern on atrocities on Dalits. On all these occasions, the Government of India had given an assurance to the hon. Members of this House for taking effective steps to prevent atrocities on Dalits all over the country. But, what is the situation now? Day by day, atrocities on Dalits are increasing. There are a number of incidents of atrocities on Dalits which have been reported recently and in the past. I may also mention here that most of the atrocities are not reported.

The hon. Minister of State for Home, Shri I.D. Swami had given the figure in this House on 29.11.2002 that the total number of cases of atrocities committed on Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the States and Union Territories were 29,645 in the year 2000 and 29,683 in the year 2001.

The hon. Minister had also mentioned in his reply that Uttar Pradesh is on the top in case of atrocities with a total number of 7,408 cases in the year 2000, and 8,191 cases in the year 2001. The other States are Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Bihar and Gujarat which are also coming in the list of atrocities. I am not going into the details, but I have mentioned some of the incidents which had recently happened in the country.

Everybody mentioned here about the five Dalits who were lynched and burnt to death in front of the police station at Jhajjar in Haryana, so also, there is another incident. Three Dalits students at Delhi University's top ranking Hindu College were battered with fists and beaten with rods. The local police station was reluctant to file the complaint. These types of incidents mostly happen in the North India. In the northern part of India, the atrocity on Dalits is very high when compared to the southern part of the country.

I am telling this based on a report. The entire Dalit population of a village in Gujarat's Amereli district was

subjected to an economic boycott. No water supply was given to them. No essential commodities were given to them. No employment was given to them. No freedom was given to them to leave the village. The District Collector did nothing. This happened at a village in Amreli district of Gujarat.

Then the incident that took place in the Betul district of Madhya Pradesh was also reported in the newspaper. A woman member of the Panchayat was raped by the upper caste men and she was paraded naked with bells tied around her neck. This type of atrocity is going on in different States.

Sir, 55 years after India claimed for itself the status of a modern nation, State based on equality of citizenship, one-fifth of its population remains subjected to the tyranny of tradition, a tradition which rates cows higher than some human beings. It is a tradition that laughs in the face of modern laws that were designed to punish those who perpetrated.

The barbaric treatment meted out to the Dalits in India is encapsulated in the recommendation made by the National Human Rights Commission in its first report of 21st century. It says that the Government of India should undertake comprehensive steps to root out 'untouchability'. The Constitution of India, which came into effect in 1950, abolished untouchability. But like all the other laws meant for prevention of atrocities and protecting civil and human rights, article 17 is also not up to the mark.

So, in many parts of India, while Dalits work in the land owned by the upper caste people, they still cannot draw water from the same well or bathe in the same pond as they do. They cannot drink from the same glass as a higher caste person even at a tea shop or worship in the same temple. In most of the places, they cannot even cremate the dead at the same burning ghat as a caste Hindu. Both in life and death, they are untouchable. It is because of the arrogant power of the upper caste groups who attack or even kill the Dalits with impunity whenever they perceive a threat to their 'way of life'. This is reflected in the rising graph of physical crimes—assault, murder and rape—committed against the Dalits across the country.

The Dalits are asserting their claims to rights that are constitutionally guaranteed to them. There is a ferocious backlash from the upper caste people. However, it appears to suggest that the constitutional guarantees for their protection against atrocities are not worth the paper written. At the same time, our lawmakers cannot be faulted because over the years, they have put in

place enough legislation to guide a society towards civilisation.

We have the Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1959, the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989 and the Protection of Human Rights Act, 1993 on the basis of which the NHRC was set up. They seem to have made little differences to the position of *dalits*. The fact of the matter is that the increase in levels of violence against *dalits* signifies that the law simply does not work.

The issue of land allotments to *dalits* is very important. There are lakhs and lakhs of *dalits* in the country who are landless. Thousands of acres of land are available with the State Governments but the State Governments are not taking any steps for allotting land to *dalits*. Without land, how can they live in this country? Therefore, I urge upon the Government to take steps to allot land to *dalits*.

In this twenty-first century, lakhs of *dalits* do not have houses. The Government has introduced several schemes for the *dalits*, for construction of their houses but most of the State Governments are diverting funds meant for the *dalits*. This is a serious problem. The Government of India must look into this.

At various places in the country, *dalit* communities are facing acute poverty and starvation. A number of *dalits* are dying due to starvation. Therefore, the Government of India must introduce free rationing for *dalits*.

Unemployment is an acute problem being faced by *dalits*. The Government of India and the State Governments have banned recruitments. The policy of various State Governments is to reduce the strength of employees in various sectors. Everybody knows, this would affect *dalits* the most. The Government of India is taking up disinvestment of public sector undertakings. The disinvestment has adversely affected *dalits*. The *dalit* communities are getting the benefit of reservation. If the public sector undertakings were to go to the private sector, the unemployment position of *dalits* would become very acute and would go from bad to worse. In the circumstances, the Government of India should take urgent steps to fill up the backlog vacancies at the earliest. The Government of India also has to take steps for special recruitment of *dalits* in the Services and paramilitary forces.

In Kerala, the tribals are agitating for getting forest land. The Chief Minister of Kerala Shri A.K. Antony had discussions with tribal leaders. During those discussions,

the Government of Kerala assured the tribal leaders that they would be given one to five acres of land each and the strike was called off by the Adivasi Gothra Maha Sabha in Trivandrum...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please try to conclude now.

SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH: Sir, this is very important because just now an hon. Member from the CPI (M) had raised this issue. They are trying to blame the Government of Kerala. I am trying to put the right position here. Please allow me to do that.

After the decision taken by the Government of Kerala, some steps have been taken and about 1,500 hectares of land are to be distributed very shortly. The Government of Kerala has requested the Government of India to give clearance for forest land to be given to the *Adivasis* but the Ministry of Environment and Forests of the Government of India has rejected the State Government's request.

There is an agricultural farm at Aralam, where there are more than 3,000 hectares of uncultivated land. The State Government has requested the Central Government to give the land to them for passing it on to the tribals but the Government of India is yet to decide whether it has to be given to the Government of Kerala. At the same time, the MPs of CPI (M) from Kerala have objected to this transfer of uncultivated land to the Government of Kerala for distribution among the *adivasis*. The Government of Kerala has taken steps for early distribution of forest land to the *adivasis*...*(Interruptions)*

Sir, it is a very important issue. It is a national issue...*(Interruptions)*

Hon. Chief Minister of Kerala had written several letters to the Government of India for the release of forest land. But the hon. Minister of Environment and Forests, Shri T.R. Baalu, refused the Kerala Government's request and he had written several letters to the Chief Minister of Kerala for eviction of encroachers from the forest land. But some tribals forcefully entered the forest in Muttanga in Wynandu District in Kerala. The forest land of Muttanga is a wild life sanctuary area. The entire area of this forest land comes under the Forest Conservation Act...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please conclude.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH: Sir, I am concluding...*(Interruptions)* Everybody knows that it is very

[Shri Kodikunnil Suresh]

difficult to get this forest land. A group of *adivasis* constructed homes and they cut the trees. The Government of Kerala warned the tribal leaders to vacate immediately from the forest land in Muttanga. But the tribals have not listened to the Kerala Government's request. Forty days after that the forest officials went there to evict the illegal encroachers. The tribal groups attacked the forest officials. Finally, the police force reached there and tried to evict the tribals from Muttanga. There are some terrorist groups behind the *Adivasis* and they attacked the police...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, neither a Member of BSP which is ally of BJP and whose supreme is Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh participated in this serious discussion nor any member was present here. It means it corroborates my statements that atrocities on dalits is maximum in Uttar Pradesh...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Still some has to speak.

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: It should be recorded that the Bahujan Samaj Party is not serious on issue of dalit atrocity.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Is any other Member of your party except you is present here? It is not right to say so. It is not right to quote any party's name. Another Member will speak if he is not present here.

SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH: Sir, please give me two more minutes.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You conclude with a last sentence.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH: One police constable was brutally attacked and killed. This police constable was a Scheduled Caste. Again the tribals tried to kill another police constable and immediately after that police had to fire and one tribal was killed. Police used *lathi* charge also and several tribal people were injured.

Sir, the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes National Commission visited the place and they submitted the Report to the Government of India...*(Interruptions)* Now, the National Human Rights Commission has asked the details about Muttanga incident. The Government of Kerala told the Commission that it would extend all cooperation in the inquiry about the Muttanga incident. But CPM led LDF is trying to politicise the issue. They,

want political mileage. Therefore, they are misleading the House everyday. The CPM is indulging in false propaganda about the incident. When CPM led LDF ruled in the State, not a single piece of land was given to the tribals. They do not have moral right to speak about the tribals in Kerala.

Sir, with these few words, I conclude my speech.

SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI: Sir, my hon. friend, Shri Kodikunnil Suresh, was referring about the tribal unrest in Kerala. He was telling that tribals were arrested by some terrorists. Some violent people supported them. In fact, it is in everybody's knowledge that the tribals are in the receiving end throughout the country. They are the victims.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing objectionable will go in the record. I will look into it.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR (Sagar): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, thank you very much. After a long time a serious debate is coming up in the House on the issue of atrocity being done on dalits. A number of Members participated in this debate. I would like to thank all of them also. Really, it is a very serious issue. It is a truth that dalits have been accepted always.

Honourable Gehlotji has rightly said that so many debates have been accomplished on several issues through the Calling Attention and the Adjournment Motions during last fifteen years but after such a long time first time a debate taken placed on dalit problems and several honourable Members have participated in it.

I said that dalits have been accepted always. I would like to cite one-two incidents of my area.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I belong to Sagar district. There is a dalit widow Phoolabai at Billaura village in Sagar district. She was not having any source of income. So she took to her husband's business and started earning by shoe polishing at small shop near bus stand but influential people demolished her small shop and constructed cemented RCC structure by encroaching that site. Now that lady was not having any source of income. That lady went to district administration and initiative has been taken. There is another similar incident of a twelve years old dalit girl of Barata village who was raped. When they went to register report, they were forced to run away. A T.V. journalist of Sagar came to me with her. I

said to the SP that dalit girl belonged to a poor family and she did not have any money. She was not educated and her report could not be registered due to these things. We are public representatives and we see that such type of incidents occur frequently. I would like to say regarding one more thing. There was a fourth grade employee Shri Mohan Lal Kori. Employee Shri Mohan Lal Kori at Bina of my Parliamentary constituency and district administrative officer asked him to do a job by taking a bribe of twenty thousand rupees through him. The work was not done under his pressure for which work was to get done and he prepared to note to commit suicide and he committed suicide. When his family went to his room, they found a note. T.I. did not write regarding these incident against officer. The information about incident was given to SP but it was said that a person cannot be declared accused of murder by simple mentioning of his name. It has been observed that such types of incidents frequently occur in the dalit society. Several schemes are worked out for dalits but still they have not been implemented. Dalits are being fooled but in reality these schemes becomes idle for them. Dr. Jatiya is sitting here. He knows that scholarship is given to Scheduled Caste or Scheduled Tribe students but a scam of fourteen crore rupee was exposed during last three years. Attention of honourable Minister has been drawn in this regard and his reply has also been received and I thank him for that. But after registering so many people's complain the Government says that investigation is being done but not a single criminal has been penalised as on date. When it is said that investigation is on, I wonder on its time limit. If Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe people will not get justice then scheme will remain simply on record.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we got achievement in the field of software, computer and communication but what is going on with the dalits. Whether development model of our country will be like that. Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay had said that unless most underprivileged person of the society gets to shelter to live, food to eat, medicine for ailment, education for his children, it cannot be said that our society is going ahead. Unless dalit society will not progress, we will not go ahead with firm determination. We are not going to achieve success.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak.

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (Pandharpur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I wonder how I should start. Today, a debate is going on in this august House on atrocities being done on dalit society. There are 544 Members in this House and eight Member of ruling party and eleven members from opposition out of them are present here.

If atrocities are being committed on dalit society and all people have sympathy on it then some measures will have to be taken to check these atrocities.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, presently the Ramayana is being viewed in the language of Indonesia there and here the Ramayana of atrocities being done on dalits is going on. The presence of honourable Prime Minister and Deputy Prime Minister was necessary here. The Government are taking it rightly. Honourable Prime Minister should have responded on the issue of atrocities being done on dalits. We respect honourable Swamiji and Satyanarayan Jatiyajee but you people do not respect us. That is the problem and that's why atrocities are being done on dalit society.

"Dalit Atyachar ka mai suna raha hoon apko kissa,

Ab to de do aap dalito ko unka hissa,

Agar Hame Hamara hak nahi milega,

To tumhara raaj jada din tak nahi chalega,

Dalito ke ghar agar yaha jalte rahenge,

dalito ka sansar gaon mitty me milte rahenga,

poor desa me dalito ka khoon roze bahta rahega,

to is desa me dalit atyachar kyo Sahta Rahega,

Agar ek din dalit jag Uthege,

To Atyachar ka raj yahan jaroor mitega.

I meant to say regarding eradication of atrocities being done on dalit society because you are in the Government and power. It is not important as to what is happening since fifty years and what are you doing since for years. The root cause of these atrocities are in the Manusmriti. I am not talking about any religion. If you like the Manusmriti, it's O.K. But the Vanashram system came in our country through the Manusmriti and thereafter untouchability came. It affects self-respect of human being and to crush the self-respect is therein its fabric.

So, I say that whoever is in power are Hindu. At least seventy five percent to eighty percent people are Hindus in our country. If we are Hindus then either it is BJP or Congress party or Samajwadi party or any other party or parties are taking about the same thing. You are talking of ending casteism and atrocities being done on dalits but would you follow party's instruction for this purpose. You are interested in bringing Ramraj. But Lord Ram was not in favour of casteism. You are follower of Lord Rama. You are going to construct Temple. You are spoiling the ethos of Lord Rama. So there is no use to



[Shri Ramdas Athawale]

construct a temple. If you have to bring Ramrajya in true sense then you will have to end casteism and Varashram system.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the efforts should be made to take those people to task, the villages of whom witness atrocities on dalits. I do not say you hang there, but we need to think to put an end to the typical mentality and feudalism. There is no need to debate like this. Such debates go every year in every assembly and the Parliament on this issue. An incident happens and we start discussing. Mahatma Gandhiji has said to end casteism and to crush that mentality. Baba Saheb Ambedkarji has said through the Indian Constitution that social and economical justice should be provided. We get freedom and we expect political benefit of freedom. We got political benefit. Which type of programme we are going to bring for social and economic equality. You people enact law and it is necessary to set right bureaucracy because bureaucratic has to implemented it. It is necessary to set right the persons who violate the law. But the law offenders are setting you right. The persons who are not implementing the law properly are chastising you. So unless we do unite we cannot set them right and the most underprivileged persons will be deprived of justice.

We are rich and we have been Members of Parliament or held the post of Minister for five years. We have struggled and today when atrocities are committed on us, we have initiated a movement in Maharashtra and rest of the country to combat such atrocities. It is not that atrocities are committed everyday but whenever such incidents do take place we answer them back, we have the might to pay back in the same coin but we do not want to divide the country. Dharm Sansad in Delhi is seeking to create Hindustan. If they seek to create Hindustan, we will demand to create dalitsthan, Christendom or Islamistan, but we will not do so. Then why do you seek to create Hindustan. India should be sustained as India. I do not know about others but we respect the Hindus of India. You also should respect us and launch an effective programme to put an end to atrocities committed on dalits. If you will not do so then you would lose power and we will get it. You should take this kind of initiative. Discussion on the issue is not enough to change the mentality of the society. Here questions are raised as to what is happening in Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra or UP. The situation is same everywhere, atrocities are committed everywhere. MPs from the ruling side and from our side are not serious about this, 118 constituencies are represented by MPs belonging to SC and ST communities and most of them

are not present here, it is not a good thing. Efforts should be made to put an end to casteism. People label each other as chamar or jatav, castes such as Mahang and Chamar exist in our state Maharashtra also. You people are responsible for creating all these castes. You should set this right. I will tell Swamiji that your social justice Ministry is not going to do much good because we make laws and break them too. This is your job. You speak truth and you are a poet. You are Mr. Narayan which literally means God. But you are a modern God. You have the power so you should formulate programmes so that everyone gets justice in the society and dalits should be permitted to keep arms in the villages where atrocities are committed against them. If we have the gun then it will deter people who commit atrocities against dalits. It is necessary to permit dalits to keep arms. We have to make concerted efforts to prevent incidents of atrocity as have taken place in Jhajjar, Belchi, Peepli, Marathwad and Kondumpatti. Five dalits were killed in Jhajjar. They were skinning the cow. Who can skin the cow? We are used to it. We are skinning the cow not human beings. If you do not want us to do this then you do the job of skinning the cow. But you will not do so as you say that cow is a sacred animal. It is not so far us then why should not we do so. We need to put an end to this.

It is our demand that each family should be given five acres of land. Our party started a movement in Maharashtra and other 22 States of the country but the Government has agreed to give one acre of land to each family. This is not sufficient. If you want the upliftment of dalits then they should be given reservation in private sector too. Posts of judges should also be reserved. Supreme Court and High Courts should have judges from our community. It is essential to provide a right of some kind for this. The Government should seriously consider our demands. As far as the BSP is concerned, Sumanji, Samajwadi Party leader has also spoken.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, they may do as they please. They have formed the alliance. Mayawati become the Chief Minister by forming an alliance, we might have done the same thing had we wanted so. I only want to say that we have entered the field of politics to follow Babasaheb Ambedkar's values. It is everybody's responsibility to prevent atrocities against dalits...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Athawaleji, please conclude.

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am concluding.

"Ladai hum ladtei hain age tum barhte ho,  
Ladai tum karte ho, hum martein hain

Jahain se tum chalte ho, wahan hamare ghar jalate hain  
Isi tarh key kaam karte rahoge unche vama ke logon  
Hamein kab tak satate rahoge, hum kab tak tumhein  
Atyachar kee kahaniyan sunate rahenge."

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is not good for this House. We are one nation. We have to unite to teach Pakistan a lesson. Sumanji, you will not be in the power for long. Only one and a half year is left. You can run the Government the way you fancy during this time.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Athawaleji, please confine yourself to atrocities against dalits.

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir atrocities against dalits should be stopped and I conclude with these words.

SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE (Malegaon): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, very important discussion is going on in the House on the issue of prevention of atrocities being committed on dalits. I am grateful to you for giving me an opportunity to express my views on this issue. The Backward class is extremely backward in the social, political and economic areas. Various hon. Members have expressed their views on this issue. I would not like to take more time and would like to express my views in brief.

Sir, in its decision the Supreme Court has held that the children of backward class should pay equal fee for getting higher education as is being paid by the students belonging to general category and their marks should be equal to those in general category for taking admission in various courses. It seems to me from the decision of the Supreme Court that students belonging to backward class would not get higher education. The same problem emerged three years back, then our Panth-Pradhan heard our views for three days and after comprehensive discussion the Panth-Pradhan, showing special interest, solved the problem and the same problem has again emerged now. Therefore, I request the Government of India and the State Governments that immediate steps should be taken to solve this problem.

Sir, hon. Prakash Ambedkar Ji and other hon. Members of the House have mentioned the other problem that Forest Act, 1980 is providing a major obstacle in the development of the tribals. Due of Forest Act, 1980 problems are being faced to provide telephone and electricity facilities to the tribals.

22.00 hrs.

Development activities launched by the Department of Tribal Affairs have come to a standstill. I, through you, urge upon the Government of India that schedule may please be relaxed and this law should be amended. This law is very hostile to the tribals, therefore, it is necessary to make suitable amendments in it. The State Government has asked the Government of India to furnish the data of the land encroached from the years 1972 to 1978. A decision has been taken in this regard. Therefore, I request the Government of India to meet his demand. Sir, majority of the big dams relate to the Department of Tribal Affairs. The rehabilitation work of tribals is not done promptly and therefore, they are rendered landless. The government do not have money, they do not make payment timely and they fail to get optimum facility. My submission is that these facilities should be provided to these people.

Sir, it is also necessary that the Department of Tribal Affairs should provide facilities such as electricity, water education and medicines. The government should manage to import teaching to the persons belonging to the backward class. Grants should be provided to them to run their schools, because in the absence of grant it is very difficult for them to run the schools. The Department of Tribal Affairs should provide grant to these people to run the schools. My submission is that education should be imparted to the people belonging to Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and backward classes.

SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT (Nandurbar): Sir, we are also here to express our views on this issue...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Jatiya ji is to intervene now, you can speak thereafter.

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, through discussion, hon. Members have drawn the attention of the House towards various issues and important things. Definitely we people are committed to whatever is said in the Preamble of the Constitution of India. The Preamble of the Constitution reads as: "We, The People of India, having solemnly resolved to constitute India into a Sovereign Socialist Secular Democratic Republic and to secure to all its citizens: Justice, social, economic and political; Liberty of thought, expressions, belief, Faith and worship....." We are instructed to follow the principles of Justice, Liberty, Equality and Fraternity. This debate is about humanity which is a vast issue. Article 17 of the Constitution of India reads as: "Untouchability is abolished and its practice

[Dr. Satyanarayan Jatiya]

in any form is forbidden". It is mentioned in the Constitution that untouchability should be abolished. Right to Equality is a fundamental right. There should not be discrimination on the basis of religion, race, caste, sex or place of birth. Equality and Justice both are important issues, through which an hon. Member has expressed his views recently.

You know that our country has vast population. Government schemes are formulated for the welfare of people. The Ministry, while formulating all these schemes, makes provision in the budget. This debate is going on for a long period, however, it would be proper to inform that as per the budget provisions of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment Rs. 745.75 crore were allocated in 1999-2000 which were enhanced to Rs. 944.82 crore in 2002-2003. Definitely, we have made an effort to enhance the budget. Moreover, Post Matric Scholarship is very important scheme in the field of education. Awareness comes through education. An education person knows what are his rights in his capacity as a citizen of India. We started a scholarship scheme. Central assistance of Rs. 41.53 crore was released to the states in 1997-98 which has been enhanced to Rs. 159.27 crore in 2001-2002. We have started innovatives in the field of educational budget and scholarships.

Last year we had announced a new scholarship on Ambedkar Jayanti and we announced a new scholarship for the students belonging to SC and ST categories. We have introduced incentive scheme to grant scholarship to the student who drop their study due to financial constraints. Under this scheme a scholarship of Rs. 60 thousand, Rs. 50 thousand and Rs. 40 thousand is granted to those children who get first, second and third position in the board exams. If the candidate securing such a position is a girl, she is given an additional amount of Rs. 40 thousand.

Keeping in view the population of scheduled castes and scheduled tribes in the states we have made provision of an additional scholarship of Rs. 10-10 thousand. In this way, we have introduced a new scholarship scheme. We have granted that scholarship this year.

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, my submission is that Jatiya Sahib has informed us that these schemes are good and amount has been allocated for the various schemes being run for the welfare of scheduled castes and scheduled tribes. Various State Governments could not spend the amount of Rs. 900 crore during the ninth five year plan which was allocated for the welfare of dalits. In the meeting of the Advisory

Committee, I requested you many times that to ascertain whether the amount allocated to the State Governments is utilized properly or not, we should evolve a mechanism. The schemes are good, you are also allocating amount, but if the said amount is not spent for those to whom it has been allocated, then what would be its utilization?

DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: I have adequate data to substantiate all these things. The issues discussed are not petty issues, keeping in view the time that has been given to me to explain all these things, I would like to inform you that we have introduced 'Educational Vision' a new scholarship scheme. We have introduced incentive scheme after the name of Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar. We know that the poor get poor quality of education and the rich get quality education. We have drafted a scheme to provide an amount equivalent to that of public school fee to the brilliant students of scheduled caste category so that they can get quality education. We are drafting a scheme for setting up residential schools and hostels for these children. We want to do all these things keeping in view the academic upliftment. I would like to present the data pertaining to our efforts being made in the direction of economic upliftment. There is a national Scheduled Caste Finance Development Corporation for this purpose. The corporation sanctioned loans to 18,825 beneficiaries during the year 1999-2000 due to implementation of new small financing scheme and this figure has reached during the year 2000-01 to 52 thousand as against the figure of 18 thousand. Thereafter this figure increased to 76,295 in the year 2001-02. On the whole, we want to benefit the maximum number of people out of our limited resources. Under small financing scheme, the people who are engaged in small business i.e. earn their living by pulling carts, sell their goods on the road side, run small provisional store or want to run their traditional business and now being provided loans at 5% rate of interest.

I have got lots of information regarding special component plan, special central assistance etc. The special component plan, depend on the budget of State Governments and budgetary provisions have been made keeping in view budget available with the respective state governments. Therefore arrangements should be made to spend the amount on the people belonging to Scheduled castes...*(Interruptions)* I will also explain the central scheme, and assistance as well. I have got the information of both. It will be better if you have patience. I can conclude in haste also. I can reply if you wish. Budgetary provisions should be made on the basis of their percentage vis-a-vis the total population of the state. Some of the states have worked in the direction of meeting that ratio while some of the states have not

taken measures to spend the amount under the special component plan in that population. Now I do not want to raise any controversy by naming the states.

I have got the State-wise details regarding special central assistance. On that front we have provided special assistance to every state. Data upto 29th January are available with me. We take pains to fulfill that gap by providing that assistance. It is the responsibility of the states to make special component plans in their states. In most of the states, generally funds are provided to several such Ministries by identifying the requirements. In reality that amount should be made available to the Ministries responsible for implementing the scheme pertaining Scheduled Castes and see that money is spent. This system is wanted in many of the states. If this system is put into application, the whole amount will be available for the welfare of Scheduled Castes or else, this amount is spent in other departments and its claimed that the expenditure has been incurred on the basis of special component plans. All the matters here are such and confers on everyone an opportunity to work in that direction. We quite know that naming castes, expressing words etc. do not depend on feelings. This is based on reality, because in actual practice we see that this gap ought to be plugged in. We have to make endeavours for it...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to make a humble submission through you the Hon'ble Minister that this issue has not been raised once but at several occasions. It is the responsibility of the States to spend the money allocated by the Govt., of India in the Welfare of weaker sections and submit a utilisation certificate but utilization certification are not furnished by various states. Secondly at times this also comes into our notice that the amount allocated for this purpose is spent on the other heads. We have asked the Govt. of India to devise some mechanism to monitor them. It needs to be ascertained them. Whether this amount reaches them or not. Whatever amount you allocate it is of no use if the same does not reaches prospective beneficiaries. I would like to ask Jatia Sahib through you that during the 9th Five Year Plan, a sum of Rs. 900 crore was to be spent on the welfare of weaker sections. It did not see the height of the day. What are the reasons therefore? Whether it is proposed to set up any such surveillance Committee or will have some Central control over to check the misuse of funds?

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Let his intervention be complete. After that if there is any clarifications, I will

allow that Shri I.D. Swamy will reply to the debate. In case there is any clarification on this intervention and if the hon. Minister has the details then I will allow you.

[*Translation*]

DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: You are aware that whatsoever aid is released from here, utilisation certificates are furnishing for that. If utilization certificates are not furnished then it becomes difficult for us to release the amount and we have made state with allocation of Central Assistance for the special component plan. If you wish, I can furnish details about the extent of utilization...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Jatia Sahib, the question is not of data, the issue relates to the submission of utilization certificates. This causes loss to the weaker sections. Please state. What sorts of steps are being taken to control it?

[*English*]

SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH: What is the amount that you are releasing to the States?...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Funds are allocated to the State Govt.. State Govts. do not utilize them. The benefits do not reach the poor. What is the use of that money? We just want to know whether Govt. will do something to have control over State Governments so that the money is utilized by them in the right earnest...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI: Sir, today we are discussing atrocities on *Dalits*. The hon. Minister was explaining about the welfare measures initiated with regard to education, employment and giving figures about rapes and murders and such other things.

Sir, my simple question is that all these doles and support that he is speaking about is not being given from today these were there even during the time of the Viceroy. The Congress Government followed this and these were given by successive Governments. My specific question is, do you have any innovative programme to assist the people in an honest way, in transparent manner to arrest the atrocities against the *Dalits* forthwith? Do you have any programme? You please tell us about that.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: This is just an intervention. The hon. Minister of State for Home, Shri. ID. Swamy will reply to the debate.

[Translation]

DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: Last year we held a meeting with the Secretaries of the State Governments and took stock of the facilities being extended or activities carried out by us from here. Such type of arrangements exist in the ministry. We have been reminding the State Governments continuously about the atrocities, that the laws in this respect should be implemented. Last year on 26th March and 14 July I myself have requested all the CMs and others were reminded by us on 26th August, 19th September and 26th September to help in checking such type of atrocities. We know for sure implementing something correspondence, discussion and negotiations between the Central Govt., and the State Government are an important instrument. We attempt to fully exhaust the facilities and resources available with us to enforce it. During the discussion whatever suggestions have been advanced. I have note them systematically. We would make endeavours to take more measures from time to time in order to implement them. I would like to request all the Members present in the House that the issue on which consensus has emerged and is a concern for all of us should be addressed by our collective efforts. Since I am aware that your suggestions are based on your own experience and if those experiences are propitiating you to desire further way outs then you will certainly sit together for finding them out. I express my gratitude to you and to the House for giving me an opportunity to place this issue.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Muniyappa, you can ask this question when the hon. Minister of State for Home Affairs give his reply. The Social Justice Minister has just intervened. The main reply for the debate will be given by the hon. Minister, Shri I.D. Swami.

SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH: I want to ask a clarification from the Minister for Social Justice.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You can seek the clarification from the hon. Home Minister.

SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA: We have submitted some of our points when we spoke on the subject. I want to know from the hon. Minister for Social Justice regarding the starting of new residential schools of the type of Navodaya Schools. What is the Government doing on this? Secondly, some States have not spent the funds properly. They have even diverted the funds elsewhere, you know which are those States. Thirdly, the hon. President, while addressing both Houses of Parliament in the year 2002 mentioned that in 48 districts of the country,

less than three to five per cent of Scheduled Castes girls are educated. What steps has the Government taken in this regard?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, you can give the information if you have it.

[Translation]

DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: As stated by me about residential school a scheme for that purpose has already been sent. We are awaiting its approval. We have a scheme to build girls hostels. We are making efforts to build and maintain girls schools and hostels. I am prepared to reply his questions whatever they might be. He can do that through correspondence also.

SHRI RAMANAND SINGH (Satna): Mr. Speaker, Sir, a very serious issue is being discussed. Several hon. Members participated in this debate till late night. I know that I do not have much time. The root cause of this problem exists in our social and economic system. Unless the system of casteism in Hindu religion is not eradicated, these types of atrocities will not come to an end. It has been continuing for thousand of years. Our saints and several scholars have expressed their views in this regard. Mahatma Gandhi during freedom movement. ...*(Interruptions)* Sumanji please listen I will conclude shortly.

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: I know you. You and me have been in socialist Party for a long time. Now you are in a wrong party. I understand your views.

SHRI RAMANAND SINGH: In 1923 Mahatma Gandhi appointed Khende Ram, a harijan as president of the Food Committee of Sabarmati Ashram. You imagine the type of society we had at that time. At that time Gandhiji took that step deliberately. Considering the required changes in the society which were needed for the progress of our country Mahatma Gandhi prepared on 18 point programme of Sabarmati Ashram in which he talked about abolition of untouchability upliftment of untouchables and inter caste marriages to end casteism.

Perhaps the House might be aware that Sarojini Naidu was a daughter of Chattopadhyaya. She married to a Naidu. Gandhiji had got married his Devadas with Chakravarty Rajgopalachary, who was a brahmin. It was an inter-caste marriage. Gandhi ji had said that I will pay compliments to those couple who will do intercaste marriage. The Chakraborty Rajgopalachary came forward and he married his daughter, Laxmi with Gandhjee's son. Indira Gandhiji also married with Firoze Gandhi with the

blessings of Mahatma Gandhi, Sucheta Kriplani got married with Acharya Kriplani.

The hon. Minister, you are the Minister of Social Justice. So you bring a proposal suggesting the states to persuade intercaste marriages. Make arrangements for providing jobs to those couple who do inter caste marriage. Only then society will progress. I would like to ask, what are we doing to root out untouchability and inequality? We are building castles in the air. We say that so many schools and hostels have been opened. I would like to ask whether these things will change the social system?

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is true that corruption is spreading. Hon. Ramvilas Paswan has rightly pointed out that the *dalit* people and their names are being burnt.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: This will not go on record.

...(Interruptions)\*

[Translation]

SHRI RAMANAND SINGH: When king and feudal people will be Chief Ministers then how the feudal system will come to an end. It is right that the Congress party has also done a lot for the dalit people and the Chief Minister of Maharashtra is a dalit. The Congress party has also done a lot for social and economic change but sometimes such situations also arise.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to say to the Hon'ble Minister that he also belongs to the dalit society and is one of the ablest minister. Baba Saheb Bhim Rao Ambedkarji framed such an excellent and great constitution that you can not change a single word. But it is a matter of discussion why that type of towering personality had to adopt Budhism by relinquishing Hinduism in 1955-56. He had said that he had realised that he will not get justice and respect as long as he is a Hindu. Now-a-days there is a great conflict in the Indian social system. Now the educated children of dalits are not prepared to tolerate humiliation. This challenge needs to be considered seriously.

You might remember that the English also talked of giving a separate place for the Harijans. At that time Gandhiji had to go off a fast and Baba Saheb Bhim Rao Ambedkar showing his greatness got his fast broken and while converting his religion he adopted Budhism. He obliged Hinduism a lot but even now Hinduism is not recognising his greatness. Today BJP people are stopping

conversion...(Interruptions) I am your friend. I am speaking so that the people of this side and that side also get changed. Change will only come when good people will be in power.

I had made a law in Madhya Pradesh to end scavenger system...(Interruptions) When I was the Minister of Forest, I had given three wheel cart, gloves and scrapers to the scavengers and bamboos costing rupees two for 20 paise only. I had distributed twenty lakhs acres of waste land to the dalit people of Madhya Pradesh. We will have to think how their present economic condition can be improved. Today influential people have hold on land and scheduled caste and scheduled tribe people are wandering here and there. The people who have got service are in some good position. What is the condition of rest of the Dalit people? They are earning their livelihood by picking burnt words. They are labouring but even then their survival in the society is very tough. The Government of Atalji have taken many steps. He has formed a separate Ministry for Scheduled Tribe people. More funds have been given to the Ministry of Social Justice. He has appointed eleven Ministers in the Cabinet belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribe people. He had constituted a separate commission for the SC and ST people. Besides these words he adopted the message of great old saints and social reformers like Kabir Dadoo, Dhaniya, Nanak. If the Hindu religion will remain unchanged in the twenty first century then the Hindu religion will not be benefited simply by blaming the conversion. Unless the dalit people are not treated on equal footing, discrimination of high and low is not ended, a new society will not emerge and we will not be able to face the challenge of twenty first century. By making a law in this direction we should march forward for social change.

SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT (Nandurbar): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the matter pertaining to atrocities on Dalits is being discussed in the House for the last 6-7 hours. Basically Dalits are subjected to three types of injustices/atrocities i.e. social, economical and educational. Many speakers have already dwelt on social injustice and atrocity. I, therefore, do not want to spend much time on that subject. The dalits and tribals of this country have full right to live like a human being and they should be allowed to live respectfully. Only this much is my prayer.

I associate myself with the views expressed by our friend Rashtrapal ji and Prakash Ambedkarji with regard to social injustice. But 30 percent population of our country belongs to dalits and tribals. My request to Government of India is that allocation of funds in budget should be

\*Not recorded.

[Shri Manikrao Hodlya Gavit]

commensurate their population. Hon. Minister have given figures required for imparting education and bringing social reforms among dalits and tribals. In terms of percentage they are not getting more than 2 or 3 percent of Budget allocation. Unless it is stepped—up to 30 percent, their economic condition can not be improved.

Sardar Sarovar project is being constructed in my constituency. Tribal dominated villages of Gujarat, Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh have submerged in water. It is also a gross injustice. It is mentioned in the Award of Sardar Sarovar Project that they would be rehabilitated, they would be allocated land and irrigation facilities would be provided, but nothing is being done. A gross injustice is being meted out against tribals. I request that Government of India should take it seriously.

Secondly, so far as the question of reservation is concerned it is also not reaching them fully. I am a Member of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes Welfare Committee. We have held meetings with the officers of the Undertaking under Government of India and under the State Government. We have met them, but the percentage of reservation quota is not being filled up completely. We have seen that bogus people are taking the advantage of this percentage. The members belonging to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes are suffering economic losses. The attention of the government is required to be paid towards it. As I told that the condition of the tribals of Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat and Maharashtra is very bad due to construction of Sardar Sarovar Project. Lakhs of hectare of land in Gujarat state is likely to get water. Water is needed to be arranged on the land meant for their rehabilitation. Whenever I raise this question it is always evaded on the pretext that it is a State subject. I am to say that tribals are being subjected to gross injustice. It should not happen. Besides, it, education-wise also they are suffering exploitation. The Government of India and the State Government have opened various medical colleges, engineering colleges and big veterinary colleges wherein reservation quota is available for SCs and the STs candidates. But those seats are never filled. If the quota is not filled then how these people will become doctors, lawyers or engineers. The social welfare department and Department of Tribal Affairs should pay their attention towards it.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, hon. Members have expressed their views here. I was to speak on other issues also, but due to paucity of time. I would not be able to get more time. Therefore, I request only this much that Government of India should pay their attention towards social injustice, atrocities on dalits and educational and economic exploitation of dalits.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, 32 hon. Members have participated in this long discussion. Shri Sumanji and Shri Paswanji had moved this motion. I am thankful to all of them for their suggestions. They pointed out the deficiencies of the system and gave suggestions for its improvement. I am saying this because there is an impression that the Government is not serious in this regard, I have noted each and every thing and our Minister of Social Justice, Shri Jatia has spoken about the welfare activities in brief. But the main issue has been atrocities on dalits our constitution makers had already made provisions of safeguards made in articles 15(2), 17, 25 (2B). It was decided to implement article 17 and ways and means were considered to take steps economically, socially, politically and legally. All the Governments have done work in this regard from time to time.

Apart from this, there are numerous articles like articles 330, 332, 335, 338, 339, 341 and 342 in which provisions for reservation, provision in services and for constituting National Commission on Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes have been given to safeguard the interests of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. In 1976 when the Protection of Civil Rights Act formulated in 1955 was amended then its provisions were made very stringent and the offences were specified as non compoundable and cognizable. The Act was formulated in 1955 and the term cognizable offence was not included in it. Then Prevention of Atrocities Act, 1989 was implemented in which provisions for special courts for conducting trials of offences and atrocities against Scheduled Castes and Scheduled tribes, solving the cases in time, getting the guilty persons convicted were made. Provisions for relief and rehabilitation of the victims were also made therein.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw your attention towards this that the Central Government is not abdicating its responsibility when we say that it is a State subject. The Union Government has adopted many measures including strict implementation of special laws, letters have been sent time and again and advice have been given to the State Governments to identify those areas, States where there are probabilities that atrocities might be committed on dalits, backward classes, scheduled castes and scheduled tribes. The State Governments have been advised to identify such areas and keep them under strict vigil and prompt action should be taken in case any such incident takes place. All these things have been done. It has been emphasized that more persons from Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and dalit families should join police force. Provision of

reservation is there but the State Governments have been cautioned repeatedly that there should be no vacancy left. Hon. Members are aware that the Government has ensured that if all the posts are not filled then the remaining ones are carried forward. Earlier if suitable persons were not available in the desired number for recruitment to the posts reserved for dalits then after trying once or twice, the posts were transferred to the General category. But now it has been decided to keep the posts in the reserved category only. If the vacancies are not filled in one go then there are arrangements to fill them next year.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, special cells should be created to deal with offences against dalits and scheduled tribes. These cells should pay special attention in this regard, special courts should be constituted. Development schemes or programmes for the empowerment of scheduled castes and scheduled tribes should be implemented with special care. A separate Ministry has been set up to deal with the issues relating to scheduled castes and scheduled tribes and apart from this, a National Commission for Scheduled Castes has been constituted. Earlier it was a National Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. Now a bill has been moved which has been referred to the Standing Committee in which provision has been made for a separate commissions for scheduled tribes. Provision has also been made for Finance Development Corporation for the economic development of SCs and STs. Special component plan has been mentioned by Shri Jatia ji and Shri Pravin Rashtrapal is also saying repeatedly that nothing has been done in this regard. I would like to state that during 2000-2001, each State was earmarked 5641.61 crore rupees for this work.

9332 crore rupees were allocated for special component plan out of which 5641 crore rupees were spent. Sumanji has requested to make arrangements for monitoring. Jatiaji has also mentioned this. The special component is monitored not only by Jatiaji's Ministry but also by the Planning Commission and the National Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. One thing has certainly been done which we will have to acknowledge. The reports of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Commission have been submitted regularly. It has been cited that the report of 1998-99 and the action taken report thereto has been presented to the Parliament but the subsequent reports have been delayed. Attention will be paid towards it as well, I would like to assure the House.

Attention had also been drawn towards the remedial measures that we had taken and the places where special

cells had been constituted. After drawing the attention the question arises whether any impact of writing letters and keeping monitoring has been there or not. For that I would like to tell that already special cells have been constituted in 17 states and in 10 states special courts have been set up and atrocities prone areas have been identified in 8 states. It is not that action has not been taken after monitoring and advice. Follow up action is taken, meetings are held and his progress has been achieved as a result of all that.

So far as institutional mechanism is concerned, for making the scheduled castes and scheduled tribes more strong both Social Justice and Empowerment Ministry and the Ministry of Tribal Affairs are working which has been briefly mentioned by him. In the present form of the Scheduled Castes and Tribes a National Commission had been constituted and thereafter National Scheduled Castes and Tribes Financial Development Corporation had been created and this Corporation has been set up in the 25 states for giving grant and loans for agriculture, allied services special area programme, irrigation, flood control and power development. In the 73rd constitutional amendment an improvement had been carried out by providing reservation for the Scheduled Castes and Tribes in the village Panchayats. In spite of all this, the fact comes to our knowledge and many Members have mentioned in this regard that the atrocities are rising. I would draw your attention towards a particular figure about the percentage of I.P.C crimes which have taken place against the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. I took up the figures of the last ten years between 1991 to 2001. The scheduled castes and tribes are 16-17 percent of the Indian population and out of them such crimes or atrocities have taken place against 1.0 per cent. Similarly so far as the Scheduled Castes and Tribes are concerned there they are 0.20 percent. Though their population is 1 percent in India but as far as the crimes and atrocities against them are concerned, that is 0.02 percent.

The hon'ble Members have mentioned about Jhajjar. I too belong to Haryana. Though Captain Sahib had explained about that, he is not present in the House.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I also would like to submit that I had given a statement about that tragedy and had given clarifications as well in both the Houses. Unfortunately, all of a sudden if such a tragic incident takes place, it should not be constructed as a wilful act. It is true that the fault was their. Those five people had been carrying hides. One of them purchased a dead cow at low price and beside the road, he started skinning that cow. Had they been doing this at some distance,



[Shri I.D. Swamy]

such an incident would not have taken place. But they started it beside the main road. I would make clear everything in this regard. I would not hide anything.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is worth mentioning about that incident that Executive Magistrate and the Deputy Commissioner at that place were of the dalit community, the commissioner of that place was also by chance of the dalit community. This incident was investigated by the Commissioner belonging to the Dalit community. Under his chairmanship an inquiry commission had been constituted. He gave a detailed report. Perhaps Haryana is the first state in the country where the report of a commission was accepted in toto. This happened for the first time in Haryana. Actions against the officers who were found guilty or showed negligence towards such incidents were taken promptly and they were chargesheeted and suspended though the incident had not taken place due to their malafide intention, corruption but only due to their negligence so they failed to inform the district authorities in time. More forces could have been called, but they took it lightly and casually. They could not expect that day being a Dusshra Festival and with people congregating, the situation would turn out of control if people get provoked. They could not anticipate that with such rumours taking rounds and huge number of people congregating, people can get provoked. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Government have given Rs. 10 lacs each to the families of the deceased. Normally no state gives Rs. 10 lacs, but the state of Haryana gave such an amount. I myself visited a victim's family. One person was of my area i.e. Karnal. I went to his home. It is true that the deceased can not come back, but the family members of the deceased expressed satisfaction on the action taken by the Government and contended that the Government took prompt and proper action. Not only this, but among the culprits detained, four were dalits. Now think yourself whether one dalit would kill other dalit. But there was misunderstanding. All of a sudden, spontaneously such a situation was created. There is no such conflict between the dalits and the non-dalits in the whole state. There is communal harmony. This has been mentioned here by several hon'ble Members in their speeches.

I think that after all these action the issue of ending economic and social exploitation and creating harmony can be achieved only if the society would come forward in this direction. The responsibility and duties of the society will be performed only if you and we i.e. the whole society will think over it. The Government are doing what they can do. The results thereof as I quoted, are coming good. That I quoted only because such a situation

has definitely been created in the country after attaining independence, after constitutional amendments, after the passage of several laws, after taking of innovative steps and after the constitution of Scheduled Caste commission to take into account the position of the scheduled castes that the situation and the conditions have turned for the better.

The incidents of atrocities that occur even now are curbed with a heavy hand. That's why all the actions for separately identifying atrocities prone areas comprising vulnerable population have been taken to keep a sharp vigil thereupon.

I think that along with the aforementioned measures, if this House comprising intellectuals, and the hon'ble Members being related with opinion makers, social reformers, and social leaders take up this issue of creating harmony in their respective constituencies, I think this problem will be completely solved. This problem will end.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, our country is a country of 100 crore people with a great history of 5 thousand years. It is a country of Rama and Krishna, Guru Nanak and Guru Govind Singh, Valmiki and Ravidas, saints and sages and having a great culture. Who says that we do not believe in God, rather we people consider everyone divine. Our country comprising these Gods, Sanyasins, Tapasvins, Gurus, Saints and Sages and having a great 5000 year old culture with 100 crore people can march forward in future. It can be done only if all of us should tell all those who are the opinion makers and have held in the society that they have only one religion and responsibility to perform i.e. to create communal harmony. The Government on it's behalf will not leave any stone unturned. I once again thank all those hon'ble Members who have participated in this discussion. We have noted all their suggestions and the shortcomings they have pointed out. We will pay attention towards them and efforts would be made that the action taken reports of the commission are presented to the Parliament promptly.

SHRIMATI SANTOSH CHOWDHARY (Phillaur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, through you I want to point out that the hon. Minister in his reply had just said that orders have been issued for recruitment of the SCs and the STs candidates in police services. Now I want to know whether criterion prescribed for the recruitment of general candidates is also applicable to the SCs and the STs candidate or whether any relaxation has been provided to them. There are the poor candidates and they do not have much financial resources to spend on maintaining their physique. It is often observed that they are rejected at the time of physical efficiency test.

SHRI I.D. SWAMI: As per my knowledge, physical test and written exams are conducted for recruitment in different services viz. para-military or police services. Relaxation is not given in the written exam, but it is provided in physical test. Not only in weight and measurement, but also in the efficiency test the candidates belonging to the SCs and STs are provided relaxation.

[English]

SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to seek two clarifications. There are a number of atrocities on Scheduled Castes during the last three years. What are the steps taken by the Union Government and the Home Ministry so far to prevent these atrocities? Have you called the Chief Ministers and the Home Ministers of the States to discuss this matter?

DOPT Memorandums were issued and withdrawn. I thank the Government and all the political parties for passing the Ninety-second Constitution (Amendment) Bill. Thereafter, it has not been implemented. It is on record. I want to know from the Ministers whether you have issued a Circular or Order to the Chief Secretaries of the State Governments to implement these five DOPT Memoranda which have been issued.

Thirdly, there is a backlog, and lakhs of vacancies are yet to be filled up in the Union Government. What are the steps taken by the Union Government to fill up those vacancies?

SHRI I.D. SWAMI: About the DOPT's Office Memoranda which were issued...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA: Five Office Memoranda were issued...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI I.D. SWAMI: Yes, this has also been discussed...*(Interruptions)* Well, we have taken note of it. But those which have been withdrawn, the instructions must have gone to the States. I do not have ready information. If not, we will ensure that the instructions go.

This Government has gone to the extent of rescinding the Supreme Court judgment regarding reservation in promotion. This has also been done by this Government though there was a lot of resentment from the other side also because very junior people, because of the reservation, become senior to those who joined earlier to them. Despite that, keeping in view the social status and the sufferings which this particular section has been going through, this has been done by amending the Constitution...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA: I thanked the Government for that but it has not been implemented. That is the point...*(Interruptions)*

23.00 hrs.

SHRI I.D. SWAMI: So far as your third question, what have I done so far, is concerned, I have already enumerated what has been done so far. But every year, it has been made an annual feature to hold the conferences of the Directors-General of Police and the Chief Secretaries of the States. The conference of Chief Ministers is also held. All these issues, along with many other issues of internal security, etc., are discussed there, and the attention of the officers is focussed on this.

SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH: Sir, I want to seek two clarifications. There is a long-pending demand for setting up of the special courts to try cases of atrocities on Dalits. What is the reaction of the Government of India?

The second one is, in the para-military forces like the CRPF, BSF and CISF, the representation of the Dalits is very less. I would like to know whether the Government of the day has considered to hold a special recruitment drive for the *Dalit* youth.

SHRI I.D. SWAMI: So far as the special courts are concerned, I have already said that exclusive special courts have already been established in 10 States.

SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH: What about the other States? In my State, there is no special court.

SHRI I.D. SWAMI: We are pursuing the matter with the other States.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: He is pursuing the matter in the other States.

SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI: It should be insisted and he did not do that.

SHRI I.D. SWAMI: We are not only pursuing it bilaterally but also, as you know, under the existing Constitutional constraints and under the existing scheme of the Constitution of India, under the Constitutional and federal set-up, we cannot go beyond a particular limit. We are observing that limit, but we are certainly pursuing the matter.

SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI: I want to know about the setting up of the special courts to try the cases. The Prevention of Atrocities on Scheduled Caste and

[Shri Dalit Ezhilmalai]

Scheduled Tribe Act is certainly within the jurisdiction of the Union Government. It can instruct the State Governments to set up the court or to nominate a particular court in such and such time. The mechanism is to be suggested by this Union Government. It depends upon the nature of the cases, and the hon. Minister was referring to that. These are not the new things that are happening for the last three or four years. This has been in vogue for several years now.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: What is your clarification?

SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI: There are 32 States in the country. According to the Minister, it is only in 10 States that the special courts have been set up and they are already existing. They purpose to set up all especial courts in eight other States. But the atrocities on *Dalits* are rampant, widespread and they are happening everywhere. Therefore, is there any mechanism, is there any direction, or is there any idea from the Union Government?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Dalit Ezhilmalai, what he says is that there are certain within which they are pursuing the cases.

SHRI I.D. SWAMI: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, 137 exclusive special courts have been set up in the States. So far as the other States are concerned, all the State Governments, except the State of Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram and Nagaland which are predominantly tribal area States, have notified the existing courts of session judge as special courts for the trial of offences under the Prevention of Atrocities on Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe Act, 1989.

SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, those were all done during the days of Shri Sitaram Kesri when he was in the Ministry of Welfare.

SHRI I.D. SWAMI: I am not saying that we have done it only yesterday. We are saying that this has been done so far by the Central Government.

SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI: This is my appeal to the hon. Minister. How many courts have been set up during this present regime? How many States are still expected to set up their own courts? What is the idea or mechanism from the Union Government to set up the special court when a woman is raped, when a group murder has taken place or when displacement is an ongoing affair?...*(Interruptions)* So, this is an honest statement from the Government. So, I am so grateful to the hon. Minister.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: He will send all these details to you.

SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI: Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. I agree with you. I am grateful to the hon. Minister as well. At least, for the last three or four years, there was no activity with regard to the setting up of special courts, particularly to try the cases. He was referring to the old courts and the information that was already available.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: He was referring to up-to-date information. Am I correct?

SHRI I.D. SWAMI: You are right.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Dalit Ezhilmalai, he has stated it in his reply. You did not hear him fully.

Mr. Minister, whatever information he has asked, you can send it to him if you do not have it now.

SHRI I.D. SWAMI: Yes, Sir.

SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI: Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I was asking about the mechanism. Is there any new methodology that they have adopted or any new innovative system that they have worked out so far? That was my question. Whatever he has said are being done from the olden times...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Do you have any methodology adopted to expedite the setting up of these courts?

SHRI I.D. SWAMI: Sir, the only methodology is that we can draw the attention of the State Governments to the provisions of the Act and advise them on the necessity for setting up of special courts. We will do that...*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister has provided information about all things. I am to say that cases pertaining to reservation in promotion etc. are pending with the Supreme Court and the High Courts despite the bonafides of the Government. We have urged you several times that there should be proper pleading in the court on behalf of the Government. A team of the competent officials comprising of the persons from the Ministry of Law, Ministry of Personnel, the Ministry held by Jatia Sahib and the Ministry of Home Affairs should be formulated to ensure that the cases pertaining to the rights and interests of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes pending in various courts are being pleaded properly.

I would like to know from the Hon. Minister that whether he proposes to evolve this type of any mechanism? Secondly, I have to request that birth centenary of great persons like Mahatma Gandhi, Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru, Maulana Abul Kalam Azad had been celebrated and continued for a year in India, whereas the birth centenary celebrations of Dr. Bhim Rao Ambedkar continued for three years. You need not tell me about this. At that time the Committee on Birth centenary celebrations worked. Besides that various sub-committees to work on other subjects like education, reservation and land reforms etc. were also constituted. The Government of India accepted the recommendations made by such committees. The Cabinet had also decided that the Government of India will implement all the recommendations made by them. In addition to it, 150 Members of Parliament had also given in writing that the Government should accept the recommendations made by the sub-committee constituted under the Committee on Dr. Bhim Rao Ambedkar Birth Centenary celebrations. There was a commitment of the Government in this regard.

Through you I would like that the Hon. Minister should clear two points. Whether the Government propose to constitute a High level Committee. I would also like to know the reasons for delay in the implementation of decision taken in the Cabinet with regard to commitment made by the Government of India following the receipt of recommendations of the sub-committee constituted during the tenure of the Committee on Dr. Bhim Rao Ambedkar Birth Centenary Celebrations?

SHRI I.D. SWAMI: The suggestion for the constitution of Departmental Committee given by you, is good one. We shall definitely ponder over it. But I may tell you that impression is that there is no convention or trial. But it is not so. I am having figures for the last 4-5 years. In the years 1998-99—2000 I.P....(*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Please do not tell us figures....(*Interruptions*)

SHRI I.D. SWAMI: We have accepted your suggestions. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: He is giving data in reply to the question asked by you.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: It is not a matter of figures. On December 9, Swamiji in his statement had said that there has been decline in the incidents of atrocities on the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes. Jatiya Sahib is present here. He had given his statement in this Parliament itself. At that Jatiya Sahib had accepted that there has been increase in the incidents of atrocities on dalits. Therefore, leave aside the outdated figures, please tell us what you are going to do further...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI I.D. SWAMI: I have earlier said about the suggestion given by you that it is a good suggestion. It will be thoroughly looked into at the earliest. I have already told you. I am giving the figures to tell you that the percentage of cases where the accused were convicted is 41 percent, 25 percent and 48 percent in different years. Therefore it is wrong to say that such cases end up without any conviction. The legal officers were deployed to plead their cases even when the Committee was not constituted. I am having the data wherein it is clear that in 41.8 percent, 26 percent and 39 percent cases in different years the accused were convicted.

[*English*]

SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH: What about the special recruitment of paramilitary forces?

SHRI I.D. SWAMI: I have already told about it.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The House now stands adjourned till 11.00 a.m. tomorrow.

23.10 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Thursday, March 13, 2003/Phalgun 22, 1924 (Saka)*

---

© 2003 BY LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT

Published under Rules 379 and 382 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha  
(Tenth Edition) and Printed by M/s. Jainco Art India, New Delhi.

---