

LOK SABHA DEBATES

(English Version)

Eighth Session
(Thirteenth Lok Sabha)



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LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Wednesday, December 5, 2001/
Agrahayana 14, 1923 (Saka)

(The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock)

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: If the House agrees and if the hon. Members agree, we can combine Q. Nos. 223 and 226 together.

...(Interruptions)

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Harassment to Indians in Saudi Arabia

*221. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR:
SHRI A.P. ABDULLAKUTTY:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of Indians working in Saudi Arabia have been subjected to harassment;

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

(c) whether representations from such persons have been received; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government to safeguard the interests of our nationals in that country?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) to (c) No, Sir. However, from time to time our Mission in Saudi Arabia does receive complaints from our citizens working in Saudi Arabia, relating to violations of contractual obligations by their employer(s), such as non-payment or delayed payment of salaries, long working hours, inadequate accommodation/food, refusal to grant permission to visit India on leave or for emergencies etc.. Given the size of the Indian community in Saudi Arabia the total number of such complaints is not significant.

(d) Such complaints are promptly attended to by our Mission with the Saudi sponsor and, if necessary, with the Saudi authorities concerned through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The response of the Saudi authorities in case of labour complaints is generally sympathetic and a very large number of cases are decided in favour of workers.

[Translation]

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, from the reply given by the hon'ble Minister for the question I have raised, it seems that he has not taken it seriously. I had asked him a specific question whether the Indians working in Saudi Arabia are being harassed. In his reply he has stated that the Indians in Saudi-Arabia are not being harassed though he has also cited several of their problems like delayed payments of salaries, refusal to grant long leave to visit India etc. Such a treatment is being meted out to Indians in Saudi Arabia for the last 4-5 years. But whenever this question was raised in the House, similar replies have been given. Several such incidents of harassment have come into light recently and it is very unfortunate that the information system of our embassy situated there has been proved ineffective. Our youth there are being exploited to such an extent that they are being forced to involve themselves in terrorist activities. They are being allured to join jihadi groups. They are facing difficulties in keeping themselves away from all such activities. Such news are coming to us time and again and are being published in Saudi Arabia also. In spite of all this, our embassy in Saudi Arabia did not inform the Ministry. It is a very serious matter and I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister about the action taken by him in this regard. The issue of atrocities being committed on our workers is not as much serious as is the issue of forcing our youths to join in jihadi groups or movements. What information has been received and what action has been taken in this regard?

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon'ble member has raised two questions. His first complaint is regarding inappropriate reply given to the question asked. I would like to tell the hon'ble member that the reply is complete in itself. He has raised the question whether the Indians working there are being harassed. 14 lakh people belonging to Indian origin are working in Saudi Arabia. People of Indian origin are more in number than workers from any other country. And I am sorry to say that I do not agree with him that our Indians are being exploited there. It is not so. Definitely the Law of Shariat

is in practice there which is different from our jurisprudence. The people who go there to work are aware of the rules under which they would have to work there.

The second issue is really very serious. Hon'ble member has stated that our youth in Saudi Arabia are being compelled to indulge in terrorist activities. Besides, he has also stated that our embassy in Saudi Arabia does not apprise the ministry here in this regard. I would like to inform the hon'ble member that our embassy is not an autonomous body. It comes under Union Government. Our embassies always provide complete information to us. Till now not a single complaint has been received by the embassy or the ministry here in this regard. Hon'ble member may kindly provide me any such information which he has in this regard. We would definitely take action on it.

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: Sir, hon'ble minister has stated that such incidents are not happening. I would like to draw the attention of the hon'ble Minister towards the headlines of a news item published in 'Times of India' dated 26th September. Its first news is:

[English]

"Indian youth in Gulf made to serve militants."

[Translation]

That news has revealed many such cases. For his knowledge I would like to say that such incidents have taken place and I hope he will pay attention towards it.

Sir, my second submission is that minor girls are taken to middle-east countries like Saudi Arabia and they are got married there. Several parents in Andhra Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and in other States also sell their daughters. A racket is operating in this regard. Such news has been published earlier also. I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister as to whether any action has been taken by the Government in this regard or whether any such matter has come before the Government?

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is true that under their social circumstances parents marry off their daughters to the persons going abroad with the hope that they will be happy there. It is the general tendency in our society. But it is not possible to remove the social evils by enacting laws only. However, our embassy definitely takes appropriate action whenever any complaint is received regarding the wrong treatment meted out to any minor girl or to any other person. Hon'ble member has not asked about it but for his knowledge, I would tell that there is another aspect connected with this

issue. It is regarding the domestic maids working there. Government can intervene but it is not easy to intervene in domestic affairs of people. Government's intervention becomes essential in the cases of misbehaviour being meted out to the girls who go to Saudi Arabia in search of getting jobs as domestic help. Hon'ble Member would be happy to know that the Government has imposed a ban on it. Just now, I do not have information regarding Gulf countries, however, during the year 2000, 1200 persons were given permission for such jobs in Saudi Arabia. On an average, we received less than 150 complaints in a year. Whenever, the complaints are received, we take follow up action.

[English]

SHRI A.P. ABDULLAKUTTY: Sir, another serious complaint is regarding the transportation of dead bodies from Saudi Arabia to India. There are cases taking months to do so. I would request the Government to take speedy measures so that dead bodies reach in time. Sir, I would also like to bring it to the notice of the hon. Minister that in some countries there are facilities to bring dead bodies to India free of cost. I would request the hon. Minister to do so in our country also in the interest of families of workers who earn foreign exchange.

Sir, there are many difficulties and restrictions in getting Visa from Saudi Arabia. So, will the Government intervene through the diplomatic channel to make its issuance easy?

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Sir, the hon. Member has asked two questions. One relates to return of deceased citizens of India, who were in service in Saudi Arabia and also their lives.

There are cases and one is of those who lose their lives under natural circumstances, and second is those that lose their lives either due to an accident or some other unnatural circumstances. It is our experience that in every case the Mission does its best to expedite the despatch of the body from Saudi Arabia or other Gulf countries to the next of kin whenever it is sought. In small number of cases the burial takes place in the country itself where the death took place.

Now, it is our experience that on grounds of natural death, to complete the formalities of Saudi Arabia, it takes about six to eight weeks at the very minimum and this is the reality. I cannot alter the laws of Saudi Arabia. Those who usually go and work in Saudi Arabia know the laws under which they will be working. On grounds of unnatural death, whenever it takes place, in Saudi Arabia, the enquiry, that is set in motion by the police

and other administrative enquiries, quite often take much long and despite the best efforts possibly by the Mission, it is not possible to have the bodies returned to India well beyond eight weeks' time.

The second aspect is about free transportation of bodies. We advise those who go there that in some cases the employer gives a commitment that in case of decease, the cost of transportation of the body back home will be borne by the employer, but not in all cases. We will examine the proposal of the hon. Member whether the Government can do anything in this regard.

Another point that he enquired about is regarding visa. The hon. Member should reflect on the fact that if the Visa to Saudi Arabia were as difficult as the hon. Member says it is then about 14 lakh to 15 lakh Indians would not be working in Saudi Arabia. We constantly urge the Saudi Arabian Government and other Governments also to ease visa restrictions.

SHRI P.D. ELANGO VAN: Respected Speaker Sir, I would like to know whether the Indian Government has completed the process of building a data bank on Indians working in foreign countries.

Sir, from Tamil Nadu and Kerala a large number of people go abroad to work as domestic servants, drivers, masons, plumbers, etc. and for most of them it is not possible to come out and lodge their complaints in the Indian Mission. I would like to know whether the Government has formulated a system to safeguard and protect such workers working abroad in such circumstances.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Sir, I recognise that particularly in the case of Indian citizens, who have taken jobs either as domestic help or as labour in construction activity, perhaps it is not very easy for them to one the conflict, which is the hon. Member's point. It is not always very easy for them to come and lodge a complaint. We recognise that reality. A number of them work in outline places in the Gulf countries.

To facilitate this, the officers of the Mission do go round and they periodically meet our citizens, who are working there. Other than that, when they leave from here, they are all advised that in case of difficulties, they must get in touch with the Consulate.

SHRI A.C. JOS: Sir, in 1997, the hon. Prime Minister, when he was the Leader of Opposition, led a delegation to the Gulf countries and one of the demands of the inhabitant Indians was that from 1977 onwards Rs. 1500 had been taken from that by the Immigration Department

or by some other Department in the pretext of bringing them back, if at all it comes to that. That money is now lying idle. Nobody knows what the Government has done with the money. Their demand was and even today their demand is that whenever somebody dies there, the mortal remains of the deceased can be brought here free of charges using this money, which comes to a huge amount that is lying idle with the Government. This money belongs to poor workers who are working in the Gulf.

Sir, what happens is that when somebody dies, nobody knows that the mortal remains can be brought back here. They are all poor workers. Their demand at that time was or even now today it has been that the Government could utilise that money for bringing the mortal remains from the Gulf countries and other countries wherein nobody is there to support them to bring back the mortals.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Sir, it is the same point that had earlier been made about the return of bodies of Indian citizens. The hon. Member suggests that they have no next of kin in India.

SHRI A.C. JOS: Sir, the next of kin is there and money is there with the Government of India lying idle. This is the money that it got from them.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: The suggestion is that in case of deceased, the bodies should be brought back free of cost on account of immigration charges that were earlier, levied. Now, this is a matter which another hon. Member has also raised and I have said that the Government is seized of the issue. We will see what can be done in this regard.

PROF. A.K. PREMAJAM: Sir, as the hon. Minister is aware, this is a matter not limited to Saudi Arabia alone. A large number of Indians... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Madam, this Question relates to Saudi Arabia only.

PROF. A.K. PREMAJAM: There is general point which I would like to raise. Quite often, including Saudi Arabia, those who go for lower jobs like labourers, housemaids, etc. are cheated and ditched by the sponsors. Actually, in the recent days in Kuwait, nearly 1,500 labourers were ditched by one company, Al-Blasim, and they are now in a camp which is more or less a concentration camp. They are under very severe conditions. So, my question is whether the Government of India can do something to make these people going there, aware of the working conditions in the various Gulf countries through the Mission. I know that the Mission

is doing some good job. But what happens usually is that these labourers are not able to approach in the Mission officials. Only when the Members of parliament intervene in these cases, they promptly act. This is our experience. They do it very well when the Members of Parliament intervene on behalf of somebody or some group. Otherwise, generally the Indians who go there, find it very difficult to approach the Mission and get things done. My question is whether the Government of India would initiate that the Mission, on their own, get acquainted with these people working there in different Gulf countries and then make them aware of the working conditions, labour laws, etc. to these people.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Sir, the hon. Member has drawn into her question on a number of aspects including a particular incident of misbehaviour by a particular company. I am not in a position to answer specifics about company's misbehaviour in Kuwait or elsewhere. Generally, the hon. Minister is kind enough to suggest that when the Members of Parliament bring to the notice of the Mission any aspect, the Missions, act with promptitude. I am gratified that the Missions do so...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SURESH KURUP: The External Affairs Minister is very prompt when we write to him...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI A.J. JOS: It is a pat on our shoulders! ...*(Interruptions)*

PROF. A.K. PREMAJAM: The general public should be approachable...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Sir, I am commending the action of the initiator...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH: They must do it without any letter...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: It is their job. I have said so. The Members of Parliament do it because their constituency issues are involved. The dependent, the relatives, and the family members come and knock on your doors, and quite rightly then you write to me and I tell the Mission: 'Please act promptly', and the Mission acts promptly. But what you are saying is that the Mission should do so in any event. I agree that they should do so and the best way for them to do is for the Indians to get in touch with the Mission. I also accept that it is not possible for every Indian working there to easily get in touch with the Mission. Often they are working at far-off places. Some of them feel intimidated or inhibited in contacting the Mission. That is why, we have issued instructions to the Mission that they must regularly meet,

hold meetings of the Indians that are working, etc. We are endeavouring to improve this matter.

Tarapur Atomic Power Station

*222. SHRI CHINTAMAN WANAGA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the construction work of phase-III and IV at Tarapur Atomic Power Station has commenced;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the rehabilitation work of affected persons has been completed;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) to (e) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The construction of this project has commenced in 1998 and, as of October 2001, actual physical progress on this project is about 35%. This units are planned for completion and achieving commercial operation in March 2006 and January 2007.

(c) to (e) The land for plant buildings and structures for Tarapur Atomic Power Project Units 3 to 4 (TAPP 3&4) is already in the possession of the project authorities out of land acquired for Tarapur Atomic Power Station Units 1&2 (TAPS 1&2) which have been in operation since 1969. In order to meet the exclusion zone requirement of the TAPP-3&4 project, about 206 hectares of land, involving displacement of 1167 families, is to be acquired. Rehabilitation of Project Affected Persons (PAPs) is to be carried out by the State Government. The required funds for the rehabilitation package, as decided by the State Government, will be provided by the Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited (NPCIL).

Rehabilitation package is under finalization by the Maharashtra State Government. An amount of Rs. 8.22 crore has been deposited by NPCIL with the State Government as per their demand. Further measures for

rehabilitation of the PAPs as decided by the Maharashtra State Government, will also be supported by NPCIL. Development work at the new place of rehabilitation (Dahisar Village) is in progress and estimates for amenities are being worked out by the State Authorities.

[Translation]

SHRI CHINTAMAN WANAGA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, first and second units in Tarapur station are already in operation. At present, construction work is in progress in phase III and IV. Enriched uranium is being produced in phase I and II units. Uranium produced by our scientists would be utilized in phase-III and IV units. We congratulate Government of India and our scientists for it. 35% work of unit 3 and 4 under TAPP work has been completed. But 1167 families which were displaced due to this project have not been rehabilitated yet. This project is going on since 1998. Though State Government has been assigned the job of rehabilitation but till date not a single family has been rehabilitated. I would like to know from the Government as to whether the Government will rehabilitate the displaced people and provide them jobs in this project.

[English]

SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE: Sir, TAPS-3&4 are very large projects in which almost 35 per cent of the work is in progress. The land for the construction of the units luckily is already in the possession of the site as it was acquired for TAPS-1&2 before. But some land to the extent of 206 hectares is still to be acquired for meeting the exclusion zone area for TAPS-3&4 which is mandated by the AERB. The total number of the project-affected families is 1167 as the Member has just said. They are located in two villages, Akarpatti and Pobhran. The rehabilitation of the project-affected persons is to be carried out by the State Government. The required funds for the rehabilitation package as decided by the State Government will be provided by the NPCIL. There is a bit of deadlock at the moment. It is because based on the final discussion of the project-affected persons with the Maharashtra State Government and the Atomic Energy Department, an amount of Rs. 8.22 crore has already been deposited by the NPCIL with the State Government as was their demand. The Department has already given an *exgratia* payment or it is ready to give an additional *exgratia* payment of Rs. 2.5 lakh per hectare for the agricultural land over and above the award which has been given. And about Rs. 30,000 for non-*Hakdars* has already been agreed upon but the major thing is that peaceful possession of land is handed over. This is very important for us. Fifty-one project-affected persons have already been given employment in the project. At the

moment, 250 people are employed in that. Of that, 51 are project-affected persons. Fifty-five wards of the project-affected persons have been sponsored for ITI training which is starting in the academic year, 2001, and all the payments for their education are being put out by the NPCIL so that they can compete in the selection process which will finally take place.

The contractors have also employed about 800 local people. Normally, for the group C&D recruitments, we go through the *Employment News* but here we are going to take eligible PAPs, that is, project-affected persons, on priority. If the number is not sufficient, then we will even go through the local Employment Exchange provided that they fulfil the educational qualifications as these cannot be compromised with because of the sensitivity of the industry.

We are also going to provide for civic amenities for which a package is being finalised again by the State authorities funded by the NPCIL. Seventy hectares of Government land has already been demarcated for the settlement of the PAPs and, approximately, Rs. 16.50 crore is estimated. As soon as the demand is sent by the State Government, the money will be released.

Ten awards out of eleven have already been cleared. Ninety-one hectares of land is in our hands but in actuality only 1.58 is in physical possession. There is a lock between the Government of Maharashtra and the project-affected persons because the State Government is not prepared to consider land for land, after the Maharashtra Project-Affected Persons (Rehabilitation) Act of 1986 came into being. However the Chief Minister has very recently in a meeting on 28.9.2001 directed the State to quickly complete the proceedings and the matter is being processed by us. We are following it up all the time with the State authorities.

I would agree with the hon. Member that rehabilitation is a very important part of the package. Separately, the Government of India feels that it is a persistent cause of delays in very large projects. So, the Government of India has felt the need for a national policy and also guidelines on the issue. A group of Ministers has been constituted some time ago to go into these rehabilitation issues.

[Translation]

SHRI CHINTAMAN WANAGA: Two types of persons have been displaced. Some of them are those whose land has been acquired and others are those who were living in notified prohibited area (Exclusion Zone). I have come to know that Exclusion Zone is spread over 10 Km. Area. It has been stated in the reply that the work

regarding the acquisition of land is in progress and involve displacement of people of two villages though the exclusion zone is spread over 10 km area. I would like to know from the Government whether a fresh survey would be conducted and the people who come under Exclusion Zone would also be considered as displaced people.

[English]

SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE: Sir, as I have already mentioned this concerns 1,167 persons who need to be rehabilitated. It concerns two villages, the names of which I have already given. These are going to be resettled in 70 hectares of Government land, which has already been demarcated in Dahisaar village. We have only actually got in our possession 1.6 hectares of land. There is something called 'Exclusion Zone', which is of 1.6 kilometres and then another three kilometres have to be left out. So, it is almost five kilometres around the actual project itself within which no construction can really take place. It is important that rehabilitation does take place. All of this has been earmarked in a village called Dahisaar in Palghar Taluka, which being finalised for what is called Gauthan. This is between the Government of Maharashtra and the people who are to be rehabilitated. As far as the NPCIL and the Government are concerned, we would be fully supportive of them as we are given peaceful possession of the land.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Sir, not many opportunities are available to us on the floor of this House to discuss atomic energy and power generation by using nuclear energy. So, I am seeking your indulgence and the indulgence of the hon. Prime Minister to put a question, which is not totally relevant to this Question but has some relation with it. As it is a matter relating to the policy and not fact, if possible, we would expect a reply from the Government. With this background, I am putting the question now.

We are now establishing nuclear power plants, which generally produce 500 megawatts of electricity. There are two power reactors of 235-megawatt capacity each but it takes a very long time. The average time taken is in the vicinity of ten to fifteen years. It is a very long time and we are short of electricity. We would like to use nuclear technology to produce electricity. So, if there is a slight change in the policy probably, we might be helped. The slight change, which could be made in this respect, is that instead of establishing nuclear plants which produce 235 megawatts of electricity and a total of 500 megawatts of electricity, if you establish a nuclear plant which produces 1,000 or 2,000 megawatts of electricity, the time taken to establish these power stations would become more acceptable.

It will be reduced also. Thus, in shorter time, we would be able to do it.

Now, world over, they are establishing the power stations which produce not 500 megawatts but 1,000 megawatts, 2000 megawatts or 5000 megawatts. Will the Government have a look at this aspect of the power generation by using nuclear technology? Will the Government also like to modify its policy to see that our requirement of electricity through nuclear technology is satisfied, at least, to some extent?

[Translation]

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon'ble member has raised a very good question. It will certainly be considered. Till then, the work regarding the establishment of small power stations would continue.

[English]

SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE: Sir, I am giving an additional information.

We have already gone in for the 1000 megawatts in Kundakulam, which will be completed, in the 11th Plan.

SHRI SHRINIWAS PATIL: Sir, as you are all aware, there is a dearth of electricity in Maharashtra, which is an industrially advanced State. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether there is any other project which is likely to come on the larger-shore and long-shore from Thane to Goa. I have visited this station because, some time, I was incharge of that area.

I would like to know whether there is any other project of atomic energy likely to come in Maharashtra on sea-shore in Ratnagiri or near Sindhudurg.

SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE: Sir, at the moment 'no'.

[Translation]

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon'ble Minister in the reply has stated that there are approx. 1167 families which are affected by this project and they have offered peaceful possession of the land. The project is going on since 1998 but they have not been rehabilitated till now. The Union Government has allocated an amount of Rs. 8 crore to the State for this purpose and the hon'ble Minister has also committed here to provide the desired funds. However, the reality is that during the last four years the people affected by the project have not been rehabilitated properly. Due to this

opposition of all the centrally sponsored projects is on the rise in Maharashtra. The main cause is delayed rehabilitation. Any project, be it atomic energy or the Petroleum Ministry's project—all the Union Governments projects are being opposed in every district because rehabilitation is not done in a proper manner. Therefore, through you, I would like to submit that people have given peaceful possession of the land to the Government as these projects are essential but I would like to know whether the hon'ble Minister herself would visit the project area and look into the problems being faced by the affected people and try to remove their difficulties.

MR. SPEAKER: The acquisition of land is a State subject. How can the Central Government help in this matter?

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE: I know that it is a State subject but State Government has failed to discharge its responsibility. That's why the project is being opposed.

[English]

SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE: Sir, we have already said that this is a problem, which is persistent, and which is causing a lot of delays to very, very prestigious projects. So, a GOM. has been set up to look into it.

Sir, I am sympathising with the problem in Maharashtra. Actually, we are now pursuing with the State authorities to try and bring this to a close as fast as possible. The hon. Chief Minister himself has taken a meeting on the 28th September, 2001. We hope to be able to finalise it quickly because we also would not like our project to be delayed. At the moment, we have not been able to carry it through because the construction work is going on at the site itself, which was acquired for steps one and two. So, at the moment, the exclusion zone area start to come into being and then we will have a little bit of problem. But we are pursuing with the State Government.

As far as money is concerned, we are even going to the extent of giving an ex gratia payment of Rs. 2½ lakh apart from what the aware is going to be.

Taliban Regime

*223. SHRI J.S. BRAR: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that many Jehadi groups from Muslim countries are joining Taliban forces to fight against American forces;

(b) whether it is also a fact certain militant groups active in Kashmir have also crossed over to Afghanistan to help Taliban regime;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether diplomatic efforts have been made by the government to dissuade friendly Muslim countries from helping Taliban regime in war against terrorism; and

(e) if so, the success achieved so far?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) to (e) A statement is placed on the Table of the House.

Statement

After the commencement of military action by the "forces of international coalition" against the Taliban regime, there were reports that Jehadi elements from Pakistan joined the Taliban in Afghanistan to fight alongside them.

Government, as part of its fight against international terrorism, including in Afghanistan, has been active diplomatically and had taken up the matter with a large number of countries, including representatives of the Islamic countries. We conveyed to our interlocutors that the events of 11th September, 2001 had once again brought to the forefront the extreme dangers posed by international terrorism including State sponsorship of such terrorism.

On account of global rejection of the obscurantist ideology of the Taliban, including by the Afghans themselves, and as a result of military successes of the United Front, the Taliban militia and foreign mercenaries are now restricted to limited pockets in a couple of provinces in Afghanistan. Currently no government in the world recognises the Taliban regime and even those countries that earlier did so have now withdrawn their recognition.

MR. SPEAKER: Let us taken up Q. Nos. 223 and 226 together.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: If it is Question No. 223 only, then a Statement is laid on the Table. If it is both the questions, then Statements are placed on the Table.

SHRI J.S. BRAR: Hon. Speaker, Sir, I am lucky that the hon. Prime Minister is also here when this important

question, which I have asked, is being taken up. My question basically relates to the long-term interest of our country.

There is a strong opinion in the country that the Americans are using Afghanistan as a launching pad to control Central Asia. Basically, Afghanistan is a lever to concur Asia and the world. There is a feeling hon. Minister that we, as a country, miserably failed diplomatically and, in this whole context, we went out of the way. Is it what the country is feeling?

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: The hon. Member wants to know from me whether I failed. No, Sir. I did not fail. I do not agree with him.

SHRI J.S. BRAR: I think, the hon. Minister has just tilted and skipped what I have said.

My second supplementary to the hon. Minister is that since the Taliban has fallen — the Parliament would like to know about the basic intelligence reports and, I think, the hon. Prime Minister and the Minister will enlighten the House—what are the views about Taliban entering PoK and what are the security threats to India in this context?

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Sir, the hon. Member is aware of a detailed statement made by the hon. Prime Minister here in the expectation that the House will find time to discuss this important issue, but the House has been preoccupied otherwise. The other House has discussed this issue.

On the question of post-Taliban security implications, particularly for the State of Jammu and Kashmir, yes, Sir, the Government is aware of this possibility, has examined it in-depth, and the concerned Ministries in this regard, namely, the Ministries of Defence, Home as also the State Governments, are fully seized of this issue

SHRI J.S. BRAR: Hon. Speaker, Sir, so far as my first supplementary is concerned, should I take the clue that the Indian diplomacy failed miserably? Should I take this to be true, hon. Speaker?

MR. SPEAKER: Shri G.S. Basavaraj-Absent; Shri Ajay Singh Chautala-Absent; now Shrimati Krishna Bose.

SHRIMATI KRISHNA BOSE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, my question relates to what my colleague asked just now. The main question related to militants crossing over to Afghanistan to help Taliban regime from Jammu and Kashmir side. Now the whole scenario has changed and

we are threatened by the militants coming into Jammu and Kashmir particularly those who have been chased away from that area. Therefore, I would like to know from the Government as to what policy they have evolved to stop them. We know that it is very difficult. However, since it is the duty of the Government to see to the security threat perception, have they evolved any policy? How can we stop this because this is, indeed, a very serious threat to India now?

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Sir, the previous questioner has also asked the very same question. We do not overestimate or underestimate this threat. I would like to caution the hon. Member against both tendencies. So far as the possibility of the overspill of such terrorist elements, Taliban or otherwise, who have been expelled from Afghanistan reaching Jammu and Kashmir via Pakistan, yes, Sir, the Government is aware of this possibility, is seized of it. The concerned Ministries, agencies and the State Governments are taking necessary steps.

SHRIMATI KRISHNA BOSE: Would the hon. Prime Minister make a statement on this? Did you mention it? I did not quite catch your point.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: The hon. Prime Minister has already made a Statement. The hon. Prime Minister will now not make the same Statement again. He has already made the Statement. It was the expectation that following upon that the House will discuss this issue.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: Sir, my question is also with regard to the future threat perceptions of India. My question is this. In order to further prevent the *Jehadis* from creating more trouble in India, is our Government going to have any Indo-US military co-operation in future?

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Sir, though this question does arise directly from the main question, yet I would like to say that there is already a Joint Working Group on Afghanistan as well as on terrorism...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: Please allow him to answer my question. Why are you shouting like that? I did not shout when you asked your question, then why are you shouting when he is replying to my question? This is very bad.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether or not the military powers all over the world and our country is aware of the fact that the Pakistani army, with specific instructions from General Parvez Musharraf, had been, till the last

week, in Kandahar to support the Taliban regime and made a last ditch effort to fight it out. The Pakistani army also made an appeal to the British Foreign Secretary to give them some time to pull out their people by helicopter, which request, however was not acceded to. In this context, I would like to know this. Did India express its concern about this design of Pakistan? If so, whether India also shares the perception, as is shared by a few in the West and in Pakistan, that in the formation of a Government, in the post-Taliban regime, the 'moderate Taliban' would be accommodated. The perception of 'moderate Taliban' is shared by many people.

Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to whether the Government of India has made it absolutely clear in the 21-Member Group talk held on the 16th of November in the United States and in the recent developments at Bonn that India did not share the perception of accommodating any 'moderate Taliban' in the post-Taliban regime in Afghanistan for the future security interests of India.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Sir, the hon. Member has asked a number of questions. I would start with the last component of his query relating to 'moderate Taliban'. This was made sufficiently clear and well in advance that the phrase 'moderate Taliban' is an oxymoron and once I had said that it became a commonly used phrase. Thereafter, the hon. Member would, no doubt, appreciate that subsequent developments at Bonn have only upheld what the Government of India had been saying consistently that for the future of Afghanistan, a broad-based Government can simply not include any elements of the Taliban.

Sir, I am happy to share with the hon. Member that the reports that have come to us from our special emissary from Bonn is that — there could be many mis-steps when we are talking about Afghanistan—an agreement on Afghanistan is now more likely and in about one-and-a-half hours to two hours time there could be encouraging announcements from Bonn in that regard. Once those announcements are made, the hon. Member would recognise that there is no place there for the Taliban in any of its variations.

Sir, so far as the question of involvement of the Pakistani army in Kandahar is concerned, I think, what the hon. Members means is not so much Kandahar but much about the fighting that took place at Kunduz.

Now at Kunduz, there are reports of deployment of seven aircraft by Pakistan to fly out its personnel. These

issues have been discussed with the countries concerned of the alliance, and India has made its views sufficiently well-known.

SHRI T. GOVINDAN: Indian Government is fully supporting the US war against Taliban by giving our naval bases and airports to warships and warplanes of USA. It is against our national interest. USA is, even now, not ready to condemn the terrorism sponsored by Pakistan in Kashmir. It is a widely known fact. I think Indian Government has either failed to present this fact to USA, or the USA is playing hide and seek between India and Pakistan. May I know from the hon. Minister the real position?

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: I am somewhat perplexed by the hon. Member's question because the question relates to Afghanistan and he wants to know about Indo-Pak relations.

So far as the question of military assistance is concerned, I think the Government of India's position was made abundantly clear and well in advance. The Government of India has made it clear and well enough known that (1) Indian Armed Forces, or India as such, will not enter into a military alliance; (2) Indian Armed Forces will not operate under any flag other than India's or the United Nations'; and (3) so far as India's military bases are concerned, those military bases will not be made accessible for permanent stationing of any foreign troops. These are abundantly made clear. I do not know where the hon. Member's confusion arises from. Access to military bases and naval installations is something which is continuing policy, and has been pursued by the Government of India for the last many decades. We provide access to our naval, or air, or other bases on a routine basis, not simply to the United States of America, for a number of other countries. Training between the two countries is not simply with United States of America, but with a number of other countries. Exchange of training personnel does take place.

Immunisation Programme

*224. SHRI MANJAY LAL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that only 11 percent of children upto the age of two years have been given vaccine under immunisation programme in various States;

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

(c) whether the Government propose to speed up the programme by involving NGOs to achieve the target set for the purpose; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C.P. THAKUR): (a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha.

Statement

The Universal Immunization Programme, launched in 1985, covering six vaccine preventable diseases viz. Diphtheria, Pertusis, Neonatal Tetanus, Poliomyelitis, Measles and childhood Tuberculosis is being implemented throughout the country. This programme covered all districts of the country during 1989-90.

Every year, the programme coverage is evaluated by independent agencies through UNICEF. The State-wise coverage of fully immunized children during 2000-2001 (State-wise details in Annexure) shows the national average of about 53.8%. The coverage in certain States like Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Jharkhand is below the 40% level.

The low coverage in certain States are ascribed to (a) large scale vacancies of Auxilliary Nurse Midwives and supervisory functionaries (b) inadequate State medical infrastructure commensurate with population increase (c) inadequate supervision and monitoring (d) low priority for routine immunization programme vis-a-vis other programmes on the campaign mode, and, (e) inadequate social mobilization and Information, Education and Communication.

The Government has taken several steps for improving routine immunization in the country. A major World Bank aided programme for Strengthening Routine Immunization was launched last year. Under this programme special assistance and facilities are being provided for proper implementation of the routine immunization programme, by way of strengthening monitoring, mobility, cold chain, injection safety and supervision. In identified 151 poor performing districts, special facilities are being provided through a scheme for strengthening RCH outreach services for reviving weekly sessions on immunization at the village level by the ANMs and for providing adequate POL and mobility support for the staff involved in the immunization programme. This scheme has provisions for involving private practitioners and NGOs in the routine immunization programme. The NGO participation has always been a hall-mark of the Pulse Polio Programme.

ANNEXURE Evaluated Coverage 1999-2001* A Comparative Statement Fully Immunized

Sl.No.	State	2001
1	2	3
1.	A & N Islands	91.9
2.	Andhra Pradesh	41.7
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	62.9
4.	Assam	60.4
5.	Bihar	10.0
6.	Chandigarh	82.7
7.	Chhattisgarh	70.4
8.	D & N Haveli	80.8
9.	Daman & Diu	86.7
10.	Delhi	70.6
11.	Goa	93.3
12.	Gujarat	59.3
13.	Haryana	57.7
14.	Himachal Pradesh	92.5
15.	J & K	84.6
16.	Jharkhand	24.2
17.	Karnataka	59.9
18.	Kerala	88.7
19.	Lakshadweep	94.2
20.	M.P.	50.0
21.	Maharashtra	85.6
22.	Manipur	48.3
23.	Meghalaya	53.3
24.	Mizoram	78.8
25.	Nagaland	44.2
26.	Orissa	52.5
27.	Pondicherry	90.0
28.	Punjab	72.5
29.	Rajasthan	30.2
30.	Sikkim	76.7

1	2	3
31.	Tamil Nadu	87.1
32.	Tripura	56.8
33.	Uttaranchal	46.3
34.	U.P.	19.2
35.	West Bengal	56.4
	All India	53.8

*Conducted by independent agency under UNICEF

[*Translation*]

SHRI MANJAY LAL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Lakshadweep has the highest percentage of 94.2 among the figures presented by the hon'ble Minister. Himachal Pradesh has 92.5%, Goa 93.3%, Chandigarh 82.7%, Pondicherry, 90.0% and Bihar has the lowest 10.00% which is a pity. These figures show that Government schemes have failed in Bihar. I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister whether the Government will ensure the setting up of a centre in each district Headquarters within a specific time frame for the successful implementation of this scheme and also whether the Government propose to include people's representatives for the successful implementation of this scheme in Bihar.

DR. C.P. THAKUR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is true that the present state of Immunization is quite pitiable in Bihar...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: What is the contribution of Government...(*Interruptions*)

DR. C.P. THAKUR: We are providing all the assistance to Bihar but is not being fully utilized...(*Interruptions*) the Hon'ble Member has asked about the assistance Government propose to take from NGOs. As now 10% is the very low figure and it would be our endeavour to enhance it upto 90%. We will make full efforts in this regard and will take help from the hon'ble Members as well as from NGOs...(*Interruptions*) It is 10% only. The Hon'ble Member should ask the State Government to let us work in this regard...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: What is the contribution of the Central Government in this regard since it came into power...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, you please reply to the supplementary of Shri Manjay Lal and not to Shri Raghunath Jha's comment.

...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

DR. C.P. THAKUR: Usually Secretaries from Bihar do not attend the meetings held for discussing all these projects due to which officers here are annoyed. Therefore, I said that if the backward States are not so active like forward States, they do not come to attend the meeting...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Shrimati Kanti Singh, please take your seat.

[*Translation*]

DR. C.P. THAKUR: You please sit down and inform Shri Laloo ji that officers from Bihar do not come to attend the meetings. I tell you that the funds are lying unutilized...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: It is inappropriate. Please sit down.

SHRI MANJAY LAL: I have yet to ask my second supplementary...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: You please sit down, what are you doing?

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: The hon'ble Minister should tell how and what has been given to Bihar and how the Government is doing monitoring in this regard.

MR. SPEAKER: Raghuvansh Babu, what are you doing, please sit down.

...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record except the reply of the hon'ble Minister.

...(*Interruptions*) *

[*Translation*]

DR. C.P. THAKUR: Let him sit there. Posts of ANM are lying vacant there. We have asked them to fill these posts even on contract basis but they are not filling these posts. The post of staff nurse and Laboratory Technician are vacant there. We are ready to provide referral transport and to provide funds for 24 hours delivery service but they are not utilizing the funds which are already lying with them. I would like to request Shri Raghuvansh Babu to use his goodwill there and get some work done in Bihar.

*Not recorded.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: The Government should call us and should not camouflage thing.

DR. C.P. THAKUR: There is nothing to camouflage. We never camouflage. It is you people who are involved in such practices.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, kindly address to the Chair only.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: I belong to NDA. Have you ever called a meeting and talked to us. What kind of Minister you are...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh, please take your seat.

[Translation]

Raghunath Babu, what are you doing, please sit down.

SHRI MANJAY LAL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, in my second supplementary question, I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister that for the effective implementation of this scheme in various States whether the Government will make efforts to revive the 6 bed hospitals, referral hospitals and other health centres which are not working effectively at present. Further, whether the Government intends to open new centres in various areas of Bihar where sub health centres are not situated for having a disease free Bihar. If so, the steps proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

DR. C.P. THAKUR: Several States were given grants under Health system Project except Bihar. Bihar was asked to send the proposal of the scheme. When Bihar failed to send the scheme. Officials were sent there on behalf of Central Government for getting their approval in this regard. The scheme has already been sent to the planners. Thereafter, it would be sent to the World Bank for approval. Construction of primary health centres and sub-centres is also under consideration.

SHRI MAHESHWAR SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, in the reply placed on the Table of the House the hon'ble Minister has accepted that the percentage of programme coverage is lower than 40% at some places. Through you, I would like to draw the attention of the hon'ble

Minister towards the fact that the situation in farflung areas is more serious for two reasons. One is, criteria for setting up of health centres is population and not geographical condition of an area. I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister whether the criteria would be raised and geographical conditions of an area would be made the criteria and not the population. A health centre should be set up in every Panchayat area. Second reason which he himself has admitted is that several posts are lying vacant. Therefore, through you, would like to know from the hon'ble Minister that to provide employment to the local women and for the success of this scheme. Whether the Government propose to impart midwifery training to the local women of the area where people seldom want to go.

DR. C.P. THAKUR: The hon'ble Member has mentioned about far-flung areas. His State Himachal Pradesh is also a remote area but the percentage of Programme coverage is very high there. It is 92%. Regarding the suggestion given by him that hilly and far-flung areas should be the criteria and local women should be given training, there is a provision of contract employment also.

[English]

DR. RANJIT KUMAR PANJA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, from the statement of the hon. Minister, I find that the smaller States are more successful in implementing the programme than the larger States. In this connection, I am raising the question of Bihar again. As regards Bihar, 10 per cent children upto the age of two years have been given vaccine under the immunisation programme. But in case of Jharkhand, it is 24 per cent.

So, the smaller segment of the erstwhile Bihar has done a little better than the large State.

MR. SPEAKER: Dr. Panja, there is no time. Please ask a point supplementary now.

DR. RANJIT KUMAR PANJA: Sir, I would like to ask the hon. Minister whether he has thought about improving the infrastructure by involving medical students in the preventive and social welfare programme.

The part (b) of my supplementary is...

MR. SPEAKER: There is no time for part (b). Please take your seat now. Let him reply.

DR. C.P. THAKUR: Sir, we will consider the suggestion of the hon. Member.

MR. SPEAKER: The Question Hour is over now.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Heart Diseases

*225. SHRI AVTAR SINGH BHADANA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the people of India are more prone to heart-diseases in comparison to the people of other countries;

(b) whether smoking, high blood pressure, non-vegetarian food and changing life-style are the major causes of heart diseases; and

(c) if so, the effective measures taken by the Government alongwith details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C.P. THAKUR): (a) to (c) According to Indian Council of Medical Research, no sufficient data are available that Indians are more prone to heart diseases in comparison to other countries. The three main risk factors for coronary heart disease are smoking, physical inactivity and faulty diet. Since the causes of this disease are attributed among others to individual life style and food habits, the doctors are creating awareness among the people for adopting proper life style and food habits to control these diseases.

[English]

Formation of Government in Afghanistan

*226. SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ:
SHRI AJAY SINGH CHAUTALA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has been included in the list of 21 countries to discuss the future political set up in Afghanistan;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether India has so far played only a symbolic role in Afghanistan affairs;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the Northern Alliance enjoys the support of India;

(f) if so, the likely impact thereof on Indo-Afghanistan relations;

(g) whether Russia has sought the cooperation of India for the formation of a broad based multi-ethnic Post-Taliban Government in Afghanistan; and

(h) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) to (h) India has been a member of the UN convened Group of 21 countries on Afghanistan since its inception in November 1996. The group has held several meetings since then and the latest was held in New York on 16th November 2001. The group discussed the evolving political and humanitarian situation in Afghanistan.

India has had traditional and historical ties of friendship and cooperation with Afghanistan. At various periods India-Afghan relations were extensive and covered several areas of political, economic, technical and cultural cooperation. India did not recognise the Taliban or its regime in Afghanistan. We have been extending humanitarian and other assistance and diplomatic support to Northern Alliance, which has had favourable impact on developments in Afghanistan and India-Afghanistan relations, including at people-to-people level.

During the years that the Taliban regime occupied the territories of Afghanistan, as well as in the current context, the Government has been in touch with a large number of countries that take an interest in Afghan affairs. We have established regular interaction with several countries, including Russia and the US to address the situation in Afghanistan. It is generally agreed that for peace and stability to return to Afghanistan, it was essential to ensure the establishment of a broad-based independent government with representation from all ethnic groups. We have also participated in several multilateral efforts aimed at restoration of peace, stability and reconstruction in Afghanistan.

Mission to Moon

*227. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV:
SHRI P.D. ELANGOVAN:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has prepared a plan for taking up a 'Mission to the Moon';

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith expenditure involved;

(c) the nature of experiments of ISRO wants to conduct during the Mission;

(d) whether India has achieved 100 per cent self reliance in all sorts of information and communication network;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the time by which total self reliance is likely to be achieved in the field?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) and (b) ISRO is studying the feasibility of undertaking an unmanned scientific mission to moon. A decision on undertaking the mission will be taken based on the conclusion of the study.

(c) The proposed experiments cover the chemistry of the moon using x-ray spectroscopy, gamma ray spectroscopy besides imaging of the lunar surface.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) The space-based Information and Communication networks consist of space segment (Communication satellites) and associated ground segment. India has achieved self-reliance in the design, development and commissioning of INSAT communication satellites.

(f) Does not arise.

POWs

*228. SHRI ABUL HASNAT KHAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the question of release of 54 Indian prisoners of war languishing in Pakistani jails was raised in Agra Summit;

(b) if so, whether the Pakistan Foreign Office after verification has come out that there is now POW and invited Indian families to visit Pakistani Jails; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by the Government to check the veracity of the Pakistani statement?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Government is in touch with the family members/relatives of POWs to ascertain their views on the possible utility of such a visit, particularly in view of past experience, and the specific parameters, modalities and conditions that would be required for a productive visit.

Financial Assistance to States

*229. SHRI C. SREENIVASAN:
SHRI SAVSHIBHAI MAKWANA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the total normal financial assistance provided to the States during each of the last two years, State-wise;

(b) the reasons for not providing the required amount to States;

(c) whether due to non-availability of funds as sought by the States, welfare oriented schemes have been hampered;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by the Centre to provide additional financial assistance to States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE):

(a) Normal Central Assistance Allocated to States for Annual Plans 1999-2000 & 2000-2001

		(Rs. Crore)	
Sl. No.	States/UTs	1999-2000	2000-01
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	3,210.50	3,661.06
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	574.17	609.50
3.	Assam	1,616.11	1,686.56
4.	Bihar*	2,390.27	2,369.04
5.	Goa	90.11	127.92

1	2	3	4
6.	Gujarat	1,433.77	1,462.40
7.	Haryana	1,022.31	655.52
8.	Himachal Pradesh	809.71	810.89
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	2,631.98	1,963.26
10.	Karnataka	1,612.41	1,753.36
11.	Kerala	873.80	882.98
12.	Madhya Pradesh*	2,184.32	2,134.01
13.	Maharashtra	1,501.88	1,946.79
14.	Manipur	506.08	565.86
15.	Meghalaya	421.77	393.59
16.	Mizoram	384.67	401.26
17.	Nagaland	394.76	424.59
18.	Orissa	2,031.11	1,915.09
19.	Punjab	742.73	871.21
20.	Rajasthan	1,648.12	1,460.53
21.	Sikkim	329.92	263.01
22.	Tamil Nadu	1,574.80	1,644.18
23.	Tripura	656.12	633.70
24.	Uttar Pradesh*	6,175.76	5,891.10
25.	West Bengal	3,315.58	2,780.19

Note: *Undivided MP, UP and Bihar

(b) Normal Central Assistance is allocated on the basis of Gadgil-Mukherjee formula approved by the National Development Council (NDC). Planning Commission provides assistance to States according to this formula within the overall availability of the resources with the Union Government.

(c) and (d) Welfare oriented schemes of State Government are financed by the States' own resources and partially by the Central Assistance. Normal Central Assistance is provided as per formula, and Additional Central Assistance is provided for specific purposes. States are encouraged to augment their own resources by additional resource mobilisation should they need to.

(e) STEPS TAKEN TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL ASSISTANCE TO STATES

In addition to Normal Central Assistance provided to States under Gadgil-Mukherjee formula and Special Programmes for their Plan Programmes, necessary steps

are taken by the Central Government to provide additional financial assistance to States as under:—

(1) **Additional Central Assistance for Externally Aided Projects:** States that secure foreign loans and grants for specific projects are given additional financial assistance from this head. Since foreign donors usually release loans and grants on a reimbursement basis, it is necessary to provide the initial expenditure required for such projects, which are later adjusted from the foreign loan actually received by the State concerned.

(2) **Additional Financial Assistance for other Projects:** Additional Central Assistance is also given to States for specific programmes that are of importance to the States concerned, for example, Border Area Development Programme, Prime Minister's Gramodaya Yojana, Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme, Accelerated Power Development Programme, Slum Development Programme. To avail themselves of this facility, States are required to submit their detailed proposals to the ministry/Department administering the programme. The Ministries concerned examine these proposals in detail and made releases of assistance accordingly.

(3) **Special Plan Assistance:** Additional financial assistance is also given to States, which face special problems, to assist them in their development efforts. These are not necessarily project specific. To avail themselves of this facility, States submit their proposals to the Planning Commission that examines them in consultation with the Ministries concerned and the Ministry of Finance.

Indo-Iraq Talks

*230. SHRI ARUN KUMAR: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether an Indian delegation visited Iraq in the recent past;

(b) if so, the details of talks held; and

(c) the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir. A special goodwill delegation led by Dr. Najma Heptulla, Deputy Chairperson, Rajya Sabha visited Iraq from August 31 to September 2, 2001.

(b) Dr. Najma Heptulla met President Saddam Hussein and delivered to him written message of our Prime Minister. The delegation also met Vice-President Taha Yasin Ramadan, Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz,

Speaker Sadoun Hammadi, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Minister of Trade, Industry and Minerals and Transport and Communications and had fruitful discussions.

(c) The meetings strengthened political communications and opened new vistas for expansion of economic relations between India and Iraq.

[Translation]

Cut In Allocation of Funds

231. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR KHANDELWAL:
SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Planning Commission has warned the States to effect a major cut in their annual allocation, if the funds provided to States for completion of the Centrally Financed Project are misused;

(b) whether it has come to the notice of the Planning Commission in the past that several States have diverted funds to other projects earmarked for Centrally financed projects; and

(c) if so, the names of such States and the action proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) No directions have been issued to State Governments in this regard.

(b) Yes, Sir. Planning Commission is aware that there have been cases of diversion of funds by States as indicated in various state-specific Reports of the Comptroller & Auditor General of India.

(c) Instances of diversion of funds by States are mentioned in the Report of Comptroller and Auditor General relating to those States.

There already exists constitutional mechanism to detect and take necessary action on diversion of funds by States from the purpose it is sanctioned. In accordance with the Article 151 of the Constitution, the Audit Reports in respect of financial transactions of the State

Governments prepared by the Comptroller and Auditor General of India, which includes matters like diversion of funds from the purpose they are sanctioned, is presented to the Vidhan Sabha and it stands referred to the Public Accounts Committee in respect of Civil and Revenue Receipts. The Government Departments are then to submit *suo motu* Action Taken Notes on all Audit paragraphs and reviews to the Public Accounts Committee, duly vetted by Audit. The Public Accounts Committee selects some of the paragraphs/reviews for detailed examination after which a report containing their observations and recommendations is presented to the Vidhan Sabha. Recently, Planning Commission has also decided to conduct quarterly reviews of the financial and physical progress of important projects and schemes implemented by States, in order to ensure, inter alia, that funds are not diverted from the purpose they are sanctioned.

[English]

National Policy for Indian System of Medicines and Homoeopathy

*232. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL:
SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK:

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

(a) whether the Union Government have formulated a separate National Policy for the Indian System of Medicines and Homoeopathy;

(b) if so, the objectives of the said National Policy and the programme of action being prepared to implement this policy;

(c) whether the Planning Commission and Finance Ministry have approved the above Policy;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C.P. THAKUR): (a) to (e) A comprehensive Policy on Indian Systems of Medicine has been drafted.

The proposed Policy deals with issues for overall development and utilization of the indigenous system of Indian Medicine as also Homeopathy in the national health care delivery system.

The major objectives and the programme of action of the proposed Policy are given below:—

- (1) To strengthen the education and research infrastructure of ISM&H. The need to revamp the curriculum of educational institution and to reorient the approach practitioners to increase their morale, relevance, credibility and professionalism is given priority in the Policy.
- (2) To foster integration of the ISM&H sector in the national health care delivery system.
- (3) To encourage standardization and quality control of ISM drugs and put in place an acceptable level of regulation and enforcement covering the manufacturing and certification of drugs.
- (4) To provide adequate budget at the Central & State level which can develop various facets of the ISM sector in a meaningful way.
- (5) To encourage the development of the medicinal plants sector so that quality material is used in ISM drugs and it becomes a sustainable, dynamic export-oriented area.
- (6) To encourage and nurture the Indian Systems of Medicine industry so as to boost internal production and push up exports.
- (7) To pursue identified research priorities to determine the efficacy of ISM drugs and therapies.
- (8) To find a niche for Indian Systems of Medicine & Homeopathy within the growing Complementary & Alternative medical sector which is growing rapidly world-wide.
- (9) To prevent the grant of patents for the medicinal use of plants which have long been in use in Indian Systems of Medicine by documenting the country's traditional knowledge in patent compatible format.
- (10) To revitalise after validation the local traditions and practices that have received wide social acceptance in rural and tribal areas of the country.
- (11) To encourage medical tourism and promote Indian Systems of Medicine in foreign countries.
- (12) To encourage research in Veterinary Medicine and manufacture of products and consumables

which are affordable and effective in the treatment of animals.

The process of consultation has not been completed so far.

SSI for Ex-Servicemen

*233. SHRIMATI PRENEET KAUR: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are running some development programmes pertaining to small-scale industries for the Ex-Servicemen;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to develop some programmes for the dependents of Kargil, IPKF victims too; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) and (b) The Directorate General Resettlement, Ministry of Defence, has launched a few Self-Employment Schemes for Ex-Servicemen pertaining to setting up of Small Scale, Tiny and Cottage Industries, of which SEMFEX-, SEMFEX-II, SEMFEX-III, and the National Equity Fund Scheme are prominent national level Schemes. These Schemes are operated in collaboration with National Bank for Agriculture & Rural Development (NABARD), Khadi & Village Industries Commission (KVIC) and Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI), and an amount of Rs. 310.06 crores pertaining to 12.122 number of cases has been sanctioned under these Schemes.

(c) and (d) The above mentioned Schemes are meant for victims/dependents of victims of all Military Operations.

Medicines for Cancer/Diabetes by IMS

*234. SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that Indian medical Scientists had prepared, the curative medicines for cancer, diabetes and stammering from the medicinal plants;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the efforts made/being made to enhance research work by the Government?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C.P. THAKUR): (a) to (c) A number of trial and research work is at experimental stage on the drugs for the treatment of Cancer, Diabetes etc. The Government is encouraging scientists for undertaking research in these fields. The main areas of work which have been reported are indicated below:-

- (i) Central Council for A Research in Ayurveda & Siddha (CCRAS) has informed that use of Ayurvedic formulations were studied at Benaras Hindu University for the treatment of Cancer. Also a project undertaken by Vaid Chandra Prakash Cancer Research Foundation, Dehradun, financed by CCRAS has shown promising results in the treatment of Acute Promyelocytic Leukaemia (APML).
- (ii) Central Council for Research in Unani Medicine (CCRUM) has undertaken clinical and therapeutic studies on diabetes mellitus of their research centers. Promising results have been reported.
- (iii) Central Drug Research Institute, Lucknow, has undertaken development of anti-diabetic drug from medicinal plants. They have also undertaken a coordinated programme on discovery, development and commercialization of new bio-active molecule and traditional preparation for Cancer.
- (iv) Indian Council of Medical Research is conducting a clinical trial known as Flexible Dose open clinical trial on Vijayasar for the treatment of diabetics which have shown promising results.

No report about plant based medicine for stammering has been received.

Radiation Risk

*235. COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY:
SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY:

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

(a) whether the attention of the Government have been drawn to the news-item captioned "Crime Branch probing radiation deaths" and "Overworked X-ray staff face radiation risk" published in the 'Times of India' dated September 29, 2001 and November 5, 2001:

(b) if so, facts of the matter reported therein;

(c) the reaction of the Government thereon; and

(d) the measures taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to safeguard the lives of x-ray staff, especially after the deaths of three Radiology technicians due to Cancer after over exposure?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C.P. THAKUR): (a) to (d) Government is aware of the news items referred in the Question in which mainly the following issues have been reported:

- (i) The Members of the Municipal Radiographers Union working in Delhi have alleged that three technicians of X-Ray Department have contracted cancer due to allegedly over-exposure while working in X-Ray Department.
- (ii) The Radiographers' Association has alleged contravention of norms set out by the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre and the provisions of the Atomic Energy Act of 1962, the Radiation Protection Rules of 1971 & the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board Act of 1986.
- (iii) The Radiographers' Association has further alleged the negligence by the hospital authorities.

So far as Dr. RML Hospital, Safdarjung Hospital and LHMC & Associated Hospitals are concerned, no radiographers/radiology technicians have been found to have excess radiation. The radiation exposure to the Radiographers/X-ray technicians is constantly monitored by Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC). The radiographers/radiology technicians are using protective measures to prevent radiation like TLD badges, lead gown, lead gloves, lead goggles, lead screen, etc., while in radiation zone. The equipments used are of specifications prescribed by Atomic Energy Regulatory Board. The radiation protection rules are strictly followed.

Safety norms for Radiographers working in the Radiology Departments have been issued on 22.1.2001 by the Directorate General of Health Services to the Health Secretaries of all the States and UTs, Medical Council of India and all Central Government Hospitals. A copy of the same is annexed in the form of statement.

In so far as All India Institute of Medical Sciences and Lok Nayak Jai Prakash Hospital/Government of NCT of Delhi are concerned, the information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

F.No. C-18018/1/2000-MH
Directorate General of Health
Services (MH Section)

Nirman Bhawan, New Delhi.

Dated: 22.1.2001.

To

1. Health Secretaries of all the States and UTs.
2. The Secretary,
Medical Council of India,
Kotla Road, Temple Lane,
New Delhi.
3. The Medical Superintendent,
S.J. Hospital, New Delhi.
4. The Medical Superintendent,
Dr. R.M.L. Hospital,
New Delhi.
5. The Principal &
Medical Superintendent,
LHMC & Associated
Hospital, New Delhi.
6. The Director,
JIPMER, Pondicherry.

Sub: Safety norms of Radiographers working in
Radiology Department.

Sir,

I am directed to say that a case came up before the National Human Rights Commission (Case No. 1400/12/99-2000) with regard to the representation given by Shri Sivakant Vajpai, President, M.P. Radiographers Association, Indore regarding lack of care and information in operating radiological equipments which causes health hazard in the hospitals.

In this regard, a meeting of the experts was held in the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare who have recommended following norms for Radiographers, working in the Radiology Department for further necessary action:—

1. A Radiographer should possess 10+2 with science and having minimum two years diploma course in Radiographers from a recognized

institution. He should have also some working experience in a reputed institution.

2. Personal monitoring badge should always be used while on duty. Specific guidelines as prescribed by BARC should be followed so far as film badges are concerned. Proper record should be maintained in each case under the supervision of a Radiation Safety officer certified by Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB).
3. Proper radiation protection devices should be available in the Department.
4. If the Radiographer is assisting with the Radiologists or working with portable X-ray, he should wear lead apron.
5. The safety codes of AERB should be strictly followed while planning for installation of X-ray equipment.
6. The X-ray equipment should periodically calibrated and quality assurance procedure should be conducted.
7. The X-ray unit should be typed approved by AERB with the scientific and technical support from BARC.
8. Radiographers should undergo periodical training as a part of continuing education in respect of safety and accuracy of handling the X-ray equipment.
9. In case of accidental exposure, it is the duty of the Radiation Safety officer and the employer to inform BARC immediately.
10. Radiographers should have an annual medical check up and the record of the same should be maintained.
11. The issue about private Radiology Departments in smaller places who may be employing unskilled workers as attendants who may get continuous exposures needs also to be addressed.

Yours faithfully,

Sd/-

(Prof. A.S. Bais)

Dy. Director General (M)

Copy for information to Hospital Section, D/o Health

Illegal Organ Trade

*236. SHRI A. KRISHNASWAMY:
SHRI A. NARENDRA:

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

(a) whether the Government have received complaints retarding illegal organ trade such as kidney, eyes, etc. during each of the last three years;

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

(c) the action taken by the Government on these complaints till now; and

(d) the details of the preventive steps taken to stop illegal trade of organs?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C.P. THAKUR): (a) to (d) According to the information available with the Government, two complaints alleging illegal kidney transplantation have been referred by the Directorate General of Health Services, Government of India, to the State Governments of Delhi and Tamil Nadu, for necessary action under the law.

Expansion of National Highways

*237. SHRI BRIJLAL KHABRI:
SHRI RAM SINGH KASWAN:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that many projects in the road sector could not be taken up/completed due to resource crunch during the Ninth Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, facts thereof and the amount allocated for expansion of National Highways during the Ninth Five Year Plan;

(c) the expansion work done in kilometre during the plan period, State-wise;

(d) whether more allocation is proposed for the expansion of National Highways and completion of pending projects in the Tenth Five Year Plan;

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

(f) the details of the progress of the existing work at various National Highways alongwith funds spent thereon, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI): (a) and (b) An allocation of Rs. 17758.82 crore has been made so far during the 9th Five Year Plan for the development of National Highways against the projected requirement of Rs. 23,000 crore. The completion of on-going works have not been affected due to shortage of funds. However, the sanction of new works has been commensurate with the availability of funds and priority is given to widening of National Highways connecting the major metropolitan cities of Delhi-Kolkata-Chennai-Mumbai-Delhi, improvement of riding quality, construction of bridges and other safety works on other National Highways. Separate allocation is not made for the expansion of National Highways network. This requirement is met out of the over all allocation made for development of National Highways.

(c) Statement-I showing the State-wise expansion of National Highway network during the 9th Five Year Plan period is enclosed.

(d) This will depend upon the availability of funds during the 10th Five Year Plan which is yet to be finalized.

(e) Does not arise.

(f) Various improvement works on National Highways are in different stages of progress. Generally it takes about one to three years for the works to be completed. Details of funds allocated to the State Governments alongwith the expenditure incurred during the 9th Five Year Plan for the development of National Highways is given in the enclosed statement-II.

Statement-I*Addition to National Highway network during 9th Plan*

Sl. No.	States	(Length in Kms.)
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1150
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	62
3.	Assam	540
4.	Bihar	2130
5.	Chandigarh	000
6.	Chhattisgarh	934
7.	Delhi	000
8.	Goa	40

1	2	3	1	2	3
9.	Gujarat	830	21.	Nagaland	256
10.	Haryana	663	22.	Oriasa	1652
11.	Himachal Pradesh	334	23.	Pondicherry	30
12.	Jammu & Kashmir	175	24.	Punjab	661
13.	Jharkhand	548	25.	Rajasthan	1666
14.	Karnataka	1574	26.	Sikkim	000
15.	Kerala	500	27.	Tamil Nadu	1862
16.	Madhya Pradesh	2558	28.	Tripura	200
17.	Maharashtra	708	29.	Uttar Pradesh	2209
18.	Manipur	523	30.	Uttaranchal	1075
19.	Meghalaya	245	31.	West Bengal	313
20.	Mizoram	376		Total	23814

Statement-II

(Rs. in Lakh)

Sl. No.	States	1997-1998		1998-1999		1999-2000		2000-2001		2001-2002	
		Allocation	Expenditure	Allocation	Expenditure	Allocation	Expenditure	Allocation	Expenditure	Allocation	Expenditure Upto Oct. 01
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
1.	Andhra Pradesh	5957.19	5200.16	4879.82	4273.04	5707.87	3736.51	11188.26	10781.93	9000	4236
2.	Assam	1860.80	1388.24	2661.10	1517.99	4239.32	2769.61	5253.64	4877.01	7000	1670
3.	Bihar	1952.00	2094.54	3417.35	3238.60	6117.52	5950.16	6927.56	6014.41	5500	1196
4.	Chandigarh	30.00	29.20	82.00	70.82	100.00	73.93	144.00	139.57	150	30
5.	Chhattisgarh	-	-	-	-	-	-	1227.80	472.08	3000	889
6.	Delhi	800.00	858.21	1400.00	1225.54	700.00	422.13	483.00	0.00	1000	127
7.	Goa	971.56	1003.02	1100.00	1172.54	1700.02	1670.19	2300.00	2138.45	2000	403
8.	Gujarat	4322.42	4916.93	6628.54	9332.70	8851.90	8683.39	9099.97	8675.49	8500	1845
9.	Haryana	10040.00	10191.24	7588.50	6913.18	10000.00	9046.65	10100.00	9290.11	5500	2400
10.	Himachal Pradesh	1700.00	1654.94	2500.00	2500.00	4000.00	3502.72	4415.00	3889.36	4700	1900
11.	Jammu & Kashmir	150.00	25.50	100.00	6.15	100.00	0.91	250.00	51.59	400	00
12.	Jharkhand	-	-	-	-	-	-	2200.00	1188.78	2500	854
13.	Karnataka	4236.78	4085.64	3709.01	3772.04	6113.84	6846.09	8104.00	7451.90	7500	2390

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
14.	Kerala	8042.48	8182.48	7080.16	8820.63	12837.07	10808.59	8978.03	4390.91	7500	2280
15.	Madhya Pradesh	4657.06	4215.68	8247.73	7932.47	12334.80	11546.69	13472.11	12649.59	8000	2100
16.	Maharashtra	8062.43	8062.43	11382.63	11659.74	17808.08	16662.16	21238.20	19631.80	10800	2828
17.	Manipur	702.19	670.06	700.30	828.29	1014.15	894.90	851.31	535.31	1800	149
18.	Meghalaya	979.50	900.51	1060.50	911.03	1785.28	1372.61	1708.34	1562.73	2500	760
19.	Mizoram	-	-	-	-	300.00	282.90	1000.00	994.52	1800	177
20.	Nagaland	100.00	134.77	200.00	210.87	800.00	886.17	1500.00	1489.52	1600	149
21.	Orissa	6475.20	6417.39	9726.82	8711.02	9228.02	9198.19	10046.89	8388.97	7000	1207
22.	Pondicherry	70.00	15.38	100.81	86.30	319.46	281.27	200.00	146.65	200	135
23.	Punjab	5378.88	4977.53	7148.88	7672.10	5300.10	4233.38	5365.00	3817.01	4800	1172
24.	Rajasthan	4315.83	4521.80	4605.81	4620.18	5214.02	4311.94	8720.00	8403.34	10000	2486
25.	Tamil Nadu	2567.92	1948.93	3921.37	3652.38	6754.08	5348.20	10342.21	8256.09	9500	3020
26.	Uttar Pradesh	12535.27	11899.20	12649.35	10722.86	12647.45	11776.30	14949.76	13938.82	12900	2971
27.	Uttaranchal	-	-	-	-	-	-	199.35	123.88	2000	126
28.	West Bengal	7335.00	7641.88	10150.94	8394.40	8818.02	8072.55	12800.00	10824.28	10538	1623

NB: About figures do not include the allocation/expenditure in respect of BRDB and NHA who are incurring the expenditure directly on the development of National Highways entrusted to them.

Harassment of Indian Diplomats

*238. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA:
SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there have been fresh incidents of intimidation and assault of Indian diplomats and their families in Pakistan recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) There have been two fresh incidents of intimidation and assault. On 8th November 2001 a member of the High Commission of India was accosted and threatened by a Pakistani national in Lahore, who claimed to be an ISI official. In the second incident on the same day, another staff member of the High

Commission was forcibly abducted in the presence of his wife. The official was returned several hours later badly beaten and bruised.

(c) Government condemned these incidents of harassment and ill-treatment of Indian personnel and took up the matter forcefully with Government of Pakistan and lodged a strong protest both with the Foreign Office of Pakistan in Islamabad and with the Pakistani High Commission in New Delhi.

India has time and again reminded Pakistan of its obligations under the Vienna Convention as well as the bilateral Code of Conduct for Treatment of Diplomatic/Consular Personnel in India and Pakistan. Government are committed to taking all measures to ensure the welfare and well-being of their personnel in Missions abroad.

Employment in Telecom Sector

*239. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the total employment in the telecom sector under the Government Sector;

(b) whether there has been a decline in employment over the last 3 years in the telecom sector;

(c) the trends of employment projected in the telecom sector over the coming three years;

(d) whether a decline is expected in employment in this sector; and

(e) if so, decline in employment expected in real terms in the telecom sector of Government?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS, MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): (a) to (e) As per available information, total employment in telecom sector under the Government Sector, including the Public Sector Undertakings under the administrative control of the Department of Telecom is about 4,47,000.

While technological changes are rationalizing the deployment of manpower in the telecom sector, the projected growth of this sector including increasing private sector participation is likely to generate demand for human resources which will lead to significantly more employment opportunities in the telecom sector.

Telephone and Post Offices Facilities

*240. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the demand for telephone and post office facilities is increasing in the rural areas in view of the technological advancement in these fields;

(b) if so, the present situation in Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh in the above fields;

(c) whether no improvement has been made in these fields in the rural areas despite the present expansion in the communication sector; and

(d) if so, the details of the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS, MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Demand for telephone connections in Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh have increased considerably. Presently there is

a waiting list of 11861, 123826 and 93191 telephones in rural areas in Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh respectively as on 31.10.2001.

Demand for opening new post offices in rural areas of Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh is 51, 24 and 247 respectively during the current year.

(c) and (d) Improvements have been made in providing telephone and post office facilities in rural areas. During 2000-2001, 18.45 lakh new Direct Exchange Lines (DELs) have been provided along with 3201 new exchanges in the rural areas, and during 2001-2002 it is planned to provide 16.82 lakh new DELs and 1800 new exchanges in rural areas out of which 6.15 lakh new DELs and 382 new exchanges have already been provided during current financial year till 31.10.2001 in the country. The total number of rural exchanges as on 31.10.2001 in MP, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh is 2056, 1766 and 2084 respectively. More and more Digital Electronic Exchanges are being inducted with suitable and reliable media. Wireless in Local Loop (WLL) and C-DOT wireless multiple access systems are also being deployed in rural areas apart from conventional under ground (U/G) cables system.

There is an improvement in providing post office facility also. 5001 Post Offices are functioning in rural areas of Madhya Pradesh, 9607 in Rajasthan and 15651 in Uttar Pradesh as on 31.3.2001. Opening of new post offices is subject to the fulfillment of norms based on justification and availability of required resources including sanction of required posts by the Government.

[*Translation*]

STD/ISD Booth in Delhi

2411. SHRI BAHADUR SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the fact that the STD/ISD/PCO booth operators in Delhi are charging two rupees for one local call where as the Government rate is Rs. 1 per call;

(b) whether the Government would issue necessary direction to the booth-operators to charge one rupee for a local call instead of charging two rupees;

(c) whether the Government have conducted any raid on telephone booths to ascertain the facts;

(d) the number of telephone booths against which action was taken; and

(e) whether the Government would give advertisement in local newspapers with a view to make the general public aware about the factual position?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) As per existing orders of department, all PCOs which are manned by handicapped persons and those where Coin Collecting Box (CCB) instruments are provided are billed at Re. 1.00 per call and other attended PCOs are billed at Rs. 1.20 per call. Therefore, STD/ISD/PCO owners should Rs. 1.20+5% Service Tax for one local call. Some cases of over-charging have come to the notice of MTNL, Delhi.

(b) (i) Agreement is made with STD/ISD/PCOs franchise that he will charge correctly.

(ii) Advertisement is also given in the newspapers.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) 58 PCOs disconnected during the period 01.08.2000 to 31.11.2001. Warning issued to 25 PCOs and 99 cases are under process.

(e) Fresh advertisement will be released in local newspaper shortly.

Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited

2412. SHRI SUBODH ROY:
SHRIMATI MINATI SEN:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) is not being permitted to start value added service especially Cellular Service deliberately with the intention to eventually make out a case for its privatisation; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) DOT has already granted licence of Cellular Mobile Service to BSNL for all the service areas in the country except for Delhi and Mumbai as MTNL is having licence for these two areas. BSNL is free to start the service & in fact they have already started cellular mobile services in Bihar and Kolkata.

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

Visit of Iranian Foreign Minister

2413. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the India and Iran are planning to institute a mechanism to enable the scholars from both the countries to study issues of strategic concern;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether this proposal was discussed during the recent visit of Deputy Foreign Minister of Iran;

(d) if so, the modalities chalked out between the two countries in this regard; and

(e) the details of other issues discussed with the Iranian Foreign Minister?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) to (d) The Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses (IDSA) of India and Institute of Political and International Studies, (IPIS) of Iran periodically hold discussions on issues that are of strategic importance for both India and Iran. Both Institutes have thus far held two rounds of discussions, one each in August 1999 and August 2000. The third round of discussions is scheduled to be held in later this month. As a follow-up to the decision taken during EAM's meeting with the Iranian Foreign Minister on April, 10, 2001, the forthcoming round of discussions between IDSA and IPIS is likely to discuss the strategic issues as well.

(e) The first India-Iran Dialogue on Strategic issues was held in new Delhi on 16th October, 2001. The Indian delegation to this dialogue was led by Foreign Secretary and the Iranian delegation by their Deputy Foreign Minister. During this meeting, the two sides focused on the regional and international security perspective, and the phenomena of terrorism and fundamentalism. In this context, the two sides held detailed discussions on the emerging political situation in Afghanistan. The meeting contributed to better understanding of each other's legitimate concerns in the region, particularly in Afghanistan.

The two sides also held a Review Meeting of the India-Iran Joint Commission and took stock of entire range of issues of bilateral cooperation between the two

countries, including political, economic, commercial, cultural, consular and those related to the work of India-Iran Joint Committee on the transfer of Iranian gas to India.

Free Medicines to AIIMS Patients

2414. SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the patients admitted in General Ward of AIIMS are entitled for free medicines as per the vocabulary prepared by the Hospitals;

(b) if so, whether General Ward patients are given prescriptions for purchasing each and every medicine including cotton gauge and syringes from the market;

(c) whether a number of patients waiting for a life-saving surgery at the AIIMS and Government hospitals, being from poor families and not in a position to get the treatment;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the amount incurred by AIIMS in procuring medicines for free distribution in General ward during 1999-2000 and 2000-2001; and

(f) the concrete steps taken/being by the Government to amend in the procedure to enable the poor people to avail of medical facility in Government hospitals?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C.P. THAKUR): (a) and (b) All the patients who are admitted in the General Ward in AIIMS hospitals are provided with common and emergency medicines/surgical items including cotton Gauge, syringes etc. Only those patients who can afford to buy the medicines not available in the hospital are asked to buy such items. In case of very poor indigent patients who cannot afford to buy all the required medicines and surgical items are provided by the AIIMS hospital.

(c) to (f) In AIIMS hospital, patients from various socio-economic backgrounds come for treatment and their economic condition does not have any bearing to their admission and treatment.

The expenditure incurred by the AIIMS hospital procuring medicines/surgicals for the hospitalized patients (and EHS beneficiaries) for the financial year 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 is about Rs. 9.67 crores and Rs. 9.80 crores respectively.

[*Translation*]

Opening up of Highways and Rail Routes

2415. PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the Highways and Rail routes connecting the neighbouring countries proposed to be opened by the Government;

(b) whether the Government propose to review it in view of the serious incidents of terrorism;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) to (d) The Government are of the view that the promotion of people-to-people contacts by all means including making travel between India and neighbouring countries as simple and easy as possible will contribute to the development of friendly ties.

In keeping with this approach, Government have been working with the Government of Bangladesh on increasing and diversifying the transport linkages between the two countries. On July 10, 2001 an Agreement was signed to introduce a bus service between Agartala and Dhaka. An Agreement was also signed on July 12, 2001 to start a passenger train service between India and Bangladesh.

Similarly, on July 9, 2001 Government announced that Pakistani passport holders will be allowed to come by the road route and obtain visas at the check posts at Attari. An additional check post will be opened at Munabao, in Rajasthan. Similar check posts will also be opened at designated points along the International Border and Line of Control in Jammu & Kashmir.

Agreement for operationalising railway link between Raxaul (India) and Birgunj (Nepal) is under discussion between Governments of India and Nepal. This link, once

commissioned, will help movement of containerised cargo from Kolkata/Haldia Port to Nepal and vice-versa.

Government are vigilant and firmly resolved to take all necessary measures to ensure the security of the country, and to resist terrorism until it is decisively crushed.

Agro Based Industries in Rajasthan

2416. SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of agro-based industries set up in Rajasthan during last three years and the number of the industries which have been closed down;

(b) whether the Government are considering to reopen the closed oil-mills of Jodhpur district of Rajasthan;

(c) whether the Government also consider to open the closed Gvar Gum mills of Rajasthan; and

(d) if so, the time by which these mills are expected to be opened?

THE MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI KARIYA MUNDA): (a) to (d) The information sought, is not maintained centrally.

CGHS Dispensaries

2417. SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY:
SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI:
SHRI MANSINH PATEL:
SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO:
SHRI BHIM DAHAL:
SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN:
PROF. DUKHA BHAGAT:
SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY:

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

(a) the number of CGHS dispensaries in the country, State-wise;

(b) whether the Government have any proposal to open more CGHS dispensaries/hospitals in the country particularly North Eastern States including Sikkim;

(c) if so the time by which these are likely to be opened;

(d) whether the Government have taken any final decision for availing of the medical facilities of recognized private hospitals in case of emergency situation to the CGHS beneficiaries; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C.P. THAKUR): (a) The information is given in the attached statement.

(b) and (c) The Government has decided to extend CGHS facilities to the cities of Chandigarh, Bhopal and Shillong and for which necessary action has already been initiated to make the dispensaries functional at the earliest.

There is no proposal to extend CGHS facilities to Sikkim at present.

(d) and (e) In emergency, the CGHS beneficiaries can directly take treatment from any of the private hospitals recognised under CGHS. The beneficiaries can even go to private hospitals/nursing homes for treatment in emergent circumstances, after which ex-post-facto approval can be obtained from Government for reimbursement.

Statement

State/City-wise List of CGHS Dispensaries

Sl. No.	State	City	Allopathic	Ayurvedic	Homeopathic	Unani	Siddha	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1.	Gujarat	Ahmedabad	5	1	1	-	-	7
2.	Maharashtra	Mumbai	28	2	4	0	0	57
		Nagpur	10	2	1			
		Pune	7	1	2			

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
3.	Kerala	Trivandrum	3	-	-	-	-	3
4.	Karnataka	Bangaloe	10	2	1	1	-	14
5.	Tamil Nadu	Chennai	14	1	1		1	17
6.	Andhra Pradesh	Hyderabad	14	2	2	2	-	20
7.	Uttar Pradesh	Allahabad	7	1	1			38
		Meerut	6	1	1			
		Lucknow	6	1	1			
		Kanpur	9	1	2			
8.	Bihar	Patna	5	1	1	-	-	7
9.	Jharkhand	Ranchi	*1	-	-	-	-	
10.	Orissa	Bhubaneshwar	*1	-	-	-	-	1
11.	Assam	Guwahati	3	-	-	-	-	3
12.	West Bengal	Kolkata	17	1	2	1	-	21
13.	Rajasthan	Jaipur	5	1	1	-	-	7
14.	Madhya Pradesh	Jabalpur	3	-	-	-	-	3
15.	Delhi		87	13	13	4	1	118

* Caters to the employees of AG's office only.

Telecom Facility in J&K

2418. SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the substandard essential services being provided in the field of posts, telegraph and communications in Jammu and Kashmir circle;

(b) whether there is a need of improvement in the quality of these services in the State; and

(c) if so, the directions issued by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR):

(a) Postal Services

Postal Services in J&K are generally satisfactory. Latest live survey of mails reveals the position as under.

Mail Segment

Percentage of mail delivered as per norms

	Urban	Rural
Unregistered Mail	82%	81.4%
Registered Mail	75.3%	80.7%
Money Orders	45.2%	24.00%

There have, however, been occasional complaints which are attended to promptly.

Telegraph Services

No, Sir. The quality of telegraph services provided in Jammu and Kashmir is very satisfactory despite constraints and it stands at 89.2% against the target of 91% for the parameters of delivery of telegrams within 12 daylight hours.

Telecommunication Services

Sir, telecom services provided in Jammu & Kashmir are not sub-standard. All telephone exchanges are electronic.

(b) and (c) Postal Services:

There is always a scope of improvement. Improvement in quality of services in an ongoing process and the following steps have been taken to improve the quality of service:

- (i) To transmit money orders by Satellite, two VSAT stations and 8 ESMOs have been established. Constant monitoring over prompt payment of money order is done by a senior Gazetted Officer. Line limits have recently been enhanced.
- (ii) To computerise the front office operations, 25 multi-purpose counter machines have been installed.
- (iii) To ensure redressal of complaints quickly, three Computerised Customer Care Centres have been set up. Some more are likely to be installed during the year 2001-2002.
- (iv) 12 Panchayat Sanchar Sewa Kendras have already been set up and 12 more are proposed to be set up during the current year 2001-2002.
- (v) To ensure speedy processing of Registered mails, one computerised Registration Channel has been set up.
- (vi) Savings Bank Operations are also being computerised to provide better quality service to the customers. Five post offices are having Savings Bank local area network.
- (vii) To enlarge postal network in the State, 10 Extra Departmental Branch Post Offices in normal area and three Extra Departmental Branch Post Offices in tribal area are proposed to be opened during the year 2001-2002.

Telegraph Services

The improvement in the quality of services is an ongoing process and continuous efforts are made to improve it.

Telecommunication Services

Improvement in the quality of these services is a continuous process. However, there is a room for further improvement of telecom services in remote and far flung areas which is dependent on improvement in commercial power supply and law and order situation.

The engine alternators, solar power panels are being provided to overcome power shortage and reliable transmission media is provided in phased manner for improving connectivity.

[English]

Change in Telegraph Act, 1885

2419. SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to replace the Indian Telegraph Act, 1885 in pursuance of the New Telecom Policy, 1999;

(b) if so, the efforts being made by the Government for amending the old Indian Telegraph Act; and

(c) the time by which the amendment of bill is likely to be brought before the Parliament?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Communication Convergence Bill 2001 has already been introduced in the Lok Sabha on 31.8.2001. The Hon'ble Speaker of the Lok Sabha has referred the same to the Standing Committee on Information Technology for examination and Report thereon.

Value Added Service

2420. SHRI G. MALLIKARJUNAPPA:
SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether in a bid to diversify and upgrade its services to meet the challenges of the privatising world, the Department of Posts has planned to introduce a host of value-added services including 'Bill Post' in the State of Karnataka, which will enable payment of various bills such as water bill, power bill, and others at the post offices itself; and

(b) if so, the extent to which it is likely to help the people and also improve the postal services in Karnataka State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) Yes, Sir. The new value-added service "Bill Post" is to be launched in Bangalore and Kolkata as a pilot scheme to collect, account for and update telephone bills in electronic method/mode.

Based on the experience of this pilot phase the scheme would be extended to other utility bills like water bills, power bills etc. in the post offices.

(b) Once the service is in place, the people will be able to pay most of their utility bills at any of the post offices offering this service. There may not be a need for them to go to different service providers for settling their bills.

Cellular Mobile Telephone Service

2421. SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH:
DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV:
SHRI C.N. SINGH:
SHRI RAJAJIAH MALYALA:
SHRI CHINTAMAN WANAGA:
SHRI Y.V. RAO:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to start cellular mobile telephone service of BSNL, State-wise;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which it is likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) BSNL has planned for wider introduction of cellular mobile telephone service in the country in the licenced service areas in its jurisdiction as per the details given in the enclosed statement.

(c) Tender is under finalisation and the network roll out is expected in the next financial year.

Statement

Details of the Plans for Country wide Coverage of the BSNL Mobile

Sl. No.	Licensed Service Area	Number of Cities to be Covered	Lines in Phase-I	Lines in Phase-2	Total Lines
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andaman & Nicobar	1	1500	2500	4000
2.	Andhra Pradesh	85	160000	253600	413600
3.	Bihar (including Jharkhand)	49	65000	110000	175000
4.	Gujarat	74	175000	284750	459750
5.	Haryana	40	43000	68050	111050
6.	Himachal Pradesh	20	12000	22000	34000
7.	Karnataka	26	115000	185150	300150
8.	Kerala	100	125000	199830	324830
9.	Madhya Pradesh (including Chhattisgarh)	69	43500	92350	135850
10.	Maharashtra	124	190000	305300	495300
11.	Orissa	38	37000	77000	114000
12.	Punjab	62	90000	143500	233500
13.	Rajasthan	40	50000	87650	137650
14.	Tamilnadu	68	130000	204900	334900

1	2	3	4	5	6
15.	U.P. (West) including Uttaranchal	33	100000	160000	260000
16.	U.P. (East)	71	74000	143100	217100
17.	West Bengal	35	40500	70000	110500
Total		935	1451500	2409680	3861180

Plans for Assam, J&K, North East are subject to Govt. clearance for launching of service

Expansion of Telephone Connections

2422. SHRI T. GOVINDAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken steps to expand and raise the capacity to provide telephone connections to the applicants where waiting list exceeds largely than the existing capacity of Telephone Exchanges;

(b) if so, the details of such Exchanges, State-wise; and

(c) its present position thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Expansion and raising the capacity of the exchanges is a continuous process because of the dynamic status of 'Waiting list'. It is planned to add 64.76 lakh lines of fixed phones during 2001-2002. The State-wise details are given in the enclosed statement.

Statement

Fixed Telephones Capacity Target for 2001-2002 and Waiting List as on 31.10.2001

Sl. No.	State	Capacity	Waiting List (As on 31.01.01)
1	2	3	4
1.	Andaman & Nicobar	7100	848
2.	Andhra Pradesh	610600	146469
3.	Assam	86600	26797
4.	Bihar	190600	108334

1	2	3	4
5.	Chhattisgarh	20200	10013
6.	Delhi	175000	20079
7.	Gujarat	629500	202334
8.	Haryana	235900	130836
9.	Himachal Pradesh	101000	50100
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	59800	48713
11.	Jharkhand	52700	29558
12.	Karnataka	445300	188660
13.	Kerala	563700	845235
14.	Madhya Pradesh	50500	17316
15.	Maharashtra*	929500	361182
16.	North East-I**	22600	11512
17.	North East-II**	10600	11801
18.	Orissa	115800	85028
19.	Punjab	352600	208868
20.	Rajasthan	249300	159766
21.	Tamilnadu	512800	124606
22.	Uttar Pradesh	417200	224979
23.	Uttaranchal	82700	20070
24.	West Bengal**	554000	239307

Note: * Maharashtra includes Goa & Mumbai (MTNL)
 ** NE-I includes Meghalaya, Mizoram & Tripura.
 ** NE-II includes Nagaland, Arunachal Pradesh & Manipur.
 *** West Bengal includes Sikkim.

*[Translation]***Telephone Facility to Panchayats**

2423. PROF. DUKHA BHAGAT: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether telephone facility has been provided to all village panchayats of the country by the Government;

(b) if so, the number of village panchayats where telephone facility has not been provided so far, particularly in Jharkhand, district-wise; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to provide better telephone facilities to village panchayats?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) and (b) No, Sir. 35,525 Village Panchayats have not been provided with telecom facility in the country as on 1.11.2001. 1,338 village panchayats are still without telecom facility in Jharkhand. District-wise details are given in the enclosed statement.

(c) New technologies like Wireless in Local Loop (WLL), CDOT TDMA/PMP and satellite are being inducted for covering remaining village panchayats. Faulty Multi Access Radio Relay (MARR) based village public telephones are planned to be replaced by new technology equipment subject to availability of funds.

Statement

Sl. No.	Name of District	No. of Panchayats without telephone facility
1	2	3
1.	Chatra	62
2.	Giridih	201
3.	Kodarma	141
4.	Hazaribagh	117
5.	East Singhbhum	0
6.	West Singhbhum	0
7.	Saraikela	0
8.	Latohar	50
9.	Garhwa	72
10.	Palamau	90

1	2	3
11.	Dumka	151
12.	Deoghar	85
13.	Godda	66
14.	Sahibganj	46
15.	Pakur	76
16.	Jamtara	32
17.	Ranchi	60
18.	Gumla	22
19.	Lohardaga	14
20.	Simdega	53
21.	Dhanbad	0
22.	Bokaro	0
		1338

*[English]***CMC Pact**

2424. DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether TATA has signed Computer Maintenance Corporations pact with the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the role of the Government in CMC management?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS, MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Government, which was holding 83.31% of the total issued and paid-up share capital in CMC Ltd., has disinvested 51% of its holding to M/s Tata Sons as per the disinvestment policy for a sum of Rs. 152 crores (16.69% of Government holding was earlier disinvested in 1992). The revised structure of equity in CMC Ltd. is: Tata Sons - 51%, Government of India - 26%, Employees (ESPS) - 6.31% and GIC/Public - 16.69%. Accordingly, the Share Holders Agreement was signed between the Government and Tata Sons on 16.10.2001 and the management control of the Company now rests with the strategic partner. In the new set-up, Government has the right to nominate two non-executive/non-retiring Directors on the Board.

*[Translation]***Special Programmes of KVIC in Bihar**

2425. SHRI RAJO SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the States of the country specially the districts of Bihar where the programme of KVIC are being conducted; and

(b) the details of the criteria adopted by Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) for selection of districts for development of Khadi Industries in the country particularly in Bihar?

THE MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI KARIYA MUNDA): (a) and (b) The programmes of Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) are implemented throughout the country including Bihar.

Population Control

2426. SHRI JAI PRAKASH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to provide incentives while making allocation of funds to the State Governments which have successfully controlled increasing population in the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C.P. THAKUR): (a) and (b) The States which have performed better in family welfare programmes resulting into lower growth of population receive higher allocations in the budget depending on the performance particularly in respect of supply of contraceptives, compensation for sterilisation/IUD insertion and area specific programmes

As a motivational measure, in order to enable State governments to fearlessly and effectively pursue the agenda for population stabilization, the government has decided to freeze the number of seats in the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha based on the 1971 Census till 2026.

(c) Does not arise.

*[English]***Supply to Government Departments**

2427. SHRI RAMJEE MANJHI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Department of Personnel and Training have laid down any norms as to the type of vendors the Kendriya Bhandar shall have to make supplies of stationery and other items to the Government Departments in the office memorandum issued by them on July 14, 1981 authorising the above institution to make supplies to Government Departments;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether in the absence of any norms, a number of irregularities have been committed in the institution;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action taken in this regard against the defaulters?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) to (e) No major irregularities have come to the notice of Government so far. Kendriya Bhandar has a Chief Vigilance Officer who looks into all the complaints about irregularities and corruption involving the employees and action is taken after carrying out necessary investigations/inquiries wherever considered necessary.

Creation of Jobs in I.T. Sector

2428. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR: Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a vast scope to create additional jobs in the Information Technology Sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps taken by the Union Government as well as State Governments in this regard; and

(d) the approximate number of jobs proposed to be created in the I.T. sector for next five years, State-wise particularly in Karnataka?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS, MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Several Policy Measures have been taken to facilitate infrastructural development and attract foreign investments in the area of Information Technology for creating additional jobs. Some of these include setting up new Software Technology Parks (STPs), establishment of Media Lab Asia, spread of Internet and IT enabled services.

(d) As per the estimate of NASSCOM, 22 lakhs IT professionals are required by 2008. No State-wise break up is kept.

Funds for Coir Board Withdrawn

2429. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have withheld the release of funds earmarked for the Coir Board;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the manner in which Government propose to meet the expenditure of the Coir Board during the year 2001-2002?

THE MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI KARIYA MUNDA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Hydraulic Study System

2430. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Calcutta Port Trust has rejected proposals for shifting hydraulic study system to Haldia;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Haldia Port is more suitable as a Centre for Hydraulic studies; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken by the Government to ensure that Calcutta Port Trust complies with such orders?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) to (d) Based on the directives of the Government, the Board of Trustees of Calcutta Port in their meeting held on 28.11.2000, has resolved to shift the laboratories of the Hydraulic Study System to Haldia.

Information Technology Mission

2431. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR: Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether an 18 member information technology mission sponsored by the Electronics and Computer Software Export Promotion Council has visited Japan recently;

(b) if so, the aims of the mission;

(c) whether the area of bilateral co-operation has been identified; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS, MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The aim of the mission was to participate in the 15th Annual Microcomputer Systems and Tool Fair (MST 2001) from November 20-22, 2001 at Tokyo and to explore the potential of outsourcing of embedded software from India.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Computer Software and Services have been identified by the 18 member IT Mission as thrust areas between the two countries.

[Translation]

Medical Facilities for Foreign Patients

2432. SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADoba MANDLIK:
SHRI C.N. SINGH:

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

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn towards the news-item captioned "Nayee Swasthya Neeti Ki Ghoshna" published in the *Rashtriya Sahara* dated September 5, 2001;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether medical facilities will be provided to foreign patients on payment basis;

(d) whether the Government would prevent the VIPs of our country on spending crores of rupees in foreign countries on treatment after this new policy is implemented;

(e) if so, the steps being taken by the Government in this regard; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C.P. THAKUR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A draft National Health Policy, 2001 has been formulated and circulated to State Governments, concerned Central Government Departments, Non Governmental Organisations, eminent medical professionals and public at large for comments. The suggestions received are being examined and the National Health Policy, 2001 after finalization will be placed before the Cabinet for approval. The draft policy covers various aspects related to health care such as financial resources equity, infrastructure, medical education, research, private sector and its regulation etc.

(c) The draft National Health Policy, 2001 envisages encouraging the supply of services to patients of foreign origin on payment. Rendering of such services on payment in foreign exchange will be treated as 'deemed exports' and will be made eligible for all fiscal incentives extended to export earnings.

(d) to (f) No, Sir. Denial of appropriate medical treatment for VIPs including treatment in foreign countries is not desirable.

Closure of National Highways During Floods

2433. KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether certain stretches of the National Highways are inundated and they have to be closed for the traffic during floods in some States;

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

(c) whether the Government have formulated any scheme to raise the level of those National Highways which are inundated during floods;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the time by which implementation of this scheme is likely to begin; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor and the time by which formulation of such a scheme is likely to be considered?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI): (a) and (b) Some of the National Highways in the country were inundated during the last floods. The State-wise details of National Highways affected is given in the statement attached.

(c) and (d) The improvement of National Highways including sections affected by floods is a continuous process. The works are taken up through various Annual Plans keeping in view the inter-se priority, traffic intensity and overall availability of funds.

(e) Does not arise.

Statement

Sl. No.	Name of State	National Highways No.
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	Nil
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	Nil
3.	Assam	31, 31(b), 31(c), 36, 37, 39, 52, 54, 61 & 152
4.	Bihar	28, 28A, 77 & 85
5.	Chandigarh	Nil
6.	Chhattisgarh	6 & 43
7.	Delhi	Nil
8.	Goa	Nil
9.	Gujarat	Nil
10.	Haryana	Nil
11.	Himachal Pradesh	20, 21, 22 & 88
12.	Jammu & Kashmir	1A
13.	Jharkhand	Nil
14.	Karnataka	Nil
15.	Kerala	47 & 49
16.	Madhya Pradesh	Nil
17.	Maharashtra	6 & 17

1	2	3
18.	Manipur	Nil
19.	Meghalaya	Nil
20.	Mizoram	Nil
21.	Nagaland	Nil
22.	Orissa	6, 200 & 201
23.	Pondicherry	Nil
24.	Punjab	15
25.	Rajasthan	Nil
26.	Sikkim	Nil
27.	Tamil Nadu	Nil
28.	Tripura	44
29.	Uttaranchal	72 & 74
30.	Uttar Pradesh	29 & 76
31.	West Bengal	Nil

[English]

Telecom Services

2434. SHRI Y.V. RAO: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that private organisations operating in telecom sector are providing better services as compared to that of the public sector; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The Public Sector is providing equally good service as the private organisations.

[Translation]

Re-Opening of Embassy in Afghanistan

2435. SHRI AJAY SINGH CHAUTALA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether country has again opened embassy in Kabul; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) and (b) A diplomatic Mission of the Ministry of External Affairs visited Kabul, Afghanistan on 21 November, 2001. The Mission team comprised of Special Envoy for Afghanistan, sector officials of the Ministry of External Affairs, interpreters and other essential staff. There was also a medical and nursing component with the team, which has stayed behind along with the Liaison Officer of the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India. After the closure of the Indian Embassy in Kabul on September 26, 1996, this was the first Indian diplomatic Mission to Afghanistan.

[English]

Indo-Afghanistan Ties

2436. SHRI NAMDEO HARBAJI DIWATHE:
SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI:
SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE:
SHRI SHIVAJI MANE:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to restore the relations with Afghanistan;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) to (c) A diplomatic mission of the Ministry of External Affairs visited Kabul, Afghanistan on 21 November 2001. The Mission team comprised of Special Envoy for Afghanistan, senior officials of the Ministry of External Affairs, interpreters and other essential staff. There was also a medical and nursing component with the team, which has stayed behind along with the Liaison Officer of the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India.

Sub-Standard Material

2437. DR. BALIRAM: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of complaints received from residents and residents welfare committee regarding use of sub-standard material for white-wash, snowcem, distemper etc;

(b) if so, the details thereof and action taken in each case;

(c) if not, the time by which the action proposed to be taken against the defaulters;

(d) whether it is also a fact that tenders are awarded to same contractors again and again; and

(e) if so, facts and reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Gadgil-Mukherjee Formula

2438. SHRI G.J. JAVIYA:
SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH:
SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY:
SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Planning Commission have decided to review the Gadgil-Mukherjee formula for allocation of Central assistance to States;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether several States are unhappy on the allocation of Central assistance due to Gadgil-Mukherjee formula;

(d) if so, the details of representations received in this regard; and

(e) the extent to which the review of the formula is going to remove various bottlenecks in the allocation of Central assistance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) to (e) The Planning Commission has received proposals from various State Governments to amend the existing Gadgil-Mukherjee formula for allocating Normal Central Assistance to State Plans. There is wide divergence in the views amongst the States in this regard. In general, while the advanced States have sought higher weightage for Performance, the less advanced States have sought higher weightage for Backwardness. This issue was considered in a meeting of the Full Planning Commission held on 27th & 29th June 2001. Since revision in the

Formula requires the approval of National Development Council (NDC), it was decided that given the difference of opinion among the State Governments and the sensitivity of this issue, it was necessary to discuss this further and evolve a consensus before alternatives are considered by the NDC.

Visit of FBI Team

2439. SHRI MOINUL HASSAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a team of the FBI came to India to interrogate the families of two suspects, living in Hyderabad, arrested by the United States in connection with the September 11, terrorist attacks;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the foreign investigative agency could directly question Indian citizens and make investigations about their background; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, officers from the Legal Attache Office in the U.S. Embassy in New Delhi visited Hyderabad and collected information from the Andhra Pradesh police. Their visit was coordinated by the Interpol branch of the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI).

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Expenditure by DoT

2440. SHRI CHANDRA VIJAY SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether DoT spent Rs. 300.85 crores in excess of sanctioned amount by the Government in Revenue Voted Section in the past few years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether DoT has Rs. 1503.99 crores as unspent funds under Capital Voted Head;

(d) if so, the reasons for the anomaly; and

(e) the corrective steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) In the Year 1998-1999, there was an excess of Rs. 300.85 crores under the Revenue Voted section.

(b) The revenue generated in 1998-1999 were in excess of expectation by Rs. 300.85 crores. The excess Revenue was transferred to Reserve Fund through Appropriations. This was not really excess expenditure.

(c) In the year 1998-1999, there was a saving of Rs. 1503.99 crores in the Capital Voted Section.

(d) The main reasons for the saving under Capital Section in 1998-1999 were due to the decision in that year to reduce the sanctioned grant under the scheme BB4-Long Distance Transmission Scheme.

(e) With the corporatisation of the service functions of Department of Telecom Services/Department of Telecom Operations and the formation of the Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited with effect from 1.10.2000, the budgeting and accounting systems of the Company have been completely revamped. The Department of Telecommunications now only looks after the functions of policy formulation, licensing, wireless spectrum management and the administrative control of the Public Sector Undertakings and its much reduced expenditure will be met from the General Exchequer. Likewise, the few receipts of the Department will also accrue to General Revenues.

Plantation of Trees Along National Highways

2441. SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government plan to plant trees beside the newly constructed 4-lane quadrilateral national highways in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the targets fixed alongwith funds allocated therefor, State-wise; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government in order to plant trees beside the newly constructed Cuttack-Bhubaneswar 4-lane National Highway in Orissa?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI): (a) Yes, Sir. Tree plantation on newly constructed 4-lanes National Highway sections in the country is part of the implementation process.

(b) The plantation of trees along National Highways are being done through the respective State Forest Departments and funds are allocated on case to case basis. The tree plantation would be taken up after completion of civil works of the projects and would be completed within 3 years period thereafter.

(c) Median plantation by Forest Department has been proposed, on newly constructed Cuttack-Bhubaneswar section in Orissa.

Representation of SCs/STs

2442. SHRI BHAN SINGH BHAURA:
SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that while expressing serious concern and drawing attention of the Government towards the dismal picture of non-representation of SCs and STs in the higher rungs of the administration/bureaucratic set up, the convention of SC & ST MPs during December 1999 has recommended for inclusion of one member from SC/ST Community on all the 'Selection Committees/Boards' who are assigned the tasks of searching, short-listing, recommending, empanelling, selecting and recruiting persons for the posts at the level of 'Board of Directors'. Managing Directors/Chairman of various Public Sector Enterprises, Statutory/Autonomous organizations as well as other senior posts/positions at the level of Joint Secretary to Government of India and above;

(b) if so, the steps taken to modify the existing instructions to bring suitable structural/constitutional changes in the said Selection Boards/Committees for facilitating inclusion of SC/ST persons on them; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) Yes, Sir. The convention of MPs held in the year 1999 made a recommendation that there should be SC and ST members in the Recruitment Board/Selection Committees.

(b) and (c) Guidelines & instructions exist for associating SC/ST members in the DPCs, Selection Committees, Selection Boards, etc. for recruitment/promotion to posts/services under the Government.

[Translation]

Probe Against Trainee Pilots

2443. SHRI DINESH CHANDRA YADAV:
SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether F.B.I. had taken Indian trainee pilots in their custody for investigation in connection with terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001;

(b) if so, the number of such trainees taken into custody and the number of days they were kept in the custody;

(c) whether any case has been lodged against them; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) Government is not aware of Indian trainee pilots having been taken into F.B.I. custody in connection with terrorist attacks on September 11.

However, Government has seen a statement by the U.S. Attorney General that 548 individuals have been charged with immigration violations. While the names of those arrested have not been released due to their concern about violation of privacy rights, details released reveal that 20 persons were born in India among those 548.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Population Control

2444. SHRIMATI RENU KUMAR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of Government has been drawn to the news-item appearing in the *Hindustan* dated November 8, 2001 under caption "Mahilaon Ko Adhikar De Kar Hi Thaami Ja Sakti Hai Jansankhya";

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

(c) the measures taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C.P. THAKUR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The National Population Policy, adopted by the Government in February, 2000 recognizes the fact that population stabilization can not be achieved without empowering women and enhancing their employment opportunities.

The policy lists "Empowering women for improved Health and Nutrition" as one of the Strategic Themes. The action plan drawn for implementation of the Strategic theme is under implementation.

[English]

Merger of Departments

2445. SHRI N.T. SHANMUGAM:
SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR CHOUDHARY:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "DoT, DOI and DOP under one Ministry" appearing in the 'Hindustan Times' dated September 28, 2001;

(b) if so, the facts of the matter reported therein;

(c) whether there would be the budgetary savings by merging three Departments of two Ministries under one Umbrella;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) to (e) Yes, Sir. However, the caption of the article appearing in the 'Hindustan Times' (New Delhi, Metro edition) dated 28th September 2001 is "Infotech, communications ministries merger on anvil". This Department has submitted a proposal for the amalgamation of the Ministry of Communications and the Ministry of Information

Technology, into the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology. As per the proposal, this new Ministry would consist of three Departments i.e. the Department of Telecommunications and the Department of Posts (presently under the Ministry of Communications), and the Department of Information Technology. No substantial budgetary savings are envisaged as per the proposal which has been formulated essentially in view of the growing inter-dependence between the different sectors and the need of better coordination and convergence.

[*Translation*]

Lift Irrigation Scheme

2446. SHRI MANSINH PATEL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the farmers of the drought affected areas of Gujarat are being encouraged to adopt the lift irrigation scheme under the participating irrigation management;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the lift irrigation scheme is not getting momentum in the State due to non supply of electricity;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the concrete measure taken to remedy the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) As per the Constitution, irrigation is a State subject and the responsibility of the planning, funding, execution and implementation of irrigation projects primarily lies with the concerned Governments.

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

REGP in Daman and Diu

2447. SHRI DAHYABHAI VALLABHBHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether no funds have been released to the Union Territory of Daman and Diu under the Rural

Employment Generation Programme during the last 3 years;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the corrective measures taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI KARIYA MUNDA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Under the Rural Employment Generation Programme (REGP) of the KVIC, banks are to appraise projects to finance them. The State Khadi Board and the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) are facilitating organizations. Moreover, Khadi Board has also not been constituted for Daman & Diu, as yet.

(c) The KVIC and the banks are motivating potential entrepreneurs to set up units under the REGP.

Opening of CGHS Polyclinics in Southern Part of Bangalore

2448. SHRI KOLUR BASAVANAGOUD: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of CGHS Polyclinics in Bangalore city;

(b) the average number of Central Government employees availing of CGHS facilities;

(c) whether the Government are aware that for diagnostic tests, employees have to go to the lone Polyclinics of CGHS in Bangalore; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government to open a CGHS Polyclinics in Southern part of Bangalore, particularly in Gandhi Bazar or Jayanagar area?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C.P. THAKUR): (a) One.

(b) 54,290 CGHS Cards have been issued to Central Govt. employees in Bangalore which comprises 2,20,844 beneficiaries.

(c) Yes, Sir. Apart from the CGHS Polyclinic in Bangalore, the beneficiaries are also referred to the private hospitals recognized under CGHS Bangalore for those tests for which facilities are not available in the polyclinic.

(d) Due to constraints of manpower and resources, it will not be possible for the CGHS to open any new Polyclinic in Bangalore at present.

Pending Passport Applications

2449. SHRI P.S.GADHAVI:
SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY:
SHRI MANSINH PATEL:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Ahmedabad and Surat Passport Offices take six months to issue passport to the applicants as against 30-40 days in the cosmopolitan cities;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of pending passport applications in the above offices and the number of passports issued by them during the last two years;

(d) whether the Government have received representations relating to expeditious issuance of passports by the said offices; and

(e) if so, the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) and (b) RPO Ahmedabad is the only Passport Office in Gujarat. At Surat, there is only a Passport Application Collection Centre. RPO Ahmedabad has been experiencing some difficulties since June, 2000. As a result it is taking about 4 months to issue passports. Vigorous efforts are being made to correct the situation.

(c) The number of passport applications received and passports issued at Passport Office, Ahmedabad during the last two years is as follows:

Year	No. of Passport Applications	No. of passports issued
1999	1,70,541	1,62,969
2000	1,89,776	1,47,072

The number of passport applications pending where the police verification report has been received is about forty thousand.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) Passport Office, Ahmedabad has registered a growth of 30% in passport applications in the first 10

months of the current year as compared to last year. To deal with this increased volume of work Index Card check with computers has already been introduced. Machine writing of passports will also commence from early next year. Staff from other Passport Offices has been deployed to clear pendencies.

The situation has been turned around and the time taken in issue of passports has been steadily declining.

Ban on Monosodium Glutamate (Ajinomoto)

2450. SHRI VINAY KUMAR SORAKE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether monosodium glutamate (Ajinomoto) a taste enhance is a proven health hazard;

(b) whether the Government had contemplated a ban on Ajinomoto long back;

(c) the decision to ban the use and import of Ajinomoto was deferred;

(d) whether the Government are still considering to clamp a ban on the same; and

(e) if so, the time by when?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C.P. THAKUR): (a) Monosodium Glutamate, a flavour enhancer is considered as a Safe Food additive by Joint Expert Committee on Food Additives of FAO/WHO food standard programme.

(b) and (c) According to Directorate General of Foreign Trade, Ministry of Commerce, the import of Monosodium Glutamate (Ajinomoto) is free and there was no proposal to ban the import during the last year.

(d) and (e) At present there is no proposal to ban the import and use of Ajinomoto.

Copper-T

2451. SHRI ANANT GUDHE:
SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH:
SHRI SHIVAJI MANE:

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

(a) whether the Government are aware that the contraceptive (CTV Copper-T) is being procured for the current financial year at a very high rate, compared to last year;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government are also aware that the manufacture of Copper-T are not supplying Copper-T in prescribed durable packing; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor and details of the companies who had supplied low standard packing?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C.P. THAKUR): (a) and (b) Under National Family Welfare Programme, contraceptives are being procured regularly on the basis of an annual rate contract. The Copper-T procured during these three years indicate a price variation between Rs. 13.91 to Rs. 30.00 as under:

Year	Rates per piece (in Rs.)
1999-2000	26.00, 29.50 & 30.00
2000-2001	13.91 & 19.80
2001-2002	24.00

The cost of the Copper-T was unusually low during 2000-2001 on account of stiff competition among the manufacturers.

(c) No such instance has come to the notice of the Ministry. The manufacturers have been asked to supply Copper-T in the prescribed packing as per specifications laid down by the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS). Each batch of the quantity ordered is tested in Government approved laboratories, inclusive of packaging materials.

In addition, the Ministry has constituted a Task Force for Evaluation of Specifications and Standards in respect of contraceptives and accessories utilized in the Department of Family Welfare. Sub-groups had been constituted to review and recommend amendments, alterations and additions in respect of standards and specifications of individual contraceptives including Copper-T. Standards will also be prescribed in respect of packaging.

(d) Does not arise.

[*Translation*]

Post Office Building

2452. SHRI RAMANAND SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have given approval for construction of building of post office at district head quarter Satna in Madhya Pradesh; and

(b) if so, the time by which the construction of said building of post office is likely to start?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The construction of said building is likely to start during the financial year 2002-2003, subject to availability of resources.

Construction Cost of Coaltar and Cement Roads

2453. DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA:
SHRI DINESH CHANDRA YADAV:

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

(a) whether the construction cost of roads with the use of coaltar is different from the cost of roads constructed with cement;

(b) if so, the construction cost of both types of roads;

(c) the details in regard to maintenance and life of both the type of roads; and

(d) the type of roads being preferred for construction of National Highways in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI): (a) These days bitumen is used in road construction instead of coaltar. The cost of road constructed with bitumen is different from those constructed with cement.

(b) The construction cost of roads depends upon a number of factors viz. type of soil, class of roads, traffic, design life etc. The cost of roads constructed with cement is about 15 to 20% more than the bituminous roads.

(c) The road constructed with bitumen requires more maintenance input than cement road. The bituminous roads are designed for 10-15 years whereas; the cement roads are designed for a longer life of 20-30 years.

(d) Choice of pavement type depends on a number of variable factors viz. soil, climatic conditions, traffic and the economics. Both types of pavements are being considered for National Highway construction.

*[English]***Problems in AIIMS**

2454. DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have a proposal to review the current problems prevailing in All India Institute of Medical Sciences; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C.P. THAKUR): (a) and (b) All India Institute of Medical Sciences is an autonomous body set up under an Act of Parliament in the year 1956. Day to day problems in the Institute of this magnitude are resolved from time to time to ensure an overall excellence in the field of teaching, research and patient care.

*[Translation]***Setting up of Ayurvedic University in Bihar**

2455. SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR CHOUDHARY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of efforts being made by the Government to promote Ayurvedic treatment in Bihar;

(b) whether the Government have received any proposal to open Central University in Bihar for Ayurveda education and treatment;

(c) if so, by when; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C.P. THAKUR): (a) Health is a State subject and extending facilities for Ayurvedic treatment falls under their purview. However, the Central Government is implementing a number of schemes for promoting Indian System of Medicines, including Ayurveda in the States which are available in Bihar.

(b) No such proposal has been received.

(c) and (d) Questions do not arise.

Changes in Passport Issuing Procedure

2456. SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have made some changes in the rules relating to issuance of passport;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the stipulated time for issuing a passport; and

(d) the number of passports in Madhya Pradesh during the last two years?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) and (b) While there has been no recent change in the Passport Rules, 1980, the process of simplification of passport issuance procedure is a continuous process. A Committee to review the Passport Issue System was constituted by the Government and it has since submitted its recommendations which have been accepted. The recommendations include the proposal to decentralise passport services to enable acceptance of passport application forms at the District level, and steps have been taken to implement this proposal. Application forms are already being accepted at the designated speed post passport collection centres. Another recommendation being implemented relates to the simplification of the police verification process which would enable certain categories of persons, whose identity and nationality are well established, to be issued passports without police verification.

(c) It is the Government's endeavour to issue passports in 5-6 weeks provided clear Police Verification Report has been received and the application is complete in all other respects.

(d) The number of passports issued in Madhya Pradesh in the last two years is as below:

Year	No. of Passports issued
1999	38808
2000	38301

*[English]***Eradication of Diseases**

2457. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA:
SHRI K.E. KRISHNAMURTHY:
SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR:

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

(a) the details of the States where diseases like Filaria, Meningitis Fever, Plague, Chickenpox and Malaria are spreading rapidly;

(b) the details of incidents of deaths due to these diseases during each of the last three years, State-wise;

(c) whether the Government have sent by team of experts to assess the situation;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the funds spent by each State on each programme out of the total funds allocated during the last three years, State-wise; and

(f) the corrective steps taken/proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C.P. THAKUR): (a) and (b) Incidence of Filaria, Meningitis Fever and Malaria and number of deaths due to these diseases, State-wise during the last 3 years is given in the statement-I attached.

There are no cases of Plague reported from any where in the country after 1994.

Chicken-pox is a mild viral disease and data are available.

(c) and (d) The situation of the vector-borne diseases is being continuously monitored by regular report/returns. However the Central Expert Teams are also sent to the field as and when situation warrants, so as to make on the spot assessments and suggest appropriate containment measures.

(e) Statement-II showing State-wise expenditure under National Anti Malaria Programmes (NAMP) for malaria and filaria control for the last 3 years is enclosed.

There is no specific Central Scheme for Chicken-pox and Meningitis. Individual Cases are provided medical care through general Medical & Health Services in the country.

(f) Strategies adopted for control of these diseases are:-

Malaria:

- Early case detection and prompt treatment
- Selective vector control
- Promotion of personal protection methods
- Early detection and containment of epidemics
- Information, Education and Communication towards personal prevention and community participation
- Institutional and Management Capacity Building, Trained Manpower Development and efficient Management Information System (MIS)
- Issuance of advance warning to States/UTs suggesting all the preventive and control measures.

Filaria:

- recurrent anti-larval measures;
- using larvicides in the mosquito breeding places;
- anti-parasitic measures by detection of micro-filaria carrier and treatment with diethyl carbamazine (DEC);
- IEC activities for public awareness;
- Management of acute and chronic filariasis through referral services;
- Biological control of mosquito breeding through biological agents specially larvivorous fishes;

Further, NFPC has initiated a project in 1997 with single dose annual mass drug therapy in 13 identified districts of 7 States namely Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Orissa, Tamil Nadu and Kerala.

Statement-I

Malaria Incidence and Deaths from 1998 to 2000

Sl. No.	State/UTs	1998		1999		2000 (P)	
		Cases	Death	Cases	Death	Cases	Death
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	118800	12	129020	11	80557	0
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	49554	2	58243	1	46165	0

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
3.	Assam	94645	34	131048	111	94793	43
4.	Bihar	114958	34	131898	131	9390	1
5.	Chhattisgarh					311601	63
6.	Goa	25975	19	15380	17	9164	11
7.	Gujarat	106825	3	64130	7	35585	2
8.	Haryana	12115	0	2604	0	1050	0
9.	Himachal Pradesh	1433	0	700	0	491	0
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	5451	0	3574	0	3045	0
11.	Jharkhand					100031	16
12.	Karnataka	118712	3	97274	11	109118	14
13.	Kerala	7439	7	5141	7	2940	9
14.	Madhya Pradesh	475098	26	527510	50	194689	92
15.	Maharashtra	165985	32	137712	46	81406	40
16.	Manipur	1306	1	2662	8	1064	0
17.	Meghalaya	17618	2	14798	5	13699	65
18.	Mizoram	10137	56	14437	73	9059	20
19.	Nagaland	1989	0	4396	12	3443	0
20.	Orissa	478056	349	483095	399	496350	442
21.	Punjab	5316	0	1113	0	493	1
22.	Rajasthan	76438	0	53154	0	35973	10
23.	Sikkim	15	0	14	0	16	0
24.	Tamil Nadu	63915	2	56366	2	43053	1
25.	Tripura	12595	5	14408	11	12245	6
26.	Uttaranchal					1854	0
27.	Uttar Pradesh	112291	0	99362	0	102306	0
28.	West Bengal	132088	77	227480	144	145322	103
Union Territories							
29.	A & N Islands	1247	0	937	2	1002	1
30.	Chandigarh	1675	0	456	0	256	0
31.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	6225	0	3303	0	2415	0
32.	Daman & Diu	625	0	352	0	132	0
33.	Delhi	4050	0	3996	0	1916	0

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
34.	Lakshadweep	4	0	1	0	5	0
35.	Pondicherry	168	0	149	0	137	0
Total		2222748	664	2284713	1048	1950765(P)	940

(P) Provisional

Reported Cases and Deaths Due to Meningitis During 1998, 1999 & 2000

Sl. No.	State	1998		1999		2000	
		Cases	Death	Cases	Death	Cases	Death
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	2737	161	1162	79	1392	69
2.	Arunachal Praadesh	—	—	—	—	—	—
3.	Assam	44	0	—	—	—	—
4.	Bihar	—	—	—	—	—	—
5.	Goa	0	0	3	0	0	0
6.	Gujarat	0	0	0	0	16	0
7.	Haryana	101	12	67	7	56	2
8.	Himachal Pradesh	3	2	0	0	0	0
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	176	—	51	0	93	0
10.	Karnataka	248	36	546	8	896	8
11.	Kerala	30	2	252	17	111	6
12.	Madhya Pradesh	304	23	204	10	189	2
13.	Maharashtra	337	93	310	87	337	103
14.	Manipur	0	0	67	5	66	19
15.	Meghalaya	0	0	1	0	58	2
16.	Mizoram	36	7	16	2	0	0
17.	Nagaland	0	0	0	0	14	1
18.	Orissa	285	28	241	17	67	2
19.	Punjab	35	0	133	3	38	0
20.	Rajasthan	132	8	148	15	244	24
21.	Sikkim	6	0	0	0	0	0
22.	Tamil Nadu	46	4	470	3	304	1
23.	Tripura	11	5	27	0	79	1

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
24.	Uttar Pradesh	505	33	622	20	251	32
25.	West Bengal	1507	361	2719	542	2948	528
26.	A & N Islands	3	1	1	1	6	4
27.	Chandigarh	—	—	29	7	25	14
28.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	3	1	0	0	—	—
29.	Daman & Diu	0	0	0	0	0	0
30.	Delhi	306	27	367	43	415	38
31.	Lakshadweep	0	0	0	0	0	0
32.	Pondicherry	0	0	8	2	84	18
Total		6855	804	7444	868	7689	874

Note: (-) indicates Cases not reported.

Microfilaria Rate (%) and Disease Rate (%) from the Year 1998 to 2000 (Provisional) Based on the Data Collected by All Control Units and Clinics

State/UTs	BSE			Mf rate(%)			Disease rate (%)		
	1998	1999	2000	1998	1999	2000	1998	1999	2000
Andhra Pradesh	265611	253995	170791	2.00	1.85	2.03	4.5	2.28	4.57
Assam	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bihar	84738	113195	158581	0.66	0.52	0.5	2.11	1.82	1.79
Goa	0	10945	11478	0.00	0.05	0.02	0.00	0.00	0.00
Gujarat	83326	54000	60306	0.42	3.80	0.19	0.06	0.04	0.02
Karnataka	28849	13934	59507	0.50	0.93	0.14	7.00	8.96	1.37
Kerala	111990	100129	34397	1.27	0.83	0.43	1.39	1.06	1.07
Madhya Pradesh	85690	84066	35490	0.19	0.31	3.14	0.24	0.31	1.26
Maharashtra	632062	649876	539370	1.53	1.19	1.26	0.24	0.20	0.93
Orissa	2656	4815	5803	1.35	0.81	1.01	7.64	10.57	16.68
Tamil Nadu	1047742	1031604	614680	0.22	0.08	0.04	0.15	0.20	0.05
Uttar Pradesh	71087	45184	72293	0.77	1.70	1.14	3.15	3.87	6.26
West Bengal	8602	4995	2472	3.70	4.12	5.54	0.11	6.89	11.81
Pondicherry	44969	0	81105	2.16	0.30	0.96	0.11	0.00	0.45
A & N Islands	14871	5666	7051	0.38	0.05	0.18	0.00	0.02	0.04
Daman & Diu	11395	8913	16831	0.12	0.12	3.15	0.33	0.26	3.21
Lakshadweep	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Grand Total	2493588	2381317	1870155	0.88	0.70	0.81	1.04	0.70	1.5

Statement-II

*States/UTs-wise Distribution of Central Assistance Provided During the year
(1998-99, 1999-2000 and 2000-2001) Under NAMP*

(Rs. in Lakh)

Name of the States/UTs	1998-1999	1999-2000	2000-2001
1	2	3	4
Andhra Pradesh	482.93	322.86	644.11
Arunachal Pradesh	186.61	303.27	293.79
Assam	2170.42	2267.01	2657.87
Bihar	403.05	481.35	87.20
Goa	7.72	10.93	0.97
Gujarat	611.11	489.04	211.23
Haryana	260.39	259.03	78.34
Himachal Pradesh	51.47	46.11	89.06
Jammu & Kashmir	72.57	52.73	84.29
Karnataka	264.47	662.66	233.38
Kerala	102.73	117.72	75.93
Madhya Pradesh	454.49	893.40	711.54
Maharashtra	260.26	282.97	286.74
Manipur	377.34	403.05	235.70
Meghalaya	231.55	306.70	303.58
Mizoram	172.53	309.56	235.26
Nagaland	183.34	240.83	278.91
Orissa	385.14	329.67	547.63
Punjab	290.67	288.96	148.32
Rajasthan	1994.15	1146.16	286.86
Sikkim	8.47	11.65	0.12
Tamil Nadu	240.72	392.31	133.91
Tripura	356.97	375.89	480.94
Uttar Pradesh	1121.92	622.18	544.11
West Bengal	330.90	296.36	454.47
Delhi	37.21	75.40	100.46
Pondicherry	6.15	10.32	13.55
A & N Islands	155.68	116.46	231.76

1	2	3	4
Chandigarh	44.30	47.25	44.79
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	24.90	25.94	18.12
Daman & Diu	10.08	16.42	9.90
Lakshadweep	5.24	5.81	5.57
Total	11305.48	11210.00	9518.41
Kala-azar	1000.00	1000.00	1000.00
EAC	3517.39	6064.95	7389.73
Estt./Publicity/ Research	571.10	541.35	1271.41
Grand Total	16393.97	18816.30	19179.55

[Translation]

Indo-Sino Foreign Ministers Meet

2458. SHRIMATI JAYASHREE BANERJEE: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether he met his Chinese counterpart in New York recently;

(b) if so, the issues discussed; and

(c) the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir. EAM met the Chinese Foreign Minister Tang Jiaxuan in New York on November 12, 2001.

(b) and (c) The two Foreign Ministers discussed bilateral, regional and international issues of mutual interest including the forthcoming visit of Chinese Premier, cooperation against terrorism, further clarification of the Line of Actual Control and the situation in Afghanistan.

Allocation of Amounts

2459. SHRI DANVE RAOSAHEB PATIL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the amount allocated to Adivasi/backward/rural/hilly areas in the country during each of the last three years;

(b) whether Government of Maharashtra has sent any proposal to the Government for allotment of additional amount for these areas in the State during said period;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Union Government have enhanced the Annual Plan Outlay for Maharashtra for the year 2001-2002 in comparison to the last year;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) Planning and development of an area and allocation of funds for the purpose are primarily the responsibility of the concerned State Governments. The Central Government however supplements the efforts of the State Governments in this regard through the allocation of Special Central Assistance to meet the special problems of identified areas/population under Special Area Programmes, viz. the Tribal Sub Plan and the Hill Areas Development Programme (HADP). Further, various schemes are operated by the Ministry of Rural Development for the development of rural areas. The allocations during the last three years are given in the statement enclosed.

(b) Planning Commission has not received any proposal for allocation of additional amounts from the Government of Maharashtra for these areas during the last three years.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) to (f) The approved outlay for 2000-2001 for Maharashtra was Rs. 11,500 crore. The Core Plan for the State Government for 2001-2002 has been fixed at Rs. 10,834 crore on the basis of available resources.

Statement

(Rs. in Crore)

Programme/Scheme	1998-1999	1999-2000	2000-2001
Tribal Sub Plan	380.00	400.00	400.00
Grants under Article 275 (1) of the Constitution for Tribal Development	75.00	100.00	200.00
HADP (Hill Areas Development Programme)	390.00	400.00	400.00
Deptt. of Rural Dev.	7517.00	6760.00	9205.00
Deptt. of Land Resources	324.00	900.00	900.00

[English]

Attitude of Russia in Containing Terrorism

2460. SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the attitude of Russian Government in containing terrorism in India;

(b) whether India is expecting and help from Russia in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) Both India and the Russian Federation have reaffirmed that global terrorism is a threat to international peace and security and that cooperation to combat terrorism is becoming an imperative of contemporary international reality. The two Sides believe that combating this menace should be on a

comprehensive and long-term basis and should be directed also at those supporting, harbouring or providing safe haven to terrorists. India and the Russian Federation intend to make their full contribution to the establishment of such a system. They proceed from the understanding that terrorist acts admits no justification under any political, ethnic, religious, social, economic, or other grounds. Terrorism is an absolute evil; it is a global source to be collectively countered.

(b) and (c) During the State visit to the Russian Federation by Prime Minister Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee from 4-7 November, 2001, both India and the Russian Federation have expressed their satisfaction with the level of cooperation between the two countries in countering international terrorism and other transactional organised crimes, which fuel terrorism, including drug trafficking. The two Sides reiterated their resolve to continue and coordinate efforts for strengthening the international legal basis for combating these challenges. Russia has expressed support for the Indian draft of the Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism in the UN.

The National Security Councils of India and the Russian Federation have set-up Joint Coordination Groups on International and Regional Security and on International Terrorism. There is also a Joint Working Group (JWG) on Afghanistan between India and the Russian Federation. This was set up in October 2000 and has since then met three times. The last meeting of this JWG was held on 18-19 October, 2001 in India.

[Translation]

Passport Offices

2461. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of passport offices in the country, State-wise;

(b) the average number of applications checked every month by the passport offices;

(c) whether there is any delay in issuing the passports;

(d) if so, whether there is any proposal for opening up of new passport offices; and

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

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) and (b) There are 28 passport Offices in the country. State-wise details of the passport

offices and the average number of applications for passports received and checked during the current year upto October, 2001 are given in the enclosed statement.

(c) The Government endeavours to issue the Passports within 35 days provided the application is complete in all respects and a clear police verification report has been received. Delay in issuance of passports is caused when either a clear police verification has not been received or the information/documentation submitted by the applicant is incomplete.

(d) and (e) There is a proposal for opening a passport office in the capital cities of each of the three newly created States of Jharkhand (Ranchi), Chhattisgarh (Raipur) and Uttaranchal (Dehradun). There is also a proposal to open a passport office at Shimla (Himachal Pradesh) and at Surat (Gujarat). The Government has also decided to extend the facility of issuance of passports at the capitals of North-Eastern States. However, since the volume of applications from the North Eastern States is very low, it is proposed to authorise the concerned State Governments for issuance of passports.

Statement

State-wise Details of Average Number of Applications for Passport Received and Checked During the Current Year (Upto October, 2001).

State	Passport Office	Total No. of Applications Received	Average No. of Applications Received & Checked
1	2	3	4
Assam	Guwahati	14224	1422
Gujarat	Ahmedabad	206178	20618
Karnataka	Bangalore	108118	10812
Uttar Pradesh	Bareilly	37649	3765
	Ghaziabad	39640	3964
	Lucknow	110572	11057
Madhya Pradesh	Bhopal	38722	3872
Orissa	Bhubaneshwar	15388	1539
U.T.	Chandigarh	140908	14091
Tamilnadu	Chennai	145017	14502
	Trichy	161272	16127
Kerala	Cochin	114277	11428
	Kozhikode	154745	15475
	Trivandrum	82200	8220
Delhi	Delhi	185414	18541
Andhra Pradesh	Hyderabad	200600	20060
	Visakhapatnam	42755	4276
Rajasthan	Jaipur	80100	8010
Punjab	Jalandhar	132524	13252

1	2	3	4
J & K	Jammu	9595	960
	Srinagar	10720	1072
West Bengal	Kolkata	98012	9801
Maharashtra	Mumbai	180916	18092
	Nagpur	19249	1925
	Pune	44410	4441
	Thane	58691	5869
Goa	Panaji	20168	2017
Bihar	Patna	53470	5347

Development of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants

2462. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any project has been launched to develop (geranium) medicinal and aromatic plants in Uttaranchal;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the names of the diseases in which medicines developed from geranium are used;

(d) the availability and consumption of the said medicines in the country, at present; and

(e) the quantity of geranium being imported every year?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C.P. THAKUR): (a) and (b) Technology Information Forecasting and Assessment Council (TIFAC) has sponsored a project to Central Institute of Medicinal & Aromatic Plants (CIMAP), Lucknow for enhanced use of the geranium plants, in Uttaranchal.

(c) Geranium oil based products are known to be effective against skin ailments.

(d) and (e) In the country at present no indigenously produced geranium based medicines are reported to be available. According to an estimate country produces

around 5 tonnes of oil and imports around 166 tonnes. Entire quantity is used by perfumery industries.

Indo-Nepal Trade Agreement

2463. SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI:
SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any move to amend the Indo-Nepal trade agreement of 1991 as reported in the *Rashtriya Sahara* dated August 19, 2001;

(b) if so, the facts of the matter reported therein; and

(c) the stage at which the matter stands at present?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Discussions are currently in progress between technical delegations of the two sides to resolve certain issues that have emerged during the implementation of the 1996 India-Nepal Trade Treaty prior to the extension of validity of this Treaty for another five years. A limited extension of Treaty for a period of three months from December 5, 2001, has been agreed to enable the negotiations on the proposed modifications to the Treaty to be concluded.

We are confident that the issues will be resolved to the mutual satisfaction of both sides and necessary adjustments incorporated into the Treaty.

*[English]***Computer Virus**

2464. SHRI SAHIB SINGH: Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware about different types of computer virus;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to control these virus?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS, MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): (a) and (b) A computer virus is a malicious program that hides itself in a computer's file system. Once triggered, virus spread itself and damages programs and resident in the computer system. Common types of viruses and malicious programs like Trojan Horses and Worms have been brought out in the enclosed statement.

(c) Commercially available anti-virus softwares are widely used to check and control the spread of computer viruses. These softwares are regularly updated to take care of new viruses. In the event of detection of new virus, the information is shared amongst network administrators and such awareness plays a major role in containing them.

Computer Virus can be categorised mainly as Boot Sector Virus, File Infector Virus, Multi-partite Virus and Macro Virus. Other malicious programs of this kind are Trojan/Trojan Horses and Worms.

Boot Sector Virus

Boot sector viruses infect the boot sectors on floppy disks and hard disks, and can also infect the master boot record on a user's hard drive. Once the machine is infected, it attempts to infect every floppy disk that is inserted to the computer and accessed. Boot sector viruses work like this: by hiding on the disk, the virus is loaded into the memory before system files are loaded. This allows it to gain complete control of operating system interrupts so that it can spread and cause damage.

File Infector

File infector, also known as parasitic viruses, operate in memory and usually infect executable files. They activate every time infected files are executed. They copy themselves into other executable files and can remain in

memory long after the virus has activated. Thousands of different files infecting viruses exist, but similar to boot sector viruses, the vast majority operates in DOS 16-bit environment.

Macro Virus

Unlike other virus types, macro viruses aren't specific to an operating system and spread with ease via email attachments, floppy disks, Web downloads, file transfers, and cooperative applications. Macro viruses are, however, application-specific. They infect macro utilities that accompany such applications as word processing and spreadsheets. Macro viruses are written in 'every man's programming language' such as Visual Basic of Corel Draw, and these types of programming languages are relatively easy to create.

Trojan/Trojan Horse

A Trojan or Trojan Horse is a programme that appears legitimate, but performs some malicious and illicit activity when it is run. It may be used as hacker tool to leak a user's password information or it may simply destroy programs or data on the hard disk. Contrary to a virus, a Trojan does not replicate itself. It stays in the computer doing its damage or allowing somebody from a remote site to take control of the computer. Trojans often sneak in by attaching to a free game or other utility.

Worm

A worm is a programme that spreads over network. Unlike a virus, worm does not attach itself to a host program. It uses up the computer resources, modifies system settings and eventually puts the system down. With the proliferation of Internet, worm can utilize email systems to replicate, e.g. by emailing itself out as an attachment to other users, within a short period of time.

New Types of Virus/Malicious code

The virus technology is ever changing. As user moves to new platform/new technologies, virus writers will try to develop new virus that can spread upon it. Some of the new platforms/technologies upon which virus is emerging are: Java applets, Active X objects, Visual Basic (VB) Script; and HTML virus.

Shukla Commission

2465. SHRI ABDUL HAMID: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Shukla Commission was constituted by the Government for the development of the North-Eastern States;

(b) if so, the whether the Government have taken any initiatives for implementing the Shukla Commission recommendation;

(c) if so, whether there is any budgetary allocation as per the recommendation of Shukla Commission during the year 1999-2000-2001; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The various recommendations made by the Shukla Commission are to be implemented by the concerned State Governments and Central Ministries/Agencies. As regards the recommendations concerning the Central Ministries, efforts have been made to implement these recommendations by dovetailing them to the extent possible in the Plans of the Central Ministries and also through the Non-lapsable Central Pool of Resources specifically constituted for supporting development programmes in the North-Eastern States and Sikkim.

Indian Ocean Rim Countries

2466. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn towards the recent decision of Indian Ocean Rim Countries regarding penalties for illegal fishing;

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

(c) whether the Government propose to initiate amendment relating to the convention on the law of sea and exclusive economic zones; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) The meeting of the Working Group on Fisheries of Indian Ocean Rim Association for Regional Cooperation (IOR-ARC) was held in Muscat, Oman, on September 15-1-2001. The report of meeting has not yet been circulated to the IOR-ARC member States by the IOR-ARC Secretariat. Even after the report is circulated, it is to be approved by the Council of ministers of the IOR-ARC, before its recommendations can be taken as

constituting a decision on the part of the member States. The next meeting of the Council of Ministers is likely to be held in Colombo in the first quarter of 2003.

(b) to (d) Do not anse.

Infrastructure Development in the Hospitals

2467. SHRIMATI BHAVNABEN DEVRAJBHAI CHIKHALIA:
SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY:

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

(a) the average number of OPD patients attended by the Doctors in each Government Hospital run by Centre;

(b) the Doctor-patient, Doctor-Nurses ratio in the country;

(c) the steps taken to reduce the ratio and improve the position in the country;

(d) the number of beds in each of the Central Government run hospitals;

(e) the steps taken by the Government to increase the bed capacity in each such hospitals during the current financial year and funds allocated for the purpose; and

(f) the number of beds likely to be increased in each such hospitals?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C.P. THAKUR): (a) to (f) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Contract Labourers in Government Hospital

2468. SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 1879 on March 7, 2000 and state:

(a) whether the information regarding number of persons employed on contract basis in Government aided hospitals of Delhi have been collected;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether persons on contract basis would be regularised; and

(d) if so, the time by which they are likely to be made permanent?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C.P. THAKUR): (a) and (b) The Government of NCT of Delhi has informed that no labourers/workers are employed on contract basis in the Hospitals under the Government of NCT of Delhi directly by them. However, in order to improve the security and sanitation in Hospitals, private agencies have been engaged through open tenders who are engaging contract workers.

(c) No such proposal is reported to be under consideration of the Government of NCT of Delhi.

(d) Does not arise.

[Translation]

In-Situ Promotion

2469. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Assistants out of 4847 sanctioned posts who have become eligible for the promotion in the grade of Section Officer according to Central Secretariat Services Rules as on June 30, 2001;

(b) the time by when the Junior most Assistant eligible for the promotion on June 30, 2001 is likely to be given regular promotion in the grade of Section Officer; and

(c) whether in case such promotion is likely after a decade, the Government propose to give in-situ promotion in the grade of Section Officer to those Assistants who have completed qualifying service of 12 years as an interim measure as in the case of Section Officers and Under Secretaries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) and (b) The grade of Assistant is decentralized into 33 cadres. The Assistants, who have put in 8 years of approved service as on the crucial date, i.e. 1st July of the Select List Year, are eligible for consideration for promotion to the grade of Section Officer. Promotion from the grade

of Assistant to that of Section Officer depends on the number of vacancies arising in the respective cadres and for this reason, it is not possible to indicate any fixed time-frame.

(c) There is no proposal to give personal upgradation on in-situ basis to Assistants.

Reduction of Nuclear Threat

2470. SHRI BAHADUR SINGH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any meeting of the experts of India and Pakistan was held recently to reduce the nuclear threat;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the composition of the Indian delegation; and

(d) the outcome of the meeting?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) No Sir.

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

[English]

Assistance to Drug Testing

2471. DR. V. SAROJA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any financial assistance has been provided for modernization of facilities to State Drug Testing Laboratories of Indian System of Medicines;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the quantum of amount; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C.P. THAKUR): (a) to (c) Under a centrally sponsored scheme to strengthen State Drug Testing Laboratories of Indian Systems of Medicine, an amount of Rs. 9,82,71,000/- was sanctioned out of which Rs. 7,11,21,000/- has been released during the Year 2000-2001. 11 Laboratories belonging to the State of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Rajasthan, U.P., H.P., Uttaranchal, Kerala, Orissa and Tamil Nadu have been financed.

India's Stand on Afghan War

2472. SHRI AJAY SINGH CHAUTALA:
 SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA:
 SHRI C.N. SINGH:
 SHRI JAIBHAN SINGH PAWAIYA:
 SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN:
 SHRI VIJAY KUMAR KHANDELWAL:
 SHRI SURESH KURUP:
 SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM:
 SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY:
 SHRI PRABODH PANDA:
 DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV:
 SHRIMATI RENU KUMARI:
 SHRI SAHIB SINGH:
 SHRI P.C. THOMAS:
 SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS:
 SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI:
 SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV:
 SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL:
 SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA:
 SHRI MOINUL HASSAN:
 SHRI SHIVAJI MANE:
 SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE:
 SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether after air strikes the Government of India was approached by the U.S. to support their stand against terrorism and attack in Afghanistan;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the response of the Government thereto;

(d) whether the Government have any proposal to allow the USA to use Indian facilities for their operations in Afghanistan;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether India has given a go by to non-alignment policy by aligning with USA in Afghan war;

(g) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(h) the role the Government propose to play in the formation of post-Taliban regime in Afghanistan?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) and (b) Government has consistently taken a principled stand against terrorism and its sponsors everywhere in the world and supports all international efforts, including in the United Nations, to

combat terrorism. Following the terrorist attacks in the United States on September 11, the U.S. Government sought assistance in the form of intelligence on terrorist groups, cooperation in investigations into the terrorist attacks, freezing of financial assets in India, if any, of Specially Designated Global Terrorists, and support for "Operation Enduring Freedom" against the Taliban and the Al Qaida network in Afghanistan.

(c) to (e) Besides intelligence sharing and cooperation in the investigations into the terrorist attacks on September 11, Government has offered, on the basis of specific requests by the United States, assistance for the "Operation Enduring Freedom" in conformity with the existing guidelines for such clearances requested by friendly countries. These are overflight, landing and refuelling facilities for U.S. air missions and port calls by naval ships in support of the campaign in Afghanistan. The assistance approved by Government does not cover provision of military bases in India to the United States or participation in combat operations in any form.

(f) and (g) Government has consistently advocated that terrorism is a global problem that requires a comprehensive international response targeted against terrorism and its sponsors everywhere in the world. It is also well established that the Taliban and the Al Qaeda network have links with terrorism in Jammu & Kashmir. Government's support to the ongoing military campaign against the Taliban and Al Qaeda network in Afghanistan is, therefore, the keeping with India's national interest and does not represent a shift from the well-established principles of India's foreign policy.

(h) Government is actively engaged in the international consultation mechanism for the political settlement and economic reconstruction in Afghanistan. Government is in touch with various sections of the Afghan society, both in and outside Afghanistan. Government has announced humanitarian assistance of one million tonnes of wheat as well as medicines for the Afghan people and has announced a line of credit of U.S.\$ 100 million for the economic reconstruction of Afghanistan. A team of doctors and liaison officers has been sent to Kabul to assist in humanitarian efforts and maintain contacts with the Afghan people. Internationally, besides bilateral consultations with concerned countries, India has also participated in the meeting of G-21 countries in New York and in a meeting of a select group of countries in Washington on 20 November 2001 to discuss economic aid to Afghanistan. India is among the seventeen countries invited to Bonn as observers of the talks between the various Afghan factions for a political solution, which started on 27 November 2001.

Wasteful Expenditure

2473. SHRI BRAHMA NAND MANDAL: Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry of Finance have taken steps to minimise wasteful expenditures in Government Departments and have identified certain sectors in which wasteful expenditure is maximum in various Government Departments;

(b) if so, the details of such sector under the Ministry of Information Technology identified for the purpose alongwith quantum of wasteful expenditure identified therein during each of the last three years; and

(c) the corrective steps taken/proposed to be taken to curtail wasteful expenditure?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS, MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): (a) and (b) There is no wasteful expenditure identified by the Ministry of Information Technology. However, Ministry of Finance have been issuing certain instructions towards economy in expenditure - fiscal prudence and austerity from time to time. As per the guidelines, mandatory 10% cut in the budgetary allocation from Non-Plan, Non-Salary expenditure is adhered to.

(c) Does not arise.

Women Health Care

2474. DR. D.V.G. SHANKAR RAO: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Female health remains neglected" appearing in the 'Times of India' dated September 21, 2001;

(b) if so, the facts of the matter reported therein;

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto; and

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

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C.P. THAKUR): (a) to (d) Yes Sir. During the Ninth Plan period, the Reproductive and Child Health Programme being implemented in all States of the country aims at improving the health and nutrition of women and bringing down the maternal mortality and morbidity.

Maternal Health is an integral part of the Programme. Under this programme various intervention focused on reducing maternal deaths are being implemented. These are essential obstetric care; Emergency Obstetric Care; prevention and treatment of Reproductive and sexually transmitted infections, provision for referral transport for pregnant women with complication of pregnancy through Panchayats; provision of drugs and equipment at First Referral Units; provision of contractual staff like Additional Health Workers, staff nurses, doctors and anesthetists. Funds are also being provided for schemes like 24 hours delivery services at selected primary health centres and community health centres; training of dais in 142 districts with safe delivery rate of less than 30 per cent and holding of Reproductive and Child Health Camps in 102 districts with adverse health indicators. A nation-wide Family Health awareness campaign on HIV/AIDS/RTI/STI is also being carried out by the National AIDS Control Programme in collaboration with the Department of Family Welfare of Govt. of India and the State Governments. A National Cancer Control Programme for early detection and treatment of cervical and breast cancers among women is also under implementation.

Evidence is also increasingly becoming available that hormonal and metabolic disorders and micronutrient deficiencies like Vitamin D, contribute significantly to morbidity among women. The working Group on "Health care for women and children" constituted by the Planning Commission for the Tenth Five Year Plan has recommended the adoption of a holistic life cycle approach towards women health with attention to even interventions other than those relating to reproductive health menopause, infertility, cervical and breast cancers etc. The National Population Policy - 2000 also highlights the need for sensitizing training and equipping rural and urban health centres and hospitals for providing geriatric health care.

Delayed Projects

2475. SHRI K.E. KRISHNAMURTHY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Planning Commission has asked the Central Ministries and State Governments to follow certain criteria for deciding the fate of projects which have been considerably delayed; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and their reaction in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE

IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. In the context of the formulation of Tenth Five Year Plan, Planning Commission has issued guidelines to the Central Ministries and State Governments emphasising completion of on-going projects and upgradation of existing capital assets before starting new projects. The new projects are to be taken up only after a certain minimum number of partially completed/on-going projects are brought to completion. In particular, it has been suggested that Projects due for completion by the end of the Ninth Plan in which less than 10 per cent of the approved outlay has been spent are to be separately identified for weeding out/shelving/dropping or converging/transferring to the private/joint sectors, as the case may be. Projects initiated prior to the Ninth Plan and where less than 20 per cent of the approved outlay for the project has been spent, so far, are to be similarly treated. In case of projects due for completion by the end of the Ninth Plan and where more than 75 per cent of the work has been completed are to be identified for accelerated completion with revised estimates of time and costs. All other projects are to be evaluated afresh as per the guidelines applicable for any new proposal.

The Plan proposals of the Central Ministries and State Governments based on these and other guidelines issued for the Tenth Five Year Plan are yet to be received in the Planning Commission. However, no specific comments with regard to these guidelines have been received from the Central Ministries and State Governments.

Telephone Exchange in Orissa

2476. SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal for expansion of existing telephone exchanges in Orissa particularly in Cuttack district is under consideration of the Government;

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

(c) the time by which this proposal is likely to be cleared; and

(d) the estimated cost to be incurred?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) District-wise details of telephone exchanges to be expanded during 2001-2002 are given in the enclosed statement.

(d) The estimated cost to be incurred is Rs. 345.84 Crores.

Statement

Sl. No.	Name of the District	Name of the Exchanges planned for Expansion during 2001-2002	Net Switching Capacity to be added
1	2	3	4
1.	Balasore	Basta	1000
		Charampa	1000
		Balgopalpur	500
2.	Bhadrak	Dhusuri	664
		Pdmapur	184
		Rairangpur	600
3.	Mayaurbhanj	Kaptipada	184
		Purna Baripada	184
4.	Ganjam	Belaguntha	200
		Berhampur	7000
		Gandala	664
		Hinjilicut	200
		Nerandrapur	632
		Chikiti	816
		Kankarada	184
5.	Gajapati	R. Udayagiri	184
6.	Kalahandi	Bhawanipatna	1000
		Kesinga	600
7.	Nuapada	Nuapada	1000
		Dhalapthara	632
		Khurda	1000
		Jankia	632
8.	Khurda	Bhubaneswar	15000
		Balapatna	184
		Bhusandpur	184
		Mugumunda	184
		Kanti	184
9.	Nayagarh	Nayahat	632

1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
		Begunia	200	15.	Jajpur	Duburi	616
		Rajranpur	632			Jakhapura	675
		Sarankul	632			Brahmabarada	632
		Nayagarh	1000			Jajpurroad	1000
10.	Puri	Puri	1000			Bari	184
		Chandanpur	200	16.	Jagatsinghpur	Jagatsinghpur	1000
		Balanga	616			Balikuda	200
11.	Bolangir	Titlagarh	1000			Kujajnga	1000
		Deogaon	696			Tirtol	1000
		Bangamuanda	184	17.	Dhenkanal	Susuda	1000
12.	Sonepur	Snepur	1000			Siminai	760
		Birmoharajpur	184			Bantala	664
		Dhanmandal	216			Mahendrapur	848
		Chhatia	816			Bainda	760
		Niali	496	18.	Angul	Khajuriakata	184
		Olatpur	616			Talmul	184
		Athagarh	600			Anandpur	600
		Cuttack	6500	19.	Keonjhar	Hatadihi	816
		Tangi	1464			Ramchandrapur	184
		Phulnakhara	1622			Raisuan	184
13.	Cuttack	Biribati	1808	20.	Koraput	Ambaguda	184
		Raghunathpur	664	21.	Rayagada	J.K. pur	200
		Kabatbandha	816			Therubali	632
		Kundal	816			Muniguda	184
		Govind pur	184	22.	Nawrangpur	Khatiguda	200
		Mouda	184	23.	Malkangiri	Malkangiri	1000
		Nerandrapur	184	24.	Kandhamal	Raikia	184
		Nemalo	184			Baunsuni	184
		Nischintakoili	184	25.	Boudh	Boudh	1000
14.	Kendrapara	Indipur	664	26.	Sundargarh	Lthikata	680
		Kendrapara	1000			Rajgangpur	1000
		Pattamundai	600			Rourkela	9000

1	2	3	4
27.	Sambalpur	Rengali	488
		Bamra	184
		Kadobahal	184
		Remenda	184
28.	Bargarh	Bargarh	1000
29.	Deogarh	Deogarh	184
30.	Jharsuguda	MCL	1000

Classification of Gram Panchayat

2477. PROF. A.K. PREMAJAM: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) has recently classified certain Gram Panchayats as urban;

(b) if so, whether rate of rent has been hiked and number of free calls reduced on the basis of this classification; and

(c) the criteria adopted by BSNL to classify Gram Panchayats as urban?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) to (c) No, Sir. Classification of Gram Panchayats as urban is under the jurisdiction of State Government. On the basis of notification issued by State Government, applicable tariff as per urban or rural is charged by BSNL.

SC/ST and OBC in Services

2478. SHRI RAMESH C. JIGAJINAGI: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the representation of SCs and STs in Class I (Group A) Services stood only at 13.59% (SCs-10.38% & STs-3.21%) and in Class II (Group B) Services only at 14.41% (SCs-11.73% & STs-2.68%) as against 22.5% quota prescribed for them (15% for SCs and 7.5% for STs) as on 1/1/1998 under Central Government;

(b) if so, indicate total number of 'posts' in (i) Class I (Group A) Category and (ii) Class II (Group B) Category and equivalents thereof under the Ministry of Shipping; and

(c) persons belonging to (i) General, (ii) SC, (iii) ST and (iv) OBC categories working against them including

their respective percentage to such posts as ascertained in view of instructions as contained under para 5 of DOPT OM No. 26012/2/96/96-Estt. (Res.) dated 2nd July 1997?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha.

[*Translation*]

Telephone Exchanges

2479. SHRI MAHESHWAR SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the target fixed for the number of telephone exchanges to be set up in hilly and inaccessible areas in the country particularly in Himachal Pradesh during the current financial year;

(b) the names of the places where telephone exchanges could not be set up due to non-availability of Multi Channel Per Carrier (MCPC) and other equipments on time; and

(c) the steps taken to achieve the target?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) It is proposed to set up 464 telephone exchanges in the hilly and inaccessible areas in the country and 60 nos. of telephone exchanges in Himachal Pradesh during the current financial year.

(b) There are no such places where telephone exchanges could not be set up due to non-availability of Multi Channel Per Carrier (MCPC) and other equipments.

(c) Procurement action has already been taken. Purchase Orders have been issued and supply of equipments has started. Installation of telephone exchanges and laying of cables and OFC (Optical Fibre Cable) are under progress.

Setting up of Atomic Power Stations

2480. SHRI UTTAMRAO PATIL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state the name of places where the Government propose to set up Atomic Power Stations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE

MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): The following nuclear power plants are under construction in the country, at the locations indicated against each, to augment the present existing nuclear power capacity of 2720 MWe:

- i. Tarapur Atomic Power Project 3&4 [2x500 MWe (being uprated to 2x540 MWe)] at Tarapur in Maharashtra.
- ii. Kaiga Atomic Power Project 3&4 (2x220 MWe) at Kaiga in Karnataka.
- iii. Kudankulam Atomic Power Project 1&2 (2x1000 MWe) at Kudankulam in Tamil Nadu.

Construction work on all the above nuclear power projects is in progress. In addition, the construction of 2x220 MWe PHWRs at Rawatbhata in Rajasthan is planned. Additional nuclear power plants are also planned in the X Plan, subject to the allocation of the required plan outlays and budgetary support from Government of India.

Foreign Investment in Voicemail and Audio Text Service

2481. SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have given approval for foreign investment in Voicemail and Audio Text Service;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the right to fix charges has been given to service provider;

(d) if so, whether the interest of customers would be controlled by the service provider or by the Government; and

(e) the conditions laid down by the Government for giving licence of this service and the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) List of companies to whom government has granted approval for foreign direct investment (FDI) is placed at Statement-I. Further, as per the FDI policy, for voice mail service, upto 100% FDI is allowed on automatic basis through Reserve Bank of India, since February 2000. Details of joint ventures/foreign investment through automatic route are not centrally maintained.

(c) and (d) As per the terms and conditions of the Licence Agreement for Voice Mail Service/Auto-tex service/Unified Messaging Service, the service provider will charge the tariffs for the service as per the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) tariff orders/regulations/directions issued in this regard from time to time. The Service Provider shall also fulfill requirements regarding publication of tariffs, notifications and provision of information as directed by TRAI through its orders/regulations/directions issued from time to time as per the provisions of TRAI Act, 1997 as amended from time to time.

(e) The current Policy for grant of Voice Mail Service/Audiotex Service/United Messaging Service has been announced by the Government on 16th July, 2001. The salient features of the policy are given in the enclosed statement-II enclosed.

Statement-I

List of Foreign Direct Investment Collaboration cases approved from August 1991 to September 2001 for Voice mail and Audio-tex/Audio Text Services

S. No.	Name of the Indian Company	Name of the Foreign Company	Amount (Rs. in Lakhs) (% equity)	Service
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Indian Telecom Pvt. Ltd.	OTC International Ltd., Australia	100.00 (50%)	Voice Mail
2.	Swarakar Telecom Pvt. Ltd.	Universal Telecom NRI	26.13 (49%)	Voice Mail, Audio Text

1	2	3	4	5
3.	Nijholt Telecommunication BV	Nijholt Telecommunications BV Netherlands	2.45 (49%)	Voice Mail
4.	BG Energy Holdings Ltd.	BG Energy Holdings Ltd., UK	3220.00 (100%)	Voice Mail
5.	Hi-Tech Tele Access Services Ltd.	WPI Group Inc. USA	98.00 (49%)	Voice Mail/ Audiotex Services
6.	Converse Network Systems India Pvt. Ltd.	Conserve Network Systems Inc. USA	10.00 100%	Voice Mail
7.	Dailnet Communications Ltd.	Startec Global Communications Co. USA	430.00 (40.57%)	Voice Mail
8.	Telephone Information Serv. (I) Ltd.	Telephone Information Serv. Plc., UK	25.00 (50%)	Audio Text Service
9.	Bloomberg Data Services (India)	Bloomberg LP, USA	160.00 (100%)	Audio Text Service

Statement-II**Salient Features of Policy for Grant of New Licences
for Voice Mail/Audiotex/Unified Messaging Service**

1. The licence for operation of Voice Mail/Audiotex/Unified Messaging Service shall be issued on non-exclusive basis.
2. The service area for the licence shall be Short Distance Charging Area (SDCA) on the basis of local dialing. The service provider would install his equipment within the SDCA for which licence is obtained.
3. There will be no Entry Fee as well as license fee. Performance Bank Guarantee of Rs. three lakhs for each licence shall be required.
4. The Applicant should be registered Indian company. 100% foreign direct investment (FDI) is allowed, subject to fulfillment of other rules and conditions of the Government on FDI.
5. The period of license shall be 15 years, with the provision for extending the same for another 5 years.
6. The Voice Mail/Audiotex/Unified Messaging Service Provider will be bound to provide the

services to any person within the service area, without any discrimination.

7. The Licensee will charge the tariffs for the SERVICE as per the TRAI Tariff orders/regulations/directions issued in this regard from time to time.

[English]

Backlog of Vacancies

2482. SHRI SHAMSHER SINGH DULLO: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the representation of SCs and STs in Class I (Group A) Services stood only at 10.68% (SCs-08.41 and STs-2.27% and in Class II (Group B) Services only at 13.20% (SCs- 09.68% and STs-3.52%) as against 22.5% quota prescribed for them (15% for SCs and 7.5% for STs as on 1/1/1996 under Central Public Sector Enterprises;

(b) if so, indicate total number of posts in (i) Class I (Group A) Category and (ii) Class II (Group B) and equivalents thereof under all (1) Public Sector Undertakings/Enterprises, (2) Statutory Organizations/Corporations, (3) Autonomous Organizations, Attached and Subordinate Offices under Ministry of Road Transport and Highways; and

(c) number of persons belonging to (i) General, (ii) SC, (iii) ST and (iv) OBCs working against such posts and their respective percentages to such total posts as identified as per instructions under para 5 of DoPT OM No. 36012/2/96-Estt. (Res.) dated 2nd July 1997?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI): (a) to (c) The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways was created in November, 2000

after the splitting of erstwhile Ministry of Surface Transport. National Highways Authority of India is only Autonomous Organization under this Ministry. Most of the posts of Group 'A' and 'B' level in National Highway Authority of India are filled on deputation from Central/State Government Organization/Departments, in which there is no reservation for SC/ST/OBCs.

The details of posts sanctioned, posts filled and number of SC/ST/OBC employees are given in the statement attached.

Statement

Group	Total Strength	In position	Category			Percentage			
			General	SC	ST	OBC	SC	ST	OBC
A	275	242	227	7	4	4	2.89	1.65	1.65
B	126	81	78	2	Nil	1	2.47	-	1.23

Withholding of Tax

2483. SHRI A.P. JITHENDER REDDY:
SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Japan have imposed 20% withholding tax on information technology products and services from Indian software companies;

(b) if so, the details of impact in the I.T. sector in our country;

(c) whether the Union Government have taken up this matter with the Japanese Government; and

(d) if so, the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS, MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The imposition of 20% withholding tax on information technology companies has made IT exports to Japan costlier and has also led to shrinkage of profits of Japan companies.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The Government of India have taken up the matter with the Japanese Government under Mutual Agreement Procedure (MAP) of Indo-Japan Double Taxation Avoidance Convention (DTAC). The Government

of India is in the process of negotiating with the Government of Japan for resolution of the taxation issue.

Visit of National Security Advisor to Bangladesh

2484. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE:
SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK:
SHRI C.N. SINGH:
SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH:
SHRI DINESH CHANDRA YADAV:
DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA:
SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY:
SHRI NARESH PUGLIA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Security Advisor visited Bangladesh in October, 2001;

(b) if so, the name of persons in Bangladesh with whom he held meeting; and

(c) the issues raised by him with the Government of Bangladesh and the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Begum Khaleda Zia, Hon'ble Prime Minister of Bangladesh. Dr. A.Q.M. Badruddoza Chowdhury, Foreign Minister of Bangladesh and Sheikh Hasina, Leader of the Opposition.

(c) The National Security Advisory reiterated India's commitment to maintaining good neighbourly relations with Bangladesh. The issues he discussed with the Government of Bangladesh included, *inter alia*, bilateral trade, sale of gas by Bangladesh to India and recent attacks on minorities. The Government of Bangladesh welcomed the visit and reiterated its desire to strengthening bilateral ties.

Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI)

2485. SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN:
SHRI Y.V. RAO:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) plan to formulate norms for availability of service for International gate way service providers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details about the name of the companies which had been given in principal clearance to set up International gate ways;

(d) whether the TRAI is closely studying the internet services scenario in other countries; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) is in the process of formulating the norms for availability of International Leased Lines for International Gateway Service Providers. Consultation with all the stake holders has been completed. The norms are yet to be finalised.

(c) The name of the companies who have been given in principle clearance for setting up of International Gateways for Internet is given in the statement enclosed.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) Internet services are unregulated in most of the countries. However, TRAI is one of the new regulators in the world after Info-com Development Authority (IDA), Singapore to undertake the exercise of specifying benchmarks for Quality of Service (QOS) for dialup Internet Access, through a process of public consultation.

Statement

Details of ISPs who have been given in Principle, clearance for setting up of International gateways for Internet (As on 30-11-2001)

Sl. No.	Name of ISP
1	2
1.	M/s Data Access (India) Ltd.
2.	M/s Internet Promoters India Ltd.
3.	M/s STPI
4.	M/s Jain Studios Ltd.
5.	M/s In Tech Net Ltd.
6.	M/s Direct Internet Ltd.
7.	M/s Satyam Infoway Ltd.
8.	M/s Bharti BT Internet Ltd.
9.	M/s Global Telesystems Ltd.
10.	M/s Icenet. Net Ltd.
11.	M/s Dishnet DSL Ltd.
12.	M/s Reliance Infocom Ltd.
13.	M/s GNFC
14.	M/s Southern Online Services Ltd.
15.	M/s MTNL
16.	M/s Comsat Max
17.	M/s Weirfield Mnemoniks Infonet work Pvt. Ltd.
18.	M/s Pioneer Online
19.	M/s India Net Exchange Pvt. Ltd.
20.	M/s Wipronet Limited
21.	M/s BSEB Telecom Ltd.
22.	M/s Wilnet Communication Pvt. Ltd.
23.	M/s Fascel Ltd.
24.	M/s Asianet Ltd.
25.	M/s Dialnet Ltd.
26.	M/s Mahavira Infoway Ltd.

1	2
27.	M/s Blazenet Private Ltd.
28.	M/s Netlink Ltd.
29.	M/s E-COM Pvt. Ltd.
30.	M/s Primus Telecommunications Ltd.
31.	M/s Pacific Internet India Pvt. Ltd.
32.	M/s Primenet Global Ltd.
33.	M/s Rolta India Ltd.
34.	M/s MX Solutions
35.	M/s Ankhnet Informations Pvt. Ltd.
36.	M/s Gujarat State Petroleum Corp. Ltd.
37.	M/s City Online Services Pvt. Ltd.
38.	M/s Patriot Automation Projecs Pvt. Ltd.
39.	M/s Sab Infotech Ltd.
40.	M/s Phoenix Overseas Ltd.
41.	M/s Data Infosys Ltd.
42.	M/s Intra Global Ltd.
43.	M/s Nemagic Solutions
44.	M/s Estel Communication Pvt. Ltd.
45.	M/s Excel Media Pvt. Ltd.
46.	M/s Del DSL Internet Pvt. Ltd.
47.	M/s Easynet Global India Pvt. Ltd.
48.	M/s Zee Interaction Multilinks Ltd.
49.	M/s Tata Internet Service Ltd.
50.	M/s BGN Service Limited
51.	M/s S. Kumar Com Ltd.
52.	M/s Astra Infonet Pvt. Ltd.
53.	M/s Karuturi Com Ltd.
54.	M/s Bareilly Communication Pvt. Ltd.
55.	M/s Kappa Infotech Pvt. Ltd.
56.	M/s Worldwide.com Pvt. Ltd.
57.	M/s Yog Kshem Communication Pvt. Ltd.
58.	M/s Track Online Net India Pvt. Ltd.

1	2
59.	M/s Essel Shyam
60.	M/s Empower.com Ltd.
61.	M/s HFCL Ltd.
62.	M/s Shyam Internet Services Pvt. Ltd.
63.	M/s Qtel Comtech Ltd.
64.	M/s Technocrews Solutions Pvt. Ltd.
65.	M/s World Phone Internet Services Pvt. Ltd.
66.	M/s Bohra Pratisthan Pvt. Ltd.
67.	M/s Spanco Telesystems & Solutions Pvt. Ltd.
68.	M/s Hughes Escorts Communication Ltd.
69.	M/s Spectranet Ltd.
70.	M/s Micky Online Pvt. Ltd.
71.	M/s Serve India Solutions Pvt. Ltd.
72.	M/s Capital Online Pvt. Ltd.
73.	M/s Gujarat Info Petro Ltd.
74.	M/s HCL Comnet Systems & Services Ltd.
75.	M/s Beacon Broadband Networks Pvt. Ltd.

Knowledge Super Power

2486. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received report of a Task Force constituted to suggest strategy for transformation of India into a 'Knowledge Super Power' in I.T.;

(b) if so, the details of the recommendations thereof; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to implement these recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS, MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): (a) to (c) A high powered 'National Task Force on Information Technology and Software Development', set up by the Prime Minister's Office, with the objective to make India an IT destination, has submitted its report. Government of India accepted the recommendations with the direction to all concerned

Ministries/Departments of the Government of India for amendments to the procedures/laws related to them fully reflecting the spirit of the recommendations. The status of Action Taken Report on the 108 recommendations of the Task Force is as under:-

Implemented	=	64
Not Implemented	=	04
Not accepted	=	03
On going	=	37

The major recommendations of the Task Force relate to simplified policies and procedures in telecommunication sector, enactment of Cyber Laws to promote e-commerce and to provide security to electronic transaction, simplifications in labour laws for IT sector, fiscal incentives, promotion of IT in schools and rural areas, computerization in Government and to increase computer literacy at grass root levels.

CGHS Facilities to Journalists

2487. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that the journalists are also getting treatment at CGHS dispensaries in New Delhi area; and

(b) if so, the rules under which the journalists have been provided the CGHS facilities?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C.P. THAKUR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. As per Department of Health's O.M. No. S-11011/3/88-CGHS (P) dated 11th March, 1988, Journalists accredited by the Government of India's Press Information Bureau (PIB) and residing in areas covered under CGHS Delhi are entitled to get a CGHS card on the basis of the accreditation card issued to them by the PIB which would make them eligible for medical facilities under CGHS at par with those available to the general public under G.P. Card Scheme.

Border Trade

2488. SHRI BIJOY HANDIQUE: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a proposal to develop trade and commerce between the North East and Bangladesh by opening up surface transport beyond the international border has long lying in shelf;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the matter has been taken up with Bangladesh; and

(d) if so, the reaction of Bangladesh thereto?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) to (d) Under the bilateral Trade Agreement signed in 1980, the Governments of India and Bangladesh have agreed to make mutually beneficial arrangements for use of waterways, roadways and railways for commerce between the two countries. At present, commerce between North East and Bangladesh is taking place through notified land customs stations. In addition the Protocol on Inland Water Transit and Trade allows for shipment of goods through inland water transport. The two Governments are committed to boosting bilateral trade and proposals under consideration include opening of additional land customs stations and strengthening of infrastructural linkages.

Telecommunication to Dawki

2489. SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the quality of telecommunication to Dawki is not up to the mark and people are finding difficulties in communicating from Shillong to Dawki; and

(b) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to restore quality telecommunication link to this important border outpost which is in a strategic location and an important point of trade and commerce between India and Bangladesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) Sir, due to inadequate availability of channels to carry traffic and occasional malfunctioning in the transmission equipment the performance is not upto the mark.

(b) The Optical Fibre Cable has been planned between the Jowai and Dawki to improve communication from Shillong and Dawki and is likely to be commissioned during the current financial year.

Post Offices in Chandigarh

2490. SHRI RAMCHANDRA VEERAPPA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Post Offices, functioning at present in Chandigarh, category-wise;

(b) whether the Government propose to open new Post Offices in newly developed sectors; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) 01 Head Post Office, 45 Departmental Sub Offices, 01 Extra Departmental Sub Office and 06 Extra Departmental Branch Offices are functioning at present in Chandigarh.

(b) and (c) Opening of new post offices in newly developed sectors in Chandigarh is subject to the norms based justification and availability of resources including sanction of required posts by the Government.

Popularisation of Indian System of Medicines

2491. SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the efforts made by the Government to popularize the Indian system of medicine and homeopathy;

(b) the achievements made so far in this regard;

(c) the achievements made in research and standardization of the medicines;

(d) whether there is a scheme of fellowship implemented by WHO for homoeopaths;

(e) if so, the number of Indian homoeopaths who got such fellowships during the last three years;

(f) whether the Ministry has not forwarded to WHO the names of homoeopaths from India cleared by the concerned Selection Board for such fellowship this year;

(g) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(h) the steps being taken to forward the names of those who have been selected for the fellowship by the competent Selection Board?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C.P. THAKUR): (a) and (b) In order to develop and propagate the Indian Systems of Medicine & Homoeopathy, the Government in 1995 established an independent Department of ISM&H in the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. The Department of ISM&H has already implemented schemes for the development and cultivation and medicinal plants, preparation of agro-

techniques, upgradation of undergraduate/postgraduate institutions, standardization of drugs, encouraging intra-mural & extra mural research and dissemination of information through information, education and communication (IEC). The Schemes have helped in the development of this sector and infrastructure creation.

(c) The achievement made in research and standardisation of medicines is as per statement.

(d) There is no separate scheme of fellowships by WHO for homoeopaths. The application from applicants physician of the Indian Systems of Medicine and Homoeopathy are considered for the general programme of WHO fellowship.

(e) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(f) to (h) The Department had recommended names of some homoeopaths for WHO Fellowships. These names would be considered for the biennium 2002-2003.

Statement

The Department has published the Ayurvedic Pharmacopoeia of India, Part I Volume, I II and III covering 258 single drugs of plant origin.

The Central Council for Research in Ayurveda and Siddha has also published a monograph on pharmacopoeial standards of Ayurvedic formulations comprising 451 monographs.

The Central Council for Research in Unani Medicine have developed about 30 drugs for treatment of different diseases. The council so far finalised the standards for 222 single drugs and 385 compound formulations. The Unani Pharmacopoeia Committee has accepted monographs on 122 single drugs and 192 compound formulations for inclusion in the Unani Pharmacopoeia.

The Central Council for Research in Homoeopathy has undertaken clinical evaluation of Homoeopathic medicines in 37 clinical conditions/diseases. The important areas of clinical evaluation were on (i) Filariasis (ii) HIV/AIDS (iii) Malaria.

- Clinical verification of symptomatic data of 65 drugs, mainly those of indigenous origin and those proved by the Council is in progress in 3 units. Verification of 6 drugs have been

concluded and four new drugs proved by Council are included in Clinical Verification.

- The Council has also undertaken clinical studies during epidemics of different diseases that occurred in different parts of the country, between 1981 and 1999.
- Proving of 59 drugs, mostly of indigenous origin, have been completed and proving of 4 drugs is in progress.
- The Council has so far concluded standardisation studies viz. Pharmacognostical, Physico-chemical and Pharmacological, on 135 drugs and partly on 96 drugs.

[*Translation*]

Mass Health Awareness Drive

2492. SHRI RAMSHAKAL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have launched a Mass Health Awareness Drive;

(b) if so, the main objective thereof;

(c) the number of States where the drive has been launched so far;

(d) the time by which this drive is likely to be launched in the remaining States;

(e) the amount spent thereon so far; and

(f) the number of beneficiaries thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C.P. THAKUR): (a) to (f) Creating health awareness among the masses is an integral part of all the major programmes/schemes of this Ministry viz. National Malaria Eradication Programme, National Blindness Control Programme, Revised National T.B. Control Programme, National AIDS Control Programme, National Leprosy Control Programme, Family Welfare Programmes and Indian System of Medicine and Homoeopathy. A multi pronged strategy is adopted for disseminating the benefits available, the health care and preventive measures to the masses. The health awareness is created through various agencies such as NGOs State Societies, DAVP, electronic media, television etc.

[*English*]

Setting up of a Core Group

2493. SHRI C.N. SINGH:
SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADODA MANDLIK:
SHRI SHIVAJI MANE:
SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE:
SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether in the wake of terrorist attacks in New York and Washington the CBI propose to set up a core group on terrorism in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the other steps taken by the CBI to tackle the terrorism in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) to (c) Yes. A Core Group on Terrorism has been set up in CBI which is mandated to create emergency response teams for investigation into serious incidents of terrorist crimes at a short notice, as and when required.

Public Sector Electronic Units

2494. SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA:
SHRI C. SREENIVASAN:
SHRI AMBAREESHA:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of public sector electronic units functioning in the backward regions of the country;

(b) whether the Government propose to establish some more electronic units in the highly backward regions in the country in order to generate employment in the rural areas;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS, MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): (a) There is no public sector electronic unit under administrative control of Ministry of Information Technology, functioning in the backward regions of the country. However, 2 public sector units viz., Bharat Electronics Ltd. and ITI Ltd. are operating in backward regions.

(b) to (d) No, Sir. At present, the Government has no plan to establish any new public sector unit.

Tender System

2495. SHRI ARUN KUMAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether instructions issued by the Ministry of Commerce, Department of Supply and Ministry of Finance, Department of Expenditure in regard to open tenders above the value of item of Rs. 50,000/- are being followed by the Kendriya Bhandar;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the measures being taken by the Government to ensure that these instructions are followed strictly?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) to (d) Kendriya Bhandar, being a Central Government Consumer Cooperative Society Ltd., is governed by Multi-State Cooperative Societies Act, 1984, Rules made thereunder and bye-laws and other approved policies/procedures are applicable. Instructions for Government of India Departments are not automatically applicable to Kendriya Bhandar.

[Translation]

Grants for Jammu and Kashmir Under PMRY

2496. SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the district-wise details of the grants allocated to Jammu and Kashmir and Jharkhand under the Pradhan Mantri Rojgar Yojana;

(b) the details of the youth benefited by such type of grants in these States; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to promote this scheme by increasing the funds for Jammu and Kashmir and Jharkhand?

THE MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI KARIYA MUNDA): (a) Under the Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana (PMRY), the Central Government releases funds for Subsidy as well as for Training and Entrepreneurial Development etc. While the funds for Subsidy are authorised to the Reserve Bank of India for passing on to the individual beneficiaries through the implementing banks, the funds for Training and Entrepreneurial Development etc. are released to the States/UTs. In turn, the State Governments allocate these funds on their own to their districts. Rs. 95.95 lakhs has been released to the State of Jammu and Kashmir between 1993-94 to 2001-2002 (upto 30.11.2001), while Rs. 509.55 lakhs was released to undivided Bihar between 1993-1994 to 2000-2001. Rs. 62.77 lakhs has been released to Government of Jharkhand during 2000-2001 and 2001-2002 (upto 30.11.2001) after the creation of Jharkhand State in November, 2000.

(b) As reported by the Reserve Bank of India 13539 youth have been sanctioned loans between 1993-1994 - 2001-2002 (upto 30.11.2001) in Jammu and Kashmir and 94,758 between 1993-94 (2000-2001 in undivided Bihar. 457 youth have been sanctioned loans for the year 2001-2002 (as on 27.11.2001) in Jharkhand under the Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana.

(c) Requests by the State Governments, if any, for enhancement of targets can be considered depending upon their performance *vis-a-vis* allocated targets.

[English]

SC/ST and OBC in Services

2497. SHRI A. NARENDRA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the representation of SCs and STs in Class I (Group A) Services stood only at 13.59% (SCs - 10.38% & STs - 3.12%) and in Class II (Group B) services only at 14.41% (SCs - 11.73% & STs - 2.68%) as against 22.5% quota prescribed for them (15% for SCs and 7.5% in respect of STs) as on 1/1/1998 under Central Government;

(b) if so, the total number of 'posts' in (i) Class I (Group A) Category and (ii) Class II (Group B) Category and equivalents thereof under the Ministry of External Affairs; and

(c) persons belonging to (i) General, (ii) SC, (iii) ST and (iv) OBC Categories working against them including their respective percentage to such posts as ascertained in view of instructions as contained under para 5 DOPT OM NO. 36012/2/96-Estt (Res) dated 2nd July, 1997?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) The representation of SC/ST in the Ministry of External Affairs in Group A and Group B posts as on 1/1/98 was as under:—

Category of posts	SC	ST	Combined
Group A	14.26%	5.73%	19.99%
Group B	14.07%	4.43%	18.50%

(b) Total number of posts in Group A and Group B in the Ministry of External Affairs as on 1/1/1998 was 785 and 1961 respectively;

(c) The number of persons of various categories working against these posts and their percentage as on 1/1/1998 was as under:—

Category of posts/ Service	Total Number of Posts	Number of Reserved Posts			Number of Officers in Position			
		SC (15%)	ST (7.5%)	OBC (27%)	SC	ST	OBC	General
					112	45	11*	594
Group A	785	117	59	166	(14.26%)	(5.73%)	(1.78%)	(75.88%)
Group B	1961	292	146	200	276	87	152*	1441
					(14.07%)	(4.43%)	(20.40%)	(73.48%)

*Reservation for OBCs is provided for only in Direct Recruitment posts. Their percentage has therefore been calculated on that basis.

Code of Ethics in Doctors Professions

2498. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn towards the news-item captioned "Health Ministry's new dose for doctors" appearing in the 'Indian Express' dated October 21, 2001;

(b) if so, the facts of the matters reported therein; and

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

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C.P. THAKUR): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Regulations on Professional Conduct, Etiquette and Ethics for medical practitioners are being finalised by the Central Government in consultation with other concerned Departments.

New Hospitals

2499. SHRI A. KRISHNASWAMY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any proposal from State Governments to recognize/construct new Hospitals in the current financial year;

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

(c) whether Expenditure Finance Committee has suggested any new constructions;

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C.P. THAKUR): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Over Bridges at Railway Crossings

2500. SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railway Board has approved the inclusion of 2 road over-bridges at railway crossing on the National Highway-5 between Visakhapatnam and

Vijayawada (Road KM 332/6-8) and (Road KM 344/10) in the railway works programme for the year 1998-1999;

(b) if so, whether the approval of the Ministry of Surface Transport in this regard is still awaited;

(c) if so, the reasons for delay; and

(d) the time by which the Surface Transport Ministry is likely to accord approval for the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI): (a) to (d) Construction of two Road over Bridges at km. 332/6-8 km. 344/10 of Vijayawada - Visakhapatnam Section of NH 5 is already included in the four-laning programme under implementation by National Highways Authority of India (NHA). Complete technical proposal alongwith the requisite fee towards approval of General Arrangement Drawing (GAD) for the R.O.Bs has already been deposited with the South Central Railway by NHA.

Indira Vikas Patra

2501. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to find a way for repayment of Indira Vikas Patra which are either stolen or not traceable;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the total amount of Indira Vikas Patra lying unclaimed with the Government on account of stolen or not traceable of Indira Vikas Patra; and

(d) the manner in which the Government propose to utilize this fund?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) and (b) As per IVP Rules, no application is necessary to purchase the Patras which are freely transferable from one person to another without the involvement of the post offices. Anybody who presents the Patras at the counter is entitled to receive their maturity value.

(c) Maximum period for encashment of a certificate, after it reaches its maturity stage, is not prescribed in the rules. An investor can encash the Patras at any time after the maturity period is over. In view of these circumstances, any amount cannot be treated as unclaimed.

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

Supply of Stationery

2502. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 2500 dated December 15, 1999 and state:

(a) whether the survey has since been undertaken/ completed on the level of satisfaction provided to various user Government Offices in the supply of stationery and other items by Kendriya Bhandar;

(b) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) A survey was carried out for finding out the quality of goods supplied by Kendriya Bhandar and reasonableness of the rates of the goods provided to users in respect of stationery and other items.

(b) and (c) The outcome of the Survey Report was placed before the Executive Committee comprising of the members of the Board of Directors and following corrective measures were taken for monitoring the quality of goods ensuring the reasonableness of the rates:

- (1) Calling for multiple quotations from various registered suppliers so as to have competitive rates and also choice to the consumers wherever possible.
- (2) Price guarantee undertaking is being obtained from the suppliers to the effect that this is their lowest quotation and they will not be supplying this item lower than this price.
- (3) Complaints against the suppliers are being attended to promptly and suitable action for blacklisting/suspending the supplier is taken wherever considered necessary.
- (4) Pre-paid suggestions cards have been provided in all the stores for complaints/suggestions by the customers for corrective action.
- (5) Generally the items of reputed brands or as demanded by the customers are procured centrally.

*[Translation]***Kidney Related Disease**

2503. SHRI RAJO SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether kidney related disease is spreading among the children day by day in the country especially in Bihar and Jharkhand;

(b) if so, the number of children affected therefrom during each of the last three years, State-wise; and

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

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C.P. THAKUR): (a) to (c) There is no system of collecting statistics on the number of children suffering from kidney disease in the country. The Government gives assistance to affected persons including such children, below the poverty line, under National Illness Assistance Fund, Upto Rs. 1.50 lakhs, in normal cases.

WLL Service

2504. SHRI JAI PRAKASH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the connections issued and the capacity of the 'WLL' telephone service of the MTNL as on September 30, 2001;

(b) whether the connections under 'WLL' services have been issued according to its capacity;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps being taken by the Government to tackle this situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) Status of Code Division Multiple Access (CMDA) based Wireless in Local Loop (WLL) telephone service of Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) as on September 30, 2001.

As on 30.09.2001	Delhi	Mumbai
Capacity	23,500	50,000 (under installation)
Connection	18,555	

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Levelling of NH-2

2505. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any agreement has been signed for levelling of National Highway-2 with the loan of World Bank;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether contracts have been provided for this scheme;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the details of these contracts and time of completion of work;

(f) the steps taken to improve the quality of the National Highway-2; and

(g) the funds proposed for this purpose during 2001-2002?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI): (a) Yes, Sir. Agreements have been signed with World Bank for improvement of NH-2

(b) Loan agreements for widening and strengthening of National Highway-2 for US\$ 516 million under Third National Highway Project (TNHP) and US\$ 589 million under Grand Trunk Road Improvement Project (GTRIP) have been signed with World Bank.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) and (e) The details are at statement-i & II. The time of completion varies from 36 to 42 months.

(f) Widening of existing 2-lane to 4-lane and strengthening of the existing road would improve the quality of National Highway-2.

(g) US\$ 83 million under TNHP and US\$ 67 million under GTRIP are proposed to be utilised during the year 2001-2002.

Statement I**World Bank Projects (TNHP) under implementation in Uttar Pradesh on NH-2**

Stretch/Chainages/ Packages	Length in KM	Estimated cost of civil work (Rs. in crores)	Awarded cost to contractor (Rs. in crores)	Date of Commen- cement	Date of completion	Contractor/ Nationality	Supervision Consultant
Sikandra-Bhaunti Km. 393-Km. 470 Package II-A	62	323.6	289.3	23.2.2001	23.8.2004	M/s ITD-Som Dutt Builders (JV) Thailand-India	BCEOM, French
Fatehpur-Khaga Km. 38-Km.115 Package II-C	77	372.4	295.53	12.3.2001	12.7.2004	M/s Centroadstroy, Russia	BCEOM, French
Khaga-Kokhraj Km.115-Km. 158 Package III-A	43	151.7	179.85	10.2.2001	10.2.2004	M/s IRCON International Ltd. India	Meinhardt (Singapore) Pte. Ltd., Singapore
Handia-Varanasi Km. 245-Km. 317 Package III-C	72	286.00	265.38	12.3.2001	12.7.2004	M/s Controdorstroy, Russia	Meinhardt (Singapore) Pte. Ltd. Singapore
Mohania-Sasaram Km. 65-Km. 110 Package-IVB	45	230.55	229.96	10.2.2001	10.2.2004	M/s LG Engineering & Construction Corporation, Korea	ICT Pvt. Ltd., India
Dehri-on-Sone- Aurangabad Km.140-Km. 180 Package-IVD	40	242.61	217.99	10.2.2001	10.2.2004	M/s Ssangyong, Korea M/s Oriental SE, India (JV)	ICT Pvt. Ltd., India
	254	1606.86	1478.01				

Statement II**World Bank Projects (GTRIP) on NH-2 to be awarded**

Stretch/Chainages/ Package	Length in KM	Distance from Delhi in Km.	Estimated Project cost (Rs. in crores)	Likely Commen- cement Date	Likely completion Date	Status
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Agra-Sikohabed Km. 199.66 to Km. 250.5 Package-I A	51	249	348.7	January, 2002	December, 2004	Bids invited to be received on 17.12.2001
Sikohabed-Sarai Ikdil Km. 250.502 to Km. 307.5 Package-I B	59	306	252.8	January, 2002	December, 2004	Bids invited to be received on 17.12.2001

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Sarai Ikdil-Bhognipur/Sikandara Km. 321.1 to Km. 393.00 Package-I C	73	392	341.7	January, 2002	December, 2004	Bids invited to be received on 17.12.2001
Bhaunti-Fatehpur Border Km. 470 to Km. 483.33 & Km. 0 to Km. 38 Package-IIB	51	505	450	January, 2002	December, 2004	Bids invited to be received on 17.12.2001
Allahabad Bypass-Km. 158 to Km. 245 Package-III B	87	712	Project Preparation in progress for Road Projects. Sale of PQ Document for Bridge proper start from 1.12.2001			
Varanasi Bypass-Mohania Km. 317 to 328 & Km. 0 to Km. 65 Package-IV A	76	861	435.1	January, 2002	December, 2004	Bids invited to be received on 17.12.2001
Sasaram to Dehri-on-Sone Km. 110 to Km. 140 Package-IV C	30	936	222.8	January, 2002	December, 2004	Bids invited to be received on 17.12.2001
Barachatti to Gorhar Km. 240 to Km. 230 Package-V B	80	1116	442.2	January, 2002	December, 2004	Bids invited to be received on 17.12.2001
507		2493.3				

[English]

Rest Areas on Delhi-Jaipur Highway

2506. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of rest areas built by the NHAI on the Delhi-Jaipur Highway;

(b) the facilities extended on this sector;

(c) the cost of such facilities;

(d) the details of additional facilities which will be given; and

(e) the medical facilities established along this highway sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI): (a) In view of the fact that a number of rest areas exist on Delhi-Jaipur Highway, no rest areas has been built by National Highways Authority of India.

(b) and (c) Delhi-Jaipur Highway has been constructed in two sections, one is Gurgaon-Kotputli and second is Kotputli-Amer section. On Kotputli-Amer section, the facilities of service roads, built-up stretches, intersection improvements, bus lay byes, truck parkings, ambulance services, highway patrolling and road signs and markings have been provided. In addition, Highway Traffic Management System with emergency call boxes at 2 kms, variable message signs, closed circuit TV to be operated from control centre have been installed at an approximate cost of Rs. 17.53 crores.

(d) The additional facilities such as high traffic management system, truck parkings, ambulances, highway patrolling, tow cranes etc. would be provided on Gurgaon-Kotputli section of Delhi-Jaipur highway.

(e) For immediate transfer/first aid facility on Kotputli-Amer section of National Highway- 8, two ambulances have been provided. Request for immediate aid can be made through emergency call boxes connected to the control centre for this section. This would be extended to Gurgaon-Kotputli section also.

[English]

Target for IT Professionals

2507. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have set up a target of 2,00,000 I.T. professionals a year by 2007;

(b) whether it is a fact that existing educational institutions do not have the capacity to produce 2,00,000 I.T. professionals;

(c) whether the Government proposed to start dedicated institutions only for I.T. professionals;

(d) if so, whether any guidelines have been formulated for new institutions; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS, MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): (a) and (b) As per the estimate of NASSCOM, 22 lakhs IT professionals are required by 2008. The present annual intake capacity of institutions in formal education system under All Indian Council for Technical Education (AICTE) have the capacity to meet this requirement.

(c) Government has already set up a few institutions dedicated for IT professionals.

(d) and (e) AICTE has issued guidelines for fulfillment of norms for establishment of new institutions. These include:

(i) Availability of land with minimum area of 5 acres for Metropolitan cities, 10 acres for District Head Quarters and 25 acres for other locations.

(ii) Land Use Certificate from the Competent Authority alongwith Topo-Sketch/Village Map.

(iii) Site and building plans prepared by a registered Architect and duly approved by Competent Plan Sanctioning Authority.

(iv) Construction of a building on permanent site on the above plot of land with completed floor area suitable for starting at least first year classes.

(v) Availability of class room, library, laboratories, workshops, administrative rooms and other facilities furnished with all equipment, machineries, books furniture, electrical fitting and fixtures, as applicable, for starting first year classes.

(vi) Proof of adequate working fund. Proof of appointment of a qualified Principal/Director and identification of at least 75% of faculty members.

[Translation]

Telephone Complaints

2508. SHRI AJAY SINGH CHAUTALA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of complaints received by the MTNL from the customers during the last six months;

(b) the number of complaints redressed in time and the reasons for the remaining complaints; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken by the MTNL to decrease the number of complaints in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) The number of complaints received by MTNL from the customers is as follows:

44,04,042	Delhi
22,48,235	Mumbai

(b) On an average, complaints redressed by next day/on time in Delhi and Mumbai are 68% and 63% respectively.

Reasons for the complaints remaining pending are as under:

- A large scale digging activities by various agencies like Municipal Corporation of Delhi

(MCD), New Delhi Municipal Corporation (NDMC), Public Works Department (PWD), Delhi Jal Board (DJB), Metro Rail Transport System (MTRS), etc.

- Faults in the telephone instruments.
- Multiple Main Distribution Frame (MDFs) in the same building thereby having tie networks.

(c) MTNL has initiated following steps to reduce the number of complaints:

- Paper core underground cable are being replaced by Jelly Filled Cables/Optical Fibre Cable with Digital Line Concentrator (DLCs) within next two years.
- Overhead wires are minimized by introducing five pair cables and wall Distribution Points (DPs).
- The Junction network has been completely transferred to Optical Fibre Cable Links. Further, improvement is being done by providing Synchronous Digital Hierarchy (SDH) systems connected on the ring architecture.
- Subscriber loop length being reduced by planning more Remote Switching Unit (RSUs)/Remote Line Unit (RLUs).
- Fixed Wireless in Local Loop (WLL) and Digital Line Concentrator (DLC) systems are being introduced in the Customer Access network for better performance.
- Computerised fault reporting system is introduced which helps in booking testing and sending the faults to the concerned line staff.
- In addition to this, line staff is provided with pagers for easy communication and follow up with the testing staff for speedy clearance of faults.
- MTNL has liberalised the policy to replace all telephone instruments older than five years or repaired more than two times. This is being implemented in phases. In the first phase, instrument more than eight years old are being replaced.

Indian Team to Afghanistan

2509. SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADODA MANDLIK:
SHRI NAMDEO HARBAJI DIWATHE:
SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI:
SHIR RAM MOHAN GADDE:
SHRI SHIVAJI MANE:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have recently sent a team of diplomats to Afghanistan;

(b) if so, the details and the main purpose thereof; and

(c) the composition of the said team?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) to (c) A diplomatic mission of the Ministry of External Affairs visited Kabul, Afghanistan on 21 November, 2001. The Mission team comprised of Special Envoy for Afghanistan, senior officials of the Ministry of External Affairs, interpreters and other essential staff. There was also a medical and nursing component with the team, which has stayed behind along with the Liaison Officer of the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India. After the closure of the Indian Embassy in Kabul on September 26, 1996, this was the first Indian diplomatic Mission to Afghanistan.

[English]

Telephone Connections in Haryana

2510. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether telephone connections are provided to the applicants on demand in the rural areas of Haryana;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) the latest position in regard to providing of telephone connections to the applicants registered between August 10, 2001 till date under non-OYT (G);

(e) whether some areas of the State has been put under non-feasible list despite all infrastructure facilities there;

(f) if so, the reasons therefore alongwith the measures taken in this regard; and

(g) the details of plans of the Government to provide telephone connections on demand in the State particularly in Gurgaon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Telephone connections are not being provided on demand in rural areas. Out of 751 rural exchanges in Haryana State, Only 65 exchanges are on demand. The list of exchanges on demand is enclosed as statement.

(c) Telephone connections to the applicants are not provided on demand due to capacity constraints and non-availability of cable pairs in most of the exchanges.

(d) Applicants registered between 10th August, 2001 to till date is 19887 and the connections provided is 5693.

(e) and (f) In spite of availability of equipped capacity, some areas are non-feasible due to non-availability of cable pairs. The cable laying is under progress to make it feasible.

(g) For providing telephone connections on demand 2,35,900 lines equipment has been planned in Haryana Circle, out of which 28,000 lines are to be enhanced in Gurgaon during 2001-2002. Moreover, laying of under ground cable is under progress in Gurgaon area and there is also a plan to install WLL (Wireless in Local Loop) in rural areas to provide connections on demand by March, 2003.

Statement

List of Exchanges on Demand

Ambala SSA		Hissar SSA	
1		2	
1.	Barara	1.	Ali Mohammad
2.	Dera Salimpur	2.	Odha
3.	Dheen	3.	Khair Khan
4.	Jharu Majra	4.	Saidawalan Ther
5.	Kambassi		Gurgaon SSA
6.	Mullana	1.	Baslambi
7.	Pilkhani		Jind SSA
8.	Rampur Sarseni	1.	Baniakhera
9.	Smaikha	2.	Barta

1	2
10. Tapperian	3. Balerkha
11. Ugala	4. Bhana Brahmna
12. Ghoru Pipli	5. Dighana
13. Lawana	6. Dhillonwal
14. Chandigmandir	7. Deohla
15. Himshikha	8. Jajjanwala
16. HMT Pinjore	9. Kakrod
17. Khatnauli	10. Kuchrana
18. Mallaha	11. Ludana
19. Mandhana	12. Naguran
20. Morni	13. Nirnabad
21. Nadha Sahib	14. Siwan mal
22. Ram gali	Sonepat SSA
23. Rattewali	1. Jakhauli
24. Kurali	2. Palri
25. Magharpur	3. Mehlana
26. Boh	4. Bhadana
27. Bulana	Faridabad
28. Dapper	Nil
29. Ghel	Rewari SSA
30. Handesra	1. Khandora
31. Kaulan	2. Kunjpura
32. Lohagarh	3. Jonawas
33. Matheri	Karnal SSA
34. Mallahan	1. Gajlana
35. Naneola	2. Kunjpura
	3. Jhanjhari
	4. Yari

Pak's Nuclear Capability

2511. SHRIMATI PRENEET KAUR: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Pakistan is likely to succeed in modernizing its nuclear arsenal with Plutonium Bombs

and produce Warheads for its missiles aimed at India and elsewhere as reported in the 'Pioneer' dated September 4, 2001;

(b) if so, the facts of the matter reported therein; and

(c) the steps the Government propose to take to counteract it?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) to (c) Government is aware of media reports on Pakistan's nuclear and missile arsenal. It is assessed that efforts by Pakistan to enhance its nuclear capabilities continue. Government remains fully committed to taking all necessary steps to effectively safeguard India's security, with a credible minimum nuclear deterrent based on realistic assessment of the country's security environment.

Indian Council of Medical Research Project

2512. SHRI SUBODH ROY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a project conceived by Indian Council of Medical Research on execution of Microbial Containment Complex protecting the workers from laboratory infections has not been completed even after 24 years and after spending about 13 crore;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the steps being taken to get it expedited; and

(d) the time by which it is likely to start functioning?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C.P. THAKUR): (a) to (d) There has been tremendous technological advances in setting up bio-safety laboratories, since the original plan of Microbial Containment Complex (MCC) was conceptualized in 1977. Bio-safety level 1 and 2 safeguards are already available in National Institute of Virology, Pune to protect the workers from Laboratory infections. It is now proposed to set up a state of art BSL-3 Laboratory in the Microbial Containment Complex (MCC) of NIV, Pune for handling viruses belonging to P 3 and P 4 categories and the Laboratory is likely to be ready approximately in 18 months.

Common Entrance Test

2513. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Medical Council of India has a proposal for a common entrance test at all India level for candidates aspiring to pursue medicine as a career rather than holding separate tests by each State, University or Institutions;

(b) if so, whether the Government have examined the proposal; and

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

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C.P. THAKUR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

[*Translation*]

Paediatric Surgeons

2514. SHRI AVTAR SINGH BHADANA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are only one thousand Paediatric Surgeons in the country;

(b) whether several Medical institutions have expressed serious concern over the indifferent attitude on the part of the Government and lack of awareness amongst the masses about Paediatric surgery in the country; and

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

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C.P. THAKUR): (a) There are 22 institutions in the country conducting M.Ch. (Paediatric Surgery) course with an annual intake of around 50 admissions. Besides, the National Board of Examinations is also conducting course in Paediatric Surgery and awarding degrees to the students trained in the accredited hospitals. There is, however, no definite information available with regard to the actual number of Paediatric Surgeons in the country as the Medical Council of India and the State Medical Councils make only one time registration of Medical Practitioners after they pass MBBS course.

(b) and (c) No, Sir. As per the Section 10A of the Indian Medical Council Act, 1956 and the Regulations framed thereunder any medical institution desirous of opening a course in Paediatric Surgery may do so provided they fulfill the minimum requirements laid down in the Regulations of the Medical Council of India.

*[English]***Increase in Bunker Charges**

2515. SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Shipping companies are apprehending a steep escalation in bunker charges following in the rise in oil prices after the terrorist attack in US;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the bunker charges have already started moving up;

(c) if so, facts thereof and the manner in which Indian shipping companies have been affected; and

(d) the steps being taken by Government to help the shipping industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) to (d) Yes Sir. The Industry was indeed apprehending a steep escalation in bunker prices following the terrorist attack, when the crude prices shot up to about US \$ 31 per barrel. However, this turned out to be a very temporary affair. The crude oil price has since declined and so has the bunker price. Thus there has not been any lasting adverse impact on Indian Shipping as was initially expected.

Fund for Setting up of Mini Tool Rooms and Training Centres

2516. SHRI C. SREENIVASAN: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of requests have been received from State Governments for release of Central Fund for the setting up of Mini Tool Rooms and Training Centres under the Government Tool Room and Training Centre schemes during the last two years;

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

(c) the total funds provided to each State during each of the last two years, State-wise; and

(d) the reasons for delay in sanctioning/allocating the funds?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE

MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Mini Tool Room Scheme was approved in March, 2001 and since then proposals have been received from the State Governments of Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka, Nagaland, Haryana, Punjab and Jharkhand, of which the proposals of Kerala, Madhya Pradesh and Nagaland have been already approved.

(c) and (d) As the approved proposals are still under implementation by States, no request for release of funds has been received so far.

*[Translation]***Eradication of Leprosy**

2517. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR KHANDELWAL:
SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN:
SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM:
SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY:
SHRI JAIBHAN SINGH PAWAIYA:
SHRI MOHAN RAWALE:

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

(a) the number of leprosy cases detected in the country during each of the last three years till date, State-wise;

(b) the number of leprosy hospitals in the country as on date and the number of Hospitals opened during 2000-2001;

(c) the amount provided by the Union Government during the year 1999-2000 and 2000-2001, State-wise;

(d) the details of the foreign assistance provided to these hospitals during the year 1999-2000 and 2000-2001;

(e) whether these hospitals have been receiving assistance from World Bank organisation during the above period;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to eradicate the leprosy?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C.P. THAKUR): (a) Number of Leprosy cases detected in the country during the last 3 years State-wise, is given at Statement-I.

(b) Leprosy services are being provided through all the District Hospitals, CHCs, PHCs throughout the country. No new Hospital has been opened in 2000-2001 nor is proposed to be opened.

In addition, there are 290 temporary hospitalization Wards (THWs), created earlier for treatment of leprosy. However, in view of the policy of integration of leprosy services with the general health care, Government of India has now suggested that these THWs should also admit general patients.

(c) Amount of assistance given in 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 is given at Statement-II.

(d) No foreign funds have been provided to hospitals during the year 1999-2000 and 2000-2001. However, there are some NGO run hospital-cum-rehabilitation centres which are receiving foreign funds directly through international NGOs.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

(g) Steps being taken to eliminate leprosy are as under:

- All the districts in the country are covered under the leprosy elimination programme and are provided free multi-drug therapy services including medicines.
- Extensive public awareness programmes are being carried out.
- Special case detection drive is being undertaken in the endemic States.
- All the health staff are being provided training on leprosy. All States have been advised to integrate leprosy services with general health care.
- The second phase of National Leprosy Eradication Programme has been launched with effect from 1st October, 2000 with the assistance of World Bank at a total cost of Rs. 249.8 crores with the objective of achieving leprosy elimination target of prevalence rate of 1 per 10,000 at national level by 2004.

Statement-I

No. of Leprosy Cases Detected during the last 3 years

Sl. No.	State/UT	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-2001
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	65966	56501	67230
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	331	180	130
3.	Assam	6732	3284	1968
4.	Bihar	277336	172449	101607
5.	Chhattisgarh	NA	NA	22343
6.	Goa	658	346	419
7.	Gujarat	12848	13846	15666
8.	Haryana	823	695	950
9.	Himachal Pradesh	371	480	335
10.	Jharkhand	NA	NA	35565
11.	Jammu Divn.	587	347	796
12.	Kashmir Divn.	364	120	101
13.	Karnataka	26524	23095	17842
14.	Kerala	5676	3977	2381
15.	Madhya Pradesh	56319	47832	19256
16.	Maharashtra	52236	64785	44209
17.	Manipur	197	243	214
18.	Meghalaya	275	81	59
19.	Mizoram	75	31	22
20.	Nagaland	71	82	68
21.	Orissa	41534	65329	45216
22.	Punjab	2049	1320	1496
23.	Rajasthan	2797	2689	2033
24.	Sikkim	85	24	48
25.	Tamil Nadu	46429	62771	47064
26.	Tripura	490	120	112
27.	Uttar Pradesh	107632	111436	86304
28.	Uttaranchal	NA	NA	1894

1	2	3	4	5
29.	West Bengal	71728	54934	35666
30.	Andaman & Nicobar	54	68	113
31.	Chandigarh	332	301	364
32.	Dadra Nagar Haveli	328	283	217
33.	Daman & Diu	64	37	32
34.	Delhi	1464	2870	7191
35.	Lakshadweep	42	1	32
36.	Pondicherry	700	703	997
Total		783117	691260	559938

Statement-II**Statewise Amount of Assistance Provided Under NLEP During Last 2 Years**

(Rs. in Lakhs)

S. No.	States	1999-2000 Total	2000-2001 Total
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	442.21	508.75
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	60.36	136.00
3.	Assam	235.93	1120.00
4.	Bihar	1322.77	869.80
5.	Goa	1.51	11.50
6.	Gujarat	230.37	230.00
7.	Haryana	43.24	23.00
8.	Himachal Pradesh	54.53	61.00
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	63.61	87.00
10.	Karnataka	247.98	302.75
11.	Kerala	147.30	237.00
12.	Madhya Pradesh	794.35	645.36
13.	Maharashtra	391.04	398.60
14.	Manipur	95.71	125.00
15.	Meghalaya	45.26	47.00
16.	Mizoram	51.22	61.00

1	2	3	4
17.	Nagaland	106.09	109.00
18.	Orissa	581.09	628.00
19.	Punjab	100.39	36.00
20.	Rajasthan	148.37	105.00
21.	Sikkim	71.36	41.71
22.	Tamil Nadu	385.79	422.74
23.	Tripura	47.18	34.00
24.	Uttar Pradesh	1417.10	1093.51
25.	West Bengal	841.53	784.00
26.	Andaman & Nicobar	5.63	1.00
27.	Chandigarh	13.29	3.50
28.	Dadra Nagar Haveli	1.17	8.79
29.	Daman & Diu	9.50	14.50
30.	Delhi	14.38	41.50
31.	Lakshadweep	1.36	3.00
32.	Pondicherry	2.00	7.00
Total		7973.62	7179.01

Per Capita Income

2518. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the per capita income in the country has come down to half during the last five years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the per capita income during 1995-96 and the per capita income at present, State wise;

(d) the reasons for fall in the per capita income;

(e) whether the per capita income in India is less in comparison to the per capita income in neighbouring developing countries;

(f) if so, the facts thereof;

(g) whether any study has been conducted by the Government in this regard;

(h) if so, the details thereof; and

(i) the steps taken by the Government to increase per capita income in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) No, Sir. The per capita income for the country as a whole measured in terms of Net National Product (NNP) at factor cost (at constant 1993-94 prices) increased from Rs. 8498 in 1995-96 to Rs. 10561 in 2000-2001, according to the Central Statistical Organisation.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The State-wise per capita income (measured in terms of Net State Domestic Product at constant 1993-94 prices) during 1995-96 and 1999-2000 is given in the statement attached, as per the latest available figures from the Central Statistical Organisation.

(d) There is no evidence of fall in per capita incomes in the States except in Arunachal Pradesh.

(e) and (f) According to the World Development Report, 2002 published by the World Bank, the per capita income of India measured in terms of Gross National Income (GNI) was US\$ 460 in 2000 as compared to US\$ 470 for Pakistan, US\$ 380 for Bangladesh, US\$ 870 for Sri Lanka, US \$ 220 for Nepal and US \$ 840 for China among the neighbouring developing countries.

(g) and (h) The Planning Commission is not aware of any study in this regard.

(i) The Five Year Plans of the country detail the measures necessary to increase the per capita income. The Approach Paper to the Tenth Five Year Plan as approved by the National Development Council has proposed that the Tenth Plan should aim at an indicative target of 8 per cent per annum of GDP growth for the period 2002-2007 which would lead to a per capita income growth of at least 6 per cent per year. This growth rate has been targeted keeping in view the increase in savings and investment rate and pursuing efficiency enhancing policies both at the macro level and at the sector, level, thereby raising the overall per capita income levels.

Statement

Per Capita Net Domestic Product (At Constant 1993-94 Prices)

(as on 13-11-2001)

S.	State/UT	Per Capita Net Domestic Product (Rs)	
		1995-96	1999-2000(Q)
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	8086	9318
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	9424	9170
3.	Assam	5760	5968
4.	Bihar	3723	4475
5.	Goa	16180	NA
6.	Gujarat	11792	13434
7.	Haryana	11326	13463
8.	Himachal Pradesh	7966	9177
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	6732	7435
10.	Karnataka	8363	10928
11.	Kerala	8748	9678
12.	Madhya Pradesh	6809	NA
13.	Maharashtra	13406	15410
14.	Manipur	5883	7213
15.	Meghalaya	7150	7826
16.	Mizoram	NA	NA
17.	Nagaland	9646	NA
18.	Orissa	5053	5411
19.	Punjab	12989	14678
20.	Rajasthan	7209	8272
21.	Sikkim	NA	NA
22.	Tamil Nadu	10191	12504
23.	Trnpura	5339	6604
24.	Uttar Pradesh	5498	6373
25.	West Bengal	7514	9425
26.	Andaman & Nicobar	14797	NA

1	2	3	4
27. Chandigarh		21962	29661
28. Delhi		18996	24032
29. Pondicherry		9841	19895

Note: NA Not Available. Q Quick Estimates

Growth rate of Telecom Industry

2519. DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA:
SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the growth rate of telecom industry in the country is the same as that of the previous year;

(b) if not, the annual growth rate of the industry during the year 1998-1999, 1999-2000 and 2000-2001;

(c) the details about the gross production value of the telecom industry during the said years, year-wise; and

(d) the details of the value of telecom products exported by the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) The growth rate of telecom industry is generally measured by the growth of the Direct Exchange Lines (DELs). The growth rate of DEL during this year is approximately the same as that of the previous year.

(b) The annual growth rate of Direct Exchange Lines (DEL) for the years 1998-1999, 1999-2000, 2000-2001 is given below:

Year	Annual growth rate
1998-1999	21.3%
1999-2000	22.77%
2000-2001	22.35%

(c) So far as telecom manufacturing sector is concerned, according to available information, telecom equipment produced by the industry during the period is as under:

Year	Value in (Rs. Crore)
1998-1999	10,000
1999-2000	10,760
2000-2001	12,271

(d) The details of telecom products exported during the last three years is as under:

Year	Export of Telecom Equipment (Rs. Crore)
1998-1999	250
1999-2000	180
2000-2001	450

[English]

Ban on Blood Donors

2520. DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that professional blood donors are still donating blood in various Government hospitals in Delhi, inspite of orders of the Supreme Court for ban on such donors;

(b) if so, the facts and details thereof; and

(c) the remedial action the Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C.P. THAKUR): (a) to (c) There have been isolated reports from some parts of the country about this illegal practice of collecting blood from professional blood donors. The practice of professional blood donation has been banned since 1st January, 1998 and since then the regulatory authority (the Central and State Drugs Control Authorities) has taken steps to curtail such practices in the country. These authorities are being further strengthened to monitor such practices and impose strict penalties.

Medical Help to Northern Alliance

2521. SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India is extending its medical assistance to the Northern Alliance in Afghanistan;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether India has been running a hospital in Kuliyaab with Indian doctors; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) and (b) India has historical ties of friendship and cooperation with Afghan people. As part of our commitment to further strengthen our relationship, government has been extending humanitarian assistance, including medical relief material and medical services, through various routes, for the benefit of people of Afghanistan. Recently, on 21st November 2001, we had sent a consignment of medicines to Kabul, along with the diplomatic mission that went to Afghanistan. Earlier, in October this year, we had sent two consignments of medicines, weighing over forty tonnes, to Dushanbe, Tajikistan, for the benefit of Afghan people.

(c) and (d) As part of our commitment to offer medical relief, inter alia to the local people of that region and for the benefit of Afghan people, India has also been running a hospital in Farkhor, Tajikistan, just across the border from Northern Afghanistan for over two and a half years.

Development of Device by BARC

2522. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre has recently developed a device that can detect the smuggling of N-materials;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the extent to which the said device is likely to help in combating the nuclear terrorism?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Bhabha Atomic Research Centre has recently developed a device that can detect special nuclear materials and give an alarm. The device would play a key role in detection of unauthorised movement of special nuclear materials, which is an important element in combating nuclear terrorism.

Hardware Products

2523. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWASI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that prices of hardware products are very high in the country due to anomaly in the duty structure;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have taken up the matter with the Department of Revenue to see that the IT industry is helped to complete with the global marketing;

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

(e) the steps being taken by the Government to ensure that IT industry in the country is able to compete with the global market in view of the liberalization?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS, MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): (a) and (b) On the customs front, while IT Hardware products like computers attract a uniform basic customs duty of 15% advalorem, parts of computer attract a basic customs duty of 5% advalorem. Many critical parts and components such as Integrated Circuits (ICs), Microprocessors for computers, Storage Devices (Hard Disk Drive, CD-ROM Drive, Floppy Disk Drive) and Data Graphic Display Tubes attract 'nil' rate of basic customs duty. Motherboards, Populated Printed Circuit Boards, Accessories of computers and Static Converters for Computers all attract a uniform basic customs duty of 15% advalorem. As regards the central excise duty rate structure, all IT hardware products attract a uniform CENVAT of 16% advalorem. Hence there is no anomaly in the duty structure.

(c) and (d) Ministry of Information Technology, Government of India is taking up some more proposals with the Department of Revenue, as part of the Budget proposals for 2002-2003, to help the IT Industry become globally competitive.

(e) Steps taken by the Government to promote IT industry are given in the statement attached.

Statement

Ministry of Information Technology Incentives for IT Industry

1. Export Promotion Capital goods scheme (EPCG) has been rationalized 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. EHTP and STP schemes are implemented under the aegis of the Ministry of Information

Technology through a single window mechanism of the Inter-Ministerial Standing Committee (IMSC).

4. DTA access upto 50% of the FOB value of export is permitted for electronics hardware units under EOU/EPZ/EHTP schemes, and the software units under EOU/EPZ/STP schemes, Broadbanding is permitted in the DTA sales of Hardware units for items covered in the Letter of Permission.
5. Accelerated depreciation norms for computers and computer peripherals for units under Export Oriented schemes (EOU/EPZ/STP/EHTP) have been enhanced. These shall stand depreciated to overall limit of 90% over a period of 3 years instead of around 5 years earlier.
6. Special Economic Zones are being set up to enable hassle free manufacturing and trading for export purposes.
7. Value addition norms for Rupee exports to Russia reduced from 100% to 33% under Advance Licensing Scheme.
8. The Depreciation on Computers has been allowed @ 60%.
9. In the Budget 2001-2002, the peak rate of customs duty continues @ 35%. Customs duty surcharge @ 10% has been abolished on all imports, in general but Special Additional Duty (SAD) @ 5% continues on all imports, except specific exemptions. In the 2000-2001 Budget, Customs duty on Computers and Peripherals had been reduced from 20% to 15% and continues to be same. The Customs duty on all storage devices, integrated circuits, microprocessors, data display tubes and deflection components of colour monitors also continues at 0%. In the 2001-2002 Budget, Customs duty on Information Technology Agreement (ITA-I) items of WTO (IT and Telecom products) has been reduced from existing 20-25% to 15%. The concessional rate of customs duty for specified raw materials for the electronics industry continues. Customs duty on parts of Telecom reduced to 5%. 32 items (additional) of Capital Goods allowed at a concessional duty of 5% for the manufacture of semiconductors.
10. In the Budget 2001-2002, the Central Excise duty structure has been rationalized from multiple rates to single rate of 16% and single rate of Special Excise Duty (SED) @ 16%.
11. Information Technology is exempted from Customs and Excise Duty.
12. Second hand capital goods upto 10 years old have been made freely importable.
13. EOU/EPZ/STP/EHTP units are exempted from payment of Income Tax on export profits, up to 2010, in terms of Section 10A and 10B of the Income Tax Act.
14. Exemption of withholding tax on interest on External Commercial Borrowings (ECBs) has been extended to the IT sector.
15. Definition of Computer Software as in Section 80 HHE of the Income Tax Act has been widened to include transmission of data.
16. Benefit of Section 80HHE is available to supporting software developers.
17. IT Enabled Services have been made eligible for Income Tax benefit under Section 10A, 10B and 80HHE of the Income Tax Act.
18. The donation of computers, imported duty free by EOU/EPZ/STP/EHTP units to recognized non-commercial education institutions, registered charitable hospitals, public libraries, public funded research and development establishments, etc. two years after their use by the said units has been permitted.
19. The second-hand computers and computers peripherals donated by an outside donor to Government schools and recognized schools run on a non-commercial basis by any organization have been exempted from customs duties.
20. Income by way of dividends or long term capital gains of a Venture Capital Fund or Venture Capital company from investment made by way of equity shares in a Venture Capital Undertaking, which has been expanded to include the Software and IT sectors will henceforth not be included in computing the total income.

21. To give thrust to Venture Capital Finance, SEBI has been made in single point nodal agency for registration and regulation of both domestic and overseas venture capital funds.
22. There will be no tax on distributed or undistributed income of Venture Capital Funds. The income distributed by the VCFs will only be taxed in the hands of the investors at the rates applicable to the nature of the income. VCFs will continue to be eligible for exemption even if the shares of the VC undertaking in which the VCFs have made the initial investment are subsequently listed in a recognized stock exchange in India.
23. Under policy on portfolio investment, Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) are permitted to invest in a company upto an aggregate of 24% of equity shares, extendable upto 40% subject to approvals. This limit has been raised from 40% to 49% in the Budget 2001-2002.
24. Under the Employee Stock Options Scheme, income tax payable on income from GDRs purchased in foreign currency by a resident employee of IT software and service companies, shall be at a concessional rate of 10%.
25. Tax holiday under provisions of Section 80-IA (Infrastructure Status) has been extended to Internet Service providers (ISPs) and Broadband Network providers.
26. Two-way fungibility has been permitted for ADRs/GDRs. Local shares can now be reconverted into ADRs/GDRs, subject to sectoral caps.
27. To induce more investment for R&D activities, a weighted deduction of 125% on the sums paid to any university, college or a institution or a Scientific research association for the purposes of scientific, social or statistical research has been provided.
28. A National Venture Fund for Software and IT Industry (NFSIT) has been set up with a corpus of Rs. 100 crores, out of which MIT shall contribute Rs. 30 crores.
29. For reduction of transaction time for export/import clearances, Ministry of Civil Aviation has finalized the scheme of 'Known-Shippers' for doing away

with the 24 hours cooling off period. 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.

30. STPI has set up a business support centre in the USA, which is operational since November 1999, to promote business for STP units and provide marketing support to STPs.

31. Information Technology Act 2000 has been enacted. This act deals with Cyber Security, Cyber Crime and other information security related legal aspects. This will encourage expansion of e-commerce through Internet.

[*Translation*]

Visa to Sikh Pilgrims

2524. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether for the last few years visas are not being granted by Pakistan to Sikh pilgrims who intend to pay visit to Nankana Sahib in Pakistan;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto and the details about the number of times when visa had been denied by the Pakistan Government; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to ensure the pilgrimage of Nankana Sahib by the pilgrims?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) to (c) Visits to holy shrines in India and Pakistan are held in accordance with the 'Protocol on Visits to Religious Shrines-1974'. Over the years, Pakistan has been issuing visas to Sikh pilgrims to visit Nankana Sahib and some other Gurudwaras in Pakistan.

Hotmix Plant

2525. KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that Departmental Hotmix plants and other machines worth crores of rupees are lying unused on the road sides of National highways due to lack of work and the State Governments are spending crores of rupees on them as wasteful expenditure;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government plan to permit the use of such Hotmix plants for its sanctioned works to stop such losses; 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) Hotmix plants and other machines have been supplied to several States for construction and maintenance of National Highways. Most

of these machines except in the North Eastern States are twenty five to thirty five years old and are not suitable for works to meet the current specifications. Action for their disposal, in a phased manner is in progress.

(b) The details of Central Machines available with States are given in statement attached.

(c) Every effort is being made to utilize available suitable plants, wherever possible.

(d) Does not arise.

Statement

S. No.	State	Hot Mix plant	Paver	Loader	Tipper	Generating Set	Total Bituminous Machines	Other Machines	Total Machines
1.	Assam	—	—	2	0	0	2	189	191
2.	Andhra Pradesh	1	1	—	—	—	2	4	6
3.	Bihar	20	12	14	118	8	172	380	552
4.	Delhi	—	—	—	3	—	3	—	3
5.	Gujarat	3	4	6	18	1	32	13	45
6.	Haryana	1	—	—	12	2	15	1	16
7.	Himachal Pradesh	7	2	13	13	1	36	48	84
8.	Jammu & Kashmir	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
9.	Karnataka	3	—	1	—	1	5	3	8
10.	Kerala	5	2	4	11	2	24	3	27
11.	Madhya Pradesh	—	—	—	6	—	6	1	7
12.	Manipur	2	2	6	13	2	25	21	46
13.	Meghalaya	4	2	5	10	2	23	18	41
14.	Mizoram	3	1	3	3	1	11	3	14
15.	Nagaland	3	1	3	5	1	13	5	18
16.	Orissa	—	—	—	6	—	6	52	58
17.	Punjab	3	—	3	5	2	13	3	16
18.	Rajasthan	7	3	—	12	1	23	56	79
19.	Tamil Nadu	3	—	2	12	2	19	23	42
20.	Uttar Pradesh	23	13	8	59	4	107	28	135
21.	West Bengal	17	8	7	66	1	99	228	327
Total		105	51	77	372	31	636	1080	1716

Speed Post Facility in Uttar Pradesh

2526. RAJKUMARI RATNA SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the district headquarters of Uttar Pradesh where speed-post facility is not available till now alongwith the reasons thereof; and

(b) the time by which all district headquarters are proposed to be brought under this network?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) and (b) There are 29 district headquarters in Uttar Pradesh where Speed Post Service could not be provided. A list of such district headquarters is enclosed as statement. Speed Post is a premium product and is run on commercial consideration. Expansion of this network is an on-going process depending on market situation, assessment of the need, the anticipated revenue and transport network.

Statement

The District Headquarters of Uttar Pradesh where Speed Post facility is not available;

1. Bulandshahar
2. Etah
3. Auraiya
4. Jalaun
5. Lalitpur
6. Mahamaya Nagar
7. Mainpuri
8. Kaushambi
9. Sonbhadra
10. Chandausi
11. Bhadohi
12. J.P. Nagar
13. Bijnor
14. Baghpat
15. Maharajganj
16. Siddharth Nagar
17. Sant Kabir Nagar
18. Kushinagar

19. Srawasti
20. Kanpur (M)
21. Unnao
22. Fatehpur
23. Farrukhabad
24. Kannauj
25. Banda
26. Mahoba
27. Sahuji Maharaj Nagar
28. Ambedkar Nagar
29. Sultanpur

[English]

Promotion of Foreign Trade

2527. SHRI DINESH CHANDRA YADAV:
SHRI RAMJIVAN SINGH:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the role of the Indian Missions abroad in the country's foreign trade development;

(b) whether any review has been made by the Government to assess their performance in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the percentage by which country's foreign trade rose due to the Indian Missions during 1999-2001 as compared to the previous year 1998-1999;

(e) the details of the Indian Missions which have been found lacking in promoting the country's trade;

(f) whether any policy change is contemplated by the Government for greater involvement of the Indian Missions in promoting the country's foreign trade; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) Indian Missions abroad provide market intelligence and other inputs into policy formulation, besides providing support for various export promotion activities such as visits of commercial delegations, buyer-seller meets, promotional exhibitions, etc.

(b) and (c) Appraisal and review of the performance of Indian Missions overseas in promoting the country's economic interests, including export promotion, is a continue and ongoing process. As a result of recent review, the Government are drawing up plans of action in different regions, to promote India's economic interests, including, inter-alia, exports, investments, and technology transfer.

(d) India's foreign trade increase by 17.78% in 1999-2000 over 1998-1999, and by 14.59% in 2000-2001, over 1999-2000. The growth in the country's foreign trade is a result of a variety of factors, and cannot be ascribed to the promotional efforts of our Missions alone.

(e) Within the constraints of availability of staff and the resources, all Indian Missions abroad are found to be performing satisfactorily.

(f) and (g) The Government are strengthening the role of Indian Missions abroad in projection of the country's economic interests. In the area of export promotion, a trade facilitation character, laying down guidelines, has been drawn up for select Missions of major commercial interests.

[Translation]

Works of ICCR

2528. SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the works carried out by the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) during the last two years; and

(b) the total amount spent on the ICCR during the said period?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) In order to fulfil its objective of fostering and strengthening cultural relations and mutual understanding between India and other countries, the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) undertook activities such as exchange of cultural troupes, exchange of distinguished visitors, provision of scholarships to foreign students, organization of exhibitions and seminars, publication of journals and books, presentation of books, music cassettes and busts of Indian leaders etc. The

fourteen cultural centres set up by the ICCR abroad, also carried out activities such as teaching Indian music, dance and yoga to foreign students. In addition, the 19th Chairs for Indian studies set up by the ICCR in foreign universities, taught Indian history philosophy, languages and other related subjects on India to foreign students.

(b) The amount spent on the activities of ICCR were Rs. 3754.67 lakhs and Rs. 3817.09 lakhs during 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 respectively.

Status of Medical College (Jaipur)

2529. DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether National Institute of Medical Sciences, Jaipur has sought status of medical college;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the action taken by the Government thereon;

(d) whether Medical Council of India has submitted its report in this regard; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C.P. THAKUR): (a) to (e) The proposal of Indian Medical Trust, Jaipur, seeking the permission to establish a new medical college in the name of National Instt. of Medical Sciences at Jaipur was referred to the Medical Council of India for evaluation. The recommendations of the Medical Council of India are receiving the attention of the Government.

Internal Audit of Kendriya Bhandar

2530. SHRI RAMJEE MANJHI:
SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to the answer given to Unstarred Question No. 5755 dated April 25, 2001 and state:

(a) whether a large number of objections of the internal auditors in the pervious three years are still pending;

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

(c) the remedial steps taken by the Government in this regard; and

(d) the time by which these objections are likely to be resolved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House as soon as possible.

In-Situ Promotion

2531. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Assistant Grade is the lowest grade of Central Secretariat Service and feeder grade of Section Officer and more than half of assistants sanctioned posts have completed the qualifying service for promotion;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that third and fourth promotion on the basis of in-situ promotion under Individual Promotion Scheme in the grade of Under Secretary and deputy Secretary have been given to all Section Officers having 12 years of qualifying service in the years 1998 and 1999 in order to remove the stagnation in promotion in the grade of Under Secretary and Section Officer; and

(c) if so, the time by which the assistants having 12 years of qualifying service will be given in-situ promotion to the post of Section Officer?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) The grade of Assistant is the lowest grade of the Central Secretariat Service (CSS). This grade is decentralized into 33 cadres and Assistants with 8 year approved service as on the crucial date i.e. 1st July of the respective year,

are eligible for consideration for promotion as Section Officers.

(b) and (c) The Section Officers and Under Secretaries of CSS had been given in-situ upgradation because there had been no promotion for them after 1986 and 1993 respectively on account of protracted litigation regarding seniority of directly recruited and promotee Section Officers. In so far as Assistants are concerned, the Select Lists of this grade are being issued at regular intervals and hence there is no proposal to grant personal upgradation on in-situ basis to the Assistants.

[English]

Private Telephone Enquiry Service

2532. SHRI BAHADUR SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have recently introduced a private telephone enquiry service in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the names of the towns to be linked with this service?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) to (c) No, Sir. However, private agencies are engaged in Ahmedabad Telecom District of Gujarat. Telecom Circle to supplement the efforts of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd. to provide Directory Enquiry Service (*197*).

Cable TV Business

2533. SHRI Y.V. RAO: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether MTNL proposed to start Cable TV business;

(b) if so, the cities in which these operations are likely to be operated; and

(c) the time by which it is likely to be operational?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

- (b) New Delhi and Mumbai.
 (c) To be started during the year 2002.

Drug Testing Laboratories

2534. DR. V. SAROJA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether recognition of private laboratories of Indian System of Medicine is in progress;
 (b) if so, the status of progress thereof;
 (c) whether any monitoring mechanism has been evolved for checking these private laboratories; and
 (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C.P. THAKUR): (a) and (b) A provision has been made in the Drugs & Cosmetics Rules, 1945 for the recognition of Private Drug Testing Laboratories/Institutions for carrying out test on Ayurveda, Siddha and Unani drugs and raw materials used. A copy of Notification has been issued to State Drug Licensing Authorities, Associations of Ayurvedic, Siddha and Unani systems of medicine for necessary action.

(c) and (d) There is a provision of joint inspection by the representatives of the Government of India, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Department of ISM&H and State Licensing Authorities to verify the infrastructure etc. as per the provisions of the rules before approving the Laboratory. Provisions for grant of licence and renewal thereof also take into account capacity of the laboratory to do the work competently.

Reservation for Handicaps

2535. SHRI BRAHMA NAND MANDAL: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of posts reserved for disabled/physically handicapped persons in his Ministry and Departments during the last three years year-wise/post-wise/category-wise;
 (b) the number of posts for disabled/physically handicapped persons lying vacant as on October 31, 2001, year-wise/post-wise/category-wise;
 (c) the number of disabled/physically handicapped persons year-wise/post-wise/category-wise;

(d) whether any such posts are still lying vacant; and

(e) if so, the time by which such posts are likely to be filled up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI): (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid down on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

Internet Service

2536. SHRI UTTAMRAO PATIL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the pace of internet service is very slow in many parts of the country;
 (b) if so, the names of such areas and the reasons for such a slow pace thereof; and
 (c) the action proposed to be taken by the Government for bringing early improvement therein?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) and (b) The pace of Internet Service varies place to place and depends upon the Internet Service provider (ISP). As per the ISP Licence Agreement, no standards for quality of service has been defined and no data is available regarding the quality of service in different areas. Pace of Internet Service depends on a number of factors like capability of the equipment, number of dial-up lines and the bandwidth for International connectivity used by ISP etc.

(c) The functions of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) include laying down of standard of quality of service to be provided by the service providers and ensure the quality of service. Wherever TRAI feels necessary, directives are issued by it from time to time, to the service providers.

Telephone Rent

2537. SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government have enhanced the monthly rent of telephone subscribers in the metropolitan cities;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the names of States alongwith the names of metropolitan cities where this enhancement has been effected and the date from which this enhancement has been made effective; and

(d) the details of the tariff scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) to (d)

Under the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India Act (1997), only the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India has been mandated with the power of telecom tariff fixation. Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited and Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited, the two Service Providing Govt. undertakings, have revised the monthly rental to bring it in conformity with Telecom Regulatory Authority of India's prescriptions. The revised rentals for all urban subscribers applicable form 1.2.2001 are as follows:

Exchange System	Standard monthly rent as per TRAI	Monthly rental made applicable from 1.2.2001
(i) Exchange system capacity less than 30000 lines	Rs. 120	Rs. 120
(ii) Exchange system capacity of 30000 lines and above but below 1 lakh lines	Rs. 180	Rs. 180
(iii) Exchange system capacity of 1 lakh lines and above but below 3 lakhs	Rs. 250	Rs. 250
(iv) Exchange system capacity of 3 lakh lines and above.	Rs. 250	Rs. 250

[English]

Border Firings

2538. SHRI T. GOVINDAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Pakistan resorted to heavy firings recently;

(b) if so, whether the Government have raised this issue in the international forum; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) Pakistan frequently resorts to unprovoked firing along the Actual Ground Position Line (AGPL), Line of Control (LoC) and International Boundary (IB) in Jammu & Kashmir. Some of these incidents of unprovoked firing are aimed at providing covering fire to terrorists that are being infiltrated into India.

(b) and (c) Government have been appropriately and effectively bringing to the attention of the international community facts pertaining to Pakistan's sponsorship of cross-border terrorism in India, and have also highlighted to reason why Pakistan often resorts to unprovoked firing along the IB, LoC and AGPL in Jammu & Kashmir.

Government have an numerous occasions reiterated to Pakistan the importance of strengthening peace and security along the IB, LoC and AGPL in Jammu & Kashmir. For this purpose, Government had, on 6th July 2001, also instructed the Director General of Military Operations to seek a meeting with his Pakistani counterpart for talks, so that processes for peace along the LoC and the AGPL can be strengthened and stabilized. Government have also conveyed to Pakistan our determination to defeat all threats to our security and territorial integrity.

Government will take all appropriate measures to safeguard India's sovereignty, security and territorial integrity.

Reservation for SC/ST

2539. SHRI BRIJLAL KHABRI: Will the Minister of PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) Whether the representation of SCs and STs in class I (Group A) Services stood only at 13.59% (SCs-10.38% & STs -3.21%) and in class II (Group B) Services only at 14.41% (SCs-11.73% & STs-2.68%) as against 22.5% quota prescribed for them (15% for SCs and 7.5% in respect of STs) as on 1.1.1998 under Central Government;

(b) if so, the total number of "posts" in (i) Class I (Group A) Category and (ii) Class II (Group B) Category and equivalents thereof under the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs; and

(c) the persons belonging to (i) General, (ii) SC, (iii) ST and (iv) OBC categories working against them including their respective percentage to such posts as ascertained in view of instructions as contained under para 5 of DOPT OM No. 36012/2/96-Estt. (Res.) dated 2nd July, 1997?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) Representation of SCs and STs as on 01-01-1998 under Central Government in Group 'A' service was 14.24% (SCs-10.8% and STs-3.44%) and in Group 'B' Service it was 15.37% (SCs-12.35% and STs-3.02%).

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

Statement

Positions as on 01-01-1998

Group	Sanctioned strength of posts	Persons belonging to				% of representation			
		Gen	SC	ST	OBC	Gen	SC	ST	OBC
A	12	11	1	-	-	91.67	8.33	-	-
B	*39	27	9	3	-	69.23	23.07	7.69	-

* It does not include 4 ex-cadre posts on which the appointment is made by deputation and reservation is not applicable.

Ayurvedic Medicines for Diseases

2540. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that diseases like arthritis, slip disc, spondylitis, asthma, sinusitis and migraine can be cured with Ayurvedic medicines;

(b) whether the success rate of curing these diseases is between 70 and 80 per cent according to the surveys conducted by experts;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government are contemplating to increase the number of hospitals and dispensaries in the country to cure the above diseases;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether the Government propose to open Research and Development Centres also for procuring and testing of herbs; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C.P. THAKUR): (a) Medicines are available in Ayurvedic System for the treatment and management of these indications.

(b) No survey has been commissioned for determining the success rate of these medicines.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) and (e) Health is a State subject and opening of new hospitals and dispensaries falls under the purview of the concerned State Government. However, government is encouraging the States to increase availability of ISM drugs in the State run hospitals and dispensaries.

(f) and (g) The Government is providing financial assistance for upgradation of the State Drug Testing Laboratories and Pharmacies to enforce quality control of ISM & H drugs and augment production of standard drugs.

Health Programmes in Uttar Pradesh

2541. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the Health related Programmes/ Projects directly undertaken by the Union Government in Uttar Pradesh during the year; and

(b) the agencies involved and identified for executing the above programmes/projects?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C.P. THAKUR): (a) Union Government has been implementing Disease Control Programme both communicable and Non-communicable for control of major diseases like Malaria including Kala-azar, TB, AIDS, Leprosy and Blindness in all States/UTs including Uttar Pradesh. These Programmes are implemented as Centrally Sponsored Schemes. Whereas in the case of Malaria funds are provided on a 50:50 sharing basis in Uttar Pradesh in other disease control programmes funds are provided as 100% Central assistance. In addition, four districts of Uttar Pradesh namely Varanasi, Ghaziabad, Gorakhpur and Lucknow are included under the National Surveillance Programme for Communicable Diseases. Under National Family Welfare Programme. Innovations in family planning Services (IFPS) Project is in operation with assistance from United States Agency for International Development (USAID) for reorienting and revitalizing the family planning services in Uttar Pradesh. In addition to the ongoing activities of social marketing of contraceptives, a Social Marketing Project for contraceptives has also been launched in the State in May, 2000 for covering 37,000 villages for a period of three years. Assistance is also provided to the State for Reproductive and Child Health, Information, Education and Communication and Immunization activities. Four Health Melas were organized in Uttar Pradesh at Mathura, Lucknow, Sultanpur and Ghazipur for providing integrated Health and Family Welfare services to the people free of cost for check up, treatment and counselling for various diseases.

(b) The disease control programmes of the Union Government are implemented through State Government and the State/District disease Control Societies. Involvement of Non Governmental Organizations (NGOs) is also encouraged particularly for such components of the Programme as cataract operation, identification and treatment of cases of Leprosy and TB and creation of awareness about various diseases like HIV/AIDS and

Family Welfare measures like social marketing of contraceptives.

SSI Schemes

2542. SHRI ANANT GUDHE: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have recently reviewed the performance/implementation of various ongoing schemes in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise, scheme-wise during the last three years in terms of physical & financial targets set and achieved particularly for Maharashtra; and

(c) the details of fresh policy initiative taken/proposed for ensuring healthy growth of SSI Sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The performance/implementation of various on-going schemes is continuously reviewed at appropriate levels. The schemes/programmes for the development and promotion of Small Scale Industries are uniformly implemented throughout the country and are not State specific. The status in respect of the major Schemes being implemented in the country, including Maharashtra, viz., Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana and Integrated Infrastructural Development Scheme for the last three years is enclosed as statements I & II respectively.

(c) A comprehensive policy package for the promotion and development of Small Scale Industries and to enhance its competitiveness, both domestically and globally, was announced by the Prime Minister on 30th August, 2000. The policy package consists of enhanced fiscal and credit support, better infrastructure and marketing facilities and incentives for technology upgradation.

Statement-I

State-wise Target Fixed and Achieved Under the Prime Minister Rojgar Yojana for the Last Three Years i.e. 1998-99, 1999-2000 & 2000-2001

(As Reported by the Reserve Bank of India)

Sl. No.	Name of States/UTs	1998-99		1999-2000		2000-2001	
		Plan Target	Cases Disbursed By banks No.	Plan Target	Cases Disbursed By banks No.	Plan Target	Cases Disbursed By banks No.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Northern Region							
1.	Haryana	4150	5742	4150	5616	4300	4408
2.	Himachal Pradesh	2300	1913	2450	1948	2650	1865
3.	Jammu & Kashmir	1300	835	1300	871	1300	652
4.	Punjab	4500	8075	4250	8308	4200	6295
5.	Rajasthan	8150	10059	8050	10731	8300	8296
6.	Chandigarh	100	75	500	51	400	44
7.	Delhi	4700	508	4850	598	5000	650
North-Eastern Region							
8.	Assam	6700	5525	6400	5690	6600	1466
9.	Manipur	1000	407	1000	294	1000	357
10.	Meghalaya	300	202	300	336	300	399
11.	Nagaland	250	40	200	73	200	21
12.	Tripura	650	110	560	230	650	35
13.	Arunachal Pradesh	125	166	100	111	125	118
14.	Mizoram	200	37	200	59	200	245
15.	Sikkim	100	45	100	42	50	33
Eastern Region							
16.	Bihar	20500	8364	21800	7753	21900	6202
17.	Orissa	6700	3106	7100	3662	7100	1031
18.	West Bengal	23000	2726	22800	2458	22500	1752
19.	Andaman & Nicobar	100	77	75	101	100	109
Central Region							
20.	Madhya Pradesh	15400	19102	15800	18180	16200	10094
21.	Uttar Pradesh	25800	35023	26000	35559	26100	28166

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Western Region							
22.	Gujarat	8300	10607	8300	10085	8400	8337
23.	Maharashtra	21250	26346	21800	24841	22500	17751
24.	Daman & Diu	25	21	25	16	50	22
25.	Goa	600	300	500	408	500	256
26.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	25	28	50	25	50	22
Southern Region							
27.	Andhra Pradesh	17100	15186	16800	11604	16900	6990
28.	Karnataka	10950	13188	11100	14906	11000	5886
29.	Kerala	16000	11749	16000	12114	13500	9565
30.	Tamil Nadu	18400	11422	17000	11544	17400	9240
31.	Lakshadweep	50	31	20	33	50	14
32.	Pondicherry	500	330	500	277	500	164
	Not Specified		6				690
Total		219225	191351	220080	188524	220025	131175

Statement-II*Year-wise sanction of IID Centres during the last three years*

Year	No. of IID Centres sanctioned	State	Location of IID Centre
1998-99	11	1. Andhra Pradesh	(i) Nellore (ii) Warangal
		2. Rajasthan	(i) Udaipur
		3. Kerala	(i) Ernakulam (ii) Wyanad (iii) Malapuram
			(iv) Kasargod
		4. Punjab	(i) Kapurthala (ii) Muktsar (iii) Mansa
5. Pondicherry	(i) Sadarpet.		
1999-00	1	Haryana	(i) Yamunagar.
2000-01	7	1. Andhra Pradesh	(i) Chittoor
		2. Madhya Pradesh	(i) Mandsaur (ii) Khargone
		3. Uttar Pradesh	(i) Bhadohi
		4. Tamil Nadu	(i) Thiruvellore
		5. Assam	(i) Nagaon (ii) Darrang

[Translation]

Agro Based Village Industries in Tripura

2543. SHRI RAMCHANDRA VEERAPPA: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any programme/proposal to develop agro based village industries in Tripura; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI KARIYA MUNDA): (a) and (b) The Government through the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) gives support to Villages Industries including agro and rural industries in the form of financial, technical and managerial assistance. The Rural Employment Generation Programme of the KVIC is implemented throughout the country including Tripura. Under this scheme 25% of the project cost is provided as margin money. For project cost above Rs. 10 lakhs and upto Rs. 25 lakhs, the rate of margin money is 25% of Rs. 10 lakhs plus 10% of the balance cost of the project. For weaker sections, the margin money is given at the rate of 30% of the project cost upto Rs.10 lakhs and for the balance amount (upto Rs. 25 lakhs) it is 10%.

[English]

Procurement of OFC Stores for Odugathur

2544. SHRI N.T. SHANMUGAM: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of Telephone applicants from Melarasampet area under Gudiyatham Exchange are still awaiting their telephone connections in the suburban of Vellore District in Tamil Nadu State;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the stores of OFC for Odugathur to Melarasampet has been procured;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons for the delay in procuring in the OFC for Udugathur?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) There is no telephone exchange at Melarasampet. This area is being served by Odugathur Telephone Exchange which is nearly at a radial distance of 9.5 KM. A waiting list of 12 is pending in this area for provision of telephone connections. All these demands are long distance connections. At present, these connections are non-feasible. However, these connections are proposed to be provided during the year 2002-2003 using WLL (Wireless in Local Loop) technology.

(c) No, Sir.

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

(e) There is no proposal for new exchange at Melarasampet, as the present demand does not justify for a new exchange. Hence, the provision of OFC does not arise at present.

Assistance from Asian Development Bank for Karnataka

2545. SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Asian Development Bank (ADB) has approved assistance of \$ 240 Million for the "Western Transport Corridor" from Tumkur to Haveri in Karnataka on National Highway-4;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the salient features of the western transport corridor project; and

(d) the areas likely to be covered under the said project?

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

(b) A US \$ 240 million loan has been approved by the Asian Development Bank (ADB) on 20.9.2001 to the Government of India for Western Transport Corridor Tumkur-Haveri NH-4 Project. The loan repayment period is 25 years including a grace period of 5 years.

(c) and (d) The proceeds of the loan will be utilised for rehabilitation and upgradation of the existing NH-4 between Tumkur (km 75.0) and Haveri (Km 340.0) excluding Sirra bypass (km. 116 to 122) in the State of Karnataka. The project involves widening of the existing NH-4 to 4-lanes, besides construction of 4 bypasses at Brahmasagara, Harihara, Ranibenneur and Haveri,

construction of 6 lane Road-over-bridges (ROB) at existing level crossing at Hanumanhatti and Nelgol and construction of additional 3-lane ROB by the side of the existing ROB at Davangere bypass.

Electronic Units in Public Sector

2546. SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA:
SHRI C. SREENIVASAN:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of investment in public sector electronic units towards export promotion targets;

(b) whether any institutional mechanism has been devised for the purpose;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the target fixed for 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 has been achieved;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS, MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): (a) to (d) Ministry of Information Technology has made no investment in its Public Sector Units for export promotion.

(e) to (g) Export targets for Electronics industry fixed for 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 and achievement during the respective period are given below:

	(Rs. in crores)	
	Export targets	Achievement
1999-2000	21040	19750
2000-2001	31940	33138

Rest Areas on NH-5 in Andhra Pradesh

2547. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether about 20 acres of land for construction of rest areas in the NH-5 between Vijayawada and Rajahmundry has been acquired;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the cost of such acquisition; and

(c) the date by which the work is likely to be commenced on this sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI): (a) to (c) Notification under the National Highways Act, 1956, was issued for acquisition of 20 acres of land for construction of rest areas on National Highway-5 at km. 79.5 (Singavaram). However, Court has granted stay in respect of 3 land owners. Hence, acquisition of land could not be accomplished. It is proposed to amend the notification to exclude the land in respect of the above 3 land owners. The total estimated cost of land acquisition is Rs. 52.50 lakhs. The work will commence after the acquisition of land.

Amount Released Under PMRY in Bihar

2548. SHRI ARUN KUMAR: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) Whether the amount released by the Government under PMRY for Bihar is declining during each of the last three years;

(b) If so, the reasons therefore;

(c) Whether applications are pending under this scheme in Bihar;

(d) If so, the details thereof; and

(e) The steps taken by the Government to support educated unemployed youth under this scheme?

THE MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI KARIYA MUNDA): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Under the Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana (PMRY), the Central Government releases funds for Subsidy as well as for Training, Entrepreneurial Development, Contingencies, etc. While the funds for Subsidy are authorised to the Reserve Bank of India doer passing on to the individual beneficiaries through the implementing banks, the funds for Training, Entrepreneurial development, Contingencies, etc. are released to the States/UTs. Rs. 17.26 lakhs was released to Bihar State during 1998-1999, Rs. 13.74 lakhs during 1999-2000 and Rs. 44.52 lakhs was released during 2000-2001.

"However no funds could be released to Bihar State so far during 2001-2002 for want of utilization certificates for the funds already released to the State."

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir, As per the reports of the Reserve Bank of India, 1463 applications were pending with the banks as on 30.09.2001 under the Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana (PMRY) in Bihar.

(e) Under the PMRY, educated unemployed youth belonging to the weaker sections are provided loans by Commercial Banks to set up self employed micro enterprises. To assist them, the Central Government provides financial assistance by way of subsidy, organizing motivational camps, training for the beneficiaries, contingencies etc.

* The reply in original reads as follows: "Rs. 17.26 was released to Bihar State during 1998-1999, while Rs. 44.52 lakhs was released during 2000-2001. However, no funds could be released to Bihar State during the year 1999-2000 and so far during 2001-2002 for want of utilisation certificates for the funds already released to the state.

The above corrections were made by hon. Minister of Agro and Rural Industries, Shri Kariya Munda through a correcting statement on 19.12.2001.

Supply of Arms to Pakistan

2549. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has cautioned America against supplying arms to Pakistan in the name of containing Taliban-perpetrated violence;

(b) if so, the reaction of the U.S. Government thereto;

(c) whether India has pointed out to the U.S. that Pakistan has often used arms supplied by it against the former; and

(d) if so, the extent to which the U.S. was convinced in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) to (d) Government has conveyed to the U.S. Government the implications of fresh supply of arms to Pakistan, keeping in view the past history of the use of such U.S. supplied arms by Pakistan. It is up to the U.S. Government to decide the terms of its engagement with Pakistan. The U.S. Government has so far not resumed supply or sale of weapons to Pakistan.

Revival of KVIC

2550. DR. N. VENKATASWAMY: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to revive Khadi and Village Industries in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether any measures have been taken to protect these industries from the impact of globalisation; and

(e) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI KARIYA MUNDA): (a) to (e) The Government of India has announced a package for the promotion of Khadi and Village Industries Sector on 14th May, 2001 with a view to make the sector viable and vibrant in the new era of globalisation. The main features of the package comprise of a rebate policy for five years, option of Rebate or Market Development Assistance (MDA), Insurance cover to Khadi artisans, emphasis on improvement of Khadi products, creation of packaging and design facilities, measures to promote marketing, brand building and cluster development etc. The package also provides for technology upgradation, quality control, marketing through publicity and advertisement, renovation and modernization of sales outlets. It is expected that these measures will help the industry to become more competitive and gear to face the challenges posed by the globalisation.

Central Fund Deposit Scheme

2551. SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to set up a Central Fund Deposit Scheme to enable the poor to undertake the Haj pilgrimage;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the fund is likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Questions do not arise.

Distribution of Funds by KVIC

2552. SHRI RAJ NARAIN PASSI: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the funds disbursed by the Khadi & Village Industries Commission (KVIC) to Uttar Pradesh,

Uttaranchal, Haryana and Himachal Pradesh for promotion of Khadi during each of the last three years (1998-99, 1999-2000 and 2000-2001) through State Khadi Board or directly;

(b) whether KVIC has reviewed the progress and utilization of funds allocated to the State Khadi Boards (KVI);

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

(d) whether it is also a fact that State KVI Boards are not distributing of subsidies to Coop, etc. because of rampant corruption prevailing in the State KVI Boards in U.P; and

(e) if so, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI KARIYA MUNDA): (a) The details of funds disbursement made by the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) to Uttar Pradesh (including Uttaranchal), Haryana and Himachal Pradesh for promotion of Khadi and village industries during each of the last three years (1998-99, 1999-2000 and 2000-2001) are given in the enclosed statement.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. As on 31.3.2001, the disbursement made by the KVIC to State Boards and outstanding Utilization certificates are Rs. 1814.51 crores and Rs. 752.63 crores respectively.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Statement

Fund Disbursed by the KVIC to Haryana, Himachal Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh (Including Uttaranchal) for Khadi and Village Industries

(Rs. in crore)

States	1998-99			1999-2000			2000-2001								
	State Boards		Institutions	Total	State Boards		Institutions	Total	State Boards		Institutions	Total			
	CBC Sources	Bud. Sources	CBC Sources	Bud. Sources	CBC Sources	Bud. Sources	CBC Sources	Bud. Sources	CBC Sources	Bud. Sources	CBC Sources	Bud. Sources			
Haryana	3.79	1.33	0.05	7.16	12.33	0.68	1.91	0.17	5.56	8.32	0.96	0.98	-	5.65	7.59
Himachal Pradesh	2.54	2.65	0.02	0.95	6.16	-	0.06	0.01	4.71	4.78	1.06	0.24	-	2.10	3.40
Uttar Pradesh*	26.19	11.70	0.54	50.09	88.52	-	4.82	0.49	52.87	58.18	1.05	3.35	0.44	45.74	50.58

* Including Uttaranchal.

Visit of High Power Delegation

2553. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a High Power Delegation visited Moscow to explore Russia's fast growing and potentially huge market for telecommunications and information technologies;

(b) if so, the details of the discussions held with Russian counterpart in this regard;

(c) the outcome thereof;

(d) whether any agreement has been signed in this regard; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As per the enclosed statement.

(c) There was a very fruitful meeting between the two sides at Minister's level where senior officials from both sides were present. During the above discussions, the following points emerged:

(i) There is great potential for cooperation between India and Russia in the field of Communications and Information Technology.

(ii) There are lot of opportunities for cooperation in the field of distance education, telemedicine and e-commerce.

- (iii) There is ample scope for cooperation between the two countries for developing Information and Telecom Infrastructural in rural areas.
- (iv) There is a need for further cooperation to develop regulatory structures and provision of universal services.
- (d) No, Sir.
- (e) Does not arise in view of (d) above.

Statement

1. Meeting with Dy. Minister of Information Technology

the delegation led by Chairman, TC had a meeting with the Dy. Minister of IT, Mr. Volokin. He is also the Co-Chairman of Working Group of Information Technology, Russian side appreciated the work done by Indian side in software field and desired cooperation in IT field.

2. Meeting with Dy. Minister of Communications

the Chairman, TC and Member (Technology) called on the Russian Minister Mr. Pavlenko Mr. Pavienko. 1st Dy Minister of Communications of Russian Federation. The Russian side intimated that the Ministry determines Scientific Policies, accords approval to telecom products and ensures inter consistency of networks. It fixes tariffs for 89 states owned companies but does not interfere with Private operators numbering 4500. The 89 state owned companies are going to be restructured into 7 federal regional companies. The Russian Federation plans to increase tele-density from 25 to 35 percent and next round of disinvestments are expected in 2003. Indian side also shared the state of Telecommunications in India and its growth plans.

3. Meeting with Minister of Communications and Informatization.

A meeting was held between Hon. MOC, IT and PA, Mr. Pramod Mahajan with H.E. Mr. L.D. Reiman, Minister of Communications and Informatization of Russian Federation.

4. The need to sign a separate MOU on Telecommunications was recognized. Hon., MOC, IT and PA extended an invitation to his counterpart to visit India sometime, which was accepted.

5. Meeting with Dy. Chairman of RF

Hon'ble MOC, IT and PA, Mr. Pramod Mahajan called on H.E. Klebanoy, Dy. Chairman of Russian Federation. Russian side intimated that there is greater need for cooperation between the two countries. The Indian companies should participate in their tender for supply of computers. Russia has technology for production of semi-conductors and wanted to join hand with India for joint production, which was welcomed by Hon. Minister of Communications & Information Technology. Russian side also proposed greater cooperation in the field of satellite technology to share its progress.

Revision of Rental Charges

2555. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether MNTL is planning to slash one time security charges and monthly rents on mobile phone;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government have also proposed to set new rates for Wireless in Local Loop (WLL) and expand this service in some other areas;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the time by which final decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) has reduced the security deposit and monthly rental for Garuda Wireless in Local Loop (WLL) Telephone connections with effect from 13.11.2001 as follows:

	Plan-I	Plan-II*
Security deposit	Rs. 5,000/-	Nil
Monthly rental	Rs. 450/-	Rs. 450/-
Telephone instruments	To be provided by MTNL. Security deposit is refundable on surrender of Telephone connection.	Code Division Multiple Access (CDMA) Technology-IS 95A complaint instrument to be procured by the subscriber.

* Local service only.

All the subscribers who have deposited Rs. 10,000 as security deposit earlier, their balance amount of Rs. 5,000/- will be adjusted in future billing.

(c) to (e) No, Sir. However, Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) is providing these services and the tariff for fixed telephone on Wireless in Local Loop including installation charges are same as applicable to regular wired lines connections except special deposit of Rs. 10,000/- for subscriber terminal. Alternatively, an insurance scheme at the rate of Rs. 20 per month is also introduced for the consumers in lieu of Rs. 10,000/-. The tariff charges for calls are decided by Telecom Regulatory authority of India (TRAI) and the same is binding on the consumers.

Software Technology Parks

2556. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 19 Software Technology Parks of India (STPI) were set up across the country in the last 10 years and more than 600 units are registered under the STP scheme;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that opening of STPI in a particular State is left entire to the concerned State Government;

(c) whether STPI has a significant role to play in the development of IT in the country;

(d) if so, the whether the Government propose to streamline the procedure for opening of STPI to ensure that every region of the country is benefited; and

(e) if so, the details of efforts made by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS, MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): (a) to (e) Software Technology Parks of India (STPI), an autonomous Society under Ministry of Information Technology (MIT) was established in 1991 with an objective to implement the Software Technology Park (STP) Scheme. STPI, with the support of Government of India and the concerned State Governments, has already set up 23 centres across the country. Over 6500 units are registered under the STP Scheme. Based on request of the State Government, STPI provides necessary assistance for setting up of STPI facility, the State Government is required to identify potential location for the software export industry, provide 3 acres of land, 3000 sq. ft. of built-up space and give a grant of Rs. 1 crore to partially defray the project cost.

Ministry of Information Technology, Government of India provides a grant of Rs. 50 lakhs per Centre for setting up of High Speed Data Communication facility.

[*Translation*]

Heart Disease in New Born Babies

2557. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have conducted any survey during the last three years that shows the State-wise per day number of new born babies stricken with heart-disease;

(b) if so, the number of such babies, year-wise and State-wise;

(c) whether the Government are considering to conduct such surveys in future; and

(d) if so, by when and details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C.P. THAKUR): (a) and (b) No, Sir. No such data is being maintained at the national level.

(c) and (d) At present Government has no such proposal.

Ultra-Modern Trauma Centre

2558. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have decided to set up an Ultra-Modern Trauma Centre in All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the said Trauma Centre is likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C.P. THAKUR): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The proposed Trauma Centre shall be multi disciplinary which apart from providing holistic Trauma Care services would be used as a role model for other Centres, in terms of conceptualization, project formulation, training and operation. It has been designed to evolve into the National Institute of Traumatology. The project is expected to be completed approximately in 18 months after the start of construction by January, 2002.

Setting up of S.P. in the Country

2559. SHRI ZORA SINGH MANN:
SHRI DINESH CHANDRA YADAV:

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

(a) whether the United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO) has approached the Government for setting up Sub-contracting Partnership access in the country; and

(b) if so, the way the project is likely to benefit the small scale industries of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) and (b) The Government of India UNIDO have jointly prepared a project for creation of 10 Sub-Contracting and Partnership Exchanges (SPXs) located in key industrial areas in the country to help business growth of small scale industries (SSIs). These SPXs would help promote Ancillarisation/ Vendor Development and access to global markets and networks of SSIs.

[English]

Passport to Bangladeshi/Afghani Nationals

2560. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether passport to Bangladeshi/Afghani nationals are being used from various passport offices in the country;

(b) if so, the details of the cases noticed during 2000, 2001 till date, state-wise;

(c) the action taken against those found guilty in this regard; and

(d) the steps taken to check the recurrence of such incidents?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) and (b) No Sir. Passports are issued after receipt of a clear police verification report which inter-alia establishes the applicant's identity & Indian Nationality. As when any case of an Afghani or

Bangladeshi National having fraudulently obtained an Indian Passport comes to the notice of the Government, the passport is revoked and the concerned police authorities are asked to re-verify the nationality.

(c) No Passport official has been found guilty in this regard in the recent past.

(d) Efforts are continuously made to strengthen the system of Police Verification.

[Translation]

Smart Card System

2561. SHRI RAJO SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances propose to introduce Smart Card System in the Government offices in order to ensure punctuality of its employees;

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

(c) the details of expenditure likely to be incurred thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) to (c) The Department of Administrative Reforms & Public Grievances has introduced, on a pilot basis, Smart Card based electronic attendance system to monitor the attendance of its employees. The system has become operational from July, 2001. The Department has incurred an expenditure of Rs. 1,20,000/- approximately as the initial cost of its procurement. No decision has been taken by the Department of Administrative Reforms & Public Grievances to introduce similar system in other Government offices.

[English]

Siddha System of Medicine

2562. DR. V. SAROJA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have formulated any policy for the spread of Siddha, considering that Siddha System of Medicine is confined to Tamil Nadu only;

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

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C.P. THAKUR): (a) to (c) Siddha is one of the recognized Systems of medicines. The Central government is implementing a number of schemes for the development of our systems of medicines including Siddha Medicines. These schemes are strengthening of undergraduate institutions, up gradation of undergraduate department to postgraduate department, re-orientation training and strengthening of State Pharmacies and Laboratories, drug standardization & IEC activities etc. A National Institute of Siddha at Chennai has also been conceptualized.

Voluntary Retirement

2563. SHRI BRAHMA NAND MANDAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) the category-wise/post-wise number of officials in his Ministry, who sought voluntary retirement during each of the last 3 years;
 (b) the benefits given to such officials;
 (c) the number of applications from officials pending for such retirement as on date;
 (d) whether such retirements have in any way affected smooth functioning of his Ministry;
 (e) if so, to what extent; and
 (f) the manner in which the Government propose to make arrangements to fill up all such vacancies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) The Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(b) Such officials are being given benefits as admissible under CCS (Pensions) Rules 1972 and CCS (Leave) Rules 1972.

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

(d) No, Sir.

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

(f) Vacancies are filled up as per provisions in the Recruitment Rules.

Evaluation of the Working of AIIMS

2564. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn towards the news-item captioned "AIIMS is now aimless: CAG" appeared in the *Times of India* dated August 19, 2001;

(b) if so, the facts of the matter reported therein; and

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

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C.P. THAKUR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Comments of the All India Institute of Medical Sciences on the CAG report are being examined.

AIDS Virus

2565. SHRI A. NARENDRA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the extent to which the vulnerable sections of society have been screened in each State and Union Territory separately for presence of AIDS Virus (HIV) in blood;

(b) the percentage of these sections still remain to be screened; and

(c) the details of the action plan to screen out these sections indicating the allocation made thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C.P. THAKUR): (a) to (c) No, Sir. Government has no plan to screen vulnerable sections of society in each State and Union Territory separately for presence of HIV virus in blood.

Supply of Safe Blood

2566. DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of patients who contacted AIDS from bad blood in Hospitals of Delhi and other States during the last three years;

(b) whether the Government have any plan to ensure that only tested and safe blood is supplied to the patients all over the country; and .

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C.P. THAKUR): (a) The percentage of AIDS patients who contacted the disease through blood transfusion has significantly come down from 8% in 1991 to 3% in 2001. Out of a total 55695 AIDS patients reported during the last three years, in 456 cases the disease was attributed to transfusion of blood and blood products. These cases got infected before mandatory HIV testing was in place.

(b) and (c) It is mandatory under the provision of Drugs and Cosmetics Rules to test each unit of blood, collected from voluntary donors for freedom from HIV 1 & 2 antibodies, Hepatitis B Surface Antigen, Hepatitis C Antibody, Malaria and Syphilis before issue for transfusion. Also it is mandatory for all Blood Banks to obtain a licence from the Drugs Control Authorities, who periodically check the blood banks to ensure compliance of the D & C Rules, apart from ensuing, before issue of licence, that the blood banks have the infrastructure to carry all the mandatory tests for safe blood.

Meeting with ARAB and Central Asian Envoys

2567. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India had conferred with a number of envoys of Arab and Central Asian countries, based in the Capital on the international developments following the terrorist attacks in America;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the extent to which they agreed with the Indian view point?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir. Minister of State for External Affairs, Shri Omar Abdullah had an interactive meeting with Ambassadors of Arab and Central Asian countries on 27th September, 2001.

(b) The Envoys were, inter alia, briefed about the nature and impact of September 11 terrorist attacks, the reach and interlinkages of international terrorism, and the problem of State sponsored cross-border terrorism that India faced.

(c) The Envoys expressed appreciation for the briefing. There is now widespread international recognition that there can be no justification for terrorism and it must be eradicated wherever it exists.

Vacancies Reserved for SC/ST

2568. SHRI BRIJLAL KHABRI: Will the Minister of PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) Whether 'backlog/carried forward vacancies' reserved for SCs, STs and OBCs' are required to be treated as a "separate and distinct Group" as provided under Article 16(4) B of the Constitution to overcome 50% ceiling limit on vacancies to be reserved in an year;

(b) if so, indicate "backlog/carried forward vacancies" ascertained as per para 5 of the DOPMT OM No. 36012/2/96-Estt. (Res.) dated 2nd July 1997 in respect of (1) SCs, (2) STs and OBCs in Group A, B, C and D categories of services as on 29th August 1997 in the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs when Special Recruitment Drives etc. meant for filling such vacancies were stopped;

(c) indicate year-wise such carried forward vacancies filled during the last four years and those which remain unfilled; and

(d) the fresh vacancies/posts accrued to reserved classes in all categories of posts during the last four years as per "post based rosters"?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) There were no backlog/carried forward vacancies of SC/ST/OBC in the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs as on 29th August, 1997.

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

(d) Details are given in the attached statement.

Statement

Fresh Vacancies/Posts accrued to reserved classes in all categories of posts during the last four years as per "Post Based Rosters" (since 1997-98)

Category of post	SC	ST	OBC
Group 'A'	Nil	Nil	N.A.
Group 'B'	Nil	1	1
Group 'C'	Nil	Nil	1
Group 'D'	Nil	Nil	Nil

Janta PC

2569. SHRI ANANT GUDHE: Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to bring out low priced Janta PCs for the use of general public schools and other institutions;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the estimated price of Janta PC;

(c) whether the Government also propose to provide Janta PCs to educational institution at subsidized cost to promote IT education in rural sector;

(d) details of action plan chalked out for the current and next 5 years in general and Maharashtra in particular;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the time by which the Janta PC are likely to become available?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS, MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): (a) No, Sir. There is no such proposal.

(b) to (f) Do not arise.

[*Translation*]

Trade Ties

2570. SHRI RAMCHANDRA VEERAPPA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether representatives of Russia and America have expressed their displeasure over the quantum of trade with India during their recent visits to India; and

(b) if so, the steps proposed to be taken to boost trade with them?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) Prime Minister Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee paid a State visit to the Russian Federation from 4-7 November, 2001. Mr. Ilya Klevanov, Deputy Prime Minister of the Russian Federation and Chairman of the Indo-Russian Inter-Governmental Commission for Trade, Economic, Scientific, Technological and Cultural cooperation (IRIGC) from the Russian side, paid an official visit to India from October 14-16, 2001. At the meetings held during these visits, both India and the Russian Federation felt that the volume of trade turnover between

the two countries does not correspond to the true potential. A comprehensive review of the trade and economic relations between the two countries was undertaken during both these visits. Both sides reaffirmed their determination to make efforts for the diversification of trade and economic cooperation. It was noted that the decisions taken during the Seventh session of the Indo-Russian Inter-Governmental Commission for Trade, Economic, Scientific, Technological and Cultural Cooperation (IRIGC) helped in the promotion of cooperation in important areas such as civil aviation, energy and information technology.

In all their relevant bilateral interaction, India and the United States have reiterated their desire to increase mutually beneficial economic and trade relations.

(b) During the visit of Prime Minister to the Russian Federation, the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) signed an agreement with the Russian Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs on setting up of representative offices in Moscow and New Delhi respectively. EXIM Bank of India signed an agreement to extend to credit line of US \$ 10 million with the Vnesheconom bank of the Russian Federation. The State Bank of India and Canara Bank also reached agreement with the Central Bank of Russia for setting up a branch in Moscow. These steps are expected to further boost bilateral trade relations between the two countries. Both sides have agreed to encourage further cooperation in the area of Information Technology and Computensation.

During their meeting in Washington on 9 November, 2001, Prime Minister Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee and President Bush agreed to resume and expand the bilateral economic dialogue. They expressed confidence that the recent lifting of US sanctions against India will contribute to strengthening economic relations. They also agreed to discuss ways to stimulate bilateral high-technology commerce.

[*English*]

**India's Participation in ASEAN
PMC and ARF Meetings**

2571. SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian delegation attended the 34th ASEAN PMC and the 8th ARF meetings held in Hanoi in July;

(b) if so, the details of discussions held;

(c) whether India has urged the international community to back its campaign against terrorism; and

(d) if so, their response thereto?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) At the 34th ASEAN Post Ministerial Conferences (PMC), the major themes discussed included the global economic slowdown, the Initiative for ASEAN Integration (IAI), launched by ASEAN to bridge the intra-ASEAN developmental gap, and functional cooperation between India and ASEAN in different sectors. The ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) reviewed the security situation in the Asia-Pacific region, and, as part of the future evolution of the ARF, discussed Confidence Building Measures (CBMs), preventive diplomacy, and the role of the ARF Chair.

(c) and (d) India highlighted the threat posed by international terrorism, and underlined the need for a collective response to combat this menace. Participating countries shared the concern over international terrorism, and agreed to discuss the issue in future deliberations of these fora.

Fixed Phones

2572. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have installed additional capacity for fixed line phones in all the States;

(b) if so, the states where such phones are available on demand;

(c) whether it is a fact that Telecom Department is unable to install phones on demand even where there is excess capacity; and

(d) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken to ensure that Telecom Department fully utilises the existing installed capacity in public interest?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) There are some Towns/Cities etc. in each state where the telephone is available on demand, but this is not so for whole of the State.

(c) Yes, Sir. This situation occurs for technical non-feasible areas where capacity is available but

outdoor cable work is yet to be completed or is being augmented.

(d) The steps taken/proposed to be taken for full utilisation of the existing capacities are:—

(i) New cable net work or the existing capacity of the exchanges is augmented.

(ii) Wireless in local Loop is being deployed to provide connections in technically non-feasible areas and also in inaccessible and remote areas.

National Security Adviser's Visit to USA

2573. SHRI N.T. SHANMUGAM: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Security Adviser visited America recently; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the outcome of the meeting held between him and his American counterpart?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) the National Security Adviser visited New York and Washington from September 19-26, 2001. During the visit, he met the U.S. National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice, Deputy Secretary of State Richard Armitage, Deputy Secretary of Defence Paul Wolfowitz along with Defence Secretary Donald Rumsfeld and a number of U.S. Congressmen. Discussions were held on a range of bilateral, regional and international issues of mutual concern, including the global campaign against terrorism.

The meetings between the National Security Adviser and the U.S. leadership, including his American counterpart, have led to better appreciation of India's position on the security and political developments in our region.

Visit of Former Japanese Prime Minister

2574. DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the former Japanese Prime Minister visited India recently as a special envoy of the Prime Minister of Japan;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the objective of the visit; and

(d) the extent to which the visit is likely to help in strengthening the cooperation between the two countries?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Mr. Yoshiro Mori, former Japanese Prime Minister visited India on 28-30 October 2001 as Special Envoy of the Prime Minister of Japan. The visit was at the initiative of the Government of Japan. Mr. Mori called on Prime Minister, Home Minister and Raksha Mantri.

(c) and (d) Mr. Mori carried a letter from PM Koizumi addressed to our PM, which inter alia, expressed appreciation of Government of India's cooperation with the international community in the fight against terrorism; extended condolences for the terrorist attack in Srinagar on 1 October 2001; and expressed support for the Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism proposed by India and presently under discussion at the UN. The situation in Afghanistan was also discussed.

The visit was part of the ongoing dialogue between India and Japan following the Global Partnership in 21st Century agreed to Prime Ministers Vajpayee and Mori in August 2000.

[*Translation*]

Constitution of a Review Committee

2575. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Department of Personnel and Training has constituted Committee to review the Cadre of grades of Section Officer and Assistant;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the Committee is likely to submit its Report alongwith the time by which follow-up action is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND

SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) to (c) A Committee of Senior Officers has been constituted to go into the cadre structuring of the Central Secretariat Service (CSS) as per the details given below:

COMPOSITION

(i) additional Secretary (Pension), Department of Personal & Training (DOP&T)	-	Chairman
(ii) Joint Secretary (Establishment), DOP&T	-	Member
(iii) Joint Secretary (Personnel), Department of Expenditure	-	Member
(iv) Director (CS), DOP&T	-	Member Secretary

Terms of References:

1. To assess the magnitude of stagnation in the grade of Assistant of CSS and to suggest remedial measures.
2. To assess the magnitude of stagnation in the grade of Section Officer, Under Secretary, Deputy Secretary and Director of CSS vis-a-vis similarly recruited/placed officers of other services and to recommend measures to remove stagnation.
3. To review the structure of CSS keeping in view various recommendations and demands of the CSS Association.

The present tenure of the Committee is upto the end of February, 2002. The Government will give due consideration to the recommendations of the Committee, when received. No time frame for this can be specified at present.

[*English*]

Cases in CAT

2576. SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to reply given to the Unstarred Question No. 1487 dated August 1, 2001 and state:

(a) whether the number of cases in the Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT) are on the increase every year;

(b) if so, the number of cases pending in the Central Administrative Tribunal and its benches, till date;

(c) the number of cases filed during the last three years in the Central Administrative Tribunal and its Benches, year-wise; and

(d) the measures taken/proposed to be taken by the Government for the speedy disposal of these cases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) and (b) No Sir. The number of pending cases in the Central Administrative Tribunal has decreased considerably. Statement-I indicating the number of cases pending as at the end of December 1998, December 1999, December 2000 and September 2001 is attached. Bench-wise break up of latest figures is given in statement-II.

(c) A statement-III showing the number of cases instituted during the last three years in the Central Administrative Tribunal, Bench-wise is enclosed.

(d) In view of the above measures being taken at present are considered adequate.

Statement-I

S. No.	Period	Pending Cases
1.	As on 31.12.98	49521
2.	As on 31.12.99	47899
3.	As on 31.12.00	41647
4.	As on 31.09.01	36315

Statement-II

Sl. No.	Name of the Bench	Number of Pending Cases
1.	Principal Bench	3338
2.	Ahmedabad Bench	1870
3.	Allahabad Bench	4756
4.	Bangalore Bench	1612
5.	Chandigarh Bench	1807
6.	Chennai Bench	650
7.	Cuttack Bench	2074
8.	Ernakulam Bench	1190
9.	Guwahati Bench	418
10.	Hydrabad Bench	1200
11.	Jabalpur Bench	2699
12.	Jaipur Bench	1087
13.	Jodhpur Bench	506
14.	Kolkata Bench	5590
15.	Lucknow Bench	2648
16.	Mumbai Bench	2472
17.	Patna Bench	2398
		36315

Statement-III

Sl. No.	Name of the Bench	Number of Cases Instituted			
		1998	1999	2000	2001 (upto September)
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Principal Bench	3384	3668	3913	3488
2.	Ahmedabad Bench	1064	1055	1095	817
3.	Allahabad Bench	1750	1887	2005	1935
4.	Bangalore Bench	1295	1133	2340	1373
5.	Chandigarh Bench	1255	1400	1303	1258

1	2	3	4	5	6
6.	Chennai Bench	1247	1431	1651	1138
7.	Cuttack Bench	801	808	767	524
8.	Ernakulam Bench	1880	1547	1486	945
9.	Guwahati Bench	395	529	515	475
10.	Hydrabad Bench	2024	2304	2243	1578
11.	Jabalpur Bench	1024	1085	1418	828
12.	Jaipur Bench	491	511	760	583
13.	Jodhpur Bench	389	674	408	338
14.	Kolkata Bench	1997	2059	1746	1605
15.	Lucknow Bench	632	664	868	756
16.	Mumbai Bench	1319	1297	1359	1126
17.	Patna Bench	964	892	1269	963
Total		21911	22944	25146	19730

Projects for Clearance

2577. SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in a bid to speed up implementation of the projects, the Union Government propose to de-bottleneck the clearance system;

(b) If so, whether the proposal is to enhance monetary limits of projects for clearance;

(c) Whether it is also a fact that the present limit for Standing Finance Committees (SFCs) is Rs. 15.00 Cr. and Rs. 15.50 Cr. for Expenditure Finance Committee (EFC) and the projects beyond Rs. 50.00 Cr. is usually referred to Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA);

(d) If so, the steps being taken for clearing the projects faster;

(e) Whether it is also a fact that the Planning Commission has also suggested that the SFC need not seek its permission again, once approval in-principle has been given to a project; and

(f) If so, the extent to which it is likely to help in completion of the projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) Yes, Sir. Government has constituted a Committee to examine the extant procedures for investment approvals and implementations of the projects and suggest measures to simplify and expedite the process of public and private investment. The Committee is headed by Secretary, Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas. The Committee will be serviced by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation.

(b) Enhancement of monetary limits for projects, for clearance by, concerned forums like, Standing Finance Committee/Expenditure Finance Committee and Public Investment Board, are under the consideration of the Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The matter is being examined by the Committee set up by the Government under the Chairmanship of Secretary, Petroleum and Natural Gas.

(e) Yes, Sir. The Planning Commission has decided that it would not be involved in the Standing Finance

Committee cases and the concerned Department/Ministry can convene the SFC meeting, without inviting Planning Commission's representative provided;

- (i) The scheme is included in the plan with adequate allocations.
- (ii) 'In Principle' approval of Planning Commission (which would mean the specific approval of Secretary, Planning Commission) has been obtained for introduction of a new Central Sector Scheme/Centrally sponsored Scheme in the Five Year and Annual Plan of the Department/Ministry and,
- (iii) In case (ii) above has not been obtained, the Ministry/Department should send the proposal to Planning Commission for 'in principle' approval.

This decision has been conveyed to all Union Ministries/Departments.

(f) This a step for simplification of the procedure for approval of Plan Schemes.

Grants to Medical Colleges

2578. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government provides grants to strengthen the diagnostic facilities in the Medical Colleges run by the States;

(b) if so, the details of grant provided to various medical colleges during each of the last three years, State-wise;

(c) the number of proposals for such grants pending with the Government State-wise; and

(d) the time by which such proposals are likely to be cleared by allocation of grants?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C.P. THAKUR): (a) Yes, Sir. The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare have recently introduced a Pilot Project for providing financial assistance upto Rs 150.00 lakhs to the selected Government Medical Colleges run by the States/Union Territories for strengthening of diagnostic facilities.

(b) Till date no financial assistance has been released under this Pilot Project to the Medical Colleges in the States/Union Territories.

(c) Under the above Pilot Project, this Ministry has received one proposal each from the States of Tamil Nadu, Assam, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Haryana, Kerala, Rajasthan and NCT of Delhi.

(d) Financial assistance will be provided to the States/ Union Territory as per availability of funds.

Hindustan Latex Limited

2579. SHRI ARUN KUMAR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the product-wise installed capacity of the Hindustan Latex Limited (HLL);

(b) the details of Commercial order given by the Government to HLL for its different products during the year 2000 and 2001;

(c) whether HLL procure condoms from private manufacturers in order to execute its order given by the Government; and

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

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C.P. THAKUR): (a) The product-wise installed capacity of the Hindustan Latex Limited is as under:

1. Condoms	
(Thinner variety)	576 Million Pcs.
(Thicker variety)	670 Million Pcs.
2. Non Steroidal/OCP	30 Million Cycle
3. Steroidal OCP	30 Million Pcs
4. Shunt	5000 Pcs.
5. Chopper-T	5.91 Million Pcs.
6. Blood Bag	2 Million Pcs.

(b) Commercial order given by Govt. of India during 2000-2001 to HLL is as following:

Condoms	621.50 Million Pcs.
OCP (Steroidal)	454.00 In cycles
Copper-T	.96 Million Pcs.

(c) As informed by M/s. HLL, they have not procured any condoms from private manufacturers in order to execute its order from Government.

(d) Does not arise.

Increase in Export

2580. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL: Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Electronic and Computer Software Export Promotion Council has registered an increase in the export of medical and office equipment during 2000-2001;

(b) if so, the comparative figures for the 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 in this regard;

(c) the amount of foreign exchange earned therefrom during the said period; and

(d) the target fixed for export of medical and office equipment for 2001-2002?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS, MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The comparative figures of export of medical and office equipment during 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 are as under:—

1999-2000	Rs. 122 crores
2000-2001	Rs. 341 crores

(c) Foreign exchange earned during 1999-2001 from the export of medical and office equipment is Rs. 463 crores.

(d) The target fixed for export of Electronics hardware for 2001-2002, which includes export of medical and office equipment also, is Rs. 12,430 crores.

Sickness in Khadi Units

2581. SHRIMATI PRENEET KAUR: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether 25 per cent of the Khadi Units in the country have become sick;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the steps taken by the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) for the rehabilitation of the such units; and

(d) the steps taken by KVIC to restore the confidence of the entrepreneurs about the continuation of the programme and easy availability of funds and the wage

incentives provided by the Central Government on the lines of State Governments in order to improve the employment opportunities in Khadi sector?

THE MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI KARIYA MUNDA): (a) and (b) Due to multifarious reasons such as changing tastes, influence of branded products, availability of cheaper products, poor designs etc. many Khadi institutions are unable to sell their stocks.

(c) The Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) has prepared to detailed guidelines for dealing with problematic Khadi institutions. The KVIC has also taken steps to categorize institutions in order to have a better monitoring of performance of Khadi institutions.

(d) The KVIC continues its assistance to the Khadi Programme. The institutions are permitted to keep the working capital given earlier by the KVIC, in the form of working fund if they maintain a certain level of production. After making the assessment of fund requirement, the KVIC also issues Interest Subsidy Eligibility certificates (ISEC) to enable Khadi institutions to mobilise funds from Banks at a concessional rate of interest. The Khadi Programme is regulated by a cost-chart system, which has an inbuilt capacity to protect the interest of workers. Further, the Government of India has also announced a special package for Khadi sector on 14th May 2001, which inter-alia provides for an insurance scheme for the benefit of Khadi workers, long term rebate policy, option between rebate and Market Development Assistance etc., quality and design improvement etc.

Special Component Plan for SC/ST/OBC

2582. SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have been implementing various schemes and programmes under Special Component Plan (SCP) and TSP for achieving overall development of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes those living below poverty line;

(b) if so, the details of the schemes/programmes formulated/being implemented by the Ministry of Information Technology under SCP and TSP specifying nature, scope and target groups thereof;

(c) the amount of funds requisitioned and procured by his Ministry during VIIIth and Ninth Five Year Plans for such schemes/programmes;

(d) the quantified benefits and targets achieved in this regard; and

(e) the other schemes/programme being implemented by the IT Ministry for providing employment opportunities for the educated unemployed SC/ST youth such as establishment of Internet Cafe, IT, Data Processing Centres etc. through State sponsored/aided programmes and schemes?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS, MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): (a) to (e) Ministry of Information Technology is a scientific Ministry and does not have any specific scheme which directly benefit the Scheduled Castes/Tribes. However, the Ministry has formulated an employment generation programme for the benefit of SC/STs, Backward Regions and North-Eastern States. Also, Ministry's Institutions/Societies like DOEACC, Centre for Electronics Design and Technology of India (CEDTI), Electronics Research & Development Centre of India (ER&DCI), Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC), National Centre for Software Technology (NCST) run IT/Computer Courses which are open to SC/STs also.

Panchkurma Institute

2583. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any proposal to develop the Panchkurma Institute of Ayurvedic Medicine in the country specially in Maharashtra and Karnataka;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps taken by the Government to develop the Ayurvedic medicine system in the country; and

(d) the funds provided for the research work in the system during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C.P. THAKUR): (a) and (b) There is no such proposal during the IX Plan.

(c) In order to develop and propagate the Indian Systems of Medicine and Homoeopathy including Ayurvedic system, the Government in 1995 established an independent Department of ISM&H in the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. The Department of ISM&H has already implemented schemes for the development and cultivation of medicinal plants, preparation of agro-techniques, upgradation of undergraduate/post-graduate institutions standardisation of drugs, encouraging intra-mural and extra mural research and dissemination of information through information, education and communication (IEC).

(d) Rs. 79.66 crores were provided during the last three years to the Central Council for Research in Ayurveda and Siddha which is engaged in research and separately under extra-mural scheme of the Department to accredited Institutions for interalia conducting research on the efficacy of ISM drugs and allied matters.

Family Planning Programme

2584. SHRI A. NARENDRA:
SHRI NAMDEO HARBAJI DIWATHE:

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

(a) the rate of population growth in the country at present, State-wise;

(b) whether the Government have formulated any long-term integrated family planning policy for the near future;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether family planning policy has taken a back seat due to lack of motivation and difference of the Government;

(e) if so, whether the Government propose to review and reformulate this policy;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C.P. THAKUR): (a) The State-wise details on decadal growth rate of population in the country are given in the enclosed statement-I.

(b) to (g) Government has adopted National Population Policy, 2000 in February, 2000. The immediate objective of the Policy is to address the unmet needs of contraception, health infrastructure, health personnel and to provide integrated service delivery for basic reproductive and child health care. The medium term objective is to bring the total fertility rates to replacement level by 2010, through vigorous implementation of inter sectoral operational strategies. The long term objective is to achieve a stable population by 2045, at a level consistent with the requirements of sustainable economic growth, social development and environmental protection.

The Policy envisages some promotional/motivational measures for adoption of small family norm as given in the statement-II.

The Policy enumerates certain national socio-demographic goals to be achieved by 2010, which are expected to stabilize the population in the country by 2045; these are enclosed at statement-III. The Policy is being implemented.

Statement I

Decadal growth rate of population—States/Union territories: 2001

India and State/ Union territories	Decadal growth rate	
	1981-1991	1991-2001
1	2	3
INDIA	23.86	21.34
Jammu & Kashmir	30.34	29.04
Himachal Pradesh	20.79	17.53
Punjab	20.81	19.76
Chandigarh*	42.16	40.33
Uttaranchal	24.23	19.20
Haryana	27.41	28.06
Delhi*	51.45	46.31
Rajasthan	28.44	28.33
Uttar Pradesh	25.55	25.80
Bihar	23.38	29.43
Sikkim	28.47	32.98
Arunachal Pradesh	36.83	26.21
Nagaland	56.08	64.41
Manipur	29.29	30.02
Mizoram	39.70	29.18
Tripura	34.30	15.74
Meghalaya	32.86	29.94
Assam	NA	18.85
West Bengal	24.73	17.84
Jharkhand	24.03	23.19
Orissa	20.06	15.94
Chhattisgarh	25.73	18.06
Madhya Pradesh	27.24	24.34

1	2	3
Gujarat	21.19	22.48
Daman & Diu*	28.62	55.59
Dadra & Nagar Haveli*	33.57	59.20
Maharashtra	25.73	22.57
Andhra Pradesh	24.20	13.86
Karnataka	21.12	17.25
Goa	16.08	14.89
Lakshadweep*	28.47	17.19
Kerala	14.32	9.42
Tamil Nadu	15.39	11.19
Pondicherry*	33.64	20.56
Andaman & Nicobar Islands	48.70	25.94

Source: Office of the Registrar General India Census of India 2001 (Prov. Total)

Statement-II

1. Panchayats and Zila Parishads will be rewarded and honoured for exemplary performance in universalising the small family norm, achieving reductions in infant mortality and birth rates and promoting literacy with completion of primary schooling.
2. The Balika Samridhi Yojana run by the Department of Women and Child Development, to promote survival and care of the girl child, will continue. A cash incentive of Rs. 500 is awarded at the birth of the girl child of birth order 1 or 2.
3. Maternity Benefit Scheme run by the Department of Rural Development will continue. A cash incentive of Rs. 500 is awarded to mothers who have their first child after 19 years of age, for birth of the first or second child only. Disbursement of the cash award in future be linked to compliance with ante natal check up, institutional delivery by trained birth attendant, registration of birth and BCG immunisation.
4. A Family Welfare-linked Health Insurance Plan will be established. Couples below the poverty line, who undergo sterilisation with not more than two living children, would become eligible (along

- with children) for health insurance (for hospitalisation) not exceeding Rs. 5000, and a personal accident insurance cover for the spouse undergoing sterilisation.
5. Couples below the poverty line, who marry after the legal age of marriage, register the marriage, have their first child after the mother reaches the age of 21, accept the small family norm, and adopt a terminal method after birth of the second child, will be rewarded.
 6. A revolving fund will be set up for income generating activities by village-level self help groups, who provide community-level health care services.
 7. Creches and child care centers will be opened in rural areas and urban slums. This will facilitate and promote participation of women in paid employment.
 8. A wider, affordable choice of contraceptives will be made accessible at diverse delivery points, with counselling services to enable acceptors to exercise voluntary and informed consent.
 9. Facilities for safe abortion will be strengthened and expanded.
 10. Products and services will be made affordable through innovative social marketing schemes.
 11. Local entrepreneurs at village levels will be provided soft loans encouraged to run ambulance services to supplement the existing arrangements for referral transportation.
 12. Increased vocational training schemes for girls, leading to self-employment will be encouraged.
 13. Strict enforcement of Child Marriage Restraint Act, 1976.
 14. Strict enforcement of the Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques Act, 1994.
 15. Soft loans to ensure mobility of the ANMs will be increased.
2. Make school education up to age 14 free and compulsory, and reduce drop outs at primary and secondary school levels to below 20 percent for both boys and girls.
 3. Reduce infant mortality rate to below 30 per 1000 live births.
 4. Reduce maternal mortality rate to below 100 per 100,000 live births.
 5. Achieve universal immunization of children against all vaccine preventable diseases.
 6. Promote delayed marriage for girls, not earlier than age 18 and preferably after 20 years of age.
 7. Achieve 80 percent institutional deliveries and 100 percent deliveries by trained persons.
 8. Achieve universal access to information/counseling, and services for fertility regulation and contraception with a wide basket of choices.
 9. Achieve 100 percent registration of births, deaths, marriage and pregnancy.
 10. Contain the spread of Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (AIDS), and promote greater integration between the management of reproductive tract infection (RTI) and sexually transmitted infections (STI) and the National AIDS Control Organisation.
 11. Prevent and control communicable diseases.
 12. Integrate Indian System of Medicines (ISM) in the provision of reproductive and child health services, and in reaching out to households.
 13. Promote vigorously the small family norm to achieve replacement levels of total fertility rate (TFR) of 2.1.
 14. Bring about convergence in implementation of related social sector programs so that family welfare becomes a people centered program.

Statement-III

Fourteen National Socio-Demographic Goals for 2010 enumerated in the National Population Policy, 2000

1. Address the unmet needs for basic reproductive and child health services, supplies and infrastructure.

Purchase Policy

2585. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the Kendriya Bhandar is not following its own laid down purchase policy in letter and spirit;

(b) if so, the number of cases reported to the Government as well as to the Kendriya Bhandar in this regard; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Government has been receiving letters from a few MPs alleging that Kendriya Bhandar is not following its own purchase policy. Each letter has been followed up, but no specific violation of the purchase policy has come to light so far.

SAARC Summit

2586. SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a special session of standing committee of foreign secretaries of SAARC nations ended on August, 10, 2001 without reaching any decision on the next summit;

(b) if so, the reasons for not reaching any agreement;

(c) whether Nepal's suggestion to hold the 11th summit on Kathmandu from December 28 to December 30, 2001 had not been endorsed by the Committee; and

(d) if so, the time by which the schedule of the next summit is likely to be finalised?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) The Third Special Session of the Standing Committee of Foreign Secretaries of SAARC nations was held in Colombo on 9th and 10th August, 2001. Nepal as host to the next SAARC Summit had proposed the dates of December 28, 29, 30, 2001 for the 11th Summit to be held in Kathmandu. The Standing Committee members agreed to consult with their respective governments on the proposal.

(b) Not applicable.

(c) The Committee agreed to carry out consultations to seek the convenience of all member heads of State/Government to finalize the dates for the next Summit.

(d) After these consultations, the dates for the 11th SAARC Summit have now been set for 4, 5, & 6 January, 2002.

Overcharging by Public Call Offices

2587. DR. V. SAROJA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to refer to reply given to Unstarred Question No. 3353 dated August 13, 2001 and state:

(a) whether the requisite information has since been collected;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The reply in respect of part (a), (b) & (c) of the earlier question No. 3353 dated 13.8.2001 is given in the statement enclosed.

(c) Does not arise.

Statement

Part (a) of the question No. 3353 dated 13.8.2001

Ans. (a) Yes, Sir.

Part (b) of the question No. 3353 dated 13.8.2001

Ans. (b) Details of complaints received about over-charging by the PCOs during the last one year

Sl.#	Name of Circle	No. of Complaints Received
1	2	3
1.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	00
2.	Andhra Pradesh	19
3.	Assam	00
4.	Bihar	23
5.	Jharkhand	14
6.	Gujarat (UT of Dadra Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu)	40
7.	Haryana	26

1	2	3
8.	Himachal Pradesh	05
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	03
10.	Karnataka	00
11.	Kerala (Including UT of Lakshadweep)	00
12.	Maharashtra (including Goa)	197
13.	Madhya Pradesh	52
14.	Chhattisgarh	01
15.	North East-I (Tripura, Mizoram and Meghalaya)	00
16.	North East-II (Nagaland, Manipur and Arunachal Pradesh)	00
17.	Orissa	00
18.	Punjab (including UT of Chandigarh)	68
19.	Rajasthan	40
20.	Tamil Nadu (including UT of Pondicherry)	17
21.	Uttar Pradesh (East)	00
22.	Uttar Pradesh (West)	38
23.	Uttaranchal	04
24.	West Bengal	82
25.	Kolkata Telephones	72
26.	Chennai Telephones	72
27.	MTNL, Mumbai	425
28.	MTNL, Delhi	65
Total		1263

Part (c) of the question No. 3353 dated 13.8.2001.

(c) In order to Curb the practices of over-charging of the customers by the franchises, various steps have been taken which include the following:—

- i. Complaints Cell is functioning in the field offices to look into the complaints of over-charging.
- ii. Periodical surprise checks of the PCOs are being done.

- iii. In order to increase the competition and reduce the monopoly of the existing PCO operators, more PCOs are allotted liberally to all the eligible applicants without any restriction of distance, space and size of accommodation etc.

Stationing of USA Troops

2588. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the USA have decided to station 65000 of its troops in the Asia Pacific region as a part of strategy to meet any potential threat from some of the major powers of this region; and

(b) if so, the Government's reaction to the American strategy?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) The United States has maintained its military forces, including troops, in the Asia Pacific region for a long time. According to available information, the United States Pacific Command has about 100,000 forward-deployed personnel in the region.

(b) Government monitors military deployments of all countries in the region and develops its foreign and defence policies taking these factors into account.

[Translation]

Assistance from Labour Ministry

2589. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Ministry of Health and Family Welfare is considering to take assistance from the Ministry of Labour for expansion of health services;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the fields in which assistance is proposed to be sought;

(c) whether any understanding has been arrived between the two Ministries in this regard; and

(d) if so, the extent to which the health services would be expanded through this decision?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C.P. THAKUR): (a) No, Sir. For the present there is no firm proposal.

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

*[English]***Thorium Reserves**

2590. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI:
SHRI SUBODH MOHITE:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether India's thorium reserves are 5 to 6 times larger than the Uranium reserves;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to harness the thorium reserves to achieve the target of 10000 MW by the next decade;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard;

(d) the number of nuclear power stations likely to be upgraded or new plants to be established to achieve the target of 4000 MW by 2002 and 9000 MW by 2012;

(e) the total funds made available to achieve this target during the last three years and achievements made so far in this regard;

(f) whether the Government have chalked out any strategy to augment manpower and strengthen research during the Tenth Plan Period for the Department of Atomic Energy; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) Adequate thorium reserves are available in the country.

(b) and (c) The utilisation of thorium reserves for electricity generation is a long-term perspective of the Department to be taken up in the third stage of the programme. However, one Advanced Heavy Water Reactor (AHWR) with a capacity of 235 MWe is being developed by BARC as a technology demonstration project to utilise thorium for electricity generation. It is planned to commence construction of this project in the X Plan subject to the availability of financial resources.

(d) The present nuclear power capacity in the country is 2720 MWe. During the X Plan, nuclear power capacity of 1300 MWe is planned to be added by completion of

TAPP-3&4 [2x500 MWe (being upgraded to 2x540 MWe) and Kaiga - 3 (one 220 MWe, out of 2x220 MWe of Kaiga - 3 & 4 under construction) units. Thus the total nuclear power capacity will reach 4020 MWe by the end of the X plan. The proposals in the X Plan envisage commencement of new schemes for reaching a total nuclear power capacity of 9935 MWe by end of the XI Plan.

The Plant upgradations are carried out, based on needs, to enhance the safety and as a life extension measure for continuation of the generating capacity as required.

(e) During the last three years the fund utilisation by NPCIL, is given below:

2001-2002	Rs. 1365.00 crore (anticipated)
2000-2001	Rs. 854.18 crore
1999-2000	Rs. 927.52 crore

The achievements made so far are:

With the completion of Kaiga-1&2 and RAPP-3&4 already, 880 MWe capacity addition has been achieved. The work on TAPP-3&4 [2x500 MWe being upgraded to 2x540 MWe] and Kaiga 3&4 (2x220 MWe) has commenced and is progressing as per schedule (to add a nuclear power capacity of 1300 MWe in X Plan). Government of India has accorded financial sanction for the construction of the Kudankulam Project at an estimated cost of Rs. 13,171 crore (Rupees Thirteen Thousand One Hundred Seventy One crore only) which is to be financed through the Russian Credit and Indian funding, with scheduled commercial operations of first Unit in the year 2007 and the second Unit in 2008. Essential infrastructure works at site for setting up of 2x1000 MWe units at Kudankulam in Tamil Nadu, are already in progress.

Achievements of targets set for X and XI Plans, as given in (d) above would be dependent upon the outlays and budgetary support in the X Plan.

(f) and (g) Recruitment of graduate engineers in the units of Department of Atomic Energy, to staff the nuclear installations, is undertaken through the Training School of the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC) and its affiliates. Recruited manpower is put through a structured training and qualification programme before they take up positions for operations. Adequate technical manpower is in place to staff the nuclear power stations in operation and other installations. In regard to the future nuclear power plants, programme of recruitment is in place ahead of the timings of the plants going into operation.

*[Translation]***Local Call Facility**

2591. SHRI RAJO SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state the names of different states apart from Delhi and Meerut where Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited is considering to provide local call facility?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): There is no proposal under consideration to provide local call facility at 180 seconds pulse rate in any state as provided between Delhi and Meerut.

(b) the details of such cases noticed during the last two years, year-wise;

(c) if so, the measures taken to check this menace, and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to make up for the shortage of blood in the country?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C.P. THAKUR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) HIV sero reactivity rate among blood donors for the last two years is shown in the enclosed statement.

(c) and (d) The Government is concentrating on augmenting voluntary blood donations adopting strict donor deferral methods. For generating enough blood through voluntary blood donation programme, the Government of India have taken a number of steps such as media campaign through TV, AIR and newspapers, developing IEC material for one-to-one communication, observation of National Voluntary Blood Donation Day on 1st October every year, encouraging rational use of blood among clinicians and the launching of special campaign to educate masses to support voluntary blood donation.

*[English]***AIDS Infected Blood**

2592. SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the number of AIDS infected blood donors have shown a phenomenal increase in the country and blood banks have not been able to prevent such persons from donating infected blood;

Statement

Total No. of blood sample screened and HIV reactive %

S. No.	State	2000		2001 (upto October)	
		Total Tested	%HIV Reactive	Total Tested	%HIV Reactive
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	A & N Islands	2550	0.00	2616	0.00
2.	Andhra Pradesh	158743	0.94	178473	0.92
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	970	0.00	27436	0.84
4.	Assam	26639	0.13	20643	0.08
5.	Bihar	57457	0.12	57498	0.10
6.	Chandigarh	48237	0.45	36252	0.44
7.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	0	—	0	—
8.	Daman & Diu	0	—	0	0.00
9.	Delhi	137085	0.00	126563	0.61
10.	Goa	7760	1.44	6687	1.20

1	2	3	4	5	6
11.	Gujarat	275020	0.44	278674	0.46
12.	Haryana	81232	0.44	63178	0.52
13.	Himachal Pradesh	14539	0.12	10146	0.14
14.	J & K	0	—	0	—
15.	Karnataka	249687	0.56	128752	0.51
16.	Kerala	129934	0.40	72505	0.46
17.	Lakshadweep	0	—	16	0.00
18.	Madhya Pradesh	57125	0.22	41795	0.25
19.	Maharashtra	212688	1.36	184269	1.30
20.	Manipur	14762	1.88	8270	1.74
21.	Meghalaya	1729	0.06	1503	0.07
22.	Mizoram	8630	0.71	6711	0.91
23.	Nagaland	1126	0.00	1054	0.57
24.	Orissa	107005	0.12	39894	0.15
25.	Pondicherry	5093	0.51	4991	0.30
26.	Punjab	88930	0.27	65905	0.30
27.	Rajasthan	115124	0.30	115793	0.30
28.	Sikkim	999	0.20	698	0.43
29.	Tamilnadu	304097	0.30	167734	0.54
30.	Tripura	10638	0.25	9172	0.27
31.	Uttar Pradesh	156643	0.22	151249	0.24
32.	Uttaranchal	0	0.00	8640	0.01
33.	West Bengal	73569	0.38	93754	0.66
34.	Ahmedabad M.C.	15199	0.47	55078	0.54
35.	Chennai M.C.	0	0.00	55629	0.43
36.	Mumbai M.C.	113809	1.56	89379	1.57
Total		2477019	0.56	2110957	0.60

Speed Post Centres

2593. SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ:
SHRI G. MALLIKARJUNAPPA:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Department of Posts propose to provide speed net in all 120 National Speed Post Centres for tracking speed post and the express post articles through internet;

(b) if so, the time by which these Posts Centres are likely to start functioning; and

(c) the extent to which these are likely to be helpful to common people?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Department has developed a tracking system called "Speednet" and it is under testing at present. The system would be very useful to the customers in tracking their Speed Post articles on-line through internet. Speednet will be implemented in all 120 National Speed Post Centres; once the testing is completed.

Inland Waterways

2594. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL:
SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN:
SHRI ZORA SINGH MANN:
SHRI ABDUL HAMID:

Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-items captioned 'Inland Waterways Spots Projects for private players', appearing in the Business Standard, dated September 3, 2001;

(b) if so, the details of the projects likely to be given to private players;

(c) the terms and conditions thereof, projects-wise;

(d) whether it is a fact that India has an extensive network of waterways;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) the extent to which it has been explored so far; and

(g) the steps being taken for optimum utilisation of waterways?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): (a) to (g) With a view to giving an impetus to IWT sector and to encourage private sector participation in IWT infrastructure development and ownership and operation of inland vessels, the Government has approved an IWT policy which includes several Policy measures and incentives to facilitate investment in this sector.

To popularize this Policy with various stakeholders in IWT sector, four interactive meets have been organized

at Delhi, Patna, Kochi and Guwahati. Some indicative/provisional possible proposals for private sector participation were prepared and circulated in these meets. These were very preliminary proposals made with a view to start the discussion with prospective private sector entrepreneurs. A few of them have since shown interest in this regard. Details of these proposals and terms and conditions would be worked out in consultation with the entrepreneurs.

According to National Transport Policy Committee Report (1980) India has about 14,500 Km of navigable inland waterways out of which 5700 km are suitable for navigation by mechanized craft. The NTPC report identified ten waterways as having potential for declaration and development as National Waterways namely;

- (i) The Ganga-Bhagirathi-Hooghly river system
- (ii) The Brahmaputra
- (iii) The West Coast Canal
- (iv) The Sunderbans
- (v) The Godavari
- (vi) The Krishna
- (vii) The Mahanadi
- (viii) The Narmada
- (ix) The Mandovi, Zuari rivers and Cumberjua canal in Goa
- (x) The Tapi

So far, three waterways namely the Ganga from Haldia to Allahabad, the Brahmaputra from Dhubri to Sadiya and West Coast Canal from Kottapuram to Kollam along with Udyogmandal and Champakara canals have been declared as national waterways.

Techno-economic feasibility studies for assessing the potential/navigability of the following inland waterways have been conducted:—

1. The Sunderbans
2. The Barak River
3. Kakinada-marcaunam canal integrated with river Krishna and Godavari.
4. East Coast Canal integrated with Brahmani river
5. DVC Canal

6. Extension of NW-3 upto Kovalam in the south and Kasargod in the North

The declaration of the above waterways as national waterways and their subsequent development would be considered subject to availability of resources.

Various schemes for provisions of infrastructure such as navigational channel, terminals at selected locations and navigational aids are being planned and executed in a phased manner by IWAI on the three national waterways.

Provision also exists under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme for the Inland Water Transport sector for loan assistance to state govts. upto 50% of the cost of the schemes on reimbursement basis for development of inland waterways and waterway infrastructure.

With a view to giving an impetus to IWT sector and encourage private sector participation in IWT sector, Government has approved an IWT Policy.

Expenses on Indian Missions

2595. SHRI ARUN KUMAR: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) Whether a lot of time and money has been wasted because of property not being purchased when it was time to buy it and heavy amount is being spent on rentals;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether massive rent bills from abroad will eat into the Ministry's increased budget allocation;

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

(e) the steps taken to bring down expenses on foreign missions which have shot up considerably?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The Ministry has given utmost importance to acquire its own properties for Indian Missions and Posts abroad, especially in countries where the expenditure on rentals is heavy. It has made earnest efforts to decrease expenditure by focusing on acquisition of properties within the provisions of its approved budget. Purchase of properties by the Ministry for its Missions and Posts abroad is dependent on various local factors and circumstances. In some stations it is not economically viable to acquire and develop our own properties.

(c) and (d) The Ministry is constantly making efforts to ensure that the rental liabilities are kept under check and minimized, so that Ministry's budget allocations for other programmes are not affected. The Ministry is fully conscious of this and adheres to the various guidelines on austerity and budgetary constraints. It advises Missions and Posts abroad for strict compliance and implementation of these measures.

(e) Recently, the Ministry has initiated various steps to bring down expenses in Missions/Posts abroad for example, by purchase/construction of properties with a view to reducing rental liabilities, and also in communications sector, by using e-mail and internet in place of telex & telefax.

IT Workers in Japan

2596. SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY: Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Japan has decided to take IT workers from India;

(b) if so, the number of Indian IT workers so far joined Japan's IT services; and

(c) the extent to which India and Japan have come to an agreement to work jointly in the IT sector?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS, MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) According to an informal estimate about 1000 Indian IT engineers are currently employed in Indian and Japanese companies as well as multinational software companies in Japan.

(c) The DOEACC (Department of Electronics Accreditation of Computer Courses) Society, an autonomous body of Ministry of Information Technology engaged in promotion of Information Technology education and training in the non-formal sector and CAIT (Central Academy for Information Technology), Japan Information Processing Development Corporation (JIPDEC), under the Ministry of international Trade and Industry (MITI), Japan had signed an MOU for mutual recognition of DOEACC 'A' level course with CAIT's Fundamental Information Technology and Engineers Examination (FE-SS).

In addition, Government of Japan has decided to issue multiple entry visas, valid for three years, for short-term business stays, allowing a period of stay of

90 days for business people of Indian nationality in IT related enterprises that are located in India and promote exchange between IT specialists from Japan & India.

Internet Services in Rural Areas

2597. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are considering to provide internet service in the rural areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the target fixed therefor; and

(d) the number of Cities and Panchayat/Block samities in rural areas connected with internet at present?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) Internet facility is available in all the District Headquarters of the country. Internet facility has been extended to 5513 Block Headquarters (Both Rural & Urban) of the country as on 31.10.2001 by Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL). BSNL, through the scheme of Internet Dhabas set up through franchises, has provided Internet Dial up connection to 2866 Internet Dhabas in both Rural and Urban Block Headquarters as of 31.10.2001. To promote proliferation of Internet in Rural Areas, BSNL is offering free Internet access for the Internet Dhabas in the rural block headquarters. The Internet Dhaba franchises are also eligible for 25 percent of the Public Switched Telephone Network (PSTN) access charges as commission.

Customer Service Centres

2598. DR. V. SAROJA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the government have ever conducted any study on the functioning of customer service centres in the Department of Telecommunications/Telephone exchange or received feed back from the customers for the purpose;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the action taken based study/feed back; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) to (c) Sir, joint inspections of Customer Service Centres are carried out by DOT and Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited officers. Performance of the Customer Service Centres are monitored by visiting the customer service centres by the respective DGMs in MTNL, Mumbai. Shortcomings observed including feed back from customers are brought to the notice of concerned officers for its immediate removal. However, no study has been conducted in this regard.

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

Subsidies on Postal Items

2599. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to set up an independent quasi judicial tariff commission to fix postal tariffs and to phase out subsidies on postal items;

(b) if so, whether the composition of the commission has been finalised;

(c) if so, the names and the terms of reference of the commission;

(d) the extent to which the postal items are being subsidised and its total financial implications; and

(e) the manner in which the withdrawal of these subsidies are likely to affect the public utility image of the department?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) No, Sir.

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

(d) The amount of subsidy during 2000-2001 ranged from 12.29% in respect of 'Letter' to 97.47% in respect of 'Registered Newspapers (Single)' and the total deficit for the year to the tune of Rs. 1500 crores.

(e) A few of the postal services primarily serve social objectives and therefore justify subsidization. Others are, however, utilized by, among others, business/commercial segments of customers who seek efficient and customized service at appropriate price. Thus, the

Department is making efforts to control expenditure and ensure that subsidies are better focused to serve the required social objectives while on the other hand revenue generation is further strengthened through new and relevant services to provide much-needed resources for the Department.

Revenue Loss

2600. SHRI A. NARENDRA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the DoT is likely to face a massive revenues loss in the current financial year;

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

(c) whether an internal study has revealed that the revenues loss would have a negative impact on the resources of the DoT; and

(d) if so the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to reduce the revenue loss?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) With the formation of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited from 1.10.2000, the service providing activities of the Department have been transferred to the new Company. Revenues for the provision of the telephone etc. services are thus going to the Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited from 1.10.2000. No reduction in the total revenues of the Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited over the previous years, is expected.

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

Recommendation of MTCT

2601. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Expert Committee appointed by NACO on Mother-to-Child Transmission (MTCT) has submitted its report and recommendation;

(b) if so, whether NACO and his Ministry have accepted its recommendations; and

(c) the time by when it would be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C.P. THAKUR): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. As per the recommendations of the Committee the

National AIDS Control Organization has completed phase 1 of the feasibility study on prevention of Mother to Child transmission using short course regimen of Antiretroviral drug AZT (Zidovudine) in 11 institutions in the country located in 5 High prevalence States namely Maharashtra (5), Tamil Nadu (3), Andhra Pradesh (1), Karnataka (1) and Manipur (1). The phase II of the feasibility study using single dose nevirapine both to HIV positive mother and baby pair has been started from 1st October, 2001.

New Post Offices in Maharashtra

2602. SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL:
SHRI NARESH PUGLIA:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of new Post Offices/Branch/Sub Post Offices proposed to be opened in Maharashtra during the current financial year, district-wise, particularly Vidarabha region;

(b) the steps taken by the Government to improve the postal services in the State;

(c) whether the Government propose to modernise/expand the existing Post Offices in the State; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and funds allocated for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) Post Offices are opened on norm based justification, subject to availability of resources including sanctioning of requisite number of posts by the Government. Region-wise target for opening of Post Offices including those in Vidarabha (Nagpur Region) for 2001-2002 is given in the enclosed Statement-I.

(b) to (d) In addition to the proposed Post Offices mentioned in (a), it is proposed to open 200 PSSKs (Panchayat Sanchar Sewa Kendras) in such places where Branch Post Offices do not exist. There are plans for modernizing and computerizing Head Post Offices. The details of allotment of funds for the current financial year for opening and modernization of post offices are given in the enclosed statement-II.

Statement-I

Region	Extra Departmental Branch Offices		Departmental Sub Post Offices		Departmental Sub Offices		
	Other Areas	Tribal Areas	Total	Other Areas	Tribal Areas	Total	
Aurangabad	12	6	18	1	1	2	
Nagpur (Vidarabha)	12	6	18	2	1	3	
Pune	10	4	14	1	Nil	1	
Mumbai	8	2	10	1	Nil	1	
Total	42	18	60	5	2	7	

Statement-II

Funds allotted for opening and modernization of Post Offices in Maharashtra Circle in the current financial year:—

Opening of Post Offices	Rs. 1,16,29,000/-
For Opening of Panchayat Sanchar Sewa Kendras	Rs. 29,95,000/-
For provision of Infrastructural equipments to 3000 Extra	Rs. 13,15,000/-
Departmental Branch Offices For Modernization of Posts Offices	Rs. 30,00,000/-

Backlog of SC/ST/OBC

2603. SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether 'backlog/carried vacancies' reserved for SCs, STs and OBCs' are required to be treated as a 'separate and distinct group' as provided under Article 16(4) B of the constitution to overcome 50% ceiling limit on vacancies to be reserved in an year;

(b) if so, the details of 'backlog/carried forward vacancies' ascertained as per para 5 of the DOPT OM No. 36012/2/96-Estt. (Res) dated 2nd July, 1997 in respect of (1) SCs (2) STs and OBCs in Group A, B, C and D categories of services as on 29th August 1997 in the Ministry of Information Technology when Special Recruitment Drives etc. meant for filling such vacancies were stopped;

(c) the details of such carried forward vacancies filled during the last four years and those which remain unfilled; and

(d) the fresh vacancies/posts accrued to reserved classes in all categories of posts during the last four years as per 'post based rosters'?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS, MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The backlog/carried forward vacancies ascertained as per para 5 of the DOPT OM No. 36012/2/96-Estt (Res.) dated 2nd July, 1997 in respect of (1) SCs, (2) STs and OBCs are as under:

Group A	:	SC -01
Group B (Gazetted)		SC-01
Group B (Non-Gazetted)		ST-01, OBC-04
Group C		ST-02, OBC-20
Group D	:	OBC-15

(c) The details are given in the statement-I

(d) The details are given in the statement-II

Statement-I

Details of Backlog Vacancies filled during the last four years.

Group 'A'	SC-1
Group 'B' (Gazetted)	SC-1
Group 'C'	ST-1
	OBC-1

Details of posts which remained unfilled.

Group 'B' (Non-Gazetted)	ST-1
	OBC-4
Group 'C'	ST-1
	OBC-19
Group 'D'	OBC-9

Statement-II

The Details of fresh vacancies/posts accrued to reserved categories (SC/ST/OBC) during last four years.

Group 'A'	SC-3
	OBC-4
Group 'B' (Gazetted)	SC-4
	ST-1
	OBC-1
Group 'B' (Non-Gazetted)	SC-2
	ST-2
Group 'C'	SC-8
	ST-3
	OBC-16
Group 'D'	SC-4
	ST-3
	OBC-8

Rural Industries in North Eastern States

2604. SHRI BHIM DAHAL: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of rural industries set up in the North-Eastern States including Sikkim during each of last three years;

(b) whether there is any proposal to set up any new industry in these States; and

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

THE MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI KARIYA MUNDA): (a) The number of industries taken up under the Rural Employment Generation Programme by the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) during the last three years in the North Eastern States including Sikkim, is given below:—

States	1998-1999	1999-2000	2000-2001
1. Arunachal Pradesh	98	07	202
2. Assam	35	46	120
3. Manipur	193	50	359
4. Meghalaya	63	1875	623
5. Mizoram	243	176	302
6. Nagaland	40	309	4119
7. Sikkim	06	01	03
8. Tripura	-	01	20

(b) and (c) The Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) does not set up any industry of its own. Entrepreneurs, however, are motivated to set up units under the Rural Employment Generation Programme of the KVIC by taking loans from Banks.

Amendment in MCI

2605. SHRI MANOJ SINHA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Medical Council Amendment Act, 2001 has been framed by the Union Government;

(b) if so, the major provisions of the rules;

(c) if not, the stage of formulation of the rules under the Act;

(d) the time by which the rules are likely to be ready/framed; and

(e) the time by which the Act is likely to come to into force?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C.P. THAKUR): (a) to (e) Yes, Sir. Regulations as per the provisions of the Indian Medical Council (Amendment) Act, 2001 are being framed by the Central Government in consultation with other concerned Departments.

[Translation]

Telephone Users

2606. SHRI NAVAL KISHORE RAI:
SHRI ZORA SINGH MANN:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a wide gap in the ratio of telephone users in rural areas, urban areas and metro cities;

(b) if so, the ratio of telephone users in rural areas, metro cities and rest of the cities; and

(c) the reasons for this difference?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The ratio of Telephone users (Teledensity) in rural areas, Metro cities and rest of the cities as on 31.3.2001 is given below.

Rural areas	Metro Cities	Urban Areas (Rest of the cities)
0.93	15.85	10.16

(c) Following are the reasons for the difference:

- (i) Affordability by the people.
- (ii) Necessity of phone.
- (iii) Uneven population density.
- (iv) Business and commercial interests.
- (v) Lack of other infrastructure facilities like Roads and Power etc. in rural areas.
- (vi) High capital investment involved and high operating costs.
- (vii) Low return on capital costs.
- (viii) Network implementation time is more in rural areas.

[English]

WTO

2607. SHRI SAMIK LAHIRI: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether with the globalisation of economy and advent of the World Trade Organisation, the small scale sector has to restructure itself to meet the challenge;

(b) if so, the details of the steps being taken to meet the situation; and

(c) the initiatives taken for the development of small industries especially in the North-East region?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The globalisation of the economy and the advent of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) have exposed the SSIs to greater competition. Government have put in place several measures to help our industries become globally competitive. These include special focus on areas such as technology upgradation, infrastructure assistance through cluster approach, timely availability of credit, adoption of modern management practices, use of electronic infrastructure and other IT applications to face the emerging challenges of trade liberalization. A comprehensive policy package for the development of SSIs has been announced on 30th August, 2000. The policy package will enhance the competitiveness of SSIs through easier access to credit, availability of collateral free composite loan, capital subsidy for technology upgradation, improved infrastructure, etc.

(c) For the development of the industries in the North-Eastern region including small scale industries, the government announced an industrial policy for the North-East in 1997. The policy includes a transport subsidy scheme, a central capital investment subsidy scheme, a central interest subsidy scheme, comprehensive insurance scheme, etc. Further, the provisions of the Integrated Infrastructure Development scheme and the Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana have been liberalised for the region. A Coordination Committee for industrialization of the North-Eastern states, Sikkim, and Hill states has also been constituted under the Chairmanship of Minister of State (Small Scale Industries).

Grant Affiliation to Medical Colleges

2608. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the proposal to grant affiliation to some medical colleges are pending with the Government;

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

(c) the details of the affiliation granted to the Medical Colleges?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C.P. THAKUR): (a) to (c) No, Sir. Grant

of affiliation to a medical college is the concern of University to which the college is proposed to be affiliated. Prior consent of affiliation from affiliating university is a pre-condition prescribed in the Regulations of Medical Council of India to make an applicant eligible to apply to the Central Govt. for permission to establish a new medical college.

Construction of Rasiawat-Khurda-Lotan Dam

2609. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any controversy between India and Nepal over the construction of the Rasiawat-Khurda-Lotan Dam on the Danav river close to international border;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Construction of a link bund between Lotan and Rasiawat villages of Siddarthnagar District of Uttar Pradesh, to address the problem of flooding in the area, was initiated in November, 2000. About 1.8 Kms of this bund which is 2.2 meters in height has already been completed. The link bund has also provision for six regulators to ensure that no excess water accumulation takes place on the Nepalese side.

The Government of Nepal conveyed its concern regarding alleged inundation in bordering areas of Nepal as a result of the bund. Construction of the bund was suspended in July this year to enable officials of the two sides to discuss the issue. Technical experts of the two sides have since met and exchanged useful technical information and the discussions are continuing.

Steps to Boost Khadi Market

2610. SHRI K. MURALEEDHARAN: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the steps taken by the Government to boost the market of khadi and other rural products;

(b) whether the Government have signed any MoU for design support to khadi products; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI KARIYA MUNDA): (a) The Government of India has announced a package for the

promotion of Khadi and Village Industries Sector on 14th May, 2001, with the prime objective of creating more jobs in rural areas and empowering the women and backward classes. The main features of the package comprise of a rebate policy for five years, option of Rebate or Market Development Assistance (MDA), Insurance cover to Khadi artisans, emphasis on improvement of Khadi products, creation of packaging and design facilities, measures to promote marketing, brand building and cluster development.

(b) Yes, Sir. The Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with National Institute of Design, Ahmedabad.

(c) The KVIC has identified the National Institute of Design (NID) Ahmedabad, the premier institute for design, as its national consultant. NID will provide support to the KVIC in evolving systems, procedure and norms for design projects. A special cell has also been opened in this regard to exclusively address design problems and challenges of the KVI sector.

Utilisation of Network of Post Offices

2611. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to utilise vast network of post offices to retail financial services and products of different entities;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Department has reached any agreements with private parties in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the revenue to be generated from these agreements; and

(e) the areas where this additional revenue is to be utilised?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) (a) to (e) Yes, Sir. The Department of Posts has entered into agreements with private and public sector organisations for retailing their financial services like distribution of mutual funds and micro-credit, electronic fund transfer and international money transfer. These arrangements have been done recently and the revenue earned by the department can be gauged only after sometime. Revenue so earned is credited to government account.

*[Translation]***Amount Spent on SSI**

2612. SHRI BAHADUR SINGH: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the amount spent on Small Scale Industries Sector so far alongwith the percentage of sick industries out of total number of Small Scale Industries;

(b) whether the percentage of sick industries has increased during the year 2000-2001; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) As per the latest data compiled by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), the number of sick small scale industries as at the end of March, 2000 was 3,04,235 with outstanding bank loans of Rs. 4608.43 crores. The extent of sickness in terms of percentage to total SSI units as on 31-3-2000 works out to 9.5%.

(b) and (c) No, Sir. The percentage of sick small scale industries has decreased from 9.9% at the end of March, 1999 to 9.5% at the end of March, 2000.

*[English]***Infrastructural Development of Small Industries**

2613. SHRI BHIM DAHAL: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any proposal to set up Centres under the scheme of Infrastructural Development of Small Industries in the rural and backward areas in the North-Eastern States including Sikkim during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the total expenditure incurred on these Centres during the said period;

(d) whether there is any proposal to open more Centres in these States in the near future; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. During the last three years, three proposals for setting up Integrated Infrastructural Development (IID) Centres in North Eastern States were received. All the proposals were from Assam, viz., Bhomoraguri (District Nagaon), Dalgaon (District Darrang), and Malinibeel (District Cachar). While the projects at Bhomoraguri and Dalgaon have already been sanctioned, the State Government has been request for furnishing certain information/clarifications in respect of the Malinibeel project. Under the IID Scheme, the funding pattern as applicable in the North Eastern Region provides for Central grant and State contribution in the ratio of 4:1 subject to a maximum limit of Rs. 4.00 crores of Central grant for each project. The Assam Industrial Development Corporation (AIDC), which is the Implementing Agency in respect of the two sanctioned projects, has so far incurred an expenditure of Rs. 56.54 lacs and Rs. 45.42 lacs respectively, for Bhomoraguri and Dalgaon projects. The Central grant of Rs. 200.00 lacs and Rs. 40.00 lacs respectively, has been released to AIDC. A further central grant of Rs. 160.00 lacs for Dalgaon project has also been sanctioned.

(d) and (e) The government would consider favourably all new proposals from the North Eastern States within the parameters laid down for the IID Scheme.

*[Translation]***Agro and Rural Industries In Uttar Pradesh**

2614. DR. BALIRAM: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of schemes of the Government for the promotion of agro and rural industries in the country, especially in the States of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Maharashtra and Jharkhand;

(b) the details of assistance being given by the Government under different heads; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken in future for the promotion of rural industries in Uttar Pradesh and Jharkhand?

THE MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI KARIYA MUNDA): (a) The Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) promotes agro and rural industries in all the States of the country including Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Maharashtra and Jharkhand. The main programme for implementing such industries is the Rural employment Generation Programme (REGP). The

REGP scheme covers projects upto a size of Rs. 25 lakhs. 25% of the project cost upto Rs. 10 lakhs and additional 10% of the cost of the project above Rs. 10 lakhs but upto Rs. 25 lakhs is provided as margin money by the Government through KVIC. For the weaker sections the margin money is given at the rate of 30% of the project cost upto Rs. 10 lakhs and for the balance amount (upto Rs. 25 lakhs), it is 10%.

(b) The details of funds released by the Government to the KVIC under different heads are given in the statement attached.

(c) For the development and promotion of Khadi and Village Industries in the country including Uttar Pradesh and Jharkhand, the Government of India announced a package for the Khadi and Village Industries sector on 14.05.2001. The main features of this package consist of a Rebate Policy for five years, option of Rebate and market Development Assistance (MDA), Insurance cover to Khadi artisans, emphasis on improvement of Khadi products, creation of packaging and design facilities, measures to promote marketing, brand building, cluster development etc. The Government has also decided to continue with the REGP for the 10th Plan period.

Statement

Funds Released to KVIC During last three years

		(Rs. in lakhs)		
S. No.	Sub-Head	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-2001
Plan				
1.	Khadi Grant	15960	9470	10500
2.	Khadi Loan	2098	1500	675
3.	V.I. Grant	8400	5400	1350
4.	V.I. Loan	900	250	—
5.	S & T (Khadi)	30	—	28
6.	S & T (V.I.)	170	70	195
7.	Interest Subsidy (Khadi)*	1900	1900	1900
8.	Interest Subsidy (V.I.)*	500	500	500
9.	REGP	4665	1103	11000
Sub Total		34623	20193	28148
Non Plan				
10.	Khadi Grant	2400	2400	2400
11.	Admn. Expenditure	2560	2410	2410
12.	HBA Loan	30	30	150
13.	Interest Subsidy (Khadi)*	2300	2300	2300
14.	Interest Subsidy (V.I.)*	1100	730	536
15.	Renewal of past loans*	23616	—	—
Sub Total		32006	7870	7796
Grand Total		66629	28063	33944

* The amount has not been released but book adjustment has been made.

Funds for Maharashtra

2615. SHRI NAMDEO HARBAJI DIWATHE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 4499 on August 22, 2001 and state:

- (a) whether the information has since been collected;
 (b) if so, the details thereof;
 (c) if not, the reasons therefor; and
 (d) the time by which it is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Details given in the statement enclosed.

(c) and (d) Not applicable.

Statement to the reply to the part (b) of the Lok Sabha Question No. 2615 by Shri Namdeo Harbaji Diwathe: answered on 5.12.2001 on Funds for Maharashtra

The reply to Question No. 4499 is as under:

(a) The total amount allocated by the Union Government to Maharashtra is finalised at the time of discussion of Annual Plan of the State between Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission and Chief Minister, Maharashtra. This amount consists of States Own Resources and Central Assistance. The amount allocated during last three years is as under:

Year	Amount allocated (Rs. in crores)
1998-1999	11600.73
1999-2000	12162.00
2000-2001	11500.00

The official level discussions reviews the allocations schemewise/projectwise. The name of schemes are available in the Part II of the Annual Plan documents published by Planning Department, Government of Maharashtra.

(b) to (e) Central Assistance is released for the Centrally sponsored schemes by various Ministries in the form of central share. The amount released and actually utilized in respect of major schemes during last three years and the reasons for non-utilization as furnished by State Government and steps taken to utilize the amount is given in the statement attached.

Statement*Statement of utilisation of grants received from Central Govt. in the last Three years*

Department: Agriculture & Allied Services (Rs. in Lakhs)

Sr. No.	Centrally sponsored scheme Name	Cost sharing pattern	Grants received in the last three years		Grants Actually utilised		If the amount is not utilised, reasons thereof	Steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Govt.
			Year	Amount	Year	Amount		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Work Plan								
1.	Integrated Programme for Cereals Development	75:25	98-99	659.40	98-99	641.89	The Work Plan was newly started in the year 2000-2001 and 27 new schemes were implemented. New Major heads were to be opened for these schemes for which permission had to be obtained	After obtaining Centre's consent regarding the Work Plan schemes for the year 2001-2002, consequently consent was
			99-00	742.13	99-00	718.02		
			00-01	434.90	00-01	129.08		
	Total			1836.43		1488.99		
	Scheme on Sustainable Development of Sugarcane	75:25	98-99	580.24	98-99	417.09		
			99-00	447.00	99-00	423.56		

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
	Development based on Cropping		00-01	109.88	00-01	99.87		
	Total			1137.12		940.52		
2.	Special Programme for Sugarcane Development for Vidarbha	75:25	98-99	—	98-99	—		
			99-00	—	99-00	—		
			00-01	150.00	00-01	133.50		
	Total			150.00		133.50		
3.	Strengthening of Training Institute	100	98-99	—	98-99	—		
			99-00	—	99-00	—		
			00-01	49.00	00-01	33.90		
	Total			49.00		33.90		
4.	Multimedia Support for Agricultural extension	75:25	98-99	—	98-99	—		
			99-00	—	99-00	—		
			00-01	10.00	00-01	1.00		
	Total			10.00		1.00		
5.	Mobility of Extension Machinery	100	98-99	—	98-99	—		
			99-00	—	99-00	—		
			00-01	120.00	00-01	64.93		
	Total			120.00		64.93		
6.	Study Tours/Farmers exchange Programme	100	98-99	—	98-99	—		
			99-00	—	99-00	—		
			00-01	5.00	00-01	5.00		
	Total			5.00		5.00		
7.	Extension through Agri Exhibition	100	98-99	—	98-99	—		
			99-00	—	99-00	—		
			00-01	10.00	00-01	7.25		
	Total			10.00		7.25		
8.	Strengthening of Soil Testing Lab	100	98-99	—	98-99	—		
			99-00	—	99-00	—		
			00-01	110.05	00-01	109.75		
	Total			110.05		109.75		
9.	Strengthening of Agri polyclinics	100	98-99	—	98-99	—		

from Account General. All this procedure consumed lot of time because of which a part of the amount was disbursed in Feb 2001 and the rest was disbursed in which 2001. Hence the amount could not be utilised fully.

given by the State and the major amount of the funds were released.

The Work Plan was newly started in the year 2000-2001 and 27 new schemes were implemented. New Major heads were to be opened for these schemes for which permission had to be obtained from Account General. All this procedure consumed lot of time because of which a part of the amount was disbursed in Feb 2001 and the rest was disbursed in March 2001. Hence the amount could not be utilised fully.

After obtaining Centre's consent regarding the Work Plan schemes for the year 2001-2002, consequently consent was given by the State and the major amount of the funds were released.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
			99-00	—	99-00	—		
			00-01	23.00	00-01	21.48		
	Total			23.00		21.48		
10.	Strengthening of Taluka	100	98-99	—	98-99	—		
	Seed farm		99-00	—	99-00	—		
			00-01	49.99	00-01	36.46		
	Total			49.99		36.46		
11.	Preparation of Agricultural	100	98-99	—	98-99	—		
	prodn. with the use of IT in		99-00	—	99-00	—		
	Agro & extensive use of IT		00-01	45.00	00-01	45.00		
	Total			45.00		45.00		
12.	Subsidy on Seed production,	100	98-99	—	98-99	—		
	distribution & storage		99-00	—	99-00	—		
			00-01	580.00	00-01	580.00		
	Total			580.00		580.00		
13.	Seed Production Programme for	75:25	98-99	—	98-99	—		
	selected areas		99-00	—	99-00	—		
			00-01	10.00	00-01	10.00		
	Total			10.00		10.00		
14.	Hybrid & Basmati Rice	75:25	98-99	—	98-99	—		
	Development Programme		99-00	—	99-00	—		
			00-01	10.00	00-01	5.73		
	Total			10.00		5.73		
15.	Opening of Fertilizer centres in	100	98-99	—	98-99	—		
	remote & inaccessible areas		99-00	—	99-00	—		
			00-01	1.00	00-01	1.00		
	Total			1.00		1.00		
16.	Vermicomposting	—	98-99	—	98-99	—		
			99-00	—	99-00	—		
			00-01	1.00	00-01	1.00		
	Total			1.00		1.00		

The Work Plan was newly started in the year 2000-2001 and 27 new schemes were implemented. New Major heads were to be opened for these schemes for which permission had to be obtained from Account General. All this procedure consumed lot of time because of which a part of the amount was disbursed in Feb 2001 and the rest was disbursed in March 2001. Hence the amount could not be utilised fully.

After obtaining Centre's consent regarding the Work Plan schemes for the year 2001-2002, consequently consent was given by the state and the major amount of the funds were released.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
17. Integrated Programme for Fertilizers Development	100	98-99	98-99	17.50	98-99	17.50		
		99-00		17.50	99-00	17.23		
		00-01		—	00-01	—		
Total				35.00		34.73		
18. Strengthening of Insecticides Testing Laboratories	50:50	98-99	98-99	20.00	98-99	0.48		
		99-00		20.00	99-00	22.00		
		00-01		145.00	00-01	145.00		
Total				187.00		167.48		
Strengthening of Fertilizers Testing Laboratories	100	98-99	98-99	2.00	98-99	—		
		99-00		2.20	99-00	2.20		
		00-01		45.00	00-01	45.00		
Total				49.20		47.20		
19. Promotion of Agricultural Machanisation-Distribution of Small Tractors	100	98-99	98-99	265.00	98-99	298.00		
		99-00		291.50	99-00	291.50		
		00-01		300.00	00-01	—		
Total				856.50		589.50		
20. Participation of Private sector in Extension/Information Soil Testing/ Micronutrient testing	100	98-99	98-99	—	98-99	—		
		99-00		—	99-00	—		
		00-01		2.00	00-01	0.75		
Total				2.00		0.75		
21. Assistance for Drip Irrigation (Use of plastic in Agriculture)	75:25	98-99	98-99	3055.96	98-99	3055.96		
		99-00		3600.00	99-00	3600.00		
		00-01		1645.00	00-01	1645.00		
Total				8300.96		8300.96		
22. Cashew Development Programme	100	98-99	98-99	690.20	98-99	458.75		
		99-00		920.99	99-00	695.70		
		00-01		200.00	00-01	162.97		
Total				1811.19		1317.42		
23. Integrated Development of Tropical & Arid Zone of fruits	100	98-99	98-99	214.00	98-99	162.47		
		99-00		204.64	99-00	229.20		
		00-01		199.20	00-01	178.09		
Total				617.84		569.76		

The Work Plan was newly started in the year 2000-2001 and 27 new schemes were implemented. New Major heads were to be opened for these schemes for which permission had to be obtained from Account General. All this procedure consumed lot of time because of which a part of the amount was disbursed in Feb 2001 and the rest was disbursed in March 2001. Hence the amount could not be utilised fully.

After obtaining Centre's consent regarding the Work Plan schemes for the year 2001-2002, consequently consent was given by the State and the major amount of the funds were released.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
24.	The Scheme of Commercial Floriculture	100	98-99	96.00	98-99	50.13		
			99-00	110.00	99-00	110.00		
			00-01	106.50	00-01	44.41		
	Total			312.50		204.54		
25.	Mushroom Development Scheme	100	98-99	7.09	98-99	6.97		
			99-00	5.00	99-00	5.00		
			00-01	15.00	00-01	14.59		
	Total			27.09		26.56		
26.	Integrated Development of Spices	100	98-99	130.00	98-99	83.44		
			99-00	137.00	99-00	137.00		
			00-01	137.00	00-01	28.00		
	Total			404.00		248.44		
27.	Development of Medicinal & Aromatic Plants	100	98-99	6.50	98-99	6.46		
			99-00	8.00	99-00	7.13		
			00-01	37.00	00-01	26.08		
	Total			51.50		39.67		
28.	Development of Diversified horticulture crops (Tea & Coffee)	100	98-99	—	98-99	—		
			99-00	—	99-00	—		
			00-01	1.00	00-01	0.95		
	Total			1.00		0.95		
29.	Production of Vegetables minikits	100	98-99	24.00	98-99	9.50		
			99-00	24.00	99-00	24.00		
			00-01	87.50	00-01	84.85		
	Total			135.50		118.35		
	Development of Roof Tuber crops	100	98-99	3.00	98-99	2.49		
			99-00	4.50	99-00	4.50		
			00-01	—	00-01	—		
	Total			7.50		6.99		
	Scheme for Streaming Seeds Certification	100	98-99	25.00	98-99	—		
			99-00	6.00	99-00	6.00		
			00-01	—	00-01	—		
	Total			31.00		6.00		

The Work Plan was newly started in the year 2000-2001 and 27 new schemes were implemented. New Major heads for these schemes for which permission had to be obtained from Account General. All this procedure consumed lot of time because of which a part of the amount was disbursed in Feb 2001 and the rest was disbursed in March 2001. Hence the amount could not be utilised fully.

After obtaining Centre's consent regarding the Work Plan schemes for the year 2001-2002, consequently consent was given by the State and the major amount of the funds were released.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
30.	Prog. for strengthening of horticulture nurseries	75:25	98-99	—	98-99	—		
			99-00	—	99-00	—		
			00-01	300.00	00-01	231.77		
	Total			300.00		231.77		
31.	Assistance for preparation of feasibility report	100	98-99	—	98-99	—		
			99-00	—	99-00	—		
			00-01	49.00	00-01	49.00		
	Total			49.00		49.00		
32.	Establishment of market information centre	100	98-99	—	98-99	—		
			99-00	—	99-00	—		
			00-01	10.00	00-01	10.00		
	Total			10.00		10.00		
33.	Incentive on experimental consignment for export	100	98-99	—	98-99	—		
			99-00	—	99-00	—		
			00-01	0.25	00-01	0.25		
	Total			0.25		0.25		
34.	Establishment of residue testing Laboratory	100	98-99	—	98-99	—		
			99-00	—	99-00	—		
			00-01	100.00	00-01	100.00		
	Total			100.00		100.00		
35.	Participant in international exhibition by entrepreneurs	100	98-99	—	98-99	—		
			99-00	—	99-00	—		
			00-01	25.00	00-01	25.00		
	Total			25.00		25.00		
36.	Establishment of common facilities for value addition to Agriculture & horticulture crops	100	98-99	—	98-99	—		
			99-00	—	99-00	—		
			00-01	100.00	00-01	100.00		
	Total			100.00		100.00		
37.	Establishment of Food-park/Park house	100	98-99	—	98-99	—		
			99-00	—	99-00	—		
			00-01	50.00	00-01	50.00		
	Total			50.00		50.00		

The Work Plan was newly started in the year 2000-2001 and 27 new schemes were implemented. New Major heads were to be opened for these schemes for which permission had to be obtained from Account General. All this procedure consumed lot of time because of which a part of the amount was disbursed in Feb 2001 and the rest was disbursed in March 2001. Hence the amount could not be utilised fully.

After obtaining Centre's consent regarding the Work Plan schemes for the year 2001-2002, consequently consent was given by the State and the major amount of the funds were released.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
38.	Value addition to Basmati Rice	100	98-99	—	98-99	—	The Work Plan was newly started in the year 2000-2001 and 27 new schemes were implemented. New Major heads were to be opened for these schemes for which permission had to be obtained from Account General. All this procedure consumed lot of time because of which a part of the amount was disbursed in Feb. 2001 and the rest was disbursed in March 2001. Hence the amount could not be utilised fully.	After obtaining Centre's consent regarding the Work Plan schemes for the year 2001-2002, consequently consent was given by the State and the major amount of the funds were released.
			99-00	—	99-00	—		
			00-01	20.00	00-01	20.00		
	Total			20.00		20.00		
39.	Market support for fruits & vegetables	100	98-99	—	98-99	—		
			99-00	—	99-00	—		
			00-01	25.00	00-01	25.00		
	Total			25.00		25.00		

Technology Mission:-

40.	Integrated Cotton Development Project	75:25	98-99	321.62	98-99	317.98	Due to unutilised amount of year 1999-2000, last instalment could not be sanctioned from the Centre. Also, the State had not approved of the schemes until March 2000-2001.	After obtaining Centre's consent regarding the Work Plan schemes for the year 2001-2002, consequently consent was given by the State and the major amount of the funds were released.
			99-00	361.53	99-00	332.40		
			00-01	814.24	00-01	536.53		
	Total			1497.39		1186.91		
41.	National Oilseed Development Programme	75:25	98-99	1237.47	98-99	1508.60		
			99-00	1142.14	99-00	1114.13		
			00-01	825.61	00-01	518.42		
	Total			3205.22		3141.15		
42.	National Pulses Production Programme	75:25	98-99	450.24	98-99	450.00		
			99-00	430.00	99-00	424.10		
			00-01	276.90	00-01	236.43		
	Total			1157.14		1110.53		
43.	Accelerated Development programme for Maize	75:25	98-99	56.60	98-99	63.15		
			99-00	87.29	99-00	86.21		
			00-01	42.24	00-01	40.30		
	Total			186.13		189.66		

Other Schemes:—

44.	World Agricultural Census	100	98-99	17.00	98-99	9.56	After obtaining Centre's consent regarding the Work Plan schemes for the year 2001-2002,
			99-00	16.90	99-00	8.77	
			00-01	28.00	00-01	15.69	
	Total			61.90		34.02	

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
45.	Timely reporting of agricultural intelligence statistics	50:50	98-99	26.00	98-99	25.32		
			99-00	18.00	99-00	16.58		
			00-01	24.00	00-01	23.88		
	Total			68.00		65.78		
46.	Improvement of Crop Statistics	50:50	98-99	10.00	98-99	9.90		
			99-00	9.00	99-00	7.25		
			00-01	10.00	00-01	6.34		
	Total			29.00		23.49		
47.	Crop estimation surveys on fruits, vegetables & minor commercial crops	100	98-99	30.00	98-99	28.80		
			99-00	31.00	99-00	31.00		
			00-01	34.00	00-01	25.00		
	Total			95.00		84.80		
48.	Women in Agriculture	100	98-99	6.95	98-99	5.96		
			99-00	6.95	99-00	6.55		
			00-01	8.18	00-01	8.17		
	Total			22.08		20.68		
49.	Setting up of Compost unit by local bodies	100	98-99	—	98-99	—		
			99-00	—	99-00	—		
			00-01	125.00	00-01	0.00		
	Total			125.00		30.00		
50.	Production of Marketing of Bio-pesticides	100	98-99	17.00	98-99	30.00		
			99-00	—	99-00	—		
			00-01	200.00	00-01	130.00		
	Total			217.00		160.00		
51.	Distribution of minikits	100	98-99	14.00	98-99	14.00		
			99-00	15.40	99-00	15.40		
			00-01	16.94	00-01	16.94		
	Total			46.34		46.34		
52.	National Oilseed & Vegetables Oil Development Board—Promotion of production of groundnut safflower, sunflower seasam etc.	100	98-99	15.50	98-99	10.60		
			99-00	15.40	99-00	15.40		
			00-01	16.00	00-01	16.00		
	Total			46.90		42.00		

consequently consent was given by the State and the major amount of the funds were released.

After obtaining Centre's consent regarding the Work Plan schemes for the year 2001-2002, consequently consent was given by the State and the major amount of the funds were released.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
53.	Coconut Area Expansion Project	100	98-99	3.58	98-99	2.25		
			99-00	3.37	99-00	3.30		
			00-01	2.59	00-01	2.49		
	Total			9.54		8.04		
	T x D seeding	100	98-99	3.00	98-99	3.20		
			99-00	3.00	99-00	3.00		
			00-01	—	00-01	—		
	Total			6.00		620.00		
54.	Establishment of Nutritional Garden in Rural Area	100	98-99	20.00	98-99	—		
			99-00	20.00	99-00	20.00		
			00-01	10.00	00-01	9.49		
	Total			50.00		29.49		
55.	Transfer of Technology through Training Fruits & Vegetable growers	100	98-99	5.00	98-99	—		
			99-00	5.00	99-00	5.00		
			00-01	4.00	00-01	—		
	Total			14.00		5.00		
	All Total		98-99	8029.85	98-99	7690.45		
			99-00	8707.44	99-00	8382.13		
			00-01	7755.97	00-01	5857.34		
	Total			24493.26		21929.92		

[English]

Beheading of Indians

2616. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE:
SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the beheading of 34 Indians in Saudi Arabia over the last three years on charges of drug-trafficking as reported in the Indian Express dated September 9, 2001;

(b) if so, whether the issue figured during his visit to Saudi Arabia in January this year, or otherwise at bilateral or multilateral level;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. The matter regarding execution of Indian nationals on charges of drug trafficking was discussed in general terms during the External Affairs Minister's visit. Later, it has been pursued vigorously through diplomatic channels. In all such cases our Embassy seeks Consular access and also transmits mercy petitions of individuals concerned to the Saudi Government authorities at the highest level.

(d) India and Saudi Arabia are finalizing in MOU for cooperation on combating drug trafficking which is likely to be signed in the near future.

Number of Post Offices

2617. SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of post offices in the country, State-wise;

(b) the number of post offices and telegraph offices running in their own buildings and in the rented buildings;

(c) the number of the post offices, sub-post office and telegraph offices likely to be opened during 2001-2002;

(d) the details of the amount sanctioned and utilised during the last 2 years for maintenance of postal buildings;

(e) the number of postal buildings likely to be built during the 9th Plan;

(f) the steps taken to maintain and upkeep of rented postal buildings;

(g) whether the Government propose to set up post office in each and every village of the country;

(h) if so, the details thereof; and

(i) the number of the residential colonies for the postal and telegraph employees?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) to (i) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Financial Assistance for BSNL

2618. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the BSNL has demanded Rs. 3,000 crore for rural telephone expansion plans;

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

(c) the steps taken by the Government to expand telephony network in rural area; and

(d) the time by which all villages are likely to be provided telephone link?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) No, Sir. Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) has demanded Rs. 2526 crore for the year 2001-2002.

(b) Government has allotted Rs. 1500 crore for the year 2001-2002 subject to actual expenditure incurred by BSNL.

(c) To expand telephone network in rural areas, Government has entrusted Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) to introduce new technologies like C DOT Wireless Multiple Access Systems and Wireless in Local Loop (WLL) systems.

(d) All villages are likely to be provided telephone link by the year 2002.

[Translation]

Corruption in MTNL

2619. KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 3205 dated August 13, 2001 and state:

(a) the points which were investigated by the Chief Vigilance Officer in relation to the items against serial numbers 5, 9, 12 and if the investigation is over then the reasons for as to why the competent authority is withholding the decision in this regard;

(b) the reasons for not taking any action so far after completing the investigation regarding the cases listed against serial numbers 8, 13, 14, 15 and 16; and

(c) the time by which the guilty leaders, officers are likely to be punished after taking action in all the cases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR). (a) The points investigated by Chief Vigilance Officer (CVO) in respect of items against Sl. No. 5, 9, 12 and the reasons as to why the competent authority is withholding the decision in this regard is as given in the statement-I attached.

(b) The reasons so as to why the competent authority is withholding the decision in respect of cases listed against serial numbers 8, 13, 14, 15 and 16 are given in the statement-II attached.

(c) On completion of the investigations as indicated against statement (I and II) appropriate action will be taken against guilty officials.

Statement-I

S. N.	Details of the Complaint	Points of Investigation by the CVO	Decision of Competent Authority
1	2	3	
5.	Complaint dated Nil from Bharatiya Mahanagar Telephone Karamchari Sangh regarding accident of General Secretary, MTNL Staff Union while using official vehicle etc.	<p>(i) Whether Shri Sarup Singh had taken the official vehicle outside Delhi in violation of the guidelines?</p> <p>(ii) Justification for the expenditure incurred in the repair of the vehicle which met accident.</p> <p>(iii) Justification of sanction of medical expenses to Sh. Sarup Singh after the accident.</p>	<p>The General Secretary of the recognized Union had been given official vehicle for the welfare of the staff with the stipulation that the usage of the vehicle would be restricted to 3,000 Kms. and the usage would be restricted to Delhi only. The Competent Authority has observed that the taking of the vehicle by Sh. Sarup Singh outside the Delhi was in violation of the guidelines. However, in order to maintain the harmonious relationship between the management and the staff union it was considered appropriate by the competent authority to warn Sh. Sarup Singh to be careful in future. Regarding expenditure incurred on repair of the vehicle, MTNL Delhi is pursuing with the insurance company. Regarding meeting of medical expenses the competent authority has decided that such expenses can be sanctioned for any staff in the event of medical emergencies.</p>
9.	Complaint dated 5.12.2000 from Dr. Bali Ram, MP (L.S.) regarding alleged irregularities in digging of trenches for laying cables and in distribution of telephone directories in MTNL, Mumbai.	<p>Irregularities in reinstatement works in MTNL, Mumbai has been examined by CBI. CBI in June/July, 2000 had registered six cases against 11 officers for alleged irregularities in reinstatement work. Again on 07.11.2000 CBI has registered 10 cases against 50 officers and 10 contractors for alleged irregularities in the reinstatement work. The matter is under further investigation. of CBI.</p> <p>Regarding irregularities in the distribution of directories, disciplinary proceedings have been initiated against the 3 officials involved.</p>	
12.	Complaint dated nil from Bharatiya Mahanagar Telephone Karamchari Sangh regarding alleged irregularities in the purchase of diary by MTNL Delhi from MTNL Staff Union.	<p>(i) Whether there had been irregularities in purchase of table diaries for Group C & D staff from MTNL Staff Union at the rate of Rs. 50/- per diary?</p>	<p>In MTNL Group A & B officers are provided with diaries every and these diaries are purchased from Jr. Engineer Telecom Association (JETA) and Telecom Engineering Services</p>

1	2	3
---	---	---

Association (TESA). General Secretary of the MTNL Staff Union (the recognized staff union of MTNL, Delhi) demanded that the diaries for Group C & D staff should be purchased from the said Union. A policy decision was taken in MTNL, Delhi to procure the diaries for C & D employees from the MTNL Staff Union. The Material Management Branch after doing Market survey approved the rate of Rs. 50/- per diary. The rate approved for the purchase of Diary from the Officers Association was Rs. 100/- per Diary for 2000-2001. There was no irregularity in the purchase of Diaries. The matter is being further examined in the DOT Vigilance.

Statement-II

S. No.	Details of the Complaint	Action Taken
8.	Complaint dated nil from Bhartiya Telephone Employees Union Class.III regarding corruption nepotism, arbitrariness and insubordination prevailing in Legal Cell, MTNL, Delhi Unit	The matter is being examined by the Vigilance Wing, MTNL, Delhi.
13.	Complaint dated 29.6.2001 from Dr. Bali Ram, MP (LS) regarding foreign travel of Smt. Rashmi Kakkar, Sr. Telephone Operator posted as APS to CMD.	Matter is being examined by Vigilance Wing of Department of Telecom.
14.	Complaint dated 29.6.2001 from Dr. Bali Ram, MP (LS) regarding alleged irregularities in the purchase of 30 Maruti 800 Cars in MTNL under self driving scheme.	As per annexure-I.
15.	Complaint dated 29.6.2001 from Dr. Bali Ram, MP (LS) regarding misuse of MTNL funds by Management on unproductive and wasteful expenditures.	As per annexure-II.
16.	Complaint dated 03.7.2001 from Dr. Bali Ram, MP (LS) regarding misuse of financial powers by DGM (Fin.), GM (Fin.) and Director (Fin.) of the Corporate Office of the MTNL.	As per annexure-III.

Annexure-I

Sub: Allegations of unnecessary wastage of money amounting to several lakhs in the purchase of 30 Maruti 800 cars under the self-driving scheme.

S.N.	Allegations leveled	Response of MTNL												
1	2	3												
1.	Expenditure of Rs. 75 lakhs for the purchase of 30 cars is a total wastage and unfruitful expenditure to MTNL. In addition MTNL will have to bear the insurance and registration charges amounting to about Rs. One lakh resulting in extra financial burden on MTNL.	<p>This is not wastage and unfruitful expenditure. The approx. average cost of hired vehicle is Rs. 24-25 thousand pm. The corresponding details for self-driving scheme are as follows:</p> <table> <tr> <td>a) Petrol charges (100 ltrs@Rs. 30) pm</td> <td>Rs. 3000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>b) Insurance charges p.m.</td> <td>Rs. 1000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>c) Maintenance charges p.m.</td> <td>Rs. 3000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>d) Depreciation charges p.m.</td> <td>Rs. 2000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>e) Driver's salary reimbursement p.m.</td> <td>Rs. 4000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total cost p.m.</td> <td>Rs. 13000</td> </tr> </table> <p>Thus, the expected savings on account of this measure is around Rs. 10,000/- per vehicle per month. For 30 cars, it comes to Rs. 3 Lakhs per month.</p>	a) Petrol charges (100 ltrs@Rs. 30) pm	Rs. 3000	b) Insurance charges p.m.	Rs. 1000	c) Maintenance charges p.m.	Rs. 3000	d) Depreciation charges p.m.	Rs. 2000	e) Driver's salary reimbursement p.m.	Rs. 4000	Total cost p.m.	Rs. 13000
a) Petrol charges (100 ltrs@Rs. 30) pm	Rs. 3000													
b) Insurance charges p.m.	Rs. 1000													
c) Maintenance charges p.m.	Rs. 3000													
d) Depreciation charges p.m.	Rs. 2000													
e) Driver's salary reimbursement p.m.	Rs. 4000													
Total cost p.m.	Rs. 13000													
a.	Sum of Rs. 4000/- per month will be given to each officer for keeping drivers.	MTNL will also reimburse to the officer the salary of a driver at the rate of Rs. 4000/- p.m. with no liability to MTNL. This dispersion is now being withdrawn in view of complaints.												
b.	Resulting in extra financial burden of about Rs. 1,20,000 per month and Rs. 14,40,000 per annum on MTNL.	This is not an extra financial burden. Reply in (a) above is given taking into account this expenditure.												
c.	The maintenance of these cars will be borne by MTNL. In addition, a sum of Rs. 2,500 will be given to each officer resulting in extra expenditure of Rs. one lakh per month and Rs. 12 lakhs per annum to MTNL.	These cars are property of MTNL and thus the maintenance of these cars will be borne by MTNL. Regarding expenses, there is no such proposal.												
d.	Sum of Rs. 4500 pm will be given to each officer for purchase of petrol resulting in extra expenditure of Rs. 1,35,000 p.m. and about Rs. 16,20,000 per annum to MTNL.	<p>This is incorrect. Monthly quota of fuel given to the officer driving the vehicle is as follows:</p> <table> <tr> <td>Dist. from office to Res.</td> <td>Monthly quota of fuel</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Up to 5 Kms</td> <td>75 litres</td> </tr> <tr> <td>6-10 Kms.</td> <td>100 litres</td> </tr> <tr> <td>11-15 Kms.</td> <td>125 litres</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Beyond 15 Kms.</td> <td>150 litres</td> </tr> </table>	Dist. from office to Res.	Monthly quota of fuel	Up to 5 Kms	75 litres	6-10 Kms.	100 litres	11-15 Kms.	125 litres	Beyond 15 Kms.	150 litres		
Dist. from office to Res.	Monthly quota of fuel													
Up to 5 Kms	75 litres													
6-10 Kms.	100 litres													
11-15 Kms.	125 litres													
Beyond 15 Kms.	150 litres													

1	2	3
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Expenditure on this account is also included while working out the cost-efficiency of the proposal as per reply in (a) above.

The officer to whom the Car is allotted, will be given an option for purchase of the car after four years book value as on the date of sale or the prevailing market price for a similar second hand vehicle whichever is less. This is an incentive for the officer to maintain the car properly

Instead of any loss, there is saving to MTNL as replied in (a) above to the tune of Rs. 3 lakhs per month (more than the cost of a car).

Replied in (f) above.

The expenditure is already being incurred on hired vehicles. The decision of purchasing vehicles has been taken to economise on this expenditure as per details given in (a) above.

The expected savings on account of this measure is around Rs. 10,000/- per vehicle per month. Thus, for 30 vehicles the saving will be Rs. 3 lakhs per month.

It is proposed to reduce the number of hired cars. Therefore, it has no impact on the existing cars and the drivers.

- e. After 4 years of purchase of car, options to be given to each officer for purchase of these cars at a nominal price equal to 1/5th of purchase price resulting in exorbitant loss of Rs. 60 lakhs in the near future.
- f. Thus, total expenditure is equal to
Rs. 1,18,60,000
Interest thereon 16,60,400
- g. Total estimated loss in four years=60 lakhs
- h. The above actions contrary to the instructions of the Govt. of India to ensure economy curtail unnecessary expenditure by taking several steps including ban for a period of one imposed on the purchase of new vehicles vide order dated 24.9.2000
- i. How much will be saved as a result of the above measures.
- j. What would happen to the drivers and the existing cars.

Annexure-II

Expenses of more than Rs. 50 lakh for renovation and expenses on renovation of official residence of CMD, Director (F) and CGM Delhi

The expenses of more than Rs. 50/- lakh for renovation given in the complaint of Bhartiya MTNL Karamchhari Sangh is not correct. In fact only one estimate amounting to Rs. 49,500/- was sanctioned for replacement of bamboo fencing and for providing Jali shutters on windows and ventilators in 8 Raisina Road, New Delhi, the residence of CMD in the late two years.

The Chief General Manager is allotted C-II/65, Bapa Nagar, New Delhi and no expenditure is incurred in the last two years. Being an estimate pool quarter, CPWD upgraded C-II quarter at Bapanagar to C-1 and

accordingly this quarter of CGM was also to be upgraded. The work of upgradation by CPWD is in progress and is being carried out by CPWD as 'Deposit Work' at estimated expenditure of Rs. 8,09,300/-, CGM is entitled for C-1 accommodation.

The House No. T-41, Atul Grove Road, New Delhi, the residence of Director (F) was declared unsafe by Directorate vide letter No. 13-3/96-W(T) dated 30.12.96. Since the house was under occupation and later it remained vacant, the roof to the quarter has now been replaced with RCC roof at a cost of Rs. 1,90,300/-. There was no boundary wall and the condition of kitchen, bath room and compound road was very bad. In addition some doors/windows/cup boards were also eaten by white ants etc. and therefore, an estimate amounting to Rs. 6,10,500/- was sanctioned and work was executed within this amount.

Expenditure in the Corporate Office

The Corporate Office presently has two floors in Tower I and one floor in Tower II. The accommodation in Tower II was taken on hire almost a year ago. The accommodation in Tower II consisted of a Hall and it could be utilized properly only after construction of cabins and sitting accommodation. An estimate was, therefore got sanctioned and necessary cabins got constructed to accommodate senior officers including GMs and DGMs.

On the 12th floor in Tower I, the office of CMD and Director (F) existed with a few other GMs. The Company has sanctioned the posts of Director (Personnel) and a post for Director (Development) is being created. This necessitated creation of extra cabins for two Board Directors. In the process certain other adjustments are inevitable.

On the 12th floor also, there is a Conference Room. This Conference Room apart from being used as a Coffee Room, a Photocopier Room and room for general storage. On a number of occasions during Board Meetings, anguish was expressed at lack of privacy as the Board Meetings were in progress, people were going in and out to attend to other jobs. To meet the confidentiality requirement of Board Meetings, it had become necessary to provide a specific Board Room and separate Pantry and Discussion Room.

It was essential that the Corporate Office of a Company of MTNL Status had a Board Room which would provide adequate environment for the decisions in the Board Meetings to be taken. The total expenditure on renovation and re configuring the Board Room is likely to be Rs. 7,35,000/- which is absolutely essential.

Annexure-III**REPORT**

Following is the report on the allegation made in the letter dated 03.07.2001 of Dr. Bali Ram, Hon'ble MP (Lok Sabha).

Allegation No. 1:

"That during the year 1997, Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) has launched GDR issue twice vide cheques amounting to Rs. 4,72,458/- dated 04.11.97 and Rs. 330,95,578/-, Rs. 25,50,550/- dated 17.11.97 from the above amounts of Rs. 61,18,586/-, MTNL has to get 20% discounted amount which is amounting to Rs. 12,23,717/- to be credited to the account of MTNL. But till date the said amount has not been credited so far, causing huge financial loss including interest thereon".

Comments:

In the year 1997, MTNL had only one GDR issue. Cheques mentioned in the letter of Shri Giri Raj Sharma, General Secretary of the Bhartiya Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Karamchari Sangh which has been enclosed by Dr. Bali Ram pertain to payments made to the travel agent engaged for booking. Air tickets for an inter-ministerial team of officers which participated in a 'Road Show' organized in several countries abroad for disinvestment of Government shares in MTNL and raising fresh MTNL shares. There is no basis for MTNL to get 20% discount amounting to Rs. 12,23,717/-. The allegation of financial loss, therefore, is not correct.

Allegation No. 2:

"Corporate Office has made the expenditure of Rs. 17 lakhs on the entertainment Head. Some of the details are given below for your kind consideration:

1. Mrs. Uditia C. Kumar, DGM (Finance)	Rs. 1.31 lacs
2. GM (Finance)	Rs. 1.77 lacs
3. Director (Finance)	Rs. 1.30 lacs
4. PS to Director (Finance)	Rs. 0.45 lacs

Comments:

The Finance Wing of the Corporate Office handled the major public related issues, statutory auditors and Government auditors. During 1999-2000, GDR-II issue was also going on. All expenditures have been incurred for food and light refreshment for late sitting, holidays and meetings for officers, staff and members of audit team. During the closing of accounts and the audit, the officers of the Finance Wing were frequently called for meetings. All expenses have been duly verified and passed by the concerned officers. In the Corporate Office, GMs/DGMs were exercising full powers as far as expenditure on courtesy was concerned. In order to restrict the expenditure to certain levels, a revised order No. MTNL/CO/Vig/61/2000-2001 dated 21.07.2001 was issued recently. There is no irregularity in the courtesy expenditure incurred in 1999-2000.

Allegation No. 3

"Heavy expenditure made by the Corporate Office on purchase of 30 Maruti Cars as well as expenditures made on the renovation of the office and residential premises etc."

Comments:

A proposal for purchase of 30 Maruti 800 cars on self driving basis for SAG/JAG level officers was approved in the 14th Meeting of the Board of Directors of Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL). Regarding expenditure incurred on renovation of office etc., it has been done keeping in view the requirements. Thus, there is no irregularity. This allegation is, therefore, not true.

[English]

STD Facility in Uttar Pradesh

2620. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of demands for STD facility in rural areas of Uttar Pradesh, particularly in Kheri Lakhimpur district are pending with the Government;

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

(c) the corrective steps being taken by the Union Government to provide STD facility in above mentioned State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) There are 2084 exchanges in rural areas of Uttar Pradesh, out of which 152 exchanges are yet to be provided with STD facility.

There are 82 exchanges in rural areas of Kheri Lakhimpur district, out of these 20 exchanges are yet to be provided with STD facility on reliable media, the details of which are given in the statement attached.

(c) All the exchanges in rural areas of Uttar Pradesh are planned to be provided with STD facility on reliable media by 31st March 2002 subject to the availability of resources.

Statement

List of exchanges in Kheri Lakhimpur district yet to be provided with STD facility on reliable media:

Sr. No.	Name of exchange
1	2
1.	Ajwapur
2.	Jhandirau

1	2
3.	Salimabad
4.	Shabankarpur Roza
5.	Sindhauna
6.	Andes Nagar
7.	Badargaon
8.	Daudpur
9.	Jahankhera
10.	Kalaam
11.	Padariyatula
12.	Sansarpur
13.	Saraibika
14.	Bela Parswa
15.	Bhanpur
16.	Gaziapur
17.	Lagucha
18.	Madanpur
19.	Mamari
20.	Rakaitpur

[Translation]

Release of Crew Members

2621. SHRI MAHESHWAR SINGH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian cargo vessel "MSV" Raj Laxmi with 15 crew on board and sailing from Dubai to Mundra (Gujarat) sank in sea and its crew members were arrested by the Pakistani authorities and lodged in Paani jail;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government for their release?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir. One of the crew members reportedly died and 14 managed to swim to Pakistani coast where they were arrested by Pakistani authorities.

(b) and (c) On receiving the news, Government immediately took up the matter of release and repatriation of the 14 crew members with the Government of Pakistan through diplomatic channels. On persistent efforts undertaken by the Government, the Government of Pakistan on 21.11.2001 acknowledge the detention of 14 crew members of MSV Raj-Laxmi and has agreed to provide consular access to them. In accordance with normal practice, their repatriation will be arranged after the consular access is over and other procedures are completed.

[English]

Tata Cellular Limited

2622. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Tata Cellular Limited has launched its third corridor in Andhra Pradesh the Krishna corridor connecting Vijayawada and Tirupati;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that the 384-kilometers long Krishna corridor will also connect TCI's other two corridors, Costa and Deccan corridors;

(c) if so, the total investment to be made on this;

(d) whether the cellular telephones are likely to be made available in Andhra Pradesh during the current year; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) to (c) As per the information provided by M/s. Tata Cellular Limited, the Krishna Corridor connecting Vijayawada and Tirupati is operational and it also connects Costa and Deccan Corridors; the investment made on these corridors is approx. Rs. 20 crores.

(d) and (e) Cellular Mobile Telephone Service (CMTS) in Andhra Pradesh is already operational by two private companies viz., M/s. Tata Cellular Limited and M/s. Bharati Mobile Limited (earlier name M/s. JT Mobile Limited) since 11.12.1996 and 20.12.1996 and as per the information provided by Cellular Operators Association of India the number of subscribers is 2,00,624 and 1,85,756 respectively as on 31.10.2001. Licences have also been given to M/s. Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited and recently to M/s. Barakhamba Sales and Services Limited for providing CMTS in Andhra Pradesh; these two companies are expected to start their services in the next financial year.

Amendment in Food Adulteration and Drug and Cosmetic Rule

2623. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK:
SHRI BHADUR SINGH:

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

(a) whether the Government are considering to amend the Prevention of Food Adulteration Rules, 1955 and Rule 51 and 52 of the Drugs and Cosmetic Rule 1945; and

(b) if so, the details of the amended rules?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C.P. THAKUR): (a) and (b) The amendment in Prevention of Food Adulteration rules 1955 is ongoing process to meet the requirements of administration of Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954 in the country. Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, have published Gazette Notification, Vide GSR No. 700(E) dated 28.9.2001 wherein Rules 51 & 52, under Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940 and Rules there under, in respect of duties of the Drug Inspectors have been amended. Through this amendment, a Drug Inspector is required to inspect premises licensed for sale/manufacture of drugs or cosmetics not less than once a year instead of minimum twice a year.

[Translation]

Overseas Tours

2624. DR. BALIRAM: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the countries visited by him as well as other Ministers of his Ministry during the last three months and the details of the delegates who accompanied them;

(b) the details of the agreements signed; and

(c) the details of the expenditure incurred on each visit?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) and (b) Sir, the information is given in the statement-I and II.

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

Statement-IName of the Minister: **Shri Jaswant Singh, Minister of External Affairs**

Sl. No.	Name of the Country visited	Dates of visits	Details of the accompanying delegates	Agreement (s) signed	Details of the expenditure incurred on each visit
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	France	28th September, 2001	1. Ms. Bhaswati Mukherjee, Joint Secretary (EW), MEA 2. Ms. Nirupama Rao, Joint Secretary (XP), MEA 3. Shri RP Bagai, Joint Secretary, MOD 4. Shri Raman Puri, Vice Admiral, MOD 5. Shri S. Ashok, Add. PS to RM, MOD	Nil	Details of expenditure being obtained.
2.	USA	30th Sept. -3rd Oct., 2001	1. Ms. Nirupama Rao, JS (XP), MEA 2. Shri Jayant Pasad, JS (AMS), MEA 3. Shri S. Ashok, Add. PS to RM, MOD 4. Shri RP Bagai, Joint Secretary, MOD 5. Vice Admiral Raman Puri, Dy. Chief of Naval Staff, MOD	Nil	Details of expenditure being obtained.
3.	UK	3-4 October, 2001	1. Ms. Bhaswati Mukherjee, JS (EW), MEA 2. Shri RP Bagai, Joint Secretary, MOD 3. Vice Admiral Raman Puri, Dy. Chief of Naval Staff, MOD 4. Shri S. Ashok, Add. PS to RM, MOD	Nil	Details of expenditure being obtained.
4.	Germany	4-5 October, 2001	1. Ms. Bhaswati Mukherjee, JS (EW), MEA	Nil	Details of expenditure being obtained.

1	2	3	4	5	6
			2. Ms. Nirupama Rao, JS (XP), MEA		
			3. Shri RP Bagai, Joint Secretary, MOD		
			4. Vice Admiral Raman Puri, Dy. Chief of Naval Staff, MOD		
			5. Shri S. Ashok, Add. PS to RM, MOD		

Note: Minister of External Affairs accompanied Prime Minister during latter's visit to Russian Federation (Nov. 4-7, 2001), and USA (Nov. 7-11, 2001).

Statement-II

Name of the Minister: Shri Omar Abdullah, Minister of State for External Affairs

Sl. No.	Name of the Country visited	Dates of visits	Details of the accompanying delegates	Agreement (s) signed	Details of the expenditure incurred on each visit
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	South Africa	31 August - 8 Sept., 2001	1. Shri Sushil Kumar Shinde, MP	Nil	Expenditure details being obtained.
			2. Shri Denzil Atkinson, MP	(The Indian delegation to the Third World Conference against Racism Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and related Intolerance participated actively in the negotiations and discussions which led to the adoption of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action.)	
			3. Shri Ashok Pradhan, MP		
			4. Shri Sangh Priya Gautam, MP		
			5. Shri Bangaru Laxman, MP		
			6. Shri Anil Kumar, MP		
			7. Smt. Chokila Iyer, Foreign Secy.		
			8. Ms. Savitri Kunadi, Permanent Representative of India to UN, Geneva		
			9. Shri T.C.A. Rangachari, Additional Secretary (UN), MEA		
			10. Shri Sherat Sabharawal, Dy. Permanent Representative of India, PMI Geneva		
			11. Shri A. Gopinathan, Joint Secretary (UNE), MEA		
			12. Shri R.N. Prasad, Counsellor, PMI Geneva		

1	2	3	4	5	6
			13. Shri Sudhanshu Pandey, PS to MOS (EA)		
2.	Tajikistan	12-14 Sept., 2001	1. Shri Rajiv Dogra, JS (CA)	Nil	Expenditure details being obtained.
			2. Shri A.G. Sarma, Director (CA)		
			3. Shri S. Pandey, PS to MOS (EA)		
3.	Uzbekistan	14-18 Sept., 2001	1. Shri Rajiv Dogra, JS (CA)	Nil	Expenditure details being obtained.
			2. Shri A.G. Sarma, Director (CA)		
			3. Shri S. Pandey, PS to MOS (EA)		
4.	Maldives	3-6 October, 2001	1. Smt. Banashri B. Harison, Director (BSM)	Nil	Expenditure details being obtained.
			2. Shri Sudhanshu Pandey, PS to MOS (EA)		
5.	Brussels	15-16 Sept., 2001	1. Shri Sudhanshu Pandey, PS to MOS (EA)	Nil	Expenditure details being obtained.
6.	Zambia	22-24 Oct., 2001	1. Shri Gurjeet Singh, JS (Afr)	Agreed minutes of the Indo-Zambian Joint Commission	Expenditure details being obtained.
			2. Shri Shankar Agarwal, JS. M/o Small Scale Industries		
			3. Shri Sudhanshu Pandey, PS to MOS (EA)		
			4. A Representative of TCIL		
			5. A Representative of BHEL		
7.	Kenya	25-26 Oct, 2001	1. Shri Gurjeet Singh, JS (Afr)	Nil	Expenditure details being obtained.
			2. Shri Sudhanshu Pandey, PS to MOS (EA)		
8.	Republic of Belarus	15-17 Nov., 2001	1. Shri Anil Wadhwa, JS (EE)	Cultural Exchange Programme	Expenditure details being obtained.
			2. Shri Sudhanshu Pandey, PS to MOS (EA)	between India and Belarus for the period 2001-04.	
9.	South Africa	27-28 Nov., 2001	1. Shri R.S. Kalha, Secretary (West)	Nil	Expenditure details being obtained.
			2. Shri Gurjeet Singh, Joint Secretary (Afr)		
			3. Shri S.N. Ray, Deputy Secretary (Afr)		

1	2	3	4	5	6
			4. Shri Sudhanshu Pandey, PS to MOS (EA)		
10. Ukraine	30 Nov.-3 Dec., 2001	1. Shri Anil Wadhwa, JS (EE) 2. Shri Sudhanshu Pandey, PS to MOS (EA)		Indo-Ukrainian Bilateral Investment Promotion & Protection Agreement.	Expenditure details being obtained.

Corruption of MTNL

2625. KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of employees working in MTNL (central) New Delhi against whom complaint have been received by, Chief General Manager and Regional General Manager from Bharatia Mahanagar Telephone Karamchhari Sangh and Member of Parliament during the period 1st June, 2001 to 31st October, 2001;

(b) whether the problems of employees were pending for a long time with those employees against whom complaints have been made;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the administration is not transferring them because the local officers have nexus with them; and

(e) the time by which such employees are likely to be transferred under other Regional General Manager?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) Two.

(b) to (d) Matter is under investigation with Vigilance Unit of Central area.

(e) Based on the investigation report, appropriate action will be taken against the officials.

[English]

Durban Conference

2626. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether at the Durban Conference Pakistan charged New Delhi with denigrating the so called struggle for self-determination of Kashmiris as terrorism and termed militancy in Kashmir as holy war for their right of self determination; and

(b) if so, the details of the Pak representative's statements and the Indian representative's response thereto?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) and (b) During the World Conference Against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance (WCAR) at Durban (31 August-8 September, 2001), Pakistan continued with its futile endeavors to justify its sponsorship of cross-border terrorism in Jammu & Kashmir and other parts of India by portraying the killings of innocent men, women and children by Pakistan-based terrorist groups as the consequences of a political movement in Jammu & Kashmir. The Indian delegation, had however, effectively portrayed the situation in Jammu & Kashmir as the consequence of cross-border terrorism directly sponsored by Pakistan.

The widespread consensus in the international community is that there can be no justification for terrorism, which must be eradicated wherever it exists. India is firmly resolved to resist terrorism until it is decisively crushed.

SCs/STs and OBCs in PSU

2627. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the representation of SCs and STs in Class I (Group A) Services stood only at 10.68% (SCs-08.41% and STs-2.27%) and in Class II (Group B) Services only at 13.20% (SCs-09.68% and STs-3.52%) as against 22.5% quota prescribed for them (15% for SCs and 7.5% for STs as on 1/1/1996 under Central Public Sector Enterprises);

(b) if so, indicate total number of 'posts' in (i) Class I (Group A) Category and (ii) Class II (Group B) and equivalents thereof under all (1) Public Sector Undertaking/Enterprises, (2) Statutory Organisation/Corporations, (3) Autonomous Organisations, Attached and Subordinate Offices under Small Scale Industries Ministry; and

(c) number of persons belonging to (i) General, (ii) SC, (iii) ST and (iv) OBCs working against such posts and their respective percentages to such total posts as identified as per instructions under para 5 of DOPT OM No. 36012/2/96-Estt. (Res) dated 2nd July, 1997?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE

IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The number of posts filled in Group A and Group B and the respective percentage of number of persons belonging to General, SC, ST & OBC working in the National Small Industries Corporation Ltd., a Public Sector Undertaking and Office of Development Commissioner (Small Scale Industries) an attached Office under the Ministry of Small Scale Industries are as under:—

Name of the Organisation	Category	Number of posts filled	General	No. of SCs	No. of STs	No. of OBCs
National Small Industries Corporation Ltd.	Group A	357	269 (75.35%)	59 (16.53%)	09 (2.52%)	20 (5.60%)
	Group B	210	138 (65.71%)	41 (19.52%)	08 (2.86%)	25 (11.91%)
Office of Development Commissioner (Small Scale Industries)	Group A	541	412 (76.16%)	79 (14.60%)	20 (3.70%)	30 (5.54%)
	Group B	727	516 (70.98%)	125 (17.19%)	27 (3.71%)	59 (8.12%)

Note: Figures in brackets indicate percentage of the total.

Levying of Additional Charges

2628. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK:
SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWASI:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether basic service operators are levying additional charges for interconnection between the Internet Service Providers and private data network;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether TRAI has issued directive recently to ISPs against levying such charges; and

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith response of the ISPs in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) No, Sir.

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

(c) and (d) No directions have been issued by the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) to the Internet Service Providers (ISPs) against levying such charges. However TRAI issued a directive under section 13 of the TRAI Act, 1997 to Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) and other Basic Service Operators (BSOs) not to levy and fee over the above leased line charges for interconnection between ISPs and Private Data Networks including Closed User Group (CUG) network.

Parcel Delivery System

2629. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Postal Department has imposed limits on various parcels with regard to size and weight;

(b) whether the Postal Department has not changed its old rules and policies with regard to parcels and heavier mail;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps being taken to modernise the Parcel Delivery System of the Postal Department?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) Yes, Sir. Following limits of size and weight have been prescribed:—

Unregistered Parcel- It shall not exceed 4 Kgms.

Registered Parcel:

- (1) It shall not exceed 10 Kgms., if it is posted at or addressed to a Branch Post Office and 20 Kgms. in all other cases.
- (2) It length of a parcel shall not exceed one metre and the length and girth combined shall not exceed 1.80 metre.
- (3) The minimum dimension of a parcel shall be as follows:
 - (i) In roll form—single dimension-10 cms
Sum of length and twice diametre-17 cms
 - (ii) In other than roll form—10 x 7 centimeters.

No parcel shall be such that, by reason of the shape, manner of packing or any other feature, it cannot be carried by post without serious inconvenience or risk.

Express Parcel Post

The express parcel post shall not exceed 1.50 metres of any one dimension and three metres for length and girth together. The weight of the parcel should be between 2 Kgms. to 35 Kgms.

(b) and (c) As a business proposition to the growing goods industry Department has changed the Rules to introduce Express Parcel Post for parcels weighing from 2 Kgms to 35 Kgms conforming to size of 1.50 metre for any one dimension and 3 metres for length and girth together.

(d) Special transport and delivery arrangement are prescribed for delivery of Express parcels.

Wasteful Expenditure

2630. SHRI BRAHMA NAND MANDAL: Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry of Information Technology has in pursuance of the steps taken by the Finance

Ministry to control wasteful expenditure identified the sectors where wasteful expenditure will be eliminated; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the quantum of wasteful expenditure eliminated during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS, MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): (a) No, Sir. There is no wasteful expenditure identified by the Ministry of Information Technology. However, Ministry of Finance have been issuing certain instructions towards economy in expenditure - fiscal prudence and austerity from time to time. As per the guidelines, mandatory 10% cut in the budgetary allocation from Non-Plan, Non-Salary expenditure is adhered to.

(b) Does not arise.

Offer of Blood to US

2631. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has offered to send 100 doctors and 1,000 litres of blood to New York to help in crisis management;

(b) whether America has not accepted the offer of blood from India;

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

(d) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C.P. THAKUR): (a) to (d) The Indian Red Cross Society had offered to provide 1000 units of blood among other support to its counter part, American Red Cross during the September 11 crisis in New York. The American Red Cross, while appreciating such offers from various Red Cross Societies from all over the world declined assistance as they were meeting their own demands.

Per Capita Income/Expenditure

2632. SHRI RAJO SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the per capita income and expenditure during the year 2000-2001, State-wise;

(b) names of the State where per capita income and expenditure is below the national average particularly Bihar and Andhra Pradesh along with the reason therefor; and

(c) the measures taken by the Government to increase the per-capita income and per capita expenditure?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) The State-wise details of per capita income (measured in terms of per capita Net State Domestic Product) for the year 1999-2000 at current prices, as per the Central Statistical Organisation is given in the enclosed statement. State-wise estimates of expenditure are not available.

(b) Among the States for which the information is available, the per capita income of Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Manipur, Meghalaya, Orissa, Rajasthan, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal is below the national average. Certain regions in the country are not keeping up with the overall growth process. Balanced regional development has always been an essential component of the Indian development strategy. Not all parts of the country are equally well endowed to take advantage of growth opportunities, and the historical inequities have not been eliminated, necessitating plan intervention.

(c) The Five Year Plans of the country detail the measures necessary to increase the per capita income. The Approach Paper to the Tenth Five Year Plan as approved by the National Development Council has proposed that the Tenth Plan should aim at an indicative target of 8 per cent per annum of GDP growth for the period 2002-2007 which would lead to a per capita income growth of at least 6 per cent per year. This growth rate has been targeted keeping in view the increase in savings and investment rate and pursuing efficiency enhancing policies both at the macro level and at the sector level, thereby raising the overall per capita income levels.

Statement

Per Capita Net Domestic Product

(At Current Prices)
(as on 13-11-2001)

State/UT		1999-2000(Rs)
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	14715
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	14338

1	2	3
3.	Assam	9612
4.	Bihar	6328
5.	Goa	NA
6.	Gujarat	18625
7.	Haryana	21114
8.	Himachal Pradesh	15012
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	12338
10.	Karnataka	16343
11.	Kerala	18262
12.	Madhya Pradesh	NA
13.	Maharashtra	23398
14.	Manipur	10614
15.	Meghalaya	11678
16.	Mizoram	NA
17.	Nagaland	NA
18.	Orissa	9162
19.	Punjab	23040
20.	Rajasthan	12533
21.	Sikkim	NA
22.	Tamil Nadu	19141
23.	Tripura	10213
24.	Uttar Pradesh	9765
25.	West Bengal	15569
26.	A & N Islands	NA
27.	Chandigarh	46347
28.	Delhi	35705
29.	Pondicherry	30768

(a) Note: NA Not Available. Q Quick Estimates

Enhancement of Forest Cover

2633. SHRI Y.S. VEVEKANANDA REDDY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether a task force headed by the Planning Commission was set up two years ago to work out programme to enhance forest cover;

(b) if so, whether linking the ambitious greening India programme with food-for-work was proposed to enhance forest cover to 33 per cent by 2012;

(c) if so, whether it has been indicated that the programme would require Rs. 48,000 crore in 10 years;

(d) whether the annual allocation of Rs. 4,800 crore was suggested by the Planning Commission task force;

(e) if so, the extent to which the funds have been made available by the Government to implement the programme; and

(f) the progress made in this regard so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) Yes Sir. A Task Force was set up in the Planning Commission in 1999 to suggest measures to enhance the green cover to 33% of the geographical area of the country in ten years' time frame.

(b) to (d) The financial requirement for Greening India Programme would be Rs. 48000 crore in ten years. In view of limitation on availability of funds through budgetary sources, greater reliance is placed on finances from institutional funding and linking the programme with 'food for work' scheme for non-cash component. It has been envisaged that Rs. 1125 crore per annum would be generated as food component with the implementation of 'food for work' scheme. It will help ensuring food accessibility to 10 crore people and providing them greater opportunities for employment and sustainable means of livelihood. The annual requirement of funds for implementation of the programme has been estimated at Rs. 4800 crore for a period of ten years. In order to carry out the programme in ten years time-frame, it is recommended to set up Green India Authority and Green India Fund for effective co-ordination, monitoring and evaluation.

(e) It has been envisaged that out of the total annual requirement of Rs. 4800 crore, Rs. 1125 crore would be obtained as food component by implementation of 'food for work' scheme. The balance amount would be tied-up from various sources like plan and non-plan budget of the Central and State governments, afforestation/tree planting programmes of Rural Development and Wasteland Development schemes, Watershed Management programme, externally aided projects, financial institutions

and private sector sources. Suitable projects would be prepared for tie-up of these resources.

(f) The Task Force has finalized the report and the Central and State Governments are to initiate actions in this regard.

FBI Office in Delhi

2634. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have permitted the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) of USA to open its office in Delhi;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor along with the date of such permission;

(c) whether the said agency has started functioning;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government have considered the security problems arising due to it;

(f) if not, the reasons therefor;

(g) whether the Government have received any memorandum/representation regarding closure of the F.B.I. office;

(h) if so, the details thereof, till date; and

(i) the measures taken/proposed to be taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) It was decided by mutual consultations to allow the U.S. Embassy in New Delhi to augment its strength for opening a Legal Attache Office. Such offices are normally manned by two FBI Officers.

(b) The approval of the Government was communicated to the U.S. Embassy in February 2000.

The decision was taken in the context of growing Indo-U.S. bilateral co-operation on counter-terrorism. While the necessary mechanism to counter terrorism was already in place with the Extradition Treaty and the Joint Working Group on Counter-Terrorism, the Legal Attache Office is meant to enable more effective co-ordination between Indian and U.S. law enforcement agencies. It is also expected to signal greater commonality of interests in the fight against terrorism, which will in turn exert pressure on terrorism groups.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The Office has been functioning since September 2000. As per the guidelines provided by Government, the Office is manned by two law enforcement officers from the United States of America.

(e) and (f) The Office functions within parameters laid down by Government: it acts in coordination with the Indian law enforcement agencies and does not carry out independent investigations. No security problems are, therefore, expected to arise from it. Offices of Indian law enforcement agencies functioning in Embassy of India, Washington also follow similar guidelines.

(g) No, Sir.

(h) and (i) Do not arise.

Slash of I.T. Production

2635. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK: Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have decided to slash I.T. production target for current financial year;

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

(c) the extent to which export is likely to be affected?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS, MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): (a) and (b) The IT production targets and likely achievements for the year 2000-2001 are as follows:

(Rs. Crores)

Sector	Plan Target	Likely Achievement
Hardware	82,050	34,400
Software	1,38,350	56,900

This has been due to a domestic-centric approach of Indian manufacturing sector coupled with a protected environment, infrastructural handicaps, high cost of finance, rigid labour laws, low volumes of production, low velocity of business, high tariffs and inverted tariff structure, non-availability of indigenous capital goods, lack of global stardom, new investments, etc.

(c) Though, there has been a decline in the rate of growth of software exports as a result of slowdown in the world economy the rate of growth of IT sector is way ahead of the rest of the Indian industry. During the first half of the current year, software exports have grown by 33% as against last year's annual growth of 55%.

12.00 hrs.

[Translation]

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS, MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): Sir, I beg lay on the Table—

(1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Electronics and Computer Software Promotion Council, New Delhi for the year 2000-2001, along with Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Electronics and Computer Software Export Promotion Council, New Delhi for the year 2000-2001.

[Placed in Library See No. LT 4532/2001]

(2) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Society for Electronics Test Engineering, New Delhi for the year 2000-2001, along with Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Society for Electronics Test Engineering, New Delhi for the year 2000-2001.

[Placed in Library See No. LT 4533/2001]

[English]

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C.P. THAKUR): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table:

(1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Regional Cancer Centre, Thiruvananthapuram, for the year 2000-2001, along with Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Regional Cancer Centre, Thiruvananthapuram, for the year 1999-2001.

(2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library See No. LT 4534/2001]

- (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Acharya Harihara Regional Cancer Centre, Cuttack, for the year 2000-2001, along with Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Acharya Harihara Regional Cancer Centre, Cuttack, for the year 2000-2001.
- [Placed in Library See No. LT 4535/2001]
- (4) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Cancer Institute, Chennai, for the year 2000-2001, along with Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Cancer Institute, Chennai, for the year 2000-2001.
- [Placed in Library See No. LT 4536/2001]
- (5) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Gujarat Cancer and Research Institute, Ahmedabad, for the year 2000-2001, along with Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Gujarat Cancer and Research Institute, Ahmedabad, for the year 2000-2001.
- [Placed in Library See No. LT 4537/2001]
- (6) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Cancer Hospital and Research Institute, Gwalior, for the year 2000-2001, along with Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Cancer Hospital and Research Institute, Gwalior, for the year 2000-2001.
- [Placed in Library See No. LT 4538/2001]
- (7) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Population Research Centre, Baroda, for the year 2000-2001, along with Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Population Research Centre, Baroda, for the year 2000-2001.
- [Placed in Library See No. LT 4539/2001]
- (8) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Population Research Centre, Bhubaneswar, for the year 2000-2001, along with Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Population Research Centre, Bhubaneswar, for the year 2000-2001.
- [Placed in Library See No. LT 4540/2001]
- (9) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Population Research Centre, Chandigarh, for the year 2000-2001, along with Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Population Research Centre, Chandigarh, for the year 2000-2001.
- [Placed in Library See No. LT 4541/2001]
- (10) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Population Research Centre, Delhi, for the year 2000-2001, along with Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Population Research Centre, Delhi, for the year 2000-2001.
- [Placed in Library See No. LT 4542/2001]
- (11) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Population Research Centre, Gandhigram, for the year 2000-2001, along with Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Population Research Centre, Gandhigram, for the year 2000-2001.
- [Placed in Library See No. LT 4543/2001]
- (12) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Population Research Centre, Patna, for the year 2000-2001, along with Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Population Research Centre, Patna, for the year 2000-2001.
- [Placed in Library See No. LT 4544/2001]

- (13) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Population Research Centre, Shimla, for the year 2000-2001, along with Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Population Research Centre, Shimla, for the year 2000-2001.

[Placed in Library See No. LT 4545/2001]

- (14) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Population Research Centre, Srinagar, for the year 2000-2001, along with Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Population Research Centre, Srinagar, for the year 2000-2001.

[Placed in Library See No. LT 4546/2001]

- (15) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Population Research Centre, Sagar, for the year 2000-2001, along with Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Population Research Centre, Sagar, for the year 2000-2001.

[Placed in Library See No. LT 4547/2001]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table:

(1) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under section 10 of the National Highways Act, 1956:—

- (i) S.O. 719(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 28th July, 2001 regarding acquisition of land for the public purpose of widening of National Highway, No. 5 (Madras-Vijayawada-Section) in the State of Andhra Pradesh.

- (ii) S.O. 720(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 28th July, 2001 regarding acquisition of land for the public purpose of widening of National Highway, No. 5 (Madras-Vijayawada-Section) in the State of Andhra Pradesh.
- (iii) S.O. 721(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 28th July, 2001 regarding acquisition of land for construction of Toll Plaza at National Highway, No. 8 in the State of Haryana.
- (iv) S.O. 722(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 28th July, 2001 regarding acquisition of land for the public purpose of widening of National Highway, No. 5 (Madras-Vijayawada-Section) in the State of Andhra Pradesh.
- (v) S.O. 723(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 28th July, 2001 regarding acquisition of land for widening of National Highway, No. 5 (Vijayawada-Bhubaneswar-Section) in District Vizianagaram, in the State of Andhra Pradesh.
- (vi) S.O. 724(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 28th July, 2001 regarding acquisition of land for the public purpose of widening of National Highway, No. 5 (Madras-Vijayawada-Section) in the State of Andhra Pradesh.
- (vii) S.O. 738(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 1st August, 2001 making certain amendments in Notification No. 602(E) dated the 28th June 2001
- (viii) S.O. 739(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 1st August, 2001 regarding appointment of competent authority to perform the functions under National Highway Act, 1956 on Chennai-Vijayawada Section of National Highway, No. 5.
- (ix) S.O. 740(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 1st August, 2001 regarding acquisition of land for widening of National Highway No. 5 (Visakhapatnam-Bhubaneswar-Section) in the District of Visakhapatnam, in the State of Andhra Pradesh.

- (x) S.O. 741(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 1st August, 2001 regarding acquisition of land for the public purpose of four laning of National Highway, No. 5 (Vijayawada to Visakhapatnam-Section) in the State of Andhra Pradesh.
- (xi) S.O. 761(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 7th August, 2001 regarding widening of National Highway, No. 5 (Madras-Visakhapatnam-Section) in the State of Andhra Pradesh.
- (xii) S.O. 762(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 7th August, 2001 regarding widening of National Highway, No. 5 (Madras-Visakhapatnam-Section) in Srikakulam District in the State of Andhra Pradesh.
- (xiii) S.O. 782(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 14th August, 2001 regarding acquisition of land for building four laning section of National Highway, No. 8 (Udaipur-Ratanpur-Section).
- (xiv) S.O. 1150(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 23rd December, 2000 regarding acquisition of land on Surat-Manor for Tollway Road Project in District Navasari in the State of Gujarat National Highway, No. 8.
- (xv) S.O. 1151(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 23rd December, 2000 regarding acquisition of land for building four-laning National Highway, No. 4 (Tumkur and Harihar) in the State of Karnataka.
- (xvi) S.O. 1152(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 23rd December, 2000 regarding acquisition of land on National Highway, No. 5 (Bhubaneswar-Caclutta) in the State of Orissa.
- (xvii) S.O. 1153(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 23rd December, 2000 regarding acquisition of land on Udaipur-Ratanpur Section of National Highway, No. 8 in the State of Rajasthan.
- (xviii) S.O. 1154(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 23rd December, 2000 regarding acquisition of land for building four laning on National Highway, No. 4 (Harihar and Maharashtra Border) in the State of Karnataka.
- (xix) S.O. 33(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 11th January, 2001 regarding appointment of competent authority to perform the function under National Highway Act, 1956 on Visakhapatnam-Bhubaneswar Section of National Highway No. 5 in the State of Andhra Pradesh.
- (xx) S.O. 34(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 11th January, 2001 regarding acquisition of land on Pune-Satara Road on National Highway No. 4 in the State of Maharashtra.
- (xxi) S.O. 35(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 11th January, 2001 regarding appointment of competent authority to perform the function under National Highway Act, 1956 on National Highway No. 8, Surat-Manor Tollway Road Project in the State of Gujarat.
- (xxii) S.O. 36(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 11th January, 2001 regarding acquisition of land on Surat-Manor for Tollway Road Project in District Valsad in the State of Gujarat.
- (xxiii) S.O. 37(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 11th January, 2001 regarding appointment of competent authority to perform the function under National Highway Act, 1956 on National Highway No. 5, (Visakhapatnam-Bhubaneswar and Vijayawada-Visakhapatnam Section) in the State of Andhra Pradesh.
- (xxiv) S.O. 38(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 11th January, 2001 regarding appointment of competent authority to perform the function under National Highway Act, 1956 on National Highway No. 5, Madras-Vijayawada Section in the State of Andhra Pradesh.
- (xxv) S.O. 238(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 17th March, 2001 regarding appointment of competent authority to perform the function under National Highway Act, 1956 on National Highway No. 5, Vijayawada-Vishakhapatnam Section in the State of Andhra Pradesh.
- (xxvi) S.O. 239(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 17th March, 2001 regarding appointment of competent authority to perform the function under National Highway Act, 1956 on National Highway No. 5, in the State of Orissa.
- (xxvii) S.O. 240(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 17th March, 2001 making certain amendments in the Notification No. S.O. 1152(E) dated the 23rd December, 2000.

- (xxviii) S.O. 294(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 29th March, 2001 regarding appointment of competent authority to perform the function under National Highway Act, 1956 on National Highway No. 5, in the State of Andhra Pradesh.
- (xxix) S.O. 295(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 29th March, 2001 regarding acquisition of land for the purpose of building four laning of National Highway No. 8 (Jaipur to Kishangarh) in the State of Rajasthan.
- (xxx) S.O. 303(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 31st March, 2001 regarding acquisition of land for the public purpose of building, maintenance, management and operation of the National Highway No. 2 (Agra to Sikandara, Kanpur Dehat).
- (xxxix) S.O. 58(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 20th January, 2001 regarding appointment of competent authority to perform the function under National Highway Act, 1956 (Visakhapatnam-Bhubaneswar Section) on National Highway No. 5, in the State of Orissa.
- (xxxii) S.O. 59(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 20th January, 2001 regarding appointment of competent authority to perform the function under National Highway Act, 1956 on National Highway No. 6, in the State of West Bengal.
- (xxxiii) S.O. 60(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 20th January, 2001 regarding appointment of competent authority to perform the function under National Highway Act, 1956 (Vijayawada-Vishakhapatnam section) on National Highway No. 5, in the State of Andhra Pradesh.
- (xxxiv) S.O. 61(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 20th January, 2001 regarding appointment of competent authority to perform the function under National Highway Act, 1956 (Vijayawada-Vishakhapatnam section) on National Highway No. 5, in the State of Andhra Pradesh.
- (xxxv) S.O. 62(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 20th January, 2001 regarding appointment of competent authority to perform the function under National Highway Act, 1956 (Madras-Vijayawada section) on National Highway No. 5, in the State of Andhra Pradesh.
- (xxxvi) S.O. 63(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 20th January, 2001 regarding appointment of competent authority to perform the function under National Highway Act, 1956 on National Highway No. 4, in the State of Maharashtra.
- (xxxvii) S.O. 64(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 20th January, 2001 regarding appointment of competent authority to perform the function under National Highway Act, 1956 on National Highway No. 60, in the State of West Bengal.
- (xxxviii) S.O. 65(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 20th January, 2001 regarding appointment of competent authority to perform the function under National Highway Act, 1956 (Madras-Vijayawada-Section) on National Highway No. 5, in the State of Andhra Pradesh.
- (xxxix) S.O. 66(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 20th January, 2001 regarding appointment of competent authority to perform the function under National Highway Act, 1956 (Visakhapatnam-Bhubaneswar-Section) on National Highway No. 5, in the State of Andhra Pradesh.
- (xi) S.O. 104(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 1st February, 2001 regarding acquisition of land for the public purpose of building, maintenance, management and operation of the National Highway No. 2 between Sikandara and Khaga in the State of Uttar Pradesh.
- (xli) S.O. 105(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 1st February, 2001 regarding appointment of competent authority to perform the function under National Highway Act, 1956 on National Highway No. 2, in the State of Bihar.
- (xlii) S.O. 219(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 13th March, 2001 regarding appointment of competent authority to perform the function under National Highway Act, 1956 (Madras-Vijayawada Section) on National Highway No. 5, in the State of Tamil Nadu.
- (xliii) S.O. 220(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 13th March, 2001 regarding appointment of competent authority to perform the function under National Highway Act, 1956 (Vijayawada-Visakhapatnam Section) on National Highway No. 5, in the State of Andhra Pradesh.

- (xliv) S.O. 221(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 13th March, 2001 regarding acquisition of land in the District of Haveri for building four laning of National Highway Act, 4 between Harihar and Maharashtra Border in the State of Karnataka.
- (xlv) S.O. 339(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 18th March, 2001 regarding acquisition of land for building four laning of National Highway Act, 7 between Hosur and Krishnagiri in the State of Tamil Nadu.
- (xlvi) S.O. 365(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 26th April, 2001 regarding appointment of competent authority to perform the function under National Highway Act, 1956 (Chennai-Ranipet Section) on National Highway No. 4 in the State of Tamil Nadu.
- (xlvii) S.O. 366(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 26th April, 2001 regarding appointment of competent authority to perform the function under National Highway Act, 1956 (Chennai-Ranipet Section) on National Highway No. 4 in the State of Tamil Nadu.
- (xlviii) S.O. 367(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 26th April, 2001 regarding appointment of competent authority to perform the function under National Highway Act, 1956 (Chennai-Ranipet Section) on National Highway No. 4 and (Krishnagiri-Ranipet Section) on National Highway No. 46 in the State of Tamil.
- (xlix) S.O. 368(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 26th April, 2001 regarding appointment of competent authority to perform the function under National Highway Act, 1956 (Krishnagiri-Ranipet Section) on National Highway No. 46 in the State of Tamil.
- (l) S.O. 789(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 16th August, 2001 regarding entrustment of execution of work relating to development and maintenance on the National Highway No. 52 in the State of Assam.
- (ii) S.O. 851(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 31st August, 2001 regarding entrustment of one stretch on National Highway No. 9 (Hyderabad-Vijayawada Section) in the State of Andhra Pradesh.
- (lii) S.O. 1101(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 6th November, 2001 regarding

execution of work relating to development and maintenance on the National Highways No. 108 and 109 in the State of Uttaranchal

- (liii) S.O. 1102(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 6th November, 2001 making certain amendments in the Notification No. SRO 1181 dated the 4th April, 1957.

- (2) Four statements (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library See No. LT 4548/2001]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table:

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indo-German Tool Room, Aurangabad, for the year 2000-2001, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) Statement regarding the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Indo-German Tool Room, Aurangabad, for the year 2000-2001.

[Placed in Library See No. LT 4549/2001]

- (2) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Central Tool Room, Ludhiana, for the year 2000-2001, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) Statement regarding the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Central Tool Room, Ludhiana, for the year 2000-2001.

[Placed in Library See No. LT 4550/2001]

- (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indo-German Tool Room, Ahmedabad, for the year 2000-2001, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) Statement regarding the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Indo-German Tool Room, Ahmedabad, for the year 2000-2001.

[Placed in Library See No. LT 4551/2001]

- (4) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indo-German Tool Room, Indore, for the year 2000-2001, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) Statement regarding the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Indo-German Tool Room, Indore, for the year 2000-2001.
- [Placed in Library See No. LT 4552/2001]
- (5) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Central Institute of Tool Design, Hyderabad, for the year 2000-2001, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) Statement regarding the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Central Institute of Tool Design, Hyderabad, for the year 2000-2001.
- [Placed in Library See No. LT 4553/2001]
- (6) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Process and Product Development Centre, Agra, for the year 2000-2001, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) Statement regarding the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Process and Product Development Centre, Agra, for the year 2000-2001.
- [Placed in Library See No. LT 4554/2001]
- (7) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of Process Cum Product Development Centre, Meerut, for the year 2000-2001, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) Statement regarding the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Process Cum Product Development Centre, Meerut, for the year 2000-2001.
- [Placed in Library See No. LT 4555/2001]
- THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table:
- (1) A copy of the Merchant Shipping (Load Line) Amendment Rules, 2001 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 431 in Gazette of India dated the 11th August, 2001 under sub-section (3) of the Section 458 of the Merchant Shipping Act, 1958.
- [Placed in Library See No. LT 4556/2001]
- (2) A copy of each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (4) of section 124 of the Major Port Trust Act, 1963:—
- (i) G.S.R. 596(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 21st August, 2001, approving the Madras Port Trust Employees (Appointment, Promotion etc.) Amendment Regulations, 2001.
- (ii) G.S.R. 597(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 22nd August, 2001, approving the Calcutta Port Trust Employees Haldia Dock Complex (Recruitment, Seniority and Promotion) Amendment Regulations, 2001.
- (iii) G.S.R. 761(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 5th October, 2001, approving the Mumbai Port Trust Employees (Leave) Amendment Regulations, 2001.
- (iv) G.S.R. 798(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 23rd October, 2001, approving the Kandla Port Trust (Recruitment of Heads of Department) Amendment Regulations, 2001.
- (v) G.S.R. 800(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 25th October, 2001, approving the Tuticorin Port Trust Employees (Recruitment, Seniority and Promotion) Amendment Regulations, 2001.
- [Placed in Library See No. LT 4557/2001]
- (3) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:—
- (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Hindustan Shipyard Limited, Visakhapatnam, for the year 2000-2001.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Hindustan Shipyard Limited, Visakhapatnam, for the year 2000-2001, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.
- [Placed in Library See No. LT 4558/2001]
- (4) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Ship Design and Research Centre, Visakhapatnam, for the year 2000-2001, along with Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Ship Design and Research Centre, Visakhapatnam, for the year 2000-2001.
- [Placed in Library See No. LT 4559/2001]

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C.P. THAKUR): Sir, on behalf of Shri A. Raja, I beg to lay on the Table:

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Population Research Centre, Bangalore, for the year 2000-2001, along with Audited Accounts.
(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Population Research Centre, Bangalore, for the year 2000-2001.
[Placed in Library See No. LT 4560/2001]
- (2) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Population Research Centre, Chandigarh, for the year 2000-2001, along with Audited Accounts.
(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Population Research Centre, Chandigarh, for the year 2000-2001.
[Placed in Library See No. LT 4561/2001]
- (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Population Research Centre, Dharwad, for the year 2000-2001, along with Audited Accounts.
(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Population Research Centre, Dharwad, for the year 2000-2001.
[Placed in Library See No. LT 4562/2001]
- (4) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Population Research Centre, Guwahati, for the year 2000-2001, along with Audited Accounts.
(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Population Research Centre, Guwahati, for the year 2000-2001.
[Placed in Library See No. LT 4563/2001]
- (5) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Population Research Centre, Lucknow, for the year 2000-2001, along with Audited Accounts.
(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Population Research Centre, Lucknow, for the year 2000-2001.
[Placed in Library See No. LT 4564/2001]
- (6) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Population Research Centre, Pune, for the year 2000-2001, along with Audited Accounts.
(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Population Research Centre, Pune, for the year 2000-2001.
[Placed in Library See No. LT 4565/2001]
- (7) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Population Research Centre, Thiruvananthapuram, for the year 2000-2001, along with Audited Accounts.
(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Population Research Centre, Thiruvananthapuram, for the year 2000-2001.
[Placed in Library See No. LT 4566/2001]
- (8) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Population Research Centre, Udaipur, for the year 2000-2001, along with Audited Accounts.
(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Population Research Centre, Udaipur, for the year 2000-2001.
[Placed in Library See No. LT 4567/2001]
- (9) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Population Research Centre, Visakhapatnam, for the year 2000-2001, along with Audited Accounts.
(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Population Research Centre, Visakhapatnam, for the year 2000-2001.
[Placed in Library See No. LT 4568/2001]

12.02 hrs.

[English]

MESSAGES FROM RAJYA SABHA
AND
BILLS AS PASSED BY RAJYA SABHA—laid

SECRETARY GENERAL: Sir, I have to report the following messages received from the Secretary-General of Rajya Sabha:—

(i) "In accordance with the provisions of rule 127 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to inform the Lok Sabha that the Rajya Sabha, at its sitting held on the 4th December, agreed without any amendment to the Cine-workers Welfare Fund (Amendment) Bill, 2001 which was passed by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 20th November, 2001."

(ii) "In accordance with the provisions of rule 111 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to enclose a copy of the National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research (Amendment) Bill, 2001 which has been passed by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 4th December, 2001."

2. Sir, I lay on the Table the National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research (Amendment) Bill, 2001 as passed by Rajya Sabha on 4th December, 2001.

12.03 hrs.

[English]

COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE MEMBERS'
BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Twenty-First Report

SHRI M.O.H. FAROOK (Pondicherry): Sir, I beg to present the Twenty-First Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions.

12.03¹/₄ hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON HUMAN
RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

Hundred-eleventh Report

[Translation]

SHRIMATI JAS KAUR MEENA (Swai Madhopur): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy (Hindi and English versions) of the Hundred-eleventh Report of the Standing Committee on Human Resource Development on the Cigarettes and other Tobacco Products (Prohibition of Advertisement and Regulation of Trade and Commerce, Production, Supply and Distribution), Bill, 2001.

12.03¹/₂ hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON HUMAN
RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

Evidence

[Translation]

SHRIMATI JAS KAUR MEENA (Swai Madhopur): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the record of evidence tendered before the Standing Committee on Human Resource Development on the Cigarettes and other Tobacco Products (Prohibition of Advertisement and Regulation of Trade and Commerce, Production, Supply and Distribution), Bill, 2001.

12.03-³/₄ hrs.

MANIPUR BUDGET-2001-2002

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): Sir, on behalf of Shri Yashwant Sinha, I beg to present a statement of estimated receipts and expenditure of the State of Manipur for the year 2001-2002.

(Placed in Library. See No. LT 4569/2001)

12.04 hrs.

[English]

RE: ISRAEL'S BOMBING ON PALESTINIAN
LIBERATION ORGANISATION
HEADQUARTERS

MR. SPEAKER: Now, the House shall take up Zero Hour.

Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: (Raiganj): Mr. Speaker Sir...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH (Maharajganj, U.P.): Mr. Speaker, Sir, Prime Minister Rural Road Scheme is being totally misused in Uttar Pradesh.

MR. SPEAKER: It is not appropriate to behave in this manner. Today everybody will get a chance....(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I have called the name of Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the House and the attention of the Government, especially the hon. Minister of External Affairs to a very important issue.

For the last three days, things which are happening and the developments which are taking place very fast in the West Asia especially, in Palestine, are causing concern.

India has been a significant contributor of world peace right from the days of our freedom. India has been espousing the cause, the just cause and the struggle of Palestine right from the day of our first Prime Minister. It has been our consistent policy to see that Palestinians get justice.

Now, in the global war against terrorism, everyone in the world has played their roles and expressed their concerns...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: There is a lot of disturbance from the Treasury Benches today. What is happening?

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: But it appears that the war against terrorism is now getting a new twist in the shape of 'war against sovereignty, just cause and struggle' of a country like Palestine. It is amazing that the development took place in such a dimension that the leader of that Sovereign State, Mr. Yasser Arafat was supposed to be attacked, while he was in his office. Even the house and the palace were supposed to be destroyed. Yesterday, Mr. Mohammed Assadi from Ramallah, the official headquarters of Yasser Arafat, reported from West Bank that the Coalition Government's Foreign Minister, Mr. Peres walked out from the Cabinet on this issue.

Since we are equally concerned over the stability and the final success of the West Asian peace process including the problem in West Bank and Gaza Strip, did the Government of India express its concern over the way the things are taking shape against the people of Palestine and its leader? Did the Government of India take note of this development? For the last four days, we see that there is no sign of any reaction and there is no response from the Government of India's Foreign Minister over this very significant development in West Asia. It is not against any country or against any individual. Our total commitment is there for peace process in West Asia, which is now being totally destroyed.

I would like to know from the Government, through you, Sir, as to how it is going to react to the situation and interpret the situation. Will the Government of India consider this as a matter of very great importance and a significant development? Will it ensure that it takes initiative to see that the peace process starts again and also to see that the violence which is now being perpetrated and engineered by the Israeli Government is not getting any more momentum? Will it also ensure the sovereignty of Palestine?

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH (Uluberia): As Shri Dasmunsi said, it is a serious matter and a matter of great concern of our country. For ages, we stood firmly by the liberation struggle. The struggle of the Palestinian people is one of the great liberation struggles that is going on the world.

Now, under the cover of fight against terrorism, the imperialist forces are trying to crush the liberation movement. We know how barbaric the attack was, to kill the leader of the liberation movement who is a very close friend of our country. We are fighting in support of him

for several years. What is happening now? American even supported the Israeli's heinous act, on the ground that it is their right to self-defence. What is this? In the name of war against terrorism, they are trying to crush the liberation struggle. It should be condemned by this House unanimously and the Government must condemn it. The Government should take a serious note of this and ask for a clarification from its new-found ally as to why they are resorting to such barbaric attacks...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI RASHID ALVI (Amroha): Mr. Speaker Sir, my issue is also related to this...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Rashid Alvi, you have not given any notice on this subject.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: The problem is that every day, the senior Members are not giving any chance to other junior Members. Shri Banatwalla has given notice on this issue. On the same issue, Shri Banatwalla has given notice. So, Shri Banatwalla.

[Translation]

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA (Ponnani): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the situation in West Asia is grim, serious and explosive and India has been supporting the cause of Palestinian people prior to its independence and today Israel has started bombing the area and is trying to eliminate the Palestinian authority. Bombs have been dropped there. Yasser Arafat has been targeted at the headquarters in Gaza. Bombs have been dropped even at a very short distance from his office. He is not safe. The common people are in trouble, people are being killed wounded, including children. Today, it has become a common thing that the sovereignty of a nation is being attacked in the name of terrorism. It is a very sensitive and serious matter. We should condemn it. The Government should tell that...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Banatwalla, please conclude.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA: The Government should make it clear as to what it is going to do for Palestinians.

The situation of law and order should prevail there. It is necessary to understand the problem of Palestinians and their rights should be restored to them...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Now the Minister will reply.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJ BABBAR (Agra): Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is a matter of urgent importance...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I have 35 notices. I have to call other names also. How is it possible to continue like this? This will be injustice to others.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV (Sambhal): Mr. Speaker, Sir, a new member is standing, you are looking at him...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: You wish to just raise the issue but not allowing the Minister to reply.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You may tell me, what should I do with these notices?

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: It is your property...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAJ BABBAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is a serious matter...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing should go on record.

...*(Interruptions)* *

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Raj Babbar, before speaking you have to take the permission of the Chair.

...*(Interruptions)*

* Not recorded.

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing should go on record.

...(Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): Sir, I fully share the concerns raised by the hon. Members...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: Please give correct reply.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: I am speaking in the Parliament, how can it be incorrect?

[English]

Perhaps the Government's reaction has not come to the attention of the hon. Member. Let me repeat it. We are deeply concerned at the recent escalation of violence in the area. The terrorists' attack have led to a large number of casualties and injuries to many innocent people. We condemn such acts. There can be no justification for them. The need of the hour is restraint to break this vicious cycle of violence and hatred. We have taken note of President Arafat's condemnation of such acts of terrorists' violence and steps taken by the Palestinian National Authority to arrest the people with the history of terrorist violence. We sincerely hope that nothing will be done to undermine President Arafat and Palestine National Authority as the alternatives are fraught with dangers and serious implications for regional peace and security.

Sir, as recently as 27th of November, the Prime Minister had sent a message of support, on the International Day of Solidarity, with the Palestinian people and I find it only necessary because the hon. Member has said that the Government has done nothing. I will read out a brief excerpt from the statement of the Prime Minister as this fully illustrates the principles and consistent position.

"India fully supports all efforts to break the cycle of violence, bring about a ceasefire and to build mutual trust and confidence through the steps outlined in the Mitchell Report and the Tenant Plan."

A definitive resolution of the Palestine-Israel dispute should result in the creation of a viable State of Palestine along side Israel within the secured and recognised borders in implementation of the UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 and of the principle of land for peace that has underpinned

the peace process in West Asia. We call on both sides to immediately resume negotiations, focussed on confidence building and with a vision for the future."

I would also like to inform the hon. Members of the House that the Government of India is in fact today observing the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian people. In fact, in the ICWA we have a function taking place this evening.

So far as the aerial attacks on the Palestine ground concerned, whether it is on Ramallah or on President Arafat's headquarters, we strongly condemn such aerial attacks. They are completely unjustified. We believe that it is such attacks that defeat the entire peace process. One violent attack results in another violent attack resulting in a cycle of violence. That is why we have constantly urged that for the sake of resumption of the peace process this cycle of violence must end. The Government has made known this position and has consistently said what it has to say. There is no deviation in the Government's position.

[Translation]

Whatever has been stated by Mr. Mulayam Singh ji is correct, there is nothing wrong in it...(Interruptions)

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to mention one more thing when there was attack. America did not say anything. In the case of Israel they have a right to safeguard themselves. There should not be double standards...(Interruptions) When Germany was attacked they kept silent and when Israel attacked, America said that it has the right to safeguard itself Hon'ble Foreign Minister, take it seriously and register your protest over it.

[English]

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR (Mayiladuturai): I would like to add a sentence in support of what Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav has said. India's voice must be raised against double standards where America asked the whole world to join in condemning the air attack on WTC, but does not raise its voice against air attacks made by Israel on the Palestine authority and its leader President Yasser Arafat.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: This Government has made it quite clear. As far as the Government of India is concerned, there are no two interpretations either on the sovereignty or on the right of self-preservation and self-

defence. Irrespective of what the United States of America thinks or says or does not say, Government of India's position is quite clear. Sovereignty is sovereignty and an attack on sovereignty is an attack on sovereignty. We have recognised Palestinian authority, we have recognised President Arafat also. There is no ambiguity in so far as the Government's position is concerned.

[English]

SHRI ADHI SANKAR (Cuddalore): I would like to raise a very serious issue pertaining to my constituency, Cuddalore. Nearly ten villages in my Cuddalore constituency have suffered due to the selling of illicit liquor containing methanol. As per the statement given by the Chief Medical Officer, Cuddalore, nearly 57 persons have died and more than 150 people have lost their eye-sight.

12.18 hrs.

(MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER *in the Chair*)

SHRI P.H. PANDIAN (Tirunelveli): This is a State subject, Sir.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You are not a representative of the State Government here to give reply to him.

SHRI ADHI SANKAR: The DGP, Tamil Nadu has also stated that the illicit liquor was transported from the Union Territory of Pondicherry to Cuddalore. Cuddalore is very near to Pondicherry and also district Villupuram. The illicit liquor containing methanol was transported from Pondicherry. But the State Government has not taken any steps so far to prevent this kind of transportation or to protect the human lives...(Interruptions)

SHRI P.H. PANDIAN: Sir, I should have the right to reply.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You are not representing the State Government here.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI ADHI SANKAR: Sir, the State Government of Tamil Nadu has failed to protect the lives of the people of Tamil Nadu. Five similar incidents have happened, one at Kanchipuram, one at Thiruvallur and one near Chennai...(Interruptions) Some agents of the Ministers in Tamil Nadu are selling illicit liquor which contains methanol...(Interruptions) The Central Government should take serious note of it. I demand the Central Government

to intervene in the matter and order a CBI inquiry into it...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Acharia.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing should go on record except what Shri Acharia is saying.

...(Interruptions) *

12.20 hrs.

RE: NATIONWIDE STRIKE BY COAL WORKERS

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): Sir, I wish to draw the attention of the Minister for Coal to a complete strike by more than five lakh of workers of Coal India and its subsidiaries since 3rd December. There is complete strike in ECL, CCL, BCCL, MCL, WCL, NCL, and HCCL.

Sir, the coal workers have placed all their demands in the strike. All major trade unions from Bharat Mazdoor Sangh to the Centre of Indian Trade Unions, have joined hands. Their demand is that the Bill which was introduced to allow private participation in the coal industry should be withdrawn. There is no need to allow private participation. Coal India and its subsidiaries are capable to produce as much coal as our country needs for power generation. There is no need for any private participation. Their demand is to converge all the subsidiaries into one company so that Coal India Limited can become viable. Three subsidiaries, namely, ECL, CCL and BCCL, are incurring losses and one-time grant should be sanctioned to these three subsidiaries.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You have already mentioned the matter.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, their demand is payment of arrears. One year back, wage revision of coal workers had been sanctioned but it has not been paid as yet. The Coal Minister is present here. I demand that he should respond to the demands to the five lakh coal workers so that their grievances would be redressed.

SHRI SUNIL KHAN (Durgapur): Sir, a nation-wide strike of coal workers of Coal India is going on from 3rd December till today. Five lakh workers have already joined the strike.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I allow you to associate because you have also given notice on the same issue.

SHRI SUNIL KHAN: Their demand is to withdraw the Coal Nationalisation (Amendment) Bill and that all the subsidiaries should be consolidated into one holding company. Arrears have not been received by the employees. Sir, I earnestly request the Minister to come out with a clear verdict that the Coal Nationalisation (Amendment) Bill would be withdrawn.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Bikash Chowdhury, you are allowed to associate in the matter.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Firozabad): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have also given notice. My notice is at second place.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I am allowing only those Members who have given notice.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI BIKASH CHOWDHURY (Asansol): The workers of coal mines are on the strike from the third of this month against privatisation.

They are against privatisation. Last year, they had entered into an agreement with Wage Board. They are not being paid arrears according to the agreement...(Interruptions) The Payment has not been made to them inspite of several meetings, so they have been forced to go on strike. If their demands are not fulfilled, they will go on indefinite strike...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Coal India and its subsidiary companies are on strike from Monday. The Government would lose 60 crore rupees from the three day strike. The two main demands of the employees are they should be paid their dues and Coal India should not be privatised. The Minister of Coal says it time and again that it will not be privatised but this statement in "The Hindustan Times"...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You do not have to quote the statement. What do you want from the Government?

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: It is creating confusion. Multinational companies are invited in coal mines. On the one hand the Government is saying that it would not be privatised and on the other hand multinational companies are being invited. This matter has become controversial. The Government should clarify that it will not be privatised. The dues of coal employees should be paid immediately.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Members, you have to speak about the strike and not about privatisation.

[Translation]

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI (Sitamarhi): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, 5 lakh employees of Coal India and its subsidiary companies are on strike. We also express concern in this regard. I welcome the hon. Minister's statement which has been published in the newspapers. He said that the workers would not be retrenched and it would not be privatised but the strike has continued even after the hon. Ministers statement. The hon. Minister should offer clarifications in the House about his statement about not privatising Coal India and inviting multinationals in the field of mining. These two things do not go together? What is attitude of the Government towards paying arrears?...(Interruptions) Instead of inviting multinational companies in the field of mining, foreign technique should be adopted here so that production can be increased at low cost. Moreover, corruption prevailing in the management should be uprooted...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record except Shri Prabodh Panda's speech.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRABODH PANDA (Midnapore): Sir, I am raising the same issue. The coal mine workers are on strike all over the country. It started on 3rd December and it is still continuing to this date, that is 5th December, 2001. All the Trade Unions, like AITUC, CITU, BMS and HMS are supporting the strike.

Their first demand is the withdrawal on the Bill which paves the way for privatisation of coal mine sector. Their second demand is the full payment of arrears and restructuring of Coal India Limited. I think the Central Government will come forward and take some more steps so that lakhs and lakhs of coal mine workers are saved. This is what I wanted to say.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF COAL AND MINES (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, regarding the question raised by the hon. Members, it is a fact that from 3rd December, most of the employees of Coal India...(*Interruptions*) hundred percent is not right...(*Interruptions*) according to the information received 50 per cent...(*Interruptions*)

[English]

Why are you arguing? It is 50 per cent...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Sunil Khan, please hear him. I have allowed him to reply.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am the Minister and I am replying. I have got information. I do not know from where he gets information. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, work is going on normally in Singrauli and instead of giving the number of workers on strike I would like to say that they are not on strike. Please consider the main demand. 65 per cent workers are at work in Vilaspur. As far as workers are confirmed, it is well known that I am infamous for fighting for the workers' cause.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV (Sambhal): Not infamous, you will be respected for this.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Whatever, some people give respect and congratulate too. Therefore, as far as the workers are concerned, 60-70 per cent of the workers in coal mines belong to scheduled castes and scheduled tribes. Like you, I am also concerned about them. The day I took charge as the Coal Minister I declared that Coal India would not be privatised.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Please take it back.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: The second issue was that there would be no retrenchment. Hon. Members are sitting here. There is a Standing Committee on Energy to which a bill has been referred and Shri Basudeb Acharia is a member....

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: I have given a dissent note.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Let him reply.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Please hear me.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Basu Deb Acharia, let him complete.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Shri Santosh Mohan Dev is the Chairman of that Standing Committee. All the recommendations have been sent by the committee when the bill was presented here then it was said that I supported it, that is why the bill was presented here in 2000. The Government has not taken any decision about that amendment and that is why this bill will not be brought in this session. Shri Basu Deb Acharia said that it should be ensured that the bill will not be brought in this session and there will not be any strike. Strike began from Coal India. I have issued an appeal that we are not bringing this bill in Parliament.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Basu Deb Acharia, do not make running commentaries show.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: We have in total 69 billion tonnes proved coal reserve and according to the information received there is an estimated stock of 400 billion tonnes coal which will not deplete in 250 years. It is shameful that despite having 400 billion tonnes coal we are importing 21 billion tonnes coal. There is a provision in the bill that there are reserves of coal in private sector. They should be given rights to mine in that sector and trade unions are against it. The Government maintains that on the one hand we have a big reservoir of coal and on the other hand coal India is not in this position to mine and bring production to the level which is needed by the Power sector or which can be needed in the future. A provision has been made in the bill that the permission of mining should be given in the area other than that of Coal India and trade unions are opposing it. I have got the minutes of the last meeting in which it said:

[English]

"The hon. Minister further reassured that the Bill will not come up for discussion during the on going session of Parliament."

[Translation]

The Government will take decision only after holding talks with the trade unions.

[Shri Ram Vilas Paswan]

Now I have become Minister. Thereafter new Group of Ministers was set up. On the 22nd all the leaders of the trade union were called before them. Talks were held with them and there all the matters were discussed. Although the Group of Ministers had not assured whether they would introduce it in the session of the Parliament or not. But, when on the 25th, we talked with the leaders of the trade union, I told that talks were being held with them and till talks were not concluded with them, this bill would not be introduced in the Parliament.

You talked about arrears, arrears are not of today, it has been outstanding for a long time. We have no money to pay the arrears. You just now said that in the E.C.L., the B.C.C.L. and the C.C.L. here is two-thirds work force, two-thirds mines and the production is one-third. In the other W.C.L. there are one-third mines and one-third work-force and there is surplus and we have profit. We have had an arrears of Rs. 3100 crores out of which Rs. 350 crore had been disbursed, approximately, Rs. 2700-2800 crores is outstanding against us. Our money is with the power sector which has been told by the trade union workers. Negotiations have been resumed with the private sector. The people of the private sector have pledged to give us money by March. In that situation we have got Rs. Nine hundred crores. Out of that amount of Rs. Nine hundred crores, we can even today give the profit making companies cent-percent. But the trade union workers have asked to divide it among all. We told them that dividing among all meant division in proportion of one third.

I want to say that if the trade union workers agree, we are ready to give cent percent to profit making companies of the day. They demanded to divide it into three portions. We agreed and told them, we would be giving it one-third to each one. Subsequently, I said that the scrutinisation money will come to me by March, thereafter we will pay the remaining arrears. Again I said that till December, we are ready to pay not only one-third but also upto 40 percent. We will pay 40 percent amount till March and the rest amount subsequently.

Mr. Deputy Speaker. Sir, the third point was regarding unification. I wanted to clarify unification. His contention is that when three companies are running in loss and the four companies which are earning profit and are depositing as tax Rs. One thousand crore with the Finance Ministry get unified; that money will be saved. We have had talks with the Finance Ministry. They wanted to know whether we were interested in taking money or in their revival. We said that we wanted revival. They

asked us to chalk out revival package and after it is formulated; be given to them. We asked the trade union leaders to formulate and give the revival package. When we asked them to sit now, they did not agree and they told that they would sit area-wise, thereafter they would sit with the C.M.D. subsequently with the Secretary and then with us. An outline was chalked out till 15th January. We asked for the revival package and added that as per that we would exert pressure on the Government. This is not proper to club together the three companies running in loss and the four companies earning profit. If all of them are clubbed together, the profit making companies also will start running in the loss.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: These were the recommendations of the Standing Committee.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: On the one hand, he says that there is note of dissent in the Standing Committee.

[English]

On the other hand, he is saying that it is the recommendation of the Standing Committee....(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please hear him.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: What is the Minister saying? Do not mislead the House...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: If I am misleading the House...(Interruptions) Do not blame me...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Acharia, let him complete...(Interruptions)

MR. BASU DEB ACHARIA: My dissent is on private participation...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Acharia, there are number of people who have given notices. Do not give running commentaries.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: I want to say that these people have got three demands. One of them is the issue of unification. We asked them to give the revival package. Now-a-days we are sorry to say that the C.C.L.

is incurring loss of Rs. one crore per day. Since the time, I become a Minister, I have been amidst the labourers. None of those who had become the Coal Minister, had paid visits to such a number of coal mines. Within three months, I have visited right from underground mines to other mines. We are giving encouragement to the labourers. The labourers are ready to work. The meaning of trade union is union and not trade, but we are sorry that even after the resumption of all these negotiations the Congressmen do not agree. In the meantime, I want to extend my thanks because earlier those associated with INTUC were not ready.

They blamed that we were hampering the interests of the labourers. Even today, I want to say that with these people we have held our talks. Some companies are running in loss, you know the policy of the Government and you know as to how much losses Government should bear? During one year, there were losses of Rs. 400 crores, during another year there were losses of Rs 900 crores and during the third year there were losses of Rs. 2600 crores. I have remained both in the opposition and the Government. Tomorrow, if you people become Ministers, and a loss of Rs. 3200 crores takes place, then who will bear it? You should try. After all, trade union workers are in Singrauli also, trade union exists in the N.C.L. and the W.C.L., as well. But there the trade union workers are working with responsibility and we are time and again asking for an early revival. We are happy that the loss of Rs. one crore per day that was going on there has decreased to the level of Rs. 50 lac per day. In the C.C.L., till March, we are going to be in the position of earning profits. But, where we are going to reach the position of earning profit, there those people conjointly want to subvert the whole industry. What can we do then?...*(Interruptions)* We want to appeal that no sensible person can support such a thing and therefore we all should oppose it...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI PABAN SINGH GHATOWAR (Dibrugarh): Sir, with great anger and anguish, I want to draw the attention of the Central Government. The Central Government is very casual in regard to the treatment given to the North-Eastern Region. The Ministers of Food from the North-Eastern Region and the Secretaries have held a meeting because the rice supplied by the FCI is not fit for human consumption. They have protested about it. They have appealed to the Central Government time and again. But the Central Government is treating the North-Eastern Region as a dumping ground for its rotten food. The Ministers of Supply from the States of Tripura and also of Assam have protested to the Central Government.

I want that the Central Government must institute an inquiry about that rotten food. It is not fit for human consumption...*(Interruptions)* They have sent it to the Laboratory which has given a report that the food is not fit for human consumption.

I request through you that the Government must come forward with a statement because, as you know, the insurgents are very active there. They say that the Central Government while sitting in Delhi think that the people of the North-Eastern Region are like animals and, hence, they are supplying this type of rotten food. They are making publicity going from village to village. This is becoming a very great issue for the Governments in Tripura and also in Assam. They are facing this problem in their State.

I want that the Central Government must come forward with a statement and rectify all this wrongdoing towards the North-Eastern Region and correct this position immediately without further delay...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I would call you afterwards. Now, Shri Bhaura. He has given a notice.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BHAN SINGH BHAURA (Bhatinda): Sir, I would like to draw the attention of this august House as well as the Central Government to the newsitem 'Inferior rice dumped on NE' published in the *Times of India* on 4th December, 2001.

I associate myself with Shri Paban Singh Ghatowar. I want the Central Government to give a suitable reply regarding this issue and help the North-Eastern Region.

12.44 hrs.

RE: INCREASING INCIDENTS OF EXPLOSIONS IN ORDNANCE FACTORIES IN THE COUNTRY

[Translation]

SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL (Balaghat): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the Government to the matter related to the security of the country. There is an Ordnance factory at Itarasi in Madhya Pradesh in which a major explosion had taken place on the 1st of the month. This issue is not being raised first time in the House. I would like to

[Shri Prahlad Singh Patel]

draw the attention of the Government to the fact that 18 such accidents have taken place since 1988 and the accidents generally occur in either during the months of April-May or March. But the accidents which I am mentioning here and which took place at four places in Jabalpur and Itarasi, actually happened in the season other than the summer season. It means that either these accidents took place due to human errors or are the result of an action which is detrimental to the security of the nation.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I feel that Government should pay attention to nefarious the designs to destabilize Defence Ministry both inside and outside the House. The incidents which have taken place in Itarasi and the intensity with which the explosion took place, uprooted the trees and affected houses within the radius of about five kilometres.

Sir, such incidents taking place frequently are matter of grave concern. Nine such incidents have taken place within two years. I want to bring into the notice of the entire House that the incidents of explosions are not occurring due to summer season as the incident which, I am pointing at, took place in winter season and not in the summer season. Therefore, these may be attributed to human errors or any technical factor. The Government should look into such incidents.

[English]

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL (Latur): Sir, the hon. Member has raised a very important issue. Many ordnance depots are getting gutted and they are burnt down. We are facing a situation in which the ammunition is not available to our Defence forces.

Now, this is a very serious situation. It requires the Government's attention and the Government should come before the House stating as to why this is happening. This is losing the power to protect the security of the country without even fighting or firing a single bullet. This is not acceptable. I think, the Government owes it to this House to explain as to why this is happening and what are they going to do.

[Translation]

SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL: As I said earlier, the incidents to which the Hon. Members are referring to actually took place in the months of March, April and May but the incidents to which I have referred did not take place due to sultry weather, because these actually took place in winter season. Therefore, these may be attributed to human errors or any technical reason. I am

to say only this much that Government should look into these incidents.

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj): Sir, the entire Defence is in a mess. In deals and deals scams are taking place. The CBI is saying that the files are missing. The goods are of sub-standard. All these things are required to be deposed in the House. Every time, the Government is trying to shield the Defence Minister.

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C.P. THAKUR): Sir, I will convey the sentiments of the House to the Minister concerned.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH (Bikramganj): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, through you I would like to draw the attention of the House to my parliamentary constituency in Bihar. There is a health unit of Eastern railways at Dehri-On-Son in my parliamentary Constituency Bikramganj whether outdoor medical facilities are available for railway employees. At present, this railway hospital provides medical facilities to railway employees of the area from Durgawati to Jakhim station and from Palamu to Singhriji. But there is no arrangements of indoor beds there. The medical facilities are insufficient for 15000 people of 3000 families of railway employees, working in Dehri-On-Son and nearby stations. There are three junction stations under Mugalsarai railway divisions, namely, Mugalsarai, Dehri and Gaya. Out of these, hospitals having indoor facilities are available at Mugalsarai and Gaya only. But such facilities are not available at Dehri-On-Son. In case any employee on duty is seriously injured he succumbs to his injury before reaching hospital of Singhriji is 90 km. away from here and Mugalsarai hospital is 20 kms far from Singhriji. At present only one doctor, one compounder, one nurse and one dresser are available at the railway hospital of Dehri-On-Son but there is no facility of admitting the patient there.

Therefore, I appeal the railway Ministry to solve this problem and convert this health unit into hospital having facilities of at least 20 indoor beds so that the proper treatment of railway employees might be done.

SHRI ALI MOHD. NAIK (Anantnag): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the Government to the fact that Kashmir is famous in the entire world for saffron production and the export of saffron was fetching foreign exchange worth crores of rupees in the country. But this year, saffron could not be produced in Kashmir. The reason for this is out-break of a disease which is yet to be ascertained.

The result is that saffron growing farmers are on the verge of starvation. I would like to request the Government of India to seek assistance of the experts from our own country or the experts of other countries of the world and find out the reason of the spread of this disease and provide its remedy. It should also ascertain reasons for the disease which has wiped out the rare thing of Kashmir.

Spain is another country where saffron is grown. It has also experts to deal with such situation. The Government of India should also seek assistance from other countries. The matter relating to the saffron should be enquired into....(Interruptions) The Government of India would make arrangements to rehabilitate the people who have suffered losses on account of the out break of the disease.

12.51 hrs.

RE: NON IMPLEMENTATION OF PRADHAN MANTRI SARAK YOJANA IN U.P.

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH (Maharajganj, U.P.): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Government of India have formulated Pradhan Mantri Gram Sarak Yojana to connect every village. But even an inch of road has not been constructed under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sarak Yojana in Uttar Pradesh. The Guidelines of Pradhan Mantri Gram Sarak Yojana issued by the Government of India are being violated grossly in Uttar Pradesh. According to the guidelines issued by the Government of India, the proposals should be passed by the Gram Panchayat and Zila Parishad. And it should also be passed by the hon. Member of Parliament and the Member of Legislative Assembly. But the Ministers of the Government of Uttar Pradesh are implementing these schemes arbitrarily. The villages which are already connected with peech marg are being connected with other roads. Repeatedly we have urged upon the Government of Uttar Pradesh that selection of roads and villages should be made according to the guidelines of the Central Government. But the Ministers of the Government of Uttar Pradesh, whose term is going to be completed, are encouraging bribery and arbitrariness. As per my definite information, I would like to say that the State Government have diverted the amount provided by the Government of India under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sarak Yojana. The State Government have spent the amount for paying the salary of the employees....(Interruptions) Guidelines have been grossly violated in Maharajganj and Gorakhpur districts. I demand that the Government of India should give directions to the Government of Uttar Pradesh that the

construction of Pradhan Mantri Gram Sarak Yojana in Uttar Pradesh should be according to the guidelines of the Central Government.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, through you I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards a major problem...(Interruptions) I demand that strict action should be taken against the naxalites....(Interruptions) Naxal activities have been increased in some States like Andhra Pradesh, Orissa, Chhattisgarh and Bihar in the country during the previous days and the naxalites are in high spirit now a days...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record except what Prof. Rasa Singh Rawat says.

...(Interruptions) *

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: Incidents of robbery, dacoity, murder, bomb explosion, attack on the houses of the Public Representatives and activities of parallel tax collection etc. are rapidly increasing...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Kunwar Akhilesh Singhji, please take your seat. The Minister is responding.

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C.P. THAKUR): Sir, we convey the sentiments of the House of the concerned Minister.

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: Thousands of people who have been killed in Maoist rebellion in Nepal, P.W.G., M.C.C. and Naxalites are stated to be involved. Naxal activities are on the rise in the areas such as in Bihar, Chhattisgarh and Orissa from Andhra Pradesh to Nepal. Therefore, I would like to urge upon the Government to control the naxal activities by banning the PWG and MCC and strengthening the police of the State and to provide special forces to the State Governments so that Government buildings could be protected and incidents of murder be checked.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Kharabela Swain is also allowed to associate with this same matter.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (Balasore): No, it is just a different matter.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes, that is a different matter.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: The naxalites had dynamited the house of the Co-operative Minister of Orissa just about four days back. There is a nexus among the Nepal Maoists, the Sarbahara Party in Bangladesh, the PWG group operating in Andhra Pradesh and Orissa, and the MCC group in Jharkhand in India. They want to divert the attention of the Government of India from the border districts so that they can take truckload of arms and ammunition to Nepal. So, they want to have a red corridor among India, Bangladesh and Nepal. The ISI is also helping them in a great way. So, my appeal to the Government of India is that the Central Government should come forward in a big way to co-ordinate the anti-naxalite activities and the anti-Maoist terrorist activity amongst the three countries and they should raise a specialised force which will deal this naxalite violence in India...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB (Cuttack): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I also associate with that...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I am calling only those people who have given notice.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Is it on the same issue?

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I am calling all those who have given notice.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have given floor to him.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Ratilal Varma, please sit down. I will call you.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj): Let him speak. You have called him.

[Translation]

SHRI C.N. SINGH (Machhilishahar): I have also given a notice for the last many days...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SAIDUZZAMA (Muzaffarnagar): Those who have already given their notices should be given a chance to express their views. I have also given a notice but those who have not given any notice are expressing their views. It is not justified. The House does not have any decorum...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Those who have given notices, would be given a chance to express their views.

[English]

This way you are losing the time. You are unnecessarily wasting the time of the House. I have given floor to him.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Ratilal Varma, please resume your seat.

[Translation]

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL (Kanpur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the announcement about the Policy on urea is yet to be made by the Ministry of Fertilisers but before the announcement of that policy an amendment has been made in the policy of utilization of urea by issuing intern order, resulting which some fertilizer industries particularly urea producing industries are on the verge of closure. Approximately 15 thousand employees work in Duncan Industry in Kanpur. It is also on the verge of closure. My request is that you should direct the Government of India to formulate a policy for the recovery of outstanding dues on the companies. I would not like that Government amount be remained due on any company. The industries having a strength of 15-20 thousand employees, should not be closed in this manner as it would have severe affect. The Government have given closure notice. A major loss in Kanpur is that the company pays electricity bill of Rs. 30-35 crore per month to Casco. If the company does not make payment to electricity bill, the entire Kanpur will plunge into darkness and 15 thousand employees would be rendered jobless.

Therefore, I request you to direct the Ministry of Fertilisers not to close these units at any cost so that the workers should not lose their jobs.

[English]

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY (Calcutta North West): Sir, we are deeply concerned with the extremist and terrorist activities throughout the country, and particularly, in the North-Eastern States. Extremist activities in the State of Tripura have caused killing of approximately 15,000 people including CRPF, BSF and State Police personnel, kidnapping of about 18,000 people, raping of more than 5000 innocent girls, rendering homeless nearly 4.5 lakh of people numbering 90,000 families, burning of 45,000 houses; and the estimated amount collected as ransom is Rs. 100 crore.

13.00 hrs.

Murder, loot and arson have become day to day activities of this tiny State under the present Government. So, what we demand immediately is a statement from the hon. Minister of Home Affairs on the total extremist activities in Tripura.

They have caused the death of the Congress MLA Shri Madhusudan Saha near his house during the month of February in 2001 but the culprits have not yet been arrested. On the 5th February, 2001, the SDO of Sadar Shri Sukhram Debbarma was brutally killed in his office premises but till date no arrest has been made.

The situation is burning. The Minister of Home Affairs should come to the House and kindly give to the House the details of all the extremist activities...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): The Central Government should provide adequate paramilitary forces...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA (Dhandhuka): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Government of India has adopted a policy to allot petrol pumps through Pumps Selection Board in Gujarat. This selection board consists of former judges and the officials of oil company. But there are mafia running unauthorised petrol pumps in Gujarat which try that the candidates selected by this selection board, are not allotted petrol pumps. Some advocates and officials are also conniving with them. These people are preventing actual allottee by creating legal complications

in running the petrol pumps and doing injustice with them. They are running the petrol pumps in the name of care takers and selling and petrol adulterated with solvent etc. on account of which the people are suffering financial as well as social losses and threat to social values. Through you, I urge upon the Government that a CBI enquiry should be conducted into the matter and the mafia who are wasting the precious time of the Court, and harassing the people belonging to the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and General Category, should be traced and a strict action should be taken against them and the persons selected for the allotment of petrol pumps should be given justice.

SHRI VILAS MUTTEWAR (Nagpur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, as you know Nagpur has its own historical importance. Nagpur is the second capital of Maharashtra. Nagpur is going to complete 300 years of its formation in January next year. In the year 1702, tribal Gonda king Bhakt Bulund Shah made a federation of 12 villages and named it Rajapur Barsa. Nagpur was made the capital of the State. The people of Nagpur want to celebrate the occasion of tri-centenary with fan fare. The State Government has formulated various schemes for this historical occasion. The people of Nagpur want that the Union Government should take some initiative to make the occasion momentous. They want that a special stamp of three rupees and a special coin of one rupee should be issued on this occasion. Besides the name of Nagpur-Mumbai-Kurla express should be changed to Trishatabdi Express. By resettling the Territorial Army, Sitabardi Forte should be handed over to the State Government of Maharashtra. Therefore, by respecting the sentiments of people of Nagpur and in view of the importance of the occasion, the Union Government should accept all these demands as it is essential to preserve culture and historical heritage of Nagpur. I am fully confident that Union Government would formulate special programme for this occasion in order to add glory to this Tri-centenary function.

SHRI C.N. SINGH: Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I have also given a notice. It is a serious issue.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You have lost your chance three or four times by interrupting in the House like this. When I give you an opportunity, you can say what you want.

SHRI C.N. SINGH: I am giving notices everybody.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: It should not happen. If this happen, I will give you a chance.

[English]

SHRI P.H. PANDIAN (Tirunelveli): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, thank you for giving me this opportunity to respond to the point raised by an hon. Member regarding the hooch tragedy in Tamil Nadu.

The Government of Tamil Nadu, as soon as the tragedy occurred, placed the police officers under suspension. A dozen officials have been placed under suspension...*(Interruptions)* The Government also announced that it would suspend the Assistant Superintendent of Police and that Deputy Superintendent of Police if such hooch tragedies occurred in future.

The Government is taking all possible precautions to protect such hooch tragedies. It is not responsible for this tragedy. The trader has committed suicide leaving a note saying that he only traded that liquor and that that liquor was brought from Pondicherry.

The dealer does not belong to our Party.

Sir, earlier, during the erstwhile DMK regime, there was liquor syndicate all over Tamil Nadu. We have allowed only public auction. There was a loss to exchequer during the DMK regime because of liquor syndicate. We wanted to break the syndicate to fetch more funds for the State exchequer...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI V. VETRISLVAN (Krishnagiri): Sir, the AIADMK people have indulged in illicit liquor business during the AIADMK regime. After assuming power by the AIADMK, within six months, there were four incidents in which 170 people died.

So, I would request the Central Government to take action against the State Government...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing will go on accord except what Shri P.H. Pandian says.

...*(Interruptions)* *

SHRI P.H. PANDIAN: Sir, my Leader, Dr. Puratchi Thalavi, came out victorious yesterday. She had said earlier that she would not withdraw the cases against her and that she would prove her innocence in court. Hence, she came victorious...*(Interruptions)* She was acquitted and she has proved her innocence.

Sir, she has said yesterday that she is going to assume the Office of the Chief Minister at a proper time. She will steer the ship of Tamil Nadu State Administration in an effective manner. Sir, the DMK Party is not able to digest her victory. That is why, they have raised this issue.

Sir, I know that it is a State subject. However, there is nobody to defend the State. So, Sir, I thank you very much for giving me this opportunity to raise this matter in the House...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil): Sir, I am referring to an issue concerning two popular drinks throughout the world, that is, tea and coffee.

Sir, the tea industry is facing a very serious crisis and tea estates in my Constituency are, more or less, closed. Some of them have been closed for a very long time.

Sir, there is going to be a serious crisis because of imposition of excise duty. So, I request the hon. Minister of Commerce as well as the hon. Minister of Finance to withdraw the estate duty and save the tea industry from ruin.

Sir, there are about 600 tea growers in South India, particularly in Kerala. There are about two and a half lakh of workers employed in tea production. So, I request the Central Government, especially the hon. Minister of Finance and the hon. Minister of Commerce, again, to intervene in the matter and save the industry from destruction.

Sir, I would again request the Central Government to withdraw the excise duty immediately, otherwise all these employees will be thrown out of employment and the estates will be closed...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI C.N. SINGH: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have also given a notice. I have been giving notice for several days. I should also be given a chance to speak...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: If you have given a notice, you will definitely be given a chance to speak.

* Not recorded.

[English]

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY (Berhampore, West Bengal): Sir, all of us are watching with great dismay that our neighbouring country, Nepal, which is fast degenerating into a civil war and anarchy.

Sir, the volatile situation in Nepal certainly would not augur well for India in view of the strategic location of the landlocked Himalayan Kingdom and the greater Nepal concept, as propagated by Maoist insurgents.

Sir, it is also a fact that hostile forces towards India are thriving in all our immediate neighbouring countries, thus threatening the inner circle of our security.

Sir, already a state of emergency has been imposed and a large number of Maoist insurgents have been sneaking into India.

Sir, at least, five Indian States are in close proximity with Nepal, which has become a conduit for arm smuggling, for smuggling of fake currency and other anti-national activities. Therefore, Sir keeping this situation in view, the Government should take immediate measures. It is surprising to note that the Government has not yet come out with any clear statement. On the one hand, Maoist insurgents are accusing India that it is an imperialist country and, on the other hand, the other section of Nepal are accusing that India is providing safe shelter for those Maoist insurgents. That is why, we are becoming soft targets for these accusations. However, the Government has totally kept mum in this regard.

Sir, this Government must make a statement because it is our neighbouring country and the situation is becoming volatile.

[Translation]

SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE (Bilaspur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to say something about the declaration of public holiday on 18 December, 2001 throughout the country on the anniversary of great saint Guru Ghasidas and approval to Doordarshan for telecasting the documentary on his life.

Regarding the declaration of public holiday in the entire country on 18 December on the occasion of birth anniversary of saint Guru Ghasidas of Chhattisgarh, I would like to say that saint Guru Ghasidas was born on 18 December, 1756 at Giraudpuri village in the then Bilaspur district, which is now in Raipur district. Since his

childhood, Ghasidas had been showing people the path of peace and love through new miracles and spiritual knowledge which made people consider him a miraculous person. In his life, there was one more incident which tremendously transformed his life. The sudden demise of his wife Smt. Safura ji, brought a turning point in his life. Under the grief of her death, he decided to commit suicide and climbed almost 200 feet high mountain, which was called 'Chhatta Pahar' and jumped down from there. But when he jumped from the hill he by God's miracle found himself standing on earth. There he got a power. An invisible power said to him- O Man, you are not an ordinary person. You are the one who will heal the wounds of lakh of grief stricken people and dispel their doubts. Back from the hill, he revived his wife who had died six months ago from the cremation ground by delivering sermons and giving nectar to her. This was a surprise for the society who since then began to chant his name. He formed Sanatan Dharma and lakhs of people became their followers.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Let us know what you want from Government.

SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE: Sir, the State Government of Madhya Pradesh has been declaring public holiday on 18 December for the last twenty years. I urge upon the Union Government to telecast the half an hour documentary provided by the Union Government on the occasion of anniversary of saint Guru Ghasidas and declare public holiday on this day throughout the country.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Chandranath Singh Ji, last week you had raised the issue related with Amla. You express your view in brief.

SHRI C.N. SINGH: Sir, through you, I want to draw the attention of the Government towards the Pratapgarh District, Uttar Pradesh where Amla is purefying. The farmers are on the verge of starvation and they want to commit suicide. In the whole of India or to say in the whole world, Pratapgrah produces maximum Amla. The farmers of Pratapgarh have no land to produce wheat or paddy. All the farmers depend on the farming of Amla. But the Government is not supporting them. Through you, I want an assurance from the Government for setting up of a factory in Pratapgarh for the food-processing of Amla. Otherwise, since Amla is not sold in the market, it should provide railway facility so that the produce of Amla could be sold. Farmers are not getting right price of their Amla. I also want to know whether the Government will give support-price for the Amla of the farmers?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please conclude your speech.

SHRI G.N. SINGH: Hon'ble Minister is present in the House. I want an assurance from the Government or is this Government anti farmer. It does not want to do anything for the farmers....(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record, accept the submission of Shri P.D. Elangovan.

...(Interruptions) *

SHRI P.D. ELANGO VAN (Dharmapuri): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to speak on a very important problem pertaining to the female infanticide and foeticide in Dharmapuri and other districts of Tamil Nadu...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record, except the submission of Shri P.D. Elangovan.

...(Interruptions) *

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: This is the problem. After getting the floor, one does not sit even after one has concluded his speech. Your speech is not going on record. Nothing will go on record.

SHRI C.N. SINGH: Sir, I want to draw the attention of the Government...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Do you require ten minutes for drawing the attention of the Government.

SHRI C.N. SINGH: Please, you do not be angry...(Interruptions) I follow maximum discipline...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You stood up for making me angry.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing, except what Shri Elangovan is saying, would go on record.

...(Interruptions) *

SHRI P.D. ELANGO VAN: Sir, I would like to speak on the menacing problem of female infanticide in several districts of Tamil Nadu. The programmes initiated to prevent female infanticide is not functioning properly at present. The Government should implement a comprehensive project with more financial assistance to prevent this evil.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, in this year of Empowerment of Women, I take this opportunity to urge upon the Government to take necessary steps to prevent the menacing problem of female infanticide with systematic and streamlined projects.

[Translation]

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA (Jaipur): Hon'ble Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have to make a humble submission, that all the rivers, ponds and even wells have dried up in Rajasthan. There is no drinking water for men and animals. The Ramgadh lake in the Jaipur city was the most important from where Jaipur city used to receive drinking water. That has also dried up. Mawatha, Jalmahal and even Talkatora have dried up. Rajasthan gets water of only one percent rivers of India, so there is a big problem of water. For solving this problem. Rajasthan should get more funds. This is my request to you.

Sir, for completing the Rajasthan canal Rajasthan used to get Rs. 60 crore per year. This is a very important canal between India and Pakistan. The Government of India used to give a grant of Rs. 60 crore to the Government of Rajasthan for getting this canal completed. That grant has also ceased to be given. The Prime Minister has said that importance will be given to water, so it is my request that the previous practice of giving the assistance of Rs. 60 crores be revived for getting the Rajasthan canal completed. Rs. 100 crores be given as the first instalment for solving the problem of drinking water in Rajasthan. The Government should also restart the grant of Rs. 60 crores for the Indira Gandhi canal which has been discontinued and again start giving Rs. 60 crores which was earlier being given under the Indira Gandhi Canal Area Development Programme for completing this project.

[English]

DR. V. SAROJA (Rasipuram): Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the year 2001, earmarked as the 'Year for the Empowerment of Women' is coming to an end. Empowerment of women is empowerment of India. I would recall the assurance given by the hon. Prime Minister at the funeral of the late Shrimati Geeta Mukerjee. The

assurance given was that political empowerment of women would be assured by passing the Women's Reservation Bill that provides for 33 per cent reservation in the Parliament as well as in the State Assemblies.

Sir, I would like to request the Government to come forward and arrive at consensus by keeping out all the contentious issues at the initial stage of enactment of this revolutionary legislation with all the political will at their command.

SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH (Aurangabad, Bihar): Sir, I associate myself with her.

*SHRI T. GOVINDAN (Kasargod): Hon'ble Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of this Government through you. Sir to the Parliament March conducted by *beedi* workers on November 27th. All the trade unions participated in it and the majority of the workers were women. This march was to express their concern and anxiety regarding the proposed Bill to ban smoking. More than 70 lakh of *beedi* workers are there in our country....

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You are not supposed to read out a written speech. Don't you know that? You can express your views; not in a written form....

SHRI T. GOVINDAN: Sir, there are 70 lakh *beedi* workers in our village industries. About two crore of people are engaged in tobacco cultivation and related trades. Without taking these aspects into consideration the Central Government is yielding in to the directives of the World Health Organisation. Though both the State and Central Governments get crores of rupees as revenue from the taxes imposed on tobacco and related trades, the Government have failed to take note of the fact. Hence I urge upon the Government to take socio economic and humanitarian aspects into consideration and to postpone the proposed legislation banning smoking. Moreover, the Government should also come forward with offer of welfare measures, minimum wages and maternity benefits for these *beedi* workers. With these requests, I conclude.*

[Translation]

SHRI RAM NARESH TRIPATHEE (Seoni): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, thank you. Now-a-days farmers are agitating in support of their two demands all over Madhya Pradesh.

The first is that paddy is not being purchased at the support price.

Secondly, power is not available for the farmers during the 'Rabi' season. In none of the areas of the State paddy is being procured at the support price and if anywhere all paddy was agreed to be sold at its support prices money is not being paid. The farmer is not getting the cost. Paddy is being purchased through the co-operative societies and it is being purchased only for liquidating their loans. The farmer resorts to distress sale to the traders of the residual paddy who purchase it at a very low rate compared to the support price. The production is not fetching the farmer even the cost of fertiliser, seed and other things used for agriculture. There is so frequent load shedding that the farmers are getting electricity only for three hours whereas the State Government had announced that farmers would be getting it for six hours. But that also has been reduced to three hours. In this way power is being provided only for 18 hours a week. You can understand how agriculture will be possible with such a short supply of power. It is my request that the Union Government should intervene before the situation further deteriorates and both any demands may please be considered sympathetically.

[English]

SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR (Vadodara): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, thank you for giving me this opportunity to raise these problems of Gujarat that are pending with the Centre.

The Government of Gujarat had requested the Ministry of Railways for (1) conversion of fifteen meter-gauge and narrow-gauge rail lines into broad-gauge lines; (2) extension of Rajkot-Verawal line to Koinar via Somnath; (3) providing additional track between Ahmedabad-Mumbai; (4) construction of five new rail lines; and (5) connecting Gandhi Nagar to Delhi by broad-gauge line. These works are pending for long with the Central Government. So, I urge upon the Central Government for an early completion of these projects.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM PRASAD SINGH (Arrah): Hon'ble Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, after the creation of the separate Jharkhand State, the best academic institutes of Bihar, such as Tilaiya Sainik School and Netarhat School have fallen into the Jharkhand State. Now, there is no institute in Bihar imparting good education. Due to it, there is exploitation of poor children. They are not getting the

.... English translation of the speech Originally delivered in Malayalam.

[Shri Ram Prasad Singh]

benefit of good schools. Arrah is a very old town and Vir Kunwar Singh had fought the freedom struggle from this very town. That is a good centre from all points of view, be it trade, agriculture or institutes. So, Arrah is an appropriate town from all aspects for opening up of a Sainik School there. So, steps should be taken for setting up a Sainik School there at the earliest.

[English]

SHRI P. RAJENDRAN (Quilon): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I call the attention of the Central Government to the following matter of urgent public importance.

The Government of Kerala sought the permission of the Central Government to let some private enterprises to mine the rare earth resources available at Chavara-Karunagapally beach area of Quilon District in Kerala. These resources are used by Indian Rare Earths Ltd., (IRE) and Kerala Minerals and Metal Ltd., (KMML) for processing. IRE is a Central Government undertaking and KMML is a State public sector unit. This ingredient that is processed by the concerned institution, is used for defence purposes. So, this is of strategic importance for the country. The State Government has sent applications of some private enterprises, to the Central Government for its sanction. This is not in the national interest. I, therefore request the Central Government not to issue the sanction to the private enterprises.

[Translation]

SHRI SURESH CHANDEL (Hamirpur, H.P.): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want to draw your attention towards the Forests (Conservation) Act, 1980 of the Forest Department. Charges are to be given for starting forest activity on a land allotted to the other department. If the land, is given to the Department of Ayurveda and it wants to grow herbs, there is provision that charges be deposited for that. It is my request that where afforestation activity is to be started, charges should not be taken there.

[English]

SHRI LAKSHMAN SETH (Tamluk): Sir, very recently, BIFR had issued an order to wind up all units of Hindustan Fertiliser Corporation. As a result of it, I think, the country will be losing the self-reliance, particularly in the field of food security.

Sir, in our State of West Bengal, there are two fertiliser factories. If these factories are closed down, West Bengal will be without any fertiliser industry and it will be suffering a huge loss. My point is that the Haldia unit and the Durgapur unit of the Hindustan Fertiliser

Corporation can be revived very easily. I think, recently, the Government of India had taken a move to import the gas from Bangladesh and Myanmar. The exploration work has already started at the Digha high. So, there is every possibility of getting the gas.

If this gas is available, the feed stock will be cheaper. So, the fertiliser industry could also be revived.

So, in this situation, I would request the Government of India, the hon. Prime Minister as well as the hon. Minister of Fertiliser and Chemicals to take action to revive Haldia unit and Durgapur unit of HFC as early as possible and take our country in the direction of self-reliance.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri P.C. Thomas, though your notice was received after 10'clock, but as a special case, I am allowing you to raise the issue. Kindly finish your point within a minute.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS (Muvattupuzha): I sincerely thank you, Sir, for giving me the opportunity.

In fact, this is an issue which we have been raising time and again. The minimum support price for the natural rubber—which is grown by the 90 per cent of the farmers and they are all poor farmers—is fixed at Rs. 32.09. But the farmer is getting only Rs. 24 to Rs. 25 per kilo. So, an urgent action has to be taken in this regard by the Government of India so that the farmers do not have to suffer.

Sir, there is another aspect also. The farmer makes this rubber into smoke sheet, and the smoke sheet is an agricultural produce. But for smoke sheet, the duty has been bound at 25 per cent. This is very unrealistic. I think, there must be some mistakes. So, this matter has to be taken up with the WTO.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: So, you want that this mistake should be rectified.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Yes, Sir, of course, of this mistake should be rectified, and it should be taken up with the WTO.

My view is that some farmers may also be sent along with the bureaucrats for the negotiations. It is not only for rubber that I am saying. For all negotiations, if the bureaucrats alone are going on, there is difficulty. Even for coconut and all these matters, the real issue is not being brought to the notice of the concerned persons for negotiations. Otherwise, how come that a pure agricultural produce as rubber has a bound duty of 25 per cent whereas for all the agricultural produces, the same is fixed at 300 per cent.

So, I urge upon the Government that this discrimination should be stopped.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned to meet again at 2.30 p.m.

13.28 hours

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Thirty Minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.

14.32 hrs.

The Lok Sabha re-assembled after Lunch at Thirty Two Minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.

(SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA *in the Chair*)

[*English*]

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, the House shall take up Matters under Rule 377.

- (I) **Need to develop grand memorials at the birth and death places of Maharshi Dayanand Saraswati**

[*Translation*]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer): Madam Chairperson, first seer of self-government, fore runner of social revolution and pioneer of Indian renaissance Maharshi Dayanand Saraswati was born in 1824 at Tankara village in Kathiawad of Gujarat State. He spent his entire life for the welfare of the country, society and humanity. He contributed a lot to bring national consciousness and social awareness and also to resuscitate India's pride. All the great men of the country have accepted his contribution without any doubt. Today crores of people in the country have deep faith in him and follow his thoughts and principles. Thousands of teaching institutions, Gurukul Schools are functioning under his name. This great man died on 30th October 1883 at Bhinai Kothi, Ajmer (Rajasthan).

The birth and death place of such a great man have not been properly maintained and even today large parts of these places are in the hands of individuals or they are using them for commercial purpose thereby destroying the historical importance of the original place.

I request the Union Ministry of Culture to take action for immediate acquisition of birth place and death place of Maharshi Dayanand so as to keep historical and cultural importance of these holy places intact and a grand memorial befitting his stature should be developed there.

- (II) **Need to run Maurya Express thrice a week via Narkatia Ganj and extend Chaura-Chauri Express upto Raxaul in Bihar.**

DR. M.P. JAISWAL (Bettiah): Madam Chairperson, I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards improving the rail services in North Bihar and maximum utilization of trains services. Maurya Express should be run thrice a week from Gorakhpur to Hatiya via Narkatia Ganj and Chaura-Chauri Express should be extended upto Raxaul. It is the demand of railway passengers of both these routes and by converting their lines into broad gauge the above objectives can be met. Du to heavy railway traffic these two routes were converted into broad gauge. It is a long pending demand. But no action has been taken in this regard till date which is regretted.

Therefore, through House I request the Union Government to run Maurya Express thrice a week via Narkatia Ganj and extended Chaura-Chauri Express upto Raxaul.

- (III) **Need to associate MPs in the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojna for its proper implementation.**

SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR (Sagar): Madam Chairperson, an amount of 428 crore of Pradhan Mantri Gramin Sadak Yojana for the development of rural roads in Madhya Pradesh is lying unused in Central Bank of India, Bhopal for the last one year. There has been agreement in 25 packages out of 52 packages and only seven districts have been given work orders No encroachment has been removed from any road and the contractors have been asked to remove encroachments. The contractors are discontinuing their work due to non-payment of their bills The work has been started in Sagar, Gwalior, Shivpuri only. Tenders for Damoh, Chhatapur, Tikamgarh, Panna were invited six times, but no decision has been taken on them so far. The third instalment is already on its way but not a single penny has been spent even from the first instalment.

I, therefore, request the Union Government that Members of Parliament may be given the right of monitoring the proper implementation of the scheme.

(iv) Need to start a superfast train between Bilaspur and Indore via Raipur-Durg-Nagpur.

DR. CHARAN DAS MAHANT (Janjgir): Madam, Chairperson, after the creation of new State Chhattisgarh, Raipur has been made its capital. So there is urgent need to start a superfast train via Raipur, Durg, Rajnandgaon, Gondia, and Nagpur. There is a fast passengers train from Bilaspur to Indore via Katni but there is no superfast train from Bilaspur to Indore via Nagpur. Presently Mahanadi Express 8225/8226 runs thrice a week from Bilaspur to Bhopal via Nagpur, about 80 per cent passengers travel upto Indore. If this train from Bilaspur to Indore via Nagpur is introduced on daily basis, then all residents of Chhattisgarh would be benefited and they would get a direct train for Indore. The said train may be introduced from Bilaspur to Indore on daily basis by attaching three additional coaches in this train or by utilizing the rack which remain unused in Durg and which is utilized to start Samath Express at right time. If Mahanadi Express from Bilaspur to Indore via Nagpur depart from Bilaspur at 4.00 pm then it could reach Indore at 11.00 am on the other day and if the same train depart from Indore at 3.00 pm then it could reach Bilaspur at 10.00 am the next day.

I, through you, request the Government to provide this facility to the people of newly created State Chhattisgarh.

(v) Need to set up a Bench of High Court at Trivandrum, Kerala

[English]

SHRI V.S. SIVAKUMAR (Thiruvananthapuram): I would like to bring to your kind notice that the long pending demand of people of Southern parts of Kerala for establishment of a High Court Bench having the filing power at the capital city, Trivandrum. It is pertinent to mention here that Kerala is the only State without there being a High Court functioning from the State capital, unlike other States in India. It is understood that in the year 1995, the Government of Kerala had made a proposal for establishing a bench of High Court at the State capital—Trivandrum. Establishment of such Bench of High Court having the filing power would help the State Government machinery and also a sizeable number of litigants from the southern part of Kerala. Now the State Government is undergoing a critical financial crisis and all the Government machineries are struggling hard to overcome the financial crisis. The establishment of the High Court Bench at Trivandrum would help the Government as well as the people of the southern part of Kerala. I, therefore, request the Government to take immediate steps to establish a High Court Bench at Trivandrum.

(vi) Need to review liberalised import of agricultural products with a view to safeguard the interests of farmers particularly in Kerala

SHRI K. MURALEEDHARAN (Calicut): The liberalised import of various agricultural products after the opening the country's economy to the world market has distracted the economy of Kerala State. The crisis has been deepened by the price crash of rubber, coconut and cocunut products, areca nuts, pepper, etc. due to the indiscriminate imports of these products. The copra procurement, despite efforts taken by the Union Government, could not make any effect in the market. The farmers of both food crops and commercial crops in Kerala are in much difficulties to earn their livelihood. Most of the farmers are also finding it very difficult to repay the loans availed by them from banks and other financial institutions.

I, therefore, request the Government to implement the following suggestions to tackle the financial difficulties of the farmers:

1. Increase the import duty of rubber, coffee, tea, pepper, coconut and its products;
2. Promote exports of rubber by giving subsidy to farmer forums; and
3. Stop the recovery of all loans availed by the farmers from nationalised banks and other commercial institutions till the improvement of financial position of the farmers.

(vii) Need to check recurring floods in Murshidabad district of West Bengal

SHRI MOINUL HASSAN (Murshidabad): Murshidabad, a district of West Bengal is strategically located on the Indo-Bangladesh border. It is, however, troubled with perennial problem of erosion of land and flood almost every year. As a result, the affected people, most of whom are small cultivators, poor and helpless, suffer untold miseries. They lose their hearth and home, land and belongings, cattle and livelihood and even fall prey to disease and death.

The situation is so severe, everybody feels it is a problem of national importance and should be tackled at the national level. I would humbly request Government of India to intervene in the matter and see that a permanent solution of the problem is achieved for the well being of the suffering people and the nation at large.

(viii) Need for early electrification of villages in Kheri Parliamentary Constituency.

[Translation]

SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA (Kheri): Sir, my Parliamentary Constituency Kheri is situated near Nepal border in tarai area of Himalayas. This area has made great contribution to the food security of India through agriculture production. Due to lack of electricity the development of area and the productivity of farmers is being adversely affected. I urge upon the Government to formulate a scheme for purchasing electricity from all sugar mills in the region and implement it and inhabited villages of district Kheri should be electrified so as to achieve the target of hundred per cent electrification.

(ix) Need for a comprehensive plan for conservation of Ajanta and Ellora caves in Aurangabad district, Maharashtra.

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE (Aurangabad, Maharashtra): Sir, more than half of the portions of several murals in Ajanta caves at Aurangabad in Maharashtra are in dilapidated condition. The Government of Japan had granted Rs. 500/- crore for the development of Ajanta and Ellora. But murals of these caves were not protected this amount was rather used for other purpose.

I request the Union Government to ensure proper conservation of this historical asset by formulating a comprehensive plan for the conservation of murals in Ajanta caves.

(x) Need to invite overseas financial institutions to invest in the construction of last phase of Rengali right canal project in Orissa.

[English]

SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB (Cuttack): Rengali Irrigation Project is planned to generate 250 Megawatt of energy and provide irrigation to 2.35 lakh hectares. This project was approved by Planning Commission and started in 1978. Dam, powerhouse, barrage and head regulators at Samal been completed. But the Rengali Right Canal with an aya cut of 76,641 hectares is yet to be initiated.

Though 79 kilometres of Rengali Right Canal has been constructed, the last leg, that is, from 79 kilometres to 95 kilometres and subsequently, Darpani and Narsinghpur Branch Canal are yet to be constructed because of paucity of funds.

As Rengali Left Canal upto 30 kilometres and Parjang distributory are funded by WRCP Project and the balance 30 kilometres to 142 kilometres is under the assistance from Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund, Japan, I would urge upon the Government to impress upon the Asian Development Bank and other Overseas agencies to invest in this Project which would benefit a large section of farming community living in three major districts of Orissa, namely, Dhenkanal, Cuttack and Jajpur.

(xi) Need to provide financial assistance to Government of Maharashtra for providing relief to the people affected by drought in Nashik district.

[Translation]

SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE (Malegaon): Madam Chairperson, there are fifteen tehsils in the Nashik district of Maharashtra. All tehsils were affected by drought last year. This year Sarana, Malegaon, Nandgaon, Bankhad, Nifaad, Sinaar, Khela and Yevada, eight tehsils are again affected by drought. These areas have affected by drought for two years continuously. There is no drinking water and water for cultivation, no fodder for animals and labourers are not getting wages. I request the Government to provide financial assistance to the State and send a Committee to take stock of the situation of drought here.

(xii) Need for proper maintenance of National Highway No. 7 between Tilwara and Jabalpur-Seoni region in Madhya Pradesh.

SHRI RAM NARESH TRIPATHEE (Seoni): Madam Chairperson, the road upto 510 km, of National Highway No. 7 from Tilwara bridge on Jabalpur-Seoni road of National Highway No. 7 in Madhya Pradesh is in bad shape. There are potholes all over the road and there is no proposal of any action plan for its repair. This portion of National Highway falls under Jabalpur region in Madhya Pradesh which has more work. This important road is neglected due to the negligence and indifference of the Jabalpur region.

I request the Government to initiate for the early construction of this portion of National Highway No. 7 from Tilwara bridge upto 510 kms, and request that this portion of the road may be transferred alongwith staff to Seoni region of Madhya Pradesh which has comparatively less workload so that the road may be maintained and people can get rid of this inconvenience.

(xiii) Need to approve the proposal submitted by Government of Bihar seeking amendments in the Buddha Gaya Temple Act, 1949.

[English]

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR (Nagpur): Sir, Buddha Gaya Temple, the site of Buddha's enlightenment, is one of the most important monument of ancient India. Buddhist pilgrims and devotees from all over the world visit this holy Mahabodhi Mahavihar. The management of Mahabodhi Mahavihar is monitored by an Act passed by the Bihar Government, namely, Buddha Gaya Temple Act, 1949. The Act *inter alia* provides for nomination of persons on the management other than the Buddhists.

The Buddhists all over the country have been agitating for a long time seeking appropriate modifications in the Buddha Gaya Temple Act, 1949 so as to provide for the management of this temple by persons belonging to the Buddhists community. The Government of Bihar in consultation with Buddha Gaya Mahabodhi Mahavihar All India Action Committee headed by Bhadant Arya Nagarjun Surei Sasai submitted the amended draft of the Act to the Central Government for approval. The draft Act envisages that the Managing Committee consisting of Chairman, Secretary and eight nominated members be all from amongst Buddhists on the same principle followed for management of other religious bodies. The approval of the Central Government has not yet been communicated.

I would urge upon the Government to expedite their approval to the revised draft lest the agitation may take a serious turn.

(xiv) Need to sanction 25,000 additional houses under Indira Awas Yojana for flood victims in Andhra Pradesh.

DR. MANDA JAGANNATH (Nagar Kurnool): Sir, 81,783 houses were severely damaged following heavy

rains and cyclone that crossed Andhra Pradesh on 17th October, 2001. The total damage caused to human settlement has been estimated at Rs. 408.90 crore. The Government of Andhra Pradesh has requested the Union Government to sanction at least 25,000 IAY houses additionally for the current year as a special case for providing permanent shelter to the flood victims. I request the Minister for Rural Development to take an early action in the matter and come to the rescue of flood victims of Andhra Pradesh.

14.50 hrs.

SUPPLEMENTARY DEMANDS FOR GRANTS, GENERAL (2001-2002)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: We now move on to Supplementary Demands for Grants. The time allotted for this subject is three hours.

Motion moved:

"That the respective sums of not exceeding the amounts on the Revenue Account and Capital Account shown in the third column of the Order Paper be granted to the President out of the Consolidated Fund of India, of certain further sums necessary to defray the charges, that will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 2002, in respect of the heads of demands entered in the second column thereof, against Demand Nos. "3, 5, 6, 8, 9, 11, 20, 21, 22, 27, 36, 50, 54, 58, 59, 62, 64, 65, 68, 72, 74, 76 81, 83, 85, 87, 89 and 96."

LOK SABHA

Supplementary Demands for Grants—Second Batch (General) for 2001-2002 to be submitted to the Vote of the Lok Sabha

No. and Title of Demand		Amount of Demand for Grant to be submitted to Vote of the House	
1	2	3	4
		Revenue Rs.	Capital Rs.
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE			
3.	Department of Animal Husbandry & Dairying	100,000	
MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS & PETROCHEMICALS			
5.	Department of Chemicals & Petrochemicals	...	330,600,000

1	2	3	4
6.	Department of Fertilizers		1,332,400,000
	MINISTRY OF COAL		
8.	Ministry of Coal	620,900,000	100,000
	MINISTRY OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY		
9.	Department of Commerce	45,000,000	
	MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS		
11.	Department of Posts		100,000
	DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT		
20.	Department of Disinvestment		500,000
	MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT & FORESTS		
21.	Ministry of Environment & Forests	100,000	
	MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS		
22.	Ministry of External Affairs	100,000	
	MINISTRY OF FINANCE		
27.	Transfers of State and Union Territory Governments	1,000,100,000	
	MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION		
36.	Department of Consumer Affairs	200,000	120,100,000
	MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES		
50.	Department of Heavy Industry	1,545,500,000	2,500,000,000
	MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE & COMPANY AFFAIRS		
54.	Law and Justice	28,500,000	
	MINISTRY OF MINES		
58.	Ministry of Mines	1,022,200,000	850,000,000
	MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES		
59.	Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources		100,000
	MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS		
62.	Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas		4,488,400,000
	MINISTRY OF POWER		
64.	Ministry of Power	220,100,000	100,000

1	2	3	4
MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT			
65.	Department of Rural Development	13,500,100,000	
MINISTRY OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY			
68.	Department of Science & Technology	100,000	105,900,000
MINISTRY OF STATISTICS & PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION			
72.	Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation	855,200,000	
MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT & HIGHWAYS			
74.	Ministry of Road Transport & Highways	100,000	
MINISTRY OF TEXTILES			
76.	Ministry of Textiles	100,000	
MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION			
81.	Public Works		298,100,000
83.	Department of Urban Employment and Poverty Alleviation	100,000	70,000,000
MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE & EMPOWERMENT			
85.	Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment	100,000	
DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY			
87.	Atomic Energy	100,000	
DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT			
89.	Department of Ocean Development	100,000	
MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS UNION TERRITORIES WITHOUT LEGISLATURE			
96.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	100,000	...
Grand Total		18,838,900,000	10,096,400,000

SHRI BIJOY HANDIQUE (Jorhat): Madam, Chairman, we are just three months away from the Budget 2002-2003. Hon. Minister, probably to boost the sagging morale of the nation tried to strike a buoyant and upbeat mood. His optimism however, is not contagious. Not many are convinced by the brave words of the hon. Finance Minister comes out from time to time, particularly in his address at the India Economic Summit, New Delhi a couple of days ago, where he projected a growth rate of seven per cent. It failed to gloss over the inconvenient fact that India is struggling to notch up even five per cent growth. The National Council of Applied Economic Research

forecast even less, that is 4.8 per cent growth in the current fiscal year, dissenter believe even this is unduly optimistic and that we will be lucky to manage 4.5 per cent growth.

Madam, we have to bear in mind that the country had actually achieved seven per cent growth for three straight years in mid nineties. The hon. Minister spoke of trebling the direct tax collection from 3.4 per cent of GDP in 2000-2001 to ten per cent in a few years. It is no doubt a laudable objective. But after all these years of reform, tax regulations remained as convoluted as ever.

Assesses have to wait for years to have their appeals redressed. Nor is there any sign of improved administrative effectively. The cost of tax collection, as a percentage of total revenue has been raising steadily. Take, for instance, the tax-GDP ratio. As against the high of 16.07 per cent in 1989-90 and 15.81 per cent in 1991-92, which is considered a bad year, in 1999-2000, the tax-GDP ratio stood at 14.18 per cent. The reasons are not far to seek. The complex and convoluted tax system does not tax close to seventy per cent of GDP. It makes compliance difficult, and evasion and avoidance easy. It allows for an inefficient and corrupt tax administration.

Madam, the well-known newspapers, *The Economic Times*, recently reported the findings of CBDT Study Group that identified forty-five corporates who did not pay even the Minimum Alternative Tax, that is MAT.

Clearly, the rationale behind the MAT—to bring companies that did not pay tax due to various incentives and deductions, but made substantial profit and distributed dividends, into the tax net—has not translated into the much-needed tax revenue. Thanks to the numerous exemptions available, there are many companies which do not pay at all. Rationalisation and simplification of tax system has only been talked about for years. But nothing has been done at the ground level. If the Finance Minister means business, he should do away with the numerous exemptions. A low flat rate of taxation for corporates and two or three slab rates for the individuals as at present, but with fewer exemptions, will go far. So, the Finance Minister must have the political will to do that.

Besides this, there is ominous decline in the core sectors. In the context of infrastructure sector, there is perceptible decline in key areas like electricity, crude oil production, industry etc.

Electricity generation during April-October 2001 grew by a lower rate of 2.4 per cent as compared with the 4.4 per cent increase recorded in the same period of 2000. Growth of thermal generation decelerated to 4 per cent during April-October 2001 from 6.1 per cent while hydel generation fell by 5.6 per cent. So, how can we light up the rural India? How can we give power to the rural industries? After all, this is the most elementary and basic switch to modernisation of our country.

Again, about growth of crude oil production, it declined by three per cent during April-September 2001. Growth in crude throughput fell sharply to 3.7 per cent during April-September, 2001. Again, in the industrial sector, the index of industrial production growth slowed down to 2.2 per cent during April-August 2001 compared to 5.7 per cent during the same period of the previous

year. Production data of August, no doubt, I must admit, indicates improvement in growth of selected segments like basic metals, transport equipment, leather products, beverages and tobacco and plastics. But a decline in production continues to plague the sectors like cotton textiles, jute textiles, textile products, paper and metal products. It is the textile sector which is a major employment source to the people. It provides major employment to the people. The capital goods index fell by 12.3 per cent in August, a continuation of the trend prevailing for long.

The expected improvement in domestic demand on account of rise in rural incomes should see overall industrial growth rising in the second half. But sustained industrial growth needs the fuel of investment in capital goods and as yet there is no sign of any growth in investment activity. However, there is a silver-lining, I must admit, as for instance, in coal. Coal production posted 10 per cent growth in September 2001.

15.00 hrs.

This was the highest growth rate during the preceding 11 months. On the whole, the growth scenario is not at all encouraging. Unless checked and corrected, I am afraid, the fall out of this decline and slow down will envelop our next Budget that is round the corner.

I seek indulgence of the House and also, Madam, your indulgence to refer to two burning problems that have, of late, hit the North-East. This House always expresses concern for development and peace in this region. So, I take this opportunity to remind the hon. Minister of Finance about two burning problems faced by the unemployed of youths in the North-East, particularly in Assam.

I have a grievance to say that these two issues were raised while discussing the Finance Bill earlier in this House during the Budget Session. But nothing has been done to address these issues. One is the closure of the small scale industrial units. According to the Central Government account, the closed units numbered 11,445 in a span of 10 years. According to the Government of Assam, the figure—a correct one—is about 17,000. I do not want to dispute the figure. Even if we go by the estimate of the Central Government, leaving about 5,500 units, the figure is still staggering. Out of these 11,445 units, according to an estimate made by the Reserve Bank of India, 1,383 units are viable. This is an explosive situation because about a lakh of people, belonging to the lower middle class, are in a distress situation. The Government has had its own expert committees, particularly the Kapoor Committee. The remedy lies in implementation of the recommendations contained in the

[Shri Bijoy Handique]

Report of the Kapoor Committee. The institutional mechanism in the form of State level Inter-Institutional Committees need to be strengthened and special rehabilitation cells in banks and State financial institutions need to be instructed to take immediate measures. Small-scale entrepreneurs now demand 'interest holiday' for 10 years for reviving the viable units. Once there was a tax holiday. But these poor small-scale entrepreneurs need an interest holiday for 10 years so that they could survive and rebuild their small enterprises. We have to bear in mind that these entrepreneurs are victims small enterprises. We have to bear in mind that these entrepreneurs are victims of the political turmoil that hit the State for more than 10 years. This is the time when they suffered the most.

These closed sick units in the region, I bear witness to the Government's neglect of a sector in which lies the salvation of lakhs of unemployed young men and women.

We want mega projects, no doubt about that. They bring prosperity and development to the region but at the level of young people themselves, small units lead them to a way out of their poverty.

The second issue is the distressing plight of the small tea growers. In the North-East, particularly in Assam, dry-land farming boxed through ages in tiny plots of land and is now converted to tea growing. About 30,000 young men and women use small plots of land including their home stead vacant patches. Not an inch of their land, even a tiny plot of land, parts of their household is left and brought under plantation. They have on their own initiative and effort found a way out in resolving their employment problem. I should call it a revolution.

Unfortunately, a serious situation arises, and there is a steep fall in the prices of green leaves and most of them are on the brink of disaster. The crash is now for the third consecutive year. The price crashed from Rs. 10 to Rs. 4 per kg. For some time it was Rs. 5 and now it is Rs. 4 and it has been coming down for the last three years. Taking advantage of their distressing plight, the big corporate garden houses corner them to sell their produce at a much cheaper rate.

At the same time, the small tea growers' problems will be largely resolved if some relief is given to the tea industry itself. The industry is, at present, at one of the worst periods of its history. For two consecutive years the tea industry is facing this crisis. The immediate relief that was to be provided is withdrawal of the excise duty.

Madam, you will remember and the hon. Finance Minister will also remember that Dr. Manmohan Singh, when he was the Finance Minister even then this excise duty was in force. But he gave a relief by withdrawing

the excise duty and after that tea industry had a good spell for a couple of years. But again, it is reimposed. For the last three years, this excise duty has been reimposed. Unless this duty is withdrawn, tea industry will collapse.

Madam, you know that Assam's economy depends on the tea industry. If tea industry fails the economy will collapse. I would like to bring these two issues to the notice of the hon. Finance Minister and these are connected with the political climate of the region, and already social tension has been growing and I foresee worse social tension soon. So, unless the hon. Finance Minister intervenes, I am afraid, we cannot help the small tea growers. At the same time, the tea industry itself is in great trouble.

I understand the WTO obligation and that is why Govt. is allowing imports. But I would request them to, at least, impose higher import duty, so that the export earnings of the Indian tea industry do not suffer. These are the observations, I have made and these are the suggestions that I have placed for the consideration of the hon. Finance Minister. I believe that he will, this time at least—last time, he did not—address these issues and find a solution to the problem.

[Translation]

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA (Mumbai North East): Madam, Chairman, member from the Opposition has drawn the attention of the Government towards the economic slow down with regard to the Supplementary Demands by providing some dates. First of all, I would like to congratulate the government and Hon. Finance Minister for his efforts. If we compare India with the other countries of the world, we will find that not only we have made progress, but also the negative growth which was prevalent earlier last year is likely to be converted into positive growth the year due to positive stand of the Government. The agricultural growth rate is likely to go up to 5-7 %. For this, I want to congratulate Hon. Finance Minister.

Madam, Chairman, I would like to submit some data in this regard while Hon. Member has made efforts to provide data pertaining to economic growth, but I would like to inform the House, that Japan is considered the most advanced country of 20th century. It is likely to achieve - 05% growth rate in the year 2001. America is considered the most prosperous country of the world which has 1.5% growth rate which has been revised to 1.3%. The growth rate of European countries was 2.5% which is going to 1.8% after coming down upto 33%. The Government should pay heed to the lacunae while analysing economic situation.

Madam Chairman, this House is an apex institution of the country. If we talk like this here, what direction will we give to the economy of the country? Actual requirement is that of crisis of confidence. The way this Government has taken steps and the way we are progressing under the leadership of Shri Atal Behari Vajpayee, in the beginning of the year, the World Bank had to state that India would have 5 percent growth rate. Now the World Bank has begun to state that

[English]

The net growth will be 5.7 percent. For Japan it is 0.5 percent and for Hindustan it is 5.7 percent.

[Translation]

Madam Chairman, while congratulating the Hon. Finance Minister, I would also like to admit that this issue has been discussed here many times. In the last decade, our colleagues asked about the result of the revolution brought by them. It was their effort in agriculture, rural economic policy and rural development that they adhered to this economic policy since 1991 and the result that the agriculture growth 7 percent went down so much so that

[English]

In the year 1997-1998 and in 1999, it was -0.7 percent.

[Translation]

I would like to congratulate the Government that they have focussed at rural India. Accordingly to them the economic policy of India, the population of India, the employment in India, all depend on the agricultural of rural India while also determine growth rate. If we talk about inflation.

[English]

Let us talk about the full decade. What was the decade situation? When was it started? It started in the year 1990-91. What was the inflation? It was double digit inflation. It was more than 10 percent. What is at present? It is 2.56 percent.

[Translation]

It is right that today Government is burdened with Rs. 12 lac crore debt to the economic policies adopted by the previous Government. One crore rupees is paid as interest should we not look into it? It is true that when the talk about growth and tax, we should also take into consideration this issue also.

[English]

The interest payment constituted 28 percent of the revenue expenditure.

[Translation]

I have not included the data of the State Governments in it.

[English]

The major disbursement is related to repayment of debts and interest payments. Out of the total growth disbursement, Rs. 6,01,000, that is, 51 percent and Rs. 3,05,000. That is, 16 percent, pertains to repayment of debts and interest payments.

[Translation]

It means we spend 67 percent of loan availed by us on the repayment of debts and interest thereon. Whether that loan was raised in this year 1998-1999 or it was taken after the formation of NDA government? Was it taken this loan? Whom did they make indebted? During the period 1967-1987 and 1991, we adopted such an economic policy under which one could raise loan and enjoy oneself without caring for a second who would pay the debt. By doing this we burdened the future generation with debts. That is the kind of policy we want? What we did during to 1987 for the people of this country, was exhortation to all to struggle, fight and go forward. What the economic policy contributed in the country was that we have always been taking assistance from others. We tried to impose the policy of living at the mercy of other them to struggle during 1967 to 1991-1992. We made efforts to all the people that they should earn money by working hard. First they should made investment and have a rest then and burden the future generation of this country with a debt of Rs. 12 lac crore. This was the policy we had adopted and for this I would like to congratulate.

[English]

Yes, it is economic slow down. It is global economic slow down.

[Translation]

But how did our Government bail itself out of this economic slow down.

I would not like to go into the discussion on Capital Market crisis, crisis in U.T.I. and the manner in which such a situation has been created in US-64, which were

[Shri Kirit Somaiya]

taken up for discussion during the debate on the Budget. As all are aware of the way in which disinvestment of PSU's were made from 1991 to 1995, ten thousand crore rupees have been slashed on financial institute, disinvestment of an amount of five thousand rupees have been made resulting to loss of three thousand crore rupees. I would compliment the hon'ble Finance Minister for the manner in which he has successfully pulled back the crisis of US-64 and provided the guarantee of ten rupees. People came forward to withdraw four hundred crore rupees only in the last six months. But alongwith complimenting hon'ble Finance Minister, I would like to draw his attention towards some matters that he has brilliantly tackled the crisis of US-64 and he will have to excel similarly in future. I have noticed that whenever the issue of UTI has come up for discussion during 1989, 1991, 1992, 1993 or 1999.

[English]

The SEBI has written to the Finance Minister in various Governments twenty eight times, whether it was of Shri Chandra Shekhar, Shri P.V. Narsimha Rao, Shri H.D. Deve Gowda or Shri I.K. Gujral.

[Translation]

Every time apprehension about irregularity in UTI was expressed and it was also told that there was no transparency in UTI, UTI's independent and autonomous accountability was also demanded. I would like to say to the hon'ble Finance Minister that the type of support and package he is providing to UTI, simultaneously UTI should also be restructured, there should be independent accountability and all the schemes should be brought under the purview of SEBI. Actually the supplementary grants you have provided.

[English]

I do not know why the Ministry of Finance has not made any provision regarding the US-64 deficit.

[Translation]

I would like to ask the Government that what will happen in the event of deficit against the commitment made to the small investors that they will have 3000 units in spite of NAV of 7, 8.5 or 9 rupees and would get 10 rupees.

[English]

A prudent auditor and a prudent financial accountant would make the provision if a deficit arises.

[Translation]

I would request the Finance Minister to make it clear that whether the Government would provide support to UTI even if he has made to provision but after January if deficit is incurred at the time of announcement of NAV. I would appeal the Finance Minister for it.

I would also draw his attention toward MIP.

[English]

All monthly income plan schemes are assured income schemes.

[Translation]

and in such schemes of 78 UTI more than half of the NAV is minus.

[English]

You have to think about that also.

[Translation]

The investment process has gained momentum with the supplementary demands of Department of Disinvestment which has been placed by you alongwith the Supplementary demands, but on the behalf of the small investors I would like to draw your attention towards the matter that.

[English]

Once again the private lobbies and private bidders are lobbying

[Translation]

that in any type of disinvestment, there should be a clause of 20 percent open offer. If any private company takes over any other company then it will have to purchase 20 percent shares of small investors. Now the private bidders are lobbying in such a way that

[English]

that clause should not be there.

[Translation]

I would request the Finance Minister to keep that clause in the interest of small investors. Not only that the minimum floor price of average of six months which as per guidelines of SEBI, should be implemented.

I would also like to draw the attention of the Minister to the fact that he has to keep another subject which is about power sector. I would like to know about power sector in which Enron is becoming a defaulter and it is filing a case of bankruptcy. IDBI had extended huge loan to Enron what would happen about the recovery of loan amount. What would be the policy of the Government about Enron and particularly financial institutions? I understand that you would have thought over it, but if the people come to know about it from the House, they would certainly appreciate. I would also like to bring small issue before you.

Hon'ble Madam Chairman.

[English]

On page 22, under the Supplementary Demands for the Department of Statistics and Programme Implementation, in respect of MPLADS it has been mentioned, 'Additional requirement of Rs. 150 crore, if needed'. But the Comptroller and Auditor-General's report says, 'Rs. 1,700 crore are lying idle in the various book accounts with the collectorates.'

[Translation]

When I went through the report indepth, I learnt that over Rs. 1300 crore out of 1700 crore rupees were lying unutilized even before 1996. The Government sends the amount from here, thereafter the amount is deposited in the Collectors account but Rs. 1700 crore are due out of the work recommended, work implemented, work subjected and expenditure actually incurred.

The Collector does not provide this amount to the M.P. This amount is lying unutilised in the bank and Rs. 1700 crore is not a small amount. I would like to say that CAG should discuss the matter with the Ministry of Programme Implementation and make available this amount to the sitting M.P.s according to the existing laws.

Madam Chairman, but the Collector is not utilizing this amount and the Ministry of Programme Implementation is not insisting on this. Thus, Rs. 1700 crore are lying in the bank which could be utilized for carrying out small development programmes in the country.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Kirit Somaiya ji, we were utilizing that amount.

[English]

You are wrongly informed. It has been given to us. It has been adjusted to the main account in our States.

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: Madam, I have gone in very much detail. The Collector has refused in Maharashtra and everywhere it has been refused...*(Interruptions)* There are four States including Andhra Pradesh and may be Kerala.

[Translation]

There are in four such States including Andhra Pradesh and may be Kerala, where Rs. 1700 crore are lying unutilized for the last five years.

Madam Chairman, I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister of Finance towards one-two more issues. A discussion is going on and my issue is also related to this and it is about backdoor take over. Last year, Gujarat Ambuja took over ACC by providing just 14.5 percent shares and again this month we have seen that by acquiring 10 percent shares, Birla has tried to take over LIC.

[English]

So, without public open offer, how can they get the membership on the Board of Directors?

[Translation]

On the one hand the Ministry of Finance says that SEBI protects small investors but by having 5 percent shares Birla could not get into the board of director of the company when the market price of L and T share is Rs. 164, what is the reason of selling it by Birla to Reliance at Rs. 306 per share and more over, when the market price of ACC share was Rs. 106, why Gujarat Ambuja sold them at Rs. 371 per share. It is one year now but both the SEBI and the Ministry of Finance are silent over it. Whereas you have made open offer of 20 percent to the small investors, we are ready for it. Why shares were sold to Birla at Rs. 306 per share? These corporate houses—

[English]

Shri Birla is the Chairman of Corporate Governance Committee of SEBI.

[Translation]

These Corporate Houses resort to backdoor manipulation and the Ministry of Finance and the financial institutions are silent over it. Why 7 percent shares of L and T were given to Birla by UTI? If you had reduced the amount Rs. 306 per share, the small UTI investors of US-64 would have benefited. I would like that.

[Shri Kirit Somaiya]

[English]

The Ministry of Finance and the institutions should play an active role.

[Translation]

They could stop the entry of Birla.

Similarly, in the year 1989-90 efforts were made for taking over L and T through backdoor. The Minister of Finance is present here. At that time you might have asked the financial institutions to foil their entry through back door and LIC issued a notice of convening Extra Ordinary General Body Meeting to check the back door take over bid.

Madam Chairman, I would conclude by saying only one thing. Prices have risen three hundred percent i.e. three times in just fifteen days. So, when there was upsurge in the market and we were apprehending whether the same is not going to be repeated. I would like to submit that a broker in spite of his having allegiance to bullish sentiments, if he prices in collusion with the promoter he causes harm not only to the small investors but also to the economy of the entire country. So, a broker irrespective of his category be it a bull or bear should come under scrutiny.

Madam Chairman, I would like to conclude by supporting the resolution made by the Government through Supplementary Demands. The Prime Minister has said that Hindustan would emerge as a new power in this new century. This dream would surely be materialised. With these words, I support the Supplementary Demands presented by the Government.

15.29 hrs.

[English]

(MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*)

PROF. A. K. PREMAJAM (Badagara): Sir, I thank you very much for giving me this opportunity to participate in the discussion on Supplementary Demands for Grants (General) Budget.

On this occasion I would bring to notice of this August House some portions of the Address given by the hon. Minister of Finance a couple of days ago while addressing the World Economic Forum held in the heart of the capital city. I quote:

"We are steadfastly setting about making our miracle. I invite all of you to become partners in the excitement that is India."

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Prof. Premajam, your Party has got eleven minutes. I am just giving you a caution.

PROF. A.K. PREMAJAM: Yes, Sir. I will try my best to be within the time limit.

Actually this 'miracle of India' and inviting delegates who numbered about 400 representing 28 countries, in my opinion, appears to be a very pathetic joke on the people of India, the toiling millions who live in object poverty. He has invited these delegates to be partners of this 'excitement that is India'. I think the people who live in the metropolitan cities and who sit on the high podium with the world dignitaries, especially in the economic sector, do not come across the millions and millions of people who live in the rural areas, the small villages of India. I need not quote here what Gandhiji has said and that is quoted several times over and over, that India lives in villages.

Of course, it is very good to be optimistic, especially about the economic development and other developments which will follow the economic development. Our hon. Minister of Finance is very much optimistic and he expects a seven per cent growth of GDP. But, as already mentioned by the first speaker who participated in the debate, we will be lucky if we are able to achieve, at least, 4.5 per cent growth.

What are the actual ground realities? Of course, the ground realities in the agricultural sector, in the industrial sector, in the field of education, in health scenario, regarding the position or the status of women and the economic scenario at length are to be seen. Actually, what is the ground reality? I will come to the agricultural sphere.

Sir, during the current Session, a discussion has already taken place on the plight of the farmers - both small and marginal and also of the agricultural workers all over the country. The implementation of globalisation which is actually imperialism in a new garb, has actually totally shattered the Indian agricultural arena. This is our experience. I do not know what exactly is the experience of our hon. Minister and others who are dealing with this officially. But our experience is that the prices of all our cash crops as well as foodgrains have been completely crashed. Most of the small and marginal farmers are actually engaged in distress sale in their commodities because they have to tide over the loan problem. So, at whatever price that they are able to get, they are actually selling their commodities and the agricultural products at that price. This is the case with regard to Kerala at least; not only Kerala but from what we come across in

the Press and also in the electronic media, the farmers are committing suicides. Even in a State like Kerala the farmers are actually committing suicides because they are not able to live.

They are not able to pull ahead of their lives. It is the ground reality. This is the cause with Andhra Pradesh; this is the case with States like Haryana and Punjab. That means, there is no point in just being optimistic and expect seven per cent growth in GDP. In the case of Kerala, the value of all the cash crops, like rubber, coconut, spices etc., has come down and the farmers are not able to sell anything at all. This is actually due to the impact of globalisation. Actually, it is colonialism in a new garb. Even in the pattern of agriculture, there is a great change. Instead of growing foodgrains, the multinational companies are acquiring or buying large chunks of land and they are not actually cultivating foodgrains, which have been traditionally cultivated in those areas, but they are cultivating some profitable products. For example, fish farming has become very popular. It means that this will affect not merely the agricultural area, but even drinking water will be adversely affected. As far as the ordinary villager is concerned, he will be actually finding it very, very difficult to get even drinking water. This is one of the problems which we are going to face on a very large scale in the years to come.

Now, I come to industry. Due to paucity of time, I am not going into the details. In the case of industry, on one side, the Government is going ahead with disinvestment. IN the Budget speech, our hon. Minister has promised that there will be creation of new job opportunities. But what is actually happening? The ground reality is that as the days go by, the job opportunities are going to come down. As far as the Government service is concerned, new terminologies, like downsizing and rightsizing, are being used. In effect, it simply means that there will be more unemployment on the service side. This is happening in the industrial sector, this is happening in the agricultural arena. Every sphere of life is actually affected by unemployment. Unemployment is actually on the rise. I do not know how the globalisation, the New Economic Policy, during the last ten years have improved the growth. How can it be said to be an improvement or a growth over the earlier position?

Regarding disinvestment, I am not going into the details, but even the public sector undertakings which are actually running on large profits are being disinvested. When we mention this, they will say that we are not distinguishing between profit-making and loss-making; it is a general policy and, therefore, they are doing it. That is the position.

Regarding pharmaceutical firms, there is actually a Supplementary Grant here. A Supplementary Grant is

required for providing non-Plan loans for Indian Drugs and Pharmaceuticals Limited, Bengal Immunity, Smith Stanistreet Pharmaceutical Ltd. However, we came to know that the Government had given information to BIFR that they were not going to give any further financial support to these companies. In the case of Bengal Immunity, another pharmaceutical public sector undertaking located in West Bengal, the Government informed BIFR that it was not willing to continue as a promoter of the Company any more and any decision by the BIFR for winding up the Company would be acceptable to the Government. At the same time, here there is a request for Supplementary Grant for this Company also. That is the case with other companies that I have mentioned.

Sir, I would like to mention one more point.

Sir, this year has been declared as 'Year for the Empowerment of Women'. How can women be empowered in the background of what I have already mentioned? When people are thrown out of their jobs as a result of the economic policies pursued by this Government what happens is that the first segment that is chosen for being thrown out of their jobs, especially in the industrial and in the agricultural sector, is the women folk. Once they are thrown out of their jobs, they only have to beg. Now, as a result of this fact globalisation, women are being forced to go into prostitution. It has now been made into a legal profession. They are now being called 'sex workers'. Women who are losing their jobs as a result of globalisation are constrained to enter this particular area. It is a disgrace to the nation as a whole. It is at such a time that the hon. Finance Minister has said that India is going to make a miracle and he has invited delegates to join this miracle.

Sir, anyway, due to constraint of time I would not like to mention the other points that I intended to make before this august House.

DR. B.B. RAMAIAH (Eluru): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the hon. Finance Minister today has come to this House with the Supplementary Demands for Grants. This is a normal practice because it is not possible to assess the actual requirement for the whole year at the time of the formulation of the Budget.

Sir, this time the hon. Finance Minister has come up with a supplementary demand for Rs. 3,396.50 crore whereas the actual outgo is Rs. 2205.23 crore. I am very happy to note that the hon. Minister has allocated funds for the Department of Heavy Industry. He also has allocated a sum of Rs. 150 crore for VRS to employees and a sum of Rs. 250 crore towards loan to the PSUs. Substantial sums of money have also been allocated for Departments of Fertilizer and of Rural Development.

[Dr. B.B. Ramaiah]

The most important of all is that money has also been sought for allocation to MPLAD schemes. It has always been said that MPLAD has a lot of money and they are not utilised. But during the last one and half year, since I have taken over as the Chairman of this Committee, a sum of about Rs. 3,500 crore has already been released. This scheme has become very popular. The reason why it has become popular is that the hon. Speaker has taken a lot of interest in the matter. We have conducted regional meetings with the Collectors regarding the procedure to be followed and its implementation. The co-ordination between the various Ministries has also been properly streamlined. The hon. Members also are taking a lot of interest in this now. I am sure this would assume greater importance in the coming days. An MLA receives about Rs. 50 to Rs. 80 lakh for the development of his assembly segment but in comparison to that a Member of Parliament gets nothing. It is a pitiable situation. That is why, we met the hon. Prime Minister the other day and we requested him about this. He gave us a patient hearing and he seems to be sympathetic to our cause. The only thing is that the hon. Finance Minister has to give due consideration to this aspect. I hope that he would consider this aspect sympathetically.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Ramaiah, Mr. Minister is also a Member of Parliament.

DR. B.B. RAMAIAH: Sir, everybody is asking for money. Many Members are approaching the hon. Speaker for allocating more funds in the MPLAD scheme. This is one area where there is a procedure and there are restrictions and its implementation would also have to be made effectively. This fund is used only for creation of assets and not for paying compensation and it does not involve any recurring expenditure. It is a very good scheme. I am sure, the hon. Finance Minister will support this scheme.

Sir, I am also very happy about the other proposals that he has brought in this Supplementary Demands. I would like to mention a few things about the Public Sector Undertakings. The performances of the PSUs have been under a review. There are a number of good public sector units but for valid reasons only they are not able to perform up to expectations. Recently, I visited one of the units where they were inviting tenders for hydel projects. M/s. Tungabhadra Steel and M/s BHEL had submitted their proposals for it. The proposal of M/s. Tungabhadra Steel was rejected on the ground that its financial condition was not good and the proposal of M/s BHEL

was rejected on the ground that though their financial position is good, yet they do not produce these items. So, there needs to be some sort of a co-ordination between these big PSUs and others. They need to be either combined together or there would have to be some kind of a collaboration between them, otherwise it is not possible.

The same thing happens in the case of Bridge & Roofs. They have got the experience of road building and so, they are qualified, whereas the Engineers India Limited is not in the road building activity and therefore, they are not qualified. Unless we combine these things, they will not be able to do these things. Today, the expansion in road building activity is tremendous; and it is consuming something like Rs. 30,000-Rs. 40,000 crore; and it will go on for 10-15 years. So, we need some of these collaborations between things. We have to combine them and we can make a lot of progress.

When we come to Hindustan Photo Films, it is the question of duty structure here. The duty structure on the raw material which is not manufactured, but used for the photo film, can be reduced substantially; and the duty on the intermediate product which is coming from the multinationals can be increased at least to WTO-BOND level, so that they will be given some protection and also, the latest equipment worth thousands of crores of rupees will not be kept idle. I am sure, he can understand these things.

In the case of automobile industry, we want to develop this industry. If we allow liberally in the case of used cars, we cannot develop it. So, we need some protection on this thing also, some how or the other. I hope that he would take into consideration some of these factors when he plans further for development, expansion, etc.

In the case of the *Pradhan Mantri Sarak Yojana*, he wants Rs. 2,500 crore. I do not know whether it is going to be a budgetary support or a road cess; and the hon. Finance Minister may clarify this. If it is going to be a road cess, then it need not be a budgetary support.

I am very happy that he has come up with 'food for work programme'. This is one of the excellent schemes. It will help encourage other schemes also and it would support other schemes. We have got surplus rice, wheat and various other things; and these things can be effectively utilised with proper storage facilities, etc. We were also not able to compete in the international market

on this; and probably, this is one of the best schemes that he has come up with. I am very happy about this; and I am sure he will be able to bring some of these schemes to the rural areas so that rural development takes place. In such cases, finance is going to be a constraint; if we are able to give additional support, a lot of things can be done.

In the case of education, now they have made it a policy that children up to the age of 14 years will have compulsory education. This also needs some more support. This is a wonderful idea; some of the things which are now taken up needs some more funds.

Non-conventional energy should be encouraged. But somehow or the other, the Department of Non-Conventional Energy Sources says that they have constraint of funds and that they are not able to come up with more proposals and that large projects are not able to come up. Now, people have taken a lot of initiative in this regard. Agricultural waste and things like bio-mass, etc., can be used for non-conventional energy. I am sure the hon. Finance Minister will put some effort to see that they get funds liberally. There should be a uniform policy for the whole country so that they will be able to assist in the projects.

I do not want to go into the other details. Whatever he has done in banking sector is excellent. The interest rates are coming down. It is the only way by which they can support development. GDP growth has to go up at the same time. Some of these people have mentioned about the GDP growth in some of the other countries. But they have already become developed that their one per cent growth would make much more than what our growth is here. But we have to work hard at least to make the growth at 6-7 per cent in order to see that we fulfil the objectives of the people and that we will be able to come up with various other aspects whereby we can build our assets.

I will come to other aspects also. What I feel is that the share of the States may be increased from 29 per cent to at least 33 per cent because their economies are very bad. As and when it is possible, he could do it. By this, probably, the States would also stabilise their position.

Occurrence of frequent calamities is one of the problems that we are facing. In the case of droughts or earthquakes or cyclones, the assistance from the Central Government is not coming in time and support is also not in the enough quantity. This has become a regular

thing. Probably, he may have to plan to give additional support for these things. Already he has started doing very well.

The small scale sector requires some additional support and sickness of industries have to be taken care of.

I am sure that the hon. Finance Minister will be able to bring in new proposals in the coming Budget. With these words, I conclude. Thank you very much.

[Translation]

SHRI DHARM RAJ SINGH PATEL (Phulpur) Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want to tell the hon. Finance Minister that it would have been better if he had paid attention towards the condition of farmers and labourers living in rural areas because this budget will not contribute anything to the development of rural areas. There is so much unemployment and other problems in the villages that farmers, workers and small shopkeepers are in distress. The youth of rural areas are facing problems which have never risen before. Today a farmer cannot buy clothes for his children and fertilizers because he does not have money, he cannot give money for irrigation and for pumping sets. He is unable to marry off his children. All the farmers, be it the producer of wheat, potatoes, sugar-cane or some other food grains, are on the verge of ruin. Workers are suffering due to unemployment. The farmers do not have jobs to offer, that is why workers are also in distress. The work has come to a standstill in the fields. His food grains are not being sold anymore. If you visit these villages you will find that the children of the farmers have only one dress. There is no facility of treatment if the farmer or his child is bitten by a snake or if someone falls sick. Imagine the plight of the farmers who has to work at night in such severe winter. Attention should be paid in this direction.

All this is going on in the tenure of the hon. Finance Minister. Today the worker class and the business class both are suffering. From the owners of small scale industries to big industrialists, all are in distress. The Government is saying that growth rate is increasing but there is recession in the market. The opportunities of employment have ended in the country. There are no jobs. Hon. Prime Minister has said that his Government will create one crore jobs. Can you give the number of people whom you have given employment during the last 2-3 years. I urge upon the Government to present all these details in the House. What policy have you

[Shri Dharm Raj Singh Patel]

formulated for the educated unemployed youth of the country?

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is true that education has been included in the category of fundamental rights but I would like to know from the Government how many people have you been able to educate in the country. 36 per cent people are living below poverty line. When their children do not have clothes to wear and they do not have money to buy books and copies and launch for them then how can they send their children to primary schools? There are no chairs and tables and carpets for children in the primary schools and there are no chairs and tables even for the teachers and you have not done anything for the development of 70 percent people living in the rural areas.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, please look at the budget. It is given there that, electrification would be done in 80 thousand villages of the country. I am not going to talk about the whole country, I am only going to talk about Uttar Pradesh. In my constituency one or two poles have been installed here and there and it was said that the whole village was electrified. Farmers, poor workers and people from scheduled castes and scheduled tribes are living in villages and there is no electricity and they are facing problems. I asked a question that you are talking about 80 thousand villages but more than 50 per cent villages are without electricity. Fake data has been presented here. The Government has said that if we achieve 7 per cent growth rate then we will do the job of uplifting 20 per cent people living below the poverty line.

You have said that there 36 per cent people are living below the poverty line. You have fixed a target that one crore people or two crore people have to stay below the poverty line. You have not carried out any survey regarding poor people living in villages belonging to any caste or religion. You should have counted them amongst people living below poverty line. You have fixed a target that this much percentage of people are to be brought above the poverty line and in that also you have fixed a target by categorisation such as APL and BPL. People are dying of starvation even today. People are dying of starvation in Mirzapur and Pratapgarh district. Similar situation prevails in other parts of the country also while godowns are full to the brim with food grains. The farmer who is the producer of food grains is unable to sell his produce. Workers and poor people have been driven to the verge of starvation. This is your governance.

I want to tell Parliament that the entire middle class, be it the salaried class or the people engaged in some other vocation, is suffering. Everybody, be it the employees or the youth is facing problems. You may be giving him ten thousand or fifteen thousand rupees but if he is living in a rented house, he cannot even provide proper meals to his children. Similarly the middle class is affected by your policies. I want to say that right from the middle class to farmers and people from poor section everybody is in distress. Due to your policies millionaires and billionaires who are your followers are prospering, people who are following your footsteps and the industrialists who are robbing the nation and the poor people of country are happy in your regime. People who have been praising you so far which included the names of Rahul Bajaj, Tata, Birla and Reliance are now not happy with your policies and they are criticising your policies.

That is why I would like to inform you to take it as a warning. You should realize that you are from the Janta Party. You have held the post of Finance Minister in the governance of Chandrashekherji. At that time you kept gold in pawn. I am happy that this time you are not keeping gold in pawn. But today you are not providing sugar at low prices in villages you are increasing the rates of kerosene and diesel and you are withdrawing subsidy on agriculture. I want to know what you wish to accomplish. You should pay attention to farmers, workers, employees or poor persons. Do you wish to bring them to state of beggary? From whom would they seek help?

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, through you I want to tell the hon. Finance Minister that in rural areas we have noted that people, but it the poor persons or the unemployed or the other people, die suddenly due to sickness or any other reason. You have launched Janshruti Insurance scheme in villages, it has been well publicised in newspapers. But the poor people, employees and persons from the poorer section and the farmers are unable to deposit the premium of insurance. People who do not have enough to eat, how can they deposit 100 rupees per month. That is why I want to say that you should give insurance cover to all the persons from unorganised sector, be it the farmers, the workers the employees or people from private sector. In case of a person's death, the family should get at least 50 thousand or one lakh rupees but you should deposit the premium.

Alongwith this I want to say that you have widely publicised the old age pension scheme. But under the scheme you have fixed that only two persons from each

village would be given its benefits. You have prescribed this facility for only two people while at least 50 people are eligible for it in each of the villages. It has become a problem for the Pradhan of any village that whose name he should recommend. Your other schemes are also running along similar lines. You are depriving people living below poverty line of ration card. Hon. Minister, Shri Shanta Kumarji is present here, I want to request him to make food available to all the people living below the poverty line. With these words I hope that for students, youth...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You can not speak for such a length of time on supplementary demands.

SHRI DHARM RAJ SINGH PATEL: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am a new member. I may please be given some more time. You have introduced schemes like Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme, Swarna Jayanti Employment Scheme etc. but all these are not serving their purpose. People are not at all aware of the fact that they would get fifty thousand rupees or ten thousand rupees under such schemes. It provides opportunity to the officers to swindle money, entire money is exhausted in it and nobody knows it.

16.00 hrs.

I would like to appeal to the hon'ble Minister to integrate all the rural schemes into single scheme so that the rural people are acquainted with the schemes and they get the money. The amount 20 thousand rupees provided under housing scheme should be enhanced to one lakh rupees. Moreover the amount for house building being provided to the persons belonging to Scheduled Castes should also be enhanced. If money is required, the Government should impose taxes on the persons living in palatial bungalows and those staying in five star hotels. The entire House is ready to support you.

With these words I conclude.

SHRI SUBODH MOHITE (Ramtek): Hon'ble Deputy Speaker, Sir, today we are having a discussion on Supplementary Budget. It means we are having a discussion as to what shape should be given to our future economy. We are talking about the position of our economy at international level, the widening gap between the rich and the poor and also food security and health security for the poor in future. We are not discussing the comparative growth rate of our country as compared to that of America, Japan and China and feeling complacent

because it is less in our country. The moot point is whether we are going to provide protection for the poor or not. One hon'ble Member had referred to England and pointed out that England had such and such arrangement. There is a need for introspection in the context of our improvement. First of all we should talk about ourselves. I would like to thank the hon'ble Minister that.

[English]

He is a very effective Minister.

[Translation]

He has effectively managed it in such a crisis.

Hon'ble Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am talking about.

[English]

Present state of economy.

[Translation]

I would like to know whether the economy today is

[English]

good, better, best or worst.

[Translation]

We are here to analyse it. Various clippings collected from LARRDIS reflect the analysis by various institutions. Therein

[English]

the economist in Print Media, Electronic Media say that in the last two years, the economy has gone from bad to worst.

[Translation]

I can show you the clippings. It is clearly written there. I want to know about the symptoms of economy.

[English]

On what does the economy depend?

My analysis is based on three 'C' s, namely consequence, causes and control.

[Shri Subodh Mohite]

[Translation]

I have come here to speak on three 'C's

[English]

Economy depends on the three 'C'

[Translation]

The first 'C' is consequence, it has five indicators.

[English]

The five indicators are revenue, expenditure, export, industrial growth and GDP growth. This is the consequence of economy.

[Translation]

I am talking about Supplementary Budget. That means from April to August and from April to December. The first indicator of the figures for the period during April to October that I have is, revenue. The revenue of last year's was of April to August.

[English]

It has gone down by 6.2 percent compared to last year.

[Translation]

With the growth of population our demand is increasing but our revenue is declining by 6.2 percent. When the revenue is declining the expenditure should also comparatively come down but our expenditure is increasing over 13 points. Our last year's expenditure was 10400 crore rupees but this year's expenditure is of Rs. 11800 crore rupees. Our export growth is also negative.

[English]

Our export growth is negative. It is minus 2.3 percent.

[Translation]

The question is when we talk about the growth rate, the credibility of Indian products in international credibility becomes questionable. When we say that

[English]

Industry is the engine of economy.

[Translation]

When we talk about capital industry, Service industry, consumer industry and industrial industry growth,

[English]

that has also gone down by 61 percent.

[Translation]

Most important factor is GDP. When we talk about financial relationship and GDP, which was 4.28 percent, last year during two months.

[English]

GDP has come down by 28 percent as compared to last year

[Translation]

and still two months are left in this year.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I come to the second 'C'. I have only three 'C's.

[English]

Second 'C' is causes. Some causes are known and some are unknown. Some causes are controlled and some are hidden.

[Translation]

What are its causes, I will tell you the first cause that is misplacement of priorities, which is being accorded because formula of 80 to 20 is being adopted and 20 percent consideration is being given to the areas from where revenue yield is 80 percent and on the areas of 20 percent yield, consideration is 80%.

[English]

80:20 formula should be implemented very strictly.

[Translation]

There are many loopholes in revenue receipt sector of Banking. We do not have any effective control over it. We are not paying attention to its monitoring. ERC has asked to undertake revenue reforms, VRS. We are concentrating on petty expenses.

Please excuse me.

[English]

There is an increased corrupt practice in revenue Department. It is a fact.

[Translation]

I would like to say as Shri Kirit Somaiya has told, what has become of the Chairman of UTI and hon'ble Chairman of C.B.D.T. I am using the objective hon'ble intentionally to indicate that at least they command some respect. Mr. Subbrahmnyam of UTI, Chairman of C.B.D.T. and Mr. Verma these three, who are top bureaucrats of the country have caused losses to crores of people of the country. Mr. Verma's case is known to everybody. He has used the Government machinery and network as a personal property. Some women were also engaged in it.

The Commissioner of the Central Excise duped the Government of crores of rupees. Some of our well known persons were also involved in it. When there is so much corruption at the strategy maker level, then how much corruption in a day might have been there at the operation level, attracts concern.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, my question is as to how and on what basis they are selected, what are their commitment after selection, whether the inside lobby or outside lobby gets at work. For the sake of the profit of one rupee they are making a loss of 100 crores of the country. This question should come here.

The third point, I want to say is that.

[English]

Increase in non-plan expenditure is a common thing.

[Translation]

It was said that the agriculture sector would be given importance. See, this is an interesting point and I have got the clippings of 'The Hindu' dated 6th September, 2001. In it, it is written that in the original budget the matter of boosting up agriculture was incorporated but after some time that was changed and the matter of boosting up public investment along with agriculture was included. The question is that the Finance Ministry which works continuously for six months to prepare budget and it's whole machinery remains involved in this work should not change it's strategy after a few days and it should rather put emphasis on a single matter.

[English]

The Government should not be in a confused state. A proper analysis should be made.

[Translation]

Will our dream materialise in three months in this way? I mean to say that this should not be done. This is my request.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the last point is that the first thing should be financial management with time. After considering it sincerely it should be properly managed as to what we have to do, how much finance is with us, how much time we have got. There is a very good saying in Hindi that "Durghatna Se Der Bhai." but Sir, here there is delay also and accident also. Scams after scam is taking place.

[English]

We are just sleeping. There should be improvement in the time management.

[Translation]

Shri Kirit Somaiya had mentioned a very good point. I congratulate Shri Yaswant Sinha on his fine handling of UTI in the whole country. But I ask the Finance Minister whether any post has been created for handling the post-scam operations.

[English]

Is this a post meant for controlling the post-scam operations?

[Translation]

If this type of work is done, then it is my request that

[English]

the Finance Minister, along with his team, should re-prioritise the objectives in time.

[Translation]

I want to ask the Finance Minister the following four questions:

1. The major indicators of economy are going down how much more will they go down? How long will this trend continue?

[Shri Subodh Mohite]

2. Was any major scam averted this financial year?
3. Has any area been identified on the basis of ABC analysis, keeping the scam in view?
4. Does the Ministry have any checks and balances for preventing the repetition of scams?

[English]

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA (Canara): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Supplementary Demands for Grants are only a ritual in spite of the Budget every year. All that happens is that it comes before us and we automatically pass it. We are glad that this year, the Finance Minister has put in the sop of extra allotments in respect of the MPLADS also because, I think, the Members of Parliament have now an added incentive to pass everything without finding fault with what you are doing.

I think the mid-year appraisals are important for all the Ministries and particularly for the Finance Ministry. I must say that all of us follow what is happening. We read newspapers every day. We see the figures released by the Government from time to time. One day, the inflation dips and another time the inflation rises. Some time, share prices crash and another time, they are on the rise. We see or rather we read about the helpless mothers selling their children in exchange for food. We read about farmers committing suicide. We are looking at Government Departments which are said to be pruned. But new Ministers are being sworn in and new Departments created. On the one hand, we see the UTI scam and on the other, the share market scam. I do not wish to speak about them today because I am a Member of the JPC and I am bound by the code not to go into the details of the information that comes to us. So, I will not touch upon these two scams.

MR DEPUTY SPEAKER: That will not be allowed here.

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA: Yes, that will not be allowed here. But Members have spoken before me on this subject. But, anyway, I shall follow the code.

Coming to the point, I submit that the PSUs are up for sale. VRS is announced. The economy is not in good shape. The hon. Prime Minister himself says this. To top it all, Enron suddenly goes bankrupt. Now, with this scenario around us, Mr. Finance Minister, even today the die-hard optimists are worried. I think the nation does require some clarifications to be given. I quote from the speech of the hon. Prime Minister delivered from the ramparts of the Red Fort on the Independence Day.

"The Prime Minister Mr. Atal Bihari Vajpayee today termed the slow down in the economy as temporary and promised that the Government would soon take steps to reverse it. He announced a new orientation to the economic policies to make them pro-poor, pro-village and pro-employment and outlined a series of measures to achieve these objectives."

Well, I repeat that they were supposed to become pro-poor, pro-village and pro-employment-oriented. Of course, he talked about a number of things. He spoke about corruption, scams and a number of things but promised that things would be corrected.

None of us really can say that we have seen any corrective measures from August to November.

He spoke about fighting corruption on every front. But I must say with great concern that, today, I have read about this famous Shri Mishra and Shri Chaturvedi of Flex. The man who was investigating, the man who was in charge, has been unceremoniously removed and shifted to Audit in the Ministry of Finance. The Joint Secretary was supposed to be investigating some other important connections and links in the investigation. This is just one case. What I am saying is that you are not sincere. I have been saying it repeatedly that

[Translation]

your slogan is indigenous, but work is completely foreign.

[English]

Every day, we read 'throw open the economy', 'invite the outsiders', and so on. I am giving just a few examples of where we see the contradictions. Take for instance, rural folk. What investments are taking place in the rural side? On the one hand, subsidies are being withdrawn. We have got the scheme of credit cards for farmers which are ceremoniously distributed and yet there are imports flooding the local markets. The Minister of Food is here. We have been fighting with him on several occasions. There are indiscriminate imports of anything you can think of from fruits to milk to milk products to all grains that you can think of. In the South — someone spoke before me also — whether it is coconuts, arecanut, whether it is rubber, whether it is tea or coffee, or whatever you name, the prices have collapsed. The people are literally going bankrupt. The farmers are unable to repay their loans because they are not re-scheduled by the banks. They are committing suicide.

What is the focus that Government is giving to the rural poor and the weaker sections? These are your slogans of being rural-oriented. I will tell you about the

main problem today. You rehash, re-name and re-produce all your schemes. It was *Swarna Jayanti* one day. It has become something else today. Now, there is a new programme for housing. You are going to re-name and re-cast the programmes. You are re-orienting the programmes and announcing them. But the basic issue is about the rural poor. You say that the BPL families will be the beneficiaries in all the schemes. I have gone around. I come from a rural constituency. I have discussed it with so many other people. Your BPL surveys are still not complete. There is no BPL list if you go to the villages. They cannot be beneficiaries because they do not have the BPL card.

Recently, in my own State, we had a big fight with the Administration. The criteria are changed. Let me tell you about the forms which are being distributed. You would probably say that this is decentralised and each State has its own parameter. I do not know whether there is a national parameter for BPL families. Do you know some of the questions in the questionnaire? Do you have a house? Do you have a tiled roof? What is your eating pattern? It is all right. What is worse? Do you have a cycle? Do you have electricity?

We have so many Government schemes. We have 'aasharaya' scheme in my State where free houses are given to the houseless people. These are little one-room places for the absolutely weakest of the weak. But once you get the house, you cannot be on the BPL list because they tick 'yes'.

We have a programme called '*niralu bhagya*,' where they have thatched roofs, they give one thousand tiles once a year for those areas. If you have a tiled roof, you go off the BPL list. What is the criterion by which you judge poverty today?

I come to Income Tax. It is all right. You want to get more people into the Income Tax net. This country has gone by default. I am glad that you have taken steps. But you have included a person having a telephone. He has to file Form 2-C. A telephone is a basic necessity in the rural areas. I come from an area where 70 per cent of the constituency is a reserve forest. There are small little hamlets out in the wilderness. The only communication is a telephone or an STD booth. We were trying to sell telephone lines saying this is rural development. Shri Rajiv Gandhi dreamt of giving telephones to every village. Today, if you have a telephone in your house, you must file Form 2-C for Income Tax. The people are asking, "What is Form 2-C?" They do not even understand where they have to go. They have to spend so much money to fill it up and go somewhere else to file it.

Is not telephone a basic necessity in the 21st Century? I appeal to the hon. Minister to remove telephone from that list. You can have foreign travel, club membership, car, etc. in that list, but I would request him not to get this problem on the heads of poor people to whom a telephone is literally a survival kit today in the wilderness.

Then, I would ask you about subsidies. I know the way you have withdrawn everything from the farmers and the poor. In most developed countries—already figures have been given—subsidising food production is still a big game, but food is coming cheaper here, because it is subsidised there. It is not remunerative enough here because you have withdrawn subsidies. You have destroyed the PDS. I read it day before yesterday, the Government figures themselves, that you are now trying to sell foodgrain stocks which are piling up and which are not moving, at the price below the PDS prices within the country. So, somebody abroad benefits from our malfunctioning and our incapacity to respond to the needs of the hungry, the BPL families and the weaker sections.

I think, history will never forgive us for having denied our own poor what they deserve and for trying today to dispose of stocks because they are rotting or because they cannot be held any longer with new stock coming in. It is nothing but mismanagement and maladministration. Today you are going to export those stocks below the rates at which you are giving them to the PDS.

I am also talking about inflation and this was also mentioned by Shri Kirit Somaiya. He blames us and for whatever happens today. The Congress is blamed. Anyway, it is good that nobody can speak without mentioning the Congress.

[*Translation*]

Nobody can think without the Congress, plan without Congress, probably sleep without Congress because everyone has to take the name of the Congress. Those who have gone there from here, have mostly retained the culture of Congress.

[*English*]

But, I am telling you one thing. He mentioned about ten per cent inflation in 1991. We came in 1991 with Shri P.V. Narasimha Rao as the Prime Minister. I too came in that Government. We know what the condition of the economy was. It was a disaster. It took us three years to stabilise and bring back the derailed economy on the rails.

You know it, You are the Finance Minister and you were in the Parliament. It took tremendous effort by Dr. Manmohan Singh and the then Prime Minister to put things, at least, back on the rails. In the last three years of our rule we showed seven per cent growth rate every year. In the last three years today they have and I read two lines from the current economic scenario. This is the *The Hindu Business Line* where it says:

"Even as the Government is chalking plans to achieve eight per cent growth during the Tenth Five Year Plan, the Central Statistical Organisation revised downwards the GDP growth for 2000-2001 to 5.2 per cent against the earlier estimates of 6 per cent."

You are not even able to achieve 6 per cent. You have downgraded it. The economy recorded 6.4 per cent growth in 1999-2000, but now it is showing a downward trend. There is no time, so I will not read more than this.

I will only say something about the sectors which have been given in detail. Every single sector, agriculture, manufacturing, electricity, construction, transport, hotels, financing, social services, etc. have shown a downward trend. The figures show falling trends. I do not want to go into the details, they are listed here in *The Economic Times*. I have got a whole chart here. This is the scenario in which we are.

I would ask the hon. Minister honestly, why is Indian industry going into recession today.

[Translation]

Today whatever happens in the world is attributed to 11th September incident. Thereafter tourists are not coming here, so the industry has suffered and all these things have occurred.

[English]

When many other countries, because of the international situation, are facing economic problems, if India had the vision and the courage, we should have been able to fill in the vacuum in many parts of the world because we have the manpower, we have the resources. You are talking about foreign investment, instead of getting it into the infrastructure, into the industry and into main sectors, what are we talking about?

Sir, I am giving you one example, You will pardon me. I have got here the appeal which has been submitted to you by various federations on Foreign Direct Investment

in the retail trade. Assurances have been given that we would not allow Foreign Direct Investment. But there is a Cabinet note already circulated to the Group of Ministers to approve Foreign Direct Investment in retail trade. You are going to allow the retail trade, which is handled by small retailers in the country for hundreds of years, to go into the hands huge multi-nationals. Some of their budgets and some of their turnovers are more than the gross national income of some countries. You want to bring them in. They will resource internationally. Your domestic producers and small producers will be destroyed. Your domestic trade will go. What will be left with you? Huge companies coming from abroad and selling what they want and creating a demand for items, which is going to help economies in other parts of the world. What are you doing to protect the Indian small-scale industry? You cannot protect Indian agriculture. You cannot protect even the service sector. In the last year, it has shown a downward trend, from 11.7 per cent, to I think, 9.3 per cent. It is the case with every sector because we are opening up in every way and we have forgotten the lessons of history that our friends from the West came to trade and became our rulers!

I am appealing to the Foreign Minister, I am sorry to the Finance Minister— Foreign Minister is beyond appeal now—to look at things in a correct perspective and see that this country is not made into bonded labour for the next so many generations because the loans for every development activity have come from the World Bank, the IMF, and the ADB now. Nobody is giving us money out of love. It is because they can take it back and take back much more. Who is going to repay it? We have crossed 50 per cent of our budget as far as repayment, interest, and other things are concerned. Even for education, we are borrowing. For health, we are borrowing. For everything, we are getting money from somewhere. We are tying up future generations of this country to the whole burden of tax repayment and its servicing.

I want to touch just one point, which I would be failing in duty if I do not touch upon, and that is, Khadi and Village Industries. This was the dream of Mahatma Gandhi. I congratulate my young colleague on the other side, the Minister who was in charge, Shrimati Vasundhara Raje, for the fantastic job he did in trying to revive the Khadi and Village Industries and make them popular. I am told now that she has been moved out of that and somebody else is handling it. As far as I know, that will be a disaster. She had an idea how to popularise Khadi. But let me point out that there is a problem in regard to

a notification. Any Khadi Village Industry, as long as it is the village area, has got tax exemption. You do not pay tax. But after a unit is set up, women who had formed their group and are just crossing the border, line have to close down. What happens is that population grows and the local revenue department declares it to be 'urban area', and immediately you impose tax on them. Now, these people have struggled to stabilise and once a cottage industry has been started in the rural area, and just because the area as per the revenue records is turned into 'urban', all the benefits that these poor women or the rural people are getting from that have been lost. I would like you to review this. Once it is started in a rural area, even if it is declared to be 'urban' after 10 years or 12 years, the benefit that you have given to them, if these Village Khadi Industries are to survive, is to be retained. You have to make an exception because most of them in this industry are women, who are struggling with their hands to produce something which can make India proud and which no WTO and no international organisation or enterprise can compete with because these are the hands of your traditional craftsmen and producers, whom to machine can copy. I ask you to protect these traditional industries and these struggling women and the poor, who are in these industries.

I know, I am short of time...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You have already taken 19 minutes.

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA: You gave me 20 minutes. So, I have one more minute to conclude.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You are entitled for 18 minutes.

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA: The Finance Minister has promised one crore jobs.

But all the companies are closing down their enterprises through VRS So unemployment is growing. Multinationals and others are coming in. Everyone is talking about downsizing the Government. But I know downsizing is not going to take place because you have to have so many Departments to accommodate all the Ministers who are part of the coalition. Everybody must have something to do to keep them occupied. So, I understand your burden. I was Minister of personnel. I tried it. The more jobs I tried to downsize, the more were created behind my back in the name of consultants, in the name of extensions and so on. So, I know the problem. But I hope that God and your colleagues in the Government will give you support you need to implement

this most crucial reform of downsizing the Government. The jobs which one man can do is done by four people today. If you have more women in Government, probably, you will be more efficient in your Department. But I request you to please give priority to reforms which will not destroy the soul of India.

SHRI ANADI SAHU (Berhampur, Orissa): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I thank you for the opportunity. When I stand here in support of the Second Batch of Supplementary Demands for Grants tabled by the hon. Finance Minister, I am reminded of a prophetic and famous statement made by Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru on the 15th of August, 1947 from the high pedestal of the Red Fort. He had indicated to the nation that we have tryst with destiny. Definitely it was a tryst with destiny, a tryst where our self-determination was to take us into an unknown and uncharted future world with inexperienced people. In spite of that, we were happy, and the happiness and euphoria were short-lived. Despondency, dejection and disillusionment followed with abject poverty. For many years we were not able to get over the difficulties that millions of Indians have been facing because of abject poverty.

Thanks to Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, the Prime Minister of India, for the past three years attempts are being made and steps are being taken with success to ensure that people do not suffer. On the 15th of August, 2001, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, the Prime Minister of India, proclaimed from the ramparts of the Red Fort that India would be a front ranking nation in the world. It would be one of the ten fastest growing economies, nations in the world. He proclaimed a pro-poor, pro-village economic policy and with that end in view, new initiatives were proclaimed. The new initiatives are *Sampoorna Gramin Rozgar Yojana*, National Nutrition Mission, *Valmiki Malini Basti Awas Yojana*, *Pradhan Mantri Gramin Sadak Yojana*, National Highway Development Project and many other schemes. Apart from all other things, a Rapid Action Force was to be constituted to implement the projects that had been proclaimed from the ramparts of the Red Fort. It indicates that from tryst with destiny, India is going to the tryst with cornucopia. Cornucopia is the symbol of plenty. That is what the Prime Minister had indicated on the 15th of August, 2001. How do we get the cornucopia, that is, the symbol of plenty? It is by implementing whatever had been proclaimed in the field the hon. Finance Minister has taken pains to ensure that. With this Second Supplementary Demands for Grants, additional grants are given to ensure that we surge ahead in eradicating poverty and in eradicating all sorts of mal-

[Shri Anadi Sahu]

administrations which have been the bane of this country for the last so many years.

I will not go into debt servicing, equity, the world recession and financial management. Those are matters, which could be discussed when the hon. Minister of Finance Shri Yashwant Sinha presents the next Budget in 2002. Those matters could be discussed at that time. We are interested in discussing the type of facilities the poor, the downtrodden and the marginalised would get. We have achieved success in food grains. About 209 million metric tonnes have been the production. It might even go up. We have 65 lakh tonnes of buffer stock, which would take us through in case of any necessity at any given point of time.

Now, I would only go into the facts relating to the Additional Grants that have been indicated by the hon. Minister of Finance. He has indicated in the first page itself all the 31 items for which Rs. 3,396 crore are to be given, of which the extra requirement is only Rs. 1371 crores and it is not much. It is a fact that till September, 2001, we had a fiscal deficit of Rs. 57,000 crore but in spite of the fiscal deficit you would kindly appreciate that the non-debt revenue has been more than 32 per cent within that period. This means, the revenue has been going up. Keeping this in view and making minor adjustments here and there, the hon. Minister of Finance has been able to give an additional grant of Rs. 1371 crores to ensure that we go ahead with different poverty alleviation programmes.

The first and foremost programme is the 'Food for Work' programme. As it has been very clearly indicated by our forefathers a long time ago, rather some 5,000 years back in Mandukya Upanishad, "annat bhutani jayante, jatani annen vardhante." This means, 'In the embryo itself, you require food; when the baby is born, it enquires food; and, when we grow up, we require food.' For the people below the poverty line, you have to give food in an adequate manner. That is why the additional requirement of funds under the Employment Assurance Scheme of Rs. 275 crore has been brought up. There are also the Jawahar Gram Samridhi Yojana, which was indicated in the new initiative from the ramparts of the Red Fort, and the 'Food for Work' programmes.

It is a fact that the money that is being given to the States is not being properly spent. The implementing agencies are not properly spending the money but the Central Government has been giving funds. Whenever people go in for seeking migratory employment, 20 per

cent extra money is given under 'Food for Work' to *panchayats* so that people do not go away from their places. It was introduced two years ago by the hon. Minister to ensure that people do not go away from their habitats to work in different places. From my State, people go to Mumbai and even to Arunachal Pradesh to find work but we are now having extra funds to ensure that we do not get into any difficulty. A sum of Rs. 1,300 crores have been given in these four works.

The most important programme is the *Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana*. This is an innovation. I am not going now into the Golden Quadrilateral because that does not come in this Second Supplementary Grant. India is now being united again through this programme. The on person who united India was Sankaracharya by creating the four *dhams*. Now, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee has thought of a brilliant idea of connectivity. As I said, I would not go into the details of the Golden Quadrilateral. I am more interested in the *Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana*. It started as a rural connectivity project and it has now become the *Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana*, where habitations with one thousand people would be connected. Funds are being given to this programme; Rs. 2,500 crore are now being given. It will go up later on but there is one flaw in this programme. So far as my State is concerned, the difficulty with my State is that the Scheduled Areas, which are mostly in the southern part of Orissa, are having habitation of tribal people. This might also be true of Assam, Meghalaya or any other State.

Sir, in the tribal areas because of the undulated terrain and lack of water holes—I call it water holes—there are small hamlets. People not more 200 to 300 live in a particular hamlet. If we have this thing of 1000 habitation, it will take a longer time to provide connectivity.

Sir, beyond 2003, you have indicated that the people living in habitation of 500 persons will come under the *Pradhan Mantri gram Sadak Yojana*. May I request the hon. Minister of Finance and through you, Sir, the hon. Minister of Rural Development to kindly bring down the number of people who live in the villages, in the hamlets so that the connectivity can progress in a faster manner and once you have connectivity, I am sure, foodstuff will come and difficulties will not arise.

Sir, I am giving the instance of a village where five persons have died due to malnutrition in my Constituency of Berhampur. Satalguda. I had to walk 14 kms. to visit that place. The nearest *Gram Panchayat* headquarters is 14 kms from that village. So, I do not know how you can have connectivity in another ten years because that village

has only 150 persons, nearby village has 100 persons and another nearby village has 50 persons. So, the norms have to be reduced to ensure that the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojna is successful and more funds are given. But they should be given in a manner so that this thing benefits all people.

Sir, I am grateful to the hon. Minister of Finance and the Government for that matter that they have taken steps for speedy implementation of the geeta Krishnan Committee Report. It is a fact that the Government has been spending more and there is a necessity of bringing down the expenditure. It is a fact that the public sector undertakings are a burden on the neck of the government. That is why, disinvestment has started and with disinvestment, voluntary retirement schemes have been taken up.

Sir, as I make a cursory glance of the Second Supplementary Demands for Grants, I find that Rs. 221.58 crore have been provided for voluntary retirement schemes in addition to what have been provided in the main Budget itself. More funds should be provided and more people should be retired immediately so that the exchequer does not suffer for unnecessary expenditure.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Sahu, please conclude. There are many speakers from your Party.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI ANADI SAHU: Sir, I will take another two or three minutes, not more than that.

Sir, most importantly, we had not thought of urban poor, the slum dwellers. A due initiative has been taken by introducing the *Valmiki Awas Yojna*. It is a new initiative, and, as I said trust with Cornucopia. The poor people who are living in the urban areas have not been thought of earlier. Now, it has been thought of and Rs. 100 crore have been provided by the hon. Minister of Finance in this Supplementary Grant. But there is a chink in the armour.

May I request the hon. Minister of Finance to please refer to page 11 of the Supplementary Demands for Grants wherein there is mention about certain amounts being sanctioned for foreign travels because that particular Ministry or that particular Department had a saving. I do not know and I fail to understand as to why a Supplementary Grant should be taken for foreign travel when certain savings have been indicated by the

Department itself. The National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission (NCDRC) and the Forward Markets Commission (FMC) have been provided funds for going on foreign travel. This is in my opinion a chink in the armour and, of course, the matter can be thought of by the hon. Minister himself.

Sir, I have no time and since you have rung the bell, I stop here by supporting the Supplementary Demands for Grants.

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Raghuvansh Prasadji, there are total six minutes for your party.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Sir, I will raise the issue of the crores of the poor people of the country.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You must raise the issue of the poor, but keep the time in mind and do not take more than 6 minutes.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir I am on my legs to speak on the supplementary demand of Rs. 3,396,88.5 crores that has been introduced this year. We have seen that there is no mention of Bihar in the demand number 127. Last year on the 15th of November when Bihar was divided, it was said in this House that a special cell will be constituted in the Planning Commission to look into the quantum of economic loss incurred by Bihar due to its division and the loss will be compensated. But, sir it is being seen that Bihar has not received a single paisa.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, earlier Bihar was receiving from Jharkhand two-thirds of income from revenue which has remained one-third now, whereas the share of expenditure of Bihar has been two thirds Bihar and that of Jharkhand is one third. For it, we the Members of Parliament for all parties approached the Prime Minister and he told that he would deliberate upon the issue, but at the same time he also asked us whether we had any talks with the Finance Minister. He was very keen to talk with the Finance Minister. Today the Finance Minister is present here, more than one year have elapsed right from the 15th November of the last year to 15 November this year. December has started. In this way, more than

[Shri Raghuvansh Prasad Singh]

one year have elapsed, but Bihar has not received a single paisa.

Sir, it was demanded that an economic package be given to Bihar. The Bihar Legislature had with the support of all parties unanimously passed a resolution that Rs. 1,79,800 crores should be given to Bihar, for the loss it has incurred due to its bifurcation, but not a single paisa has been given. I want to now from the hon. Finance Minister as to why it is so. The tenth portion of the population of India is in Jharkhand and Bihar and when money is being disbursed for the development of the country, why the rightful share of Bihar is not being given. In the Memorandum which was given, it was said that the loan of Rs. 22.5 thousand crores given to Bihar should be waived.

It is because the debts of other states have been waived off. Even the debt of Punjab has been waived off and it has been offered some economic package as well. But in case of Bihar neither its debts have been waived off nor any economic package has been offered to it. Thus Bihar is being meted out injustice altogether.

Sir, in the Seventh, Eighth and Ninth Five Year Plans, the schemes particularly short term schemes of Rs. 8 thousand crore were formulated for the states for the agriculture wherein Rs. 13 thousand crores were to be spent. But there was less expenditure than what was earmarked. Similarly, if we look at the centrally sponsored schemes, take for example Ninth Five Years Plan, we will find that the amount provided for Bihar in any scheme is negligible and for most of the schemes, no fund has been allotted at all. We have got almost nothing in the Ninth Five Year Plan. If we look at the centrally sponsored schemes in the Ninth Five Year Plan for the entire country, we will find that Bihar and Jharkhand constitute tenth part of the total population of the Country. So, out of the total amount of Rs. 5 thousand crore that has been spent, Bihar should have been provided Rs. 500 crore as per its share. But what to talk of Rs. 500 crore, Bihar has not been allotted even Rs. 300 or 200 or 100 crore. Merely Rs. 55 crore were allocated out of which only Rs. 25 crore were actually received. It is an irony that where Bihar should have been allotted Rs. 500 crores, only Rs. 25 crore have been actually given to it. There is also financial crisis but the Union Government is not contemplating to provide economic assistance to Bihar. We demand that the debts of Bihar should be waived off by the Union Government. The Government should pay heed to it in view of the short term scheme.

We are not begging from the Union Government. We should be given our share in the same way as the Union Government make allocations for other states. We should not be deprived of our share of allocation. The amount of Rs. 22,500 crore of the Union Government outstanding against Bihar Government should be waived off.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, the state of Uttaranchal has been bestowed the special status. I do not have any objection to it. But if the matter of conferring the status of special state is inquired into, you will find that Bihar also deserves the special status. I want that an enquiry may be conducted into the matter.

Taking into account of per-capita income, growth, GDP etc, it is clear that Bihar should also be conferred the status of special state. Even though this was mentioned in our memorandum, but it has not been taken up. On the one hand we are talking of providing economic package and additional assistance but the tenth Finance Commission had recommended to allocate Rs. 1.25 crore annually to the state under the head Panchayat Raj which works out to be Rs. 6.25 crore in five years. Only in the first year, the fund was received but after that for four consecutive years no fund was provided in the Tenth Finance Commission. Even the amount for first year of the eleventh Finance Commission was not paid, which comes to Rs. 1.25 crore, so, Rs. 6.25 crore were not given to Bihar. When the amount under the head Panchayat Raj are not being provided, how will Bihar get the additional fund? I had asked the Finance Minister. He had given an assurance in the House that he would consider over it and see that the fund to be allotted to Bihar is not lapsed and given at any cost. But it was not given. Some technical objections were raised. Now the Panchayat elections have been conducted. One lac and thirty five candidates have been elected there. The Panchayat elections for the Mukhia or above posts have been completed. The local body elections are also gong to be held. The funds to be allotted to poor state were lapsed. This is not fair. Every year we are affected by flood and drought. Orissa got four hundred crore rupee but Bihar, where the floods and drought often strike, has not been provided a single penny. This question was raised here also. Why is injustice and discrimination being meted out to Bihar? Not a single kilometer road has been constructed under the Pradhan Mantri Sadak Yojna. The work is pending and has not been approved so far. The work relating to road construction has been accomplished in all the states of the country except in Bihar. We do not know when this will be done? The roads are in a bad shape. There are also roads to be

constructed for rural connectivity. Mr. Finance Minister, you should formulate a policy in this regard...*(Interruptions)* as the villages in Andhra Pradesh have not been connected. Out of total villages 1500 villages are yet to be connected. There are 30-35 thousand villages in Bihar which are yet to be connected. On what basis you allocate funds under Pradhan Mantri Grama Sadak Yojna? I have a suggestion and demand that the states which are lagging behind, must be provided atleast some additional amount so that they may also be brought into the main stream.

We lag behind most in rural electrification. A proper monitoring under Pradhan Mantri Gramodaya Yojana is required to ensure that the states which lag behind in the matter of providing electricity to villages additional funds are provided for rural electrification. The matter should be considered.

The 2600th birth anniversary of Lord Mahavira is being celebrated. At that time, Rs. 50 crore were allocated in the Supplementary Budget. We found that there is no mention about it this time. Lord Mahavira was born in Vaishali. The Prime Minister has said that he would complete the development schemes. This was decided in the sitting of the National Committee. No action has been taken thereon as yet. These Rs. 50 crore remaining under our state head, should be given to us...*(Interruptions)*

IDPL is lying closed in Muzaffarpur. There is also mention of IDPL in the demands. But it is closed in Muzaffarpur. The unit of Hindustan Fertilizers Corporation is closed in Barauni. Sindari FCI is also closed. We want to know when all these will start functioning. The phosphate factory is on the verge of closure. To avoid regional disparity and being the backward states at par with others states, the Government had decided to select hundred most backward districts in which the maximum number of districts selected were from Bihar. The Government has decided to undertake development work in hundred districts and additional funds will to be provided. Since maximum number of districts from Bihar, the funds had been withheld...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please conclude.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: I am just concluding.

Hon. Finance Minister is very well aware of the situation in Bihar. A reminder has been submitted to the Prime Minister on behalf of the state government. But, it

has not been considered. We specifically want to draw the attention of Hon. Finance Ministers towards it.

The Prime Minister had asked us to talk to the Finance Minister. The crore of poor people of Bihar feel that the centuries old history of India that we have, two-third part of it pertains to Bihar. The poor farmers and labourers who are living there have reconciled themselves to fate. We are not getting our share from the Union Government that is why we want to draw the attention of Hon. Finance Minister and ask him how this is going to be solved. If this does not happen, we will have to struggle and fight. When people do not get justice in Lok Sabha, we will have to organise the masses to get justice for the people. Shri Ram Jeevan Babu Shri Raghunath Jha and Prabhunath Singh ji who are in NDA, must be listening to me. One day as all had got united over the issue of farmers and procurement and if they get united on this issue as well, the government would be no more in power. We are not able to unite ourselves. This government is flattering the ten persons. Our number is 56. So, I can topple down this government on the day I wish. Therefore, Bihar and Jharkhand which are lagging behind should be given their due. Hon Prime Minister is aware of all this. He should not present supplementary demands henceforth.

With these words, I conclude

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Haribhau Shankar Mahale your 17 allies have been allotted six minutes time. Please conclude within two minutes.

SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE (Malegaon): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir I am grateful to you for giving me an opportunity to speak here.

It is necessary to contemplate the condition of roads. Our district and the whole of Maharashtra are backward as far as the roads are concerned. But the hon Minister has provided the token grant of Rs. one lac only. How much will this be helpful? I request that more attention should be paid to the roads because roads are as important as veins in the heart. There is a great demand for construction of roads in Dhule and Nashik districts. How will the work be completed with such a meagre amount?

Secondly, we should think about tribals and scheduled castes. Whatever Government comes in power, it does not move ahead without reciting the names of tribal and backward caste. But even for them token grant of only

[Shri Haribhau Shankar Mahale]

Rs. one lac has been earmarked. We know that it is merely token grant but it is very insufficient. Energy is very important. I respect your views. But I don't know why, energy is not created in your mind and body. It is not fair that token grant of one lac has been earmarked for an important thing like power.

This budget is about to be presented after two months. It is not appropriate that such a meagre amount has been earmarked for two months. I am surprised that nothing is done for farmers. I thank this Government for formulating agriculture policy. But this policy is discussed in this House only but not implemented for the interest of farmers. I request that attention should be paid to farmers. Despite the fact the farmers have much contributed for the country, the Government never think about them. How will the Government run in this manner.

17.00 hrs.

Today, the farmers are facing a lot of difficulties. They are adversely affected. Therefore, the Government should pay more and more attention to the cause of farmers. I am unhappy to see that very meagre amount has been earmarked for the farmers in the Supplementary Budget. With this, I conclude.

[English]

SHRI SUDHIP BANDYOPADHYAY (Calcutta North West): Sir, I rise to support the Supplementary Demands for Grants 2001-2002. On a total of 31 grants, the total amount that is demanded is Rs. 3396.50 crore and the cash outgo is Rs. 2025.23 crore.

17.01 hrs.

(SHRI P.H. PANDIAN *in the Chair*)

Sir, I take this opportunity to congratulate the Finance Minister for this recent visit to Ottawa where he addressed the G-20 countries and led the campaign for imposing restrictions on the assets of terrorist organisations at international level. We appreciate his efforts to arrest the movement of funds to terrorist organisations and groups at international level.

Looking at the time available to me, I will mention very few points. I will first mention Demand No. 8 which relates to Ministry of Coal. Even though Rs. 62.08 crore have been allotted in the aid to PSUs for implementation of VRS, a few lakhs of coal workers are going on strike from today, for an indefinite period. It is a very unfortunate

development. I would request the Finance Minister to provide some financial support in the Supplementary Demands for safety and security of coal workers. When we met the Coal India workers and their trade union leaders in the Committee on Labour Welfare, they were very much concerned over their safety and security.

Secondly, I would mention about the rural development programmes. Hon. Minister Shri Shanta Kumar was present here a few minutes back. Shrimati Margaret Alva also mentioned this point. The Supreme court has recently issued an order that the lists of people below the poverty line are to be finalised by 1st January on which we are badly lagging throughout the country. These instructions may kindly be implemented and the lists of people living below the poverty line in every State be maintained properly. Many beneficiaries are not receiving assistance due to their not being issued with BPL cards. This morning, in reply to Starred Question No. 231, it was said that a serious observation has been made by the Comptroller and Auditor General of India that funds of Centrally-sponsored projects and schemes implemented by the States are being diverted to other schemes in their non-implementation. The Government of India provides huge funds for implementation of Central-sponsored programmes by the States. The C&AG has given a very strong note alleging that these funds are being diverted. The reply came from the Prime Minister's office. So, naturally we are concerned with this development. The Government should take very firm steps in this regard and see that Centrally-sponsored State Government schemes are properly implemented. We are all aware of the non-performing assets in the whole country.

We normally accuse that the industrial houses who take loans from the public sector banks do not repay them. Such amount has gone up to such a high level that it is causing tremendous damage to our Indian economy.

On the one side they are making disinvestment and are searching for strategic partners. They are even selling the profit-making public sector undertakings.

They are trying their best to give the VRS also. That is all right. But so far as the non-performing assets are concerned, they exist at such a juncture, the amount is so high that it is causing our economy tremendously.

So, the Government should take an all-out effort to see that these loans are paid back. Otherwise, stern measures are to be initiated from the Ministry.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would also request the Government and the hon. Minister in charge to kindly take up the issue of storage system development for keeping the foodgrains properly. At the last meeting of the Standing Committee of Parliament, a proposal was made that the extra foodgrains could be thrown to the ocean. But my point is that these extra foodgrains can be used in the system of Food for Work programme. It is a very positive programme and at this juncture it can be implemented. The main thing is that we require the infrastructural set-up.

Sir, many a time farmers and peasants have to make distress sale due to lack of sufficient number of cold storages. Once in our States, potatoes were produced in a huge quantity. For want of keeping them, since the cold storages were not there, they had to make the distress sale, and potatoes were sold at Rs. 1 a kilo. These are our experiences. The peasants become enthused when they produce more but if they find that there is shortage of cold storages and arrangement for storing their produces, they feel very disappointed. So, infrastructure set-up may kindly be looked into with top priority.

Last but not least, I would say that there is a growing unemployment problem in our country. Some message should go from the Government that they are doing something concrete in this direction. After Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee has taken over, a projection is going that the disinvestment is taking place, retrenchment is taking place and the public sector undertakings are going to be closed. Everywhere, disappointments are precipitated and frustrations are being reflected.

So, this unemployment problem is to be taken up with top priority. The message should go to the unemployed youth of the country that in the next Budget of the hon. Finance Minister, this problem will definitely be taken care of with top priority.

Sir, in many cases, the amount which has been asked for is not a meagre amount. We fully support the Supplementary Demands for Grants (General) and also wish the hon. Minister success for the next General Budget which he will be placing next year.

With these few words, I conclude.

*SHRI C. SREENIVASAN (Dindigul): Hon. Chairman Sir, this august House is now discussing Supplementary Demands for Grants for Budget (General) 2001-2002. I am happy to participate in this discussion on behalf of my party All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam. I thank the Chair for giving me this opportunity.

Stating before the House the additional expenditure incurred by the Government under various heads, granting of funds for certain works and schemes and providing certain Ministries and Departments with the necessary permission to draw funds from the exchequer are the main objectives of this Supplementary Demands for Grants. I have no doubt in my mind about the passing of this motion in this House. But at the same time we have our right to express our doubts about some aspects or the other of this Demands I would like to take upon this opportunity to express my views on this Bill for Supplementary Grants.

The economy scene world over is in a crisis now. Even the developed economies of the rich nations like USA and Japan with strong currencies pass through a phase of recession and stagflation.

Even in our own Indian economy the great hopes and enthusiasm that was there an year back had waned. For the past one decade we have been aiming high to reach 6.2% of growth rate in our GDP. Recently Hon. Finance Minister has stated that our growth rate would be 7% and go beyond in the next decade. I appreciate his optimism. But I cannot but point out certain performance that are far from enthusing.

For the year 2001-2002, additional expenditure to be accrued by Ministries other than Defence, Agriculture, Food Human Resource Development, Food & Public Distribution have been enlisted in this Supplementary Demands for Grants that totals about Rs. 3396.50 crores. When we are to talk about increased expenditure, we need to talk about schemes and programmes for which funds have not been released though allocated.

Rs. 800 crore for Food for Work Programme, Rs. 225 crore for *Jawahar Gram Samndi Yojana*, Rs. 275 crore for Employment Assurance Schemes would be approved by the House as additional Grants. But I would like to point out that the share for Tamil Nadu is very meagre.

*English translation of the speech originally delivered in Tamil.

[Shri C. Sreenivasan]

In Tamil Nadu, Public Distribution System has been streamlined to extend targeted benefit to the poor who live below poverty line. The Government of Tamil Nadu has taken upon itself to offset the Centre's price increase on essential commodities supplied through the Public Distribution System. Tamil Nadu Government has extended a specific Grant to the tune of about Rs. 1600 crore to supply essential commodities like rice to the poor. We are also implementing successfully the Chief Minister's Nutrition's Noon-meal Scheme which is a virtual model even to UN the world body. The beneficiaries of this scheme are the rural people especially students and children from the rural areas. Considering the burden shouldered by the Government of Tamil Nadu, the Union Government's Rural Development Ministry must allocate more funds to Tamil Nadu. But what is happening is to the contrary. It must change.

Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana, the Prime Minister's Rural Roads projects, for Grants would get Rs 2500 crore as additional Grant through this Supplementary Demands to meet certain expenditure. But at the same time no funds have been released to Tamil Nadu on this count. Rural road construction work has almost come to a standstill in Tamil Nadu. Our repeated Demands have also been ignored. Last year when the ongoing rural road projects were stopped due to Assembly elections for about 2 or 3 months, the fund flow from the Centre stopped. Even after an year neither allocation nor release of funds under this scheme are forthcoming. The Rural Development in Tamil Nadu has been greatly affected. The Union Government is accountable to this House of Parliament. They must also ensure that State Governments are not discriminated against.

Gadgil-Mukherjee formula, as approved by National Development Council, provides assistance to States to carry out welfare schemes. Central assistance for foreign aided schemes, additional financial assistance for other schemes, special assistance to certain other specific schemes are the three categories under which Centre extends funds to the States for welfare schemes. Tamil Nadu got about Rs 1575 crore in 1999-2000. It was about Rs. 1645 crore in 2001-2002. During the current year even after about 9 months not even half of the funds have been released to Tamil Nadu. We believe in Welfare State and come out with welfare schemes. 'Can anyone do anything to hamper welfare schemes from being implemented?' is my question.

When there is budget deficit Union Government resorts to customs duty and central excise. But the Governments of various States are left high and dry.

The report of the Eleventh Finance Commission and its recommendations are not favourable to us. Tamil Nadu's share from the Central revenue has been brought down from 6.637% to 5.385%. The financial loss or the deprived amount calculated from 2000 to 2005, full five years, would be about Rs 2946 crore. To overcome this problem, Tamil Nadu must have additional market borrowing limit upto Rs 500 crore. A request to the Centre in this regard was made by our leader and the General Secretary of our AIADMK Dr. Puratchi Thalaivi J. Jayalalithaji on her assuming the responsibility of Chief Ministership still remains. I urge upon the Union Government to concede to our demand. I request Hon. Finance Minister to look into this and attend to our need.

A motion for the Supplementary Demands for Grants must not come before the House as a mere conventional plea and merely passed. It must explain in detail while listing out the pending projects, the hampering aspects for the delay in its execution and the hitches that come in the way and stagnation if any. This Bill must be accompanied with a detailed mid-term appraisal of the fiscal and financial performance of the Government. It must be enlightening and awakening and must serve as an eye opener to both the planners and implementers. Centre and States must have proper coordination. Every Ministry must have plan Implementation Monitoring Cells in the style of Parliament Cells. I urge upon the Union Government to take effective steps to ensure people's representatives all over the country implement welfare schemes and projects. I hope Hon. Finance Minister would respond favourably.

Expressing my support to this Supplementary Demands for Grants, let me conclude my speech. Let me thank the Chair again.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM NAGINA MISHRA (Padrauna): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to support the Supplementary Demands for Grants. It is without doubt that the country has witnessed an unprecedented rapid pace of development during the last three years. After nuclear test when America had imposed sanctions on us, it was the efficiency of the hon. Minister which neutralized the impact of sanctions on India and the progress of the country continued in a uniform speed.

Here I would like to make some suggestions. The state which I represent is one. Where sugarcane are grown. The sugar and textiles mills are there. Uttar

Pradesh is the largest producer of sugar. But the sugar mills have been closed there. Particularly some sugar mills of the corporation have already been closed and some more are likely to be closed next year. In my parliamentary constituency Kathmuniya and Padrauna itself, there is an outstanding of Rs. 18 crore to be paid to the farmers. Gauri and Chhitoni sugar mills are already closed and other factories are also going to be closed. If you do not pay attention to this issue, the remaining mills will also be closed down, making the conditions of farmers more pitiable in days to come. You must remember that Shri V.P. Singh had given a slogan that the debts above Rs. 10 thousand would be waived off. Billions of rupees have been waived off. But we are surprised that such announcements are not being made in our case despite the fact that our party is in power. There has been an outstanding amount of crore of rupees of sugarcane growers for many years which is not being paid to them. If you arrange to provide their arrears, they will have relief. You should talk of reviving the closed sugar mills by enhancing their capacity.

The Indira Awas Yojna is a very good scheme. Under this scheme, the poor are being provided houses. The Government deserves applause for it. But there are also some lacunae in it. It is better if the Ministry gets it revived. I hail from Padrauna and Kushi. Deoria is behind it. The Ministry will be surprised to know that the flood strikes Padrauna very often. Whereas Deoria remain less affected by the flood than our district. However, Rs. 45000 was allocated to Deoria under Indira Awas Yojna during the last three years. No land is available there for construction of houses. We have not been provided even tenth of the amount allocated to Deoria despite the fact that our district is much affected by the flood. Why is this disparity? It was stated to be a computer error. You check it yourself. I am categorically saying that whereas one district has been allocated Rs. 45 thousand, other district has not been given even the length of this amount. The scheme is good. But it should not be misused.

Two-three schemes formulated for providing drinking water in the villages really deserve high appreciation. The pumps of India mark are being installed in every village. There is no doubt that it is a scheme introduced by Government of India. The people put their demands to MP's of their areas concerned for making available drinking water.

I do not know what happens at other places but the M.P.'s here have no right to install a pump of Indian

Mark. At least the M.P.'s should have such right. During visits we find that there is shortage of water. As per people's demand, permission to install the pump of Indian Mark on the recommendation of M.P.'s should be given. Pradhan Mantri Gramin Sarak Yojna is a highly commendable scheme. In two years, perhaps, there would be no village left without road but there are loopholes in it. What are the loopholes? Whatever I am saying is nowhere written in books but I am speaking out my experiences. There is widespread corruption in the country. Our Government and Ministers are all set for development but they have failed in checking corruption.

We are getting two crore rupees under MPLADS every year and I do not know what happens elsewhere. We raised it, time and again that 30 percent of the amount goes to the officers and then some amount is also shared by the contractors. I have already written 8-10 letters to the honourable Minister in this regard requesting him to examine it's quality but till date it has not been examined. Huge amount is being provided but that amount is really being spent properly or it is going in the pocket of officers only, a Central Committee should be constituted to examine all these things.

SHRI DHARM RAJ SINGH PATEL: Mr. Chairman, Sir, funds provided under Pradhan Mantri Gramin Sarak Yojna should also be examined.

SHRI RAM NAGINA MISHRA: One road was being constructed in my area. Some earth work was done there and it was inspected but I would not like any sort of misuse of funds it should be rather used properly. A Central Committee may evaluate the development work being undertaken. It's quality may be examined.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, there is a scheme for providing loans from the banks to start occupation for the unemployed graduates in the country. Banks do not provide loan without taking any bribe. Such cases should also be examined. Hon'ble Minister is prudent enough, I am only trying to present the facts through this grievance. Redressal of this grievance depends on him. Such policy be formulated so that the graduates can easily get the bank loans.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, maximum number of poor people live in Bihar and Uttar Pradesh. Hardly 10-15 people of out of 100 people get pension under old age pension scheme and that too after 3-3 years not only that in the event of death of earning Member in the family,

[Shri Ram Nagina Mishra]

Government provides 10 thousand rupees but that too after 3-3 years only. I would appeal the Government to provide assistance if funds are available with it and this issue may be examined. Grant is provided for safe retirement of the workers and it is good scheme, Grant is provided by the Government in the event of closure of Government factories but in the event of closure of private factories the workers do not get even a single penny. I would appeal to provide grants in the event of closure of private sector factories according to the rules.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I have presented the ground realities. I extend my support to the Supplementary Demands presented by the hon'ble Finance Minister.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: The time allotted to Congress Party is 38 minutes and it has already been consumed. Now I will give each Congress Member only five minutes.

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY (Sabarkantha): Thank you Mr. Chairman. I will confine my speech to five minutes only.

I rise to speak on the second set of Supplementary Demands for Grants to the tune of Rs. 3396 crore presented by the Finance Minister in this House. I have three concerns to express. These are my personal feelings and concerns and I hope he would take note of them.

My first concern is that the availability of funds for the welfare of the people or for all those schemes which in fact benefit the large masses of this country are either shrinking or have become stagnant or are not increasing at a pace like the expenditure on general services. Let me take the last Budget. It was of the order of Rs. 375,000 crore, of which we are going to pay Rs. 112,000 crore as interest payment. The interest payment has been increasing substantially from 1998 onwards. Earlier it was Rs. 77,000 crore. It rose to Rs. 88,000 crore, then to Rs. 99,000 crore, then to 101,000 crore and now it has touched Rs. 112,000 crore.

And so is the Defence expenditure. At one stage, it was Rs. 45,000 crore and then we allocated Rs. 57,000 crore which they, in fact, could not spend. And now, it is almost 16 per cent of the Budget this year. The interest payment is 29.9 per cent, that is, almost 30 per cent of the total Budget. If you look at the general non-Plan expenditure, you may find that it comes to around 12.2 per cent. The capital expenditure is, in fact, either going up or down. It has not been steady or not growing at a speed at which it should have been growing. At one stage, it was 25, 26 and then 23, 24 and 25. Again, it is 26 per cent a year. The point which I am driving at

in the debate is, at one stage, we are trying to meet all the expenditure through borrowing. Now, because we borrowed, we end up paying more and more interest. Again, we are trying to meet a large chunk of that borrowing by revenue expenditure.

I was reading the Report of the C&AG for the year ending 2000. It is quite disheartening to see that in 1999-2000, more than 64 per cent of the money simply goes as charged expenditure. We have no control over it. This Parliament has no control over 2/3 of the expenditure. It is committed and will have to meet those commitments as such. I am also surprised that Committee after Committee, like the Public Accounts Committee make recommendations. Under article 292 of the Constitution, we will have to fix a limit on borrowing. It is compulsory for the House to do it. This ceiling has not been fixed. Year after year, the C&AG writes this in its report. If we are not able to comply with it, then it is better we remove that article 292 to fix a limit on borrowing. The reason why I am saying this is, a part of whatever we borrow just goes in paying the previous debt that we have already incurred. As a result, we fiddle and just play in that just one-third amount which is available every year in the Budget. So, availability of funds itself is very low.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude.

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY: Sir, I would not take much time of the House.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Is it your maiden speech?

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY: I do know whether it is called maiden speech or not. But I am speaking for the first time.

Let me draw your attention to the demand that you have just made. Out of a total of Rs. 3396 crore, you have asked a total amount of Rs. 1350 crore, in demand no. 65 out of which Rs. 1300 crore is for Demand Head No. 2505 (Rural Employment), Rs. 40 crore is for Demand Head No. 2216 (Housing) which includes Indira Awas Yojana or rural housing, and there is Demand Head No. 2552 (North-Eastern Areas).

Now, I find that year after year, you make allocations in the Budget in March and these are highlighted in the Budget. The next day, we see all the big schemes and as to how the Government is going to come about like the Indira Awas Yojana or the Jawahar Rozgar Yojana or the Annapurna Scheme or the National Social Assistance Scheme and so on. What happens is in the Revised Estimates, year after year, the funds gets cuts and the estimates become less. At one stage, you are asking to increase the allocation for JRY. Last year, you have decreased Rs. 144 crore for JRY. For Indira Awas Yojana, you have decreased Rs. 49 crore. I have listed 21 schemes. The total amount which was allocated in March was Rs. 9423 crore.

Then it got reduced by Rs. 1296 crore in 2000-2001. In 1999-2000, the amount reduced was Rs. 1,782 crore. For 1998-1999, I worked it out, it comes to Rs. 1,248 crore. In 1997-1998 it was reduced to Rs. 1,580 crore. Whatever amount was allocated against all these programmes, whether it is *Jawahar Lal Rozgar Yojna*, or *Indira Awas Yojana* or *Millions Wells Scheme* or *Integrated Rural development Programme* or *Ganga Kalyan Yojana* or *District Primary Education Programme* or *Malaria Eradication Programme* or *Kasturba Gandhi Swatantra Vidyalaya*, or *Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojna* or *Rural Employment Generation Programme* or *Bio-gas Plants Programme*, which benefit the people directly, the amount was slashed. I do not know under whose directions it was done. If it was done by the Department in order to meet other expenditure or if it was done under directions from the Finance Ministry itself, then it should be stopped. This is one part.

In the Revised Estimates, I urge you that money should be reduced only if there are some genuine reasons to do that, otherwise please do not do it. My third point is that certain sums remain unspent. In the 1999-2000 CAG's Report it is reported that Rs. 100 crore allocated for *Indira Awas Yojana* were unspent and another Rs. 24 crore was reduced in the Revised Estimates from the instructions of the Department. That is what the comments for 1999-2000 saw. I am only making a general point and I am not going to specifics. The Government should see to it that the allocation for the schemes, which directly benefit the people, should not be slashed.

My fourth point is that the Minister will have to put his foot down and take steps on the kind of corruption which is prevalent in certain programmes. Whether it is *DRDA* or *Jawahar Rozgar Yojna*, people receive cuts.

[Translation]

if fake entries were made then how many times such entries are made?

[English]

We should have some control over it either through the State Government or through the Central Committee, as per the suggestion made by certain hon. Members. That particular Committee should go and see for itself the quality of work that is done. In the *Prime Minister's Sadak Yojna*, Members of Parliament are not consulted. I am not consulted at all by the district administration just because some other party is in Government in the State. I have no grievance. I know how to deal with those people. None-the-less, if we really want to see the quality of work that is going on we will have to have a strong implementing as well as monitoring committee, which would be constituted either by this House or by some other mechanism. This is all that I have to submit.

[Translation]

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA (Mandsaur): I stand to support the Supplementary Demands for Grants.

As we know that the manner, in which the present Government is implementing new schemes while passing through economic hardships, has increased the confidence of the people in rural as well as urban areas, that we are really progressing. Our growth rate is not upto mark. I would like to draw attention towards some demands.

Recently, the Government have introduced a new scheme called *Rural Area development Scheme* for the welfare of persons not only belonging to backward castes and scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes but also the most poorest living in those slums and are known as *Valmiki*, *Valmiki* scheme has been introduced for them and it has boosted the morale of these people and they are feeling that the Government is really doing or going to do something for them. The Government have introduced some other new schemes alongwith this scheme, especially in many areas and thereby increased the confidence among the people. May it be *National Animal Development Commission*, *Special grants in Union territories*, such as recently introduced *peace bonus in Mizoram* to maintain peace there and it has created a feeling among them that the Government is really going to do something for them and it is concerned about them.

Government have introduced new schemes for *wild life sanctuaries in far flung areas*. I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister towards this because it is related to my constituency.

Sir, there is a *Wild Life Sanctuary in Gandhi Sagar* and there is a old residential area. Approximately 36 years ago when *Gandhi Sagar* was constructed, thousands of people, were displaced and hundreds of villages were evacuated but now to expand the wild life sanctuary area oldest residential area is also being removed. I want the development of *Wild Life Sanctuary area* but not at the cost of residential areas otherwise a new crisis is would be created there and the people would starts migrating to other places, there is need to pay attention towards it.

I, through you, would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister of Finance towards *Employment Assurance Scheme*, *India Awaas Yojana* and *Pradhan Mantri Gramin Sadak Yojana* implemented for the development of rural areas. But some hon. Members have appnsed of *Pradhan Mantri Gramin Sadak Yojana* that it is a very good scheme. The hon. Minister intends that roads be developed and the villages be connected through

[Dr. Laxminarayan Pandeya]

roads. But the state Governments have set up their own separate Road Authority, as has been done by the Government of Madhya Pradesh. The funds received for this authority are being spent arbitrarily. I have observed and got information from various states that the Members of Parliament of the areas concerned are not consulted regarding the scheme. I know that the Minister of the state Government and the MLAs inaugurate the roads and they do not consult the Member of Parliament. The road are constructed under the said scheme. In this regard. The Member of Parliament is neither consulted nor informed. It is not a good. It is a big forum and this is a comprehensive scheme and the Union Government have allocated huge amount to this scheme. But the Members of Parliament do not have a say in this scheme, it is not good. I urge upon the atleast the forum must be apprised of the work going in its area.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Government have introduced a hostel scheme for the upliftment of the backward classes. But what is the condition of the hostel and what is the position of the mid day meal served in the hostel? The Government is continuously providing amount for the hostel and even the Government is ready to provide financial assistance. Yet, the facilities are not being provided to the hosteller's.

Sir, I will conclude after saying one or two points. I state everything in brief. I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister that earlier there was drought problem in Madhya Pradesh and this year also there is drought in many districts of Madhya Pradesh. I know the Union Government make every effort so that state Government could take foodgrains and introduce development work under food for work scheme. The Union Government is ready to provide thousands of quintals of foodgrains to the state Government but the state Governments are not lifting the foodgrain.

Sir, the state Government is not taking appropriate action to solve the drinking water crisis there. I would like to say in this regard that such rules should be framed so that the assistance provided by the Government be made available immediately and the problem of drinking water of rural people be solved in future. It is the month of December and there is problem of drinking water right from now. I have visited my constituency three days back. At one place water was not available even at the depth of 1000 feet and when I asked in this regard, I was informed that water level my further go down. I am talking about Sitamao area of Mandsaur parliamentary constituency. In the month of December the level of underground water is so low then what would be the situation in May and June? You can imagine it. Since you have already made provision in these grants for

making available drinking water. I want to say that proper arrangements are required to be made in view of assessment of severe drought and drinking water crisis. There is a need to take initiative right now which may solve drinking water crisis and generate jobs.

Lastly, I would like to talk about voluntary Retirement Scheme. There are big industries in my constituency. Some industries are operated by CCI. There is a cement plant in Naya Gaon near Nimach. The employees of the plant are being offered voluntary retirement. Neither the factory is closed nor it is functioning. Sometimes it is functioning and sometimes it is closed. The employees are asked to opt for VRS. The employees are eager to accept VRS. They want that the factory should run. The factory is fit for functioning. The hon. Minister of Finance has visited that area and he knows that the factory can be revived. The factory deserves to be revived.

The hon. Minister should give details of various schemes introduced for poppy-growers and give assurance about their demand of price rise. I would also like to say that the hon. Minister of Finance has assured me through a letter that Alkaline factory would be expanded and it would result into the reduction of import of Codin Phosphate and foreign exchange could be saved. I would like that appropriate expansion of that factory should be done so that our needs be fulfilled and foreign exchange saved. However, there is considerable rise in our foreign exchange reserved.

For optimum utilization of the amount provided by the Government for various schemes of poverty alleviation in urban and rural areas there should be a policy, a strategy or an agency for monitoring various activities of the Government so that rural as well as urban areas be developed and the people could get benefit of the schemes.

SHRI JOACHIM BAXLA (Alipurduars): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak on supplementary demands for grants. I support the demands which have been presented but we have made certain observations towards which I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Finance Minister.

The economic policy that you wish to adopt has certain anomalies and it does not entail efforts to bridge the gulf between the rich and the poor. Efforts are not being made to bring the poor people at par with the rich. Your economic policy seems to be helping the rich people and capitalists. You do declare various schemes to solve the problems of the poor farmers but the rate of implementation of the schemes is very poor. The farmer who produces the foodgrains and who has brought about green revolution in the country, does not have enough to

eat. He does not even possess any medium to take his foodgrains to the market. The poor farmers are getting poorer. Medium farmers are also in the same condition, only the big farmers have made progress.

Every farmer wants to know the reason why the price of diesel, kerosene and fertilizers which are essential for farmers have been raised and why has subsidy been removed. How would you solve their problem. You are planning to issue credit cards to the farmers and making provisions for giving them loan through banks, but is providing loan a solution of their problems? There is no arrangement for selling their produce, they should get more than the cost and if they do not get it then how will their situation improve and how will they make progress, support their families and pay for their credit cards, have you given it a thought? I request the Finance Minister to give it a serious thought. If they really want to uplift the people living below poverty line then serious attention should be paid towards their problems.

Without fulfilling the basic needs like means of transport in the villages and arrangement of drinking water do you think it is possible to provide facilities you want to though you make provisions in the budget and declare various schemes? Do you think declaration will solve the problems? I want to say that we have to make progress in the field of industry then why are you not paying attention particularly towards tea industry?

We earn foreign exchange through tea industry but right now it is reeling under the impact of natural calamities. We have repeatedly put up the demand of Indo-Bhutan Joint River Commission before the Central Government, we have asked to hold talks with Bhutan and pressed the demand of constituting Indo-Bhutan Joint River Commission so that tea industry can be saved, specially in Jalpaigudi and West Bengal. Attention should be paid to the condition of the farmers. What have you done for them? I request the Finance Minister to consider it seriously and find out a solution. With this I conclude my speech.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Prabhunath Singh. You make your speech very briefly. Time is very limited.

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (Maharajganj, Bihar): There are 12 Members from my party including myself and I am the only one to make a speech. I will make a speech for 15 minutes. You give opportunity to parties with only one Member and two Members, we are 12 Members.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Your party time is very limited.

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I support the supplementary demands presented by the hon. Finance Minister. We are not supporting without reason. I do not hesitate in saying that this Government under the leadership of Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee has time and again added to the honour and prestige of the country. Our foreign policy as well as well as diplomacy has been successful. Country is making progress on economic front also...*(Interruptions)* I will explain when it took place. People from Congress do not understand what we say but I will tell them that when the nuclear test was carried out under the leadership of Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee then the whole country felt exalted. We told the world that we are powerful and we will not initiate attack but we are able to pay back in the same coin if we are attacked. This has been made possible by the Government under the leadership of Shri Atal Bihan Vajpayee. Not only this but also there was Kargil conflict...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: You speak on the Supplementary Demands for Grants.

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: I am making way for that.

[English]

AN HON. MEMBER: I am reminding him that in 1974 India performed the first nuclear explosion.

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Mr. Chairman, Sir, every subject can be discussed in the supplementary demands. I want to tell you that India won the Kargil war. Tricolour was hoisted there and the enemy was pushed within his borderline. You people tend to forget our achievements. Today, the war against Taliban is going on, you do not want to accept to what extent our diplomacy has succeeded, you should accept it...*(Interruptions)* I want to tell you that while it is important to add to the honour and prestige of the country, it is also essential to pay attention to the internal affairs of the country.

[Shri Prabhunath Singh]

We feel that as far as the matter in regard to internal security is concerned, it is not satisfactory, because there is no state in the country which is not affected with naxalism, terrorism or M.C.C. activity. Whenever reply is given in Lok Sabha, it is stated that the matter is related to State Government. We think that this type of reply is not proper because if the people of the country are not living in peace then whether it is the Union Government or the State Government both should make arrangements for this and they should have proper co-ordination. They have to strengthen the police administration so that the people of the country can live in peace.

We discuss the matters relating to farmers time and again in the House. But at the same time there is also the problem of unemployment among youth in the country which is becoming serious. On the one hand there has been a population explosion, but there are no jobs and employment opportunities are being reduced which is a matter of great concern. It is becoming a serious problem in the country. If the trust of farmers and unemployed youth of the country in the Government is shaken it will be devastating. Therefore, I request the Finance Minister to initiative on behalf of the Government, to win the confidence of the farmers and unemployed youth of the country.

Raghuvansh Babu is not here. He was discussing about Bihar. I agree with him on some points and disagree on others. It is a fact that today Bihar is called a backward State. But if internal resources are made available there then the soil of Bihar is so enriched that only North Bihar can take care of the food requirement of the entire nation for about six months. I can't understand how some Union ministers make statements that the Government of Bihar is unable to spend the amount given to it. Sometimes it is also alleged that the funds are being diverted where as the State Government is blaming that they are not getting the amount. I hope the Finance Minister will tell the facts in his reply. He may clear his policy and intention and tell the truth. Bihar is lagging behind day by day.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Finance Minister's responsibility is throughout India. He does not belong to Bihar alone or Jharkhand alone. You come from Bihar and he also comes from Bihar. The Finance Minister's fiscal responsibility is to Tamil Nadu and the whole of India.

SHRI A.C. JOS (Trichur): He is like that. That is why, he is smiling. He does not say that he belongs to Jharkhand or anything...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: He did not say that.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj): He belongs to India...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: I remind him that the fiscal responsibility of the Finance Minister is throughout India including Tamil Nadu.

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Mr. Chairman, Sir, there were devastating floods in Bihar causing great hardship to the people. At that time the Government of Bihar was saying that they are not getting any assistance from the Center whereas some Union Ministers were giving statements that the State Government is not utilising what we are giving. Now it is for the Finance Minister to clarify the matter because ultimately it is the people of Bihar who are suffering because of the misleading statement of the two Governments and their differences.

Raghuvansh Babu was talking about the package. It is a time that prior to division of Bihar a delegation under the leadership of George Fernandes ji and Nitish Kumarji met the Prime Minister and asked for a package deal. As far as I remember it was mentioned in para 3, page 47 of the Jharkhand Bill that a Committee will be constituted under the leadership of the Deputy Speaker of the Planning Commission to review the matters pertaining to Bihar and take suitable action. Home Minister has also said this. Since more than a year has passed neither any plan has been formulated nor any package has been given to Bihar.

I want to tell Dasmunshiji that some of the schemes which have been offered there were not introduced by your Government since independence which include constructive of roads under National Highway scheme. For that our Government have launched a scheme for repairing of roads which were in a dilapidated condition.

The Government formed under the leadership of Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee has under taken the task of identifying such roads which needed attention in Bihar and brought them under NHAI. A notification in this regard has also been issued. The roads were already in dilapidated condition there but the State Government says that since these roads are now under the supervision of the Union Government, the responsibility to repair these roads does not lie with them moreover, the Union Government has not made available funds for it therefore the Union Government may issue notification...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have taken 10 minutes. Please conclude. Please take two minutes more and conclude. Please speak for the whole of India.

That hon. Member has got three minutes time. That three minutes time was added to you.

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Schemes are being run by the centre but I think Raghuvansh Babu has misunderstood the term package for cash to be provided by the Centre to Bihar Government. If cash is given to them then again there will be same bungling in Bihar. Therefore, schemes will be approved from here. We want the Union Government to approve some schemes for Bihar which can help in the development of Bihar. The centrally sponsored schemes are being implemented but, Raghuvansh Babu is alleging that the amount is being released from Prime Minister Road Scheme to all other States except Bihar. I would like to tell you that when the Rural Development Minister visited Patna he had convened a meeting in which I as well as Raghuvansh Babu had participated. Chief Minister had also talked to Rural Development Minister at that time and it was decided that the Members of Parliament can also give their recommendations in the matter. But the Govt. of Bihar has forwarded the scheme without involving Members of Parliament. So, on what basis Raghuvansh Babu wants that the amount for the schemes be released from Delhi? Therefore, Raghuvansh Babu as per the decision taken in the meeting the matter should be discussed with the State Government and the Chief Minister. The Members of Parliament do not belong to their party only, they are from all parties. The schemes should be sent after obtaining recommendations of MPs so that the amount may be released to Bihar and the work of rural development can be taken up there as well...*(Interruptions)*

Shanta Kumarji is sitting here. Money has been demanded in the form of grant for Super Bazar and many times this question has been raised here and you had yourself accepted that there had been a bungling in that. You have accepted it in the Lok Sabha also and you had said that action was being taken on the question being raised in this regard. Why money is being given despite the fact that all the matters are true? Whether money is being given just for squandering it away? Please do not do it. Money should not be provided for this grant,

otherwise, Hon'ble Finance Minister, I tell you, there will be bungling. Hon. Members of Parliament have met the hon. Finance Minister several times in this regard and discussions have taken place in the Parliament also. I am talking about the Members' fund...*(Interruptions)* I will sit down after speaking about your benefit. Under the member of Parliament Local Area Development Fund Rs. two crores are given for the development of the area and in many states such as Bihar each M.L.A. gets Rs. one crore whereas in Madhya Pradesh each M.L.A. gets Rs. 40 lacs for the development of his area. If the area of the Members of Parliament is calculated then it appears that at some places there are 6 constituencies, all others there are 8 or 9 constituencies. So on each constituency the amount is between Rs. 25 lacs to 24 or 20 lacs and the M.Ps have to win a tough competition they have to speak with each and every worker.

I want to ask the Hon'ble Finance Minister whether he has doubts the intension of the M.Ps and if not, then why does he not increase the funds? According to the number of constituencies, allocate one crore for each constituency...*(Interruptions)* This is in 72 number. We are applauding you and we are supporting you. Along with it, my this demand should also be passed. All are clapping...*(Interruptions)* supporting your demand. I conclude herewith.

18.00 hrs.

SHRI TILAKDHARI PRASAD SINGH (Kodarma): Mr. Chairman, Sir, approximately 30 demands have been put up by the Hon'ble Minister. Due to paucity of time, I will like to put forth before you my opinion on only two or three demands only.

Sir, the Hon'ble Finance Minister is an experienced man. The problems of the rural areas have been discussed. The Parliament passes the proposal of funds, Lok Sabha approves it, but do the funds reach the deserving rural people. The arrangement to this effect will have to be looked into.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: With the leave of the House, can we extend the time?

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: I would just like to submit that in the BAC we took a decision that tentatively three hours would be fixed for the debate.

[Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi]

Yesterday, on the Supplementary Demands for Railways, the time allotted was two hours but we took a decision at six o'clock to give a chance to other hon. Members who wanted to speak. Today also, I would request you that the few hon. Members who are left in the list be given a chance to speak for two, three or five minutes, at the discretion of the Chair; and, when the debate is over the hon. Minister may reply.

MR. CHAIRMAN: But we have now many hon. Members from different parties included in the list.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: I strongly object to a curtailed debate. We should not take this House lightly. Yesterday, the Supplementary Demands of Railways were discussed up to eight o'clock. Today, we are discussing the major issue of Supplementary Demands (General). So, if the time of the House extended for one hour or one-and-a-half hours, Heavens would not fall.

MR. CHAIRMAN: All right, we will extend the time of the House till the hon. Minister's reply but you will have to have some control on your Members.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Thank you.

[Translation]

SHRI TILAKDHARI PRASAD SINGH: Sir, I was speaking about the arrangement. There should be an arrangement for monitoring the funds which are passed here so as to determine whether they reach properly at the block level and how much of them is utilised. The Pradhan Mantri Gramin Sadak Yojana is a very good scheme. It has been implemented for two years. By the year 2003 all the villages of the country having one thousand population will be connected with the metalled roads. I am telling you about Jharkhand. The REO agency works there. The Government of Jharkhand have also started several schemes with their own resources. They are going to start the Pradhan Mantri Sadak Yojana also. The problem of quality will come up while getting the work done through this agency and certainly the work could not be done properly. So, we have to think about the agency.

Sir, there is a mention of the Indira Awas Yojana in the demand. Every time discussion takes place on this matter, but the fact is that the houses constructed under the Indira Awas Yojana are incomplete, some of them have roofs only, some of them have no windows and doors and so the people are suffering. It is my suggestion that the Government should make a list and should arrange for getting the pending plans completed within a time-frame.

18.04 hrs.

(DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA *in the Chair*)

Similarly, there is Employment Assurance Scheme. On the basis of this scheme, selection is done in the villages. Under this scheme Government officials do all the works at the rural level, but under this scheme work is not being done on quality basis. At the same time, I want to tell the Hon'ble Minister to seriously consider the problems of the farmers. There is already provision in the budget for digging wells.

I want to mention Jharkhand now. There major schemes like Koyalkaro, Pechkhairo and Keso are sanctioned, but they are pending for years. Crores of rupees of the Government have been spent on them but the farmers did not get any benefit from them. Had wells been dug there, farmers would have got the benefit. You review it and formulate such an arrangement so that wells could be dug for the farmers. There is an arrangement that those who are living below poverty line will get wheat at the rate of two rupees per kilogram and rice at the rate of three rupees per kilogram. But the selection of deserving people was not done properly and the deserving persons are not getting its benefit. It is being misused. All your expectations are not going to be met. If you review this scheme you will find that the poor did not get any benefit according to your expectations. The Hon'ble Food Minister is sitting. He should pay attention towards this and should try to improve the system.

The rural water supply scheme should be implemented so that the problem of drinking water could be solved in the rural areas. The bell has been rung. I wanted to speak this much only.

[English]

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (Balasore): Sir, I rise to support the Supplementary Demands for Grants. I congratulate the hon. Minister of Finance because he has made the best of a trying situation. I congratulate him because under his leadership, India has been made insular from the onslaught of the global recession. He has seen to it that the wholesale inflation is contained only at 2.3 per cent. The software export has gone up by 33 per cent and the foreign reserves have gone up to 45.1 billion dollars. The hon. Minister of Finance has seen to it that in the stock market a catalytic effect has taken place, introduced by the RBI, SEBI, UTI, etc. So, a number of measures have already been taken so that any scam does not take place in future.

Sir, I would like to congratulate the hon. Minister of Finance for one of the measure he has taken. He has given the money through the supplementary Demands for Grants. One is expenditure on *Valmiki Ambedkar Awas Yojna*. Naturally, it is for the poor and it is going to have the infrastructure in our country. But, equally, I am disappointed with the fact that he has made an arrangement of Rs. 102.22 crore for the waiver of interest dues from the Hindustan Zinc Limited. How much money shall be provide into the public sector undertakings, which are not revivable? I am totally against it. So, I urge upon the hon. Minister of Finance that he should go in for the reforms; for the privatisation of these types of public sector undertakings which are not revivable and they should be privatised sooner.

Now, hon. Member, Shrimati Margaret Alva and other hon. Members have raised the point about subsidy. They said that the subsidy being given in the foreign countries is much more than what India can afford. I agree with that.

But you see that in the U.S.A. only 3.8 per cent of the people are agriculturists and in India it is 70 per cent. So, giving subsidy to 3.8 per cent and giving subsidy to 70 per cent cannot simply be compared. Giving subsidy to 70 per cent means giving subsidy to everybody. But it is not giving subsidy. It is the perpetuation of poverty and it is just like throwing *roti* to the dogs so that all the time the poor will remain poor. You take the case of the countries which have got independence even after as — China, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand and Korea — and see how they have made rapid increase in the ladder of financial discipline. It was because they have invested money in infrastructure and not in subsidy. Therefore, my point in this regard is this. Now, a very popular phrase is being used by the hon. Minister of Finance and that is 'pump-priming. H started doing it with regard to the National Highway projects. Of course, I agree that the amounts for National Highway projects are only 0.4 per cent of the GDP. But I agree that it is going to boost the production of steel and cement and it is going to create employment for 40 persons per kilometre. It will create an employment generation of 5.2 lakh within the next five years. Therefore, I would request the hon. Minister to see that the housing sector is also given due preference so that this is also going to boost the cement and steel industry. That is also going to build infrastructure.

Thirdly, I am now coming to point of education. Education is one of the most important things which will change the face of this country. You see every country which has risen in this field and see how they have achieved it. They first educated their people. I congratulate

this Government that after 54 years of Independence, they have brought in a Constitution amendment which has made it obligatory on the part of the Government to educate each and every child from the age of 6 to 14 years in this country. I congratulate them for this. But I would like to ask a question to the hon. Minister of Finance. From where would you get the money? Do you have that amount of money to educate the children from the age of 6 to 14 years?

We are spending about 3.8 per cent of the GDP every year for education. We have to increase it to 6 per cent. But how is to it be done? My suggestion is that you go in for an education tax. Do not be afraid. The people of this country will have to pay for the education of their children. If the people of this country can spend thousands of rupees per month for educating their children in Class-I in any convent school, why should they not pay to the Government? They must pay it. You goin for an education tax. I am very strongly in favour of it that in order to educate the people you will have to go in for this.

Sir, I will mention just two points more and then conclude my speech. It is with regard to agriculture. There has been unprecedented four per cent growth in agriculture this year. There is going to be, because of the good monsoon, 11 million tonnes more of foodgrains this year. The hon. Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food and public Distribution is here. Last year he could not even purchase whatever was offered by the farmers. Now he is going to shoulder the responsibility of another 11 million tonnes more. Is he going to buy it by paying around Rs. 500 per tonne? Is it possible? You will have to think of it.

My suggestion is that India will have to search for an international market outside India so that if we cannot consume, if we cannot just sell it in our country, at least there should be an international market where we can sell and where from our farmers should be able to get some money.

Another point is with regard to the lowering of interest rate. The Reserve Bank of India has brought down the interest rate. So, we say that if we lower the interest rate, then, maybe, our corporate sector will increase. But my question to the hon. Minister is this. Is there any corporate off-take in spite of the fall in the interest rate? The hon. Minister can reply to this point during his reply to the debate.

That, I think, he will be able to answer it I would like to give a suggestion to him. There are at least two major industries — one is cement, and another is paper.

[Shri Karabela Swain]

There is a paper industry in my constituency, which closed down about three years back. It was closed down not because of inefficiency, but because of dumping of the papers by other countries in India. Therefore, the cost of paper went down. Now, there is a rise in the paper price and there is a possibility that the industry will be viable.

In the Government sector, there are no jobs, but whatever little jobs we can provide through the private sector, if that is also closed, how are we going to provide employment to our people? The banks are not coming forward. They are sitting over huge piles of money, but they are not willing to lend to anybody because of the fear that the NPAs will increase. I appeal to the hon. Finance Minister, I have already spoken to him, to kindly ensure that at least in these days of global slow down, let the banks come forward, let the financial institutions come forward and let them take some risks. They are having a lot of money. Let them finance at least the small-scale and the medium-scale industries so that the jobs of millions and millions of people could be saved.

In most of the States, why has a single kilometre of road not been constructed under the *Pradhan Mantri Gram Sarak Yojana*? Why has it not been done? You are giving money and the money is reaching the State Governments, but they have not built a single kilometre of road. What is the reaction? Due to the distressed condition of the States, there is every possibility that they will take your money for *Pradhan Mantri Gram Sarak Yojana* and they will pay the salaries to their staff. There is a possibility. Kindly ensure that at least this money is not misused.

My last point is about the Fiscal Responsibility Act. Shri Mistry, when he was talking, he was asking you as to why you have not fixed any limit. I am a Member of the Finance Committee and I do not want to say as to what has happened in this Committee. You wanted to tie down your own hands, you wanted to tie down the hands of the Government, you wanted to fix a limit and you wanted the Government not to borrow from the Reserve Bank. All these things are going to be eliminated through that Bill. I will appeal to you, whether that Bill is passed or not, whatever target you set for yourself, kindly try to achieve that goal. By that way, the fiscal discipline could be maintained. Thank you very much.

SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NACHIAPPAN (Sivaganga):
Sir, taking advantage of speaking on these Supplementary Demands for Grants 2001-2002, I would like the hon. Finance Minister to know that in this financial year he has created confidence in the industry and also he has put forth our case before the international forums with all

confidence. At the same time, the poor people, the poor agriculturists, people living in the rural areas, who constituted about 80 per cent of the total population, are not being properly cared for.

The hon. Minister has already promised in this Budget Speech that there would be structural changes and also downsizing of the departments. Even after the Amendment to the Constitution creating the third tier of administration, there are many departments. The third tier of administration is taking care of the rural development. Before that, the Ministries of Agriculture, Rural Development and many other were drawing up the Plans for the entire country. However, the State Governments never implemented those Plans. Though you have laid down the norms to be followed, when you are giving the funds, they are not following the norms; they are following their own norms. Therefore, I would request the MPLADS should be made into a statutory body. There is already a District Rural Development Agency, which is a registered statutory body.

All these funds are being provided by the Central Government to the district level but the State Governments have created their own machinery and they make their own planning and they divert the funds. Therefore, the funds are not reaching the people at the district level. If the MPLAD Scheme is clubbed with it, then there would be a better fund flow to the district level. For example, Rs. 5000 crore has been asked for in this Supplementary Demand for the Departments of Animal Husbandry, Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources, Rural Development, Urban and Poverty Alleviation and Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment. The funds allocated to all these Ministries and Departments could be properly utilised if they are channeled through the constitutionally mandated institutions. It should be channelised through the District Planning Commission which ought to have been statutorily created in every district. But that has not been done properly. If that is done, then the entire money would directly reach the people. These huge sums of money could very well reach the people at the grass-root level. Therefore, I would like to suggest that the hon. Finance Minister should initiate proper action in order that the Members of Parliament chair the meetings of the District level Committees to decide about the funds that are provided by the Central Government to the States. Otherwise, what answer do we have to the people when we go to them seeking for their support in elections? They would ask us to what we have done for them in all these years. We have only rupees two crore. In the State of Tamil Nadu, an MLA gets Rs. 82 lakhs for the development of his Assembly segment where as we are getting only Rs. 33.33 lakhs for the development of one Assembly segment. Therefore it is a very meagre amount.

But we are seen as rich in the eyes of the people and the Administration. The District Collectors often ask as to why the Members of Parliament do not allot the funds. But we cannot satisfactorily serve 13 lakhs people with this rupees two crore. Every district in the State, on an average, gets about Rs. 400 to Rs. 500 crore a year from different Departments of the Central Government. Why should the Members of Parliament not chair the meetings of the Committees that allocate such huge sums of money received from the Central Government? We could say that the Central Government has allocated the funds for such and such projects and the *Pradhan Mantri* has allocated funds for such and such programmes. We can do that very easily. But today, the situation as it is, we do not have any say. We are just mere spectators and the State Governments are diverting the funds. I, therefore, humbly submit that the hon. Minister should look into this aspect.

Sir, in the same way I would like to submit a point about the people living below the poverty line. It is purely a text book concept. There are people who own 20 acres of land but still they are reeling in poverty. Even those people do not have any income. There is no irrigation facility. There is no electricity and there is no infrastructure available to them. But even the whole people are suffering a lot has not been included in this category and is shown as having houses and land. The cases of such people should be considered. A lot of programmes meant for development of agriculture has been left out and therefore, the banks are not interested in giving loans for irrigation and for other agricultural purposes. The Government, in this Supplementary Demand, is not asking for any money for the agriculturists for development of irrigation and other things. This aspect needs to be considered.

Sir, the small scale and the medium scale industries have become totally insolvent. There is nothing for them. Such industries are closing down. But there are a lot of skilled entrepreneurs in the small scale and medium scale industries. People with engineering degrees and MBA qualifications are coming into these sectors but there is nobody to protect their interests.

Kindly create a consortium so that with the help of that fund they can develop. Otherwise, at least, settle the amounts which are due to the financial institutions so that they can go for other jobs. I would also suggest that banks are not at all giving loans for professional studies. They are not giving loans to petty shop owners. They are giving certain figures for statistical purposes but none of the banks is giving these loans. I find that in the Textile Ministry, for VRS in Cotton Corporation of India alone they asked for Rs. 3 crore. What about the

employees of National Textile Corporation? About 100 mills are now closed. People are asking for VRS. They are not aided by any funds but they are promised that they can take VRS. There is no allocation made for NTC on this count. That should be made.

Regarding oceanographic research, we find very small allocation. Very meagre amount was allotted for Setusamudram project. Setusamudram Project is a very good project. It is highly useful especially for people in the South. The entire economy of the area can develop because of that project. There should be some allotment made for Gulf of Mannar. That Gulf is very important from commerce and trade point of view. Therefore, that should be focused upon in the coming budget. There should be much more allotment made for oceanography because that wealth is not properly utilised by us. The oceans are not at all tapped by us. Some people are grabbing its benefits but there is no proper planning and there is no allotment for utilising that area.

Tourism is not at all focussed on. About 63 per cent of world income on international trade is coming through tourism. But we are having only 0.02 allotment on tourism. We have not focussed on tourism. Tourism is a neglected area in our country. At the same time, it is the sector with richest potential. Even after September 11, a lot of people have visited India because there are a lot of things in India which they cannot see in any other country of the world. Therefore, we have to realise the potential of tourism. There should be some rational thinking about imparting training to customs officials so that they make the tourists feel welcome rather than terrorised. Airports should be maintained well. Monuments should be protected. Infrastructure should also be created.

Regarding telecommunications I would suggest that even now many Village *Panchayats* are not connected by telephone. People in villages are anxious to have communication facilities. After the disinvestment, the VSNL and BSNL have stopped worrying about our villages. Therefore, grants should be given to VSNL and BSNL in order to compensate them so that all *Panchayats* can be connected with telephone network.

Regarding fertiliser subsidy, agriculturists are not getting its benefit. There was a notification dated November 5, 2001 in which the subsidy has been revised and excess pay outs are made recoverable from April, 2000. I would like to know as to how the money is going to be utilised for the benefit of the agriculturists.

Due to the recent policies, many of the banks are having lot of funds at hand but corporate sector is not

[Shri E.M. Sudarsana Natchiappan]

ready to take them because they know that there is no market take off. At the same time, we the agriculturists are suffering. We are ready to take that money and utilise it properly and produce more commercial crops also. For that purpose, the banks should also be asked to put aside certain funds for agricultural sector.

18.25 hrs

(MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*)

SHRI PRABODH PANDA (Midnapore): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I am very much aware of the time constraint and so, would not take much time of the House.

First of all, when our Government adopted the policy of reforms and liberalisation, an impression was created that everything would be all right.

But the present economic scenario is different. Due to paucity of time, I am not going into the greater details.

Many things have been said about the agriculture. Some hon. Members of this august House even proclaimed that the agricultural scenario is rising and we are progressing in the field of agriculture.

But here I would like to refer to a recent statement made by the hon. Finance Minister, Shri Yashwant Sinha. He talked that the 'poor growth in the agricultural sector in the last year and lack of purchasing power of the rural consumers are the major reasons of falling demands.' Our Finance Minister has been expressing optimism that with the favourable monsoon this year, the agricultural production will increase. It seems that he is not optimistic of his own Economic Policy. He is depending on the good monsoon.

Sir, I do not know whether the sufferings of the millions and crores of toiling people are touching his heart and mind. I do not know whether he is thinking in that line or not. Anyhow, the Supplementary Demands for Grants for 2001-2002 have to be passed. There is no doubt that it would be passed. There is no hurdle before it. But I would like to humbly request the hon. Finance Minister that if possible he may kindly consider some areas for the benefit of the poor people.

As regards Title Demand No. 8, I would submit that from 3rd December, 2001, several lakhs of coal mine workers are on strike. They are demanding the payment of their arrears. So, if possible, the hon. Minister may kindly meet their demands in order that they are paid their arrears immediately.

Now, I would like to say a few words about the procurement. The farmers all over the country, who are

mostly the poor and marginal farmers, are not getting the minimum support price. It is known to all of us. So, sufficient money for their procurement is very much required.

So far as West Bengal is concerned, they have already announced a programme to procure foodgrains directly from the farmers. But the main problem is that they do not have enough money. So, I think, if possible, the hon. Minister should allot more money and assistance for the direct procurement from the poor farmers so that they are not forced to make distress sale.

Sir, now I would submit a few lines about the Jute Corporation of India (JCI). JCI is not having sufficient money to purchase the raw jute. So, I would request the hon. Minister that if possible he may kindly allot more money to JCI so that they can purchase sufficient Jute from the farmers.

Similarly, what about the irrigation and barrages? They are emphasising on the development of the infrastructure. That is all right. But what are they doing regarding augmentation of the irrigation? So, I would request the hon. Minister that he should think in this direction also.

Sir, similarly, many things have been said about *Pradhan Mantri Sarak Yojana*. I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Finance Minister that it is being said that no money would be given for acquisition of land. If we do not go in for acquisition of more land, how would the roads be extended?

It is said that no bridge would be constructed. So, please allot more money for *Pradhan Mantri Sarak Yojana*. What happens in the case of small-scale industries and cottage industries? What happened to unemployment problem? It was said earlier that one million unemployed youths would get jobs. What happened to that? What happened to their pro-poor, pro-village and pro-employment programmes? I do not know how far he is considering these things. I would request that if possible try and do the best to accommodate all these things so that most of the toiling people of our country can be benefited.

These are my points.

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY (Berhampore, West Bengal): I rise to put up my views on the Supplementary Demands for Grants that has been placed by our hon. Finance Minister. He is also the protagonist of second generation reforms in India. However, we are witnessing that this Government is following neither macro-economy, nor micro-economy; rather, we are sliding down to macabre economy because we are now suffering on all fronts.

However, I do not nurture any squeamishness in my deliberation. Therefore, I must admit and appreciate the hon. Finance Minister that under his stewardship, we have touched a robust foreign exchange reserve of more than 42 billion dollars. Inflation is within the ambit of our tolerance. FDI has increased. But the list of seamy side of our Indian economy is so long that we cannot satisfy. However, the hon. Finance Minister may gloss over anything by resorting to polemics and by resorting to fabricated figures as he has recently developed a *panache*, to be swayed away by subjective sentiment, rather objective parameter. However, economy is the eye of a nation. It is the parameter so that we can ascertain the progress of our economy.

May I ask the hon. Finance Minister how much tax he has collected? May I know whether it is nearer to the target? May I know whether he is satisfied with the external debt? As on 31st March, our external debt has gone up to a mind-boggling figure of 100.25 billion dollars. I do not know what is the position of the external debt now.

I would like to give a few figures which clearly indicate that our economy is decelerating, industrial growth is slowing down and is in a state of inertia. The revenue deficit is at 3.5 per cent of GDP. Gross Fiscal Deficit is placed at 5.1 per cent of GDP. Gross tax collection fell by six per cent. The income tax collection is witnessing a fall of four per cent. Corporate tax collection has recorded a fall of 15 per cent. Revenue from customs duty fell by 16 per cent. Non-Plan expenditure has increased by 13.5 per cent. The Central Government expenditure during the first half of the current financial year recorded an increase of 11.5 per cent; Plan expenditure has increased by six per cent as against 10.6 per cent. The RBI has recorded a decline in the growth rate of the economy; they had estimated 6.5 per cent growth rate, but they had revised it to 5.2 per cent. Export performance has also showed a reversing trend. Our export is in a declining trend.

Our imports show an ascending trend. Therefore, we are suffering a trade deficit around 5 billion dollar. Industrial production has been slowed down to 2.2 per cent during April-August compared to 5.7 per cent during the same period in the corresponding year. There is no sign of industrial recovery. Key sectors like, cotton, textile, vegetable oil, coal, all are suffering a negative growth. Therefore, we are in such a plight that we are now struggling to survive; however, there is no light at the end of the tunnel. What is most regretting is that in the din and bustle of globalisation and liberalisation, our agriculture sector has been totally neglected. Our Finance Minister has already set up a new team to formulate the

coming Budget. I hope that it will usher a new hope for the poor farmers of our country. In the fiscal Budget, eight per cent R&D Cess was introduced against the imports of knowhow in order to create a pool of funds for venture capital funding with IDBI. May I know, how much fund has so far been mobilised so that venture capital funding can be implemented in our country?

May I invite the attention of the Finance Minister to the Sharma Committee which was constituted in the year 1997 to identify the backward districts in India. My district, Murshidabd, was identified as one among the 100 most backward districts in India. May I know, whether any special economic package is being envisaged so that the backward districts can be catapulted with the mainstream districts in India?

I beg to differ with some hon. Members in the House who are arguing to abolish the subsidy, who are sermonising the concept of Cornucopia. A patient needs Adrenaline to survive. Those who are arguing for Cornucopia, I may remind them that India has become the destiny of Cornucopia for those rapacious predatory multinationals who are virtually fleeing in our country because this Government has pupil animously capitulated to the dictates of those multinationals, unmindful of the trials and tribulations confronting our countrymen. Therefore, Sir, our economy should not be dealt in an amateurish way and hence rather deep penetration and sagacity is sought for.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): Sir, I am grateful to all the 22 hon. Members of this House who have participated in this discussion, who made some very important points and made some very valuable suggestions. In my reply, in whatever time I have at my disposal, I will try and address some of the concerns which have been addressed here in this House.

The first concern, naturally, is with the growth rates. We were, as a nation, disappointed when it was announced by those who maintain the statistics of this country, the Central Statistical Organisation, that growth rate in 2000-2001 had decelerated to 5.2 per cent.

Even today when we get figures of growth, whether it is that of the first quarter of the current fiscal year or it is the growth rate of industry, growth rate of infrastructure, growth rate of services sector, there is disappointment at the slowing down of the growth rate in the economy. This is legitimate. Sometimes, in a very different way I derive some sense of satisfaction at this unhappiness because it shows that we have matured as a nation and that India will not be able to live with a growth rate which is as low as five per cent. As a nation,

[Shri Yashwant Sinha]

now we are committed to a higher growth rate. All of us, therefore, feel disappointed when we get what we do not consider to be a higher growth rate.

I would like to clarify right in the beginning that when the other day I talked about a seven per cent growth rate at a function in Delhi, I was not talking of the current year. I was talking of the decadal growth — growth rate of the ten years ahead of us — and the point which I was making was that if as a country we were to achieve an average growth rate of seven per cent, it will not only double our national income, our GDP, to something like a trillion dollars, it will also enable us to get rid of the problem of poverty in this country in a very substantial way. If a quarter of our population is still living below the poverty-line, then we will be able to reduce it by something like another 20 per cent maybe to the end of these ten years, five per cent or even less of India's population will be living below the poverty-line-again a target which we must set for ourselves in the long term, so that we eliminate even that level of poverty.

Seven per cent growth rate for a decade on an average is not something which is unachievable because after all, as has been pointed out by some hon. Members we did achieve over seven per cent growth rate for three consecutive years in the mid-1990s. Two of those years belonged to the rule of the Congress Party and the third year belonged to the United Front regime. I would also like to remind the House that after recording a very high growth rate of 7.8 per cent in 1996-1997, we also saw the spectacle of the growth rate declining to only 4.8 per cent in 1997-1998. I remember that when I became the Finance Minister in the previous Government of Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, the first question which was being asked of me in March 1998 was, what I was going to do as to Finance Minister to pump-priming the economy. Once again, the question being asked of me now in the same question which was being asked in 1998.

Sir, 1998 was a year of gloom and doom like the current year appears to be. Additionally, in 1998-1999 or at the beginning of 1998 we had the East Asian crisis right in our backward which had established country after country in that region and which had led to internal disturbance there. We have also had economic sanctions imposed upon us in the wake of the Pokhran nuclear tests. I had asked my staff to collect some of the press cuttings of 1998 to see what was the situation. There was a foreign visitor who did not visit India which was also commented upon recently.

The headline that he received in the Indian media was "India heading for 1991 type fiscal crisis." This whole bundle is replete with comments of gloom and doom

scenario. Industrial production was down. Nobody was hoping for any increase in agricultural production. When I said that we will be able to face the economic sanctions and when I said that we will be able to turn the economy around, that was rubbish. We were thinking in terms of a growth rate of 3.5 per cent. We were being very illiberal. It was raised to 4 per cent. How did the year end? It ended with a growth rate of 6.6 per cent. I was not 7 per cent growth rate but it was 6.6 per cent which was nothing one could be ashamed of. I am not in the business of making projections on growth rates. Therefore, even today, in this august House, I will refrain from doing so. But the point I am making is, we, as the custodians of the future of this nation in this House, have to think as to what kind of a message we want to send from this House. Do we want to become partners in this gloom and doom scenario? As I said, I am not here to hazard a guess on the growth rate in the current year. But certainly, it is not going to be 7 per cent. Therefore, the beginning of the new millennium and new century is going to be somewhat dismal. We will have to catch up by having a higher growth rate in the coming years. But I would like to say that while I am not trying to hide behind the international situation we cannot completely divorce our country today from external contacts.

Hon. Members would recall that petroleum prices increased in 1999 and 2000 by something like 300 per cent. I would like the hon. Members to recall the situation which was experienced in this country in 1973-1974 when the first oil crisis had taken place, in 1980 when the second oil crisis took place and in 1990-91 when the third oil crisis took place. The international oil prices have somehow an uncanny system of a decadal crisis. So, we had crisis in the beginning of 1970s, 1980s and 1990s. The Hon. Member was quite right in saying that when I was the Finance Minister in 1991, the country came to such a pass that we had to pledge our gold in order to secure some foreign exchange and keep our country going because the situation was such that we were coming to almost a grinding halt. Did we experience anything of that kind this year when international prices went up by 300 per cent? It is true that we had to raise the domestic price of petroleum products. That had an impact on demand because when you raise prices, you raise prices not only to get revenue curtail the oil pool deficit. You do it in order to curtail demand also so that imports decline. We spent something like Rs. 72,000 crore on oil imports in the year 2000-2001. Through that price rise, we wanted to curtail the demand in this country and we did succeed. Perhaps, for the first time in our history, the consumption of petroleum products went down. Diesel consumption went down by 5 per cent to 6 per cent in this country. It has just started picking up from a month

or so. Now, that had an impact on our economy. It was expected. It was nothing unexpected.

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY: How much external debt stands today?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Let him complete.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: I would like to remind one point to Mr. Chowdhary because he raised that issue when he intervened in the debate.

On behalf of the Ministry of Finance and on behalf of the Government of India, I have presented a complete Report to Parliament on the external debt situation of India. It has been presented. If the Member looks for that in the library, he would get all the figures on India's external debt. It is very satisfactory. We have nothing to worry. If there is a cause for worry, it is our internal debt, as I have repeatedly said in this House. I would not like to take the time of the House on other external factors.

The collapse of Information Technology sector in the U.S., has led to the collapse of Information Technology sector the world over. It had a depressing effect on our economy. As the hon. Members pointed out, there was a slow down in the agriculture over the last two years. In 1999-2000 the contribution of agriculture to GDP was only 0.7 per cent; and in 2000-2001, it declined further to 0.2 per cent. That was the contribution which agriculture made to GDP. I do not claim to be an economist. But I have looked at the figures of the last couple of decades. I found that whenever agriculture production declined, it has not only influenced the growth of GDP in that particular year, but it has also impacted upon demand and it has led to declaration of economic growth in the subsequent years also. It is because seventy per cent of our people live in rural areas and depend largely on agriculture. The agriculture declaration is not only in terms of production. Repeatedly, Members have pointed out today, in the past and in the previous Sessions the decreased prices of agriculture produce in this country and in the whole world. If the farmer is not getting the right prices for this produce, if he is not able to sell his rubber, copra, coconut, wheat, rice and jute in the market, then his income goes down. When his income comes down, his propensity to consume and to spend comes down. That is what I meant when I said that it impacts on the purchasing power of our people...*(Interruptions)*

Between 1999-2000 and 2000-2001, the agriculture production declined by a crore and thirty lakh tonnes. That was the kind of decline we witnessed. From about

209 million tonnes it came down to around 195 million tonnes. That decline in agriculture production plus the reduction in prices, despite the decline in production, has caused all these problems. In that context, I said that this year things are looking up. All of us must realise that it is the agriculture sector and the rural sector, and not the industrial sector or the export sector, which drives the Indian economy. The agriculture sector is performing better this year. From whatever figures I get, I find that prices are a little better this year than they were last year. With all the efforts that we will make, the Minister of Food and Civil Supplies is also here, we will be able to reach money to the farmers.

At this point of time, I would like to inform the House that Rs. 50,000 crore are locked up in the food stocks today. That Rs. 50,000 crore have gone to the farmers of India. The extra money that we spend on procurement this year, will also go to the farmers of India. It would ensure that purchasing power picks up, which will in turn lead to multiplier effect in the economy. This was the hope that I had in 1998. This is the hope that I have in 2001. As I said, we proved prophets of doom wrong in 1998. I am confident that we will prove the prophets of doom wrong once again.

19.00 hrs

India, as a country, has some very great reserves of hidden energy, of hidden strength which we sometimes do not realise. And that is that hidden strength which comes to our rescue unlike in the case of many other countries.

As far as growth rate is concerned, it is a matter of great concern. We have taken a number of steps in the recent months in order to ensure — I am not only talking of the Budget but subsequent to the Budget also — that growth rate picks up. They include some general steps, they include some sectoral steps. Government is keeping the closest watch. We will continue to respond to developments on the economic front.

Hon. Members are quite right in expressing their concern on the decline in the tax GDP ratio. The Tax GDP ratio has come down compared to 1998-1999. We have taken a number of steps. The only charge that I am unable to plead guilty to is that we have not tried to simplify tax rates. In fact, that is one area where I can say with some legitimate satisfaction that tax procedures and tax rates have all been simplified considerably. I had inherited a multiplicity of rates on the excise front. I have inherited a multiplicity of rates on the customs duty front. We have been able to rationalise them to a very large extent. We have also made changes in procedures in order to simplify them and make the tax system more

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tax-payer friendly. That will continue to be the direction of our effort even in future.

Having said that, I will say that we have problems in the economy. There are strengths. There are weaknesses. What is the strength? The strength is that despite all these problems that we have faced — internal and international — today, as somebody has pointed out, we have foreign exchange reserves close to \$47 billion, something which was a dream in 1999. If somebody had told me in 1991 that India would have a foreign exchange reserves of \$ 47 billion one day, I would have thought that he was dreaming. But the dream has turned into reality today. Despite the problems that we have faced, we have gone on adding to our reserves. Week after week, month after month, reserves have gone up. I would like to say this. In fact, this was a comment that I was making in another forum in the morning that India consists of people within the boundaries of the country. India also consists of our Diaspora which is outside and it is that diaspora, the Non-Resident Indians, who have responded admirably, who have responded very creditably. Whenever we have approached them, whether it was the case of Resurgent India bonds or it was the case of India Millennium Deposits, they have all responded and ensured that the gloom and doom is turned away.

A number of issues have been raised by my friends in this House. But before I come to that, I would like to take up a couple of general points which have been raised. A very important point has been raised. I have pleaded for this in the past also. I think, as the hon. Members of this House, we have a responsibility to sit and consider this issue. And, that issue is: How do we deliver the system of administration to the people in a manner which is effective? This is the most important thing. I was amazed and I was shocked when I heard from hon. Members that they were not being consulted on the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sarak Yojana. The hon. Members will recall that when I was placing the Supplementary Demands last time, the first batch of Supplementaries, I had said that the reason why we were transferring this money on PMGSY from the State Plan to the Central Plan was to ensure the involvement of Members of Parliament.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: It is not at all done...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA: The fact is that money has been diverted to pay the salaries of the staff. That is the problem...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: He has understood the problem. He is attending it to find out a solution.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: The *Prime Minister's Gram Sarak Yojana* is a scheme which we conceived.

All of us in the House were contesting elections about two years ago during the rainy season a point that I have made in this House before The vehicles got stuck up in the mud on *katcha* roads. The people were laughing at us. They were telling us: "Now, do you realise what problems we face day after day?" When we came back and the Government was formed, we said: "We must have a rural road project as ambitious a rural road project as possible." Then, we went ahead. We converted the petrol and the diesel hikes in excise duty into a cess. That fund has been committed to the development of rural roads, National Highways, State roads and over-bridges of Railways. This is the projected expenditure of those funds this year. It took us a little time. We had exactly the same worries that you have expressed in this House that if we were to make the money freely available to the States, then, it might be misused as indeed as Shri Verma would say, it is being misused on salaries and establishment. Therefore, we decided after a lot of debate here that we will keep the money here. We will deal with it from the Government of India. We will make sure that Members of Parliament are fully consulted with respect to the areas that they represent and that the PMGSY will be implemented under that arrangement by the Government of India.

I know it personally that my colleagues, the Minister of Rural Development, has issued instructions to the State Governments that the Member of Parliament of the area must be consulted. There must be a sentence in the recommendation of the State Government that Member of Parliament of that area has been consulted. I am also personally aware of the fact that wherever this stipulation is not mentioned, the Ministry of Rural Development make sure that they make this consultation at this level.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: I thank you for the good intentions. The Minister of Rural Development genuinely feels about the good work to accommodate the MP's views. But I tell you honestly that none of the State Governments and the District authorities bother to consult the MPs...*(Interruptions)* That is a fact...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: If all of you ask questions, how can the hon. Minister reply?

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI V. VETRISELVAN (Krishnagiri): It is a very important issue...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: What is that? You know the convention. When you stand up to seek some clarification, the hon. Minister is to yield. Before that, you go on speaking.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Obviously, from the discussion that has taken place in this House, it appears that in some States, the Members of Parliament are being consulted. In many other States, they are not being consulted. It must be our effort to ensure that Members of Parliament are fully consulted in respect of the rural road project that is taken up in their area. If there is any weakness in this system, then, it must be corrected. That is something that I would like to say.

SHRI PRABODH PANDA (Midnapore): What about the fund for acquisition of land for the roads?

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Most of the roads are in terms of the record of rights in the villages. I know it because after all I am also a Member of this House. I am very interested in the road projects in my constituency. What is happening is that if some portion of land has to be acquired, what we are doing in our constituencies is that we persuade the villagers to give the fields. After all, a road will pass and the villagers are responding. I agree with the remark which has just been made that if we were to make a separate provision in the rural road project for land acquisition, then, it will become so expensive that the main purpose might be lost. So, let us use our good offices to make sure that if small bits and portions of land have to be acquired for rural roads, it will be given to us free. But the other question is very important.

This is not the first time that the hon. Members in this House have raised this question of monitoring of the developmental projects being financed by the Government of India. How do we do it? This is an issue, which I had raised earlier. This is an issue which I would like to raise even today that in a federal set up, with the autonomy given to the States, with the State's own Legislature, with the State's own Public Accounts Committee and all the paraphernalia that goes with it, what is the role that we want for the Government of India? This is a very important issue, and this is something, which, I think, as a nation we must be able to come to some understanding, some solution of this problem because like you, I am also impatient. When I go to my constituency and I find that we have thought of, devised and crafted so many good schemes, the District Collector has not even got the instructions on that, I feel impatient. That is the kind of impatience which each one of us must be feeling.

And that is what is raising this demand that our Rs. 2 crore should become Rs. 5 crore or Rs. 6 crore or Rs. 10 crore, and that the hon. Member of Parliament should become the Chairman of DRDA or we must have a very direct voice and effective participation in the developmental programmes of the constituency...(Interruptions) As far as the district administration is concerned, and this is something which we have to think of rising above our political considerations and political alliances, as Members of Parliament. What is the role and responsibility that we want for ourselves; what is the role and responsibility that we want for the State Governments, as far as development work is concerned; and in what manner the who could be converged and the two could be synthesised? This is a challenge. We have not been able to find a solution to it. This is something that, I think, on one of these days, this House, Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, should take up as an issue and let a consensus be evolved because it is not merely the role that we have but it is also which is the cutting edge of administration which will do this. Now, we have 73rd and 74th Amendments. We have the elected representatives at the local level. We have the elected representatives in the State Legislatures. We have the elected representatives in the Parliament. There must be some division of responsibility at all the levels. We must clearly realise what our responsibilities are. We must be able to go to the people and educate them. When I go to my constituency and indeed this must be the experience of all of us they raise every issue with us. If the Munciple electric bulb is not burning, they will ask, 'Why is it not burning? What are you doing as our representative?' If he *nali* is not clean and if the gutter is not clean, then we are being blamed because the Municipality is not doing it. So, I think, a time has come in our democracy that we must be able to clearly delineate the responsibilities of the elected representatives at various levels, and we, as Members of Parliament, should be held accountable for the responsibility which must justly belong to us and not to the Panchayat Raj institutions or to the Municipal Commissioner. If, we, as a nation, come to the conclusion that we, as Members of Parliament, must have an overall supervisory role, then let us build institutions in such a way that we are enabled to play that role, and not go back to our people when elections come or even during the interregnum and be held accountable because it is in a way humiliating when we are held accountable for things over which we have no control. So, this is an issue which I would like this House to seriously consider.

Now, the other general issue, which I wanted to take up is that of employment. Employment or unemployment is a major problem. It is also true that according to the latest NSSO Survey, which has been carried out, the

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rate of growth of employment has declined. The NSSO carried out a survey between 1993 and 1999 and they noticed that compared to the previous six years, the rate of growth in employment generation has actually come down.

Why this has happened? It is not in the unorganised sector that the rate of growth has come down. In fact, the unorganised sector has registered a growth rate which is quite comparable to the previous one. It is not even in the private organised sector. It is only in the public sector that from a positive growth rate, we have gone into a negative growth rate. The reasons are not hard to see because the public sector was overstuffed during the 90s through the liberalisation period. There has been restructuring. In fact, the Indian industry like every other sector of our economy is getting into restructuring. Public sector has also got into restructuring. Therefore, a stage has been reached in our history where instead of recruiting people, they are actually retrenching people. Even in this Supplementary Demands for Grants, I am asking for your approval for money for VRS which means that less people will be employed by the public sector. But if we want to be competitive, Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, then we cannot carry that burden. We will have to make our industry, our units, our factories lean, mean and efficient. If we do not do that, then year after year, we will find more and more of them closing down.

I agree with this point which has been made by Shri Kharabela Swain that units in the private sector are closing down. I have no hesitation in admitting it on the floor of this House that there was a private sector unit which was closed when I was campaigning in the 1998 elections in my constituency. They asked me, "Can you have it reopened?" I said, "I will try my best". Then unfortunately, I became the Finance Minister. So, their hope soared. Let me admit for four years I have been trying my best to get that unit revived. It has not reopened. The private sector employer has not even paid a little compensation to the employees. He has not paid.

We are debating here whether labour laws should be amended or should not be amended. Who is implementing these labour laws? Sir, 2,200 people were employed in that unit. Has all the labour laws that we have in this country ensured that the people who got separated, who lost their jobs, have been paid adequate compensation? Nothing has happened. We are all helpless. I am admitting I am helpless. As a Member of Parliament from that area, I have not been able to get it done; and we have not even been able to get the wages and the compensation paid to the workers. So, this is a major issue.

The labour market reform that I talked about in the Budget is much misunderstood. It is supposed to help exactly in those situations. Why did I suggest that 15 days should become 45 days? It is because there, the people in the private sector must also get adequate compensation so that they can start life elsewhere. In the public sector, we are doing it.

Sir, apart from that, we have undertaken road projects. There are only two ways in which employment can be generated. One is to achieve a higher growth rate. As the Montek Singh Ahluwalia Committee has said, if we have a growth rate of seven per cent, then over a period of time, we will be able to solve the problem of unemployment. And the other is to directly attack the problem of unemployment as indeed we have done through the *Sampoorna Rozgar Yojana* that the Prime Minister announced from the ramparts of the Red Fort. He announced it on the 15th of August. It was taken up for implementation from the 25th of September. In one month and 10 days, we made sure that we are ready. We consulted the Chief Ministers. We called a meeting of the Chief Ministers and consulted with them because after all they are the ones who are going to implement this project. It is an excellent project for food-for-work. It will lead to creation of assets in the rural areas.

I would plead with all the hon. Members here that let us take that *Sampoorna Rozgar Yojana* as seriously as possible and put as much pressure as possible on the State Government and the District administration to take advantage of this. Whether we are looking for check dams and other irrigation projects or we are looking for rural roads outside the PMGSY or we are looking at other community assets, all this can be achieved through the *Pradhan Mantri Sampoorna Rozgar Yojana* because we are making 50 lakh tonnes of foodgrains available free of cost to the State Governments for this.

We have said: "The godowns are open. If you want more, we will give you more." We have also decided again in consultation with the Chief Ministers that we would set up, to begin with, grain banks in all areas of this country so that we are able to transfer the grains from wherever they are to the villages. They would be run by the local people and they would operate it as a bank. This scheme has also been communicated to the States, apart from all the other schemes that my colleague Shri Shanta Kumar has initiated for the people below the poverty line like the *Antyodaya* and *Annapurna* schemes.

Another important point is that the level and quality of governance in the States becomes a major issue. It is a very major issue. We are now talking in terms of a

digital divide. First, we used to talk of backward and forward areas. Here, in fact, a question was raised about the backward districts. It is not a question now of backward and forward districts industrially. Now, since the world is moving very fast, if we are not able to keep pace with it, we would be left so behind that we would not be able to identify ourselves; we will lose our identity. So, the quality of governance has become extremely important at the national level and at the sub-national level. This is the new kind of divide that we are noticing today.

Shri Raghuvansh Prasad Singh is not here. He talked about the Bihar package. I was informed by my colleague here, Shri Shanta Kumar, that last year when drought affected many States, Bihar was given an allocation of one lakh tonnes of food grains to use for the 'Food for Work' programme; not a single kilogram has been lifted by Bihar so far. It was given free. In fact, 2.5 million tonnes of food grains were made available free of cost to the State so that they could launch their 'Food for Work' programme. I am saying this now because though Shri Raghuvansh Prasad Singh has gone away other hon. Members from Bihar are here.

Shri Raghuvansh Prasad Singh talked about the Bihar package. It is a commitment of the Government of India. In fact, when the hon. Minister of Home Affairs was piloting three Reorganisation Bills the Bihar Reorganisation Bill was the only Bill that contained the provision of a package for the original State, Bihar. There is a cell in the Planning Commission working on it. If Shri Raghuvansh Prasad Singh had been here, I would have suggested that the Government of Bihar should seriously prepare a package. It should not be a package like the fairy tale package that was prepared two years ago for Rs. 2,00,000 crore, which will not pass muster. Let us sit down and prepare a realistic package for the growth and development of Bihar. I am quite sure, the Government of India would be prepared to look at it most sympathetically.

I have taken a lot of time but there are a few issues to deal with. I think, Shri Bijoy Handique raised the issue of small tea growers. I would like to remind him that this provision is already there, that this Rs. 2 per kilogram excise duty on tea is not applicable to small growers who have a garden or holding of less than ten hectares. So, if there is any confusion in this regard, it is unnecessary. Apart from this fact, tea is included in the exemption given to the North-East...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BIJOY HANDIQUE: Is it available for all?

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: It is available for the whole tea industry. This excise duty is only on large gardens and large producers.

SHRI BIJOY HANDIQUE: There is another problem relating to the big producers...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: We are talking of the small growers. I am saying that as far as small growers are concerned, there is no question of imposing duty. I have already given this exemption. It is also available as an exemption for the North-East.

Since you raised this issue of North-East, I would also like to say something else. We now have a separate dedicated Cabinet Minister for the Development of the North-East. This is something that has happened in this country for the first time. Along with that colleague of mine, Shri Arun Shourie, I have personally gone — as I promised in this House — to Shillong and met with the Chief Ministers of all the States a few weeks ago.

SHRI BIJOY HANDIQUE: We appreciate that.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: We discussed the problems.

SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: Is it applicable for the Nilgiris tea of Tamil Nadu also?

SHRI M. MASTER MATHAN (Nilgiris): For South India, earlier it was exempted even for the corporate sector; but unfortunately in the recent Budget, it was re-introduced. As a result of this, the condition has become very difficult for the tea growers in Tamil Nadu...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, the Darjeeling tea also should get exemption. Darjeeling in North Bengal is close to the North-East.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: The issue of tea growers was brought to my notice by the hon. Member, Shri Mathan. I was only referring to the issue of the small growers, which has been raised earlier. You would recall that you had discussed with me and we decided to give this exemption.

Now, once again, you have raised the issue of the large corporates, the large tea growers...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: The North-Eastern concept of development can be extended up to North Bengal also. It is similar to the corridor from Darjeeling. Sir, if you feel, you can consider...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BIJOY HANDIQUE: What about SSI units?

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: As far as small-scale industry, within a specified location, is concerned, to be specified by the State Government, the excise duty exemption is already available in the North-East...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BIJOY HANDIQUE: What about Kapoor Committee's recommendations?

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Kapoor Committee is the thing of the past. We have gone well beyond Kapoor Committee.

The small industry package, which the hon. Prime Minister of India announced on the 30th of August last year, is far beyond the Kapoor Committee recommendation. So, Kapoor Committee is a thing of the past. Let us not concentrate only on the Kapoor Committee. We have gone beyond that.

Sir, Shri Kirit Somaiah has raised the issue of UTI and US-64. Let me assure him that when the UTI brought out the new scheme, UTI also announced that they would go (NAV) based from 1st January. I am aware of the fact that UTI is busy discussing this issue in detail and they will come out with the revised scheme from 1st January. Without anticipating what the UTI is planning to do, I would only like to make two points and, that is, we are committed to protecting the interest of the investors in US-64. So, we will continue to do that.

Second, we have already said that the Government is fully behind the UTI in order to ensure that small investors do not lose. That is a commitment that we shall continue to maintain.

Sir, Enron is a very unfortunate incident. Enron is represented in this country through Dabhol Power Corporation (DPC). The solution to that problem is something, which is being discussed by the Indian financial institutions who have exposure to Enron and DPC. I am confident that we will be able to find a solution.

As far as the take over of L&T share of one group by another group is concerned, I have looked into the matter and I have been assured that it is within the framework of the rules and regulations on the subject. So, it is not a question of the Ministry of the regulatory being deliberately silent. I would also like to say that as far as the financial institutions are concerned, from what I know, they have no wish at this point of time to alienate their shares and, therefore the question of take over of L&T by one group or the other should not arise. And, if there was any such move, then the take over code will

come into picture and we will be able to tackle that situation. L&T is a very good company and it is a professionally managed company. This is the kind of model that we would like to promote in this country. Therefore, there should be no such apprehensions.

Sir, our PSU policy is very clear. I do not have to repeat it.

Sir, non-conventional energy issue was raised by some hon. Member. We are aware of it and a lot of it is being done. We will continue to work on that.

Sir, a number of hon. Members have raised the issue of corruption. I would only like to say that it is the responsibility of the Government to fight corruption and that is exactly what we are doing. Therefore, even in the Department of Excise and Customs, you must, at least, give credit to the Government that we have not been overawed by the position and authority of any functionary. We have gone after them, howsoever high and mighty they might be.

There is the cancer of corruption in our system. Nobody can deny it. But, as a Government, it is our responsibility to ensure that everyone, however, high and mighty they may be, are — if they are corrupt — brought to book and that is exactly what we are trying to do. We will continue to fight corruption.

As far as the 'BPL' list is concerned, there is a Supreme Court order that the 'BPL' lists have to be prepared by the State Governments. They have been given a direction and I am quite sure that such a list, based on genuine facts, will be prepared soon by the State Governments. In fact, my colleague Shri Shanta Kumar informs me that they have not yet adopted the NSSO survey figures of poverty of 26 per cent and they are still working at 36 per cent. But, even that figure of 36 per cent is bloated now because every State now, in order to get more foodgrains from the Centre, jacks up the figure of people below the poverty line.

Sir, the issue of strike in coal sector has been raised. It is very unfortunate. The hon. Prime Minister has constituted a Group of Ministers. I am also a member of that Group of Ministers. We have called the trade unions. We had a discussion with them and we pleaded with them not to go on strike because it will lead to national loss. We assured them. Our colleague Shri Ram Vilas Paswan assured them that we will not bring that Bill, the Coal Mines Nationalisation (Amendment) Bill within this Session provided that they did not go on strike. But, unfortunately, the trade unions have not listened and they have gone on strike and caused this loss.

We will continue to deal with coal. I myself from an area which is a coal belt. I know the problems of the workers and, therefore, I have a great deal of sympathy not only for the coal industry but also for all those who are engaged in the coal industry. We are, in that Group of Ministers, looking at various aspects and I am quite sure that we would be able to find a proper solution to all those things.

Hon. Member Dr. Laxminarayan Pandeya referred to the drought in Madhya Pradesh apart from the PMGSY. We are liberally making foodgrains available to fight the drought and I hope that the Government of Madhya Pradesh will come forward to take advantage of this arrangement.

As far as subsidy is concerned, I would like to say that while the impression is there that Government is reducing subsidy, actually with all the efforts that we are making, we are only limiting the increase in subsidy. I have the figures here. If the food subsidy was, let us say, Rs. 2,800 crore in the year 1992-1993, what is the Budget for this year? It is Rs. 13,675 crore. So, from a figure of Rs. 2,800 crore to the figure of Rs. 13,675 crore the subsidy is only going up and because of all the fight that we are putting up, it is only that we are limiting it. But in this year, because of all these schemes that we have deliberately taken in hand, the food subsidy is likely to go up considerably and when I come with the Revised Estimates I would like to mention this to you.

Another impression which I would like to correct is the impression about unrestricted imports as a result of Quantitative Restrictions having gone. I have the figures here of agricultural produce. In 1998-1999 it was 6.9 per cent of total imports. It came down to 5.7 per cent in 1999-2000 and it came down drastically to only 3.7 per cent in 2000-2001. For the period April to June of previous year, the figure was 3.6 per cent and the current year's figure is 3.3 per cent. So, while you might see New Zealand apples in the Khan Market of Delhi, let us not be overwhelmed by them. The food imports and the agricultural imports are well under control and the hon. Minister of Commerce has already assured you that we will not be found wanting on that. We will take advantage of all the instruments which are available to us within the WTO to ensure that our farmers are not inconvenienced.

Sir, I have taken a lot of time of this House. I would like to say at the end that I am very grateful to the hon. Members for the very positive suggestions.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, before you conclude, there was a point mentioned by the Chairman of the MPLADS Committee. This also concerns you and me.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Sir, I am only trying to duck that question...(Interruptions) Sir, I believe that the delegation of the House Committee has met the hon. Prime Minister on this issue.

We had some discussions, as you are aware, Sir, in the last Session with the hon. Speaker. After all, I am also a Member of this House and I will also be greatly benefited. However, this is an issue on which, I think, all of us should sit down and discuss. It is not something on which I will be able to make an announcement straightaway. There are some important issues which will have to be discussed. When we meet in that Committee, I assure you that we will consider all those issues. Also, the number of Assembly constituencies varies from State to State. So, should the Assembly constituency be the criterion?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: No.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Otherwise, U.P. will be the biggest loser.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I can tell you that some good developments are taking place, particularly in the far-flung areas, on account of the MPLADS.

SHRI V. VETRISILVAN: I seek a clarification on one very important point. As far as the issue of giving professional loans to students is concerned, the bank managers are deliberately refusing to give these loans in the rural areas.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Shri Tilakdhan babu and some other hon. Member raised this issue about the functioning of the banks. As far as the functioning of the banks is concerned — not only in respect of those but also in respect of PMRY, Kisan Credit Card — I believe that we will have an opportunity of discussing it during the Question Hour on Friday. But this is something which worries me also. I have met the banks' Chairmen at

[Shri Yashwant Sinha]

least five times. Every six months, I am meeting the banks' Chairmen. One issue which I take up in every meeting is the attitude of the banks officials at the cutting edge level, at the level of the branch. Now, I am encouraging, I am insisting that the senior officers of the bank should go out to the branches, in the rural areas especially, and they should go *incognito*, to find out what the complaint of the people is. They should invite public representatives, members of the public, to meet with them and to find out whether the bank is functioning properly. I have shared with you in the past my own agony. I am the Finance Minister of India. In my constituency, I was told that the people who had gone to withdraw their money, which they had deposited in the bank, were not being served. They were being asked to come the next day or the day after and all that. So, where is the question of giving loans? We have advised the banks' that at the local level, at the District-level Credit committee level, Members of Parliament, Members of the State Legislature, the elected representatives at the district-level should also be fully associated. We have written to the District Magistrates to ensure that this is done. This is an effort which will certainly go on.

The total amount, as has been mentioned, is around Rs. 2,000 crore in cash outgo; Rs. 1,414 crore was the cash outgo in the first batch of Supplementary. Much of it is going to rural development and for employment generation schemes.

While I would like to heartily thank the Members for the excellent contribution they have made, I would suggest that let the Supplementary Demands be passed.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, I have only one submission to the hon. Finance Minister. The hon. Finance Minister has very candidly admitted and explained the present economic situation, including the agricultural scenario. We will enter the New Year very shortly.

Before the rise of the House on 21st December, is it possible on the part of the hon. Minister and the Government to inform the House about the short-term and the long-term fiscal measures that the Government is considering to stabilise the situation and to prove that the prophets of doom are wrong? We share with you all the concern. Especially in relation to agriculture, the Minister has equally shared the concern of the Members of the House. Will it be possible for the Minister to inform the House as to what are the short-term and long-term policies that the Government is considering to protect the investors, to eliminate fears and frustrations, and also to improve the climate?

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Sir, we have adopted a large number of measures. I would not like to take time of the House. But if the House so decides and if I get an opportunity on some subsequent days, I would certainly share the information with this House.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the respective sums of not exceeding the amounts on the Revenue Account and Capital Account shown in the third column of the Order Paper be granted to the President out of the Consolidated Fund of India, of certain further sums necessary to defray the charges that will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 2002, in respect of the heads of demands entered in the second column thereof, against Demand Nos. 3, 5, 6, 8, 9, 11, 20, 21, 22, 27, 36, 50, 54, 58, 59, 62, 64, 65 68, 72, 74, 76, 81, 83, 85, 87, 89 and 96."

The motion was adopted.

19.41 hrs.

[English]

APPROPRIATION (NO. 4) BILL, 2001*

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to authorise payment and appropriation of certain further sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the services of the financial year 2001-2002.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to authorise payment and appropriation of certain further sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the services of the financial year 2001-2002."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Sir, I introduce** the Bill.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Minister to move the motion for consideration.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Sir, I beg to move:**

* Published in the Gazette of India Extraordinary Part-II, Section-2, dt. 05.12.2001.

** Introduced/Moved with the recommendation of the President.

"That the Bill to authorise payment and appropriation of certain further sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the services of the financial year 2001-2002, be taken into consideration."

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Bill to authorise payment and appropriation of certain further sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the services of the financial year 2001-2002, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The House will now take up clause-by-clause consideration of the Bill.

The question is:

"The clauses 2 and 3 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 2 and 3 were added to the Bill.

The Schedule was added to the Bill.

Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Long Title were added to the Bill.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Minister may now move that the Bill be passed.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill be passed."

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Bill be passed."

The motion was adopted.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The House now stands adjourned to meet again tomorrow, the 6th of December, 2001 at 11 a.m.

19.44 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Thursday, December 6, 2001/Agrahayana 15, 1923 (Saka)

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