

LOK SABHA DEBATES

(English Version)

Twelfth Session
(Thirteenth Lok Sabha)



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LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Statement

Wednesday, February 19, 2003/Magha 30, 1924 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock.

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I have received only one Adjournment Motion notice from Shri Subodh Roy, which I have already rejected in my Chamber.

Now, we go to Question Hour.

11.01 hrs.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[Translation]

Harassment of Indian Diplomats

*21. DR. ASHOK PATEL:
KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn towards the harassment and expulsion of Indian diplomats from Pakistan;

(b) if so, the number of cases which has come to light during the current year, till date;

(c) whether such harassment has been meted out to Indian officials in various other countries also;

(d) if so, the details in this regard, country-wise; and

(e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government for the safeguard and non-recurrence of such violations of bilateral code of conduct?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) to (e) A statement is place on the Table of the House.

(a) to (e) Government are aware of incidents of harassment and expulsion of Indian diplomats in Pakistan. There have been 11 incidents of harassment and 9 cases of expulsion of Indian officials including, Indian Charge 'd' Affaires, by Pakistan during the year.

No such cases of harassment of Indian officials in other countries have come to the notice of Government.

Under the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations, 1961 and the bilateral "Code of Conduct for Treatment of Diplomatic/Consular Personnel in India and Pakistan" signed by the two countries in 1992, the responsibility for the safety and security of personnel of High Commission rests with the host Government. Government of India lodges strong protests to Government of Pakistan against all cases of harassment of officials of Indian High Commission in Islamabad and reminds them of their obligations under the Vienna Convention and bilateral Code of Conduct. Government remains committed to taking all necessary measures for the safety and security of the personnel in Indian Missions abroad.

DR. ASHOK PATEL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon. Minister had mentioned in his reply that 11 incidents of harassment and 9 cases of expulsion of Indian officials including Indian Charge 'd' Affaires by Pakistan has been reported during the year. We have lodged our strong protest with Pakistan on these incidents. Such protests have often been lodged with Pakistan after each of these incidents. However Pakistan has always ignored them. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government propose to take any special steps to prevent the recurrence of such incidents despite the protest lodged with Pakistan.

SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH: Hon. Speaker, Sir, these steps are taken in accordance with the spirit of Vienna Convention. Vienna Convention does not mention about the steps to be taken against a country violating its provisions. There are only two ways for it. One is that we lodge our protest with such country and the other is summoning of the diplomats from the Embassy or High Commission of that particular country situated in our country to the Ministry of External Affairs. These are the two ways and these two ways we have been following in regard to Pakistan.

DR. ASHOK PATEL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is not the first incident of harassment of Pakistan based Indian diplomats. Several such incidents of harassment of Indian diplomats have also taken place earlier. Perturbed at the

several incidents of harassment, hon. Prime Minister had to say that after all what does Pakistan want. I would like to know whether the attention of the international community was drawn towards the incident of the harassment of Pakistan based Indian diplomat. If so, what has been the reaction of the international community in regard thereto?

SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, in regard to the question asked by the hon. Member, I would like to say that such incidents are closely watched by the international community and the entire world carefully listened to what was said by hon. Prime Minister in this regard. As far as we are concerned, India keeps on presenting its stand at all the international fora or during the bilateral talks with any country.

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to ask from the hon. Minister as to how many times since the country's partition, the diplomatic relations between India and Pakistan have been strained and how many times such incidents have recurred. I would also like to know as to what steps were taken earlier by the Govt. of India in this regard and when such incidents are taking place whether the Government would remain as a silent spectator. This is my first question. My second question is that....

MR. SPEAKER: You can not ask the second question, you can only ask the supplementary.

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: The second part of my supplementary is that whether it is not the failure of our foreign policy due to which we have to face this shameful situation. Every patriot is perturbed at this situation. Pakistan is challenging our self-respect and dignity by infiltrating into our territories through cross border terrorism and now the situation has reached to that extent that Pakistan is harassing our diplomats. I would like to know as to whether the Government have any action plan to stop the recurrence of such incidents.

SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, first of all I would reply to the part (b) of the question asked by hon. Member because the reply to the first part involves a long list and if the hon. Member wants, I would send it separately.

Vienna Convention provides that the responsibility of protecting the diplomats lies on the part of country in the world where our diplomats are posted. Pakistan is tarnishing its image in the world through such acts and Pakistan is itself earning a bad name by its

activities which is more than the measures we propose to take.

Secondly, India always take required steps in this matter. Keeping in view the diplomatic ties. As I had said earlier also that one of the steps to check recurrence of such incidents is that we express our protest there and also in our country by summoning the personnel of their Embassy.

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to seek a clarification in context of the hon. Minister's reply with your permission. Right now hon'ble Minister has said that Pakistan is earning bad name in the world through this act. Today Pakistan is being openly supported by the existing super power in the world. I would like to know as to in what way that bad name has affected Pakistan. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shrimati Krishna Bose.

[English]

SHRIMATI KRISHNA BOSE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, we know very well how our diplomats are harassed in Pakistan all the time, whereas in India, we are very liberal and we accept all the foreign diplomats including Pakistan openly. We treat them very well in a very friendly manner. The whole world knows about it. Given the circumstances now, with this expulsion and counter expulsion, we have a very few people left now on either side of the Missions. But, you know our Missions abroad have this duty to keep us informed of what is happening there as also other duties. The situation is such that that may be hampered. While keeping Pakistan under pressure and also counteracting the harassment that they are meting out to our diplomats, have you thought about anything as to how we can keep some channel open so that we can get diplomatic information etc?

There is another thing related to this, which I would like to know. Do you have any plan at all to resume the rail, bus and air link now? I know the answer and I can see that everybody here is nodding their heads in the negative. But, if the relationship between the two neighbouring countries is totally cut off, it suits our enemies also. So, while thinking of the common people, will you consider that also? It is because, as you know, divided families are on both the sides of the border. You have to think about the human side of this also.

SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Member has questioned and answered part (b) of the question. As far as the earlier part of the question is concerned, I would definitely bring it to your notice that

only yesterday the charge d' affaires have been given visas from both the Indian and Pakistani sides. They will start functioning on mutual date.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, India and Pakistan had very cordial relations earlier but these strained after the Pakistan's attack on India in 1971. 14 months have elapsed since the 13th December incident. I would like to know as to why we are not making any preparation for the decisive war with Pakistan despite such activities being undertaken by Pakistan. I would like to know as to how long we would have to wait even though it has been going on for more than 30 years and has exceeded even the exile of Lord Ram.

Through you, I would like to know from the hon. Prime Minister as to what steps are being taken by the Government to teach a lesson to Pakistan? You are a capable Prime Minister. Red fort and the Parliament have been attacked. Hence I am of the opinion that if talks are not successful with Pakistan then there is a need to wage a war against Pakistan. We should wage a war against Pakistan whether or not war between America and Iraq takes place. I would like to know as to why the Government of India are not taking concrete steps in this direction.

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE): War should not occur anywhere neither between America and Iraq nor between India and Pakistan.

Opening of PHCs by NRI's

*22. SHRI MANIBHAI RAMJIBHAI CHAUDHRI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any proposal from the Non-Resident Indians for setting up Primary Health Centres (PHCs) in the rural areas of the country;

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

(c) by when such PHCs are likely to be set up?

[*English*]

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

Statement

(a) to (c) No Sir. Government has not received any proposal from Non-Resident Indians for setting up Primary Health Centres (PHCs) in rural areas of the country. However, a concept paper has been received from a U.K. based NRI which contains suggestions on general development of health care in the country. A suggestion has been made therein that there should be a PHC for every 10,000 population, manned by two doctors.

[*Translation*]

SHRI MANIBHAI RAMJIBHAI CHAUDHRI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister the name of the rural areas of district Valsad in Gujarat where the Government propose to set up Primary Health Centres and also the number of such centres it wants to setup.

[*English*]

SHRI A. RAJA: Sir, so far as the State of Gujarat is concerned, we have not received any proposal to set up PHCs. In turn, I can say before this House that since health is a State subject under the Constitution, setting up PHCs and CHCS are well within the purview of the State Governments.

So far as the sub-centres are concerned, all the 1,37,000 sub-centres in the country are being fully funded by the Government of India. So far as Gujarat is concerned, the sub-centres there are more in number than the required number of sub-centres.

[*Translation*]

SHRI MANIBHAI RAMJIBHAI CHAUDHRI: What is the format of the scheme prepared by non-resident Indians and what is the cost of its implementation?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): Mr. Speaker, Sir, no scheme has been prepared on the basis of any NRI scheme. It has been explained in the answer to the original question. No such proposal has been received. There was only a letter, a sort of concept paper wherein it was mentioned that there should be one Primary Health Centre per 10,000 population. Thus, there was no format of any scheme prepared. As my colleague said the establishment of Primary Health Centres is not done by

the Union Government, but by the State Governments. We only set up sub-centres and even they are run by the State governments.

[English]

SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: Sir, the State Governments are deprived of funds. They cannot take up health programmes because they are depending upon the Central funds.

Even though the PHCs are established with funds provided by the Central Government on the recommendation of the State Governments, subsequently, the doctors are not working in the rural areas. They are going only to the urban areas. There are no medical facilities in the rural areas as enunciated in the original plan. There are no operation theatres or maternity centres and other things. I would like to know whether the Central Government is going to have a new look at the PHCs so that rural health could be looked into properly throughout India.

SHRI A. RAJA: Sir, as hon. Members are well aware, the Government of India is funding the State Governments either through the CHCs or the PHCs or any other institutions that the State Governments have for the national diseases like malaria, leprosy, AIDS, TB, cancer, etc. Apart from that, we are having no exclusive fund and the administration is with the State Governments.

So far as the doctor are concerned, it should be admitted before this House the doctors are not at all inclined to have their own services in the rural areas. It is a question of law before this House and before the courts. Whenever such questions came before the courts, it has been found that if a doctor is not willing to go to a rural area, neither the Government of India nor the State Government has any powers to insist the doctor to go the rural area.

The Medical Council of India is a statutory body created under an Act of Parliament. We have instructed the Council that since they are giving certificates to the doctors for practice and registration, the Medical Council of India should establish a system where rural postings for doctors before registration should be compulsory and mandatory for their entry into Government service.

As far as other things are concerned, it is under the consideration of the Government.

PROF. A.K. PREMAJAM: Sir, I would like to thank you for giving me this opportunity. The hon. Minister has

already stated that PHCs are the State subject. But, at the same time, the funds for certain items are given by the Central Government. So, my question is whether the Government of India is aware of the fact that many of the State Governments are actually withdrawing from the health sector. The States, including Kerala, are slowly withdrawing from the health sector and that is actually leading to a lot of difficulties and problems for the people in the rural areas.

SHRI A. RAJA: As far as the Central Government is concerned, we have not come across that the State Governments are giving up their responsibilities in health care delivery system. On the other hand, I would like to assure the hon. members that so far Rs. 2,500 crore, as external assistance from the World Bank and other World Health Organisations, etc., have been pumped into this country for various States. The Kerala Government has submitted a proposal to the World Bank for upgrading the Primary Health Centres and other Centres in the State to the tune of Rs. 810 crore for which the Government of India, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare is a facilitator. We recommended this project to the World Bank. It is under the consideration of the World Bank. I do hope that the project will be given to the State Government. The hon. Member can take care with the State Government to implement the scheme. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Q. No. 23, Dr. M.V.V.S. Murthy.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI A.C.JOS: Sir, my question is emanating from the answer given by the hon. Minister. So, please give me a chance.

The Government of Kerala has submitted a scheme of Rs. 810 crore and it was recommended by the Government of India. It is pending with the Planning Commission. The Planning Commission is saying that the Government of Kerala has got enough development in health schemes. So, that file is pending with the Planning Commission. Will the Central Government intervene and get the file cleared immediately? *...(Interruptions)*. This file may be cleared by the Planning Commission. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI A.C. JOS: Sir, my question is also important. It is emanating from the answer given by the hon. Minister. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU: Sir, please given me a chance. The hon. Minister can give the answer for both the questions together. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: The next question is also important. Please sit down.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Sir, the hon. Member has brought this to our notice. We will have a look at it. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU: Sir, this is a very important question. Seventy per cent people of our country are living in the villages. The Central Government and the State Governments are spending crores of rupees for the welfare of the poor people. We are also spending lakhs of rupees on each medico. However, after completion of their studies, they are going to foreign countries or they are staying in the urban areas. But what about the rural areas?

That is why, will the Government bring a legislation in the current Session? We are ready to pass it. As we are spending a lot of money on these medicos, they should serve in the rural areas. ...(*Interruptions*) Will the Government bring legislation in the ensuing Session?

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: The State Governments like Andhra Pradesh are diverting funds and there is no accountability. There should be a social audit. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAJO SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, in his reply, the hon'ble Minister has stated that he can't compel the Medical practitioners to work in rural areas. It will send a wrong message and no doctor would be willing to serve in rural areas. Therefore, my submission is that hon'ble Minister should not give such replies. Such a message should not go from the hon'ble Minister. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Dr. M.V.V.S. Murty, please ask your question.

...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is an important question. A half an hour discussion should be held on this issue. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, the Questions that are being put in the House are not very much related to the main Question.

...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: Sir, there is no facility of water and power there. Medicines are also not available and there is no facility of education for the children. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: You are right you can give notice for discussion on it. It is a different question.

...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down. This is not the way to ask the question. Kunwar Akhilesh Singh, please sit down. You must sit down.

The Question is different. The Question is whether NRIs are giving any proposals. The reply given is that no NRI has given any specific proposal. The Question ends there.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: This is not a general discussion. Please sit down.

Let us go to Question number 23.

Disinvestment of Oil Sector PSUs

*23 DR. M.V.V.S. MURTHI:
SHRI K. MURALEEDHARAN:

Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to disinvest Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) and Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) and some other Oil Sector PSUs;

(b) whether the administrative ministry has raised any objection;

(c) if so, the details thereof alongwith the rationale behind the same;

(d) the reasons for not allowing the Oil Sector PSUs including ONGC to take part in the bidding;

(e) whether the Union Government have sought the opinion of the Attorney-General of India in regard to disinvestment of HPCL and BPCL;

(f) if so, the opinion of the Attorney-General in this regard;

(g) the financial position (profit/loss) of HPCL and BPCL during the last three years and as on date;

(h) whether the Government have appointed any consultant to disinvest HPCL, BPCL, etc.; and

(i) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) Yes, Sir. The Government have decided to disinvest 34.01% equity in Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) through strategic sale and 35.20% equity in Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) through public offer in the domestic and international market. In addition, it has been decided to offer 5% equity shares in both the companies through Employees Stock Purchase Scheme (ESPS) of the employees of both the companies.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) The oil sector PSUs including ONGC have not been allowed to participate in the bidding of HPCL as it is the general policy of Government not to allow one PSU to bid for other PSU. The primary rationale behind this is that the objective of disinvestment is to put national assets to optimal use and to maximize the productive potential inherent in public sector and ownership of one PSU by another PSU defeats that objective.

(e) Yes, Sir.

(f) Attorney General has opined that Parliamentary legislation or Parliamentary sanction or approval is not necessary to effectuate the 'in principle' policy decision

of disinvestment in HPCL and BPCL and that it is open to the Government of India in bona fide exercise of its executive power to reach and implement the said decision.

(g) The financial positions (net profits) of HPCL and BPCL during the last three years are as follows:-

	Net profit (in Rs. Crore)		
	2001-02	2000-01	1999-2000
BPCL	849.8	832.7	701.6
HPCL	788.0	1088.0	1057.4

(h) No consultants have so far been appointed for disinvestment in HPCL and BPCL. However, the process of the appointment of Global Advisor for HPCL and Global Coordinators for BPCL is under progress.

(i) Does not arise.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: The Government Statement has not been made available to us today. This is what was supplied to us, and the Statement is not available.

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: If you like, I can read it out.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: That will help us.

SHRI A.C. JOS: The Statement should have been made available to us. What is this?

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: I will read it out now.

MR. SPEAKER: I will request the Minister to read out the Statement because it is an important Question.

SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI: I have received the Statement.

MR. SPEAKER: Since I have asked the Minister to read out the Statement, please sit down for a minute.

[Translation]

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: What is the role of Reliance in it. Was the Govt. compelled to take this step under pressure from Reliance? ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Raghunathji, please sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: I have not permitted him. Shri M.V.V.S. Murthi to ask this supplementary question.

SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI: I can understand the feelings of the hon. Members over disinvestment these highly profit-making public sector undertakings, which fall in the strategic area of energy.

First of all, it is not clear whether the inter-ministerial tussle over which of the PSUs have to be disinvested first has been cleared or not. There is a tussle, which we came to know through the Press, several times, that so and so Ministry is not interested in disinvestment, particularly the Minister of Petroleum is not interested in disinvestment.

The priority has to be fixed for other non-priority area PSUs that are to be disinvested. If it is cleared, what is the benchmark norm that has been approved by the Cabinet Committee on Disinvestment (CCD)? Have they fixed any criteria, any benchmark norm, for disinvesting these things, as it has been decided to bring in global tenders for this area?

Thirdly, is it a fact that after disinvestment, both the companies will have a particular percentage of shares with the Government? It appears that Government will retain only 12 per cent of shares in HPCL, whereas in BPCL it will retain 26 per cent share. Is it not necessary to retain at least 26 per cent of shares in both the companies to have Government say? After all, this is energy sector. Tomorrow poor people should not be affected. Now it is okay but after some time you will disinvest Indian Oil Corporation also.

MR. SPEAKER: Please ask a specific question.

SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI: What is the benchmark norm that has been fixed for disinvestment? What percentage of shares is decided to be retained?

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: These are very important questions. There is a complete misapprehension. As you also know well, decisions in the CCD are taken after thorough discussion. In this particular case the Minister of Petroleum is a permanent member of the CCD himself. In this case and in every case, whenever a PSU is being considered by the Cabinet Committee on Disinvestment presided over by the Prime Minister, the Minister in charge of the Administrative Ministry in which the PSU falls, even if he is not a member of the CCD,

always attends all deliberations. Even before that, there are two stages.

First there is the Inter-Ministerial Group of Officers and then there is the Committee of Secretaries presided over by the Cabinet Secretary. In each of these and in valuation, at all times, representatives of the Administrative Ministries are present. I can say that there is a complete misapprehension. All of us give our views. You know very well, Sir, having been such an active member of the CCD, that in discussions, the view of the Disinvestment Department is often modified and overruled, and other views are accepted. Proposals are improved. Sometimes even more radical proposals than what we have given are approved because the Finance Ministry or others may argue the different way. In this case, decisions have been taken unanimously after thorough consideration over a period of one year.

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Including the Petroleum Minister?

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: Of course, Sir. Petroleum Minister was not only present, his suggestions were actively considered. The meeting in which decision was taken was held in February, 2002. The Decision was finalised in January, 2003. That means a gap of over eleven months. The second point Dr. Murthi raised. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: When the hon'ble Minister was a writer he used to write so thought provoking articles. And now he is doing such things? ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Why do you interrupt, Please sit down. I will give you chance to ask questions. Please speak only when I permit.

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: Shourie ji, please compare between what you used to write and what you are doing now. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Please do not sell the companies earning profits.

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: The second point that Dr. Murthi raised was about norms and criteria. These norms and criteria have been spelt out very many times in 14 debates in Parliament itself in the last

two years, and in over 900 Questions that have been answered. As far as CCD is concerned, the general policy has been laid down; it has been published; distributed to all Members. Guidelines as to who will be excluded, who will not be excluded, have been laid down. When the public sector units can participate and when they cannot participate, has been formalised. So, every criterion has been laid down.

The third point was about the safeguards about 26 per cent and 12 per cent. There, in the shareholders' agreement, we give very stringent safeguards wherever Government control is required. I will give you one instance.

You would remember that in the VSNL privatisation, there were security concerns. It is not a secret that our security agencies have to monitor many calls going abroad from here. The question was that when the VSNL is disinvested, will the private bidder allow such facilities or not. We built that as a stringent clause in the Shareholders and Share Purchase Agreement. About these facilities for our security agencies, I personally requested the Director of RAW and the Director of IB to come and finalise whatever clause they wanted. So, that clause was included.

In this case also, the necessary clause will be included. Sir, if you permit me for two minutes, I would explain it. In the Competition Act itself you have provided such stringent powers to the Government that it can, at all times, intervene if there is the slightest infringement by a bidder or by any company which is anti-competitive.

Secondly, the Petroleum Regulatory Bill is now before this House and the moment you pass it, it will come into effect. But till it is passed, all those powers are with the Ministry. The Board shall have all the powers to regulate marketing, monitor prices, take corrective measures, prevent profiteering, secure equitable distribution into the areas which require servicing. It can entertain any complaint from anybody about profiteering, marketing, service obligations. It can suspend or cancel authorisation of any entity, for instance, a new bidder. It can give direction on refining, processing, storage, transport, distribution of petroleum products, and the Central Government can give direction to the Board in the interest of the sovereignty and integrity of India. If it is necessary, it can give direction, for maintaining or increasing the supplies of petroleum products or both, for securing their equitable distribution. ...*(Interruptions)*

Section 35 says that you can cancel licence of the company. What more would we want to safeguard? So,

we will have adequate safeguards and the laws for these things.

SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI: Sir, my question has not been answered fully. I asked: what is the rationale behind retention of 12 per cent in one company and 26 per cent in another company. In the BPCL, the Government is thinking to retain 26 per cent whereas in the HPCL they want to retain 12 per cent. Why are they not having equal percentage in both these companies?

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: Sir, that is an important question. The origin of the question, the starting point is different. ...*(Interruptions)*

The starting point is that in the case of the HPCL, the earlier Governments had already disinvested 49 per cent. So, the Government's equity is only 51 per cent. In the case of the BPCL, the earlier Governments had already disinvested 33 per cent. So, the Government had only 66 per cent. Now, the question was to give something to a strategic partner. So, it was felt that because the BPCL is going into the market, you are just going to place shares in the market so as to prevent any creeping acquisition later on, as has happened in the other companies. Today, the Government is engaged in a matter like L&T. To prevent acquisition, it was felt necessary that the Government should keep 26 per cent in its own hand where nobody else can come.

In the case of HPCL, it is already the Government decision that a strategic partner should come. Now, a strategic partner will not come in case you have a situation which he does not get enough for control of the management of the company. For that reason, there was this difference. The starting points are different. The nature of the problem apprehended in the future is different. For that every considered reason, these differences arose.

SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI: My second Supplementary is this. Perhaps the bidders wanted a higher percentage in the HPCL to be disinvested.

MR. SPEAKER: This is your first Supplementary!

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: Sir, there is a point which I had forgotten to mention. This is under SEBI rules.

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Sir, please listen to us also and not just to them. What they are reading out is being watched both within and outside the country. Therefore, you should listen to us. We listen to their speeches daily. ...*(Interruptions)*

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: I will request the Minister to be brief. Mr. Minister, you can be as brief as possible.

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: I will make one additional point only. Under SEBI rules, if a strategic partner acquires more than a certain percentage, he has to give a '20 per cent open offer' also. For that reason also, there is this difference in this case.

SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI: My second supplementary is this. The Government sought the opinion of the Attorney-General, Shri Soli Sorabjee who said that any public sector undertaking that has been created by an Act of Parliament—this is the public view or the legal pundits' view—should go to the Parliament again to repeal such an Act to disinvest. This is the decision. Otherwise, there is no need to seek the opinion of the Attorney-General in this particular case. Earlier also, in 1993, the then Attorney-General, Shri Milan Banerjee had been consulted, on an opinion of disinvestment of IFFCO. He said that it had been created by an Act of Parliament; it required the Parliament's consent again to repeal the Act to disinvest. That was the opinion given by Shri Milan Banerjee. Now we have a different opinion given by Shri Soli Sorabjee. Is the opinion of Attorney-General final now? Should we allow it or should we seek some court decision on this? This is a very important thing because otherwise it may enter into a legal tangle tomorrow. I would like to have a specific answer on this.

MR. SPEAKER: You have already made your question. Why do you want to take more time? If you do that, the Minister may also take time.

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: The opinion of the Attorney-General was sought because there was a demand. I do not want to name the Members of the other House. The Leaders of the Opposition said that we should seek the opinion of the Attorney-General.

SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI: Now, there are two opinions.

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: I will correct the point of information.

The opinion was sought; it is a very detailed opinion. As far as Shri Milan Banerjee's opinion is concerned—I do not want to comment on opinions because he is after all a distinguished Attorney-General—if you read that opinion, you will find this.

SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI: I read it.

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: It goes only by what is provided in the British Telecom Act. We have our own Act. We have the Acts of Acquisition of these two particular companies. The contrast that has been made in the Attorney-General's opinion is this. In the Coal Nationalisation Act, the Parliament, in its wisdom, provided that nobody except the Government can come in this area. Therefore, if you want disinvestment in coal sector, you have to come back to Parliament. In the Bank Nationalisation Act, the Parliament provided that in banks, the Government shall always retain 51 per cent of their equity. If you want to go below 51 per cent, you have to come back to Parliament. In these two Acts, in Caltex and ESSO-Burma Shell, explicitly there is no bar. That is one point. What happened after the Acquisition Acts was that these were constituted as companies and always worked under the Companies Act. Their Resolutions, Board meetings, their mergers, were based on that. So, the Board, under the Companies Act, can even, for instance, decide upon merger. Many of you may remember that HPCL actually then went in for a merger subsequently, without coming to Parliament. Similarly, they can even wind up. The Board has the power to wind up the company without coming to Parliament, under the Act. So, he has gone specifically by the provisions of these Acts, which are identical to the Act on Maruti.

[*Translation*]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Can the Parliament be marginalised? Is the Government competent enough to sell off any and every national asset?

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

[*Translation*]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: And the Government agreed with his opinion. ...(Interruptions) Attorney General should be summoned here. ...(Interruptions) Does the Government have the power to sell the country by completely ignoring the Parliament? ...(Interruptions) Is the Government accountable to Parliament or not? Is this the manner in which replies will be given in the House? ...(Interruptions) It is a great disrespect to Parliament. ...(Interruptions) Should he give such replies? Sir, you have the power to call Attorney General to the House. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: The comments made about the Attorney General should not go on record. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I will check up the records.

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Does the Government have the right to sell the country like that? ...*(Interruptions)* It has no right to sell the wealth of our nation. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, no one should make such observations against the Attorney General. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Attorney General may be called to the House. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA: We demand that the Attorney General be invited in the House. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down. If you think that there is need to call Attorney General in the House, then such a demand can be made. But it can be done only when I allow you to ask question. How can you make such demand when I don't give you the chance to speak. And for that to happen the hon. Minister has to conclude his reply. Another hon. Member, Shri Muralidharan can also ask a similar question.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Let him ask the question.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI K. MURALEEDHARAN: Sir, my supplementary question is, a few Members of the Cabinet had expressed their dissatisfaction publicly over the policy being followed by the Government in relation to disinvestment of profit-

making public sector undertakings. Sir, there was a serious deliberation to find ways to defuse the discontentment. A mid-term review of the whole issue was sought. We have read it in the newspapers. What is the status of the mid-term review, if held, and what is the outcome of such a review?

The second part of my question is, whether the proceeds are being used to meet the revenue expenditure or capital investment in infrastructure. I want a categorical reply from the hon. Minister. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please listen to the Minister.

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: Firstly, if I may just complete what I was saying earlier, after the Attorney-General's opinion, our decision was challenged in the Delhi High Court. The Delhi High Court heard the matter on the legality of the question and the petition was dismissed as withdrawn. Sir, a Court order has also come on that matter. Secondly, as far as...*(Interruptions)*

All views were harmonised. Everybody, including the Defence Minister who had asked for a mid-term review, participated in the review. The decisions which were taken were read out by me in this very House and the other House in December, with your permission. That statement is available and was distributed to all the Members and placed on the Table of the House also.

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRA KANT KHAIRE: Sir, I would also like to ask a question. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Of course, you can ask the question.

[English]

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: Thirdly, as far as proceeds are concerned, one of the elements in that decision was that a Disinvestment Fund will be created and the proceeds will go only for notified purpose, through that Disinvestment Fund. We are all looking forward to the creation of that Fund. I am sure, the Finance Minister himself will consider it in preparation of the Budget or maybe subsequently whenever he thinks convenient.

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, please listen to me. There are several Members who want to put their questions on this issue. In the Business Advisory Committee also a demand was made that this issue should be debated under some rule in the House. I have absolutely no objection in taking up this matter for special

discussion. The House could discuss that. But I have already given 20 minutes for this Question. There are other Questions also to be taken up.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I presume that no debate will be necessary on this issue.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Since the Members do not desire to have a full-fledged debate, I am prepared to continue with this Question. For the next 15 minutes, we will continue with this Question.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Sir, we are thankful to you as you are going to allow a discussion on this important topic. We are very happy that the hon. Prime Minister is also present in the House to hear the views which are being expressed by the Members. This is a momentous issue. It should be dealt with in a proper manner through pointed questions and pointed answers. The replies can be given in the debate also. We are thankful to you, to the Minister, and to the Government also for providing this facility.

We have serious doubts in our minds. We would like the Government to express its views on our doubts and convince us as to how they are taking proper decision. One of the most important things is that if you sell and disinvest the public sector undertaking to a strategic purchaser, you are creating a private monopoly. How does it help the country? We would like to know this from you.

As far as the opinion given by the Attorney-General is concerned, hon. Members including Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh, have very correctly said that we would like to hear the Attorney-General on the floor of the House for supporting the opinion which he has given. That will give us the opportunity to get some more explanation on the views which have been expressed. This view has been expressed by the present Attorney-General who is a very good lawyer. We have no quarrel about his ability to study law and give the opinion. But equally good lawyers have expressed their views on the floor of the House. In the other House, Shri Nariman has said that if a public sector undertaking is created by law, it should be disinvested by law. I am not talking about details. But the general principle is that anything done by the Government through a law has to be undone through a law. If you have taken any action by Executive Order, you are entitled to undo that through Executive Order.

But if the law has given you that authority, it is the law which should say that something else should be done. That is the general principle. I am not going into the details. I am not now on the legal point as such which is very important, and which needs a lot of explanation. The experts in law will be able to do that.

Now, this is the second point. We would like to know whether the Government is agreeable to request the Attorney-General to appear before the House to substantiate the opinion which he has given here. One of the points which was made in this debate was that we do not want the funds available with the people to remain unutilised. That is why, we are not allowing the public sector units to bid for these things. Sir, this is a known fact and this is not hidden from anybody that any private sector unit is run on the funds taken from the financial institutions.

They do not come from the private pockets. Let us understand this fact. If you examine the funds that have been utilised up to this time. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: We also know law. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Patil, please be brief.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: I have asked Shri Patil to ask his question briefly. Please sit down.

[English]

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Sir, I am not irrelevant. You can also ask ...(Interruptions)

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: We also know law and we also can reply ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Patil, may I request you to please come to the question straightway?

...(Interruptions)

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Sir, when the funds come from the financial institutions, then how can the Government come to the conclusion that the private funds that are available with the private persons would be utilised for this purpose?

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Patil, please put a specific question.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Moreover, these oil companies were nationalised after the war. They have strategic importance. We have apprehension in our minds that if these are privatised, then our security aspect would be affected. We would like to seek an explanation from the hon. Minister, if possible today or in the debate that you may allow on this issue ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: I would be delighted to reply to any length of debate that they want. A debate on this is already going on in the Rajya Sabha and I have to reply to that debate from 12 o'clock today. Shri Patil is absolutely right that these are matters of great concern and grave doubts have been created in the minds of the people.

Shri Patil has taken the name of Shri Nariman. He may take the views of Shri Nariman now, after the Attorney-General has given his opinion.

As far as this question of war is concerned, Shri Patil is a very senior Member and he should examine the facts. You would remember that the War was in December 1971 and then how was it that your Government waited till 1974 and 1976, for four to five years, to acquire these companies?

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: So what?

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: No. There was something else that was happening. I would not like to go into that. As has been rightly said that we should examine all these matters of private monopolies, security and everything, that we must discuss them threadbare. I am at your disposal. The Government is at your disposal and you could have a discussion whenever you may like to have it.

SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY: Sir, I had requested you for giving me a chance to speak on this.

MR. SPEAKER: You are not the first person. There are other Members also. If they get a chance, then I will definitely allow you.

SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY: Sir, you are allowing Members from Maharashtra.

MR. SPEAKER: No, Please do not make such an allegation. It is very sad. I never do that.

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister has brought forward a proposal to

disinvest BPCL and HPCL. These two companies are up for disinvestment. My submission is that Maharashtra and Marathi people are likely to suffer most as a result of the disinvestment of the two companies. It is because most of the employees working in the two companies are Marathis. Even at the time of the Centaur Hotel sale, I had asked as to what would happen to its 550 employees. ...*(Interruptions)* Even today, their condition is bad. They were retrenched. At that time, I had asked, why they want to sell the profit making companies and the hon. Minister had replied that he was not going to do so. I have full record of the last three years. When HPCL is earning a profit of Rs. 1057 crore and BPCL is earning Rs. 701 crore as profit, why do they want to sell these companies. ...*(Interruptions)* Shiv Sena opposes this move tooth and nail and we would never approve of it. ...*(Interruptions)* I would like the hon. Minister to explain at length why he wants to sell these profit making companies. ...*(Interruptions)* Maharashtra and Marathi people are going to suffer as a result of this. I would like to know the arrangements made for the employees working there.

SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI: Your opposition seems to be superficial ...*(Interruptions)*. you are hand in glove with them.

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Shiv Sena believes in plain speaking. Our hon. Bala Saheb speaks plainly and he does not believe in turning and twisting. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SURESH RAMARAO JADHAV: We are opposed to it.

MR. SPEAKER: Jadhavji, please sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: All workers are important in the eyes of the Government. Not just Marathi or non-Marathi workers; all workers are important.

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Most of the employees belong to Maharashtra. They are from the constituency represented by Shri Ram Naik. That is why he opposes it. I would like to ask whether Shri Ram Naik is supporting it? ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: Of course, yes
...(Interruptions)

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: No, it is not correct. Shri Ram Babu Naik is not in support of it. What do you propose to do about the employees of Maharashtra? What was done in the case of Centaur Hotel should not be repeated? It is your responsibility. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Vijay Kumar Malhotra, you can ask your question.

...(Interruptions)

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to ask the hon. Minister. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am yet to get the reply of my question. ...(Interruptions)
The marathi employees were retrenched in Centaur Hotel sale, is that going to be repeated. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: I am ready to give the reply.
...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Do you want the reply of your questions or not?

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: The issue of disinvestment is very important. The hon. Minister is ready to reply. You are asking the questions but you are not ready to listen to the answer.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Prabhunath Singhji, please ask your question.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Janardhana Reddy, please ask your question.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please go back to your respective seats.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Loss of Eye Sight

*24. SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA:
SHRI V. VETRISELVAN:

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

(a) whether frequent incidents of loss of eye sight are being reported from different parts of the country due to cataract surgery in free eye camps being organised by private organisations in the country;

(b) if so, the details of such incidents which came to the notice of the Government during the last one year;

(c) whether the Union Government have issued any directions to the State Governments in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ):

Statement

(a) to (e) It is not true that the incidents of loss of eye sight due to cataract surgery in free eye camps are very frequent. Three such mishaps have been reported since January, 2002. These mishaps occurred in the district of Bhuj (Gujarat) (May 2002), Ludhiana (Punjab) (November 2002) and Theni (Tamil Nadu) January 2003). 71 persons reportedly lost their vision after cataract surgery in these mishaps, as against more than 37 lakhs cataract operations performed in the country during 2001-02. In the current year, the target for such operations is 40 lakhs against which till December 2002, 24 lakh operations have taken place.

Cataract surgery is encouraged at fixed facilities both in Government and Non-Government sectors. To facilitate this, construction of eye-wards and dedicated eye operation theatres have been supported in over 300 places in Government sector and more than 34 NGOs. More than 90% of the surgeries are now performed in hospitals where modern intra-ocular Lens (I.O.L.) implantation can also be undertaken.

Specific guidelines have been issued to all the District Blindness Control Societies and State Governments/UTs asking them not to conduct cataract eye surgery in eye-camps in school buildings, Dharmashalas, public buildings and in open premises. Only in exceptional circumstances, where infrastructure with operation theatre is not available, and when the Chief Medical Officer is satisfied that proper facilities for sterilization, follow-up action etc. are ensured, conducting of surgeries in eye camps are permitted outside hospitals. To ensure high quality of surgery, clinical practice modules on quality assurance in cataract surgery and general precautions to safeguard against post-operative infections have been issued by Government of India.

Tardy Implementation of Centrally Sponsored Schemes

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

(a) whether there has been tardy implementation of big budget centrally sponsored schemes in almost all the States and Union Territories;

(b) if so, the main reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government have any proposal to engage private professionals for ensuring the optimum utilisation of Central Schemes/Funds;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) The experience of Centrally Sponsored Schemes in States and UTs has been mixed.

(b) Poor implementation is primarily due to lack of counterpart funds with the States and weak administration and implementation capacity.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Does not arise.

New Tariffs

*26. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI:
SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV:

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

(a) whether the Telephone Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has proposed certain changes in the tariff and call charges in regard to land line telephone;

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

(c) whether the Government have received a large number of representations from the public and others against these proposals of TRAI;

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

(e) whether the Government propose to make amendments in these proposals of the TRAI;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The power to fix tariffs for telecom services is mandated to the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India only. TRAI, after detailed consultations through its Consultation Papers and its Open House Discussions, has revised this tariff. The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has vide the 24th Amendment to the Telecommunication Tariff Order (TTO) 1999, made certain changes in tariffs with regard to rental, call charges & pulse duration for land line telephones which will come into effect from 1st April, 2003. The details of changes in major items of tariff are placed in the statement enclosed.

(c) and (d) Certain representations have been received and these have been forwarded to TRAI for appropriate action.

(e) to (g) No, Sir. As per sub-section 11(2) of the TRAI Act, 1997, as amended in 2000, the power to fix tariffs for telecom services is mandated to the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India, which is now the only authority for exercising this power. Service providers (including PSUs), however, have the flexibility of having their own tariff packages within the ceilings/floors prescribed by TRAI.

Statement**A. Rural Rentals (Monthly in Rupees):**

Capacity of local Exchange (no. of lines)	Existing TRAI Ceiling	Proposed by TRAI	
		Sr. Citizen	Others
Upto 999	70	70	70
1000-29,999	120	120	120
30,000-99,999	180	180	0
1 lakh and above	250	250	280

B. Urban Rentals (Monthly in Rupees):

Capacity of local Exchange (no. of lines)	Existing TRAI Ceiling	Proposed by TRAI	
		Sr. Citizen	Residential Subscribers
Upto 29,999	120	120	120
30,000-99,999	180	180	200
1 lakh and above	250	250	280

C. Number of Free Calls (Per month)

	Existing TRAI Ceiling	Proposed by TRAI
Rural	75	50
Urban	60	30

D. Call Charges (In Rupee, per metered call)

Existing TRAI slabs		Proposed by TRAI	
Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban
0-75 Free	0-60 Free	0-50 Free	0-30 Free
76-500 @0.80	61-500 @ 0.80	51-300 @0.80	31-300@0.100
>500@1.20	>500@1.20	>300@1.20	>300@1.20

E. Pulse Rate (In Seconds)

Existing	Proposed by TRAI	
	Calls to basic services network	120
	Calls to cellular (Metro area)	90
Calls to all networks	180	Calls to cellular (Circle area) 60

Atomic Power Generation

*27. SHRI GANTA SREENIVASA RAO:
SHRI B.K. PARTHASARATHI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether a very small portion of total power is being generated from atomic energy;

(b) if so, the comparative position of India in power production from atomic energy vis-a-vis other countries;

(c) whether atomic power plants in the country are less-efficient; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor alongwith the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) The present nuclear power capacity in the country is 2720 MWe, which is 2.6% of the total installed capacity in the country from all sources. During the financial year 2001-2002, the electricity generated from nuclear power stations was about 19400 Million Units (MUs) which is about 3.7% of the total electricity generated in the country.

(b) In terms of the absolute net electricity generation, India produce 19200 MUs of electricity from nuclear power stations in the calendar year 2001. During the same period, the countries that produced between 10000 to 20000 MUs, were Brazil, Bulgaria, China, Czech Republic, Hungary, Slovakia and South Africa. Further, countries like Argentina, Armenia, Mexico, Netherlands, Pakistan, Romania and Slovenia produced less than 10000 MUS of electricity from nuclear power during the corresponding period. Some of the developed countries have much larger nuclear electricity generation and a relatively larger nuclear electricity share (i.e. France 77%, Japan 34%, Russia 15%, UK 22% and USA 20%). The world average nuclear electricity share is about 16%.

(c) The nuclear power stations in the country are performing very efficiently. Though the share in terms of

installed capacity is 2.6%, the generation share is 3.7%. This is because of the "higher than national Plant Load Factor (PLF)" at which the nuclear power stations are operated. During the year 2001-02, NPCIL's nuclear power stations registered a Plant Load factor (PLF) of about 85% as compared to the national average of about 70%. During the period 1.4.2002 to 31.1.2003 also, the average PLF of NPCIL'S plants has been about 89%. This also compares very well with the world median of about 86.1%.

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

Extradition of Underworld Don

*28. SHRI SURESH KURUP: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the UAE authorities had taken into custody the underworld don Anes Ibrahim who later escaped to Pakistan;

(b) if so, whether the Government have taken any steps for his extradition from UAE; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) As per information from Central Bureau of Investigation, Special Task Force, New Delhi, Anees Ibrahim Kaskar was arrested by the Interpol Abu Dhabi in December 2002. No official communication from UAE authorities regarding his escape from UAE has come to Indian authorities.

(b) Yes.

(c) The Government of India has submitted an extradition request to the Government of the United Arab Emirates in the month of December 2002 for the extradition of the above fugitive.

Funds Allocated Under RCH Programme

*29. SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:
SHRI DANVE RAOSAHEB PATIL:

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

(a) the total funds provided by the Union Government under the Reproductive and Child Health Programme and utilised by each State Government during the years 2000-2001, 2001-2002 and the current financial year, till date;

(b) whether the expenditure incurred therein is being monitored by any Central agency;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the mother and child mortality rate in some States has increased during the said period;

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

(f) the remedial measures taken/being taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) A statement showing the State-wise details of funds provided and utilized by each State under the Reproductive and Child Health Programme during 2000-01, 2001-02 and the current financial year is at statement enclosed.

(b) and (c) The expenditure is being monitored by the Department of Family Welfare through periodic expenditure reports and utilisation certificates received from the States. The States are also required to send audited accounts of the programme every year. Apart from this, officers and consultants of the Ministry during their visit to the States also monitor the expenditure incurred by the State.

(d) and (e) The latest estimates available from the Registrar General of India are for year 1998, which places Maternal Mortality Rate at national level at 407. Similarly, the Infant Mortality Rate estimates by the Registrar General of India for the year 2000 is 60 per 1000 live births. The maternal and child mortality rates have consistently declined over the last few years. However, estimates for 2001-02 are not yet available for Infant Mortality Rate.

(f) Under the Reproductive and Child Health (RCH) Programme, which was launched throughout the country in 1997, various interventions are being implemented. These are:

For Mothers:

1. Essential and Emergency obstetric care.
2. Referral transport for pregnant women. This was initially implemented in eight backward States and has now been extended to all States.
3. Provision of contractual or part-time appointment of Anesthetists, Gynaecologists, Safe Motherhood consultants and technical staff like Laboratory Technician, Public Health Nurses, etc.
4. Provision of drugs and equipment for Maternal Health at sub-centres, primary health centres, community health centres/first referral units.
5. National Maternity Benefit Scheme.
6. Training of Dais.
7. Additional Auxilliary Nurse Midwives for backward districts.
8. Facilities and training for medical termination of pregnancies for safe abortions.
9. Involvement of Non-Government Organizations in awareness generation and service delivery where government services are not adequate.

For Children

1. Immunization against six vaccine preventable diseases.
2. Control of deaths due to diarrhoeal diseases.
3. Control of deaths due to Acute Respiratory Infections.
4. Eradication of polio.
5. Prophylaxis against blindness due to Vitamin A deficiency.
6. New born care.

In addition, funds are being provided to the States for providing Reproductive and Child Health services in remote and underutilized Primary Health Centres by holding Reproductive and Child Health Camps in 178 districts. Funds are also being provided to 151 districts for improving the delivery of Maternal and Child Health services during outreach sessions at the sub-center and village level. A Pilot project on Hepatitis-B vaccination has also been launched in 15 cities during 2002-03.

Statement**Reproductive & Child Health Programme****Details of Funds Released & Reported Expenditure.**

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl. No.	Name of the State/U	2000-01		2001-02		2002-03	
		Release	Expenditure	Release	Expenditure	Release	Expenditure
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1662.15	1462.92	2021.72	1670.25	834.25	193.37
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	175.72	144.81	135.26	168.92	46.08	1.67
3.	Assam	474.86	415.52	1244.53	865.09	321.31	800.42
4.	Bihar	2711.64	1868.03	1676.45	628.69	3356.15	38.48
5.	Jharkhand	37.00	0.00	449.35	0.00	379.08	0.00
6.	Goa	13.40	33.10	22.08	17.36	12.93	16.68
7.	Gujarat	983.39	923.20	7612.26	549.89	696.75	114.69
8.	Haryana	1664.30	1131.50	1224.25	953.61	537.65	320.04
9.	Himachal Pradesh	427.02	470.83	276.80	241.33	327.71	23.70
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	555.39	202.47	341.30	551.36	342.54	6.50
11.	Karnataka	1671.15	1033.75	1187.66	1574.95	658.66	360.05
12.	Kerala	1165.32	738.34	768.03	961.70	394.76	389.74
13.	Madhya Pradesh	3553.34	2105.91	1317.96	1148.90	907.14	550.11
14.	Chhattisgarh	314.10	0.00	844.07	0.00	244.03	18.94
15.	Maharashtra	1256.71	1104.23	1926.91	25.47	1067.61	130.37
16.	Manipur	421.71	265.70	660.86	106.28	64.03	128.65
17.	Meghalaya	65.64	73.69	128.28	129.11	68.77	28.43
18.	Mizoram	729.58	638.15	727.70	703.69	106.50	221.67
19.	Nagaland	146.96	97.57	116.51	172.48	105.72	10.58
20.	Orissa	1524.79	601.80	1864.77	292.43	438.51	488.05
21.	Punjab	686.25	547.96	616.63	446.36	256.96	64.76
22.	Rajasthan	2313.58	1391.97	2958.59	1438.54	770.76	347.76
23.	Sikkim	43.07	33.51	57.30	32.46	68.90	11.16
24.	Tamilnadu	2373.39	894.20	541.25	532.14	865.48	465.40
25.	Tripura	166.18	333.60	446.87	139.92	121.80	4.09

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
26.	Uttar Pradesh	4654.45	5446.34	6970.00	5114.32	6187.29	1530.49
27.	Uttaranchal	236.11	0.00	434.98	137.78	138.01	90.73
28.	West Bengal	2073.46	1317.01	1931.32	1301.79	770.81	322.84
29.	A&N Islands	31.04	9.07	35.26	38.34	12.03	3.68
30.	Chandigarh	117.61	19.69	23.20	18.23	11.94	11.95
31.	D&N Haveli	3.88	14.33	14.02	6.69	5.96	4.23
32.	Daman & Diu	4.87	1.88	8.66	5.06	5.41	1.63
33.	Delhi	311.22	290.35	297.60	315.57	342.37	73.88
34.	Lakshadweep	22.44	18.60	11.42	7.07	5.87	5.60
35.	Pondicherry	21.79	28.51	21.58	39.34	12.04	3.41
Total:		32613.50	23658.52	38915.43	20335.11	20485.81	6783.74

Figures provisional

- (i) If, in a particular year, expenditure is more than releases, this implies carry forward balance of previous year has been spent in the year where excess expenditure has occurred.
- (ii) For the year 2002-03, the expenditure indicated above is on the basis of latest reports received from the States.

Steps to Combat E-Crime

*30. SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH:
DR. MANDA JAGANNATH:

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

(a) whether the attention of the Union Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "To Crackdown on e-crime, Government plans cyberpatrol" appearing in the 'Indian Express' dated January 31, 2003;

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

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto;

(d) whether the Government are finding it difficult to curb the nuisance of cyber cynics and their damaging activities; and

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

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

(b) to (e) Initiatives taken by the Government to address these issues in a larger perspective include constitution of five Inter-Ministerial Working Groups on IT Security and Setting up of Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-IN) and an Information Security Technology Development Council (ISTDC). The Government is gearing up to face all the potential threats and challenges.

Dual Citizenship

*31. SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA:
SHRI ANANTA NAYAK:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to confer dual citizenship on NRIs (Non Resident Indians) and PIOs (Persons of Indian Origin);

(b) if so, the terms laid down for the purpose and the recommendations of the Committee headed by Dr. L.M. Singhvi in this regard;

(c) whether any discrimination in this regard was/is being made against NRIs and PIOs residing in certain countries;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor, country-wise; and

(e) the remedial steps proposed in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) to (e) Based on the recommendation made by the High Level Committee on the Indian Diaspora, the Government has decided to grant dual citizenship under the Citizenship Act, 1955 to persons of Indian origin who have acquired the citizenship of certain countries. The details and other modalities in this regard are being worked out.

Performance of SSI

*32. DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the present condition of Small Scale Industries in the country, State-wise; and

(b) the details of the steps taken by the Government to improve the performance of Small Scale Industries?

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND MINISTER OF DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (DR. C.P. THAKUR): (a) The estimated number of Small Scale Industries (SSI) in the country covering both the registered & the unregistered units, their production, employment and exports during the last three years are as under.

Year	No. of small scale units (In Lakh Nos.)	Total Production at Current prices (in Rs. crores)	Employment (in Lakh Nos.)	Exports (Rs. crores)
1999-00	32.12	572887	178.50	54200
2000-01	33.12	639024	185.64	69797
2001-02	34.42	690316	192.23	71244

However, the State-wise information is maintained centrally only in respect of number of registered small scale industrial units, which is given for the year 2001-02 at Statement I. According to the Reserve Bank of India, which compiles data on sick SSIs financed by scheduled commercial banks the number of sick SSI units in the country by the end of March, 2002 was 1,77,336. The State-wise break-up of sick SSI units is given at Statement-II.

(b) While development of SSIs is primarily the responsibility of the State/UT Governments, the Central Government has taken several steps to improve their performance by implementing various schemes such as Integrated Infrastructure Development, technology upgradation, marketing and entrepreneurial development etc. In addition, on 30th August 2000, the Prime Minister announced a Comprehensive Policy Package for the promotion and development of Small Scale Sector to enhance its competitiveness, both domestically and globally. The policy package consists of enhanced fiscal and credit support, better infrastructure and marketing facilities and incentives for technology upgradation.

Statement-I

Statement Showing All India Cumulative Number of Permanently Registered SSI Units as at the end of March, 2002

Sl. No.	State/Union Territory	Cumulative No. of Units
1	2	3
1.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	1284
2.	Andhra Pradesh	131685
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	653
4.	Assam	26358
5.	Bihar	92095
6.	Chandigarh	3102
7.	Chhattisgarh	72883

1	2	3
8.	Dadar & Nagar Haveli	1317
9.	Daman & Diu	1874
10.	Delhi	19804
11.	Goa	6389
12.	Gujarat	194435
13.	Haryana	55409
14.	Himachal Pradesh	17740
15.	Jammu & Kashmir	32245
16.	Jharkhand	41089
17.	Karnataka	178330
18.	Kerala	238431
19.	Lakshadweep	82
20.	Madhya Pradesh	220100
21.	Maharashtra	150996
22.	Manipur	5975
23.	Meghalaya	3029
24.	Mizoram	4911
25.	Nagaland	1643
26.	Orissa	23264
27.	Pondicherry	5152
28.	Punjab	155197
29.	Rajasthan	90366
30.	Sikkim	342
31.	Tamil Nadu	375262
32.	Tripura	2127
33.	Uttar Pradesh	369013
34.	Uttaranchal	34920
35.	West Bengal	153670
All India Total:		27,31,172

Statement-II**Number of Sick Small Scale Industries
(State/UT-Wise)**

State/Union Territory	As at the end March, 2002
1	2
A&N Islands	13
Andhra Pradesh	9324
Arunachal Pradesh	12
Assam	5530
Bihar	17286
Chandigarh	145
D&N Haveli	12
Daman & Diu	4
Delhi	1892
Goa	149
Gujarat	6679
Haryana	889
Himachal Pradesh	394
Jammu & Kashmir	2438
Karnataka	4254
Kerala	13825
Lakshadweep	0
Madhya Pradesh	7028
Maharashtra	7270
Manipur	1060
Meghalaya	281
Mizoram	25
Nagaland	130
Orissa	5334
Pondicherry	161
Punjab	1902
Rajasthan	3792
Sikkim	56

1	2
Tamil Nadu	11513
Tripura	1945
Uttar Pradesh	20036
West Bengal	53957
Total	177336

Small Family Norms

*33. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL:
SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBHA MANDLIK:

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

(a) whether the Government propose to announce any package of incentives and disincentives to encourage small family norms, particularly in respect of BPL families to control the population of the country as reported in the 'Rashtriya Sahara' dated December 8, 2002;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the extent of expenditure to be incurred thereon; and

(c) by when it is likely to be finalised?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (c) The National Population Policy, 2000, as approved by the Parliament, aims to achieve a stable population by 2045 by adopting a comprehensive approach to population issues. As per this policy, focus is on improving access to an improved quality of services and active participation and involvement of the people. It is generally believed that such an approach based on social consent is more sustainable. However, Disincentives for encouraging a small family norm will require a larger national consensus.

A majority of the poor are unable to access health care services in time on account of inability to pay. Further, an important determinant for the adoption of the small family norm is the health and security of life of women and children. To address these two concerns, the NPP, 2000 has envisages establishing a Family Welfare Linked Health Insurance Plan to cover couples below the poverty line having not more than two living children for hospital treatment not exceeding Rs. 5,000/-. The details of this scheme are now being worked out in consultation with experts and State Governments. During the Tenth Five Year Plan, an amount of Rs. 250.00 crores has been earmarked for this purpose.

Harassment of Cellular Operators

*34. SHRI BHASKARRAO PATIL:
DR. CHARAN DAS MAHANT:

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

(a) whether the TRAI has sought any explanation from MTNL for disconnecting cellular service in Delhi recently;

(b) if so, whether private cellular operators and their customers were deliberately harassed by the MTNL;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to ensure that such problems do not recur?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN-SHOURIE): (a) Sir, TRAI had sought information from MTNL on 20.1.2003 about the reason for disruption in service as well as the extent thereof, as the TRAI had noted that subscribers of MTNL and private cellular service operators were facing difficulty in getting connected to each other during the earlier three-four days; the desired information was furnished by MTNL to TRAI.

(b) and (c) Due to some differences on terms of interconnection between the operators some disturbances in the network had occurred. Steps were taken to ensure that all interconnection links worked properly and services got normalized.

(d) TRAI is mandated under the TRAI Act to monitor such situations and in particular Quality of Service (QOS). TRAI has issued QOS regulations for both Basic and Cellular Operators, which are being monitored by it periodically.

[Translation]

Prime Minister's Rural Communication Scheme

*35. SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN:
SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI:

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

(a) whether any time bound scheme is being implemented under the 'Prime Minister's Rural Communication Scheme' to provide telephone connections in the villages;

(b) if so, the outline of the scheme;

(c) the time-frame laid down for providing telephone connections in all the villages of the country; and

(d) the number of villages where telephone service has already commenced upto December, 2002, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) and (b) No, Sir. There is no such scheme as the "Prime Minister's Rural Communication Scheme".

(c) and (d) One of the objectives of the NTP-1999 was to achieve telecom coverage of all the revenue villages as per 1991 census by 2002. But due to security reasons in North Eastern States and Jammu & Kashmir and financing of satellite based telephones and poor performance by Private Basic Service Operators this could not be achieved. All the villages except those which have to be provided through satellite are expected to be covered by the close of 2003. State-wise details of number of villages where service has already commenced upto December, 2002 are given in Statement-I and II.

Statement-I

*State-wise Status of VPTs As on
31-12-2002 (BSNL)*

Sl. No.	State	Total No. of Villages	Total No. of VPTs Provided as on 31.12.2002
1	2	3	4
1.	Andaman & Nicobar	201	197
2.	Andhra Pradesh	29460	23419
3.	Assam	24685	17691
4.	Bihar	41077	38370
5.	Jharkhand	31703	26270
6.	Gujarat	18125	11214

1	2	3	4
7.	Haryana	#6850	6811
8.	Himachal Pradesh	16925	16585
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	6764	4094
10.	Karnataka	27066	27060
11.	Kerala	1468	1468
12.	Madhya Pradesh	51806	37597
13.	Chhattisgarh	19720	14633
14.	Maharashtra	42487	31541
15.	North-East-I		
	Meghalaya	5555	1633
	Mizoram	708	603
	Tripura	862	748
16.	North-East-II		
	Arunachal Pradesh	3389	711
	Manipur	2439	751
	Nagaland	1192	803
17.	Orissa	46969	40314
18.	Punjab	12687	12687
19.	Rajasthan	39483	23858
20.	Tamilnadu	17899	17899
21.	Uttar Pradesh	103396	97123
22.	Uttaranchal	15610	11596
23.	West Bengal	38347	37369
24.	Sikkim	427	374
25.	Delhi	191	191
	Total	607491	503610

#39 Villages in Haryana Are Uninhabited.

Statement-II**Village Public Telephones (VPTs) by Private Licenses As on 31-12-2002**

Licensee and Licensed Circle/State	No. of VPTs Provided as on 31.12.2002
M/s Tata Teleservices (Andhra Pradesh)	1314
M/s Reliance Telecom (Gujarat)	2894
M/s HFCL Infotel Ltd. (Punjab)	734*
M/s Hughes Telecom (India) Ltd. (Maharashtra)	1140
M/s Bharti Telent Ltd. (Madhya Pradesh)	348
M/s Shyam Telelink Ltd. (Rajasthan)	693
Total	7123

*All Villages in Punjab have been provided as replacement.

[English]

Ultimatum to Indians

*36. SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS:
SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state;

(a) whether UAE has given an ultimatum to Indians to leave the country by April 2003;

(b) if so, the total number of people who will be affected by this order;

(c) whether the Government have taken up the matter with UAE authorities;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government have formulated any welfare fund for the rehabilitation of the affected people; and

(f) if so, the salient features thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) to (f) There is no ultimatum issued by the UAE Government to expatriates to leave the country by April 2003. There is, however, a general amnesty scheme declared by the UAE Government for those expatriates who are illegally staying in UAE to leave the country by April 30, 2003.

The total number of people affected by this order is not expected to be very large.

The Indian Embassy has been in touch with the UAE authorities for discussing the modalities and implementation of the amnesty scheme.

The Government has not formulated any welfare fund for the rehabilitation of the affected people.

Number of Villages Without Telephone

*37. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA:
SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN:

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

(a) whether a number of villages in the country are still without a telephone;

(b) if so, the number of such villages, State-wise;

(c) whether the Government have chalked out plans to cover all the villages in the country with public telephones; and;

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. As on 31.01.2003 there are 96363 revenue

villages as per 1991 census still to be covered with a village public telephone. State-wise details of VPT provided by BSNL & Private licensees are given in statement enclosed.

(c) and (d) One of the objectives of NTP-99 was to achieve telecom coverage of all villages by 2002. But

due to security reasons in North Eastern States and Jammu & Kashmir and financing problem of satellite based telephones and poor performance by Private Basic Service Operators, this could not be achieved. All the revenue villages referred to in answer to (a) & (b) except those which have to be provided through satellite, are expected to be covered by the close of 2003.

Statement

State-wise Status of VPTs As on 31-01-2003

Sl. No.	State	Total No. of villages	Total No. of VPTs provided by BSNL as on 31.1.2003	Total No. of VPTs provided by Private Licencees as on 31.1.2003	Uncovered Villages as on 31.1.2003
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andaman & Nicobar	201	197		4
2.	Andhra Pradesh	29460	23419	1314	4727
3.	Assam	24685	17984		6701
4.	Bihar	41077	38370		2707
5.	Jharkhand	31703	26270		5433
6.	Gujarat	18125	11214	3564	3347
7.	Haryana	6850	6811		0
8.	Himachal Pradesh	16925	16585		340
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	6764	4096		2668
10.	Karnataka	27066	27065		1
11.	Kerala	1468	1468		0
12.	Madhya Pradesh	51806	37597	348	13861
13.	Chhattisgarh	19720	14633		5087
14.	Maharashtra	42467	31541	1127	9799
15.	North-East-I				
	Meghalaya	5555	1642		3913
	Mizoram	708	603		105
	Tripura	862	748		114

1	2	3	4	5	6
16.	North-East-II				
	Arunachal Pradesh	3389	711		2678
	Manipur	2439	766		1673
	Nagaland	1192	808		384
17.	Orissa	46989	40342		6647
18.	Punjab	12687	12687	830*	0
19.	Rajasthan	39483	23858	721	14904
20.	Tamilnadu	17899	17899		0
21.	Uttar Pradesh	103396	97170		6226
22.	Uttaranchal	15610	11597		4013
23.	West Bengal	38347	37369		978
24.	Sikkim	427	374		53
25.	Delhi	191	191		0
	Total	607491	504015	7074	96363

* In Punjab all the villages covered are replacement only.

39 villages in Haryana are uninhabited.

Deaths Due to AIDS

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

(a) the number of deaths occurred due to AIDS during each of the last four years, State-wise; and

(b) the remedial measures being taken to contain the spread of AIDS?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) and (b) As per reports received from States/UTs in the country, 2159 AIDS deaths have been reported to National AIDS Control Organisation during last four years.

A *statement* indicating number of deaths State-wise and year-wise during each of last four years in annexed.

Government of India is implementing a Nation-wide comprehensive National AIDS Control Programme through autonomous AIDS Control Societies at State, UT and

Municipal levels. The main components of the programme are:-

- (i) Reducing the HIV transmission amongst poor and marginalized sections of the community at the high risk of infection, by (a) targeted interventions amongst marginalized sections of the society at the highest risk of HIV infection and transmission such as sex workers, transport workers, injecting drug users, men who have sex with men, migrant workers, industrial workers vulnerable to HIV infection, street children and slum population; (b) control of sexually transmitted diseases through syndrome management at the peripheral public health institutions and through outreach services; and (c) condom promotion to prevent the sexual transmission of HIV;
- (ii) Reducing the spread of HIV amongst general population, which is perceived to be at a lower risk; by (a) reducing blood based transmission by modernizing the blood transfusion services in the country for greater availability and rational

use of blood, by ensuring mandatory screening of HIV, Hepatitis 'B' and 'C', malaria and syphilis and by developing technical manpower; (b) Information, Education and Communication campaigns to raise awareness levels; and (c) promotion of voluntary counseling and testing for HIV;

- (iii) Strengthen the institutions responsible for implementation of the programme, by-(a) increasing the quantity, quality and timeliness of surveillance systems for HIV, sexually transmitted infections, behaviour patterns and social determinants in all parts of the country so as to enable evidence based planning and response; (b) improving technical and managerial capacities of State AIDS Control Societies for the effective implementation of the programme; (c) training of medical and para-medical personnel in management of HIV/AIDS patients; and (d) supporting high level peer reviewed competitive and rational Research & Development;
- (iv) Delivery of community based low cost care for people living with HIV/AIDS, by-(a) providing drugs for treatment of opportunistic infections including Tuberculosis; (b) antiretroviral post exposure prophylaxis to medical and para-

medical workers in the event of an accidental exposure of HIV/AIDS while treating HIV/AIDS patients; (c) providing single dose Nevirapine to HIV positive pregnant mothers and her baby attending antenatal clinics in six high prevalence States namely Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Manipur and Nagaland; and (d) encouraging people living with HIV/AIDS to form their networks/self help groups in order to facilitate care and support to people living with HIV/AIDS;

- (v) Ensuring multisectoral collaboration with public, private and voluntary sectors for a broad based response to the epidemic. At present, over 700 targeted intervention projects in the country are being run through Non-Government Organisations. Besides, NGOs are being involved in running community care centers and school AIDS education programme.

Various ministries/departments like Defence, Railways, Labour, Steel, Sports & Youth Affairs, Women & Child Development, and Social Justice and Empowerment are implementing HIV/AIDS prevention and control programme in their respective sectors with the financial and technical support from National AIDS Control Organisation.

Statement

State-wise Reported Number of Deaths Due to AIDS During the Last Four Years

S.No.	State/UT	1999	2000	2001	2002
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	—	—	53	36
2.	Assam	—	1	—	2
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	—	—	—	—
4.	A&N Islands	—	7	2	7
5.	Bihar	5	7	1	—
6.	Chandigarh	—	13	29	22
7.	Punjab	—	—	—	2
8.	Delhi	—	24	27	17
9.	Daman & Diu	—	—	—	—
10.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	2	—	—	—
11.	Goa	—	3	15	8
12.	Gujarat	12	—	20	46

1	2	3	4	5	6
13.	Haryana	—	5	—	—
14.	Himachal Pradesh	6	—	—	1
15.	Jammu & Kashmir	—	—	—	—
16.	Karnataka	20	19	27	37
17.	Kerala	13	—	—	—
18.	Lakshdweep	4	—	—	—
19.	Madhya Pradesh	—	50	5	7
20.	Maharashtra	80	77	176	271
21.	Manipur	2	17	50	24
22.	Mizoram	—	7	—	5
23.	Meghalaya	1	—	—	—
24.	Nagaland	12	25	28	35
25.	Orissa	—	—	—	—
26.	Pondicherry	71	—	—	—
27.	Rajasthan	—	—	—	—
28.	Sikkim	1	—	—	—
29.	Tamil Nadu	—	119	249	146
30.	Tripura	—	—	—	—
31.	Uttar Pradesh	—	4	15	3
32.	West Bengal	—	—	68	—
33.	Ahmedabad MC	—	—	—	2
34.	Mumbai MC	—	—	—	116
Total		229	378	765	787

Completion of Golden Quadrilateral Project

*39. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Golden Quadrilateral Project may miss deadline" appearing in the 'Hindu' dated January 7, 2003;

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

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto; and

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

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

(b) to (d) As given in the statement enclosed.

Statement

Sl. No.	Facts of the matter reported	Reaction of the Government
1.	The Golden Quadrilateral (GQ) road project is likely to miss the completion target of December, 2004 by a year as over 40 per cent of contracts were awarded after July, 2001, accordingly to CRIS-INFAC report.	The target for completion of GQ is December, 2004. Although around 40% of the contracts were awarded after July 2001, most of the project on GQ are likely to be completed by December, 2004. Many of these are expected to be completed before this date. However a few projects, such as, Himmatnagar-Chiloda, on NH-8 and Allahabad Bypass on NH-2 may not be completed by this date because contracts for these projects could not be awarded due to litigation problems and procedural requirements of external lending agencies.
2.	Similarly, the North-South and East-West Corridor highway project, for which funding plan is yet to be approved by the Cabinet Committee, could also be delayed beyond its scheduled completion date of 2007, the report said.	The original target for completion of North-South & East-West Corridors was December, 2009 which has been advanced to December, 2007. A programme has been drawn for its implementation and completion by December, 2007.
3.	The National Highway Authority of India (NHAI) is implementing the project plans efficiently and "given the magnitude of the task, delays to a certain extent are reasonable", the report said, adding its ability to service debt and contractual obligation for payment of contractors and annuity is comfortable.	No comments.
4.	CRIS-INFAC said the road network programme has provided significant employment to the migrant workforce and provided a fillip to the construction sector and other industries.	It is estimated that National Highway Development Project (NHDP) Phase-I would generate employment equivalent to 18 crore Mandays. It is also estimated that the annual average requirement of cement and steel due to construction of NHDP during the period 2001-2004 would be 3-4 Million Metric tonne, and 0.3 Million Metric tonne respectively. Impact is also being felt in the equipment manufacturing industry and the vehicle manufacturing industry.
5.	There is a need to encourage greater private sector participation and develop an active secondary market by securitising the receivables to ensure broad based participation.	The broad based participation of private sector has been achieved mainly on account of initiatives taken by the Government.

[Translation]

Delivery of Mail

*40. SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY:
DR. M.P. JAISWAL:

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

(a) whether the Government have received any complaints regarding delayed-delivery/non-delivery/wrong delivery of mail to the public by the post-offices;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) to (c) There are complaints of occasional delay, non-delivery and wrong delivery but these are few compared to the total quantum of mail handled. During 2001-2002, 71,038 complaints relating to late-delivery and wrong delivery of mail were received while 11144 millions pieces of mail were handled by the Department. The percentage of complaints in reference to the total traffic was thus 0.0006%.

Among the factors responsible for late delivery of mail, several are beyond the control of the Department like cancellation/late running of mail carrying planes, trains and buses, natural calamities, civil disturbances, like bandhs. Similarly, regarding non-delivery and wrong-delivery of mails, incomplete/wrong address, absence of PIN Code etc. also are contributory factors. Instances of human failure on the part of departmental staff also come to notice some time, and these are suitably dealt by the Department.

Efforts are being made continuously to improve mail delivery service. The following are among the specific steps taken by the Department in this regard:

- (i) Installation of Automatic Mail Processing Centres at Mumbai and Chennai for speedier processing of large volume of mail;
- (ii) Computerization of Registration Sorting work at major mail centres;
- (iii) Computerization of Transit Mail Offices in a phased manner;

- (iv) Segmentation of mail into various channels, called Green Channel, Metro Channel, Rajdhani Channel, Business Channel and Periodical Channel etc., for quicker segregation, transmission and faster delivery;
- (v) Regular monitoring of mail routing and delivery by posting Test Letters and Trial Cards;
- (vi) Rationalisation/restructuring of delivery, with a view to deploying adequate manpower in the expanding urban agglomerations;
- (vii) Surprise checks on delivery of mails by supervisory staff and officers;
- (viii) Live Mail Survey at regular intervals both in rural and urban areas to identify weak links & streamline and improve mail transmission-delivery system.
- (ix) Regular co-ordination meetings with Airlines, Railways and State Road Transport authorities to sort out problems relating to transmission of mails;
- (x) Encouraging pre-sorting of mails by the bulk-mailers.
- (xi) Educating the customers for installation of Mail Boxes on the ground floor of multi-stored buildings;
- (xii) Preparation of triplicate registered lists in the destination mail offices for bulk mailers to reduce the load on the delivery post office and speed up delivery of such mails;
- (xiii) Setting up of 230 Computerised Customer Care Centres and on-line processing of public grievances through our website for speedier disposal of public complaints;
- (xiv) Release of Citizen's Charter expressing commitments, obligations and service norms to serve the customers better and sensitising the employees about these norms;
- (xv) Reduction in time limit for settlement of complaints based on induction of technology and revised procedure of handling of complaints.
- (xvi) Organizing special drives for focused management attention to delivery of registered articles from time to time.

Installation of C.T. Scan Machines

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

(a) whether despite allocation of funds by the Government for installation of C.T. Scan Machines in Medical College and Hospital, Chandigarh, the CT Scan machines have not been installed so far;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) by when the CT Scan machines are likely to be installed there?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (c) According to the Government Medical College & Hospital, Chandigarh, no such funds have been received from Government of India for installation of C.T. Scan Machine. However, Chandigarh Administrations has arranged funds and decided to have C.T. Scan machine. The installation of C.T. Scan machine at the College depends on finalization of tender and necessary clearances thereafter.

[English]

Commercial Wings of Indian Missions Abroad

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

(a) whether the Indian Missions abroad have commercial wings;

(b) if so, the criteria followed for setting up these commercial wings and the duties assigned to them;

(c) whether Indian Industries have got any benefits therefrom;

(d) if so, the details thereof, country-wise and if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the Government propose to review the staffing pattern therein; and

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

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

(b) Commercial Wings are set up keeping in view the potential for growth in trade and other economic ties with a particular country. They constitute the basic institutional framework abroad to promote India's trade and economic relations, by providing market intelligence and other inputs into policy formulation as well as support for various export and investment promotion activities.

(c) and (d) As trade promotion depends on a number of factors, it is difficult to quantify the benefits that directly accrue from commercial wings. However, Indian missions and posts have contributed significantly to the growth in India's exports of goods and services. Indian industries have benefited from the activity of commercial wings in many ways including through dissemination of information related to export promotion and investment activities, market information, trade facilitation of visiting businessmen and delegations and help in resolving trade disputes.

(e) and (f) Appraisals and review of the performance of Commercial Wings of the Indian Missions and Posts Abroad is regularly undertaken.

[Translation]

Allocation of Funds to PGI Chandigarh

155. SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount provided to PGI, Chandigarh during the last three years;

(b) the amount provided for free medicines to poor patients; and

(c) the number of patients benefited during the said period?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) The amount of grants-in-aid under Plan and Non-Plan provided to PGIMER, Chandigarh during the last three years is as under:-

(Rs. in lakhs)

Year	Plan	Non-Plan
1999-2000	2500.00	906.00
2000-2001	2200.00	9120.00
2001-2002	2900.00	9480.00

(b) The PGIMER, Chandigarh has not earmarked separate funds for giving free medicines to poor patients. However, the Institute gives medicines to poor patients admitted indoor in Emergency/ICU/General Ward and treated outdoor. Genuine and really poor patients, unable to deposit the hospital dues are declared "poor-free" at the time of admission. In Emergency the patients do not pay for any investigation/treatment for the first 48-hours of stay at the Hospital.

(c) A total number of 1,53,000 outdoor patients and 1,23,651 indoor patients were benefited during the last three years.

[English]

WLL Based Telephones in West Bengal

156. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of WLL telephones sanctioned so far in the Sundarban areas of West Bengal;

(b) the target fixed during the current financial year;

(c) whether the Government have any plans to set-up a WLL based telephone exchange in the Sundarban areas in view of large number of WLL telephone customers;

(d) if so, by when the new telephone exchange is likely to start functioning?

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

Prices of Hepatitis 'B' Vaccine

157. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of fall in Hepatitis 'B' vaccine prices;

(b) if so, the rate at which Hepatitis-'B', vaccines have been acquired for the Hepatitis 'B' Pilot Project;

(c) whether the UNICEF is also going to acquire the above vaccine; and

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the vaccine prices and the grant or soft term loan involved therein?

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

(b) to (d) The Hepatitis B vaccine is being received from Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization (GAVI) through UNICEF and is being procured at the rate of Rs. 15.36 per dose (US\$ 0.32). These vaccines are being supplied by Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization (GAVI) as commodity assistance. The UNICEF is only assisting in procurement of this vaccine at International competitive bidding.

[Translation]

WHO Norms for Health Sector

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

(a) whether the World Health Organisation has laid down any norms for health sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether all hospitals in the country comply with the said norms; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (d) WHO has laid down norms covering various aspects concerning the health sector. In particular, WHO has developed standards for pharmaceutical products like vaccines, drugs, etc. However, no WHO norms have been made available for hospital management or administration.

Telephone Connection in West Bengal

159. SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of people in the waiting list for telephone connections in West Bengal as on February 1, 2003, district-wise; and

(b) the time by which these people are likely to be provided telephone connections?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) The waiting list of Telephone connections in West Bengal telecom as on 1.2.2003 is 171559. The district-wise details are given in the statement enclosed.

(b) The wait listed persons are likely to be provided telephone connections progressively by March 2004 subject to availability of resources and financial viability of opening of new Telephone Exchanges.

Statement

Waiting List in West Bengal As on 1.2.2003

Sl. No	Name of District	Name SSA	Waiting list as on February 1,2003
1.	Bankura	Bakura	9209
2.	Birbhum	Suri	8612
3.	Burdwan	Asansol	22380
4.	Coochbehar	Coochbehar	3127
5.	Darjeeling	Siliguri	6695
6.	Dinajpur (N)	Raiganj	1086
7.	Dinajpur (S)	Raiganj	1204
8.	Hoogly	Calcutta	13259
9.	Howrah	Calcutta	12564
10.	Jalpaiguri	Jalpaiguri	4288
11.	Kolkata	Kolkata TD	0
12.	Malda	Malda	5442
13.	Midnapur	Kharagpur	27243
14.	Murshidabad	Berhampur	10186
15.	Nadia	Krishnanagar	13500
16.	North 24 Pargannas	Calcutta	15182
17.	Purulia	Purulia	2620
18.	South 24 Pargannas	Calcutta	14962
Total			171559

Bridge Between India and Sri Lanka

160. SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prime Minister of India and Sri Lanka have approved the construction of a 20 km. long bridge linking Rameshwaram in Tamil Nadu and Talai Mannar in Sri Lanka;

(b) if so, the details of technical and financial aspects of this bridge;

(c) the details of the ownership of this bridge after its construction; and

(d) by when the bridge is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI): (a) India and Sri Lanka have agreed to work on commissioning of feasibility study on a land bridge between the two countries.

(b) to (d) This proposal is at conceptual stage and therefore no further details can be given at this stage.

Export of Herbs

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

(a) the share of India in American imports of herbs from different countries; and

(b) the details of the steps taken by the Government to increase the participation of India in export of herbs to foreign countries and also to boost the production of herbs in the country?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) The share of India in American imports of herbs from different countries is 20% during the year 2001.

(b) Govt. of India has set up the National Medicinal Plants Board to ensure mass availability of medicinal plants and to coordinate all matters relating to their development and sustainable use. In pursuance of these objectives, the Board has introduced Promotional and Commercial schemes for increasing the production of herbs in the country for domestic and export markets.

Security Number Plates

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

(a) whether all the necessary arrangements have been made with regard to the decision of the Government to use new type of security number plates in all vehicles w.e.f. March 1, 2003;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government propose to extend this date; and

(d) if so, by when the announcement is likely to be made in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI): (a) to (d) The date of implementation for High Security Registration Plate for the new motor vehicles has been postponed to 1st January, 2004 because at the recently held Transport Development Council meeting almost all States stated that they need more time to be ready for implementing the scheme. Gazette notification to this effect has been issued vide Notification No. S.O. 59 (E) dated 21.1.2003.

Modernisation/Upgradation of Post Offices

163. SHRI SHIVAJI MANE:
SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV:

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

(a) the total amount spent by the Government over modernisation/upgradation of Post Offices in Maharashtra;

(b) the number of Post Offices (location and category-wise) modernised/upgraded during the last one year in the State; and

(c) the steps being taken to modernise/upgrade remaining post-offices in Maharashtra?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SU. THIRUNAVUKKARASAR): (a) During the IX Five Year Plan period, Rs. 1.83 crores approximately was spent on modernisation/upgradation of Post Offices in Maharashtra for improving their ergonomics.

(b) Five Post Offices were modernised/upgraded during the last one year i.e. 2001-2002. The details are as stated hereunder:

Sl. No.	Post Office	District
1.	Kalyan City HO	Thane
2.	Ichalkaranji	Kolhapur
3.	Chandrapur	Chandrapur
4.	Nashik Road	Nashik
5.	Shivajinagar Pune	Pune

(c) During the Tenth Five-Year Plan, another 130 Post Offices are to be modernised in Maharashtra. However, this would depend upon the completion of necessary formalities and availability of funds.

[English]

Renewal of Vehicles

164. SHRI Y.V. RAO: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to impose heavy taxes on the renewal of vehicles after 15 years;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the extent to which it is likely to curb use of old vehicles?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI): (a) to (c) Taxation of Motor Vehicles falls under the purview of the respective State Governments. With a view to controlling pollution, phasing out of older vehicles through a higher rate of taxation on older vehicles had been proposed by the Government of India as a part of agenda item for the 30th meeting of Transport Development Council (TDC) held on 16.1.2003. Representatives of the States agreed during the meeting to the suggestion for levying a tax on the pattern of 'Green Cess' imposed by Karnataka Government which envisages levy of road tax at an enhanced rate after the period of 15 years on all categories of motor vehicles. Further action in this regard is to be taken by the States. It is not possible to predict the extent to which it is likely to curb the use of old vehicles.

Implementation of CSS in Orissa

165. SHRI PARSURAM MAJHI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the tardy implementation of Centrally sponsored schemes in the Kalahandi-Bolangir-Koraput districts in Orissa;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the details of scheme-wise utilization of funds in those districts during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) to (c) Information on Centrally Sponsored Schemes is not maintained on a district-wise basis. However, in order to supplement the efforts of the State Government in the development of the undivided Kalahandi-Bolangir-Koraput districts, Planning Commission has been allocating Additional Central Assistance to fill critical gaps in sectors such as drought proofing, livelihood support, support to disadvantaged groups, health services, emergency feeding, etc. The Additional Central Assistance allocated in the last three years has been as follow:

Year	Amount (Rs. Crore)
1999-2000	57.60
2000-2001	40.35
2001-2002	100.00
Total	197.95

Against this amount the State Government has reported expenditure of Rs. 172.56 crore till November, 2002.

[*Translation*]

Telecom Racket

166. SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether some persons obtain telephone connection on the basis of fake documents and use them for providing STD/ISD service to the public and wind up when their telephone bills mount to lakhs of rupees;

(b) if so, the details of such cases detected during each of the last three years till date and the action taken against them;

(c) the amount recovered therefrom so far along with the outstanding amount due against them;

(d) whether any departmental officers/employees have been found involved in providing them such connections;

(e) if so, the details thereof alongwith the action taken against them; and

(f) the steps being taken by the Government to prevent recurrence of such cases?

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

Disinvestment of Balmer Lawrie and Company

167. SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA: Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are contemplating to disinvest the Balmer Lawrie and Company;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the number of bidders who inspected or given bids in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) and (b) Government has approved the disinvestment of 61.8% of the equity shares of Balmer Lawrie & Co. Ltd. held by Balmer Lawrie Investments. Ltd., a Central Public Sector Undertaking.

(c) In the interest of the disinvestment transaction of Balmer Lawrie & Co. Ltd., it is not possible to indicate at this stage either the number of bidders who have filed their Expression of Interest or the number of bidders who inspected Balmer Lawrie & Co. Ltd. in this regard.

*[English]***Medical Reimbursement**

168. SHRI SHEESH RAM SINGH RAVI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether full medical reimbursement is not being given to the Government employees, Pensioners and their dependents on the treatment of ailment like bypass, heart surgery, stroke, kidney transplant etc. in recognized private hospitals;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

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

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (c) CGHS beneficiaries (both serving and pensioners) have the option of availing general/specialized treatment and diagnostic procedure at private hospitals/diagnostic centres recognised under CGHS in various CGHS covered cities after obtaining the recommendation regarding line of treatment from the specialist of CGHS/Government hospital/CMO In-charge of the dispensary and prior permission from the concerned office/Department in the case of serving employees and from the CMO In-charge of CGHS dispensaries in the case of pensioner beneficiaries.

A Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) has been entered into by Director, CGHS with each of the private hospitals recognised under CGHS for the cities of Delhi, Ahmedabad, Allahabad, Chennai, Hyderabad, Jabalpur, Jaipur, Kanpur, Meerut, Mumbai, Trivandrum, Patna, Ranchi, Lucknow and Pune. The MOA binds the hospitals not to charge CGHS beneficiaries (both serving and pensioners) over and above the ceiling rates for various medical procedures/tests/investigations fixed under CGHS.

However, reimbursement for certain implants/appliances like pacemaker etc. is limited to the ceiling rate.

Most Favoured Nation Status

169. SHRI T.M. SELVAGANAPATHI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Pakistan has ruled out the Most Favoured Nation (MFN) status to India;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether according to a report, India had granted the Most Favoured Nation (MFN) status to Pakistan unilaterally asked Islamabad to reciprocate it; and

(d) if so, the reasons behind India granting the Most Favoured Nation status to Pakistan unilaterally?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI VINOD KHANNA): (a) and (b) Contrary to its obligations, including under the WTO, Pakistan has not yet extended MFN treatment to India and has, inter-alia, cited extraneous security, political and economic reasons for this.

(c) and (d) India has accorded MFN status to Pakistan in conformity with its general approach. Government has drawn attention to Pakistan's obligation to grant MFN status to India, and for this step to serve as an indicator of Pakistan's intention to have normal trade and economic relations if it is to be seen to be committed to improving bilateral and regional economic cooperation.

*[Translation]***Sale of Indian Ship by Bangladesh**

170. SHRI SUBODH ROY: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn towards to news-item captioned "captured Indian ship sold by Bangladesh" appearing in the 'Rashtriya Sahara' dated January 4, 2003;

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

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The factual position is that one of SCI's vessels viz. M.V. Vishva Kaumudi was detained at Bangladesh on March 13, 1999. The vessel M.V. Vishva Kamudi was on time charter to M/s R. Piyarellal International Ltd., Kolkata for a voyage spanning over 25/30 days to load 8325 tonnes of Par boiled Rice from Haldia to Mongla. The vessel arrived Mongla on 13.3.1999 and after discharge of a few bags of cargo, the vessel was off-

hired by the Charters M/s Piyarellal on the pretext that the cargo was damaged due to ship's fault, whereas the consignees have not accepted the cargo since the cargo was allegedly off-specification, for which SCI was not responsible. The SCI's best endeavours for a negotiated out of court settlement with the consignees could not fructify and therefore legal action was taken and a Writ-Petition was filed in the High Court division of the Supreme Court of Bangladesh. The Writ Petition was disposed of in SCI's favour. However, the consignee viz. Ministry of Food Govt. of Bangladesh went in appeal and also filed an Admiralty Suit in the Admiralty Wing of the High Court Division of Supreme Court of Bangladesh for alleged cargo claim of about Taka 11 crores and got the vessel arrested by a Court Order. SCI also filed a counter claim against the Ministry of Food for Tk. 27.76 crores and also defended the case in the Admiralty Court. The Court proceedings are still going on in the Admiralty Court of Bangladesh though the arguments/counter arguments are almost completed and the next hearing is fixed for 1st March 2003.

In the meantime, since the vessel was in a precarious condition and was on the brink of sinking any moment with no repairs or drydock since last 3 years, SCI had applied to the Court for allowing them to sell the vessel by auction and deposit the amount with the Court, so that the catastrophe arising out of a possible sinking of the vessel could be avoided, besides avoiding the mounting cost on the vessel by way of port dues and other expenses. The Court allowed the vessel to be auctioned. Subsequently, the vessel was auctioned for BGTK 4 crores. It is pertinent to mention here that the vessel is sold by the Court at SCI's request and not by the Bangladesh Authorities, as alleged in the Report.

(c) This is a commercial dispute in which Government of India as a rule, does not interfere.

(English)

Authorised Medical Attendants/Hospitals in NCR

171. COL. (RETD.) DR. DHANI RAM SHANDIL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government employees living in National Capital Region (NCR) such as Vaishali, Indrapuram, Ghaziabad, Faridabad, Noida, etc. can take treatment in Allopathic, Ayurvedic and Homoeopathy system of medicines through authorized medical attendants/recognized hospitals;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the list of such recognized hospitals, authorized medical attendants etc., separately;

(c) whether the Government propose to recognize some more hospitals/dispensaries for the purpose in such areas;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Central Government employees living in NCR and staying in areas not covered by CGHS can taken treatment in Allopathic, Ayurvedic and Homeopathic system of medicine through AMA/Recognised Hospitals as per provision of CS (MA) Rules, 1944. All medical Officers under the employ of Central Government/State Government/Union Territory are designated as AMAs. Further, various Departments of Central Government can also appoint Private Registered Medical practitioners as AMA for employees working under that Department and staying in an area not covered by CGHS, as per guidelines laid down under CS (MA) Rules (Government of India decision under Rule 2) No comprehensive List of AMAs so appointed by different Departments is maintained. However, names of hospitals/diagnostic centres recognised in the NCR under CS (MA) Rules 1944 are given in the enclosed list.

(c) to (e) Recognition of private hospitals is a continuous process under Rule 2 (d) of CS (MA) Rules 1944. Applications received from the applicant hospitals are processed as per prescribed procedure.

Statement

List of Private Hospitals in National Capital Region (NCR) Under CS (MA) Rules, 1944.

1. Batra Hospital & Medical Research Centre, 1, Tughlakabad Industrial Area, M.B. Road, New Delhi.
2. Escorts Hospital & Research Centre, Faridabad (Haryana).
3. Dr. Anand's Ultrasound and C.T. Scan, F-24, Preet Vihar, Vikas Marg, Delhi-92.
4. Anand Hospital, 21, Community Centre, Preet Vihar, Delhi-92.

5. Orthonova; 22-23, Local Shopping Complex, Madan Gir, New Delhi-62.
6. Moolchand Khairati Ram Hospital, Lajpat Nagar-III.
7. Sarvodaya Medical Research Centre, GD-28, Pitam Pura, Delhi-34.
8. North Point Hospital Pvt. Ltd., 1-A, Jang Pura, New Delhi.
9. R.G. Stone Urological Research Institute, F-7, East of Kailash, New Delhi-65.
10. Kailash Hospital and Research Centre, H.33, Sector-27 Noida-21 301 (UP).
11. GMR, Institute of Imaging, Research Centre, 9508, Pusa Road, New Delhi.
12. Medical Laboratory Services, E-67, Saket, New Delhi-17.
13. South Delhi Ultrasound & X-ray Clinic, A-4, Hauz Khas, New Delhi-16.
14. G.M. Modi Hospital & Research Centre, Mandir Marg, Saket, New Delhi-17.
15. Jaipur Golden Hospital, 2 Institutional Area, Rohini, New Delhi. 85.
16. Indraprastha Apollo Hospital, Sarita Vihar, Delhi-Mathura Road, New Delhi-44.
17. Delhi C.T. and M.R.I. Centre, Anshlok Hospital, 25-A, Block A-B, Community Centre, Safdarjung Enclave (behind Kamal Cinema,) New Delhi-29.
18. Dharmashila Cancer Hospital and Research Centre, Vasundhara Enclave, Delhi-96.
19. Dr. Handa X-ray & Diagnostic Centre, B-87, Defence Colony (near Andrewganj Crossing), New Delhi-49.
20. St. Stephens Hospital, Tis Hazari, Delhi. 54.
21. Escorts Heart Institute & Research Centre, Okhla, New Delhi.
22. National Heart Institute & Research Centre, Sapna Commercial Complex, New Delhi-65.
23. Badshah Khan Hospital, Faridabad.
24. Narinder Mohan Hospital, Ghaziabad.
25. Noida Medical Centre Ltd. 16-C, Sector-30, Noida, U.P.

Painless Technique for Cancer

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

(a) whether cancer can now be treated by a painless technique in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether this technique was evolved in US about 15 years ago and it came to India a couple of years ago and is yet to gain popularity among oncologists;

(d) whether these techniques have not been given adequate publicity through various Government Hospitals in Capital as well as in various States/Union Territories till date; and

(e) if so, by when it is likely to be made available in Capital/States/Union Territories?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (e) The treatment of cancer is done by Surgery, Radiotherapy and Chemotherapy. The technique of Teletherapy (Radiotherapy by external beam from Cobalt Machine or Linear Accelerator) is a painless procedure and is extensively used in India both in Government and Private sector hospitals.

The Govt. under the National Cancer Control Programme is supporting the installation of Cobalt Machines and Linear Accelerators both in Government and Private Sector hospitals by way of release of one time grant-in-aid of Rs. 1.00 crore to NGOs and Rs. 1.50 crore to State Govt. Institutions.

Funds for MRI Machine

173. SHRI M.K. SUBBA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any proposal from Guwahati Medical College for financial assistance to procure an MRI machine, other equipment and for renovations;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the response of the Union Government's thereto?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) and (b) No proposal from Guwahati Medical College has been received for financial assistance to procure an MRI machine, other equipment and renovations. However, a project report for establishment of an Institute of Medical Sciences by upgradation of Gauhati Medical College & Hospital has been received recently from Government of Assam for assistance from the Central Govt. to the extent of Rs. 100 crore approx.

(c) The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare do not have any scheme for supporting establishment of Institute of Medical Sciences by upgrading the Medical College and Hospital.

Development of Cancer Medicine

174. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the name of hospitals catering to cancer patients in the country, State-wise;

(b) the extent of success achieved in the eradication of the cancer so far;

(c) whether the Government are aware that some scientists at D.S. Research Centre, Varanasi, have developed a new medicine 'Sarvapisti' based on the science of nutrient energy and reported to have saved thousands of cancer patients; and

(d) if so, the steps taken or proposed to be taken to verify the claims of this centre and to make available such a life saving medicine in all the cancer hospitals?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) and (b) Health being a State subject this information is not collected and maintained centrally. The aim of the National Cancer Control Programme (NCCP) is to augment and upgrade existing treatment facilities, create awareness and plug geographical gaps in treatment facilities.

(c) and (d) According to the information furnished by the Central Council of Research in Ayurveda and Siddha (CCRAS) under the Deptt. of Indian System of Medicine and Homoeopathy (ISM&H), the medicine 'Sarvapisti' claimed to have been developed by D.S. Research Centre, Kolkata is not a classical Ayurveda/Siddha

Medicine. However, in order to verify the claims made by the Centre, the Council has requested them to furnish more details.

Nutrient Energy for Cancer Treatment

175. DR. RAMESH CHAND TOMAR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item "cancer cure emerges in our own backyard" appearing in 'The Economic Times' dated October 22, 2001;

(b) if so, whether any efforts have been made to explore the use of nutrient energy for treatment of cancer patients;

(c) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (d) According to the information furnished by the Central Council for Research in Ayurveda and Siddha (CCRAS), under the Department of Indian System of Medicine and Homoeopathy (ISM&H), the drug named "Sarvapisti" mentioned in the news item is not a classical Ayurvedic/Siddha medicine. The Council has requested D.S. Research Centre, Kolkata who claimed to have developed this drug to furnish more details on it.

[*Translation*]

Non-Function of Old Lines

176. SHRIMATI JAYASHREE BANERJEE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the old telephone lines have become non-functional due to the use of optical fibre cable lines in the country;

(b) if so, the facts thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY:

(SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) Even after induction of optical fibre cable in the telecom network in the country, the functioning of old telephone lines in local network remain unaffected.

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

[English]

Arogya-2002 Health Mela

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

(a) whether the Government have conducted an "Arogya-2002 Health Mela" for awareness generation for Indian Systems of Medicine;

(a) if so, the details thereof including location and expenditure incurred;

(c) the impact of this Mela on public;

(d) whether such melas are likely to be held all over the country; and

(e) the methods being adopted to increase public awareness of relevance of Indian Systems of Medicine?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) and (b) Arogya-2002 Health Mela was organized by the Department of ISM&H in collaboration with ITPO at Pragati Maidan, New Delhi from December 11-15, 2002 with the objective to promote and propagate ISM&H. 75 organisations including Department of ISM&H and its constituents, Department of Family Welfare, Directorate of ISM&H, Government of Delhi participated in the fair. The approximate expenditure incurred by the Department and its constituents on the mela amounts to Rs. 50.00 lakhs.

(c) Encouraged by the response to the mela, most of the participants have expressed their willingness to repeat participation.

(d) At present there is no such proposal to hold such melas all over the country.

(e) The methods being adopted to increase public awareness of relevance of ISM&H include:

(i) involvement of NGOs for promotion and propagation of ISM&H at the Block level;

(ii) preparation and distribution of publicity material like small booklets on home remedies in Ayurvedia, Unani, Homoeopathy etc.

(iii) participation in melas, exhibitions, seminars etc. being organized by various Government agencies/reputed organizations.

Amendment to Prevention of Food Adulteration Act

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

(a) whether an amendment to the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act is under the active consideration of the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which it is likely to be amended and the reasons for bringing about amendments in the act?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The amendments are under consideration and have not been finalized as yet.

(c) Amendment of the Act is a long drawn process. This process has been initiated. No time frame can be laid for the new law. Action has been initiated to review the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954 for considering necessary amendments to the Act, keeping in view the representations/suggestions received in this regard from various organizations and committees.

Number of National Highways in Maharashtra

179. SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of National Highways that pass through Maharashtra;

(b) whether these National Highways do not cover all the districts of the State;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government is preparing any action plan to cover the remaining districts of the State; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI): (a) A total of 14 number of National Highways pass through Maharashtra State.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) National Highways do not pass through 6 districts i.e.; Latur, Parbhani, Nanded, Hingoli, Washim and Chandrapur.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

[*Translation*]

Implementation of CSS in Bihar

180. SHRI RAJO SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the slow pace of implementation of the centrally sponsored schemes in Bihar;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the scheme-wise details of utilisation of funds allocated to the State during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) to (c) The requisite information is being collected.

[*English*]

Jawaharlal Nehru Port

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

(a) whether there is any proposal to develop Jawaharlal Nehru Port on the West Coast as a hub for all shipping activities;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any plan has been finalised in this regard:

(d) if so, the cost of its implementation; and

(e) the manner in which it is likely to benefit the Indian Shipping Industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI): (a) to (e) It has been decided to develop Jawaharlal Nehru Port as a hub port in India's West Coast, capable of receiving large size vessels to facilitate direct sailing of export containers to their destinations, or to receive import containers destined for India directly without transshipment at any foreign port. Jawaharlal Nehru Port fulfills several requirements of a hub port, such as concentration of traffic, proximity to international routes and markets, longer waterfront, better road/rail connectivity, large back up area and supporting hinterland. Certain customs procedures which were seen as hurdle in transshipment have also been simplified.

Development of the port, which includes its maintenance as a hub port, is a continuous process. Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust has identified the following major schemes in this regard:-

- (i) Re-development of the existing Bulk Terminal into Container Terminal involving an investment of about Rs. 900 crores on Built, Operate & Transfer (BOT) basis which is expected to yield additional container handling capacity of about 14 million tonnes per annum.
- (ii) Deepening and Widening of Approach Channel to the Port at an estimated cost of Rs. 700 crores which involves deepening its draft so as to handle ships upto laden draught of-14 Mtrs. and certain widening of entrance channel at pockets.

Development of the port as a hub port is likely to result in savings in transshipment costs for containerized cargo, which at present, is predominantly transhipped through hub ports in the neighbouring countries at high costs to Indian trade, savings in ship waiting costs and augmentation in foreign trade besides the benefits which may accrue on account of the economies of larger vessel size.

PCOs in Gujarat

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

(a) whether there is any increase of PCOs (Public Call Offices) in Gujarat;

(b) if so, the number of PCOs operational in the State till date; and

(c) the steps the Government propose to take to further increase the number of PCOs in the State?

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

(b) 80,598 PCOs are operational in Gujarat as on 31.12.2002.

(c) The steps taken to increase the number of PCOs are given in the statement enclosed.

Statement

1. PCOs are liberally allotted to all applicants above 18 years of age as soon as applied for the restrictions of educational qualification, minimum distance between two PCOs, space requirement for running the PCO etc, have been removed. There is no waiting list for PCOs in Gujarat.
2. Licence fee on fax machines has been removed.
3. Conferencing facility on STD PCOs has been allowed.
4. Interest has been allowed on the security deposits made by PCO franchisees.
5. Additional PCO in the same premises is allotted if desired by a franchisee.
6. A franchisee is also allotted a local PCO terminated on Coin Collecting Box (CCB) if he so desires.
7. Payment of PCO bills by cheques has been allowed thereby saving the cost for obtaining Demand Drafts and reducing the risk of carrying cash.
8. Sale of postage stamp and stationery by the PCO franchisees has been permitted.
9. PCO franchisees have been allowed to sell ITC cards with 5% commission.
10. Restoration of PCOs are being done within 24 hours of clearance of pending dues.
11. PCO bills are issued alongwith detailed bills.

12. Safe custody of PCOs has been allowed.

13. 25% of the retailership of prepaid cards of BSNL's cellular service has been earmarked for allotment to the STD PCO holders.

[Translation]

Illegal Constructions and Subletting in Colonies

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

(a) whether the Government are aware that due to lack of coordination between Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited, Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited and Department of Post and Telegraph, the allottees have illegally constructed and rented out rooms in various colonies of the Department in Delhi thereby worsening the hygienic condition of colonies;

(b) if so, the details of the steps taken by the senior officers and employees of various corporation and estate officers of the Department to get these rooms evacuated of tenants; and

(c) by when the Government are likely to get the accommodation vacated in various colonies of Delhi after constituting an enquiry committee of the officers of various corporation and departments or take appropriate action against the allottees?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) The Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL), Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) and Department of Post (DOP) are maintaining their own Departmental Quarters. No complaint regarding illegal construction and rented out rooms in Delhi is pending at present.

(b) Such complaints as and when received or found during the inspection are looked into at highest level. Necessary remedial action is being taken from time to time. The action taken varies from situation to situation. In twenty nine cases, the illegal construction has been got demolished and action has been taken against sixty officials who had sublet their quarters.

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

Cellone Service of BSNL

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

(a) the reasons for the poor quality of service being provided by the Cellone Mobile Services of the Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited in Jharkhand and Bihar Circles as compared to the mobile service of the Reliance Company;

(b) the reasons for taking much time to activate the Sim Cards of the Cellone Mobile Services including post paid and pre-paid services; and

(c) the number of Sim Cards including post paid and pre-paid services which have been sold out in Jharkhand circle during the last one month alongwith the number of Sim Cards out of them activated, division-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

(SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) Cellone services of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) in Bihar licensed service area which includes Jharkhand as well are comparable to the one offered by the other private operator in the area, however certain constraints are being faced in a few cities where the services were started on a trial basis using indigenous technology under a pilot project. To provide facilities identically in the entire Bihar licensed service area, continuous attempts/efforts in off-peak time are being made to upgrade the existing equipment, which sometimes do reflect in light disruption of services.

(b) SIM cards for prepaid services are pre-activated. However delays in the post paid services were experienced during the initial period of launch owing to subscriber and credit verification process, initial demand and acquaintance of the operational procedures by the staff.

(c) The details sought are given in the statement enclosed.

Statement*Mobile connection sold and SIM activated during January' 2003*

Division	Pre-Paid		Post-Paid	
	Distributed	Activated	Distributed	Activated
Ranchi	498	498	726	726
Jamshedpur	32	32	167	167
Dhanbad	602	602	200	200
Hazaribagh	430	430	705	705
Daltonganj	250	250	167	167
Dumka	320	320	650	650
Total	2132	2132	2615	2615

Number Plates in Hindi

185. SHRI MANSUKHBHAI D. VASAVA:
SHRI MANSINH PATEL:

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

(a) whether writing of number of plates of vehicles in Hindi is illegal;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Union Government propose to allow the number plates of vehicles in Hindi; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI): (a) to (d) The Central Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989 provide that letters of the registration

mark shall be in English and the figures shall be in Arabic numerals. Use of Hindi or any other languages mentioned in the 8th Schedule of the Constitution is permitted in additional registration plate.

Polio Eradication Programme

186. SHRI MANSINH PATEL:
SHRI LAXMAN GILUWA:
SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH:
SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS:
SHRI S. AJAYA KUMAR:

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

(a) whether the Government had some time back launched a country-wide campaign for the eradication of polio from the country;

(b) if so, the target set and achieved in this regard during the last three years, State-wise and year-wise;

(c) whether polio cases are showing an upward trend in some States; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the measures contemplated to control the same?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) Yes, Sir. To eradicate polio from the country the Intensified Pulse Polio Program was started in 1995-96.

(b) The data in respect of targets set and achieved for the last three years, State-wise and year-wise is given in the statement-I enclosed.

(c) and (d) The rise in polio cases in various states during 2002 is given in the Statement II enclosed.

The national goal is to eradicate polio from the country and obtain international polio-free certification by 2005. The annual strategies for achieving this goal are formulated and implemented on the basis of advice of a group of national and international experts. Two National Immunization Days are observed throughout the country for giving polio drops to the children below 5 years of age. In addition, Sub-National Immunization Days are also observed in States/high risk areas. Mon-up vaccination rounds are also conducted in the districts and adjoining areas where new cases are detected.

Statement I

Target and achievement for the year 1999-2000

Sl	Name of the State/UTs	October 1999			November 1999			December 1999			January 2000			February 2000			March 2000		
		Target 0-5	Total performance	%	Target 0-5	Total performance	%	Target 0-5	Total performance	%	Target 0-5	Total performance	%	Target 0-5	Total performance	%	Target 0-5	Total performance	%
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
1.	A & N Islands	4132	4095	97.01	4132	40128	97.09	4132	40004	96.79	4132	40253	97.39	-	-	-	-	-	-
2.	Andhra Pradesh	8572920	9848606	114.88	8562213	10446207	122.00	8517592	10343061	121.44	8581866	10250317	119.44	-	-	-	-	-	-
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	190042	191835	100.94	191504	197983	103.32	192977	197187	102.18	190636	202987	104.86	-	-	-	-	-	-
4.	Assam	3820582	4221984	110.51	3955781	4257636	107.88	3899208	4423808	113.45	3863182	4397880	113.25	3988753	4482851	115.23	3999198	4563661	116.78
5.	Bihar	18578107	19301316	116.43	16044757	18286388	113.87	18617130	19815850	106.44	18345334	19057161	103.88	17105400	21209779	123.99	17898086	19919187	112.54
6.	Chandigarh	103000	104773	101.72	103008	110083	106.85	103000	113480	110.17	103000	115220	111.87	-	-	-	-	-	-
7.	D & N Haveli	28173	29250	103.82	28173	28289	103.96	28173	30800	109.68	28173	31882	112.48	-	-	-	-	-	-
8.	Daman & Diu	15567	16482	106.94	15667	17220	109.98	15773	17983	114.07	15773	18808	117.96	-	-	-	-	-	-
9.	Delhi	2189121	1943749	88.79	2189121	2015191	92.05	2015191	2118412	105.12	2015191	2289537	112.82	-	-	-	2015191	1930688	95.81
10.	Goa	117000	119941	102.52	117000	1227989	104.96	118000	124562	105.56	118000	128113	108.30	-	-	-	-	-	-
11.	Gujarat	5438202	6160034	113.27	5438200	5800755	108.51	5438200	6383787	117.39	5438200	6803064	121.42	5438200	6822070	121.77	5438200	6686777	122.96
12.	Haryana	2803103	3185589	113.65	2803102	3335029	118.98	2803102	3458489	123.31	2803102	3543881	126.42	-	-	-	-	-	-

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
13	Himachal Pradesh	718055	696587	93.25	670130	674656	100.68	670371	681151	101.61	670130	686383	102.72	-	-	-	-	-	-
14	Jammu & Kashmir	1397706	1498222	107.26	1387590	1536400	110.72	1387690	1447142	104.29	1387590	1587416	114.40	-	-	-	-	-	-
15	Karnataka	6205000	6382044	102.85	6955120	7094088	102.00	7000440	7077449	101.10	6211487	6861814	110.47	-	-	-	-	-	-
16	Kerala	2846485	2856848	100.36	2846485	2888981	100.83	2846131	2875708	101.04	2846485	2888227	101.43	-	-	-	-	-	-
17	Lakshadweep	6333	6572	103.77	0	0	#DIV/0!	0	0	#####	6716	6725	100.13	-	-	-	-	-	-
18	Madhya Pradesh	10321856	12138544	117.58	10362304	12348675	119.28	10461371	12511535	119.71	11658985	13789457	118.12	11383410	13479433	118.31	11408707	13415303	117.81
19	Maharashtra	9118930	8683384	95.26	9081586	8783592	96.93	9082859	8893023	98.13	11394386	11476742	100.72	-	-	-	-	-	-
20	Manipur	227460	228988	98.43	331889	323982	97.54	331889	331232	99.81	331386	312390	100.33	-	-	-	-	-	-
21	Meghalaya	383239	429980	112.17	383239	421849	110.07	383249	418940	108.31	383239	428330	111.24	-	-	-	-	-	-
22	Mizoram	106144	108087	102.77	106180	110396	102.06	106188	107780	98.61	106188	110820	102.52	-	-	-	-	-	-
23	Nagaland	222735	227333	102.06	222729	232755	104.90	222729	228048	102.97	222729	237296	105.54	-	-	-	-	-	-
24	Orissa	4114634	4031529	97.98	2471991	2532943	102.47	4521525	4568137	101.03	4519027	4801980	103.84	4539474	4638284	102.20	4536863	6298886	138.87
25	Pondicherry	89443	95349	106.60	107836	102089	94.67	92561	102389	110.62	93468	103834	111.20	-	-	-	-	-	-
26	Punjab	3227095	3374277	104.56	3251861	3410874	104.89	3284808	3504386	107.34	3251861	349188	107.37	-	-	-	-	-	-
27	Rajasthan	7361424	9638232	130.90	7408827	9850831	132.96	7408897	9795080	132.21	7408579	9010818	121.62	7408597	9864273	133.15	7408597	10028476	135.38
28	Sikkim	70453	72630	103.09	74295	74885	100.52	72824	73236	100.43	73244	74285	101.38	-	-	-	-	-	-
29	Tamil Nadu	6701898	6888523	102.78	6679357	7040429	105.41	6701897	7212537	107.62	6731898	729087	108.30	-	-	-	-	-	-
30	Tripura	377731	388684	102.37	382424	387972	101.45	378046	382989	103.95	377377	40550	107.46	-	-	-	-	-	-
31	Uttar Pradesh	25708245	29782249	115.85	29729637	30763296	103.48	30605368	31587427	103.48	29882374	31488684	104.96	30084005	31888325	106.27	30466272	32228048	105.81
32	West Bengal	9040500	8829634	97.67	9173886	9008188	98.19	9046896	8173879	90.36	9040600	9167283	101.40	9040600	8210080	101.88	9040600	9117830	100.88
	Total	128142515	141488170	110.41	131087974	1423178381	108.57	136245709	147029251	107.91	138243707	150838230	108.96	88808339	101488846	114.15	91898384	102195293	111.20

Target and achievement for the year 2000-2001

Sl.	Name of the State/UT's	September 2000			November 2000			December 2000			January 2001		
		Target 0-5	Total Performance	%	Target 0-5	Total Performance	%	Target 0-5	Total Performance	%	Target 0-5	Total Performance	%
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
1.	A & N Islands	-	-	-	-	-	-	40253	39150	97.26	50949	49404	96.97
2.	Andhra Pradesh	-	-	-	-	-	-	10250000	10582242	103.34	10250000	10680112	104.0
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	-	-	-	-	-	-	186721	160265	84.92	189184	172843	91.38
4.	Assam	-	-	-	4398530	4505208	102.43	4398530	4548935	103.42	4398530	4528733	102.96
5.	Bihar	18595320	20038015	107.74	18264582	20587370	108.87	18753124	21219453	107.42	20028983	21258688	106.14
6.	Chandigarh	-	-	-	-	-	-	115230	98426	85.42	115230	115912	100.59
7.	D & N Haveli	-	-	-	-	-	-	31582	32387	102.58	31582	32665	103.43

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
8.	Daman & Diu	—	—	—	—	—	—	17576	17655	100.45	17576	18755	106.71
9.	Delhi	2000000	2313104	115.66	2274803	2316187	101.82	2274803	2321917	102.07	2274803	2383461	104.78
10.	Goa	—	—	—	—	—	—	122325	123630	101.07	124219	127335	102.51
11.	Gujarat	—	—	—	6603064	7059640	106.90	6603064	7119245	107.82	6603064	7227050	109.45
12.	Haryana	—	—	—	3090685	3493866	109.47	3191685	3619264	113.40	3191685	3750177	117.50
13.	Himachal Pradesh	—	—	—	—	—	—	688598	669455	97.22	688598	686618	100.00
14.	Jammu & Kashmir	—	—	—	—	—	—	1509983	1559857	103.30	1510000	1575451	104.33
15.	Karnataka	—	—	—	—	—	—	6509709	6721983	103.26	6591955	6991685	106.06
16.	Kerala	—	—	—	—	—	—	2896227	2890252	100.14	2886227	2932313	101.60
17.	Lakshadweep	—	—	—	—	—	—	6471	6595	101.92	6721	6814	101.38
18.	Madhya Pradesh	—	—	—	11738090	13235768	112.76	9562354	10638458	111.25	11774228	13400520	113.81
19.	Maharashtra	—	—	—	—	—	—	11459052	10937442	95.45	11522725	11898695	103.26
20.	Manipur	—	—	—	—	—	—	333237	296781	89.06	325237	305605	93.96
21.	Meghalaya	—	—	—	—	—	—	389011	346869	89.17	388770	357155	91.87
22.	Mizoram	—	—	—	—	—	—	110807	103499	93.40	110807	104915	94.68
23.	Nagaland	—	—	—	—	—	—	223591	213105	95.31	223180	209106	93.69
24.	Orissa	—	—	—	4604985	4578117	99.42	4596665	4601351	100.04	4603987	4617921	100.30
25.	Pondichery	—	—	—	—	—	—	97425	103593	106.33	97413	105175	107.97
26.	Punjab	—	—	—	3414669	3561609	104.30	3414669	3587792	105.07	3414669	3619246	105.99
27.	Rajasthan	—	—	—	9010619	10460850	116.09	9010619	10733032	119.12	9010619	10910844	121.09
28.	Sikkim	—	—	—	—	—	—	74022	70068	94.66	76275	71190	93.33
29.	Tamil Nadu	—	—	—	—	—	—	6983084	7209197	103.24	7027042	7390587	105.17
30.	Tripura	—	—	—	—	—	—	401819	386280	96.13	401819	399927	99.53
31.	Uttar Pradesh	31044330	31957229	102.94	3280308	33633787	102.54	32802550	34086747	103.91	32798311	34570056	105.40
32.	West Bengal	7654383	7023754	91.78	9139400	9100626	99.58	9139400	9152659	100.15	9139400	9311549	101.88
	Total	59294093	61329102	103.43	106441745	112532026	105.72	147189186	154207594	104.77	149673788	159793487	106.62

Target and achievement for the year 2001-2002

Sl.No.	Name of the State/UT's	October 2001			December 2001			January 2002		
		Target 0-5	Total Performance	%	Target 0-5	Total Performance	%	Target 0-5	Total Performance	%
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
1.	A&N Islands	—	—	—	40253	37661	93.56	40253	39271	97.56
2.	Andhra Pradesh	—	—	—	9891002	10568299	106.85	9891000	10680742	107.78
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	—	—	—	196402	171368	87.25	196402	166970	86.03

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
4.	Assam	—	—	—	0	0	#DIV/0!	4581222	3373915	73.85
5.	Bihar	17748487	18159257	102.31	17748487	18438438	103.99	17748487	18700614	105.36
6.	Chandigarh	—	—	—	115230	116081	100.74	115230	122796	106.57
7.	Chhattisgarh	—	—	—	3201454	3195600	99.82	3201454	3259345	101.81
8.	D&N Haveli	—	—	—	31761	32445	102.15	31761	33550	105.63
9.	Daman & Diu	—	—	—	16002	17892	111.81	17847	19359	108.47
10.	Delhi	2274803	2496245	109.73	2274803	2569126	112.94	2274803	2630643	115.64
11.	Goa	—	—	—	123630	124143	100.41	125716	126644	100.74
12.	Gujarat	2667039	2688221	100.79	7219409	7207885	99.84	7219409	7345087	101.74
13.	Haryana	—	—	—	3301540	3670284	111.17	3387824	3798927	112.13
14.	Himachal Pradesh	—	—	—	698771	688915	98.59	698771	697513	99.82
15.	Jammu & Kashmir	—	—	—	1545530	1595267	103.22	1544622	1661204	107.55
16.	Jharkhand	947843	1011380	106.70	4629078	4823376	104.20	2951439	498411	166.31
17.	Karnataka	1820437	2325829	127.76	7064845	7148442	101.18	7108773	7148859	100.59
18.	Kerala	—	—	—	2932313	2902281	98.98	2932943	2935426	100.08
19.	Lakshadweep	—	—	—	6465	6529	100.99	6853	6853	100.00
20.	Madhya Pradesh	—	—	—	9386567	10152826	108.16	9374095	10248803	109.31
21.	Maharashtra	4461638	4343170	97.34	12028322	11801047	98.11	12028322	11974303	99.55
22.	Manipur	—	—	—	332940	327250	98.29	332940	336072	100.94
23.	Meghalaya	—	—	—	388386	345428	88.94	388386	369128	95.04
24.	Mizoram	—	—	—	110818	112177	101.23	112187	113970	101.59
25.	Nagaland	—	—	—	237298	230128	96.98	237298	228912	96.47
26.	Orissa	—	—	—	4695239	4655168	99.15	4695459	4729842	100.73
27.	Pondicherry	—	—	—	94142	101152	107.45	94142	103921	110.39
28.	Punjab	—	—	—	3587792	3595094	100.20	3587792	3639390	101.44
29.	Rajashtan	—	—	—	10733032	10657035	101.16	10733032	11148849	103.87
30.	Sikkim	—	—	—	71190	72401	101.70	71190	70250	98.68
31.	Tamil Nadu	—	—	—	7204242	7304335	101.39	7204242	7545105	104.73
32.	Tripura	—	—	—	405500	398164	98.19	405440	411895	101.59
33.	Uttaranchal	—	—	—	1325264	1331919	100.50	1327507	1350523	101.73
34.	Uttar Pradesh	32986683	33918056	102.82	32986483	34394247	104.27	32986483	33948374	102.92
35.	West Bengal	9277354	9103866	98.13	9277354	9158595	98.72	9277354	9395182	101.27
	Total	72184284	74046024	102.58	153901544	158150978	102.76	156928678	163250648	104.03

Statement-II**State Wise Polio Cases 2002**

Sl. No.	Name of the State/UT	Wild Polio virus 02
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	0
2.	A&N Islands	0
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	0
4.	Assam	0
5.	Bihar	120
6.	Chandigarh	1
7.	Chhattisgarh	1
8.	D & N Haveli	0
9.	Daman & Diu	0
10.	Delhi	25
11.	Goa	0
12.	Gujarat	24
13.	Haryana	36
14.	Himachal Pradesh	0
15.	Jammu & Kashmir	1
16.	Jharkhand	12
17.	Karnataka	0
18.	Kerala	0
19.	Lakshadweep	0
20.	Madhya Pradesh	20
21.	Maharashtra	6
22.	Manipur	0
23.	Meghalaya	0
24.	Mizoram	0
25.	Nagaland	0
26.	Orissa	4
27.	Pondicherry	0
28.	Punjab	2

1	2	3
29.	Rajasthan	36
30.	Sikkim	0
31.	Tamil Nadu	0
32.	Tripura	0
33.	Uttaranchal	14
34.	Uttar Pradesh	1232
35.	West Bengal	48
Total		1582

*[English]***Stoppage of Samjhauta Express**

187. SHRI RAMJIVAN SINGH:
SHRI DINESH CHANDRA YADAV:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Pakistan has recently discontinued the service of Samjhauta Express, the only international link between the two countries;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI VINOD KHANNA): (a) to (c) Following the terrorist attack on Indian Parliament on December 13, 2001 and in the absence of any effective steps by Pakistan to end cross border infiltration and terrorism, Government of India had terminated the services of Samjhauta Express with effect from 1st January, 2002.

*[Translation]***Stoppage of Funds to CRIBR**

188. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have recently stopped grants to the Centre for Research on Indo-Bangladesh Relations (CRIBR), Kolkata;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the names of such other organisations which are being funded by the Government at present alongwith yearly grant provided to them during the last three years; and

(d) the extent to which they have been successful in fulfilling the objectives for which they have been set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI VINOD KHANNA): (a) and (b) Yes. The Government conducts periodic evaluations of the grants being made to the Centre. Accordingly, it was decided to reduce the grant in phases and finally terminate it.

(c) and (d) (i) Centre for Advance Studies of India at the University of Pennsylvania, (CASI) USA, to whom a recurring annual grant of Rs. 2 lakh is being provided since 1992-93 was established by the University of Pennsylvania, USA, with a view to linking American and Indian academics, professional and policy makers for potential scholarly, economic, technological and political co-operation. The grant is meant to be a token of our appreciation of the Centre's contribution towards generating better awareness of India in the United States.

(ii) The Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA), New Delhi, is being funded by the Government of India since its take over in Sept. 2000. Details of the disbursement of grant to ICWA, New Delhi, during the last two years is as follows:-

Year	Amount
2000-2001	Rs. 80,00,000/-
2001-2002	Rs. 1,34,36,000/-
2002-2003 (Up to 14.02.2003)	Rs. 90,00,000/-

The ICWA premises are being used to hold important seminars and conferences on subjects that are of interest and relevance to our foreign policy. The ICWA Library is now fully functional and its membership has gone up. New books have been purchased, and old books and periodicals got bound. The Council has revived the publications, India Quarterly and Foreign Affairs Reports.

(iii) The Indian Society of International Law (ISIL) is currently being provided with a recurring

annual maintenance grant of Rs. 5 lakh for the purpose of maintaining the area occupied by the Ministry of External Affairs in ISIL building, 9 Bhagwan Dass Road, New Delhi.

Guidelines for Expired/Damaged Medicines

189. SHRIMATI PRABHA RAU:
SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR:

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

(a) whether the Indian Drugs Manufacturers Association (IDMA) has since finalized guidelines for the disposal of expired and rejected medicines;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons for not formulating such guidelines; and

(d) by when guidelines are likely to be formulated?

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

(b) to (d) As per the information available from Indian Drug Manufacturers' Association, Mumbai, the Association has formulated and published on 21 December, 2002 "Guidelines on Disposal of Date Expired/Damaged/Rejected Medicines" meant for health and safety of the consumers as well as to prohibit their recycling by unscrupulous elements. The Association has formulated a three tier plan to help in prevention and control of such practices at three separate locations which includes, manufacturing location, distribution/sale location and at consumer end. The guidelines further envisage that appropriate Standard Operating Procedures would be followed for destruction of date expired/damaged/rejected medicines under the supervision of a designated responsible individual of the management. The designated individual would further record all details and certify the destruction activity.

[English]

India's Candidature for Security Council

190. DR. M.P. JAISWAL:
SHRIMATI RAJKUMARI RATNA SINGH:
DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA:
SHRI SHRINIWAS PATIL:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the permanent members of UN Security Council who have supported the candidature of India for its permanent membership and the countries which have not expressed their opinion in this regard;

(b) whether India has approached these countries for their support; and

(c) if so, their response in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) to (c) There is growing momentum in support of India's candidature for permanent membership of the UN Security Council. Many developed and developing countries, including permanent members of the UN Security Council, have indicated support for India's candidature for permanent membership of the UN Security Council in the UN and/or bilaterally. The issue of support for India's candidature for permanent membership of the UN Security Council is taken up with all countries, including permanent members of the Security Council, in our bilateral interactions.

[Translation]

Surrender of BSNL Land-Line Phones

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

(a) whether a large number of land-line subscribers of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) have surrendered their phones during the year 2001-2002 and 2002-03;

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

(c) the steps being taken to retrieve the situation; and

(d) the extent of revenue loss as a result thereof, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The State wise details of surrenders of telephones are given in the statement enclosed. The main reasons for surrenders are as under:-

(i) Switching over from land line to cellular & WLL phones. Perhaps the subscribers want to avail these recently introduced services because of their additional features/facilities.

(ii) Surrendering of extra telephones due to improved reliability of phones.

(iii) Downturn in economy.

(c) To retrieve the situation BSNL is now providing additional phone plus facilities free of cost. Also some other facilities which are now available on cellular phones are also being planned for land line subscribers.

(d) Despite the surrender of telephones, the subscriber base of BSNL has increased by 53 lakhs in 2001-02 and 29.25 lakhs this year so far. The land lines getting spare due to surrender of phones are being utilized to give telephone connections to other wait listed applicants. Thus, there is no revenue loss in real terms.

Statement

State-wise details of disconnections of telephones

Sl. No	Name of States	*DELs disconnected during 2001-02	*DELs disconnected from 1.4.2002 to 31.1.2003
1	2	3	4
1.	Andaman & Nicobar	1381	1115
2.	Andhra Pradesh	289154	252376
3.	Assam	6112	7652
4.	Bihar	38176	12148
5.	Chhattisgarh	13933	14359
6.	Gujarat	136512	145697
7.	Haryana	15788	25711
8.	Himachal Pradesh	3184	4949
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	2946	6755
10.	Jharkhand	5009	14256
11.	Karnataka	216753	151399
12.	Kerala	43778	45278

1	2	3	4
13.	Madhya Pradesh	56374	45417
14.	Maharashtra	132722	205800
15.	Goa	3208	5607
	Total for Maharashtra Circle	135930	211407
16.	Meghalaya	1822	1294
17.	Mizoram	226	772
18.	Tripura	730	2242
	Total for North East-I Circle	2778	4308
19.	Arunachal Pradesh	6066	2890
20.	Manipur	4245	2022
21.	Nagaland	4854	2312
	Total for North East-II Circle	15165	7224
22.	Orissa	15536	36648
23.	Punjab	23310	45956
24.	Rajasthan	42681	49708
25.	Tamilnadu Circle	139981	201072
	Chennai Telecom	33860	58709
	Total for Tamilnadu	173841	259781
26.	Uttaranchal	9472	10093
27.	Uttar Pradesh (E) Circle	28261	66403
	Uttar Pradesh (W) Circle	37088	29937
	Total for Uttar Pradesh	65349	96340
28.	West Bengal Circle	8658	8999
	Kolkata Telecom	31558	81474
	Total for West Bengal	40216	90473
29.	Sikkim	34	11
	BSNL	1353412	1539061

Note:-*DELS disconnected contains figures for surrender of phones by subscribers on their own and phones disconnected by the Department due to non payment.

[English]

Trauma Centre at Kozhikode Medical College

192. SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any proposals from the Government of Kerala in January, 2002 for financial assistance to set up a Trauma Centre at Medical College Kozhikode;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

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

(d) the reasons, if any, for delay in taking decision in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (d) A proposal from Government of Kerala seeking financial assistance for upgradation & strengthening of emergency facilities at Medical College, Kozhikode was received and an amount of Rs. 142.00 lakhs already been sanctioned to Government of Kerala on 11.2.2003.

Homeopathic Treatment for HIV Patients

193. SHRI S. MURUGESAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Council for Research in Homoeopathy has claimed that results of trials conducted on humans with HIV have showed overall improvement;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (c) Central Council for Research in Homoeopathy (CCRH) has been studying the role of Homeopathic therapy in the clinical management of HIV, in its units at Mumbai, Chennai and New Delhi since 1989. Though the studies are suggestive of overall benefit to the patients, the results are as yet inconclusive.

Development of Communication Infrastructure

194. SHRI GUTHA SUKENDER REDDY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have initiated any action to develop communication infrastructure with Myanmar;

(b) if so, the details of the steps proposed to be taken towards the direction; and

(c) the benefits likely to be derived therefrom particularly in North-Eastern region?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI VINOD KHANNA): (a) and (b) In order to develop better connectivity with Myanmar, India has taken up several mutually beneficial cross border projects. India has upgraded the 160 Km. long Tamu-Kalemyo-Kalewa road across Manipur. GOI has also undertaken to maintain the road for a period of 6 years. We have also agreed to build the Rih-Tiddim and Rih-Falam road sections across Mizoram at the request of Myanmar. A detailed project report is being prepared for a multi-modal transport project involving development of a highway from Kaletwa to Indo-Myanmar border at Mizoram and upgradation of Sittwe port in Myanmar.

In the area of telecommunications, a proposal to establish hotlines between two banks of India and Myanmar in the border areas is under consideration. The establishment of telephone link will help in the operationalization of L/C business and streamline the trade transactions. ISRO has assisted Myanmar in setting up of a Data Processing Centre in Myanmar for remote sensing applications and agreed to supply satellite data free of charge for two years.

(c) These infrastructure projects will help build long term linkages between our North-Eastern States and Myanmar and will help promote trade, travel and people to people contacts.

[Translation]

Medical Facilities in Hospitals of Bihar

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

(a) whether the Government of Bihar has sent any proposal to the Union Government for providing medical facilities available in AIIMS at some medical colleges in the State; and

(b) if so, the decision taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) and (b) While there is no proposal from the Government of Bihar of providing medical facilities available in AIIMS at any of Medical Colleges in State of Bihar a proposal for setting up of a super speciality hospital for Nethrology and Cardiology as a branch of AIIMS has been received from the State of Bihar. The matter is under consideration.

Cardiac Surgery

196. SHRIMATI RENU KUMARI:
SHRI RAMCHANDRA PASWAN:

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

(a) whether the treatment of cardiac surgery in the Safdarjung Hospital is cheaper than that in the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS);

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the percentage of success in the cases of cardiac surgery done at Safdarjung Hospital as well as G.B. Pant Hospital is far lower than that of AIIMS;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps being taken by the Government to improve the quality of cardiac treatment at Safdarjung Hospital and to depute efficient team of cardiac surgeons in this hospital?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (e) The treatment of cardiac surgery in the Safdarjung Hospital is cheaper than in the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) because a number of components of medical health care including certain medicines and disposable items are provided there free of cost to the patients. The percentage of success of cardiac surgery in SJ Hospital is as good as in any good cardiac centre in the country including AIIMS. In so far as, G.B. Pant Hospital is concerned, it has been intimated that the mortality rate in various cardiac surgeries ranges from 3 to 10%.

[English]

Working Group Report on E-Governance

197. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government have examined the report submitted by the working group on convergence and e-governance of the Planning Commission;
- (b) if so, the main recommendations of the report;
- (c) the action taken or proposed to be taken by the Government thereon;
- (d) whether the Government propose to set up a National Institute of Smart Governance;
- (e) if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) if not, the alternative arrangements taken by the Government in this regard?

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

(b) In the report recommendations have been made regarding guiding principles for Governmental intervention and public funding. These are:

Government should act as a facilitator and create conditions for the growth of Convergence applications and good governance through the application of Electronics and Informatics.

Development of technology should be done at public expense only in areas of gaps or if the cost is disproportionately high in acquiring technology from elsewhere.

Government should promote setting up of robust backbone with ample bandwidth which shall be available to the content providers/distributors and network service providers.

Government may fund test-bed projects to test the applications specially in the field of delivery of government services and information electronically.

Since Convergence has a bearing on E-government, the projects funded from public resources should be such

that they help in tackling the digital divide' and taking the benefits of IT to the common man.

The projects taken should aim at creating a knowledge society and generate intellectual and cultural enrichment.

(c) The Report submitted by the Working Group on Convergence & E-Governance for the Tenth Five Year Plan (2002-07) has been duly taken into consideration for formulating the Tenth Five Year Plan for the Information Technology sector including E-Governance. While approving the Tenth Five Year Plan, the National Development Council (NDC) has directed that four Empowered Sub-Committees be set up. One of the Sub-Committees envisaged is on Governance Reforms including E-Governance.

(d) to (f) National Institute of Smart Government (NISG) has been incorporated as a Section 25 (not for profit) Company under the Indian Company Act 1956. It is a Joint venture of Government, NASSCOM (National Association of Software Service Companies) and the Private Sector. NISG is expected to play a pivotal role in channeling private sector resources and competencies into the national e-Governance efforts.

Finalisation of New Formulary for Drugs

198. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that the supply of required quantities of medicines to the CGHS dispensaries and other Government sectors i.e. CRPF, BSF etc. has been adversely affected since 1998 due to non-financialization of new formulary for drugs; and

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

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) There has been some decline in the supply of medicines to CGHS and other indentors due to non finalisation of formulary.

(b) To overcome the shortage, the CGHS had appointed authorised local chemists for supply of medicines to the CGHS beneficiaries. CGHS has also prepared a list of 65 commonly indented medicines in addition to the 138 Generic medicines available in the formulary of the Government of NCT of Delhi. As per the list containing 203 drug items prepared by CGHS,

was decided by the Government to procure the medicines through Hospital Services Constancy Corporation (HCC) which is a Government of India undertaking. The Government has also approved formulary for generic drugs of the Government of NCT of Delhi for procurement of drugs by the Medical Store Organisation.

Deepening of Ports

199. SHRI P. MOHAN: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to take up deepening of major ports to facilitate merchant as well as passenger ships to have zero risk access;

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

(c) whether any new ports have been identified for development with a view to introduce future seafaring between India and Srilanka; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(a) and (b) It is the endeavour of the Government to improve the draught in the major ports with a view to receiving large size ships, keeping in view the availability of resources and the traffic profile. The following schemes involving capital dredging at major ports have been included in the Tenth Five Year Plan (2002-07) of the Port Sector:

- (i) **Kolkata Port Trust:** River Regulatory Scheme for improvement of draught in Hooghly Estuary.
- (ii) **Mumbai Port Trust:** Deepening of approach channel upto off-shore container berths planned within the port area.
- (iii) **Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust:** Deepening and Widening of Main Harbour and JN Port Channel.
- (iv) **Chennai Port Trust:** Deepening of Dr. Ambedkar Dock.
- (v) **Cochin Port Trust:** Deepening of approach channel and in front of container terminal berth.
- (vi) **Visakhapatnam Port Trust:** (a) Deepening of Port Waterways; and (b) Dredging of inner harbour including dredging of harbour basin and entrance channel.

(vii) **Kandla Port Trust:** (a) Deepening & Widening of Sogal Channel; (b) Deepening of Approaches to Sogal Channel; (c) Deepening of Navigational Channel in the northern portion of Kandla Creek; (d) Deepening alongside cargo jetties; and (e) Deepening of navigational channel in the southern portion of Kandla Creek.

(viii) **Mormugao Port Trust:** Deepening of the approach channel, berth no. 8 (Oil berth) and berth no. 9 (Iron ore berth).

(ix) **Paradip Port Trust:** Deepening of Approach Channel.

(x) **New Mangalore Port Trust:** (a) Deepening the Channel and Lagoon; and (b) Improvement, Strengthening and Deepening of General Cargo Berths.

(xi) **Tuticorin Port Trust:** (a) Dredging in front of cargo berth no. 8; and (b) Dredging the Basin to cater to the needs of vessels having draught of 12.80 mtrs. for optimization of Inner Harbour.

(xii) **Ennore Port Limited:** Deepening of the Approach Channel and Port basin.

(c) and (d) No new major port has been identified for development.

Disposal of Bio-Medical Waste

200. SHRI AMBAREESHA:
SHRI AKBOR ALI KHANDOKER:

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

(a) whether it has come to the notice of the Government that many Nursing Homes, Private and Government Hospitals in the metro cities particularly in Delhi and Kolkata are violating rules of Bio-medical Waste Management Act, 2001;

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

(c) whether the Government have any mechanism to monitor that these Hospitals are strictly adhering to the norms laid down in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the action taken by the Government against the erring Hospitals?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (d) Health being a State subject, these matters fall within

the purview of the respective State Governments. The respective State Pollution Control Boards/Pollution Control Committee are the prescribed authorities for implementation of the Bio Medical Waste (Management and Handling) Rules, 1998. So far as Central Government Hospitals are concerned, these hospitals are taking necessary steps to meet the requirement of these Rules.

Space Agreements

201. SHRI CHADA SURESH REDDY:
DR. (SHRIMATI) SUDHA YADAV:
SHRI Y.G. MAHAJAN:
SHRI E.M. SUDRASANA NATCHIAPPAN:
SHRI Y.V. RAO:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the ISRO has signed agreements with Singapore, Israel and other countries to launch satellites;

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating salient features of the agreements;

(c) the details of joint long term space research programmes with these countries; and

(d) the number of Indian and foreign satellites launched by the ISRO till date and the foreign exchange earned therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) ANTRIX Corporation Limited, the marketing arm of the Department of Space, has signed an agreement with Nanyang Technological University (NTU), Singapore to launch a micro satellite.

(b) The Nanyang Technological University satellite, X-Sat, is a 100 kg class microsatellite to be launched by the Indian Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) during 2005-06. The agreement provides for testing support for X-Sat and launch on PSLV.

(c) The agreement with NTU, Singapore is for launch services. ISRO has long term co-operative agreements with 23 countries including Israel. These joint, long-term, research programmes are aimed at peaceful use of outer space.

(d) ISRO has so far launched 35 Indian Satellites and 4 microsatellites for international customers. The total foreign exchange earned through the launch of these four microsatellites is about Rs. 10 crores.

Marginal Fixed License Fee

202. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have sought the opinion of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India to allow an unlimited number of mobile players in a circle with a marginal fixed license fee;

(b) if so, whether the Government have recently requested TRAI go give its recommendations on the subject;

(c) if so, whether the recommendations have been submitted; and

(d) if so, by when a final decision in this regard is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) and (b) Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has been requested to give their recommendations for grant of additional licences for Cellular Mobile Telephone Service in terms of New Telecom Policy-1999, which, inter-alia, stipulates that the entry of more operators in a service area shall be based on the recommendations of TRAI who will review this as required and no later than every two years.

(c) No, Sir.

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

[Translation]

Extradition of Mumbai Bomb Blast Accused

203. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Bureau of Investigation has made repeated efforts for the extradition of the main accused of Mumbai bomb blast case to India;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI VINOD KHANNA): This question pertains to Central Bureau of Investigation. However, the information is as follows:

(a) Yes.

(b) A request for his extradition/deportation was submitted to the UAE authorities in the year 1994.

(c) No response has been received from the UAE authorities in regard to his arrest/apprehension.

[English]

Reimbursement of Pending Medical Bills

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

(a) whether the Government have made reimbursement of all the pending bills of patients under the Central Government Health Scheme (CGHS) for medicines purchased from the market which were not available in Dispensaries, during the strike period, as per the direction given by the Delhi High Court recently;

(b) if not, the reasons for delay;

(c) the when these bills are likely to be cleared; and

(d) total number of Bills still pending for the month of December, 2002 and January, 2003?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (c) The receipt of medical reimbursement bills of CGHS pensioner beneficiaries is an ongoing process and bills are still being received by the CGHS(HQ) from the beneficiaries/dispensaries. As on date, 80,012 medical reimbursement claims totalling Rs. 4.50 crore pertaining to pensioner beneficiaries under CGHS Delhi have been cleared during the current financial year and as such there is no delay in clearance of the medical reimbursement bills by the CGHS.

(d) All the bills received from the beneficiaries for the months of December, 2002 and January, 2003 have been cleared by the CGHS.

New Technology to Telephones

205. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have started a new technology to improve the rural telephone system;

(b) if so, the number of villages in Maharashtra especially in Pune district wherein the new technology has been made available;

(c) the number of villages wherein new technology telephones has been installed by December, 2002, in Maharashtra; and

(d) the time by which the Technology will be introduced in the remaining villages?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) For improving telecom services and providing new telephone connections in the rural areas WLL technology is being deployed.

(b) and (c) The information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House.

(d) WLL systems have already been deployed in 22 SDCA's (Short Distance Charging Areas). The remaining SDCAs would be covered progressively during 2003-2004 subject to the availability of funds.

Guidelines for Disinvestment

206. SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO:
SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN:

Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the objective of disinvestment, the policy guidelines and terms and conditions governing disinvestment;

(b) the criteria laid down for identification of PSUs for disinvestment;

(c) the number of PSUs divested, so far the proceeds therefrom and the purpose for which it was used;

(d) whether proper assessment of the actual worth of the PSUs and efforts to market and attract good bidders is not made;

(e) if so, whether the Government propose to modify the current procedure for disinvestment;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) if not, the reaction of the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) The objectives of disinvestment are to unlock the true productive potential of PSUs, improve the efficiency of their operations through induction of private capital and management, enhance the productive use of their assets, create new assets, generate employment, insulate government finances from the commercial and business risk associated with owning a company, introduce a separation between the regulatory functions of government and the production and supply of services and products and to harness additional resources for the government for retiring public debt and other purposes.

The policy on disinvestment has evolved over time. Guidelines have been framed for the procedure to be followed for disinvestment (April 2001), appointment of Advisors (July, 2001), eligibility of bidders (July, 2001) and valuation for the strategic sale of central public sector undertakings (August 2002) and these guidelines are available on the website of the Ministry <divest@nic.in>. Guidelines for the disinvestment of natural asset companies are being framed. On March 16, 1999 Government classified PSUs into "Strategic" and "Non-Strategic" categories. "Non-Strategic" industries can be disinvested upto a level of 26%, or lower, if necessary, on a case-by-cases basis. Government also generally favours strategic sale to other options for disinvestment since this method ensures the highest realisable value for shares being disinvested and has shown good results in terms of improving the efficiency of privatized PSUs.

The terms and conditions vary with each case of disinvestment depending on the nature of the transaction, the financial condition of the PSU, market conditions and investor interest. However, in the case of strategic sale,

the government transfers management control to the strategic buyer but retains specific residual powers, for a specified period, to safeguard the interest of employees and to ensure the productive use of assets.

(b) All "Non-Strategic" PSUs, except those PSUs like ONGC, IOC, and GAIL where a specific decision has been taken not to disinvest beyond 51% and Oil India Limited, can be disinvested to a level of 26% or lower if necessary. The decision to disinvest is taken on the basis of the recommendations of the Disinvestment Commission and the Ministry of Disinvestment after-ministerial consultations.

(c) The details of PSUs disinvested so far and the realization from each transaction are given in the enclosed statement I and II. The proceeds from disinvestment are deposited in the Consolidated Fund of India. It is not possible to specifically identify where these funds have been used. Government has announced on the floor of the both Houses of Parliament on 9th December, 2002 that in order to provide complete visibility to the Government's continued commitment of utilization of disinvestment proceeds for social and infrastructure sectors, it would set up a Disinvestment Proceeds Fund. This Fund will be used for financing fresh employment opportunities and investment, and for retirement of public debt.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) The procedure for disinvestment has evolved over a period of time and is continuously reviewed, updated and refined on the basis of experience gained. It has also gone through the process of judicial review in the context of several cases relating to disinvestment and in all such cases, the procedure followed has been upheld.

(f) and (g) The procedure for disinvestment has been evolved with the objective of ensuring transparency, participative decision-making, fair play, administrative simplicity and consistency. Modifications are made, if necessary, to achieve these objectives.

Statement-I

Details of disinvestment and amount realised through sale of minority shares in the market from 1991-1992 to 1998-1999

S.No.	Name of the Company	1991-92	1992-93	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1.	Andrew Yule	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
2.	Bharat Earth Movers Ltd.	—	—	48.270	—	—	—	—

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
3.	Bharat Electronic Ltd.	—	—	47.169	—	—	—	—
4.	Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd.	—	8.21	301.336	—	—	—	—
5.	Bharat Petroleum Corp. Ltd.	—	331.18	—	—	—	—	—
6.	Bongaigaon Refineries & Petrochem. Ltd.	—	45.40	—	—	—	—	—
7.	CMC Ltd.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
8.	Cochin Refineries Ltd.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
9.	Dredging Corp. of India Ltd.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10.	Fertilisers Chem. (Travancore) Ltd.	—	1.30	—	—	—	—	—
11.	HMT Ltd.	—	23.38	—	—	—	—	—
12.	Hindustan Cables Ltd.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
13.	Hindustan Copper Ltd.	—	8.07	—	—	—	—	—
14.	Hindustan Organic Chemical Ltd.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15.	Hindustan Petroleum Corp. Ltd.	—	331.85	563.111	—	—	—	—
16.	Hindustan Photofilms Mfg. Co. Ltd.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
17.	Hindustan Zinc Ltd.	—	81.55	—	—	—	—	—
18.	Indian Petrochemicals Corp. Ltd.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
19.	Indian Railway Contt. Company Ltd.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
20.	Indian Telephone Industries Ltd.	—	15.63	—	—	—	—	—
21.	Madras Refineries Ltd. (Chennai Petroleum Corp. Ltd.)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
22.	Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Ltd.	—	—	1322.168	135.899	—	902.00	—
23.	Minerals & Metals Trading Corp. Ltd.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
24.	National Aluminium Company Ltd.	—	244.20	0.096	—	—	—	—

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
25.	National Fertilisers Ltd.	—	0.72	0.283	—	—	—	—
26.	National Mineral Development Corp. Ltd.	—	17.88	—	—	—	—	—
27.	Neyveli Lignite Corp.	—	70.43	—	—	—	—	—
28.	Rashtriya Chemicals & Fertilisers Ltd.	—	30.36	—	—	—	—	—
29.	Shipping Corp. of India Ltd.	—	—	28.076	—	—	—	—
30.	State Trading Corp.	—	2.25	—	—	—	—	—
31.	Steel Authority of India Ltd.	—	700.10	22.661	13.303	—	—	—
32.	Videsh Sanchar Nigam Ltd.	—	—	—	—	379.67	—	783.68
33.	Container Corp. of India	—	—	99.714	14.118	—	—	221.65
34.	Indian Oil Corp. Ltd.	—	—	1033.646	—	—	—	1208.96
35.	Oil and Natural Gas Corp.	—	—	1051.516	5.156	—	—	2484.96
36.	Engineers India Ltd.	—	—	67.527	—	—	—	—
37.	Gas Authority of India Ltd.	—	—	194.120	—	—	—	671.86
38.	India Tourism Dev. Corp.	—	—	51.985	—	—	—	—
39.	Kudremukh Iron Ore Comp. Ltd.	—	—	11.399	—	—	—	—
40.	Modern Food Industries Ltd.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
41.	BALCO (financial restructuring)/Disinvestment	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total		3038.00	1912.51	4843.077	168.476	379.67	902.00	5371.11

As in 1991-92 the shares were sold in bundles the amount realised PSU-wise is not available. For 1993-94 the data is nil.

Statement-II

Details of Disinvestment and amount realised through strategic sale and related transactions since 1999-2000 to till date

Rs. in crore

Sr.No	Name	Realisation
1	2	3
1a.	Modern Food Industries Ltd. (MFIL)	105
1b.	MFIL-Phase II	44
2.	Bharat Aluminium Company Ltd.	826.5^

1	2	3
3.	CMC	152
4.	HTL	55
5.	Lagan Jute Machinery Corporation	2.53
	ITDC-19 HOTELS	
6.	Agra Ashok	3.61
7.	Bodhgaya Ashok	1.81
8.	Hassan Ashok	2.27
9.	TBABR Mamallapuram	6.13
10.	Madurai Ashok	4.97
11.	Bangalore Ashok*	39.41 (up-front fee); (4.11-MGAP)
12.	Qutab	34.46
13.	Lodhi	71.93
14.	LVPH, Udaipur	6.77
15.	Manali Ashok	3.65
16.	KABR Kovalam	40.39
17.	Aurangabad Ashok	16.50
18.	Airport Kolkata Ashok	19.39
19.	Khajuraho Ashok	2.19
20.	Varanasi Ashok	8.38
21.	Kanishka	92.37
22.	Indraprastha (AYN)	43.39
23.	Chandigarh Hotel Project	17.27
24.	Ranjit	29.20
	Sub-total	444.09
	HCI-3 HOTELS	
25.	Centaur Hotel Juhu, Bombay	153
26.	Indo Hokke Hotels Ltd.	6.51
27.	Centaur Hotel Airport, Mumbai	83
	Sub-total	242.51
28.	IBP	1153.68

1	2	3
29.	Videsh Sanchar Nigam Ltd. (VSNL)	3689 [^]
30.	State Trading Corporation of India (STC)	40 ^{^^}
31.	MMTC Ltd.	60 ^{^^}
32.	Paradeep Phosphates Ltd.	151.70
33.	JESSOP	18.18 ^{**}
34 (a)	Hindustan Zinc Ltd. (HZL)	445
34. (b)	Hindustan Zinc Ltd. (HZL) [@]	6.18
35.	Maruti Udyog Ltd. (MUL)	2424 ^{^^} ^{**}
36.	Indian Petrochemicals Corporation Ltd. (IPCL)	1490.84
Grand Total		11350.21

* Including NPV of future earnings on MGAP & lease rentals ** expected [^] including dividend & divi. Tax ^{^^} minimum amount to be received over 3 tranches; could go up to Rs. 3158 cr.

Companies at Sr. No. 5,23,25,26,27 & 33 are subsidiaries. Sale at 33 to be approved by Government/BIFR ^{^^}The receipt is on account of transfer of cash reserves. [@] Disinvestment in favour of employees.

WLL System in Gujarat

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

(a) whether the Government have received any proposal for providing WLL system to facilitate expansion of telecom network in the desert areas of Kutch/Saurashtra regions of Gujarat;

(ii) In Saurashtra, WLL has been planned as follows:

SSA	Working	Expansion	Additional Lines
Jamnagar	500	500	7750
Junagarh	—	—	14250
Rajkot	1000	—	19000

(c) The WLL system is likely to be made available to the consumers in 2003-2004 subject to availability of resources.

Financial Assistance to NGOs

208. SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when WLL system is likely to be made available to the consumers in the above areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) and (b) 3500 WLL lines are already working in 7 talukas of Bhuj. Further expansion of this network by 3000 lines is planned. An additional 9000 lines are also planned at all other talukas of Bhuj.

(a) whether the Govt. are extending assistance to the NGOs to participate in health and family welfare programmes;

(b) if so, whether a number of NGOs have been working on the Reproductive and Child health programmes also;

(c) if so, the details and the number of NGOs which obtained financial assistance from the Government during the Ninth Five Year Plan; and

(d) the details of NGOs which utilized the assistance granted during the above plan period, State-wise?

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

Sir. The Department of Family Welfare provides assistance to NGOs under RCH Programme. Funds to NGOs are released on projects basis under different schemes namely the Mother NGO scheme, Support to Gender Issues, Innovative scheme, Baby Friendly Hospital Initiative scheme etc. Under all these schemes, NGOs have been provided assistance directly by the Department of Family Welfare. The State-wise details of funds disbursed and utilized by NGOs under various schemes during the Ninth Five Year Plan is given in the statement enclosed.

Statement

Mother NGO Scheme

(Amount in Rupees)

S.No	Name of MNGO	State	1997-1998	1998-1999	1999-2000	2000-2001	2001-2002
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Ekalavya Memorial League, Prakasam	Andhra	—	—	1,000,000	800,000	1,000,00
2.	Rahul's Med. & Health Services Society, Hyderabad	Andhra	—	1,000,000	960,000	1,960,000	4,000,000
3.	Society for National Integration through Rural Development, Prakasam	Andhra	—	1,000,000	960,000	1,961,000	2,234,000
4.	St. Peter's Multipurpose Health Workers (Female), Guntur	Andhra	—	—	1,960,000	960,000	—
5.	HEADS, ANANTPUR	Andhra	—	1,000,000	925,000	1,795,000	750,000
6.	Social Action for Social Dev. Hyderabad		—	1,000,000	960,000	1,760,000	1,500,000
7.	National Education Minorities Society, Guntur	Andhra	—	—	800,000	—	—
8.	Arunachal Pradesh VHA	Arunachal	—	—	—	1,000,000	—
9.	Rural Women Upliftment Association of Assam	Assam	—	1,000,000	—	—	1,600,000
10.	Voluntary Health Association of Assam, Guwahati	Assam	—	—	1,000,000	1,893,938	—
11.	Deshbandhu Club, Cachar	Assam	—	—	1,200,000	1,200,000	1,855,000
12.	Bihar VHA, Patna	Bihar	—	1,000,000	960,000	1,960,000	—

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
13.	Scientific Education Prom. & Med. Aid Foundation, Patna	Bihar	—	1,000,000	960,000	1,960,000	1,600,000
14.	Millat Educational Society, Samastipur	Bihar	—	1,000,000	—	600,000	—
15.	Mahila Bal Uttan Kendra, Samastipur	Bihar	—	1,000,000	—	—	—
16.	Adarsh Mahila Shilp Kala Kendra, Patna	Bihar	—	—	—	1,600,000	—
17.	ADITHI, Patna	Bihar	—	—	—	180,000	—
18.	Bhagwan Budha Vikas Seva Samiti, Patna	Bihar	—	—	—	—	400,000
19.	Arthick Atma Nirbharta Samajik Vikas Abhikaran, Patna	Bihar	—	—	—	—	400,000
20.	Daudnagar Organization For Rural Development, Aurangabad	Bihar	—	—	—	—	1,200,000
21.	Rajendra Institute of Education & Social Welfare	Bihar	—	—	—	—	1,200,000
22.	Centre for Labour Education & Social Research (CLEAR)	Chhattisgarh	—	1,500,000	2,500,000	—	2,500,000
23.	Utthan-Centre for Sustainable Development and Poverty Alleviation, Allahabad	Chhattisgarh & MP & UP	—	2,000,000	2,500,000	2,500,000	2,500,000
24.	INDCARE Charitable Trust	Delhi	—	—	1,500,000	—	1,013,890
25.	SOSVA, North	Delhi, Chandigarh, Haryana, Punjab	2,500,000	2,500,000	2,500,000	2,500,000	3,625,000
26.	Gujarat Voluntary Health Association, Ahmedabad	Gujarat	—	—	2,000,000	—	—
27.	Centre for Health Education Training & Nutrition Awareness (CHETNA)	Gujarat	—	—	2,000,000	1,000,000	876,997
28.	Family Planning Association of India, Ahmedabad.	Gujarat	—	—	—	—	1,200,000

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
29.	Samagra Vikas Trust, Amreli, Gujarat	Gujarat	—	—	—	—	1,000,000
30.	HP VHA	H.P.	—	—	—	2,000,000	—
31.	SUTRA	H.P.	—	—	—	1,200,000	—
32.	Nischal Foundation (SNS), Gurgaon (MNGO in H.P.)	H.P.	—	1,000,000	—	1,600,000	1,600,000
33.	SWACH Foundation, Panchkula	Haryana	—	2,500,000	2,500,000	—	2,489,464
34.	Haryana Navyuvak Kala Sangham	Haryana	—	—	—	400,000	—
35.	Valley Women Welfare Society, Srinagar	J & K	—	—	—	800,000	—
36.	J & K Ex-Services League, Jammu	J & K	—	1,000,000	—	1,000,000	1,000,000
37.	Kalamakari Centre Ploura, Jammu	J & K	—	1,500,000	—	1,405,509	—
38.	Krishi Gram Vikas Kendra	Jharkhand	—	—	—	1,600,000	—
39.	Gram Nirman Mandal, Nawada	Jharkhand	—	—	—	1,200,000	1,600,000
40.	Women in Social Action, Midnapore	Jharkhand	—	1,000,000	—	1,600,000	—
41.	Phooleen Mahila Chetna Vikas Kendra, Deoghar	Jharkhand	—	—	—	—	400,000
42.	Shantidoot, Nalanda	Jharkhand	—	—	—	—	400,000
43.	Karnataka Voluntary Health Association	Karnataka	—	—	2,500,000	—	—
44.	SOSVA, Karnataka	Karnataka	—	2,500,000	2,500,000	2,500,000	—
45.	St. John's Medical College, Bangalore	Karnataka	—	1,000,000	—	1,200,000	—
46.	Revensidheshwar Prasanna Education Society, Bidar	Karnataka	—	400,000	—	—	—
47.	Family Planning Association of India, Thiruvananthapuram	Kerala	—	—	1,500,000	—	1,500,000
48.	Kerala Voluntary Health Services, Kottayam	Kerala	—	1,000,000	—	1000,000	2,000,000
49.	CLEAR, Bilaspur	M.P.	—	1,500,000	2,500,000	—	—

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
50.	Sambhav, Gwalior	M.P.	—	1,500,000	1,500,000	499,000	—
51.	Sarvajanik Parivar Kalyan Evam Seva Samiti, Gwalior	M.P.	—	1,500,000	2,500,000	2,500,000	3,000,000
52.	Sanskar Shiksha Samiti,	M.P.	—	1,500,000	1,500,000	—	1,200,000
53.	Madhya Pradesh V.H.A., Indore	M.P.	—	—	2,000,000	500,000	1,900,000
54.	FPAI, Mumbai (MNGO in M.P.)	M.P.	2,500,000	2,500,000	2,468,000	—	2,500,000
55.	Medical Council Centre, Bhopal	M.P.	—	—	—	—	1,200,000
56.	Shri Parshwanath Bal Mandir Samiti, Indore,	M.P.	—	—	—	—	1,200,000
57.	Sevadham Trust, Pune	Maharashtra	—	2,000,000	2,500,000	2,000,000	—
58.	SOSVA, (STAPI), Pune	Maharashtra	2,500,000	2,500,000	2,500,000	2,500,000	1,900,000
59.	Pravara Medical Trust, Ahmednagar	Maharashtra	—	1,500,000	1,500,000	1,406,474	1,624,000
60.	Godavari Foundation, Jalgaon	Maharashtra	—	1,000,000	—	1,000,000	1,000,000
61.	Lamding Cherpur Homeopthic & Unani Association, Wangjing	Manipur	—	—	1,200,000	1,800,000	—
62.	Family Planning Association of India, Imphal	Manipur	—	—	1,200,000	1,894,052	—
63.	Nagaland VHA	Nagaland	—	—	—	1,500,000	—
64.	Orissa V.H.A., Bhubaneshwar	Orissa	—	2,000,000	2,500,000	1,000,000	3,000,000
65.	MY HEART, Bhubaneshwar	Orissa	—	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	—
66.	Orgnaisation for Social Change and Rural Development, (OSCARD), Bhubaneshwar	Orissa	—	—	1,200,000	—	—
67.	ISWAR	Orissa	—	—	—	400,000	—
68.	ASRA	Orissa	—	—	—	800,000	800,000
69.	Animal Welfare	Orissa	—	—	—	800,000	—
70.	Neelanchal Seva Pratishthan	Orissa	—	—	—	400,000	—
71.	PRAKALPA	Orissa	—	—	—	400,000	—
72.	Anchalika Kunjeswari Sanskrutika, Puri	Orissa	—	1,000,000	—	980,000	1,000,000

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
73.	NIAHRD, Cuttack	Orissa	—	—	—	—	800,000
74.	Bhoruka Charitable Trust, Jaipur	Rajasthan	—	2,000,000	1,500,000	—	1,700,000
75.	URMUL, Rural Health Research, Bikaner	Rajasthan	—	—	2,000,000	—	1,000,000
76.	Rajasthan Voluntary Health Association	Rajasthan	—	2,000,000	—	—	—
77.	CHETNA	Rajasthan	—	—	—	—	1,000,000
78.	Sikkim VHA	Sikkim	—	—	—	1,000,000	1,000,000
79.	Rural Education & Development Society, Sivagangai	Tamil Nadu	—	2,000,000	2,000,000	2,000,000	2,000,000
80.	Tamil Nadu Voluntary Health Association, Chennai	Tamil Nadu	—	2,500,000	2,500,000	2,500,000	—
81.	Gandhigram Instt. Of Rural Health & Family Welfare Trust, Dindigul	Tamil Nadu	—	2,500,000	2,500,000	1,779,810	3,500,000
82.	Deepam Educational Society for Health (DESH), Chennai	Tamil Nadu	—	—	1,000,000	—	800,000
83.	FPAI, Madurai	Tamil Nadu	—	1,000,000	965,660	200,000	2,345,652
84.	VHA of Tripura, Agartala	Tripura	—	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,500,000	1,500,000
85.	CARTE, Ghaziabad	Uttar Pradesh	—	—	—	1,600,000	—
86.	Indian Instt. For Development Studies & Research, Allahabad	Uttar Pradesh	—	2,000,000	2,500,000	2,465,803	3,600,000
87.	New Public School Samiti, Lucknow	Uttar Pradesh	—	—	2,500,000	—	2,000,000
88.	Naughil Integrated Rural Project for Health and Development	Uttar Pradesh	—	—	2,500,000	—	2,400,000
89.	World Welfare & Research Centre, Gonda	Uttar Pradesh	—	—	1,500,000	—	2,000,000
90.	FPAI, Lucknow	Uttar Pradesh	—	—	—	2,500,000	3,600,000
91.	UP VHA	Uttar Pradesh	—	—	—	1,600,000	—
92.	Himalayan Instt. Hospital Trust, Dehradun	Uttar Pradesh & Uttaranchal	—	—	2,500,000	—	—

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
93.	CINI, Calcutta	West Bengal	2,500,000	2,500,000	2,500,000	2,500,000	—
94.	Gana Unnayana Parishad, Kolkata	West Bengal	—	1,500,000	1,500,000	1,000,000	1,500,000
95.	W. Bengal V.H.A., Kolkata	West Bengal	—	2,000,000	2,500,000	2,500,000	—

Innovative Scheme

S.No.	Name of NGO	State	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-2001	2001-02
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Rural Women Upliftment	Assam	—	—	—	115000
2.	Jan Swasthya Sahayog	Chhattisgarh	—	2764000	1440538	—
3.	PRAYAS	Delhi	—	—	—	869500
4.	VHAI, New Delhi (RRC)	Delhi	—	—	—	700000
5.	Mahila Sewa Trust, Ahmedabad	Gujarat	—	13412670	nil	11210526
6.	SNS Foundation, Gurgaon	Haryana	—	—	—	1456000
7.	SNS Foundation, Gurgaon	Himachal Pradesh	—	—	—	244125
8.	Santhigiri Ashram	Kerala	—	—	2457872	—
9.	FPAI, Mumbai (RRC)	Maharashtra	—	—	—	700000
10.	Family Planning & Medical Aid Trust	Maharashtra	700000	—	—	—
11.	Yuvak Pratisthan	Maharashtra	—	—	200000	—
12.	SOSVA, Pune	Maharashtra	—	—	1332922	3000000
13.	VHAI, Delhi	MP	—	—	—	874073
14.	Dr. Phatak Child & Mother Welfare Society	MP	502000	251000	251000	—
15.	Dr. Phatak Child & Mother Welfare Society	MP	—	800000	242000	—
16.	Population Fondation of India	New Delhi	1211100	816164	633120	802762
17.	VHAI	New Delhi	—	—	623500	—
18.	VHAI, New Delhi	Orissa	—	—	—	1700000
19.	Jan Chetna Parishad	Orissa	—	—	—	1000000
20.	Arasan Rural Development Society	Tamil Nadu	—	—	—	206775
21.	Gandhigram, Dindigul (RRC)	Tamil Nadu	—	—	—	700000

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
22.	Tagore Society for Rural Development	West Bengal	—	1491940	2187940	
23.	CRRID	West Bengal	1285397	806303	1211670	
24.	Women in Social Action	West Bengal	—	—	421100	—
25.	CINI, Kolkata (RRC)	West Bengal	—	—		700000
26.	Sambhav Social Service Organization	M.P.	—	—	499000	—

Support for Gender Issues Scheme

SI No.	Name of implementing NGO	State/UT	Funds released during 1999-2000	Funds released during 2000-2001	Funds released during 2001-2002
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Mamta Health Institute for Mother & Child, New Delhi	Delhi	2824160	—	489866
2.	Voluntary Health Association of India, Delhi	Delhi	—	800000	—
3.	Mobile Creaches, New Delhi	Delhi	1316102	—	1287634
4.	Institute for Development & Communication, Chandigarh	Chandigarh	1444800	—	—
5.	Centre Direct, Patna	Bihar	818160	—	—
6.	Organization for Socio Economic and Rural Development, (OSERD) Patna	Bihar	439530	—	247968
7.	Daudnaga, Development Sansthan, Daudnagar	Bihar	2153550	—	78330
8.	Visakha Zila Nav Nirman Samilti, Vishakhapatnam	Andhra Pradesh	808920	—	808920
9.	Rashtriya Seva Samiti, Tirupati	Andhra Pradesh	1230600	—	669600
10.	Swa-Sehyog Sanstha, Chaksu	Rajasthan	405379	—	325474
11.	Indian Institute for Rural Development; Jaipur	Rajasthan	—	320198	148471
12.	Lupin Human Welfare and Research Foundation	Rajasthan	—	787500	—
13.	Concerned Citizen	Rajasthan	—	745640	—
14.	Guild of Services (Central), Chennai	Tamil Nadu	130536	—	—

1	2	3	4	5	6
15.	Rural Development Society, Weangjing	Manipur	725828	—	832928
16.	Community Development Programme Cente, Thoubal	Manipur	2190240	—	—
17.	Kaurai Young Womens Socio Cultural Organization (KYWSCO)	Manipur	—	747600	—
18.	SEVANA, Trivandram	Kerala	174825	—	139860
19.	Anweshi Womens Counselling Centre, Kozhikode	Kerala	867384	—	—
20.	Development Action through Self-Help Nework (DARSHAN)	Kerala	—	297020	—
21.	Jananeethi	Kerala	—	279524	—
22.	Deepak Charitable Trust, Vadodara	Gujarat	600000	790980	1574034
23.	Parvatiya Paryavaran Sanrakshan Samiti, Pithoragarh	Uttar Pradesh	495206	—	921361
24.	West Bengal Voluntary Health Association	West Bengal	—	942900	—
25.	Youth Assocation for Rural Reconstruction	Orissa	—	680400	—
26.	Kerala State Council for Child Welfare	Kerala	—	1000000	—
27.	Community Action for Social Transformation Thiruviruthanpulli	Tamil Nadu	—	—	1211700
28.	Shakti Dhama, Mysore	Karnataka	—	—	—

BFHI Scheme

Sl.No.	Name of Organization	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
1.	SWACH, Haryana	584160	584160	500000	663680
2.	SOSVA, Chandigarh	—	215550	—	—

Deptt. of Family Welfare-Funds Released During First Three Years of Ninth Five Year Plan

State	Name of Organisation	Scheme	Grants Released During		
			1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000
1	2	3	4	5	6
Andhra Pradesh					
	Vijaya Integrated Rural Devl. Society, Guntur	SM&SS	105235	0	0
	Jagajeevan Balaheenagarga Abhivruddhi Sangam, Cuddapah	EIP	519780	0	0

1	2	3	4	5	6
	Seva Bharathi, Chittoor	SM&SS	103138	0	0
	Grameena Samkshema Sangham, Chittoor	SM&SS	173875	0	0
	Deenajana Abhyudaya Seva Mandal	SM&SS	473335	0	0
	Jyothirmai Educational Society, Anantapur	SM&SS	76885	0	0
	Sarvodaya Welfare Society, Tirupathi	SM&SS	62135	0	0
	Visakha Vanita Samaj, Visakhapatnam	SM&SS	144880	0	0
	Annapurana Mahila Mandali, Anantpur	SM&SS	38542	0	0
	Chaitanya Education & Rural Devpt Society, Cuddapah	SM&SS	141530	0	0
	Visakha Seva Samiti, Visakhapatnam	SM&SS	206175	0	0
	Nehru Yuvajana Seva Sangham, Chittoor	SM&SS	141530	0	0
	Sravani Charitable Organization, Visakhapatnam	SM&SS	123705	0	0
	Sri Padmavathi Mahila Mandali, Chittoor	SM&SS	109230	0	0
	The Chittoor District Physically Handicapped Persons Welf. Society Uplifting Rural Poor & Socially Stranded, AP	SM&SS	76885	0	0
	Rural Leprosy Rehab & Social Welfare Asso., Chittoor	SM&SS	44585	0	0
	Al-Ameen Society, Cuddapah	Six Bedded	128700	0	0
	Power	SM&SS	141530	0	0
	Arunachal				
	Rama Krishna Mission Hospital, Itanagar	Six Bedded	102700	0	0
	Assam				
	Rural Women Upliftment Association	Mother Unit	710000	0	0
	Bihaar				
	Harijan Adivasi Seva Sansthan	SM&SS	44585	0	0
	Pragathi Foundation, Muzaffarpur	SM&SS	173875	0	0
	Siddhartha Gyan Kendra Samastipur	SM&SS	191880	0	0
	Siddhartha Gyan Kendra	SM&SS	191880	0	0
	Harijan Sevak Sangh, Madhepur	SM&SS	46585	0	0
	Dr. Deo Sevashram, Muzaffarpur	SM&SS	191880	0	0
	Jesila Vikas Sansthan	SM&SS	76885	0	0
	Jyoti Seva Sadan, East Champaran	SM&SS	76885	0	0
	Atma Seva Sansthan,	SM&SS	44585	0	0
	Mahila Bal Utthan Kendra, Muzaffarpur	SM&SS	206775	0	0

1	2	3	4	5	6
	Lord Budha Mission	SM&SS	206175	0	0
	Bharatiya Jan Mandal, Vaishali	SM&SS	206175	0	0
	Lok Chetna Foundation, Vaishali	SM&SS	44585	0	0
	Vidyapati Samajik Evam Shikshan & Vikas Sansthan, Madhu	Mini Family	216750	0	0
	Jainendra Foundation, Vaishali	SM&SS	76885	0	0
	Lok Rang, Patna	SM&SS	76885	0	0
	Scientific Educational Promotion & Medical Aid Foundat, Patna	EIP	675000	0	0
	Pustakalaya Sewa Sansthan, Chapra	SM&SS	206175	0	0
	Jan Chetna Foundation, Madhepura	SM&SS	76885	0	0
	Bajjikanchal Vikas, Vaishali	SM&SS	38442	0	0
	Kala Bihar, Vaishali	SM&SS	76885	0	0
	Shashwat Seva Sansthan, Begusarai	SM&SS	62135	0	0
	Vaishali Kala Kunj, Vaishali	SM&SS	141530	0	0
	Dr. Deo Sevashram, Muzaffarpur	SM&SS	191880	0	0
	Devendandan Seva Sadan, Vaishali	SM&SS	109230	0	0
	Berojgar Sangh, Valmikinagar	SM&SS	44585	0	0
	Gramin Samagra Seva Sanstha, Madhubani	SM&SS	46585	0	0
	Manorama Mahila Seva Sansthan, Vaishali	SM&SS	141530	0	0
	Alp Sankhyak Mahila Prashikshan Sansthan, Patna	SM&SS	206175	0	0
	Helping India, Vaishali	SM&SS	44585	0	0
	Divya Kala Niketan, Vaishali	SM&SS	76885	0	0
	Chandigarh				
	Centre for Research in Rural & Industrial Devpt., Chandigarh	Innovative	140700	0	0
	Centre for Research in Rural & Industrial Devpt, Chandigarh	Innovative	455534	0	0
	Centre for Research in Rural & Industrial Devpt.	EIP	486916	0	0
	Centre for Research in Rural & Industrial Devpt.	Innovative	681625	0	0
	Centre for Research in Rural & Industrial Devpt, Chandigarh	Innovative	486916	0	0
	Centre for Research in Rural & Industrial Devpt	EIP	588098	0	0
	Centre of Research in Rural & Industrial Devpt.	EIP	38400	0	0
	D&N Havell				
	Indian Red Cross Society, Silvassa	Six Bedded	34837	0	0
	Indian Red Cross Society, Silvassa	Six Bedded	101700	0	0

1	2	3	4	5	6
Delhi					
	Dr. A. V. Baliga Memorial Trust	SM&SS	62135	0	0
	Centre for Labour Education & Social Research, Kalkaji	Mother Unit	300335	0	0
	Jeevan Charitable Hospital, Jeevan Nagar	Six Bedded	155700	0	0
	SOSVA, New Delhi	Mother Unit	2500000	0	0
	Voluntary Health Association, Malviya Nagar	SM&SS	64135	0	0
	Centre for Research Planning & Action, Delhi	Mother Unit	116392	0	0
	Social Association for Welfare Education & Rural Awareness	SM&SS	105235	0	0
	Centre for Research Planning	Mother Unit	1194660	0	0
	Centre for Research Planning & Action, Delhi	Mother Unit	116392	0	0
	Bhartiya Parivardhan Sanstha, Nand Nagri, Delhi	SM&SS	191880	0	0
	The Rajasthan Rughan Gramin Utthan Sansthan, Delhi	SM&SS	44585	0	0
Haryana					
	Nari Chetna Sangathan, Sonipat	SM&SS	191480	0	0
J&K					
	Hilal Institute, Anantnag	EIP	341793	0	0
	Kalamkari Centre Vocational Oriented Women Polytech, Jammu	Mother Unit	79200	0	0
	Kalamkari Centre Vocational Oriented Women Polytech, Jammu	Mother Unit	55620	0	0
	Kalamkari Centre Vocation Oriented Women's Polytechnic, Jammu	Mother Unit	79200	0	0
	J&K Ex Services League, Jammu	Mother Unit	312950	0	0
	J&K Ex Services League, Jammu	Mother Unit	50000	0	0
Karnataka					
	Praja Pragati Sanstha, Robertsonpet	SM&SS	105235	0	0
	Sri Shamamur Sivasanikrappa Abhivanigala Sangha, Chitradurga	SM&SS	199480	0	0
	Sri Venkateswara Vidya Samastha, Chitradurga	SM&SS	80885	0	0
	Kranthikara Sardar Bhagathsingh Vidya Samastha, Chitradurga	SM&SS	109235	0	0
	Rural Devpt & Training Society,	SM&SS	64135	0	0
	Sri Sandeep Edctn. & Multipurpose Dev. Welfare Asso, Tum	SM&SS	105235	0	0
	Pragathi Integrated Rural Devpt Society, Chitradurg	SM&SS	76885	0	0
	Rajajinagar Yeshaswini Mahla Mandali, Bangalore	Six Bedded	128700	0	0
	Sri Gurusiddheshwar Vidyavardhak Samastha, Bijapur	SM&SS	64135	0	0
	SOSVA, Karnataka	Mother Unit	2500000	0	0

1	2	3	4	5	6
	Dhavaleshwar SC Vidug Samasthe, Chitradurg	SM&SS	109235	0	0
	Sadhana Rural Dev. Trust, Kolar	SM&SS	6688	0	0
	Renuka Mahila Samaj, Chitradurg	SM&SS	105235	0	0
	Maharashtra				
	SOSVA, Pune	Mother Unit	299000	0	0
	SOSVA, Pune	Mother Unit	598000	0	0
	Family Planning Asso. of India, Mumbai	Mother Unit	560040	0	0
	SOSVA, Pune	Mother Unit	426050	0	0
	Yehsodeep Shaikshanik Sanskritik Prasarak Mandal, Nanded	SM&SS	46585	0	0
	SOSVA, Pune	Mother Unit	323750	0	0
	SOSVA, Pune	Mother Unit	299000	0	0
	SOSVA, Pune	Rolling Fund	133200	0	0
	SOSVA, Pune	Mother Unit	2500000	0	0
	SOSVA, Pune	Mother Unit	3850000	0	0
	SOSVA, Pune	Rolling Fund	133200	0	0
	Baba Ramji Shikshan Prasarak Mandal, Nanded	SM&SS	31068	0	0
	SOSVA, Pune	Mother Unit	234000	0	0
	Akhil Bharatiya Magasvargiya Samaj Probodhan Sanstha, Thane	SM&SS	133585	0	0
	Family Planning Association of India, Mumbai	Mother Unit	25000	0	0
	SOSVA, Pune	Mother Unit	542500	0	0
	Baba Ramji Shikshan Prasarak Mandal, Nanded	SM&SS	31067	0	0
	SOSVA, Pune	Mother Unit	234000	0	0
	Family Planning Association of India, Mumbai	Mother Unit	2224646	0	0
	Veena Shikshan Prasarak Mandal, Nanded	SM&SS	52617	0	0
	SOSVA, Pune	Rolling Fund	3348224	0	0
	SOSVA, Pune	Mother Unit	258489	0	0
	Manipur				
	Rural Devpt. Society, Wangjing	Six Bedded	101700	0	0
	Muolvaiphee Rural Health & Research Centre, Churachandpu	Six Bedded	101700	0	0
	Rural Industries Devpt Association	SM&SS	62135	0	0
	RDO (w. 11036/4/93)	SM&SS	506700	0	0

1	2	3	4	5	6
	Reisangnvi Tribal Women Society, Imphal	SM&SS	45585	0	0
	MP				
	Society for Social Devpt. Gwalior	SM&SS	206775	0	0
	Shri Ram Kishori Mahila Vikas Avam Samaj Kalyan Mandal,	SM&SS	206175	0	0
	Worship Health & Social Devpt. Society, Gwalior	SM&SS	173875	0	0
	Suman Shiksha Yevam Samaj Kalyan Samiti, Gwalior	SM&SS	148380	0	0
	Aradhana Gramin Seva Samiti, Morena	SM&SS	206775	0	0
	Shakunta Prabha Bal Evam Mahila Seva Kendra	SM&SS	76885	0	0
	Dr. Phatak Child & Mother Welfare Society, Gwalior	EIP	237342	0	0
	Late Sh. Gendalal Samaj Kalyan Sansthan, Morena	SM&SS	109235	0	0
	Shri Vallabh Shiksha Prachar Samiti, Morena	SM&SS	103387	0	0
	Dr. Phatak Child & Mother Welfare Society, Gwalior	EIP	118671	0	0
	Shanti Gramin Seva Evam Kalyan Samiti, Datia	SM&SS	46585	0	0
	Uthanam Samiti	SM&SS	103088	0	0
	Orissa				
	The Chetana, Dhenkanal	SM&SS	44585	0	0
	Institute of social Work & Action Research, Dhenkanal	SM&SS	210575	0	0
	Surakhya, Dhenkanal	SM&SS	76855	0	0
	Gania Ynnayan Committee, Nayagarh	SM&SS	46585	0	0
	Social Welfare Club, Ganjam	SM&SS	206575	0	0
	The Citizen, Cuttack	SM&SS	22290	0	0
	Orissa Institute of Education & Social Devpt, Jajpur	SM&SS	46585	0	0
	National Youth Service Action & Social Dev. Research Ins. D	SM&SS	76885	0	0
	Swami Vivekananda Swachnaseva Sangha, Cuttack	SM&SS	54475	0	0
	Human Resource Devpt. Action & Research, Dhenkanal	SM&SS	34742	0	0
	Peace Club, Cuttack	SM&SS	80885	0	0
	Utkalika Yuvak Sangha, Dhenkanal	SM&SS	76885	0	0
	Juva Jyoti Club, Khurda	SM&SS	70765	0	0
	Palli Vikas Kendra, Dhenkanal	SM&SS	53115	0	0
	Voluntary Asso. of Rural Reconstruction & Social, Bhadrak	SM&SS	46585	0	0
	Institute of Social Work & Action Research, Dhenkanal	SM&SS	141930	0	0

1	2	3	4	5	6
	Animal Welfare Society of Orissa, Bhuwaneshwar	SM&SS	103087	0	0
	Rajasthan				
	Gramin Vikas Sansthan, Bharatpur	Mother Unit	1216605	0	0
	Indian Red Cross Society, Jaipur	Swasthya Mela	69797	0	0
	Tamil Nadu				
	Sivganga Rural Women Devpt. Society, PMT	SM&SS	206775	0	0
	Gandhigram Institute of Rural Health & FW Trust, Dindigul	SM&SS	3300	0	0
	Working Women's Forum, Mylapore	UNFPA	276672	0	0
	Kalaiselvi Karunalya Social Welfare Society, Chennai	SM&SS	46585	0	0
	Gandhigram Institute of Rural Health & FW Trust, Dindigul	SM&SS	3300	0	0
	Rural Depressed Welfare Association, Sambuvarayar	SM&SS	76885	0	0
	American Association of Physicians from India, Tanjavur	SM&SS	200039	0	0
	Society for Awareness & Vocational Education, PNT	SM&SS	206775	0	0
	Arumbergal Trust, Palayamkottai	SM&SS	46585	0	0
	Kushingi Physically Handicapped Welfare Society, Trichy	SM&SS	53662	0	0
	Womens Action for Rural Devpt, Madurai	SM&SS	138850	0	0
	Annai Veda handloom Textile Producers Asso.	SM&SS	206175	0	0
	Gram Makkal adippadai Samudhaya Valarchi Mandram, PM	SM&SS	52617	0	0
	St. Paul Education Society, Tirunelpail, Kattabomman	SM&SS	53115	0	0
	Hana Educational Devpt charitable Organization, Madurai	SM&SS	44685	0	0
	Uttar Pradesh				
	Samta Samvada Kendra, Lucknow	E&P	45000	0	0
	Shiv Gramodhyog Seva Sansthan, Bulandshahar	SM&SS	76885	0	0
	Women & Child Care Charitable Society, Naini, Allahabad	EIP	415845	0	0
	Rajshri Rananjay Singh Jan Kalayn Samiti, Lucknow	Swasthya Mela	56680	0	0
	Manav Kalyan Sewa Samiti, Allahabad	SM&SS	105235	0	0
	Bhagirathi Gramin Vikash Kendra, Bulandshahar	SM&SS	46585	0	0
	Jan Jagrati Sewasamiti, Rae Bareli	SM&SS	46585	0	0
	Alok Kalyan Sansthan, Allahabad	SM&SS	46585	0	0
	Gram Vikash Seva Sansthan Gola, Gorakhpur	SM&SS	46585	0	0
	Manav Seva Sansthan, Gorakhpur	SM&SS	46585	0	0
	Swami Sant Das Manav Kalyan Samiti, Fatehpur	Mini FW	216750	0	0

1	2	3	4	5	6
Jagriti, Rae Bareli		SM&SS	46585	0	0
Gramin Vikas Sansthan, Gorakhpur		SM&SS	80885	0	0
Mahajan Kalayan Samiti, Allahabad		SM&SS	277725	0	0
Adarsh Samaj Kalyan & Khadi Gramodyog, Allahabad		SM&SS	173875	0	0
Ganesh Seva Samiti, Bulandshahar		SM&SS	46585	0	0
Adarsh Sanskritik Satsang Kala Kendra, Unnao		SM&SS	206175	0	0
District Council for Child Welfare, Rae Bareli		SM&SS	206175	0	0
Akhil Khadi & Village Industries Institution, Rae Bareli		SM&SS	86940	0	0
Vindhyanchal Audyogi Seva Sansthan, Allahabad		SM&SS	141530	0	0
Samata Samveda Kendra, Lucknow		EIP	45000	0	0
Garamin Vikas Sansthan, Gorakhpur		SM&SS	80885	0	0
Kalayan Institute Hospital Trust, Dehradun		EIP	370269	0	0
Parappaswamy Vidya Samsthe, Chitradurga		SM&SS	80885	0	0
Sarwati Gramya Vikas Shiksha Sansthan, Allahabad		SM&SS	109230	0	0
Shramik Vikas Seva Ashram, Allahabad		SM&SS	103088	0	0
Shri Ram Gramodhyog Sewa Sansthan, Farukhabad		SM&SS	46585	0	0
Ganesh Shikshan Sansthan, Allahabad		SM&SS	46585	0	0
Indian Institute for Dev. Studies & Research, Allahabad		Mother Unit	138360	0	0
Rubi Gram Udhhyog Sansthan, Shahjahanpur		SM&SS	206175	0	0
Shri Sachidanand Shikshan Sansthan, Varanasi		SM&SS	44585	0	0
Indian Institute for Dev. Studies & Research, Allahabad		Mother Unit	1463995	0	0
RLP Sanstha, Lucknow		SM&SS	44585	0	0
Himalayan Institute Hospital Trust, Dehradun		EIP	2360276	0	0
Prashiddha Narayan Mahila Kalyan Samiti, Gorakhpur		SM&SS	46585	0	0
Shri Krishna Seva Ashram, Allahabad		SM&SS	76885	0	0
Mahila Mangal and Samagra Gram Vikas Sansthan, Bhadoi		SM&SS	76885	0	0
Sarvodaya Shiksha Sadan, Allahabad		SM&SS	141530	0	0
Bhartiya Hastshilp Khadi Gram Vikas Samiti, Lucknow		SM&SS	44585	0	0
Parvatiya Nav Jagran Samiti, Almora		Polypathy	137500	0	0
Hasrat Mohani Charitable Society, Kanpur		Six Bedded	155700	0	0
Sarvajan Kalyan Samiti, Allahabad		SM&SS	289725	0	0

1	2	3	4	5	6
	Moulana Abul Kalam Azad Seva Sansthan, Lucknow	SM&SS	76885	0	0
	Malin Basti Kalyan Avam Vikas Samiti, Allahabad	SM&SS	105235	0	0
	Bhartiya Sarvodaya Sansthan, Rae Bareli	SM&SS	141530	0	0
	Ram Chandra Gramodhyog Samiti, Unnao	SM&SS	46585	0	0
	Ratan Gram Vikas Samiti, Rampur	SM&SS	46585	0	0
	Al-Fiah Charitable Welfare Society, Aligarh	SM&SS	557450	0	0
	Women & Child Care Charitable Society, Allahabad	EIP	290745	0	0
	Kalyan Mission, Rae Bareli	SM&SS	105235	0	0
	IIDSR, Allahabad	Mother Unit	138360	0	0
	West Bengal				
	Rama Krishna Mission Seva Pratishthan	EIP	605345	0	0
	Sidhu Kanu Gram Unnayan Samiti, Burdwan	SM&SS	54765	0	0
	Kalyanpur Yuva Sangha, Midnapore	Mini FW	29850	0	0
	All India Women's Conference, Midnapore	Six Bedded	150000	0	0
	Karimpur Social Welfare Society, Nadia	Six Bedded	128700	0	0
	Child in Need Institute, Calcutta	Mother Unit	2500000	0	0
	Child in Need Institute, Calcutta	Mother Unit	141482	0	0
	West Bengal Voluntary Health Association, Calcutta	Mother Unit	439432	0	0
	Ramakrishna Mission Seva Pratishthan, Calcutta	EIP	652655	0	0
	Andhra Pradesh				
	Rural Poor People's Welfare Society, Anantapur	SM&SS	0	173875	0
	Peda Prajala Seva Samiti, Chittoor	SM&SS	0	0	103088
	Vijaya Voluntary Organisation, Mahabubnagar	SM&SS	0	0	128700
	People's Action for Social Service, Chittoor	Six Bedded	0	0	193050
	Rural Organisation for Social Education, Chittoor	SM&SS	0	206175	0
	Vijaya Voluntary Organisation, Mahabubnagar	Six Bedded	0	20	386100
	Human Resource Development Association, Chittoor	SM&SS	0	0	103100
	Rural Welfare Association	SM&SS	0	108488	0
	Rural Development Society, Anantapur	SM&SS	0	173875	0
	Social Integration for Rural Improvement, Chittoor	SM&SS	0	44585	0
	Women's Association for Development Action, Chittoor	SM&SS	0	0	141530

1	2	3	4	5	6
	Rural Educational Forest Reforms Mission, Anantapur	SM&SS	0	173875	0
	Navodaya Sewa Sangam, Mahabubnagar	SM&SS	0	109230	0
	Vijaya Voluntary Organisation, Mahabubnagar	Six Bedded	0	128700	0
	Susi Subramanya Swamy, Chittoor	SM&SS	0	76885	0
	Rural Social Welfare Association, Mahboobnagar	SM&SS	0	44585	0
	Rural Welfare Association, Chittoor	SM&SS	0	97687	0
	Swamy Vivekananda Youths Association, Anantapur	SM&SS	0	109230	0
	Chaitanya Rural Development Association	SM&SS	0	206175	0
	Ekalavya Memorial League, Chirala	SM&SS	0	0	173875
	People's Action for Social Service, Tirupati	Six Bedded	0	0	257400
	Social Action for Social Development, Hyderabad	SM&SS	0	206175	0
	Al-Ameen Society, Cuddapah	Six Bedded	0	0	622800
	Assam				
	Unimal Society, Dispur	Six Bedded	0	311400	0
	Unimal Society	SM&SS	0	0	311400
	Bihar				
	Gramin Samagra Seva Sanstha, Madhubani	SM&SS	0	44585	0
	Santal Pargana Vikas Evam Seva Sansthan, Deoghar	MFWS	0	0	29850
	Vikas Samiti, Jamui	PLMP	0	57500	0
	Palliputra Vikas Parishad, Araria	SM&SS	0	0	141530
	Vishal Kala Niketan, Chhapra	SM&SS	0	76885	0
	Shahpur Vikas Samiti, Chhapra	SM&SS	0	76885	0
	Magadh Rehabilitation and Welfare Society, Patna	SM&SS	0	76885	0
	Tariyani Sevayatan Sitamarhi	PLMP	0	57500	0
	Tariyani Sevayatan Sitamarhi	MFWS	0	24033	
	Nav Jeevan Vikas Sansthan, Madhubani	SM&SS	0	76885	0
	Gravis Bihar, Vaishali	SM&SS	0	44585	0
	Chandigarh				
	Center for Research in Rural & Industrial Development	EIP	0	0	736700
	SOSWA, Chandigarh	BFHI	0	0	215500
	Centre for Research in Rural & Industrial Development	EIP	0	607897	0
	Centre for Research in Rural & Industrial Development	EIP	0	677500	0

1	2	3	4	5	6
D&N Havell					
Indian Red Cross Society, Silvasa		Six Bedded	0	0	101700
Indian Red Cross Society		Six Bedded	0	101700	0
Delhi					
Indian Medical Association, New Delhi		EIP	0	1542000	0
Samarth-The professionals, New Delhi		SM&SS	0	105235	0
Population Foundation of India		EIP	0	0	632000
Alamb, Harinagar, New Delhi		SM&SS	0	31067	0
Indian Medical Association		EIP	0	0	514000
Indian Medical Association, New Delhi		EIP	0	1027400	0
Nari Uthan Samiti, Maujpur, Delhi		SM&SS	0	62135	0
Voluntary Health Association New Delhi		SM&SS	0	29067	0
Jan-Utthan, New Delhi		SM&SS	0	0	62135
Jeewan Cheritable Hospital		Six Bedded	0	0	311400
Voluntary Health Association of India, New Delhi		PNDT	0	0	1200000
Haryana					
Adarsh Saraswati Shiksha Samiti, Sonapat		SM&SS	0	109230	0
J&K					
Hilal Institute, Anantanag		EIP	0	0	114906
Karnataka					
Kanakadasa Geleyara Balaga, Chitradurga		SM&SS	0	105235	0
SOSVA			0	447000	0
Sri Shakthi Mandali, Chitradurga		SM&SS	0	76885	0
Parappaswamy Vidya Samasthe, Chitradurge		SM&SS	0	76885	0
Vivekaananda Rural Development & Training Society, Kolar		SM&SS	0	62135	0
Jagadguru Gurusiddeshwar Vidyavardhak and Sanskritika		SM&SS	0	0	31067
Sri Maruthi Welfare Society Chitradurga		SM&SS	0	105235	0
Kerala					
Santhigiri Ashram Thiruvanthapuram		EIP	0	0	1154776
Madhya Pradesh					
Pragati Mahila Mandal, Morena		SM&SS	0	206175	0
Gramya Vikas Avam Jan Kalyan Sanstha, Gwalior		SM&SS	0	0	105235

1	2	3	4	5	6
	Society for Rural Development, Gwalior	SM&SS	0	191480	0
	Sayam Shiksha Avam Samaj Kalyan Sansthan, Bhind	SM&SS	0	141530	0
	Late sh. Gendalal Samaj Kalyan Sansthan, Morena	SM&SS	0	105235	0
	Sandipani Mahila Evam Bal Kalyan Samiti, Morena	SM&SS	0	0	105235
	Sunita Bal Vidhya Samiti, Indore	SM&SS	0	44685	0
	Maharashtra				
	Society for Service to Volungary Agencies	UNFPA	0	2890833	0
	Family Planning Association of India, Mumbai	Mother Unit	0	967137	0
	Parivar Mangal Trust, Pune	EIP	0	575684	0
	SOSVA, Pune	Mother Unit	0	428911	0
	Society for Service to Voluntary Agencies, Pune	Mother Unit	0	1428328	0
	Suvide Foundation, Akola	Six Bedded	0	150000	0
	Manipur				
	Socio-Economic Development Organisation, Thoubal	SM&SS	0	62135	0
	Orissa				
	Bapuji Yubak Sangha, Dhenkenal	SM&SS	0	76885	0
	Sidheswara Bani Mandir, Jajpur	SM&SS	0	38442	0
	Population Research Center, Bhubaneswar	SM&SS	0	3300	0
	Social Organisation for Voluntary Action, Dhenkenal	SM&SS	0	44585	0
	VARRSA, Bhadrak	SM&SS	0	44585	0
	NICCD, Cuttack	SM&SS	0	76885	0
	National Institute for Rural Development, Dhenkenal	SM&SS	0	0	44585
	Upasana Kendra, Bhubaneswar	SM&SS	0	44585	0
	National Institute for Community and Child Development	SM&SS	0	0	76885
	Orissa Voluntary Health Association	PNDT	0	0	360000
	ISWAR, Dhenkenal	SM&SS	0	0	141930
	Devidutta Juba Parishad, Orissa	SM&SS	0	0	22293
	Ganiya Unnayan Committee, Nayagarh	SM&SS	0	0	44585
	Pragati Yuba Chakra, Cuttack	SM&SS	0	76885	0
	Utkal Sevak Samaj, Cuttack	SM&SS	0	0	173375
	Gania Unnayan Committee, Nayagarh	SM&SS	0	44585	0

1	2	3	4	5	6
	Anchalika Vikas Praishad, Dhenkenal	SM&SS	0	105230	0
	Kasturibai Mahila Samiti, Dhenkenal	SM&SS	0	141530	0
	Panchajanya Welfare Society, Dhenkenal	SM&SS	0	206175	0
	Indira Social Welfare Organisation, Dhenkenal	SM&SS	0	109240	0
	Kalyani Mahila Samiti, Baripada	SM&SS	0	105235	0
	People's Action for Youth & Leadership, Dhenkenal	SM&SS	0	77085	0
	Maa Tarini Rural Development Agency, Jajpur	SM&SS	0	44585	0
	Rural Development Action Cell, Mayurbhanj	EIP	0	77404	0
	Jayadurga Jubak Sangh, Cuttack	SM&SS	0	44585	0
	Tamil Nadu				
	Women and Child Development Society, Kottaboman	SM&SS	0	141530	0
	Arumbugal Trust, Tirunelveli	SM&SS	0	22290	0
	Gramodhya Social Service Society, Seydunganallur	SM&SS	0	206175	0
	Community Organisation for Women, Madurai	SM&SS	0	0	44585
	Karunya Kalvi Sangam, Nellore Kattabonman	SM&SS	0	76885	0
	Tamil Nadu Science Forum Aroyakkam, Chennai	EIP	0	305000	0
	U.P.				
	Bal Sadan Avam Balwani Kendra, Mirzapur	SM&SS	0	76885	0
	Pravatiya Nav Jagran Samiti, Almora	Polypathy	0	131500	0
	Cosmic Society for human Resource Develop & Research Pra.	SM&SS	0	77085	0
	Nagrik Seva Samiti, Badaun	SM&SS	0	141530	0
	Ganesh Sewa Samiti, Buland Sahar	SM&SS	0	0	44585
	Modern Kanya Junior High School, Farrukhabad	SM&SS	0	76885	0
	Poorvanchal Sewa sansthan, Azamgarh	SM&SS	0	76885	0
	Sahyog Sarvodya Mandal, Saharanpur	SM&SS	0	141530	0
	Himalayan Instt. Hospital Trust, Dehradun	EIP	0	1969019	0
	Jagruti Gramodyog Bhavan, Rai Bareilly	SM&SS	0	44585	0
	New Public School Samiti, Lucknow	SM&SS	0	0	206175
	People's Welfare Society, Allahabad	SM&SS	0	76885	0
	Parvatiya Nav Jagran Samiti, Almora	Polypathy	0	0	1375000
	Indian Association of Child and Women Relief, Rajajipuram	RFS	0	1179750	0
	Adivasi Samajothan & Kalyan Samiti, Allahabad	SM&SS	0	0	141530

1	2	3	4	5	6
	Janhit Sewa Sansthan, Allahabad	SM&SS	0	0	38443
	Himalayan Institute Hospital Trust, Dehradun	EIP	0	0	242173
	Ganesh Bal Vidhya Mandir Samiti	SM&SS	0	0	77326
	Ram Chandra Gramodhyog Samiti, Unnao	SM&SS	0	0	44585
	Gramin Vikas Sansthan, Gorakhpur	SM&SS	0	0	76885
	Adarsh Vaikalpic Evam Paryavaran Sodh Sansthan, Allahabad	SM&SS	0	0	26885
	Shyam Bal Niketan Shyam Nagar, Narora	SM&SS	0	191680	0
	Nav Jagran Samiti, Azamgarh	SM&SS	0	76885	0
	Parvatiya Nav Jagran Samiti, Almora	Polypath	0	143500	0
	Dr. Ambedkar Shiksha Prasar Avam Sewa Samiti	SM&SS	0	76885	0
	Institute of Developt. Research & Public Administration	SM&SS	0	191480	0
	Jaikaran Bind Gram Sewa Sansthan	SM&SS	0	38443	0
	Khush Haali, Lucknow	MFWS	0	29850	0
	Shanti Niketan Balika Jr. High School Samiti, Farrukhabad	SM&SS	0	141530	0
	IIDSR, Allahabad	RFS	0	2925986	0
	Sri Lal Bahadur Shastri Smarak Gramodhyog Pratisthan, Allahabad	SM&SS	0	209475	0
	Pt. Chhadami Lal Memorial Kalyan Samiti, Farrukhabad	SM&SS	0	44585	0
	Manav Kalyan Sewa Samiti, Allahabad	SM&SS	0	105235	0
	Gramin Mahila Silai Karhai Bunai Kendra, Azamgarh	SM&SS	0	76885	0
	Rural Litigation and Entitlement Kendra, Dehradun	EIP	0	550000	0
	Ratan Gramya Vikas Samiti, Rampur	SM&SS	0	44585	0
	Arsi Granidtig Sansthan, Husainpura	SM&SS	0	44505	0
	Sarvangin Gramodhyog Sewa Sansthan, Azamgarh	SM&SS	0	103088	0
	West Bengal				
	Kalyanpur Yuba Sangha, Midnapur	MFWC	0	29850	0
	Krishnarampur Mahila Unnayan Samiti, 24 Parganas	SM&SS	0	76885	0

[Translation]

Growth Rate in SSI

209. DR. (SHRIMATI) SUDHA YADAV: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the growth rate target fixed for the small scale industries sector for the Ninth Five Year Plan period;

(b) the percentage of growth rate achieved during the said period;

(c) whether any growth rate target has been fixed for the SSI sector in the Tenth Five Year Plan period;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the measures being taken by the Government to achieve this target?

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND MINISTER OF DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (DR. C.P. THAKUR): (a) and (b) As against the target of Rs. 725000 crore by the end of the Ninth Plan i.e. 2001-02 the actual production in the small scale industries sector was Rs. 690316 crore. The growth rate achieved during the Ninth Five Year Plan at constant prices is given below:

Year	1997-98	1998-99	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02
Growth Rate (%)	8.43	7.70	8.16	8.23	6.08

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The Tenth Five Year Plan envisages a growth target of 12% per annum.

(e) While development of SSIs is primarily the responsibility of the State/UT Governments, the Central Government has taken several steps to improve their performance by implementing various schemes such as Integrated Infrastructure Development, technology upgradation, marketing and entrepreneurial development etc. In addition, on 30th August 2000, the Prime Minister announced a Comprehensive Policy Package for the promotion and development of Small Scale Sector to enhance its competitiveness, both domestically and globally. The policy package consists of enhanced fiscal and credit support, better infrastructure and marketing facilities and incentives for technology upgradation.

[*Translation*]

Rate of STD

210. SHRI RAMSHAKAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether S.T.D. rate on mobile to mobile has been made cheaper;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether some operators have expressed their resentment against it;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the number of national and multinational companies working in the field of mobile service in the country at present?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) and (b) Sir, Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) is responsible for fixation of tariffs for telecom Services in the country. For Long Distance calls, presently the service providers are permitted to offer alternate tariff packages apart from the standard tariff package prescribed by TRAI. As per the information furnished by TRAI, STD rates payable by cellular subscribers of some private companies have been revised to Rs. 2.99 per minute for calls made to distance beyond 50 Kms. This rate is offered in pursuance to Agreements between a private Long Distance Operator and the Cellular Operators.

(c) and (d) Association of Basic Telephone Operators (ABTO) have represented against it on the ground that the offered tariff of Rs. 2.99 by some of the Cellular Operators is more than the tariff approved for a distance slab of 50- to 200 Kms. in both peak and off-peak hours and also more during off-peak hours for the distance slab 200 to 500 Kms.

(e) Licences for Cellular Mobile Telephone Service (CMTS) are granted only to Indian registered companies and not to foreign companies. However, a Multinational/foreign company can be a partner of the Licensed Indian Registered Company. At present 25 Indian registered companies including two public sector undertakings have been granted Licences for CMTS.

[*English*]

Evening OPD

211. SHRI B. VENKATESHWARLU:
PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU:

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

(a) whether evening OPD has been started in certain Central Government hospitals in Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the measures, being taken to provide additional funds, doctors and staff in these hospitals to make it successful;

(d) the efforts being made by the Government to extend said facilities in other hospitals of the country; and

(e) the incentives proposed to be provided to the staff and doctors attending evening OPD?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (d) Evening OPD has started functioning from 9.1.2003 on a pilot basis in 4 major Central Government Hospitals in Delhi, viz. All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Dr. R.M.L. Hospital, Lady Harding Medical College & its associated Hospitals and Safdarjung Hospital.

The evening OPD is being run in the Departments of Medicine, Surgery, Pediatrics, Obstetrics & Gynecology, Psychiatry, Eye and ENT, apart from focusing on early detection and screening for all types of Cancer including cancer of Cervix, Breast, Head and Neck and Oral Cavity with deployment of existing staff from respective departments of these Hospitals. This is also supported by the diagnostic services like Laboratory, Radio-diagnosis, Minor OT, Dressing Room and Pharmacy services. The timing of the evening OPD is 5.00 PM to 8.00 PM during summer and 4.30 PM to 7.30 PM during winter. Depending on the response, the facility would be extended to other Central Govt. Hospitals. However, 'Health' being is State subject under the Constitution of India, it is for the State Governments to provide facilities of evening OPD in their Hospitals according to their need and resources available.

(e) Honorarium is being paid to the staff and doctors attending evening OPD.

[Translation]

Installation of Modern Equipment

212. PROF. DUKHA BHAGAT:
SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY:

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

(a) whether the Government have any plan to equip the Central Mental Hospital, Kanke at Ranchi with modern equipment during the Tenth Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the details of equipment likely to be installed;

(c) by when the equipment are likely to be made functional in the hospital; and

(d) the details of the equipment installed in the said hospital during the Ninth Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (d) Upgradation and modernization of Central Institute of Psychiatry, Ranchi is an on-going process. An amount of Rs. 50.00 crores has been allocated for various plan schemes for the Institute during the Tenth Five Year Plan. The equipments which have been procured by the Institute during the Ninth Five Year Plan are: Na/K/LI Analyser, Ultra Low Freezer, Computerised EEG Machine, Mega Boyle's Apparatus, Hormone Analyzer, Blood Chemistry Analyzer, Thin Layer Chromatography, Upgradation for EEG 2100K Machine, Biofeedback Machine, Geodesic Electronic Cap, Auto Analyzer and other equipments for automation of the Institute.

[English]

Procurement of Drugs

213. SHRI MAHBOOB ZAHEDI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have suffered huge losses worth crores of rupees by buying drugs at an inflated price, violating all norms, for its Central Government Health Scheme dispensaries, Paramilitary Forces and even some State Governments;

(b) if so, whether the Government are procuring drugs at a rate of 500 per cent higher than that of prescribed rate;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

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

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

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

Establishment of MICE in Kerala

214. SHRI P. RAJENDRAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal is pending before the Government to establish a Media and Information Centre for Education (MICE) as a Regional Centre of Media Lab Asia in Kerala; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SU. THIRUNAVUKKARASAR): (a) and (b) The Government of Kerala had submitted a proposal to establish a Media and Information Centre for Education (MICE) as a Regional Centre of Media Lab Asia in Kerala. This proposal is being considered by the Media Lab Asia.

[*Translation*]

Mobile Telephone Bill Payment Scheme

215. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the areas of different metropolitan cities alongwith Delhi where mobile telephone bills payment scheme has been initiated as on date;

(b) whether the Government propose to start the above mentioned scheme in some other areas of the metropolitan cities alongwith Delhi;

(c) if so, the names of such areas; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) As on date the Mobile van service scheme for collection of telephone bills is available in Delhi, but not in the other 3 metropolitan cities.

(b) to (d) The Government no longer provides telephone services. It is the public sector undertakings Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) and Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL), which provide telephone services. The facilities for collection of telephone bills are various and include collections through nationalized banks, a large network of post offices, customer service centers, cash counters, departmental telegraph offices/central telegraph offices, the Voluntary Deposit Scheme and the Electronics Clearing Scheme etc.

The mobile van scheme had been introduced earlier in both Kolkata and Chennai but was withdrawn in recent years due to an inadequate response from the public and considerations about the security of cash.

Fixation of Registration and Bi-Monthly Rent

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

(a) the amount of registration and bi-monthly rent fixed by Telecommunication Department to provide telephone facilities to the consumers of telephones residing in Metropolitan Cities, Towns and in rural areas;

(b) whether different rates of commissions have been fixed for PCO operators in the above mentioned areas;

(c) if so, the details of the present rate of commission in the above mentioned areas;

(d) whether the Government are aware of the fact that MTNL is not providing the facilities meant for the rural areas; and

(e) if so, the concrete steps being taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) As per TRAI Act 1997, as amended in 2000, the power to fix telecom tariffs is with the TRAI alone. Based on the TRAI's tariff order, the two Public Sector units, viz. the Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) & Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Ltd. (MTNL) have fixed their tariffs. The details of the "registration amount" and "bi-monthly rental" currently applied by BSNL and MTNL for urban and rural areas is given in the statement enclosed. The urban area covers consumers residing in the metropolitan cities as well as the towns.

(b) and (c) The franchisees of STD PCO in the urban areas are paid a commission @ 20% of the call charges, In the rural areas the STD PCO franchisees are paid a commission @ 25% of the gross turnover. Local PCOs/ Handicapped PCO franchises are paid commission @ 40 paise per call charges in urban as well as rural areas. In the case of areas covered by BSNL, wherever private cellular PCOs are also operating in competition, the commission payable to STD PCO franchisees is 22% of the call charges (excluding metro districts). The field offices of BSNL are also authorized to offer higher commissions up to 30 paise per unit (i.e. 25% of call charges to PCO franchisees) wherever competition from private basic service operators exists.

(d) and (e) The sphere of MTNL's operations cover mainly the metros of Delhi and Mumbai. All State of Art Technologies/facilities are available to both subscribers of the rural and urban areas. There is thus no discrimination against rural subscribers.

Statement

Details of Registration amount and bi-monthly rent fixed by BSNL & MTNL in urban and in rural areas.

A. Registration amount

Unit	Urban area	Rural area
BSNL	Rs. 2000	Rs. 500
MTNL	Nil	Nil

B. Bi-Monthly Rental (In rupees)

1. BSNL

Capacity of local Exchange (No. of lines)	Urban areas	Rural areas
Upto 999	240	100
1000-29,999	240	220
30,000-99,999	360	300
1 lakh and above	500	420

2. MTNL

Rs. 500/-Bi-monthly.

[English]

Guidelines for Maintaining Confidentiality of AIDS Patients

217. SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have issued any guidelines to hospitals and medical institutions for maintaining confidentiality of patients suffering from AIDS;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether PGI of Chandigarh has violated the said guidelines; and

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

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) and (b) No, Sir, However the Government of India have announced the National AIDS Prevention and Control Policy in April 2002. It interalia stipulates as under:

- (i) No individual should be made to undergo a mandatory testing for HIV.
- (ii) No mandatory HIV testing should be imposed as a precondition for employment or for providing health care facilities during employment. However, in the case of Armed Forces, before employment, HIV screening may be carried out voluntarily with pre-test and post-test counselling and the results may be kept confidential.
- (iii) Adequate voluntary testing facilities with pre-test and post-test counselling should be made available throughout the country in a phased manner. There should be at least one HIV testing center in each district in the country with proper counselling facilities.
- (iv) In case a person likes to get the HIV status verified through testing, all necessary facilities should be given to that person and results should be kept strictly confidential. Such results should be given out to the person and with his consent to the members of his family. Disclosure of the HIV status to the spouse or sexual partner of the person should invariably be done by the attending physician with proper counselling. However also be encouraged to share this information with the family for getting proper home-based care and emotional support from the family members.
- (v) In case of marriage, if one of the partners insists on a test to check the HIV status of the other partner, such tests should be carried out by the contracting party to the satisfaction of the person concerned.

(c) No such instance has come to the notice of the National AIDS Control Organisation.

(d) Does not arise.

Sheep Brain Vaccine

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

(a) whether the Government are aware that India is now the only country in the world using live sheep brains for vaccines;

(b) whether it is also true that people taking these vaccines are at severe risk; and

(c) if so, the action taken/being taken to change to Tissue Culture Vaccines and by when the live sheep vaccines are likely to be phased out?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) India is not the only country using live sheep brain vaccines.

(b) Sheep brain anti-rabies vaccine (NTV) is in vogue in the country for the last several years. The incidence of Neuro-paralytic reaction due to this vaccine is very low, which is 1:10,000.

(c) In view of WHO recommendations to phase out NTV and prefer the use of Tissue Culture anti-rabies vaccine, the Government has initiated steps to augment the capacity of Tissue Culture anti-rabies vaccine production. It may take some time to totally phase out NTV.

Financial Assistance for Health Projects

219. SHRI P.D. ELANGO VAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are getting any financial assistance from any external sources for the implementation of health projects;

(b) if so, the details thereof for the last three years;

(c) the monetary contributions made by the World Bank, IMF and ADB towards providing good health during the last three years; and

(d) the details of the Health projects sanctioned in the country and the amount allocated, disbursed and utilized, State-wise?

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

(b) to (d) The details of monetary contributions made by the major International agencies for various health projects, during the last three years, are given in the statement enclosed.

Statement

S.No.	Donor Agencies	Sector	Health Projects	Currency	Agreement	Loan Amount	Amount in thousands		
							2000-2001	2001-2002	2002-2003
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Government Loan									
1.	Govt. of France	Sikkim	NAMCHI Hospital Modernisation Project (Sikkim)	EUR	1.07.97	3658.78	0.00	0.00	284.73
				FRF		22103.51	1391.45	93.09	0.00
2.	-do-	UP	SGPGI-Supply and implementation of Medical Equipment	EUR	25.1.98	4604.10	0.00	0.00	309.04
				FRF		29521.88	25403.37	1568.80	0.00
3.	Govt. of Netherlands	Gujarat	Gujarat Health Care Project	NLG	27.11.97	59739.06	0.00	0.00	0.00
4.	Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries	Karnataka	Raichur District Hospital Project	USD	6.6.91	9000.00	1929.37	728.87	0.00

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
5.	Oranisatoin of Petroleum Exporting Countries	Madhya Pradesh	Rewa Hospital Project	USD	8.2.89	10000.00	3851.19	1686.00	0.00
6.	-do-	UP	Basti Dist.	USD	4.5.90	6500.00	510.09	0.00	0.00
7.	IDA	Andhra Pradesh	AP Health System Project	XDR	22.12.94	90700.00	11782.00	11789.90	6179.39
8.	-do-	Central Sector	National AIDS Control Project	XDR	24.4.92	59800.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
9.	-do-	-do-	Second Integrated Child Development Project	XDR	23.3.93	141600.00	35959.30	26138.86	7937.96
10.	-do-	-do-	National Leprosy Blindness Control Project	XDR	4.2.94	53593.36	12464.80	0.00	0.00
11.	-do-	-do-	Cataract Blindness Control Project	XDR	19.5.94	77966.00	7945.39	18747.88	11916.38
12.	-do-	-do-	Tuberculosis Control Project	XDR	14.3.97	98400.00	15277.89	8557.55	8891.13
13.	-do-	-do-	Malaria Control Project	XDR	30.7.97	119200.00	10001.83	11326.63	5126.98
14.	-do-	-do-	Second National HIV/AIDS Control Project	XDR	14.9.99	140820.00	28163.21	24841.56	16592.82
15.	-do-	-do-	Immunization Strengthening Project	XDR	19.5.2000	106500.00	22964.19	19045.95	24616.12
16.	-do-	-do-	Second National Leprosy Elimination Project	XDR	19.7.2001	23300.00	0.00	3137.44	10121.63
17.	-do-	-do-	Reproductive and Child Health Project	XDR	30.7.97	179500.00	26009.74	54457.08	15172.22
18.	-do-	-do-	Woman Child Development Project	XDR	6.7.99	222500.00	19319.90	26582.15	41644.23
19.	-do-	-do-	Second State Health System Development Project	XDR	18.4.96	235500.00	39946.50	39311.61	32908.56
20.	-do-	UP	UP Health System Development Project	XDR	19.5.2000	82100.00	2254.12	998.07	4957.15

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
21.	IDA	Orissa	Orissa Health System Development Project	XDR	13.8.98	56800.00	2013.30	4045.75	3536.85
22.	-do-	Tamil Nadu	Second Tamil Nadu Nutrition Project	XDR	14.9.90	48189.17	0.00	0.00	0.00
23.	-do-	Maharashtra	Maharashtra Health System Development Project	XDR	14.1.99	97900.00	946.42	7635.03	8414.63
24.	IFAD	Tamil Nadu	Women Development Project	XDR	30.5.89	12931.89	0.00	0.00	0.00
25.	Govt. of Germany	Karnataka	Karnataka Secondary Level Hospital Development Project	EUR	16.1.97	13804.88	0.00	0.00	2195.42
26.	Govt. of United Kingdom	Central Sector	Polio Eradication Grant	GBP	2.1.2002	98000.00	0.00	19795.95	19590.37
27.	IDA	Karnataka	Karnataka Integrated Health Nutrition and Family Welfare	USD	3.1.2002	680.00	0.00	0.00	68.00
28.	UNFPA	Central Sector	Umbrella Project	USD	1.4.97	1.08	0.00	0.00	1.10
29.	Govt. of Germany	Central Sector	Pulse Polio Immunisation Programme	DEM	5.6.97	50000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
30.	-do-	-do-	Pulse Polio Immunisation Programme-II	DEM	16.11.99	15000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
31.	-do-	Maharashtra	Basic Health Maharashtra	DEM	23.7.96	3284.29	296.56	1059.79	0.00
32.	-do-	West Bengal	Basic Health Programme	DEM	22.6.99	1998.03	0.00	1998.03	0.00
33.	Govt. of Denmark	Central Sector	National Leprosy Eradication Programme Phase-II	DKK	17.9.91	70000.00	0.00	0.00	3760.09
34.	-do-	-do-	Health Care Project Phase-III, Tamil Nadu	DKK	24.12.96	102500.00	24513.84	0.00	16372.08

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
35.	Govt. of Denmark	Central Sector	National Programme Control Blindness Phase-III	DKK	7.11.97	55000.00	6076.69	4120.54	6844.13
36.	-do-	-do-	Agreement for Leprosy Eradication Programme Phase-III	DKK	16.11.98	76400.00	5504.11	0.00	0.00
37.	-do-	-do-	MP Basic Health Services	DKK	15.11.99	58400.00	0.00	0.00	8262.78
38.	-do-	-do-	Chhattisgarh Basic Health Services	DKK	15.11.99	21000.00	0.00	0.00	3875.97
39.	-do-	Karnataka	Woman and Youth Training Extension Phase-II Project	DKK	1.7.89	48500.00	2637.92	0.00	2272.75
40.	EEC	Central Sector	Health and Family Welfare Sector Development	EUR	2.9.97	240000.00	0.00	27000.00	31540.00
41.	Govt. of Germany	Central Sector	Pulse Polio Immunisation Programme-III	EUR	29.10.2001	10225.84	0.00	0.00	8461.19
42.	-do-	Maharashtra	Basic Health Maharashtra	EUR	23.7.96	10225.84	0.00	0.00	1131.87
43.	-do-	West Bengal	Basic Health Programme	EUR	22.6.99	30677.51	0.00	0.00	438.96
44.	Govt. of Netherlands	Gujarat	ORET Project for Gujarat Health Care	EUR NLG	27.11.97	18072.27 79652.07	0.00 9225.90	0.00 4186.53	2093.27 0.00
45.	Govt. of United Kingdom	Central Sector	India Polio Eradication Programme	GBP	22.10.96	47500.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
46.	-do-	-do-	Partnership for Sexual Health in Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Karnataka and Orissa	GBP	5.10.99	28100.00	0.00	2381.58	1648.47
47.	-do-	-do-	Polio Eradication Programme 1999	GBP	3.2.2000	38813.00	19937.50	0.00	0.00

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
48.	Govt. of United Kingdom	Orissa	Orissa Health and Family Welfare Project Phase-III	GBP	21.8.97	1748.00	413.06	289.38	726.34
49.	-do-	West Bengal	Calcutta Slum improvement Project	GBP	1.1.91	16944.00	168.73	587.19	0.00
50.	Govt. of United States of America	-do-	AIDS Prevention and Control Project	USD	30.9.92	11213.00	1419.16	1592.22	912.74
51.	-do-	-do-	Innovations in family planning Services	USD	30.9.92	92418.00	13925.00	8380.00	5783.00
52.	UNDP	Central Sector	Community based Pro-Poor initiative programme	USD	5.9.97	13500.00	1642.81	1590.94	1747.79
53.	-do-	-do-	Support to response HIV/AIDS Project	USD	22.3.2001	1500.00	0.00	0.00	208.46
54.	UNFPA	Central Sector	Gender Sensitizing Censes of India 2001	USD	13.10.2000	150.00	111.66	0.00	0.00
55.	-do-	-do-	Extension of non scalpel Vasectomy	USD	15.5.97	1353.26	283.59	601.45	304.29
56.	-do-	-do-	Reproductive Health project Bundi	USD	9.8.97	623.56	132.37	0.00	0.00
57.	-do-	-do-	Distt. Reproductive Health Project Malapuram	USD	9.8.97	749.57	41.13	265.41	0.00
58.	-do-	-do-	Improving the Status of reproductive health	USD	3.8.98	408.09	52.71	109.95	12.77
59.	-do-	-do-	Integrated population and development in Karala	USD	7.8.98	4223.90	2.14	599.59	325.28

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
60.	UNFPA	Central Sector	Population and development education in schools (NCERT)	USD	7.9.98	3660.54	510.03	806.12	0.00
61.	-do-	-do-	District reproductive Health Project Patna	USD	9.8.97	655.80	80.09	0.00	0.00
62.	-do-	-do-	Training for women empowerment in Maharashtra	USD	3.10.97	720.40	22.20	69.05	0.00
63.	-do-	-do-	Integrated Population and development-MP	USD	16.8.99	7140.36	132.13	1141.88	287.46
64.	-do-	-do-	Our Bodies Our Lives	USD	21.5.99	918.47	91.29	163.70	55.89
65.	-do-	-do-	Integrated Population and Development in Orissa	USD	8.7.99	5962.00	13.64	629.87	108.97
66.	-do-	-do-	Support to gender issues	USD	15.9.99	322.55	0.00	322.55	161.14
67.	-do-	-do-	Advocacy in population, Reproductive Health	USD	8.11.99	139.03	28.00	62.28	19.30
68.	-do-	-do-	Making safe motherhood a reality	USD	1.4.2000	323.51	0.00	282.18	207.06
69.	-do-	Maharashtra	Integrated population development in Maharashtra	USD	4.2.99	4595.52	0.00	1751.73	1208.96
70.	UNICEF	Central Sector	Gender Sensitizing census of India 2001	USD	1.11.2000	100.00	72.27	0.00	0.00
71.	United Nations Development fund for woman	Central Sector	Gender Sensitizing Census of India 2001	USD	25.10.2000	55.00	49.09	0.00	0.00

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
72.	UNFPA	Central Sector	Reproductive health project Wardha	USD	19.8.1997	502.64	187.31	0.00	0.00

Abbreviations:

EUR—Euro

FRF—French Franc

IDA—International Development Association

USD—US Dollar

NLG—Netherlands Guilder

XDR—Special drawing rights

GBP—Great Britain Pound

EEC—European Economic Commission

DEM—Deutsche Mark

DKK—Denis Kroner

UNDP—United Nations Development Programme

UNFPA—United Nations Population Fund

UNICEF—United Nations Children Education Fund.

Revision of Norms for Opening Post Offices

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

(a) whether the Government have received any proposals for opening of new post offices/sub post offices in rural areas of Rajasthan especially in THAR desert areas of Barmer, Jaisalmer, Jodhpur and Jalore districts;

(b) if so, the status of such proposals;

(c) whether the Planning Commission was requested to Commission a comprehensive study on all aspects of rural postal service/network including revision of norms for opening of post offices;

(d) whether the said study has been completed and the norms for opening of new post offices in THAR desert areas of Western Rajasthan have been revised; and

(e) if so, by when the Government propose to commence opening of new post offices in rural areas of THAR desert?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SU. THIRUNAVUKKARASAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. 16 proposals have been received so far for opening Branch Post Offices in Rajasthan, of which 7 pertain to the desert areas including one each in Barmer, Jodhpur, Churu and Jhunjhnu districts and three in Nagaur district

respectively. All seven Branch Post Offices have been opened.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) No, Sir. The study, which will *inter-alia* review the norms for opening new post offices, including in desert areas, is currently underway.

(e) Proposals for opening of new post offices in rural areas of THAR desert continue to be considered as per existing norms.

STD/ISD Facilities in Tamil Nadu

221. SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of STD/ISD Internet/Fax/E. Mail etc. facilities provided or proposed to be provided in various Gram Panchayats in Tamil Nadu during the year 2002-2003;

(b) the Gram Panchayats where the above mentioned facilities are not available; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) to (c) 121 out of

17899 Gram Panchayats in Tamil Nadu have been provided with STD facilities as on 31.01.2003. STD/ISD/FAX facilities are being provided to Gram Panchayats on demand. Internet facilities can be accessed from all Gram Panchayats through the Internet Nodes at the District Headquarters. E-mail facility is available through the Internet.

[Translation]

Human Resource Policy

222. YOGI ADITYA NATH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited is considering to prepare Human Resource Policy for its officials;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the main objectives and salient features of the policy and by when the said policy will be implemented?

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

(b) Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) has appointed M/s KPMG a Management Consultancy firm to assist it in development and implementation of HR strategies in following Human Resource areas:

- (1) Personnel Policy
- (2) Manpower Planning
- (3) Norms for staffing
- (4) Incentive/performance appraisal
- (5) Conduct & Disciplinary Rules.

(c) The main objectives of the HR Policy will be to strengthen HR Functions in BSNL so as to enhance the competency and efficiency of its Human Resource and make it more productive. The Consultant is to submit the final report shortly. The report and its recommendations will be considered and implemented as per decision to be taken by BSNL Management.

[English]

Shipping Services between India and Qatar

223. SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether passenger shipping services between India and Qatar have been terminated and thousands of Indian migrant labourers in West Asian Countries are stranded;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the action taken by the Government to bail out the migrant labourers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI): (a) and (b) There is no passenger shipping service between Qatar and India so the question of its termination does not arise.

(c) No request has been received by the Government of India in this regard.

Value Added Services in U.P.

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

(a) the efforts being made to start value added services in Uttar Pradesh Telecommunications Circle, particularly in Mohanlal Gunj and Lucknow;

(b) the number of telephone exchanges in Uttar Pradesh at present, category-wise, and district-wise;

(c) the number of telephone exchanges in Uttar Pradesh functioning in departmental and rental buildings separately; and

(d) the position with regard to waiting list for telephone connections in Uttar Pradesh Telecom Circles?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) The Value Added Services like Intelligent Network (IN), Integrated Services Digital Network (ISDN), Internet etc. are available in Uttar Pradesh Telecommunication circles including Mohanlal Gunj and Lucknow.

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

(c) The number of telephone exchanges in Uttar Pradesh functioning in departmental and rental buildings separately is given as below:

- (i) Number of telephone exchanges functioning in departmental buildings—796
- (ii) Number of telephone exchanges functioning in rental buildings—2314

(d) The position with regard to waiting list for telephone connections in Uttar Pradesh Telecom Circles is given below:

- (i) Waiting list as on 31.01.2003 in Uttar Pradesh (East) Telecom Circle—121599
- (ii) Waiting list as on 31.01.2003 in Uttar Pradesh (West) Telecom Circle—77930.

Mission to Outer Space

225. SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Space Research Organisation has finally decided not to send a manned mission to the outer space;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Indian Space Research Organisation is focussing on sending an unmanned spacecraft to the moon;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the target fixed therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) and (b) Till date India has no plans for undertaking a manned space mission. Unmanned exploration of moon by sending orbiting spacecraft will enhance the understanding of moon and also will result in technology advancement for the future space programme.

(c) to (e) Yes, Sir. The National Task Team, set up to study a proposal for an unmanned spacecraft mission to moon, has submitted its report. The proposal is to send an unmanned spacecraft to orbit the moon at a height of 100 km. The spacecraft will be launched using India's own launch vehicle. The mission is planned for the scientific objective of high-resolution remote sensing of the lunar surface in visible, near-infrared, low-energy

X-ray and high-energy X-ray spectra. The mission can be realised in about 5 years after the approval of the project.

Transit Facility by Bangladesh

226. DR. D.V.G. SHANKAR RAO: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Bangladesh has denied any transit or transshipment facility to India;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI VINOD KHANNA): (a) to (c) India has a limited transit facility through Bangladesh under the provisions of the India-Bangladesh Inland Water Transit and Trade Protocol which has been in operation since 1972. Government have made repeated proposals to the Government of Bangladesh for overland transit facilities for passenger and freight traffic. Bangladesh has not agreed to these proposals. Government continue to pursue the matter.

Hepatitis-'B' Vaccination

227. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE:
SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA:

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

(a) whether the first pilot project of Hepatitis-'B' vaccination has been started in February, 2003;

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

(c) whether training has been made available to the concerned States;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the manner in which the project is to be implemented;

(f) whether the Government are likely to take help of Non-Government organizations in this regard; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (e) Sir, the pilot project of Hepatitis-B Vaccination was officially launched by the Hon'ble Prime Minister on 10th June, 2002. The project is to be implemented in 15 cities in the first phase and 32 districts in the second phase. Details are given in the enclosed statements I and II. The training of Master Trainers, Medical Officers and Vaccine Handlers has been completed in most cities except in Kanpur, Lucknow and Patna. The details of training in these 15 cities are given in the enclosed statement-III.

(f) and (g) The pilot project under RCH Programme was sanctioned to Yuvak Pratishthan at a total cost of Rs. 35.00 lacs for Immunization against Hepatitis 'B', Project Area-Mumbai to vaccinate about 1 lakh children.

Statement-I

Sl. No.	State	Cities
1.	Delhi	Delhi
2.	U.P.	Lucknow
3.	Maharashtra	Pune
4.	A.P.	Hyderabad
5.	Tamil Nadu	Chennai
6.	Karnataka	Bangalore
7.	Rajasthan	Jaipur
8.	Gujarat	Ahmedabad
9.	Gujarat	Baroda
10.	Maharashtra	Mumbai
11.	M.P.	Bhopal
12.	M.P.	Indore
13.	West Bengal	Kolkatta
14.	Bihar	Patna
15.	U.P.	Kanpur

Statement-II

Sl.No.	State	Name of Districts
1	2	3
1.	Tamil Nadu	Madurai Nilgiri

1	2	3
		Virudhnagar
		Ramanathapuram
2.	Kerala	Alapuzzha Ernakulam Pathamithan
3.	Karnataka	Kodagu (Kurg) Shimoga Mysore
4.	A.P.	Chittoor Vijzayanagar
5.	Goa	Goa
6.	Maharashtra	Ratnagiri Chandrapur Satara
7.	M.P.	Balaghat
8.	Orissa	Sundergarh
9.	Punjab	Ropar Hoshiarpur
10.	Haryana	Panchkula Ambala
11.	H.P.	Hamirpur Solan
12.	Uttaranchal	Nainital
13.	Pondicherry	Pondicherry
14.	Lakshadweep	Lakshadweep
15.	Assam	Jorhat Sibsagar
16.	J & K	Rajouri Udhampur
17.	Gujarat	Surat

Statement-III*Training Programme in Hepatitis'B'
Project in 15 cities*

City	Medical Officers	Vaccinators
Mumbai	500	1250
Vadodara	21	98
Bhopal	100	300
Indore	120	125
Ahmedabad	83	212
Pune	65	231
Kanpur	90	210
Lucknow	100	300
Delhi	250	300
Jaipur	30	104
Chennai	134	696
Hyderabad	69	300
Bangalore	150	500
Kolkatta	250	300
Patna	100	300

Patna, Kanpur and Lucknow had deferred the training due to preoccupation with Pulse Polio Programme.

Deterioration in Relations with Neighbouring Countries

228. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a deterioration in India's relations with its Neighbours viz., Bangladesh, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Pakistan;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the effective steps taken/proposed to be taken to improve our relations with these neighbouring countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI VINOD KHANNA): (a) India remains firmly committed to good neighbourly relations with its neighbours and enjoys friendly relations including with Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and Nepal. Pakistan is however continuing its compulsive hostility and sponsorship of cross border terrorism into India.

(b) and (c) India remains firmly committed to the path of dialogue and reconciliation with Pakistan in keeping with the Simla Agreement and the Lahore Declaration. India has repeatedly called upon Pakistan to end its sponsorship of terrorism in India so that a conducive environment can be created for the resumption of bilateral dialogue.

[English]

Promotion of Hockey

229. SHRI RAMCHANDRA PASWAN: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) the new steps being taken by the Government to promote the sport of hockey in Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh and Punjab; and

(b) the details of steps proposed to be taken by the Government to encourage sports in these States?

THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI VIKRAM VERMA): (a) and (b) Sports as a subject figures in the 'State List' of the Constitution and as such promotion of sports at State level is the responsibility of the concerned State Government. However, the Government of India provides assistance to State Governments for installation of artificial hockey surfaces under the 'Scheme of Grants for Installation of Synthetic Surfaces'. The details of Central assistance, sanctioned to these States during the IX Plan under this scheme, are given below:

Uttar Pradesh

1. Replacement of hockey surface at Dhyana Chand Stadium, Lucknow — Rs. 80 lakhs

2. Laying of hockey surface at Jhansi — Rs. 100 lakhs.

Madhya Pradesh

1. Laying of two hockey surfaces at SAI Sports Centre, Bhopal — Rs. 200 lakhs

2. Relaying of hockey surface at Railway Stadium, Gwalior — Rs. 100 lakhs.

Punjab

1. Replacement of hockey surface at Sports Complex, Chandigarh — Rs. 100 lakhs.

2. Replacement of hockey surface at Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar — Rs. 100 lakhs.

3. Laying of hockey surface at Badal, Distt Muktsar — Rs. 100 lakhs.

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

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

Hockey is also being promoted as one of the disciplines under the above-said schemes. One of the Centres of Excellence is located in U.P.

[English]

Global Panel to Counter Terrorism

230. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government have mooted a proposal to set up a global panel of countries most affected by terrorism;
- (b) if so, the methods proposed to be adopted to tackle this menace and the countries included;
- (c) whether an action plan has also been formulated to counter Pakistan becoming a centre of terrorist activities;
- (d) if so, the salient features of this plan; and
- (e) the time by which this action plan is likely to be finalised?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) and (b) No.

(c) to (e) After the eviction of the Taliban from Afghanistan, Pakistan is today seen as the epicenter of international terrorism. Government have drawn the attention of the international community to Pakistan's involvement with, support for and providing a self haven

to international terrorism. There is widespread recognition of the dangers posed by such Pakistani involvement. Many countries have called upon Pakistan to dismantle completely the infrastructure of terrorism in that country. Government of India had also taken several measures, particularly following the December 13 terrorist attack on our Parliament to signal the total unacceptability of Pakistan's sponsorship of cross-border infiltration and terrorism. The President of Pakistan made commitments on January 12, May 27 and June 6, 2002 to end cross-border infiltration, not allow the territory of Pakistan to be used for terrorist activity anywhere in the world, and not allow any organization in Pakistan to indulge in terrorism in the name of Kashmir. Government have also made it clear that there can be no resumption of bilateral dialogue with Pakistan till cross-border infiltration and terrorism have ended.

Disinvestment of HCL

231. SHRI A.P. JITHENDER REDDY: Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government have received any Memorandum from Hindustan Cables Limited, Hyderabad, Employees Union urging the Government not to go ahead with their proposal for its Disinvestment;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

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

(b) The Employees Union have represented to stop closure of HCL and simultaneous merger of the company with Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd.

(c) The disinvestment of HCL could not be completed due to adverse industry conditions, lack of bidders' interest and poor financial condition of the company. The case of Hindustan Cables Ltd. has been returned to the Administrative Ministry (i.e. Department of Heavy Industry, Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises) for appropriate action.

Development of SSI

232. SHRI A. NARENDRA: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have offered different packaged to boost small scale industries from time to time;

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

(c) the impact of these packages in the Industrial Growth of country during 1999-2000, 2000-2001 and 2001-2002 upto January 2003, State-wise?

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

(a) and (b) Policy measures for promoting and strengthening small, tiny and village industries were announced on 6th August, 1991 to impart more vitality

and growth-impetus to the small scale sector to enable it to contribute its mite fully to the economy, particularly in terms of growth of output, employment and exports.

A Comprehensive Policy Package for Small Scale Industries (SSI and Tiny Sector) was announced on 30th August, 2000 to strengthen the small scale sector and enhance its competitiveness both domestically and globally. The policy package inter-alia includes easier access to credit, availability of collateral free composite loans upto Rs. 25 lakhs, capital subsidy for technological upgradation and improved infrastructure.

(c) The impact of these packages has been positive as can be seen from the growth of the sector which indicated below:

Year	No. of units (lakh Nos.)	Production (Rs. crores)	Employment (lakh Nos.)	Exports (Rs. crores)
1999-00	32.12	572887	178.50	54200
2000-01	33.12	639024	185.64	69797
2001-02	34.42	690316	192.23	N.A.

State-wise data for contribution of SSI sector to industrial production is not maintained centrally.

DOPE Test

233. DR. B.B. RAMAIAH: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the DOPE test of Smt. Sunita Rani at Busan Asian Games was neglected by the International Olympics Association;

(b) if so, the details of circumstances leading to her having to undergo the trauma; and

(c) if so, the efforts made to resolve the issue at Busan?

THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI VIKRAM VERMA): (a) to (c) The dope test of Sunita Rani, athlete was conducted by the International Olympic Committee accredited laboratory at Seoul. On confirmation of positive test of "A" sample of Sunita Rani, the Olympic Council of Asia (OCA) Medical Commission was requested for testing of "B" sample.

As the Amateur Athletic Federation of India (AAFI) was not satisfied with the test results, it constituted a

One Man Inquiry Commission under Shri S.D. Salwan. The one Man Commission, in its report, pointed out certain discrepancies in the quantity of 'Nandrolone' in 'A' and 'B' samples and procedures adopted by Dope Test Lab, Seoul. Based on the findings of this Commission, AAFI took up the matter with the concerned authorities at international level and, finally, the OCA set aside all the charges against Sunita Rani and returned the medals won by her during the Busan Asian Games, 2002.

I.T. Services Into Rural and Tribal Areas

234. SHRI B.K. PARTHASARATHI:
SHRI GANTA SREENIVASA RAO:

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

(a) whether the Government have formulated any comprehensive scheme for providing internet, e-mail and computer facilities in the rural and tribal areas of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SU. THIRUNAVUKKARASAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Department of Information Technology has implemented the following schemes for this purpose:

- (i) Community Information Centre in North East and Sikkim Regions in the country.
- (ii) Samadhan Kendra Scheme.

The details are given in the enclosed statement-I. Ministry of Rural Development has also taken various measures in this direction. The details are given in the enclosed statement-II.

- (c) Does not arise.

Statement-I

A brief note on the scheme for setting up Community Information Centres in North-East States and Sikkim:

The Department of Information Technology, Ministry of Communications & Information Technology has undertaken a scheme for setting up Community Information Centres (CICs) at 487 block headquarters in the seven North-East States and Sikkim for promoting application of Information Technology for accelerating socio-economic development of the region. The scheme is being implemented in the States of Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Tripura and Sikkim. 475 CICs have been setup till date.

2. The project is mainly aimed at bridging the digital divide and providing connectivity at the grass root level particularly in those areas where the benefits of national development have not reached the community, specially women and children to the desired extent as they have all along deprived of access to information relevant to their needs.

3. The CIC project which is a pioneering scheme of the Government of India is intended to meet the requirements of the community located at inconvenient hilly terrain, inaccessible and remote area in a cost effective manner.

4. The implementation of the scheme is planned to be carried out initially through a pilot project and finally through the main project. The pilot project for setting up 30 CICs at block headquarters at sites selected by the state governments was completed in October, 2000 at an estimated cost of Rs. 15 crores including operating and maintaining costs for five years.

5. The CICs set up under the pilot project are operational and are being used by the community mainly for browsing the Internet and utilising e-mail facilities. The school and college children are also using these facilities extensively. Amongst the other significant uses of CICs, a mention may be made of the following:-

- (i) Interface between citizens and government.
- (ii) Connectivity to internet through NICNET, inter-alia enabling web-browsing and-email facilities.
- (iii) Distance learning programmes.
- (iv) Familiarising use of computer systems, specially amongst school children.
- (v) Enabling e-commerce, operation of Call centres, medical transcriptions and such other IT-enabled services.
- (vi) Generation of employment opportunities.
- (vii) Facilitating public related services.
- (viii) Dissemination of information on plan initiatives, national programmes, disaster management system, public health awareness etc.

6. Based on the experiences of the functioning of 30 CICs under the pilot project, the main project launched involving an estimated expenditure of Rs. 242 crores (including the cost of pilot project of 15 crores, also includes recurring cost for five years) of which provision of 22 crores is being made for solar energy sources.

7. Each CIC has been provided with a Pentium III server, five Intel Celeron clients, a deskjet printer, a low-end laser printer and other peripherals. Connectivity is provided through VSAT installed at each CIC, which is in turn connected to NIC hub. These centres are to be manned by specially trained personnel who are being selected for the purpose by the State Government and trained by the implementing agency, which is National Informatics Centre (NIC).

8. Approval of CCEA has been obtained for the project in February 2002.

9. With a view to optimising the utility of these centres, locally relevant content is being developed in consultation with the State Governments.

10. Franchise operation of CIC may be considered at an appropriate time in future.

11. The Scheme envisages close coordination and

cooperation between the Central and State Governments for achieving the desired objective of taking IT to the masses.

12. An amount of Rs. 85.35 crores has been released so far to NICS for implementing the main project.

13. The Community Information Centres (CICs) setup in the North East States and Sikkim under the CIC main project has been inaugurated and dedicated to the people of North Eastern States at a function on 17th August 2002 at Guwahati by Hon'ble MCIT.

Samadhan Kendras

E-Infrastructure and E-Learning Group has no comprehensive scheme for rural and tribal areas. However, pilot implementation of Rural IT Centres (Samadhan Kendras) has been completed in Ramanathapuram Distt. of Tamil Nadu and 3 more Samadhan Kendra projects were launched in Ujjain (MP), West Godavri Disst. (AP) and Chitrakoot (MP). Out of these Samadhan Kendra Projects at Chitrakoot (MP) and Ujjain (MP), have been completed. These provide connectivity to internet as well as email and computer facilities to the villages through localised centres. Besides this, a whole range of other information facilities required in rural areas are fulfilled through Samadhan Kendras.

Statement-II

The Land Reforms Division is implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme on computerisation of Land Records (CLR) in the country since 1988-89 which includes rural and tribal areas also. This Scheme is being implemented jointly by Ministry of Rural Development and National Informatics Centre (NIC). Funds are being provided by Ministry of Rural Development of States/UTs for installation of Computers at District and Tehsils/Taluk centres and so far 582 districts and 2959 tehsils/taluks/blocks of the country have been brought under the programme.

Rajiv Gandhi National Drinking Water Mission, under the Ministry of Rural Development provides assistance at the rate of 100 percent to the States and Union Territories for procurement of hardware, office automation packages, training of manpower and development of application software for computerisation up to the division level offices of the line departments. The total Central funds released to States/UTs under the Rajiv Gandhi National Drinking Water Mission is Rs. 8923.73 lakhs (as on 26.7.2002).

The Ministry undertook a pilot project for providing VSAT connectivity to 15 District Rural Development Agencies (DRDAs) for providing internet facilities and a

web based software for poverty alleviation and rural development programmes. The pilot project has been taken up in 15 districts in 11 States, namely Anantpur and Nalgonda in Andhra Pradesh, Thanjavur and Perambalur in Tamil Nadu, Etawah in Uttar Pradesh, Hosangabad, Narsinghpur and Jaisen in Madhya Pradesh, Solan in Himachal Pradesh, Hazaribagh in Jharkhand, Midnapur in West Bengal, Shillong in Meghalaya, Chandrapur in Maharashtra, Sikar in Rajasthan and Almora in Uttaranchal. The project endeavours to establish a system for flow of information in respect of Swarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY), Jawahar Gram Samridhi Yojana (JGSY), Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS), Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY) and Watershed programmes. The total Capital cost of the project is Rs. 99.00 lakhs. The implementing Agency for the project is National Informatics Centre (NIC) and no funds have been allocated/released to the States.

[Translation]

Establishment of Medical College

235. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH PAL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any proposal from Uttaranchal State for opening of medical college there; and

(b) if so, by when the proposal is likely to be approved?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A proposal has been received from Uttaranchal Forest Hospital Trust, Haldwani, Nainital for establishment of a new medical college at Haldwani. The proposal has been sent to Medical Council of India for evaluation and recommendations. Clearance of this proposal will, however, depend upon fulfilling the qualifying criteria of Medical Council of India, the availability of infrastructure facilities and recommendations of Medical Council of India thereon.

[English]

Sub-standard Drugs

236. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "sub-standard drugs creating havoc" appearing in the *Hindu* dated December 27, 2002;

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

(c) the steps taken or being taken by the Government to instruct drug manufacturers in this regard?

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

(b) and (c) In the press report, a general statement has been made that drug formulations got manufactured on contract basis or loan license may not conform of the standards to which these might have adhered to if the same are manufactured by the principal manufacturer itself whose name appears on the lable. It has been further stated that the actual address of the premises where the drug has been manufactured does not figure on the lable. The press report, however has not mentioned any specific instance where the quality has been found to be compromised because of its manufacture of loan license.

The Drugs and Cosmetic Act and Rules made thereunder permits, the manufacture of drugs on loan license and the Manufacturing License Number of the licensee is required to be indicated on the lable of the drug. The manufacturer, whose name appears on the lable, is responsible for the quality of the drug marked by him and is required to ensure that drugs so manufactured conform to the prescribed standards. No complaints have been received by the Directorate General of Health Services regarding quality of drugs manufactured on loan license.

Contingency Plan for Health Sector

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

(a) whether the Union Government propose to prepare a comprehensive contingency plan for health sector to meet any eventuality including a nuclear strike;

(b) if so, by when the above plan is likely to be ready; and

(c) the details of inputs of the reports including the involvement of various ministries viz., department of

Atomic Energy, Ministry of Environment and Forest etc. in the preparation of plan?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (c) On the request of Ministry of Home Affairs, health sector contingency plan to deal with the situation arising out of the chemical, biological and nuclear war has been prepared by Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and forwarded to them for necessary action in coordination with all concerned nodal and supportive departments. The salient features of the plan are constitution of a crisis management group and a technical committee to advise, identification of hospitals for finitive care along with logistic support system, public health measures required to be taken for management of the situation during post disaster period, listing of NBC equipments, procedures for handling and decontamination of the affected victims and list of essential drugs.

CGHS Dispensaries in Chandigarh

238. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to refer to the answer given to Unstarred Question No. 1355 on November 27, 2002 and state:

(a) the steps taken by the Government to provide medical assistance to the entitled Government employees, particularly those residing outside the area covered by the dispensary;

(b) whether two more dispensaries were to come up in April and May, 2002; and

(c) if so, the reasons for the delay in starting the same and by when these are likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) At present, one full-fledged CGHS dispensary is functioning in Chandigarh with the full complement of staff. The Central Government employees having their place of residence within a radius of 3 kms covered area of the dispensary are availing medical facilities from the dispensary.

Central Government employees in Chandigarh residing outside the covered areas of the above dispensary will continue to get their medical facilities under the Central Services (Medical Attendance) Rules, 1944, under which their respective office can appoint Authorised Medical Attendants (AMAs).

(b) and (c) The Government had earlier propose to open two more dispensaries under CGHS Chandigarh in a phased manner. However, due to non-implementation of the recommendations contained in the Staff Inspection Unit (SIU)'s Reports dated 2.11.99 and 30.1.2003 on the Norms Study of the CGHS (Allopathic) dispensaries, it has not been feasible for the Government to move proposals for creation of new posts for opening of new dispensaries under CGHS. As such, it will not be possible for the Govt. to open more CGHS dispensaries in Chandigarh at present.

Disinvestment of Maruti Udyog

239. SHRI T.M. SELVAGANAPATHI: Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to realise a minimum of Rs. 2424 crores from disinvestment of equity in Maruti Udyog Limited over three tranches that could go upto Rs. 3158 crores;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government was able to realise only a sum of Rs. 11,300 through disinvestment during the last three years; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) and (b) In terms of the Revised Joint Venture Agreement (RJVA) entered into by Government of India with Suzuki Motor Corporation (SMC), Government had received Rs. 1,000 crore from SMC as control premium without selling even a single share in Maruti Udyog Ltd. (MUL). As on date, Government of India (GOI) holds 65.80 lakh shares constituting 45.54% of the equity share capital of Maruti Udyog Ltd. The RJVA entered into by Government with SMC further provides for sale of 36.12 lakh shares held by Government in the domestic market through Offer for Sale in the first tranche. The RJVA provides for a put option by GOI to SMC at Rs. 2300 per share. The minimum amount that would be realised in case GOI invokes this put option would be Rs. 830.76 crore. As a part of the second tranche, Government has a right to sell the balance shares in the domestic market or call upon SMC to purchase the shares at the rate of not less than Rs. 2000 per share. This provides an option to the Government to realise not less than Rs. 593.60 crore.

While it would be difficult to estimate the likely realisation on account of sale of the above 65.80 lakh shares which depends on market conditions, investors' interest in MUL shares, state of the capital market etc., Government has the option of realizing not less than Rs. 2424.36 crore (including the control premium of Rs. 1000 crore).

(c) Against the target of Rs. 44,00 crore (1999-2000 to 2002-2003), the Government had realised till January 2003, a sum of Rs. 12672.18 crore through disinvestment of PSUs.

(d) Implementation of the disinvestment programme depends on a variety of factors including market conditions, industry-wise business cycle fluctuations, interest of the prospective bidders, the adequacy of the price bid, etc. In view of this, it is not always possible to specifically predict receipts through disinvestment.

[*Translation*]

NH-80

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

(a) whether the Government have sanctioned required amount for widening and construction of National Highway No. 80;

(b) if so, whether the funds for the construction of dilapidated bridges (Champanagar and Kahalgaon) on this National Highway have been released; and

(c) if so, the name of the agency carrying out the above construction work?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI): (a) The total length of National Highway No. 80 in Bihar is 190 km. It was declared as a National Highway in January 1999. Widening in a length of 20 km has been sanctioned, Sanction for improvement of another 68 km length and construction of 2 bridges at a total cost of Rs. 18.43 crore has also been accorded.

(b) and (c) Bridge on Champa Nalla could not be sanctioned as it was not provided for in the current Annual Plan 2002-03. Kahalgaon bridge (Kowa bridge), has recently been completed by Bihar Rajya Pui Nirman Nigam.

[English]

Disinvestment of Samrat Hotel

241. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK: Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have a proposal to go in for the disinvestment of Samrat Hotel at New Delhi;

(b) if not, whether the Government propose to transfer the Hotel to private sector on long lease; and

(c) if so, the details of steps taken in the matter including the present status of the proposal?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) to (c) The disinvestment structure envisages handing over Samrat Hotel, New Delhi on long-term Lease-cum-Management Contract basis through competitive bidding process. Advertisement inviting Expressions of Interest for the hotel was issued on 5/8.2.2001. Financial bids were not invited due to security related concerns. It was decided in March 2002 that advertisement for this hotel may be issued after addressing the security related concerns in consultation with the security agencies. The process is on.

DS Research Centre

242. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Drug Control Department raided the premises of DS Research Centre, Calcutta, in July, 2002;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the details of arrests made alongwith the details of objectionable materials/medicines recovered therefrom, if any; and

(d) the status of the case as on date?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) Yes, Sir. The Directorate of Drug Control & Enforcement branch of Kolkata Police, jointly raided the premises of M/s D.S. Research Centre on July 26, 2002.

(b) As per the feedback available from Directorate of Drug Control Administration, Govt. of West Bengal, M/s D.S. Research Centre publicly offered some medicines which were violative of Drugs & Cosmetics Act and Magic Remedies (Objectionable Advertisement) Act & Rules there-under.

(c) During the joint raid conducted, the partner of the said firm was arrested and substantial quantity of medicines were also seized.

(d) As per the feedback available from Directorate of Drug Control Administration, Govt. of West Bengal, the case was placed before the appropriate court of law and the matter is sub-judice.

Traditional Knowledge Digital Library

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

(a) whether the Government have finalised plans to launch a "Traditional Knowledge Digital Library (TKDL)" to make available all traditional knowledge;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether this data will be regularly updated;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the likely impact of the library on traditional knowledge of medicine in the country?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) and (b) The Traditional Knowledge Digital Library (TKDL) of 35,000 Ayurvedic formulations is being established. Traditional Knowledge Digital Library (TKDL) was launched for documentation on 26.3.2002. So far 13,234 formulations have been scanned and 32,838 formulations have been transcribed. The Traditional Knowledge Digital Library (TKDL) (Ayurveda) is being converted into 5 languages for establishing prior art i.e. English, French, German, Spanish, Japanese and in Hindi.

(c) to (e) In phase one, 14 Ayurvedic books have been included. Additional books will be taken up later. Since Traditional Knowledge Digital Library (TKDL) (Ayurveda) work has not been exposed for public use yet its impact cannot be assessed.

Sanction for Artificial Limbs

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

(a) the number of applications received in the Ministry/CGHS during January 1, 2002 to January 31, 2003 for sanction of artificial limb;

(b) the number out of them in whose case the sanction has been conveyed to the concerned departments;

(c) the number of applications, still pending in CGHS in this regard; and

(d) by when this action is likely to be conveyed to the pending applications?

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

(b) Three.

(c) Two.

(d) In one case, the Expert Committee has not approved the imported Artificial limb requested by the beneficiary and has instead suggested using an Artificial limb of Indian make. The other case is under process. As soon as a decision is taken on the case, the same would be conveyed to the beneficiary.

National AIDS Research Institute

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

(a) whether the National AIDS Research Institute, Pune has conducted a study of the treatment for reducing mother to child transmission of HIV infection; and

(b) if so, the details of extent of success achieved in the study?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) The National AIDS Research Institute has not conducted a study of the treatment for reducing mother to child transmission of HIV infection. However, the National AIDS Research Institute has been involved in carrying out Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) tests among children born to an HIV infected parent to ascertain their HIV status as part of the feasibility study on Prevention of

parent to Child transmission undertaken by the National AIDS Control Organization (NACO).

(b) During Phase One of this feasibility study, the anti-retroviral drug known as Zidovudine was administered to pregnant mothers. It was noted that with the administration of this drug, the risk of transmission was reduced from 30% to 10%. Phase Two of the study using a single dose each of Nevirapine for the mother-baby has also been completed. This report is now being analysed.

[*Translation*]

National Illness Fund

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

(a) whether a National illness fund has been sanctioned for Bihar;

(b) if so, the details thereof and date on which the last instalment was released;

(c) whether any representation has been received in this regard; and

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

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Under the Scheme of National Illness Assistance Fund, Central Government provides grants-in-aid to States/Union Territories (with Legislature) that set up State Illness Funds, to the extent of 50% of contributions made by State Governments/Union Territories subject to a maximum of Rs. 5 crore to States with larger number and percentage of population below poverty line, and Rs. 2 crore in case of other States. Government of Bihar set up Bihar State Illness Assistance Society on 31.3.2002, with an initial amount of Rs. 2.50 crores. The Central Government's contribution of Rs. 1.25 crores towards the State Illness Society was released in July, 2000. Thereafter, no request has been received from the Government of Bihar for further release of grant-in-aid.

[English]

Doctor-Patient Ratio

247. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have stipulated any doctor-patient ratio in the Government hospitals of Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether this ratio is being implemented in all the hospitals of Delhi Government;

(d) if not, the steps being taken by the Government to narrow the huge gap in the doctor-patient ratio;

(e) whether any fresh recruitment is being planned to improve the patient-doctor ratio in Government Hospitals in Delhi; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (f) A uniform doctor-patient ratio can not be stipulated in hospitals because it varies from case to case depending upon various factors like the type of disease, nature of specialization, type of patient-care required viz., indoor/outdoor.

Discrepancies in Population Policy

248. SHRI GANTA SREENIVASA RAO:
SHRI GUNIPATI RAMAIAH:
SHRI B.K. PARTHASARATHI:

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

(a) whether National Human Rights Commission has urged the Government to explain certain discrepancies in population policy of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken to review the National Family Welfare Programme to ensure that there is no violation of the spirit behind the policy?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY

AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) and (b) A notice was received from National Human Rights Commission on a complaint filed by the "Centre for Women's Development Studies" in respect of Population Policy. It has been alleged in the complaint that the letter and spirit of the National Population Policy (NPP) is being violated in various ways and NHRC has been requested to taken cognizance of the violation and to direct States to strike down the provisions in their State Population Policy which violate the principles of NPP 2000.

(c) The Department of Family Welfare is of the view that disincentives proposed in some State Population Policies require a longer national consensus. Minister for Health and Family Welfare, has, in his letter to Chief Ministers of all States/UTs dated 2nd August, 2002 emphasized the need for having a common conceptual framework while formulating State Population Policies and Strategies. Government of India has already constituted a 'National Level Resource Committee' vide order dated 8th March, 2002 to provide technical support to State Governments in formulation of State Population Policies in consonance with letter and spirit of the National Population Policy, 2000.

Indian Scientists in US Space Programme

249. SHRI SURESH KURUP: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any mechanism to assess the number of scientists of Indian origin working in the United States Space Programme;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have any concrete plan to attract them back to Indian establishments; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) No, Sir. Formal mechanism does not exist for the said purpose.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Opportunities are extended to scientists of Indian origin who are desirous of working in Indian establishments. Towards this, the website of ISRO which

provides relevant information on Indian Space programme and also vacancy notifications, are accessed and responded to, by them.

(d) Those with appropriate qualification and skills are offered regular or visiting positions after appropriate assessment.

Human Cloning

250. SHRI J.S. BRAR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the policy of Government on the issue of human cloning in India;

(b) whether human cloning will be considered as scientific research in India; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (c) The Central Ethics Committee on Human Research (CECHR) of Indian Council of Medical Research, has evolved a set of ethical guidelines, namely; "Ethical Guidelines for Biomedical Research on Human Subjects". According to these guidelines, the possibility of human cloning cannot be rejected. However, since its safety, success, utility and ethical acceptability has not yet been established, research on cloning with intend to produce an identical human being has been prohibited. The guidelines have been accepted and circulated among all the scientific institutions in the country involved in research on human beings for its compliance.

Indians Languishing in Pakistan Jails

251. DR. M.V.V.S. MURTHI:
SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:
SHRI Y.V. RAO:
SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK:
SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE:
SHRI BHUPENDRASINH SOLANKI:
SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR:
SHRI T.M. SELVAGANAPATHI:
SHRI C.N. SINGH:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Indian civilians and fishermen languishing in the jails of Pakistan as on date; and

(b) the efforts made for their release by the Government so far and the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI VINOD KHANNA): (a) As per available information, 878 Indian civilian prisoners and 416 Indian fishermen are currently in custody in Pakistan.

(b) Government have consistently taken up the issue of their release and repatriation with the Government of Pakistan through diplomatic channels. Government of Pakistan is, however, yet to take necessary action for the release of Indian prisoners in its custody.

Irregularities in MPLAD Funds

252. SHRI K.E. KRISHNAMURTHY:
SHRI BRAJ MOHAN RAM:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that there are irregularities surfacing in the release of MPLAD funds;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to cover supply of foodgrains in the drought affected areas in the country in the MPLAD scheme; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) The release of MPLAD funds to the District Heads is made strictly in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 4.4 of the guidelines on Member of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme. Specific complaints received in regard to release of funds by the District Heads to the implementing agencies are immediately taken up with the State Government/Nodal Districts for investigation and remedial action. The State Governments/Districts Heads have also been advised from time to time strictly to follow the provisions of the guidelines for implementation of MPLADS works.

(b) Details of the complaints in respect of which action was taken during 2002 are given in the enclosed statement.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Statement

Details of complaints acted upon during 2002 with regard to irregularities/delay in release of fund to the implementing agencies under the MPLAD Scheme

Sl. No.	Name of the Constituency/Nodal Distt.	Brief description of the complaint
1	Gonda [Uttar Pradesh]	Full payments made to the implementing agencies before completion of works.
2	Ernakulam [Kerala]	Non-release of funds for construction of 'Tennis Court' in St. Albert's College, Ernakulam.
3	Etawah [U.P.]	Delay in release of funds to the implementing agencies.
4	Kannauj [U.P.]	Delay in release of funds to the implementing agencies.
5	Surendranagar [Gujarat]	Delay in sanctioning of works and delay in release of funds to the implementing agencies.
6	Balasore [Orissa]	Irregular release of funds for construction of Mahapada Bridge.

Establishment of National Ayurvedic Hospitals

253. SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:
SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN:

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

(a) whether the Government propose to open a National Ayurvedic Hospital in Delhi in order to promote Ayurvedic system of medicines;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of such hospitals functioning in the country, State-wise;

(d) the number of such Hospitals proposed to be opened during the Tenth Five Year Plan, State-wise;

(e) the amount likely to be incurred thereon;

(f) whether the Government have received any proposal from the Private Sector Companies in this regard; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) It will be established in collaboration with a private partner on the 4.5 acres of land at Sarita Vihar, New Delhi and it is proposed to provide state-of the art facilities for treatment of chronic and other diseases through Ayurvedic medicines and Ayurvedic procedures viz. Panchkarma, Ksharsutra, etc.

(c) Nil.

(d) There is no such proposal.

(e) to (g) Do not arise.

Pravasi Bharatiya Diwas Celebrations

254. SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA:
DR. MANDA JAGANNATH:
SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY:
SHRI RAMANAIDU DAGGUBATI:
SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:
SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN:
SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY:
SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI:
SHRI A.C. JOS:
SHRI G. GANGA REDDY:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of NRIs and PIOs were honoured at the recently concluded Pravasi Bharatiya Diwas;

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating the norms and criteria adopted for the purpose;

(c) whether Indian community from Gulf countries was under represented during this celebration;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor alongwith the number of NRIs and PIOs who actually attended the convention;

(e) whether a series of issues were discussed on this occasion; and

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

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

(b) The awards were conferred on the following Non-Resident Indians (NRIs) and Persons of Indian Origin (PIOs) who have made outstanding contribution towards fostering better understanding abroad of India and its civilizations and/or have extended their support to India's causes and concerns and have advanced her interests internationally and/or who have made significant contribution or service to the Indian Diaspora.

1. Rt. Hon. Sir Anerood Jugnauth, (Mauritius)
2. Prof. Fatima Meer, (South Africa)
3. Dr. Hari N. Harilela, (Hong Kong-China)
4. Mr. Kanaksi G. Khimji, (Oman)
5. Mr. Manilal Premchand Chandaria, (Kenya)
6. Lord Navnit Dholakia, (UK)
7. Mr. Rajat Gupta, (USA)
8. Sir S.S. Ramphal, (Guyana-currently resident in UK)
9. Mr. Datuk Seri S. Samy Vellu, (Malaysia)
10. Mr. Ujjal Dosanjh, (Canada).

(c) and (d) As per the registration details, the Indian community from Gulf countries had significant presence at Pravasi Bharatiya Divas with 209 having come from the Gulf countries out of a total of 1904 NRIs and PIOs who took part in the event.

(e) Yes.

(f) Special interactive session with Deputy Prime Minister of India and Plenary sessions with Minister of

External Affairs, Minister of Human Resource Development and Finance Minister were held. Parallel sessions were held on Entertainment, Ethnic Media and the Diasporic Identity; Culture, Language, Literature and The Diasporic Identity; Healthcare & Pharma; Voluntary Sector and Development; Science & Technology; Knowledge-Based Industries; Hospitality and Tourism; Education; Financial Service; Opportunities in Defence and Internal Security Research & Development. The deliberations resulted in a number of positive suggestions in respective areas for enhanced interaction between India and its Diaspora.

Telephone Adalat in Rajasthan

255. DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the telephone Adalats organised in Rajasthan during the last two years; and

(b) the number of cases disposed of in the State during the said period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) Sir, the Telephone Adalats organised in Rajasthan during 2000-01 and 2001-02 are 58 and 92 respectively.

(b) 715 and 1158 cases were disposed of in the State during 2000-01 and 2001-02 respectively.

Visit of Iranian President

256. SHRI BHASKARRAO PATIL:
 SHRI NARESH PUGLIA:
 SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV:
 SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB:
 SHRI AMBAREESHA:
 SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI:
 SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR:
 SHRI CHINMAYANAND SWAMI:
 SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA:
 SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE:
 SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL:
 SHRI RAMANAIDU DAGGUBATI:
 DR. CHARAN DAS MAHANT:
 SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH:
 SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Iranian President visited India recently;

(b) if so, the details regarding the discussions held and the outcome thereof;

(c) whether any agreement were signed on the occasion;

(d) if so, the details of bilateral agreements signed;

(e) whether Iran has offered to help India in its fight against terrorism; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI VINOD KHANNA): (a) and (b) President of Iran H.E. Seyyed Mohammad Khatami visited India from 24 to 28 January 2003. During the visit, wide ranging discussions on bilateral, regional and global issues of mutual interest were held. The New Delhi Declaration, signed by the Prime Minister and the Iranian President, puts forth the vision of strategic partnership between India and Iran for a more stable, secure and prosperous region and for enhanced regional and global cooperation. It touches all aspects of cooperation—bilateral economic cooperation, cooperation in the field of hydrocarbons, science and technology, information technology, education and training, reconstruction of Afghanistan, international terrorism, and other global issues.

(c) and (d) In addition to the New Delhi Declaration, a Memorandum of Understanding on the Road Map to Strategic Cooperation was also signed which sets a five-year target oriented framework for milestones towards the strategic partnership. Six other documents, Agreement on Science and Technology cooperation, MoUs on cooperation in hydrocarbons sector, Vocational Training, and Urban Water Management; Cultural Exchange Programme (2003-2004) and Framework Agreement on operationalization of USD 200 million Indian line of credit to be implemented by Exim Bank through a group of Iranian banks were also signed.

(e) and (f) India and Iran called on the international community to intensify its efforts to combat the menace of terrorism. They agreed that combat against international terrorism should not be based on double standards and States that aid, abet and directly support international terrorism should be condemned. India and Iran also agreed to continue joint cooperation to address the issue

of international terrorism and trafficking in narcotic and psychotropic substances.

[Translation]

Domestic Capital Investment in IT Sector

257. SHRI RAMJILAL SUMAN:
DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA:

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

(a) whether domestic capital investment in the Information Technology Sector of the country has been constantly increasing during the last few years;

(b) if so, the quantum of total domestic capital investment made in the IT Sector during the years 1999-2000, 2000-2001 and 2001-2002;

(c) the target set in this regard during the current financial year i.e. 2002-2003; and

(d) the profit earned by this sector during each of the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SU. THIRUNAVUKKARASAR): (a) to (c) No large or significant capital investments have been made in the past few years including 2002-03 in this sector. In view of the several constraints and disability factors, faced by IT hardware manufacturing sector (Computer/Electronic Data Processing System/products), the focus of the industry has been on better utilisation of investment already made.

As per the report of the Tenth Plan Working Group on IT, Production targets for the computer hardware sector for 2002-03 (in realistic scenario) is Rs. 4800 crores.

(d) The computer hardware manufacturing industry has witnessed attrition of operating margins over the years, which presently are in the range of 2-4%.

Four Lane Roads in Haryana

258. SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any scheme is under consideration of the Government to convert the Ambala-Hisar, Ambala-Yamunanagar and Saha-Punchkula roads into four lanes;

(b) if so, the quantum of funds involved in the said scheme; and

(c) the action taken thereon so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI): (a) Ambala-Hisar and Saha-Punchkula roads are National Highway (NH) 65 and 73 respectively. The road from Ambala to Yamunanagar consists of State Road from Ambala to Saha and NH 73 from Saha to Yamunanagar. The responsibility for development of State Roads lies with the State Government. As regards National Highways from Ambala to Hisar, Saha to Punchkula and Saha to Yamunanagar there is no proposal of four landing at present.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Colloquium on Population Policy

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

(a) whether the Government had arranged a colloquium on Population Policy—Development and Human Rights recently; and

(b) if so, the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) Yes, Sir. A colloquium on Population Policy was held on 9-10th January 2003.

(b) Major recommendations made at the colloquium were for ensuring that the State specific population policies are formulated within the conceptual framework of the National Population Policy, 2000; provide equal opportunity and environment where women are given the freedom of choice; demystify that understanding of reproductive rights at both the policy and programme implementation levels; make registration of marriage and birth compulsory; stabilize population through inter-sector coordination and involvement of civil society within a right perspective; ensure access to quality health care; ensure equitable allocation of resources etc. Further, a Declaration was also released wherein it was agreed to recognize population policies as a part of the overall development goals, adopt an approach which participatory and non-coercive giving due regard to individual decision making process and work together for empowerment of women

while also providing them access to comprehensive health services etc.

Shifting of Telephones

260. SHRI MANSUKHBHAI D. VASAVA:
SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO:

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

(a) whether the telecom department has fixed any time limit for the shifting of telephones;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the time limit has been violated during the last two years;

(d) if so, the number of officials found guilty in this regard during the said period, State-wise; and

(e) the action taken/proposed to be taken against them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) and (b) Quality of Service parameters are laid down and monitored by Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) in terms of TRAI Act, 1997 as amended vide TRAI (Amendment) Act, 2000. As per TRAI Regulation on Quality of Service of Basic and Cellular Mobile Service, 2000 (2 of 2000) dated 5th July 2000, 95% of requests for shifting of telephones are to be completed within 3 days. Regarding All India Shift, no fixed time limit has been prescribed by TRAI. However, time limit of one month for inter-city (All India) shift is being followed.

(c) Normally telephone shifts are carried out within the prescribed time period. There have been some delays in shift of telephones due to area being technically non-feasible and subscriber reasons. However some cases of deliberate delay have come to notice in Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) Delhi.

(d) 13 officials in MTNL Delhi have been found guilty.

(e) Departmental action in form of issue of Warning letter initiation of proceedings for major and minor penalties have been taken against these officials.

[English]

Four Laning of Mehsana Ahmedabad National Highway

261. SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government are considering four-laning of national highway from Mehsana to Ahmedabad;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI): (a) to (c) The Mehsana-Ahmedabad road is not a National Highway. Central Government is primarily responsible for the development and maintenance of National Highways only. Responsibility for development and maintenance of all other roads falls within the purview of the respective State Government/ Union Territories.

[Translation]

EU Health Formula

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

- (a) whether the member countries have failed to resolve the issue of diseases to be covered under the trade related intellectual property rights and public health by the stipulated date of December 31, 2002;
- (b) if so, whether the European Union (EU) has proposed a compromise formula for the fifteen infectious epidemics as suggested by the World Health Organisation;
- (c) whether most of the countries are yet to formulate their stand on the formula proposed by the EU;
- (d) if so, whether the EU formula restricts the extent of disease coverage as compared to that envisaged in Doha declaration; and
- (e) if so, whether any compromise formula has since been arrived at amongst the member countries about the diseases to be covered under the Doha declaration?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (e) Chairman of the TRIPS Council gave a proposal for Draft Waiver Decision under para 6 of Doha Declaration on 16th December, 2002. According to para 6 of Doha Declaration, the TRIPS Council had to find an expeditious solution to the problem of countries with insufficient or no manufacturing capacities in the pharmaceutical sector by December, 2002. However, the TRIPS Council could not arrive at a consensus on this issue as US did not agree to the proposal from Chairman, TRIPS Council of 16th December, 2002.

The European Union gave a proposal in January, 2003 for a footnote to para 1 (a) of the Draft Waiver Decision of the Chairman, TRIPS Council dated 16th December, 2002. The EU proposal was not agreed to by the developing countries including India and Africa group. The proposal by Chairman, TRIPS Council on 16th December, 2002 provides that the solution would cover pharmaceutical products required to address public health problems as recognised in paragraph 1 of Doha Declaration. The EU proposal restricts disease coverage as compared to Doha Declaration and proposal by Chairman, TRIPS Council dated 16th December, 2002. The issue is still under negotiation.

World Bank Assistance for Medical Colleges

263. SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government have received any proposals from different States for the assistance from World Bank to improve the quality of medical education and strengthen the physical infrastructure of medical colleges and attached hospitals in the country; and
- (b) if so, the present status of these proposals?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The proposals from the States of Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh, Orissa, West Bengal, Kerala, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Delhi and UT of Chandigarh have been received for strengthening of physical infrastructure of Government Medical Colleges through World Bank assistance.

All these proposals have been examined in consultation with Planning Commission and the observations made by the Planning Commission have been communicated to the respective State Governments/ UTs for revising the proposals.

Teledensity In Bihar

264. SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) the teledensity in Bihar at the end of year 2002;
- (b) the national average of teledensity;
- (c) the number of applicants in the waiting list for telephone connections in Muzaffarpur, Sitamarhi and Vaishali districts of Bihar as on January 31, 2002;
- (d) by when telephone connections are likely to be given to the applicants in the above three districts; and
- (e) the schemes and programmes of the Government to bring teledensity in Bihar at par with national average?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) The teledensity in Bihar at the end of year 2002 is 1.23.

(b) The national average of teledensity at the end of year 2002 is 4.79.

(c) and (d) The number of applicants in the waiting list for telephone connections in Muzaffarpur, Sitamarhi and Vaishali Districts of Bihar as on 31.1.2002 is as given below:-

Sl.No.	Name of District	Waiting List
1.	Muzaffarpur	2403
2.	Sitamarhi	3851
3.	Vaishali	5647

The waitlisted applicants are expected to be given telephone connections by December, 2003 by BSNL (Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd.).

(e) The Growth of Telephone Lines in Bihar is being planned at a much higher rate than the average growth rate of the BSNL network subject to the availability of demand and resources.

[English]

Misdeeds of Private Hospitals

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

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Cancer wakes up to 'loot' by hospitals" appearing in the *Indian Express* dated January 29, 2003;

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

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto;

(d) the remedial measures taken by the Government to check such practices;

(e) whether the Government propose to appoint private agencies to conduct blood tests, X-Rays etc. to improve the situation in the Government Hospitals; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) to (d) The Government on receipt of complaints regarding submission of inflated bills by some private hospitals recognised under CGHS Hyderabad, deputed Dr. T.K. Banerjee, Additional Director, CGHS, Kolkatta, for conducting an inquiry into the matter. Based on the findings in the Inquiry Report, the Government has referred the matter to the Central Bureau of Investigation for investigation. Simultaneously, a special audit of CGHS dispensaries in Hyderabad has been ordered. Transfer of some of the officials at CGHS Hyderabad is also being taken up. Detailed guidelines have already been issued to the Additional Director, CGHS, Hyderabad, for exercising control over expenditure by private hospitals recognised under CGHS Hyderabad. Further, the fresh recognition of private hospitals under DGHS Hyderabad have been done by the Government by following through a transparent process based on the report of the Expert Committee deputed for inspection of the physical facilities and manpower, etc. available in these private hospitals and no favour has been done by the Government to any of the private hospitals so recognised under CGHS by the Government.

(e) and (f) The Government has already recognised 14 diagnostic centres under CGHS Hyderabad for conducting various radiological/pathological investigation.

Know-how to Private Players

266. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn towards the news-item captioned "ISRO wants to pass on its know-how to private players" appearing in the *Indian Express* dated January 15, 2003;

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

(c) whether the ISRO has assessed its impact on defence and missile projects; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Since its inception, ISRO has been striving to involve the Indian Industries in its space programme. With the substantial increase in the scope of the space programme, both in terms of the number of launch vehicles and satellites being developed and launched by ISRO, the efforts to involve the industry is receiving further fillip. The ISRO efforts are now aimed at making the industries graduate from supplying parts and components, to supplying major systems required for ISRO's satellites and launch vehicles.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Disruption of Land Line Phones

267. SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the links between MTNL's land-line phones and other cell phones in Delhi were disrupted in January 2003;

(b) if so, the period of disruption;

(c) the details regarding the causes of disruption and the manner in which the disruption took place;

(d) when the disruption ended and the connectivity restored; and

(e) the details of the facts which led to the restoration of the connectivity?

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

(b) Disturbances in the inter-connecting links were noticed from the afternoon of 16.1.2003, and normal operations were restored by 21.1.2003.

(c) Due to some differences on terms of inter-connection between the operators some disturbances in the network had occurred. Steps were taken in due course to ensure that all interconnection links worked properly and services got normalized.

(d) and (e) With the restoration of interconnection links between the various operators the services became normal on 21.01.03.

Kidney Scam

268. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA:
DR. CHARAN DAS MAHANT:

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

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Kidney Scam" appearing in the *Times of India* dated January 18, 2003;

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

(c) the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government against those violating Human Organ Transplantation Act, 1984?

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

(b) and (c) Sale and purchase of human organs including kidney is banned under the provisions of the Transplantation of Human Organ Act, 1994. The Act has stringent provisions for punishing any one who commits such acts. Under Section 13 (2) of the Transplantation of Human Organ Act, 1994, the State Governments are empowered to appoint Appropriate Authorities for the purpose of the Act who are empowered to investigate any complaints of breach of provisions of the Act including those pertaining to sale and purchase of human organs including kidney. The act has been adopted by several States including the Government of Punjab.

Bilateral Ties with Singapore

269. SHRI CHADA SURESH REDDY:
DR. B.B. RAMAIAH:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the President of Singapore visited India recently;

(b) if so, the details of the bilateral agreements signed on the occasion;

(c) whether Singapore has sought India's assistance in effectively combating terrorism; and

(d) if so, the mutual facilitation of security services proposed to be taken to mitigate the threat of terrorism?

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

(b) No bilateral agreement was signed during the visit.

(c) and (d) No. However, Singapore and India have a common commitment to combat the global menace of terrorism.

Overland Trade between India and Afghanistan

270. SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU:
DR. D.V.G. SHANKAR RAO:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a bilateral meeting was held during the first week of January 2003 which included India, Iran and Afghanistan;

(b) if so, whether a proposal for an alternative transit route to Afghanistan was mooted in the wake of Pakistan refusing overland trade between India and Afghanistan;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI VINOD KHANNA): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. A trilateral meeting between India, Iran and Afghanistan was held on 4 and 5 January 2003 at Tehran to discuss the development of transit and transport between the three countries, elimination of barriers and constraints and providing safe, smooth, rapid and low-

cost transportation. At the end of the meeting, a Memorandum of Understanding on the Development and Construction of Transit and Transport Infrastructures in Chabahar-Milak-Zaranj-Delaram route was signed between the three countries aimed at improving access to Afghanistan, and upgrading the infrastructure at Chabahar port and relevant road segments.

Reduction in the Licence Fees

271. SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to reduce the Licence fees payable by the private operators to the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the genesis behind such a move especially in view of the fact that the tariffs of telecom services are coming down and the growth rate is sufficiently high?

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

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

[*Translation*]

Job Opportunities in I.T. Sector

272. SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO:
DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA:
SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN:

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

(a) whether 70 lakhs jobs are likely to be created in information technology sector by the end of the year 2008;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of people employed in information technology sector as on February 15, 2002 separately in hardware and software streams of IT sector;

(d) whether the Government had taken any steps to provide jobs to trained youth in foreign countries during the last two years; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SU. THIRUNAVUKKARASAR): (a) No, Sir. As per NASSCOM study (McKinsey Report 2002) it is estimated that the Indian IT Software and Services Sector will employ 23.67 lakhs jobs by the end of 10th Five Year Plan period.

(b) IT professionals for

(i) Software products: 2 lakh.

(ii) IT services & E-business: 5.77 lakh.

(iii) IT enabled services & E-business: 15.9 lakh.

(c) About 5.2 lakh people have been employed upto December, 2002 as per NASSCOM estimation in both hardware and software streams of IT sector.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

[English]

Allocation from Development Reform Facility

273. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have cleared a special development package for Gujarat under the Development Reform Facility (DRF);

(b) if so, the amount of DRF fund allocated to Gujarat; and

(c) the amount of DRF allocated to other States and the norms prescribed for the allotment of DRF funds?

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

(b) Rs. 15 crore is being allocated to Gujarat for Dangs district.

(c) In the current year, 25 districts of 12 States are being covered on a pilot basis under the Backward

Districts Initiative component of Rashtriya Sam Vikas Yojana. Rs. 15 crore has been allocated for each district. A statement indicating the names of the States, number of districts covered and the amount allocated is enclosed.

Statement

Names of the States, number of districts covered and the amount allocated under the Backward Districts initiative component of Rashtriya Sam Vikas Yojana (RSVY)

Sl. No.	Name of the State	Number of districts covered	Amount allocated (Rs. in crore)
1.	Andhra Pradesh	2	30.00
2.	Chhatisgarh	2	30.00
3.	Gujarat	1	15.00
4.	Jharkhand	3	45.00
5.	Karnataka	1	15.00
6.	Kerala	1	15.00
7.	Madhya Pradesh	3	45.00
8.	Maharashtra	2	30.00
9.	Rajasthan	2	30.00
10.	Tamil Nadu	1	15.00
11.	Uttar Pradesh	5	75.00
12.	West Bengal	2	30.00

Evening OPD in AIIMS

274. DR. MANDA JAGANNATH:
DR. (SHRIMATI) C. SUGUNA KUMARI:

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

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "AIIMS evening OPD patients turn up, doctors play truant" appearing in the *Indian Express* dated January 11, 2003;

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

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (c) The news item captioned 'AIIMS evening OPD patients turn up, doctors play truant' appeared in the Indian Express dated January 11, 2003. The evening OPD in medicine, surgery, pediatrics and Obsst. & Gynaecology is functioning satisfactorily in All India Institute of Medical Sciences since January 9, 2003 on all working days from Monday to Friday. Initially there were some apprehensions among Resident Doctors regarding functioning of evening OPD. The issues have been resolved and the Faculty who are assigned evening OPD duty are now attending the OPD on the assigned days. A large number of patients are attending evening OPD. Most of them are those patients who cannot avail morning OPD. Any type of acute as well as chronic patients are attended in the evening OPD.

Barriers on Dual Use Technology

275. SHRI Y.V. RAO: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Foreign Secretary raised the issue of removal of barriers on the export of dual use technologies with U.S. officials during his recent visit to U.S.; and

(b) if so, the response of the U.S. Administration thereto?

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

(b) Foreign Secretary and U.S. Under Secretary of Commerce signed on 5 February 2003 in Washington D.C. a Statement of Principles to further promote and facilitate India-U.S. high technology commerce, including trade in "dual use" goods and technology.

Disinvestment of PSUs

276. COL. (RETD.) DR. DHANI RAM SHANDIL: Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the names of public sector undertakings established in the State of Himachal Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh which are likely to be disinvested;

(b) whether the Government have made any evaluation of these PSUs;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether any discussion have been held with the State Government in this regard; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) Government has decided for disinvestment of two Central Public Sector Undertakings located in Andhra Pradesh namely Sponge Iron India Limited (SIIIL) and Bharat Heavy Plates and Vessels Limited (BHPV), which is a subsidiary of Bharat Yantra Nigam Limited. With respect to State of Himachal Pradesh, there are no Central PSUs located there which are being disinvested.

(b) and (c) Evaluation of shares of PSUs under disinvestment is normally done to the time of receiving the price bids from the qualified interested parties. This stage has not been reached in the cases of disinvestment of SIIIL and BHPV.

(d) and (e) Consultation with State Governments for disinvestment is not necessary in the cases of Central PSUs. However, the Government of Andhra Pradesh has been apprised about disinvestment in these two PSUs. In the case of SIIIL, because of its location in a tribal area, the State Government was consulted and they have conveyed their no objection to the proposal.

Expansion of Coastal Shipping

277. SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have a proposal for the expansion of coastal shipping operations;

(b) if so, the facilities available at present;

(c) whether any step is being taken for the expansion of coastal shipping in 2003-04; and

(d) if so, the details of the areas identified therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI): (a) There is no such proposal at present.

(b) No such facilities are available at present.

(c) Yes Sir. It has since been decided by the Government to carry out a study on development of coastal shipping and Minor Ports through appointment of consultant.

(d) The areas identified in the terms of reference for the study are as follows:-

- (i) To identify cargo that can be diverted to coastal shipping from other modes of transport and the steps needed to achieve such a diversion.
- (ii) To evaluate future traffic potential for coastal movement in the next ten years, including the nature and volume of cargoes with their origins, destinations, including availability of return cargo.
- (iii) To study the availability of coastal routes and explore the possibility of developing new ones to meet existing and potential demand.
- (iv) To identify minor ports (either existing or yet to be established), for use by coastal shipping, keeping in view rail/road connectivity and hinterland linkage and to recommend the infrastructure needed at such ports.
- (v) To examine the possibility of establishing an integrated transport system between coastal ships and Inland Water Transport and suggest specific locations for this.
- (vi) To prepare a plan of action that will operationalize the above and to give broad cost estimates thereof.

Eradication of Malaria

278. SHRI PARSURAM MAJHI:
SHRI BRAJ MOHAN RAM:

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

(a) whether the Government are aware of the outbreak of Malaria in different parts of the country recently;

(b) if so, the number of death cases reported till date, State-wise; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to check the spread of Malaria and the aid/assistance provided for the eradication of Malaria?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) and (b) The total number of reported malaria cases in 2002 was

1.58 million as compared to 1.65 million cases in the corresponding period of 2001. An outbreak of malaria was reported from Assam in 2002. A Statement showing reported number of deaths, State-wise due to malaria in 2002 is enclosed.

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

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

Statement

Malaria Deaths Reported in India During 2002

Sl. No.	States/UTs	2002 (P)
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	0
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0
3.	Assam	63
4.	Bihar	2
5.	Chhattisgarh	3
6.	Goa	15
7.	Gujarat	7
8.	Haryana	0
9.	Himachal Pradesh	0
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	0
11.	Jharkhand	36
12.	Karnataka	31
13.	Kerala	8
14.	Madhya Pradesh	17
15.	Maharashtra	31
16.	Manipur	2
17.	Meghalaya	33

1	2	3
18.	Mizoram	27
19.	Nagaland	0
20.	Orissa	362
21.	Punjab	0
22.	Rajasthan	0
23.	Sikkim	2
24.	Tamil Nadu	0
25.	Tripura	5
26.	Uttaranchal	0
27.	Uttar Pradesh	0
28.	West Bengal	121
29.	A&N Islands	0
30.	Chandigarh	0
31.	D&N Haveli	0
32.	Daman&Diu	0
33.	Delhi	0
34.	Lakshadweep	0
35.	Pondicherry	0
Total		765

(P)=Provisional.

[*Translation*]

Mobile Telephone Service

279. SHRI RAMSHAKAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether BSNL has launched mobile service in various regions and districts of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the criteria fixed for providing connection;

(d) the total number of connections issued and revenue collected since October, 2002 till date; and

(e) the steps being taken by the Government to simplify the mobile facility for the consumers?

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

(b) Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) has launched the Cellular services in all the States across the country covering about 944 cities including 325 districts, except in J&K, Assam and North Eastern States.

(c) Connection are provided on first come first serve basis subject to the availability of capacity.

(d) Upto 31.01.2003, 1237037 Cellular Mobile connections have been provided since October-2002 and the revenue collections has been around Rs. 71.64 Cr.

(e) The various steps taken by the Government to simplify the mobile facility for the consumers are as below:

1. Generally in all the service areas there are multiple operators.
2. Cellular tariffs have been forborne by the Regulator.
3. Regulator has specified interconnection usage charges to facilities interconnection between various service providers.

[*English*]

Guidelines for New Medical Colleges

280. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are considering to review the guidelines for new Medical Colleges in Hilly areas, Backward areas and Metro cities;

(b) if so, whether the Government have received any representations in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) when the existing guidelines were framed;

(e) by when the guidelines are expected to be reviewed; and

(f) the opinion of Medical Council of India in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (f) In pursuance of the provisions of the Indian Medical Council

(Amendment) Act, 1993 the Medical Council of India notified the Regulations for Establishment of New Medical Colleges in 1993. After undertaking a review, these Regulations have been replaced by the "Establishment of Medical College Regulations, 1999". The Regulations of Medical Council of India are reviewed periodically. The Government have received representations for undertaking a review of these Regulations again for relaxation of certain provisions to enable setting up of new medical colleges in the backward and hilly areas and the metro-cities. The Medical Council of India is of the opinion that the provisions of the Regulations have to be enforced uniformly.

[Translation]

Construction of Bridges on National Highways

281. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of bridges constructed on different National Highways in the country during the last three years, State-wise; and

(b) the number of bridges proposed to be constructed during the current financial year, State-wise and the amount allocated for the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI): (a) The details are given in the statement-I enclosed.

(b) The details are given in statement-II enclosed. The allocations for the development of National Highways including bridges are made State-wise and not National Highway or bridge-wise.

Statement-I

Sl. No.	Name of States	Bridges constructed during last three years 1999-2002
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	104
2.	Assam	2
3.	Bihar	26
4.	Chhattisgarh	5
5.	Goa	3

1	2	3
6.	Gujarat	61
7.	Haryana	21
8.	Himachal Pradesh	18
9.	Jharkhand	16
10.	Karnataka	29
11.	Kerala	6
12.	Madhya Pradesh	39
13.	Maharashtra	129
14.	Meghalaya	11
15.	Orissa	144
16.	Rajasthan	16
17.	Tamil Nadu	34
18.	Uttar Pradesh	14
19.	West Bengal	35
Total		713

Statement-II

Sl. No.	Name of States	Number of Bridges For Reconstruction/ New Construction proposed in current year 2002-03	
		Major Bridges	Minor Bridges
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	7	6
2.	Assam	2	2
3.	Bihar	14	5
4.	Chandigarh	0	1
5.	Chhattisgarh	2	13
6.	Goa	1	0
7.	Haryana	3	1
8.	Himachal Pradesh	7	10
9.	Jharkhand	5	6

1	2	3	4
10.	Karnataka	4	8
11.	Kerala	2	0
12.	Maharashtra	1	39
13.	Manipur	2	6
14.	Meghalaya	4	9
15.	Mizoram	3	1
16.	Orissa	4	11
17.	Pondicherry	1	1
18.	Punjab	1	7
19.	Rajasthan	4	3
20.	Tamil Nadu	2	9
21.	Tripura	1	0
22.	Uttaranchal	6	5
23.	Uttar Pradesh	7	18
24.	West Bengal	0	5
Total		83	166

Above details do not include bridges on National Highways being widened into 4/6 lane under National Highways Development Project (NHDP) and Port Connectivity being implemented by National Highways Authority of India, as bridges are generally being constructed as part of 4/6 laning road project.

[English]

Veterinary Doctor in AIIMS

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

(a) whether the Government are aware that the Primate Research facility in All India Institute of Medical Sciences has been functioning without a veterinary doctor since October 31, 2002;

(b) if so, whether invasive, operative and post operative procedures on monkeys have been carried out without the care of a veterinary doctor since October 31, 2002;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether it is mandatory for the senior officer to sign treatment slip for the research facility;

(e) if so, whether it has come to the notice of the Government that such slips are being signed by unauthorized persons including technicians and scientists in lieu of senior veterinary officer;

(f) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(g) by when a veterinary doctor is likely to be posted in the Hospital?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (g) The All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi have three posts of Veterinary Doctors including one created currently. One Veterinarian has superannuated on 31.10. 2002. One person thus, is in position Invasive, operative and postoperative procedures on monkeys are being performed by persons duly qualified. Treatment/ procedures is being done as per rule 9 (a) of the Breeding of and Experiments of Animals (Control and Supervision) Rules, 1998. Action has been initiated to fill the vacant posts of Veterinarian.

Promotion of E-Governance

283. SHRI P.D. ELANGO VAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken any steps and created software to enhance and promote e-governance in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of PCs installed and distributed in the Government offices and the number of Internet connections provided, State-wise;

(d) whether the Government are facing any difficulty to implement the e-governance and computerization in all the Ministries and Departments;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the steps taken by the Government to implement and authorize e-governance and e-communications in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SU. THIRUNAVUKKARASAR): (a) Yes. Sir.

(b) Government set up National Informatics Centre (NIC) in 1975-76 for providing computer based (e-governance) support to the Central Government Departments. E-Governance support of NIC was extended to State Governments, UT Administrations and Districts Administrations in the country from the year 1984-85.

NIC is now providing network backbone and e-Governance support to the Central Government Departments, State Governments, UT Administrations and about 600 Districts in the country.

Many e-Governance applications have been developed in the area of Judiciary, Agriculture, Rural Development, Land Records, Transport, Passport Services, Sales Tax, Customs and Excise, Property Registration, Civil Pension/Social Welfare Pension, Public Grievances, Accounts etc. and have been made operational.

(c) to (f) The process of e-Governance, Computerisation and provisioning of Internet is an on-going activity. Government Departments are expected to build requisite infrastructure utilizing their budgetary resources.

Planning Commission guidelines permit usage of 2 to 3% of budget provision in Central Ministries/Departments for Computerisation/Information Technology related programmes/Schemes.

A minimum agenda for e-Governance has been drawn up for implementation by the Central Ministries/Departments. Details are given in the statement enclosed.

NIC is providing network services Government users for Internet, e-mail, file transfer, database access etc. The number of internet connections provided by NIC to the Central Government Department, State Governments, Union Territories, District Administrations and Government bodies are more than a lakh.

As regards number of PCs installed and distributed in the Government offices, the Government Departments buy PCs from their budget allocations.

Department of Information Technology through NIC has been assisting the Government Departments and State Governments in formulation of ICT Plans Sector-wise, Department-wise so as to usher in "digital opportunities" facilitating growth and development in the country.

Statement

Minimum agenda for e-governance in the Ministries/Departments of the Central Govt.

- (i) (a) Each Ministry/Department must provide PCs with necessary software upto the Section Officer level.
- (b) LAN must also be set up.
- (ii) (a) 100% training of all staff who have access to and need to use computers for their office work should be ensured.
- (b) For this purpose, inter alia, Ministries/Departments should set-up or share Learning Centres for decentralized training in computers as per the guidelines issued by the MIT.
- (iii) Each Ministry/Department should start using the Office Procedure Automation software developed by NIC with a view to keeping a record of receipt of dak, issue of letters, as well as movement of files in the department.
- (iv) Pay roll accounting and other house-keeping software should be put to use in day-to-day operations.
- (v) (a) Notices for internal meeting should be sent by e-mail to the officers;
- (b) Similarly, submission of application for leave and for going on tour should also be done electronically;
- (c) Ministry/Department should also set up on-line notice board to display orders, circulars etc. as and when issued.
- (vi) Ministries/Departments should use the Web-enabled Grievance Redressal Software developed by Department of AR & PG.
- (vii) Each Ministry/Department should have its own website.

- (viii) All Acts, Rules, Circulars should be converted into electronic form and, along with other published material of interest or relevance to the public, should be made available on the internet and be accessible from the Information and Facilitation Counter.
- (ix) (a) The websites of Ministries/Departments/Organisations should specifically contain a section in which various forms to be used by citizens/customers are available. The forms should be available for being printed out or for being completed on the computer itself and then printed out for submission.
- (b) Attempts should also be made to enable completion and submission of forms online.
- (x) The Hindi version of the content of the websites should be developed simultaneously, as far as possible.
- (xi) Each Ministry/Department would also make efforts to develop packages so as to begin electronic delivery of services to the public.
- (xii) Each Ministry/Department should have an overall IT vision or strategy for a five year period; within which it could dovetail specific action plans and targets (including the minimum agenda) to be implemented within one year.

Mega Projects

284. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of Mega Projects monitored by his Ministry as on January 31, 2003;
- (b) the time and cost overruns, of these projects, if any;
- (c) the reasons therefor; and
- (d) the steps taken in this regard?

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

MOOKHERJEE): (a) In January 2003, 39 mega projects costing Rs. 1000 crore and above were on the monitor of the Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation.

(b) The requisite information is given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) The reasons for time and cost overruns vary from project to project. In general, the reasons comprise delays in land acquisition, award of contracts, and supply of equipment, constraints of infrastructure, paucity of funds and law & order problems. Time overrun due to any reason has cost implications because of inflationary rise in prices, increase in interest burden and overhead cost during construction. Other factors for cost overrun include exchange rate variations, initial underestimation and subsequent changes in the scope of the project.

(d) The steps taken to ensure completion of these projects within the approved time and cost parameters are as follows:

- (i) adoption of two-stage clearance system and stricter appraisal of project reports before investment approval;
- (ii) taking up of projects for implementation only after funds have been fully tied up;
- (iii) in-depth review of projects on monthly as well as quarterly basis by the Government;
- (iv) follow up with the State Governments in respect of problems relating to acquisition of land, rehabilitation related issues, forest clearances, provision of infrastructure facilities and ensuring law & order at project sites, etc.;
- (v) setting up of an Empowered Committee in the administrative ministries for review of departmentally executed projects;
- (vi) inter-ministerial coordination for resolving unresolved problems;
- (vii) setting up of Standing Committees in the Ministries/Departments to fix responsibility for time and cost overruns;
- (viii) appointment of nodal officers for each project with continuity of tenure; and
- (ix) issue of guidelines on standard bidding documents for adoption.

Statement**Status of time overrun and cost overrun in Mega Projects***(As in January, 2003)*

Unit: (Cost/Expenditure: Rs. in crores)

Sl. No.	Project (District) (State)	Capacity	Date of Govt. Appro- Original (Revised)	Date of Commissioning (Doc)		Time Overrun On Original Doc Total (In Months)	Cost		% Cost Over Run On Original (Revised)	Cumulative Expenditure
				Original (Revised)	Anti-Cipated (Last Reported)		Approved Original (Revised)	Anticipated		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Sector: ATOMIC ENERGY										
NPCIL										
1.	Tarapur Atomic Power Tarapur Maharashtra	MW 2x500	1991/01 1997/12	2006/07	2007/01	6	3447.06 6421.00	6760.00	96 5	2712.00
2.	Kaiga 3 & 4 Units Kanur Karnataka		2001/05	2009/10	2007/10	-24	4213.00	3282.00	-22 -22	548.00
3.	Atomic Power Project Kudankulam Tamil Nadu		2001/12	2008/12	2008/12	0	13171.00	13171.00	0 0	1142.00
4.	RAPP 5&6 Rajasthan	MWE 2x220	2002/04	2008/02	2008/02	0	3072.00	3072.00	0 0	198.00
Sector: COAL										
NCL										
5.	Dudhichua OC Phase-I SIDHI M.P./U.P	10.0 MTY	1992/08 2001/03	1998/03 1998/03 2004/03	2004/03	72	868.93 1281.39	1281.39	47 0	1068.59
6.	Nigahi Expn. OC SIDHI Madhy Pradesh	10 MTY	1997/07	2004/03	2004/03	0	1846.49	1846.49	0 0	1106.74
NLC										
7.	Exp. of Mine-I NEVYELI Tamil Nadu	4.0 MTY	1992/03 2001/12	1996/10 2003/04	2003/04	78	1336.93 1658.38	1667.76	25 1	1453.48

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
8.	TPS-I Exp. NEVELI Tamil Nadu	420 MW	1996/02 2001/12	2001/03 2002/05	2003/03	24	1590.58 1420.27	1423.47	-11 0	1126.91
9.	Mine-1A NEVELI Tamil Nadu	3 MTY	1998/02	2003/03	2003/03	0	1032.81	1015.74	-2 -2	753.42
Sector: MINES										
NALCO										
10.	Exp. of Cap. Smelter-CPP Angul Orissa	1150 TPA Smelter 120 MW CPP	1998/02	2002/05	2004/01	20	2061.98	20061.98	0 0	1583.41
Sector: PETROLEUM										
BPCL										
11.	REF. Modem- sation Mumbai Maharashtra	MTPA 11	2000/12 2002/04	2003/09	2004/10	13	1592.65 1831.00	1831.00	15 0	329.54
GAIL										
12.	Upgradation- HBJ Pipeline Guj. Raj, MP		2001/12	2004/09	2004/09	0	2936.00	2936.00	0 0	9.53
IOCL										
13.	Barauni Ref. Expansion Barauni Bihar	MMTPA 3	1999/02	2002/05	2002/12	7	1803.00	1983.00	10 10	1532.16
14.	Integerated Paraxylene Panipat Haryana		1999/06 2001/10	2004/08	2005/07	11	4228.00 5104.00	5104.00	21 0	268.04
15.	Panipat Ref. Expansion Panipat Haryana		1999/08 2002/01	2005/01	2005/01	0	3365.00 4165.00	4165.00	24 0	244.78
16.	Linear Alkyl Benlene Vadodra Gujarat	LAC TPA 18.5	2001/05	2004/03	2004/08	5	1248.00	1307.00	5 5	159.20
17.	MS Quality Upgradation Mathura Uttar Pradesh		2001/08	2004/08	2004/11	3	1483.00	1483.00	0 0	80.85

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
ONGCL										
18.	Mumbai High North Dev	MMT OIL 24.8 BCM GAS 585	2000/12	2005/12	2005/12	0	2929.40	2929.40	0 0	376.58
19.	Mumbai High South Dev. W. Offshore		2001/10	2007/07	2007/07	0	5255.97	5255.97	0 0	129.72
CPCL										
20.	Refin. Expn. Cum. Mod. Manali Tamil Nadu	MMTPA 3	2000/07	2003/07	2003/07	0	2360.38	2360.38	0 0	848.58
Sector: POWER										
NHPC										
21.	Dullasti HEP Doda J&K	MW 390	1982/11 1989/07	1990/11 1994/07 2001/03	2003/12	157	183.45 3559.77 3559.77	4227.92	2205 19	3544.72
22.	Dhauliganga H.E.P.-I Pithoragarh Uttaranchal	MW 4x70	1991/04 2000/07	1998/10 2005/03	2005/03	77	601.98 1578.31	1578.31	162 0	808.76
23.	Chamera H.E. Project Chamba Himachal Pr.	MW 300	1999/05	2004/05	2004/05	0	1684.02	1684.02	0 0	1431.57
24.	Teesta HE Proj. ST.-V Sikkim	MW 510	2000/02	2007/02	2007/02	0	2198.04	2198.04	0 0	596.95
25.	Parbati HEP Himachal Pr.	MW 800	2002/09	2007/09	2007/09	0	3919.59	3919.59	0 0	259.97
THDCL										
26.	Tehri Dam H.P.P. Tehri Uttaranchal	MW 100*	1994/03	1999/03	2003/08	53	2963.66	5209.10	76 76	4744.55
27.	Koteshwar HEP Tehri Uttaranchal	400 MW	2000/04	2006/03	2006/03	0	1301.56	1301.56	0 0	81.66

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
NJPC										
28.	Nathpa Jhakri H.E.P. Kinnaur Himachal Pr.	MW 1500	1989/04 1998/06	1996/04 1998/12 2002/03	2003/12	92	1678.02 7666.31	9083.30	441 18	6978.54
NTPC										
29.	Talcher STPP ST-II Orissa	MW 4x500	1999/01	2006/02	2006/02	0	6648.83	6652.22	0 0	2835.38
30.	Rihand STPP ST-II Uttar Pradesh	MW 1000	2001/05	2006/05	2006/05	0	3384.77	3384.77	0 0	420.78
31.	Ramagundam STPP ST-III Andhra Pradesh	MW 500	2001/08	2005/08	2005/08	0	1780.99	1780.99	0 0	352.37
32.	Kol Dam Hep Bilaspur Himachal Pr.	MW 850	2002/10	2009/04	2009/04	0	4527.15	4527.15	0 0	152.07
P.GRID										
33.	Talcher-II TRNS. System Eastern Reg.		2000/01	2003/01	2003/06	5	3086.73	2998.32	-3 -3	2525.33
Sector: RAILWAYS										
B&S										
34.	B'Putra BR, Bogibil&Link NEFR Assam	KMS 54.30	1996/04	2008/04	2008/04	0	1000.00	1500.00	50 50	37.71
GC										
35.	Lumding- Silchar NEFR Assam	KMS 198	1996/04 2002/05	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	648.00 1401.01	1491.00	130 6	136.29
NL										
36.	Udhampur-'S'- NGR-B'Mulla, NR J&K	KMS 290	1995/03	2001/03	2007/08	77	2500.00	3244.00	30 30	541.85

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
37.	Koderma- R Anachi (Barkna Ranchi, SCR Jharkhand	KMS 189	1999/03	2005/07	2006/03	8	491.19	1028.00	109 109	56.31
38.	Dipu to Karong, NEFR Assam	KMS 123	1999/08	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	800.00	1600.00	100 100	0.04

Sector:URBAN DEVELOPMENT**UD**

39.	Delhi Metro Rapid SYS-I Delhi Delhi	31.8 Lakhs Passanger/ Day	1996/09	2005/03	2005/09	6	4860.00	8800.00	81 81	3086.46
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Legends:	NPCIL — Nuclear Power Corporation of India Ltd.	RAPP — Rajasthan Atomic Power Project
	NCL — Northern Coal Fields Limited	OC — Open Cost
	NLC — Neyveli Lignite Corporation Ltd.	TPS — Thermal Power Station
	NALCO — National Aluminum Company	BPCL — Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd.
	GAIL — Gas Authority of India Ltd.	IDCL — Indian Oil Corporation Ltd.
	ONGCL —Oil & Natural Gas Commission Ltd.	CPCL — Charghi Petroleum Corporation Ltd.
	NHPC — National Hydroelectric Corporation Ltd.	HEP — Hydro Electric Power
	THDCL — Tehri Hydro Development Corporation Ltd.	NTPC — Nathpa Jhakhri Power Corporation Ltd.
	NTPC — National Thermal Power Corporation Ltd.	P.Grid — Power Grid.
	B&S — Bridges and Structures	

Re-imbusement of Medical Bills

(f) if so, the details thereof?

285. SHRI SHEESH RAM SINGH RAVI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether land to many of the private hospitals in Delhi has been allotted at throw away prices with a condition that free treatment and medicines will be provided to poor patients;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the private hospitals are not honouring the commitment;

(d) if so, the action taken/proposed to be taken against such hospitals;

(e) whether the Delhi High Court has also directed the Government to arrive at the amount to be reimbursed to private hospitals on the treatment of Government employees and pensioners and their dependents; and,

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (d) The Government of NCT of Delhi had set up a High Level Committee headed by Justice A.S. Qureshi to review the status of charitable hospitals that were allotted land on concessional rates in Delhi. The Committee submitted its report on 23.5.2001. The Government has accepted, in principle, the recommendations of Justice A.S. Qureshi Committee and modalities of giving effect to the recommendations of the aforesaid Committee are being worked out, in right earnest, by the Government of NCT of Delhi.

(e) and (f) On the directions of Hon'ble Delhi High Court, necessary provisions have been incorporated in the agreement to be signed by the private hospitals so as to ensure that these hospitals will not charge more than the package rates and they will provide credit facility inter-alia to CGHS employees and Pensioners of Central

Government and their dependents for the treatment undertaken with prior permission. They will also provide credit facility to all CGHS beneficiaries, on production of a valid CGHS Card, for the treatment taken under medical emergency.

Nehru Yuva Kendras in U.P.

286. SHRIMATI REENA CHOUDHARY: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Nehru Yuva Kendras operating in Uttar Pradesh, district-wise;

(b) whether their activities have been evaluated;

(c) if so, whether the objectives were met;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the amount spent on these Nehru Yuva Kendras in Uttar Pradesh during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI VIKRAM VERMA): (a) 55. List is enclosed as statement-I.

(b) Yes, Sir. Evaluation is a continuing process and is done by NYKS, four designated Information Development and Resource Agencies (IDARAs) and the Ministry.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) A statement-II showing amount spent, on these Nehru Yuva Kendras, in Uttar Pradesh, during the last three years is enclosed.

Statement-I

List of Nehru Yuva Kendras in Uttar Pradesh, district wise

- 1 Allahabad
- 2 Aligarh
- 3 Agra
- 4 Amethi
- 5 Azamgarh

- 6 Badaun
- 7 Banda
- 8 Bahraich
- 9 Bareilly
- 10 Basti
- 11 Barabanki
- 12 Ballia
- 13 Bijnor
- 14 Bulandshahar
- 15 Deoria
- 16 Etah
- 17 Etawah
- 18 Farukhabad
- 19 Fatehpur
- 20 Faizabad
- 21 Firozabad
- 22 Ghazipur
- 23 Ghaziabad
- 24 Gonda
- 25 Gorakhpur
- 26 Hamirpur
- 27 Hardoi
- 28 Jaunpur
- 29 Jhansi
- 30 Jalaun
- 31 Kanpur
- 32 Lakhimpuri Kheri
- 33 Lalitpur
- 34 Lucknow
- 35 Mainpuri
- 36 Mathura
- 37 Meerut
- 38 Muzaffarnagar
- 39 Moradabad

40. Mirzapur	48. Saharanpur
41. Maharajganj	49. Sultanpur
42. Mau	50. Shahjahanpur
43. Partapgarh	51. Sidharthnagar
44. Pilibhit	52. Sonebhadra
45. Rampur	53. Unnao
46. Rai Bareilly	54. Varanasi
47. Sitapur	55. Kanpur Nagar

Statement-II

Detail of Amount spent on Nehru Yuva Kendras in Uttar Pradesh during the last three years.

Kendra	1999-2000	2000-2001	2001-2002
1	2	3	4
Allahabad	479484.00	994483.00	1473967.00
Aligarh	516723.00	1097738.00	1614461.00
Partapgarh	482516.00	1046909.00	1529425.00
Azamgarh	555992.00	1025840.00	1581832.00
Badaun	407453.00	925087.00	1332540.00
Banda	400406.00	970762.00	1371168.00
Bijnore	380829.00	959962.00	1340791.00
Deoria	463333.00	829484.00	1292817.00
Fatehgarh	395813.00	941705.50	1337518.50
Fatehpur	438012.00	969603.10	1407615.10
Faizabad	470159.00	880778.00	1350937.00
Gazipur	428370.00	803179.00	1231549.00
Gorakhpur	389073.00	980333.00	1369406.00
Hamirpur	379060.00	796147.15	1175207.15
Jhansi	366180.00	564715.00	932895.00
Lakhimpur	320150.00	995193.00	1315343.00
Mathura	532133.00	1105235.75	1637368.75
Meerut	360871.00	879336.00	1240207.00
Muzaffar Nagar	443529.00	929699.00	1373228.00

1	2	3	4
Moradabad	352166.00	923531.00	1275697.50
Mirzapur	449520.00	1014871.00	1464391.00
Raibareilly	546896.00	984631.00	1531527.00
Rampur	355080.00	818054.00	1173134.00
Sitapur	416340.00	1096161.00	1512501.00
Saharanpur	448301.00	912179.00	1360480.00
Unnao	478727.00	955922.00	1434649.00
Varanasi	554207.00	1081540.00	1635747.00
Sultanpur	440426.00	881113.00	1321539.00
Lalitpur	466191.00	1340853.00	1807044.00
Etah	521133.00	930471.00	1451604.00
Agra	435600.00	771432.00	1207032.00
Bulandshar	410071.00	895748.00	1305819.00
Shahjahanpur	444013.00	884939.00	1328952.00
Bahraich	381162.00	888921.00	1270083.00
Jaunpur	498967.00	1081733.00	1580700.00
Bareilly	664838.00	1100777.00	1765615.00
Pilibhit	341678.00	615531.00	957209.00
Mainpuri	299947.00	871288.00	1171235.00
Lucknow	764169.00	1173627.00	1937796.00
Gonda	327145.00	951695.00	1278840.00
Barabanki	368490.00	824471.50	1192961.50
Ballia	374709.00	822937.00	1197646.00
Kanpur*	320790.00	839350.00	1160140.00
Etawah	336053.00	635296.00	971349.00
Jalaun	348231.00	790551.00	1138782.00
Ghaziabad	476373.00	828515.00	1304888.00
Hardoi	284445.00	632874.00	917319.00
Basti	279344.00	712357.00	991701.00
Sidharth Nagar	392029.00	799932.50	1191961.50

1	2	3	4
Amethi	423606.00	877641.00	1301247.00
Maharajganj	379316.00	876502.00	1255818.00
Mau	417354.00	892184.00	1309538.00
Firozabad	449028.00	914872.00	1363900.00
Sonbhadra	371497.00	839506.00	1211003.00
Total	23029928.00	49158196.00	72188124.00

*Kanpur District has, now been bifurcated in two viz-Kanpur Rural & Kanpur Urban.

Special National Commission for Health

287. SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have set up a Special National Commission to formulate a strategy to address health-related issues in a more effective manner; and

(b) if so, by when the Commission is expected to submit a report in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Necessary formalities to set up the proposed National Commission is under finalisation.

Reserved Vacancies of Auxillary Nurses

288. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of vacancies of Auxillary Nurses in the reserved category of OBC have been lying vacant in AIIMS, Dr. R.M.L. Hospital and Safdarjung Hospital, New Delhi;

(b) if so, whether as per the Government policy, such reserved vacancies are to be filled up within a stipulated time; and

(c) if so, the efforts being made by the concerned Hospital authorities in this regard?

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

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Operation and Maintenance of VPTs

289. SHRI V. VETRISELVAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have invited tenders for operation and maintenance of existing village public telephones;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the existing companies are not capable of providing telephones in the rural areas of the country on demand;

(d) if so, whether some new companies are likely to be engaged in this work;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the estimated demand of telephone connections in the rural areas of the country at present and the extent to which it has been fulfilled till date?

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

(b) The Notice Inviting Tender (NIT) inviting bids for operation and maintenance of existing village public telephones was issued on 29th January, 2003. The sale of tender document has started with effect from 10th February, 2003. The sale of tender document closes on 27th February, 2003 and the last date for submission of pre-qualification and first stage financial bids is 28th February, 2003. The tender document is also available on Department of Telecommunications website www.dotindia.com for information of all interested parties. In this first stage of tendering, bids have been invited from Basic and Cellular service operators of the respective service areas.

(c) to (e) The six private basic service licensees could not provide village public telephones as per their license conditions. Twenty five new licenses have been issued in 18 service areas with an obligation to cover urban, semi-urban and rural short distance charging area in a service area.

(f) The total number of telephone connections and the waiting list in the rural areas as on 31.12.2002 is 1,06,65,581 and 16,27,285 respectively. No waiting list has been reported by the private basic operators.

Health for All

290. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL:
SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK:
SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR:

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

(a) whether the Union Government are planning to introduce a scheme regarding health for all at affordable cost;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government have issued any direction to State Governments in this regard;

(d) if so, the financial assistance proposed to be provided to States for providing health for all at affordable cost;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the manner, in which this scheme is likely to be implemented without providing any financial package to States?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (f) The Government always strives to provide within the constraint of resources, health services for all at affordable cost. Health is a State subject. However, achieving an acceptable standard of good health amongst general population of the country continues to be the main objective of the National Health Policy-2002. For this purpose a vast network for rural health care infrastructure has been created in the country. National Health programmes for control of major diseases like Malaria, TB, Blindness, Leprosy and AIDS are also being implemented all over the country. In addition, infrastructural facilities at CHCs district hospitals etc., are also being strengthened with external assistance in some of the States for the purpose of improving the provision of health care facilities for the people in rural areas.

Tariff Package

291. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering any strategy to tackle the increasing competition led by aggressive tariff package from private players in STD segment;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when it is expected to be made effective?

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

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

Mission to Moon

292. SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn towards the news-item captioned "India's Mission to Moon is likely to be adversely affected by the recent Columbia disaster" as appearing in the *Rashtriya Sahara* dated February 4, 2003;

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

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

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

(b) Indian Space programme will not be affected by the recent Columbia disaster. At present, India has no plan for manned space missions. The National Task Team Report on the proposed Indian mission to moon, which is now under review, is to send an unmanned spacecraft to orbit the moon at a height of 100 km, using India's own Launch Vehicle (PSLV). The mission is proposed for the scientific objective of high-resolution remote sensing of lunar surface in visible, near-infrared, low-energy X-ray and high-energy X-ray spectra.

(c) Government will closely monitor the reports on the investigation.

[*Translation*]

Postal Services in Rural Areas

293. SHRIMATI JAYASHREE BANERJEE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to engage rural unemployed youths in providing postal facilities in villages;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to engage private courier services in rural areas; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SU. THIRUNAVUKKARASAR): (a) and (b) Under the existing scheme for providing basic postal facilities to villages without a post office, through a person nominated by the Gram Panchayat, any matriculate between 18 and 62 years of age with good moral character and no criminal record can be considered by the Gram Panchayat for appointment as Sanchar Kendra Agent for a fixed monthly allowance for providing counter services, and a fixed commission for rendering other additional services.

(c) No, Sir.

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

[English]

Disposal of Medical Claims

294. DR. B.B. RAMAIAH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that there is abnormal delay/carelessness in the disposal of medical claims of retired Government employees;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the number of such medical claims pending in the Ministry/CGHS since 2001 till date; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government for the early disposal of these claims?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) and (b) No, Sir. There is no carelessness in the settlement of medical claims of CGHS pensioner beneficiaries. However, during the current financial year, there has been some delay in the settlement of medical reimbursement claims due to paucity of funds.

(c) Medical claims of about 3,000 beneficiaries is pending with the CGHS at present.

(d) Additional funds to the tune of Rs. 24.86 crore have been allocated in the Revised Estimates for the year 2002-2003 for clearing the medical claims of CGHS pensioner beneficiaries.

[Translation]

Expansion of Telecom and I.T.

295. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH PAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to take specific steps to expand Telecom and Information Technology in the newly created States;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to provide special assistance to these States particularly Uttaranchal for this purpose; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN):

Reply in respect of Telecom

(a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The following expansions have been planned for the year 2002-03 in the newly created States of Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand and Uttaranchal:-

Sl. No.	Telecom Parameters	Chhattisgarh	Jharkhand	Uttaranchal
1.	Switching Capacity (Lines)	44950	143000	86350
2.	Direct Exchange Lines	39500	93200	57000
3.	OFC (RKM)s	1600	2000	1100

(c) and (d) No special assistance is planned for these States. However, all out efforts are being made to provide telephones on demand and reliable media to all telephone exchanges subject to availability of resources.

Reply in respect of IT

(a) and (b) Department of Information Technology through National Informatics Centre (NIC) is providing

network backbone and e-Governance support to the Central Government departments, State Governments, UT's District Administrations and other Government bodies in the country. As a part of this, NIC is already providing such a support to the newly created States of Uttaranchal, Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand. Major activities already being carried out by NIC are as follows:

Uttaranchal

State Government Secretariat and 12 districts out of 13 have been provided NICNET and Internet Connectivity. 12 districts have DAMA VSAT cum VC facility installed by the State Government and connectivity provided by NIC. The district namely Rudraprayag is in the process of being set up. The High Court in the State has been computerised.

The major projects undertaken/implemented are: Integrated Pay and Accounts Office, Forest Land Transfer System of NIC, Vidhan Sabha Election, 2002 and Local Bodies Election 2003, Land Records Computerisation, Gram Panchayat Information System, Networking, Web Sites Development and Hosting, Society Registration Computerisation, State Budget, Regional Transport Office etc.

Chhattisgarh

NIC is providing NICNET and Internet connectivity to the State Government Secretariat and 16 districts of Chhattisgarh State. Three Video conferencing studios in the districts of Raipur, Bilaspur and Bastar have been set up. The High Court has been computerised.

The major projects include: Public Grievance Redressal System, Land Records Computerisation, Computerisation of Treasuries, Computerisation of Mandis etc.

Jharkhand

NIC has provided NICNET and Internet connectivity to the State Government Secretariat and the districts of Jharkhand state. All the 22 districts of Jharkhand have SCPC DAMA VSAT for VC and Data communication arranged by the State Government. The High Court has been computerised.

The Major projects being implemented include: Land Record Computerisation, Local Area Networking in the Jharkhand Secretariat, GPF application software, web site development and hosting of major departments/organizations/districts, networking of all major departments

at Ranchi is under process, Computerisation of all districts Treasuries, Computerisation of Surface Transport in districts (DTO offices) running smoothly, Computerisation of DRDA in all districts operational, Development and maintenance of web sites for Jharkhand State, High Court, Commercial Taxes, Jharkhand Telecom, Central Institute of Psychiatry, District web sites and providing support to District Electoral Offices during Parliamentary/Assembly Elections.

(c) and (d) NIC is providing various services to the newly created States as a part of its activities and as extended to other State Governments/UT Administrations.

Artificial Skin from Fish Pellicle

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

(a) whether the Government are aware that Cochin Scientists have claimed to develop artificial skin from fish pellicle and have asserted that this can be used in curing wounds in burn cases and can also be used in tooth diseases; and

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government to this new invention?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) and (b) According to ICMR, a team of scientists from Central Institute of Fisheries Technology, Cochin have reported the use of chitin and chitosan as artificial skin. They claim that micro-fine chitosan powder, impregnated in gauze and films, helps treatment of chronic wounds and external ulcers, and minimizes bleeding in neurosurgery. From Fishery waste, chitin films is prepared to serve as artificial skin over wounds and burns. Further research in this area is required to find out the applications of chitin and chitosan in dental and medical field.

[English]

Meetings of Standing Committees

297. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of meetings of various Standing Committees of Post Graduate Institute of Medical Education and Research, Chandigarh, held during the last two years;

(b) the major decisions taken thereat;

(c) whether those decisions have been implemented; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) The dates of meetings of various Standing Committees of the PGIMER, Chandigarh held during the last two years are as under:

Sl.No.	Name of Committee	Date of meeting
1.	Institute Body	25.07.2001
		27.02.2002
		29.09.2002
		12.12.2002
2.	Governing Body	25.07.2001
		27.02.2002
		10.04.2002
		29.09.2002
3.	Standing Finance Committee	20.07.2001
		21.12.2001
		11.02.2002
		21.03.2002
4.	Standing Estate Committee	28.09.2002
		18.12.2002
		24.01.2002

(b) to (d) Six hundred agenda items were discussed in the above said meetings of various standing committees of PGIMER, Chandigarh and the decisions taken in those meetings were important decisions pertaining to the Institute. The decisions taken in the meetings have either been implemented or are under the process of implementation. Action taken is reported in the meetings of the Committees.

Indo-Pak Agreement on Nuclear Installations

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

(a) whether the Government have made any agreement with Pakistan on the Nuclear installations; and

(b) if so, the details of the agreement made on the prohibition of attack on nuclear installations by both the countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI VINOD KHANNA): (a) India & Pakistan have signed the Agreement on the Prohibition of attack against Nuclear Installations and Facilities on 31.12.1988. This agreement was ratified on 27.1.1991.

(b) Under the above agreement, both the countries are to inform each other on 1st January of every calendar year of the Nuclear Installations and Facilities to be covered by the agreement. The first such exchange of lists took place on 1.1.1992. On 1.1.2003, the list was exchanged for the 12th consecutive year.

Good Laboratory Practices Scheme

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

(a) whether the Government have not given liberal assistance to the Indian Medicine Sector for setting up modern laboratories to test Indian medicines;

(b) if so, the steps likely to be taken to increase such laboratories in the country;

(c) the details of the "Good Laboratory Practices" scheme announced by the Government in this regard;

(d) the number of laboratories set up so far by the Government under this scheme; and

(e) the details of the financial implications of the Good Laboratories Practices scheme?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (d) Under a Centrally sponsored scheme, state drug testing laboratories for ISM&H drugs are being assisted upto Rs. 1 crore per laboratory. So far 16 laboratories have been assisted during the last 2 years with a total financial assistance of Rs. 11,75,76,000. Government is aiming to support at least one government drug testing laboratory for ISM&H drugs in each State.

Good Laboratory Practices for ISM&H are guidelines for the laboratories and not a scheme for providing financial assistance.

(e) Does not arise.

[*Translation*]

Nehru Yuvak Kendras in Bihar

300. SHRI RAJO SINGH: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Nehru Yuvak Kendras are functioning smoothly in Bihar and Jharkhand;

(b) if so, whether any complaints have been received this year about irregularities committed by these kendras;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the number of districts in which the functioning of these kendras as being supervised by the coordinator of the other district kendra?

THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI VIKRAM VERMA): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Nehru Yuva Kendras are functioning smoothly in Bihar and Jharkhand. However, one complaint against NYK, Palamu (Bihar) has been received which is being investigated into.

(d) In 11 districts of Bihar and Jharkhand the functioning of Kendras are being supervised by the Coordinators of other district Kendras.

[*English*]

Promotion of Indian System of Medicine

301. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to popularize the Indian System of Medicine in the Government hospital in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the extent to which the additional funds and facilities are being provided to various Government Hospitals to encourage Unani/Ayurvedic and Homoeopathic System of Medicine?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Though primarily health is a State subject, and a

huge ISM & H infrastructure is available under the State Governments and Private Sector, the following ISM & H treatment outlets under the purview of various Central Ministries/Departments are also available.

81 CGHS dispensaries spread over 15 cities in 10 States; hospitals attached to National Institutes, 156 dispensaries & patient care centres under Central Research Councils of ISM & H ; 162 Railway dispensaries run with Staff Benefit Fund; 159 dispensaries under Ministry of Labour; and 28 dispensaries under Ministry of Coal.

In order to supplement these facilities, the Central Government intends to implement two schemes during the 10th Plan with budgetary outlays of Rs. 59.00 Crores and Rs. 28.04 Crores respectively for encouraging establishment of ISM & H treatment facilities in allopathic hospitals including district hospitals; and expansion & strengthening of such facilities.

Increase in Polio Cases in Delhi

302. DR. M.V.V.S. MURTHI:
SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE:

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

(a) whether the number of polio cases in the capital shot up to 24 in 2002 as compared to 2000;

(b) if so, the details thereof, alongwith the reasons for the same;

(c) whether the polio eradication programmes launched by the Government are not on the right track;

(d) if so, whether the Government have conducted any survey to find the reasons for increase in polio cases in and around Delhi; and

(e) if so, the corrective measures taken by the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (e) As against three cases in 2000, 25 polio cases were detected in Delhi in 2002. The reason for more polio cases in Delhi is the spill over of such cases from Uttar Pradesh.

The polio eradication programme launched by the Government is on the right track. The annual strategies

for polio eradication are formulated and implemented by the Government on the basis of the recommendations of the India Expert Advisory Group (IEAG), a group of national and international experts. With the objective of interrupting the wild polio virus transmission in the country, following activities have been recommended by IEAG for the year 2003-04:-

- (i) Two rounds of Sub-National Immunization Day (SNID) rounds in the high-risk States of UP, Bihar, Delhi, Gujarat and Haryana and in parts of West Bengal, Rajasthan, Jharkhand and Madhya Pradesh in the period April to June 2003.
- (ii) Two rounds of SNID rounds in the high-risk States of UP, Bihar, Delhi and Haryana and in high risk areas of other States as warranted by the epidemiological situation between September and November 2003.
- (iii) Two rounds of National Immunization Day (NID) rounds in January and February 2004.
- (iv) In high-risk States/areas, the house-to-house component should be at least 5 days. The booth and house-to-house component should be flexibly defined State by State to ensure maximum possible impact.
- (v) Mopping up operations following detection of wild polio virus from February 2003.

The polio eradication strategy for 2003-04 will be decided by the Government keeping in view the above of the IEAG and the prevailing epidemiological situation in the country.

Uniform Road Tax Structure

303. SHRI K.E. KRISHNAMURTHY:
SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY:

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

- (a) whether the Government propose to implement a new Uniform Road Tax Structure in place of Vehicle Weight Tax System in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor;
- (d) whether the views of the State Governments have been sought in this regard;
- (e) if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) by when a final decision is likely to be taken?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) to (e) Rationalization of Motor Vehicles Taxation was discussed as an agenda item in the 30th meeting of Transport Development Council (TDC) held on 16.1.2003. During the meeting, the States did not favour the rationalization of taxes on grounds of revenue loss.

(f) No time-frame can be indicated by this Ministry as a decision on the subject matter falls under the purview of the States.

Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty with USA

304. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI:
SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA:
SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item appearing in the *Indian Express* dated January 21, 2003 under the caption "Legal Treaty: US puts India in a fix";

(b) if so, the details of the conditions laid down by the US; and

(c) the response of the Government thereto?

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

(b) Two conditions laid down by the US on Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty with India are:

- (i) LIMITATIONS ON ASSISTANCE: Pursuant to the right of the United States under the Treaty to deny assistance that would prejudice the essential public policy or interests of the United States, the United States shall deny any request for such assistance if the Central Authority of the United States (as designated in Article 22) of the treaty, after consultation with all appropriate intelligence, anti-narcotic, and foreign policy agencies, has specific information that a senior Government official of the requesting party who will have access to information to be

provided as part of such assistance is engaged in a felony, including the facilitation of production or distribution of illegal drugs.

- (ii) **SUPREMACY OF THE CONSTITUTION:** Nothing in the Treaty requires or authorizes legislation or other action by the United States that is prohibited by the Constitution of the United States as interpreted by the United States.

In addition the US Senate has put an understanding which shall be included in the instrument of ratification:

PROHIBITION ON ASSISTANCE TO THE INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT: The United States shall exercise its rights to limit the use of assistance that it provides under the Treaty so that any assistance provided by the Government of the United States shall not be transferred to or otherwise used to assist the International Criminal Court unless the treaty establishing the Court has entered into force for the United States by and with the advice of the Senate in accordance with Article II, Section 2 of the United States Constitution, or unless the President has waived any applicable prohibition on provision of such assistance in accordance with applicable United States law.

(c) The response of the Government of India is under the consideration of various concerned government agencies and will be conveyed to the US after our internal assessment is over.

Visit of Foreign Dignitaries to India

305. **SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:**
SHRI C.N. SINGH:
SHRI G.J. JAVIYA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the foreign dignitaries who visited India since December 2002, till date;

(b) the details of the issues on which deliberations were held with each of these dignitaries;

(c) the outcome of these discussions held;

(d) whether any bilateral agreements were signed with them; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) to (e) The information is given in the enclosed statement.

Statement

Bangladesh

- (i) Foreign Minister of Bangladesh, Morshed Khan visited India from February 13-16, 2003 on invitation from EAM. During the visit the Bangladesh Foreign Minister met EAM for bilateral talks and delegation level discussions and also called on Prime Minister and Deputy Prime Minister. Foreign Minister also visited Ajmer Sharif. Important bilateral issues were discussed.

Maldives

- (i) Major General Abdul Sattar Anbaree, Minister of State for Defence and National Security visited India from 13-20 December 2002. He called on Raksha Mantri, Prime Minister and President and visited Armed Forces Medical College, Ordnance Factory at Medak and had an opportunity to see the full range of bulletproof vehicles manufactured by Mahindra & Mahindra.

Myanmar

- (i) U Win Aung, Myanmar Minister of Foreign Affairs visited India from January 19-24, 2003. This was the first bilateral visit of a Myanmar Foreign Minister since 1987. Apart from meeting EAM for bilateral discussions and delegation level talks, the Myanmar Foreign Minister called on Prime Minister, Finance Minister, Minister of Disinvestment with additional charge of Department of Development of North Eastern Regions and met Home Secretary. The Myanmar Foreign Minister also met members of India's business community at a CII arranged working lunch. A bilateral Protocol on regular holding of Foreign Office Consultations was signed between the two Foreign Ministers.

Sri Lanka

- (i) Mr. Anura Bandaranaike, Member of Parliament, Sri Lanka and brother of President of Sri Lanka led a three-member delegation of Sri Lanka Freedom Party (SLFP) representing PCBK to India from December 2-4, 2002 and called on PM, EAM, Principal Secretary to PM and FS. He carried a letter from the Sri Lankan President addressed to Prime Minister.
- (ii) Mr. Tilak Janaka Marapane, Sri Lankan Minister for Railways, Defence, Highways and Civil Aviation visited India from 15-25 December, 2002 at the invitation of Minister of Railways. During the visit he also called on Minister of Railways and Raksha Mantri. Sri Lanka asked India's assistance for training of its engine drivers, supply of a metal crusher for preparing ballast, clips for sleepers. India agreed to extend all assistance.

- (iii) Mr. Milinda Moragoda, Minister for Economic Reform and Science & Technology, Sri Lanka on Minister of External Affairs on January 10, 2003, He met Principal Secretary to the PM, Minister of External Affairs and Foreign Secretary and briefed them on the Fourth round of peace talks held at Thailand.
- (iv) Mr. Mahinda Rajapakse, Leader of Opposition, Sri Lanka visited India from February 3-6, 2003 and called on EAM, former Lok Sabha Speaker Shivraj Patil and Foreign Secretary.
- (v) Mr. Lakshman Kadirgamar, M.P., former Foreign Minister of Sri Lanka and Advisor to PCBK visited India from January 10-11, 2003 on invitation from the Shastri Memorial Trust to deliver the 10th Lal Bahadur Shastri Memorial Lecture. He called on EAM and Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister. He also met Foreign Secretary.

Bhutan

- (a) and (c)
- (i) Her Majesty Ashi Kesang Choden Wangchuk, Queen Mother of Bhutan Visited India from December 11-26, 2002 on Government of India invitation.
- (ii) Dasgo Ugyen Tshering, Foreign Secretary of Bhutan visited India from December 11-26, 2002 for discussions on Indian assistance to Bhutan's 9th Five Year Plan.
- (iii) Lyonpo Khandu Wangchuk, Minister of Trade & Industry visited India from 16-17, January 2003 for Tala and Kurichu Hydro-electric Project Authority Meetings.
- (iv) Dasho Ugen Dorji, Speaker of National Assembly of Bhutan visited India from January 20-26, 2003 to attend Golden Jubilee celebrations of Parliament.
- (v) Dasho Kunzang Wangdi, Auditor General of Bhutan visited India from February 12-27, 2003 on the invitation from Comptroller and Auditor General of India.
- (d) No bilateral agreements were signed with Bhutan.
- (e) N.A.

Nepal

- (a) to (c) Ft. Hon'ble Mr. Taranath Ranabath, Speaker of the Pratinidhi Sabha (the Lower House) of Nepal and

Hon'ble Mr. Radheshyam Adhikari, Member of the Rashtriya Sabha (the Upper House) of Nepal visited India from January 23 to 28, 2003 to participate in the Inter Parliamentary Conference to mark the Golden Jubilee of the Indian Parliament on Government of India invitation.

(d) No bilateral agreements were signed with Nepal.

(vi) N.A.

Qatar

(a) At the invitation of the Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas Shri Ram Naik, the Minister of Energy and Industry of the State of Qatar, H.E. Mr. Abdullah bin Hamid Al-Attiyah led a four member delegation to participate in the PETROTECH-2003 held from 9-12 January, 2003.

(b) Discussions were held on energy and its related issues.

(c) The visit was useful in enhancing cooperation between the two countries.

(d) and (e) Nil.

Kuwait

(a) Sheikh Ahmed Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, Communication Minister of the State of Kuwait visited India from 7-12 December, 2002. He was accompanied by a six-member delegation. The visit was at the invitation of the Communication Minister of India.

(b) The visiting Minister had detailed discussion with Indian dignitaries on Indo-Kuwait cooperation particularly in technical fields.

(c) The outcome of these discussions was very satisfactory enhancing cooperation between the two countries.

(d) and (e) Nil.

IRAN

(a) to (e) President of Iran H.E. Syyed Mohammad Khatami visited India from 24 to 28 January 2003. During the visit, wide ranging discussions on bilateral, regional and global issues of mutual interest were held. The New Delhi Declaration, signed by the Prime Minister and the Iranian President, puts forth the vision of strategic partnership between India and Iran for a more stable,

secure and prosperous region and for enhanced regional and global cooperation. It touches all aspects of cooperation—bilateral economic cooperation, cooperation in the field of hydrocarbons, science and technology, information technology, education and training, reconstruction of Afghanistan, international terrorism, and other global issues.

In addition to the New Delhi Declaration, a Memorandum of Understanding on the Road Map to Strategic Cooperation was also signed which sets a five-year target oriented framework for milestones towards the strategic partnership. Six other documents, Agreement on Science and Technology cooperation, MoUS on cooperation in hydrocarbons sector, Vocational Training, and Urban Water Management; Cultural Exchange Programme (2003-2005) and Framework Agreement on operationalization of USD 200 million Indian line of credit to be implemented by Exim Bank through a group of Iranian banks were also signed.

African Countries

(a) There were two official visits from Tanzania and Mauritius to India since December, 2002. Tanzanian President H.E. Mr. Benjamin William Mkapa visited India from 15-20 December, 2002 and Prime Minister of Mauritius H.E. Anerood Jugnauth visited India from January 5-11, 2003.

(b) During these visits, there were detailed discussions between the two sides on the entire gamut of bilateral relations, and on regional and International issues of mutual concern such as terrorism, NAM, UN restructuring etc. The visits served to strengthen relations in the political, economic and other relevant fields.

(c) A major outcome of the Tanzanian President's visit was that Tanzania openly supported India's candidature for permanent membership of UNSC. On the J&K and cross-border terrorism issue, both the countries appreciated our viewpoint and took the stand that the issue of J&K should be resolved through bilateral dialogue between India and Pakistan in the framework of Simla Agreement of 1972 and Lahore Declaration of 1999.

(d) and (e) An Mou on Cooperation in the field of Agriculture & Allied Sectors and an Agreement on Cooperation in the field of Health & Medicine were signed during the visit of the Tanzanian President. These agreements provide for cooperation in the field of agriculture, especially in the area of agricultural research and health including facilitating registration of Indian pharmaceutical products in Tanzania.

South-East Asian Countries

- (a) (i) Mr. S.R. Nathan, President of Singapore-January 3.14, 2003.
- (ii) Mr. Jose Ramos-Horta, Senior Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of Timor-Leste-January 23-27, 2003.
- (iii) Dr. Surakiart Sathirathai, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Kingdom of Thailand, February 13-17, 2003.

(b) Matters of bilateral, regional and international importance were discussed during the visits.

(c) The visits further strengthened the bilateral relations between Indian and the countries respectively.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Latin American Countries

Minister of Foreign Relations of Mexico H.E. Mr. Jorge Castaneda visited India from November 29 to December 3, 2002 and matters of mutual interest in bilateral, regional and international areas were discussed. The discussion led to a better understanding of each other's concerns.

Egypt

A 10-member Egyptian Parliamentary delegation headed by Dr. Ahmed Fathi Sorour, Speaker of the People's Assembly of Egypt visited India from 20-25 January, 2003 to attend the Golden Jubilee celebrations of the Indian Parliament. Dr. Sorour, accompanied by a 3-member delegation, including Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, Chairman of Foreign Relations Committee paid a courtesy call on Rashtrapati. The Egyptian Speaker was the only dignitary among the 70 Heads of delegations, which attended the Golden Jubilee celebrations, to have an exclusive audience with the Rashtrapati.

Sudan

A 23-member Sudanese Parliamentary delegation headed by Mr. Ahmed Ibrahim Al-Tahir, Speaker of the National Assembly of Sudan visited India from 22-27 January, 2003 to attend The Golden Jubilee celebrations of the Indian Parliament. Mr. Al-Tahir paid a courtesy call on the PM. the Sudanese Speaker was the only dignitary, among the 70 Heads of delegations, which

attended the Golden Jubilee celebrations, to have an exclusive audience with the PM.

Morocco

A 3-Member Moroccan Parliamentary delegation headed by Mr. Abdelwahed Radi, President of the House of Representatives of Morocco visited India from 22-26 January, 2003 to attend the Golden Jubilee celebrations of the Indian Parliament.

Parliamentary delegations from West Asia and North African countries

A 3-member Algerian delegation headed by Mr. Omar Mehdad, Vice-Chairman of the Upper House of Algeria, a 3-member Jordanian delegation headed by Mr. Riad Sghaka's Senator and Member of the Senate Judiciary Committee of Jordan and Dr. Assad Abdul Rehman, Member of the Palestine National Council, visited India from 20-27 January, 2003 to attend the Golden Jubilee celebrations of the Indian Parliament.

Central and East European countries

- (i) Major General L.M. Faiziev, Deputy Minister of Defence of Tajikistan (30th Nov-7 Dec., 2002)
- (ii) H.E. Absattar Haji Derbaissali, Chairman of Religious Administration of Kazakhstan (13-20 December, 2002)
- (iii) H.E. Mr. Bulent Arnic, Speaker of the Turkish Grand National Assembly (15-20 Dec., 2002)
- (iv) H.E. S.S. Gulyamov, Minister of High and Secondary Specialised Education, Government of the Republic of Uzbekistan (7-10 Jan, 2003)
- (v) Parliamentary delegations from the following Central Asian countries visited India from 20-26 January, 2003 in connection with the Golden Jubilee Celebrations of Indian Parliament:

- (a) Kazakhstan: Two Kazakh delegations were led by Mr. Omirbek Baigeldi, Deputy Chairman of the Senate of Parliament of the Republic of Kazakhstan (Upper House) and Mr. Muhambet Kopey, Deputy Chairman of the Majlis of Kazakh Parliament respectively.
- (b) Kyrgyzstan: Two Kyrgyz delegations were led by Mr. Erkebaev A. Speaker of Legislative Assembly of Kyrgyz Parliament and Mr. Altay Borubaev, Speaker of Assembly of People's Representatives of Kyrgyz Parliament respectively.
- (c) Tajikistan: The Tajik delegation was led by Mr. Mahmud said Ubaidulloyev, Chairman of the Majlisi Milli of Majlisi Oli (Upper House).
- (d) Turkey: The Turkish delegation was led by Mr. Ismail Alptekin, Deputy Speaker of the Turkish Grand National Assembly.
- (e) Uzbekistan: The Uzbek delegation was led by Mr. Erkin Vahidov, Chairman on the Committee of International Affairs and Inter-Parliamentary Relations.
- (vi) H.E. Mr. A.H. Kamilov, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Uzbekistan (3-4 February, 2003).

Para (b) (c) During the above visits, discussions were held on issues of mutual interest.

Para (d) Yes Sir.

Para (e) Agreement on setting up of a Joint Working Group on combating International Terrorism was signed between India and Uzbekistan during Uzbek Foreign Minister's visit in February, 2003.

Column Legends:

- A1: Name & designation of the foreign dignitaries who visited India since December 2002 (ministers/speakers and above)
- A2: Start Date of the visit (dd-mmm-yy format)
- A3: End date of the visit (dd-mmm-yy format)
- B & C: The details of the issues on which deliberations were held with each of these dignitaries; The outcome of those discussions held.
- D&E: Bilateral agreements signed, if any, along with brief details.

A1	A2	A3	B & C	D&E
1	2	3	4	5
Russian President Mr. Vladimir V Putin	3-Dec-02	5-Dec-02	The visit reinforced the traditional ties of	1. Delhi Declaration on Further Consolidation of Strategic Partnership between the Republic of India and the Russian Federation signed by Prime Minister of India Shri Atal Bhari Vajpayee and President of the Russian Federation Mr. Vladimir

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warmth and friendship between the two countries and enabled exchange views on important issues of bilateral and international concern.

V. Putin: This document contains the positions of the two sides on issues of bilateral and multilateral interest. During the visit of Mr. Vladimir Putin, President of the Russian Federation, to India in October 2000, the two countries had signed a Declaration on Strategic partnership. In the present document, the two sides have further enunciated their cooperation on political issues of mutual interest and concern, Russia has reaffirmed its support to India as a strong and appropriate candidate for permanent membership in an expanded United Nations Security Council. The two sides have also outlined their common position on terrorism, Afghanistan, Central Asia, Middle East, etc. This document will widen and strengthen the framework of the existing cooperation between India and the Russian Federation in different areas and will contribute to consolidation of their strategic partnership.

2. Joint Declaration on Strengthening and Enhancing Economic, Scientific and Technological Cooperation between the Republic of India and the Russian Federation signed by Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee and President Vladimir V. Putin: The document sets out the ideas of the two countries on further strengthening and enhancing economic, scientific and technological cooperation measures in this direction, including: Creation of a favourable environment for bilateral investment and its promotion and protection; Enabling business organizations to get the full support of financial institutions in their trade and investment exchanges. This would include expediting the opening of the branches of Indian commercial banks in Russia and vice-versa. Cooperation in this sector would include human resource development; Strengthening transportation links and infrastructure in different modes, within and between the two countries, in order to support increased flow of traffic in goods and service, as well as tourism and travel. Special importance will be attached to registering forward movement on bilateral and trilateral consultations to operationalize the North-South International Transport Corridor. Attention will also be paid to maintain effective communication links, especially in electronic and telecommunication fields; Streamlining customs administration to facilitate trade growth; Harmonizing national standardization and certification regulations relevant to trade and investment. This would encompass exchanges of empowered delegations representing the regulatory bodies of the two countries. Such cooperation would also focus on removing technical barriers to trade between the two countries; Putting in place an efficient visa regime for business exchanges; Encouraging active interaction between the insurance sectors of the two countries; Exploring the possibilities of establishing a joint venture fund to help start up new enterprises; Consistent with bilateral agreements, encouraging economic interaction at the regional level.

3. Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of Russian Federation on Cooperation in Combating Terrorism by Minister of External Affairs Shri Jaswant Sinha and Mr. Igor Ivanov, Foreign Minister of the Russian Federation: Under this agreement, the two countries will set up a Joint Working Group on Combating International Terrorism. It will be an inter-agency group on both sides and will be coordinated by their respective Foreign Offices.

4. Protocol between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Russian Federation on Protection and Use of Intellectual Property Rights to the Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Russian Federation on Scientific and Ethnological Cooperation dated 30 June 1994 signed by Dr. Murlu Manohar Joshi, Minister of Human Resource Development and S&T and Mr. Ilya Klebanov, Minister of Industry and S&T: Under the Agreement on Scientific and Technological Cooperation of 1994, the two countries had to decide on the issue of intellectual property rights on the results of joint work in S&T field. The objective of this Protocol is therefore to deal with the issues of effective and

1	2	3	4	5
				<p>proper acquisition, distribution, protection, sharing or transferring of intellectual property rights, created in the process of joint activity in the framework of the 1994 S&T agreement.</p> <p>5. Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation in the field of Telecommunications between the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology of the Republic of India and the Ministry of Communications and Informatization of the Russian Federation by Shri Pramod Mahajan, Minister of Communications and IT and Mr. L.D. Reiman, Minister of Communications and informatization: Under this MoU, the Ministers of Communications of the two countries will exchange information on telecom policy and regulatory issues, search for technical solution to achieve effectiveness in telecom sector, develop and apply advanced technologies in the field of telecom, and exchange experts and sharing training facilities in this sector.</p> <p>6. Protocol between the Government of the State of Karnataka of the Republic of India and the Samara Region Administration of the Russian Federation on trade, economic, scientific, technological and cultural cooperation signed by Shri S.M. Krishna, Chief Minister of Karnataka and Mr. K.A. Titov, Governor of the Samara Region: This Protocol has been signed under the framework of the Government on Cooperation between the States and Union Territories of India and the Regions of Russia which was signed in October 2000. Karnataka and Samara Region will, in accordance with the laws of the two countries, will promote cooperation in trade, economic, scientific, technological and cultural fields, as well as in education, sports and tourism sectors.</p>
Romanian Foreign Minister Mr. Mircea Dan Geoana	14-Jan-03	17-Jan-03	Issue of mutual interest especially trade and economic cooperation were discussed.	None.
Polish Speaker of Senate Prof. Longin Pastusiak Parliament	21-Jan-03	26-Jan-03	Participated in the Inter-Parliamentary Conference to mark the Golden Jubilee of the Indian Parliament	None.
Latvian Saeima (Parliament)'s Chairperson (Speaker) Mrs. Ingrida Udre	22-Jan-03	26-Jan-03	Participated in the Inter-Parliamentary Conference to mark the Golden Jubilee of the Indian Parliament	None.
Czech Minister of Defence Mr. Jaroslav Tvrdik	3-Feb-03	3-Feb-03	Mr. Tvrdik visited leading Czech participation in the Aero India 2003 exhibition at Bangalore	None.

1	2	3	4	5
Czech Minister of Industry and Trade Mr. Jiri Rusnok	3-Feb-03	7-Feb-03	Mr. Rusnok visited ending Czech delegation of Government and Industry representatives at the International Engineering Trade Fair	None.
Polish Prime Minister Mr. Leszek Miller	15-Feb-03	18-Feb-03	(The visit is likely to have taken place by 19 Feb. 2003 when the Parliamentary Question comes for answer)	Agreements likely to be signed are on: 1. Cooperation in combating organized crime and international terrorism 2. Extradition Treaty 3. Defence Cooperation.

Country	Foreign dignitaries to visit since Dec. 02	Details of issues on which deliberations held & outcome of discussions	Bilateral Agreements signed & details thereof
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1	2	3	4
France	<p>Mr. Pierre Lellouche, Member of the French Parliament and President of the Indo-French Friendship Group in the French National Assembly visited India from 21st-23rd January 2003 for Golden Jubilee Celebrations of the Indian Parliament.</p> <p>The French Prime Minister Jean-Pierre Raffarin visit to India from 6-8 February 2003. He was accompanied by four Cabinet Ministers and a Minister of State-Mr Francis Mer, Minister of Economy, Finance & Industry, Mr. Francois Loos, Minister of Trade, Mr Gilles de Robien, Minister for Equipment, Transport, Housing, Tourism; Mme Claudie Haignere, Minister for Science & Technology and Mr. Renault Muselier, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs and a large business delegation and media.</p>	<p>He visited J&K and met with state government officials, including a meeting with CM of J&K. In new Delhi he visited the Indian Parliament and interacted with members of the Standing Committee on External Relations. He also called on NSA during his visit.</p> <p>Prime Minister Raffarin first arrived in Bangalore on 6th February 2003 where he met with CM of Kamataka and visited the 'AeroIndia' show in Yalahanka. In New Delhi he called on Rashtrapatiji, Vice President and PM. The accompanying Ministers also had useful interactions with their Indian counterpart ministers. The business delegation extensively interacted with Indian businessmen both in Bangalore and New Delhi through FICCI and CII. The foundation stone of Alliance Francoise was laid during the visit.</p>	<p>At Bangalore four agreements worth in all US\$300 million were signed between HAL and SNECMA, the French aircraft engine manufacturer for joint production, manufacture and maintenance of engines and key components. President of the Rhone Alpes region Mrs. Anne-Marie Comparini and Chief Minister of Kamataka signed a Letter of Intent of cooperation between Rhone Alpes region and the State of Kamataka.</p>

1	2	3	4
Germany	Mr. Josef Hattig, Minister of Economics and Ports of German state of Bremen [5 Jan 03] Dr. Bernard Vogel, Minister-President of the German State of Thuringia [20-24 Jan 03] Mr. Norbert Lammert, Vice President of the Bundestag [22-26 Jan]	To participate in the CII partnership Summit in Hyderabad Dr. Vogel met EAM and Minister of HRD To participate in the Golden Jubilee celebrations of the Parliament	
Italy	Mr. Giuliano Vrbani, Minister of Culture Heritage and Activities [Jan 24-30, 2003] Mr. Antonio Martino, Defence Minister [Feb 2-5, 2003] Senator Fiorello Provera, Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Senate and Mr. Gustavo Selva, President of Foreign Affairs Committee of the Chamber of Deputies [Jan 22-26, 2003]	Expansion of bilateral cooperation in the field of culture with particular reference to art restoration and cinema Discussions were held on bilateral defence cooperation between two countries, To attend the International Parliamentary Conference.	The Cultural Exchange Programme for the period 2003-2005 signed. Agreement on Defence Cooperation was signed
UK	Mrs. Clare Short, Secretary of State for International Development [3-5 Dec 02] Ms. Patricia Hewitt, Secretary of State for Trade & Industry [5-8 Jan 03] A delegation of MPs from Labour Friends of India group led by Mr. Stephen Pound [5-14 Jan 03] Mr. Earl Attlee, Conservative MP from House of Lords and Piara Singh Khabra, a Labour MP [22-26 Jan 03]	Had meetings with EAM, Finance Minister and CM, West Bengal. Had meetings with DPM, Finance Minister, Minister of Civil Aviation, Minister of Petroleum & Natural Gas. Met DPM, EAM, Leader of Opposition and Chairman NHRC To attend the Golden Jubilee celebrations of the Parliament.	
Portugal	Dr. Joao Bosco Mota Amaral, President of Portuguese Parliament [21-26 Jan 03]	To participate in the International Parliamentary Conference. Discussions between the President of Portuguese Parliament and the Speaker enhanced the existing goodwill.	
Switzerland	Mr. Charles Kleiber, Swiss Secretary of State for Science & Research [13-19 Dec. 02] Mr. Blaise Godet, Political Director, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Switzerland [20-21 Jan 03]	Held discussions with Minister of Science & Technology For the second round of Foreign Office Consultations between India and Switzerland at Secretary level. In-depth review of bilateral relations and exchange of perceptions on issues of regional and global concern	
Austria	Nil		
Ireland	6-member parliamentary delegation led by Dr. Rory O'Hanlon, Speaker of House of Representatives [22-26 Jan 03]	To participate in the Golden Jubilee celebrations of the Parliament	

1	2	3	4
Norway	Mr. Jorgen Kosmo, President of Norwegian Storting [22-26 Jan 03]	To participate in the Golden Jubilee celebrations of Parliament.	
Sweden	Mrs. Kerstin Heinemann, Second Dy. Speaker of Swedish Parliament [22-26 Jan 03]	To participate in the Golden Jubilee celebrations of Parliament.	

*Ministry of External Affairs
(East Asia Division)*

Visit of Foreign Dignitaries

Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 305	Japan
(a) The Foreign dignitaries who visited India since December 2002 till date;	Japanese Foreign Minister Ms. Yoriko Kawaguchi on 7-8 January 2003.
(b) the details of the issues on which the deliberations were held with each of these dignitaries;	Bilateral and multilateral issues of mutual interest including the implementation of the Joint Declaration issued during the visit of Prime Minister to Tokyo in December 2001.
(c) the outcome of these discussions held;	Both sides agreed to further concretize the India-Japan Global partnership for the 21st Century during 2003.
(d) whether any bilateral agreements were signed with them; and	No.
(e) if so, the details thereof?	No.

Inputs on China, ROK, DPRK and Mongolia are nil.

Annexure

(a) The Foreign dignitaries who visited India since December, 2002

(a) the foreign dignitaries visited India	(b) the details of the issues on which deliberations held with each dignitaries	(c) the outcome of the those discussions held	(d) whether any bilateral agreement were signed with them; and	(e) if so, the details thereof
1	2	3	4	5
USA				
December 5-6, 2002	Mr. Stephen Hadley, US Dy. National Security Advisor	To discuss the bilateral relationship in order to build long-term strategic collaboration and to cooperate on global and regional issues	The bilateral relations have further strengthened and two nations 'cooperation on vital strategic issues have further intensified	Nil N.A.

	1	2	3	4	5
December 9-12, 2002	Admiral Thomas B. Fargo, Commander in Chief of the U.S. Pacific Command	High level exchanges in India-U.S. relations and further intensifying and expanding defence cooperation.	Bilateral cooperation improved and both sides satisfied their continued contribution to the war on terrorism.	Nil	N.A.
December 12-14, 2002	Mr. Sam Brownback, Senator	Discussed bilateral issues	Agreed to further intensify bilateral relation in the area of economic, trade and also bilateral cooperation in energy and water sector. Both sides agreed to have better understanding on global issues including terrorism.	Nil	N.A.
January 6-7, 2003	Dr. Richard Haass, Director (Policy Planning), U.S. Department of State	Discussed bilateral relations	Both sides agreed to have more understanding on bilateral issues, and global issues on terrorism and security.	Nil	N.A.
Canada					
January 6-14, 2003	Mr. David Kilgour, MP Secretary of State (Asia-Pacific), Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, Canada.	Bilateral relations and to Deliver address at the CII Partnership Summit in Hyderabad.	Both sides have agreed to further strengthen bilateral relations in all areas	Nil	N.A.
January 5-11, 2003	Mr. Gulzar Cheema, Member of the Legislative Assembly and Minister of State for Mental Health of the Government of the Province of British Columbia, Canada	To Participate in Pravasi Bharatiya Divas Celebrations. Also discussed prospects of long-term India-Canada collaboration in the health sector, including possibilities of R&D Collaboration in the area of biotechnology,	Promoted bilateral cooperation in the health sector.	Nil	N.A.
February 6-14, 2003	Mr. James Flaherty, Minister of Enterprise, Opportunity and Innovation of the Province of Ontario, Canada	Areas of common interest between Ontario, Canada, and India, including bilateral trade and investment.	Promoted better Understanding between the two sides.	Nil	N.A.
February 10-12, 2003	Mr. Len Edwards, Deputy Minister of International Trade of Canada security and political issues.	Bilateral matters relating to trade, investment, promoted better understanding between the two sides.	Strengthened bilateral cooperation and	Nil	N.A.

Setting up of Nuclear Power Plants

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

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up a number of Nuclear Power Plants in different parts of the country, including one in Mandla district of Madhya Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details of the Nuclear Power Plants to be set up, location-wise and the time schedule thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) to (c) At present eight nuclear power reactors, 2x540 MWe at Tarapur, Maharashtra, 2x220 MWe at Kaiga, Karnataka 2x1000 MWe at Kudankulam, Tamil Nadu and 2x220 MWe at Rawatbhata, Rajasthan are under different stages of construction. These projects have achieved acumulative physical progress of 64%, 22%, 10% and 12% respectively as of January 2003 and are expected to commence commercial operation between 2006 and 2008 progressively.

In addition, a proposal for administrative approval and project financial sanction for setting up of a 500 MWe Prototype Fast Breeder Reactor (PFBR) at Kalpakkam, Tamil Nadu is under process with the Government of India. All these ongoing projects have been taken up at sites for which clearances have already been obtained. There is no plan, as of now, to set up a nuclear power plant in Madhya Pradesh.

The Site Selection Committee constituted by the Department of Atomic Energy is also evaluating sites for setting up nuclear power stations, at a future date, in different regions of the country, including Madhya Pradesh.

Internet Worm

307. SHRI BHASKARRAO PATIL:
SHRI NARESH PUGLIA:
DR. CHARAN DAS MAHANT:
SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH:

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

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Worm attack makes Net Crawl" as reported in the *Hindustan Times* dated January 27, 2003;

(b) if so, whether the virus in Internet services has caused losses to the Government;

(c) if so, the details to this regard;

(d) whether the Government have taken any steps to tide over the situation;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SU. THIRUNAVUKKARASAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) and (e) In order to combat the threats of computer virus and worm, a growing number of solutions/products, are being used.

(f) Does not arise.

[*Translation*]

Telephone Industry Network

308. SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN:
DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA:

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

(a) whether the telephone industry network has widely expanded owing to communication revolution in the country during the last few years;

(b) if so, the total value of business transacted by the telephone instrument manufacturing industry during the years 1999-2000, 2000-2001 and 2001-2002;

(c) the net profit earned in this business during each of the above mentioned years; and

(d) the number of persons who got employment through this industry at the end of December, 2002?

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

(b) to (d) The data base regarding the value of business transacted, profits earned and number of people getting employment by the telephone instrument-manufacturing industry is not centrally maintained. However, the total production of the telecom equipment industry during the last three years are as under:

(Rupees in Crores)

	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02
Production	10,760	12,271	15,437

Utilisation of Transponders by Prasar Bharati Corporation

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

(a) whether the Department of Space has asked the Prasar Bharati Corporation to pay an amount of Rs. 500 crore for using its transponders or face a black-out;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the present status of the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) and (b) The Department of Space

had requested Ministry of Information and Broadcasting to pay for the INSAT transponder capacity utilised. The total amount payable by Ministry of Information & Broadcasting to Department of Space was Rs. 316.00 Crores—Rs. 144.00 Crores for Financial Year 2001-02 and Rs. 172.00 Crores for Financial Year 2002-03.

(c) Ministry of Information and Broadcasting has informed the Department of Space that Prasar Bharati being a Grantee Organisation is unable to pay the transponder charges.

Telephone Facilities

310. SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons provided with telephone facility till date, State-wise, urban and rural area-wise;

(b) the number of villages still awaiting telephone facility as on date; and

(c) by when these villages are likely to be provided with telephone facility?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) The number of persons provided with telephone facility as on 31.12.02, State-wise, urban and rural area wise are given in the statement enclosed.

(b) and (c) The number of villages awaiting telephone facility as on 31.12.2002 is 96758 and these villages are targeted to be provided with telephone facility by the end of December 2003.

Statement

Circle/State-wise Telephone Connections As on 31.12.2002

S.No.	Circle/State	Rural	Urban	Total
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andaman and Nicobar	18658	16614	35272
2.	Andhra Pradesh	1085225	3091205	4176430
3.	Assam	112121	400331	512452
4.	Bihar	344071	720343	1064414
5.	Chhattisgarh	59870	225624	285494

1	2	3	4	5
6.	Gujarat \$\$	748620	2997336	3745956
7.	Haryana	330352	924973	1255325
8.	Himachal Pradesh	291803	210141	501944
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	37954	211328	249282
10.	Jharkhand	77313	340308	417621
11.	Karnataka	821767	2570254	3392021
12.	Kerala**	1771795	1637237	3409032
13.	Madhya Pradesh	243618	1509616	1753234
14.	Maharashtra@	1155920	7619475	8775395
15.	North East#	78503	243773	322276
16.	Orissa	261590	524136	785726
17.	Punjab\$	723018	2125392	2848410
18.	Rajasthan	547562	1361708	1909270
19.	Tamilnadu***	660508	4239217	4899725
20.	Uttar Pradesh	722676	2716589	3439265
21.	Uttaranchal	78611	256877	335488
22.	West Bengal^	494026	2458333	2952359
23.	Delhi	0	3864165	3864165
		10665581	40264975	50930556

\$\$: Gujarat includes the Union Territories of Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu.

** Kerala includes the Union Territory of Lakshadweep Islands.

@ Maharashtra includes the State of Goa.

North East includes the States of Meghalaya, Mizoram, Tripura, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur and Nagaland.

\$ Punjab includes the Union Territory of Pondicherry.

*** Tamilnadu includes the Union Territory of Pondicherry.

^West Bengal includes the State of Sikkim.

Sports University

311. SHRI PRABODH PANDA: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any Sports University in the country;

(b) if so, the location thereof;

(c) whether the Government have any plan to set up Sports Universities in all the States;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government sanction any grants in this regard; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI VIKRAM VERMA): (a) and (b) No, Sir, except that the Lakshmbai National Institute of Physical Education, Gwalior has been given the status of a 'Deemed to be

University' and is fully funded by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) to (f) Do not arise.

Medical Colleges in Hospitals

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

(a) whether the Government have received any proposals from the private and Government hospitals to start Medical Colleges in Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the decision taken by the Government on each of the proposals received?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (c) No such proposal has been received during 2002-03. However, Vardhman Mahavir Medical College has been approved at the Safdarjung Hospital, New Delhi for the academic session 2001-02.

[English]

Setting up of ICMR Unit

313. SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that Leptospirosis is emerging as a major health threat in Kerala;

(b) if so, whether the Union Government have received any proposal from Kerala for setting up of an ICMR unit in Kerala for research in Leptospirosis;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the stage of which the matter stands at present?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (d) A request was received from Government of Kerala for establishment of a field station in order to strengthen the capacity of the State to deal with the outbreak of

Leptospirosis, a major health threat in the State. The Government of Kerala has been advised to explore the feasibility of capacity strengthening through the Regional Medical Research Centre at Port Blair which acts as a National Research Centre of Leptospirosis.

Funds for Eye Wards

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

(a) whether the Government propose to provide funds to the States for the construction of 10/20 bedded Eye wards with operation theaters and dark room facilities;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) by when the Units would become functional; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) In the current financial year, Central Government does not propose to provide funds to any State Government/UT for the construction of 10/20 bedded eye wards with operation theaters and dark room facilities.

(b) to (d) Question does not arise.

Vision Report-2020

315. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have examined the report vision-2020 submitted by S.P. Gupta Committee;

(b) if so, the main recommendations of the report;

(c) the action the Government propose to take on the recommendations made by it;

(d) the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) Report of the Committee on Vision

2020 has been received by the Planning Commission and released to the public for wider debate and discussion. Copies of the Report are placed in the Parliament Library.

(b) The report visualizes a very long-term vision for the year 2020. To reach that vision, it emphasises, along with several other key policy changes, the will and determination of the people to revive its old heritage and learn from the lessons of the other countries instead of imitating them in a blind folded manner.

(c) and (d) The medium-term policy recommendations of the government are incorporated in the Tenth Five Year Plan Document, as approved by the National Development Council.

(e) Does not arise.

Financial Support to BSNL

316. SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of financial support required by BSNL for supporting the existing telecom services for non-profitable areas and subscribers; and

(b) the financial support required by BSNL to expand such telecom services in rural areas and non-profitable areas, especially in view of the target of 4 per cent teledensity to be achieved by 2010 in rural areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) The financial support required by BSNL for supporting the existing non-profitable rural telecom services, is estimated at Rs. 4000 crore per annum.

(b) The financial support required by BSNL to expand such telecom services in tune with its contribution to achieve teledensity targets, has been estimated at Rs. 22830 crore over the 10th Five Year Plan Period (April 2002-March, 2007).

Strengthening of Health Sector

317. DR. MANDA JAGANNATH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Lack of accountability and quality in health sector" appearing in the *Hindustan Times* dated January 11, 2003;

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

(c) the plan of the Government to strengthen the health sector further?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Some of the participants at the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas Celebrations had expressed concern about the state of health care in India. Health being a State subject, State Governments are primarily responsible for preventive, promotive and curative aspects of health care services. However, for control of major diseases like Malaria, T.B., Leprosy, Blindness, HIV/AIDS, etc. as well as for Reproductive and Child Health related activities, the Central Government has been providing funds and technical assistance to State Governments. The Central Government has also taken initiatives to get State Health System Development Projects with World Bank assistance aimed at improving and upgrading the secondary level health care facilities in seven States namely, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Orissa, Punjab, Maharashtra, West Bengal and Uttar Pradesh. Funds are also provided under Pradhanmantri Gramodaya Yojana for improving functional status of rural primary health care Institutions.

The National Health Policy 2002 announced by the Central Government envisages increasing public health investment to 2% of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) by the year 2010 from the existing 0.9%. The Tenth Plan Outlay for the Central Health Sector has been fixed at Rs. 9253 crores compared to Rs. 5118 crores during the Ninth Plan to improve the health care facilities.

Reusable Satellites/Launchers

318. SHRI Y.V. RAO: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to make reusable satellites and satellite launchers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the total expenditure involved therein;

(d) the targets fixed in this regard; and

(e) by when such satellites are likely to be launched?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) and (b) ISRO has initiated preliminary

studies towards feasibility of a technology demonstrator for a reusable launch vehicle. The studies are towards identification of various technologies involved for the purpose.

(c) The expenditure and schedule will be evolved as part of the studies.

(d) and (e) The research and development towards the technology demonstrator is planned to be initiated during the Tenth plan period.

Amount collected through Disinvestment

319. SHRI PARSURAM MAJHI: Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the amount collected through disinvestment during 2000-01, 2001-2002 and 2002-2003;

(b) the target set for disinvestment in those years;

(c) whether the target has been achieved; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) and (b) The target and the amount realised through disinvestment during the last three years and the current year are as follows:

Year	Target	Amount Realised (Rs. in crore)
1999-2000	10,000	1,829.14
2000-2001	10,000	1,868.73
2001-2002	12,000	5,632.25#
2002-2003	12,000	3,342.06

#Inclusive of dividend, special dividend, dividend tax, transfer from surplus cash reserves and lease rent etc.

(c) and (d) Implementation of the disinvestment programme depends on a variety of factors including market conditions, industry wise business cycle fluctuations, interest of the prospective bidders, the adequacy of the price bid etc. In view of this, it is not always possible to meet the annual targets. Moreover Government does not sell its equity holding in distress. In cases where the value of land and buildings is significant, often the delay occurs because the property

rights are unclear and legally establishing these property rights takes time, though it is necessary to do so to maximize the realisable value.

Modernization of Post Offices

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

(a) whether the Government have prepared any plan for modernization of Post Offices and Postal Saving Schemes;

(b) if so, whether the Government are considering introduction of Electronic Transfer, ATM, DMAT of NSO as Pilot Project;

(c) if so, whether Mumbai and other major cities are being considered for such a Pilot Project;

(d) if so, whether any discussion has taken place with NSO Division, Ministry of Finance, RBI in this regard;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) by when such Pilot Project is likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SU. THIRUNAVUKKARASAR): (a) Modernization of Post Offices including the facilities for the small savings schemes, is under implementation in a phased manner from the 8th Five Year Plan onwards.

(b) to (f) While the possibility of introducing services like Electronic Transfer, ATM and DMAT of Savings Certificates have been considered, they are still at a conceptual stage. The pilots can be launched only after the operational and financial details relating to their implementation are finalized in consultation with the concerned regulatory and other authorities. The selection of cities for pilot projects has not been made. Hence, no time frame can be indicated at this juncture for starting the pilot projects.

Disinvestment of PSUs

321. SHRI P.D. ELANGOVAN: Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has modified regulations with regard to the Disinvestment of PSUs in the country particularly in the fields of Petroleum and Chemicals, Mines and Communications and Steel;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the list of problems and issues, priorities in the disinvestment process;

(c) the total investments made in the above mentioned PSUs;

(d) whether disinvestment process in the said PSUs has been crippled;

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

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

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The investment made by Central Government by way of equity capital with Public Sector Undertakings as on 31.3.2001, as per Public Enterprises Survey 2000-2001, is given below:

	(Rs. Crore)
Petroleum Sector	3002.44
Chemicals & Pharmaceuticals Sector	552.44
Mines (Minerals and Metals) Sector	2853.23
Communications Sector	505.34
Steel Sector	11573.62

(d) No, Sir.

(e) and (f) Do not arise in view of reply to paragraph (d) above.

Dropping of Companies from Disinvestment List

322. SHRI J.S. BRAR: Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have dropped some of the companies from the list of companies for disinvestment;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reasons therefor?

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[*Translation*]

Disinvestment of Air India

323. SHRI SUBODH ROY: Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the recommendations of Disinvestment Commission are being implemented in regard to Air India;

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

(c) the present position of the disinvestment process of this unit; and

(d) the profit, interest and income tax received by the Government from the Air India during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) to (c) Pursuant to receipt of Disinvestment Commission's report in August 1998, the process of disinvestment of Government equity in Air India Limited was started in June 1999 and a great deal of progress was made. The process was stopped because of gradual withdrawal by all the prospective bidders. The process has not been re-started.

(d) The requisite information is as under:

Year	Profit/Loss (Rs. Crores)	Interest*	Income Tax
1999-2000	(-)37.63	NIL	NIL
2000-2001	(-)44.40	NIL	NIL
2001-2002	15.44	NIL	Rs. 125.47 lakhs#

*The Company has no outstanding loan payable to Government.

#Air India Limited has paid the amount based on self-assessment.

[*English*]

Modernization of Postal Services in West Bengal

324. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken any steps for the modernisation of postal communication service under recently started Grameen Sanchar Sewak Scheme in the country particularly in West Bengal;

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

(c) whether any Budget allocation has been made for the purpose in the current financial year;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) by when modernization work under the said scheme is likely to be completed in West Bengal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SU. THIRUNAVUKKARASAR): (a) to (e) The Grameen Sanchar Sewa Scheme, launched on a pilot basis in around 8000 villages throughout the country, except Andaman & Nicobar, Haryana and Punjab Telecom Circles, by the Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) under the Department of Telecommunications seeks to provide telephone facilities at the door step in villages through Gramin Dak Sewak Delivery Agents of the Department of Post who work as franchisees of the Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited. Since the Grameen Dak Sanchar Sewak scheme does not seek to improve postal communication service, the question of providing any budget allocation by the Department of Posts for this purpose under the scheme does not arise.

Improvement in Bilateral Ties

325. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have a proposal to improve bilateral relations with U.S., China and certain other countries;

(b) if so, the effective steps proposed to be taken in this direction particularly with U.S.A. and China; and

(c) by when a decision in this regard is likely to be taken?

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

(b) and (c) Improvement in relations with the United States and China, as also with other countries, is an ongoing process, which takes place through sustained dialogue to enhance understanding, resolve differences and promote mutually beneficial bilateral cooperation.

Government pursues these goals through exchange of high-level political and official visits and through appropriate bilateral institutional mechanisms.

Eradication of Diseases

326. SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL:
SHRI A. NARENDRA:
SHRI BIKASH CHOWDHURY:
SHRI LAKSHMAN SETH:
SHRI MOINUL HASSAN:
DR. RAM CHANDRA DOME:

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

(a) the number of people suffering from T.B., diabetes, asthma, heart disease, cancer and HIV during each of the last three years, State-wise;

(b) the percentage of death from each disease during the above period, State-wise; and

(c) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to tackle these diseases?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) and (b) A statement-I indicating State-wise TB cases detected and put on treatment under the National TB Control Programme during the last three years is enclosed. The total number of estimated HIV infections among adult population based on nationwide sentinel surveillance data collected is 3.71 million in the year 1999, 3.86 million in the year 2000 and 3.97 million in the year 2001. Diabetes, asthma, cancer and heart diseases are largely lifestyle based diseases and exact data about the number of people suffering from these diseases in each State is not maintained centrally.

The number of deaths reported, State-wise, during the last three years due to AIDS, TB and Cancer are indicated in the statements II, III and IV respectively enclosed.

(c) There are National Programmes, amongst others, for prevention and control of TB, HIV/AIDS and Cancer. Diagnostic and treatment facilities, preventive intervention through awareness campaigns for general population and active involvement of NGOs are some of the major initiatives to tackle these and other lifestyle related diseases.

Statement I

Sl.No.	State	Year-wise no. of TB cases detected and put on treatment		
		1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02
1.	A & N Islands	649	748	754
2.	Andhra Pradesh	82384	87672	95909
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	2891	3525	2730
4.	Assam	18832	18845	20022
5.	Bihar	36405	41167	35272
6.	Chandigarh	1107	1249	1872
7.	D&N Haveli	501	177	—
8.	Delhi	27633	24105	26389
9.	Goa	2591	1858	2623
10.	Gujarat	108433	87561	72683
11.	Haryana	23225	24298	28323
12.	Himachal Pradesh	9517	10214	11283
13.	Jammu & Kashmir	9299	8127	9472
14.	Jharkhand	—	577	44095
15.	Karnataka	54129	58640	20203
16.	Kerala	22866	21483	85766
17.	Madhya Pradesh	70184	74970	81672
18.	Maharashtra	246722	167990	57336
19.	Manipur	1603	2234	4527
20.	Meghalaya	1995	2017	1263
21.	Mizoram	1454	1172	1035
22.	Nagaland	1842	994	6839
23.	Orissa	20016	18871	15847
24.	Pondicherry	3276	3224	27248
25.	Punjab	28348	29829	735
26.	Rajasthan	65924	68057	86197
27.	Sikkim	1913	1675	30898
28.	Tamilnadu	74390	74258	48623
29.	Tripura	2168	1993	178114
30.	Uttar Pradesh	253142	225907	45166
31.	West Bengal	62207	82181	73275

Statement II**Number of Deaths Due to AIDS**

S.No.	State/UT	1999	2000	2001
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	—	—	53
2.	Assam	—	1	—
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	—	—	—
4.	A&N Islands	—	7	2
5.	Bihar	5	7	1
6.	Chandigarh	—	13	29
7.	Punjab	—	—	—
8.	Delhi	—	24	27
9.	Daman & Diu	—	—	—
10.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	2	—	—
11.	Goa	—	3	15
12.	Gujarat	12	—	20
13.	Haryana	—	5	—
14.	Himachal Pradesh	6	—	—
15.	Jammu & Kashmir	—	—	—
16.	Karnataka	20	19	27
17.	Kerala	13	—	—
18.	Lakshadweep	4	—	—
19.	Madhya Pradesh	—	50	5
20.	Maharashtra	80	77	176
21.	Manipur	2	17	50
22.	Mizoram	—	7	—
23.	Meghalaya	1	—	—
24.	Nagaland	12	25	28
25.	Orissa	—	—	—
26.	Pondicherry	71	—	—
27.	Rajasthan	—	—	—
28.	Sikkim	1	—	—

1	2	3	4	5
29.	Tamil Nadu	—	119	249
30.	Tripura	—	—	—
31.	Uttar Pradesh	—	4	15
32.	West Bengal	—	—	68
Total		229	378	765

Statement III*Number of Deaths reported due to TB*

Sl.No.	States/UTs	Deaths		
		1999	2000	2001
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	957	1359	1299
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	—	—	—
3.	Assam	—	—	—
4.	Bihar	—	—	—
5.	Chhattisgarh	—	—	—
6.	Goa	53	87	67
7.	Gujarat	84	79	54
8.	Haryana	267	236	226
9.	Himachal Pradesh	232	211	201
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	0	0	0
11.	Jharkhand	—	—	—
12.	Karnataka	907	993	163
13.	Kerala	194	156	186
14.	Madhya Pradesh	41	91	79
15.	Maharashtra	716	807	891
16.	Manipur	28	21	18
17.	Meghalaya	2	52	59
18.	Mizoram	13	8	27
19.	Nagaland	0	3	—
20.	Orissa	376	323	222

1	2	3	4	5
21.	Punjab	71	23	115
22.	Rajasthan	287	306	393
23.	Sikkim	21	47	34
24.	Tamil Nadu	358	200	160
25.	Tripura	0	0	4
26.	Uttaranchal	—	—	—
27.	Uttar Pradesh	250	168	91
28.	West Bengal	960	1088	1295
29.	A&N Islands	22	24	22
30.	Chandigarh	48	42	45
31.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	1	—	—
32.	Daman & Diu	11	3	—
33.	Delhi	688	1048	657
34.	Lakshadweep	0	0	0
35.	Pondicherry	69	124	106
Total (All India)		6656	7499	6414

Statement IV*Number of Deaths Due to Cancer Reported from Specialized Cancer Hospitals (Provisional)*

SI.No.	States/UTs	Deaths		
		1998	1999	2000
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	159	142	152
2.	Assam	44	36	56
3.	Bihar	NR	NR	NR
4.	Gujarat	NR	NR	NR
5.	Himachal Pradesh	—	—	4
6.	Karnataka	386	384	331
7.	Kerala	491	NR	NR
8.	Madhya Pradesh	266	320	194
9.	Maharashtra	494	467	45

1	2	3	4	5
10.	Orissa	80	126	NR
11.	Tamil Nadu	183	114	126
12.	Tripura	59	54	39
13.	Uttar Pradesh	28	15	18
14.	West Bengal	NR	—	15
15.	Delhi	—	—	193
16.	Rajasthan	—	—	71

NR: Information not received .

—: Not reported

[*Translation*]

Price of Printed Postcards

327. SHRIMATI JAYASHREE BANERJEE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to reduce the price for printed condolence postcard;

(b) if so, the rate decided for printed condolence messages; and

(c) by when the said low price condolence postcard will be made available?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SU THIRUNAVUKKARASAR): (a) The ordinary postcard, available for 50 paise can be used for conveying news of any kind so long as the content is hand written or typed on a typewriter. The postcard service is highly subsidised as the cost of operation is very high compared to the revenue realised. While fixing the rates of postal services, due regard is given to the interest of common man and the role of postal service in meeting the requirements of all customers in the society. Further, in order to ensure easy implementation throughout the country-wide postal network, tariff differentiation has to be related to obvious physical features, as in the case of printed postcard. The purpose of the message written on a postcard cannot be the basis for a difference in tariff.

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

[*English*]

Insecticides in Mineral Water

328. SHRI SHEESH RAM SINGH RAVI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that the mineral water packed in bottles contain insecticides which can cause diseases like cancer;

(b) if so, whether the Government have analysed the samples of bottled water;

(c) if so, the outcome thereof;

(d) whether bottled water is supplied in large quantities to the railway passengers endangering their health; and

(e) if so, the steps being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (c) As per standards prescribed for Natural Mineral water under the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954, Pesticides Residue should be 'below detectable limits' when tested in accordance with the specific method as prescribed by Bureau of Indian Standards under their inspection and testing scheme.

The Pesticide Residues were not detected while analysing the samples of Mineral Water and Packaged Drinking Water as per this method.

However, in an independent study by Centre for Science and Environment, New Delhi, samples of

Packaged Drinking Water were stated to contain Pesticide residues because of difference in testing methodology adopted by CSE.

(d) and (e) The limit detected by BIS method of analysis is upto 0.01 mg/litre. However, keeping in view the method of processing of Packaged Drinking Water and Mineral Water by which Pesticide can be removed upto any extent from the water, it is now proposed to revise the method of analysis and to prescribe the maximum residue limits of Pesticides in water as below:

"(a) Pesticide Residues considered individually	— 0.0001 mg/litre
(b) Total Pesticide Residue	— 0.0005 mg/litre"

(The analysis shall be conducted by using internationally established test methods meeting the residue limits specified herein above).

Additionally, it is also being prescribed that the manufacturers of Packaged Drinking Water and Mineral Water shall be produce a No objection Certificate from Central Government/State Government Ground Water Authority for obtaining licence from BIS and PFA Authorities.

National Youth Award

329. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a "National Youth Award" is given to deserving youths every year;

(b) if so, the details thereof for the last three years, year-wise; and

(c) the criteria laid down for giving this award?

THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI VIKRAM VERMA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A statement indicating the names of the National Youth Awardees for the last three years is enclosed.

(c) The National Youth Awards were instituted in 1985 and since then these awards are given every year to deserving young persons and voluntary organisations in recognition of their outstanding work for national development and social service. Presently, awards are conferred every year on 12th January during the National Youth Festival conducted from 12 to 16 January.

As per the code of procedure for selection of nominations for National Youth Awards, every State Government can recommend 10 names and every Union Territory can recommend 5 names. Similarly, State Governments can recommend 2 names and Union Territory can recommend 1 name of voluntary organisations for National Youth Award.

As per procedure, universities/colleges, local government departments, voluntary agencies, private bodies, public sector undertakings, Nehru Yuva Kendras, National Service Scheme etc. will submit their recommendations to the respective District Magistrate/ District Collector by the 10th of June every year, who will be the chairperson of the District level Committee. District level Committee will send the recommendations to the State Governments by the 10th of July every year. The recommendations made by the District level Committee would be considered by a State level Committee under the Chairpersonship of Secretary/ Commissioner of the Youth Services Department of the State. State Governments/Union Territory Administrations will further send their recommendations to the Central Government, Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports. At the National level, a Central Selection Committee will scrutinize recommendations of the State Governments/ UT Administrations and make the final selection of the Youth Awardees. Union Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports is the Chairperson of the Central Selection Committee. The Central Selection Committee may, at their discretion, consider on merits, individuals or youth organisations nor recommended by a State Government/ UT, for the award.

Statement

National Youth Awardees, 1999-2000

1. Shri Nanduri Ramesh S.S., Andhra Pradesh
2. Shri S. Venugopal, Andhra Pradesh
3. Ms. Bhanumathi Panday, Andhra Pradesh
4. Shri G. Rajkumar, Andhra Pradesh
5. Shri B. Gangadhara, Andhra Pradesh
6. Shri Pragiyoti Gogoi, Assam
7. Shri Jai Prakash Meheta, Bihar
8. Shri Ghanshyam Patel, Gujarat
9. Md. Ashraf Patel, Gujarat
10. Shri Inder Jeet, Haryana

- | | |
|---|--|
| 11. Shri Sanjēev Kumar, Haryana | 45. Ms. Sulochana Koley, West Bengal |
| 12. Ms. Shail Singh, Haryana | 46. Shri Joydeb Kahar, West Bengal |
| 13. Shri Shakti Kumar, Jammu & Kashmir | 47. Shri Harinder Pal Singh, Chandigarh |
| 14. Shri Khemraj Sharma, Jammu & Kashmir | 48. Shri Prashant P. Barde, Dadar & Nagar Haveli |
| 15. Shri Naganagowda C. Patil, Karnataka | 49. Ms. Rajbala, Delhi |
| 16. Dr. Prabhuling A. Biradar, Karnataka | 50. Shri Anoop Kumar, Punjab |
| 17. Shri Nabisab, Karnataka | 51. Shri Visishta Gramodaya Swayam Sadhana Parishad, Andhra Pradesh (Voluntary Organisation) |
| 18. Shri Javed Jamedar, Karnataka | 52. Indira Social Welfare Organisation, Orissa (Voluntary Organisation). |
| 19. Shri Brahma Nayakam M., Kerala | |
| 20. Ms. Manju Agarwal, Madhya Pradesh | |
| 21. Shri Mahendra Kumar Dixit, Madhya Pradesh | <i>National Youth Awardees, 2000-2001</i> |
| 22. Shri Hanumat Kishore Shukla, Madhya Pradesh | 1. Ms. Bharati Chakrabarty, Tripura |
| 23. Shri Vibhanshu Joshi, Madhya Pradesh | 2. Ms. B. Shanthana Lakshmi, Tamil Nadu |
| 24. Shri Hanmant Rao Prabhakar, Madhya Pradesh | 3. Dr. Deshmukh Kishor Dashrath, Maharashtra |
| 25. Shri Subhash Y. Dalvi, Maharashtra | 4. Shri Ganesh Anant Boormane, Karnataka |
| 26. Shri Masood Ishrat Mirza, Maharashtra | 5. Shri G. Manikyala Rao, Andhra Pradesh |
| 27. Shri Shahid Sharif, Maharashtra | 6. Ms. Goparaja Deepti Sharma, New Delhi |
| 28. Ms. Pramila M. Sikhare, Maharashtra | 7. Ms. Gouri Balapure, Madhya Pradesh |
| 29. Shri Amar K. Dinkar, Maharashtra | 8. Shri Hanuman Ram Chowdhary, Rajasthan |
| 30. Shri T. Damlian Vaiphei, Manipur | 9. Shri Jai Ram Gupta, Sikkim |
| 31. Ms. Memamacha Devi, Manipur | 10. Ms. Kanchan Handa, Haryana |
| 32. Shri Aruna Kumar Satapathy, Orissa | 11. Shri Kulwinder Singh, Punjab |
| 33. Shri Durga Prasad Tripathy, Orissa | 12. Shri Manoj Kumar Tripathy, Orissa |
| 34. Shri Naseem Ahmed Shah Ansari, Orissa | 13. Dr. Milind Bhoi, Maharashtra |
| 35. Shri Sanjib Kr. Joshi, Orissa | 14. Shri Niranjana Nath, Tripura |
| 36. Shri Dayal Dass, Punjab | 15. Shri Parwat Singh Kushwah, Madhya Pradesh |
| 37. Shri Vijay Kumar Dable, Rajasthan | 16. Shri Phool Kumar Kadiyan, Haryana |
| 38. Ms. Jyoti Sharma, Rajasthan | 17. Shri R. Gnanasekaran, Tamil Nadu |
| 39. Dr. T. Somasundaram, Tamil Nadu | 18. |
| 40. Shri K. Vijayaragavan, Tamil Nadu | Shri Sanjay Kumar, Haryana |
| 41. Ms. Moumita Bhatta, Tripura | 19. Shri Sanjēev Baigra, Jammu & Kashmir |
| 42. Shri Ratan Achrajee, Tripura | 20. Shri Saroj Kumar Padhy, Orissa |
| 43. Ms. Sapna Saxena, Uttar Pradesh | 21. Ms. Sobha H.G., Karnataka |
| 44. Shri Om Prakash Rajput, Uttar Pradesh | 22. Shri Sushil Kumar Sharma, Uttar Pradesh |

23. Dr. (Ms.) Syeda Reyaze Mobeen, Andhra Pradesh

24. Ms. Rajkumari Takeshari, Manipur

25. Bahumukhi Krishi Aru Samaj Kalyan Samity, Assam (Voluntary Organisation).

National Youth Awardees 2001-2002

1. Shri Gurajada Anand Kumar, Andhra Pradesh
2. Shri Hemanta Rabha, Assam
3. Shri Vikas Saini, Delhi
4. Ms. Prajapati Nimishaben Harman Bhai, Gujarat
5. Ms. Hetal Barmeda, Gujarat
6. Shri Surinder Singh Nain, Haryana
7. Shri Som Mehrishi, Haryana
8. Shri Imtiaz-ul-Abrar, Jammu & Kashmir
9. Shri Mangan Munda, Jharkhan
10. Shri Manjunatha R. Naik, Karnataka
11. Shri J.R. Shadakshara Muni, Karnataka
12. Shri Viju V. Nair, Kerala
13. Shri Mahesh Gunjele, Madhya Pradesh
14. Shri Pradip Ajabrao Awachar, Maharashtra
15. Shri K. Ananda, Orissa
16. Shri Kamal Kumar Tarnaich, Punjab
17. Shri Satnam Singh, Punjab
18. Shri Kheta Ram Choudhary, Rajasthan
19. Shri Manoj Kumar Bhardwaj, Rajasthan
20. Shri Gokul Rai, Sikkim
21. Shri Lakshmanan Pn., Tamil Nadu
22. Shri G.M. Ezhumalai, Tamil Nadu
23. Shri Harkirat Singh, Uttar Pradesh
24. Ms. Poonam Vishnoi, Uttar Pradesh
25. Shri Swapan Kumar Chakravarty, West Bengal
26. Society for Promotion of Youth and Masses (S.P.Y.M.), New Delhi (Vol. Org.)

[Translation]

WLL Connections

330. SHRI RAJO SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons provided with WLL connections in Sheikhpura Lakhisarai, Jamui and Begusarai districts of Bihar;

(b) whether most of these phones are not working at present;

(c) if so, the details of action taken by the Government in this regard;

(d) whether the Government propose to convert the WLL connections into landline connections;

(e) if so, by when these connections are likely to be converted into landline connections;

(f) whether seven days time limit is required to make a WLL connection operative; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

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

[English]

Demand of Land Line Telephone

331. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that due to increasing number of mobile telephone the demand for landline telephone has been decreasing during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have not been able to give telephone on demand even with less demand;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the Government have reviewed the administrative structure of the MTNL and BSNL keeping in view the low demand of land line telephone;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) whether the BSNL proposes to introduce cellular service in small towns where private companies have yet to provide phone services?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. It is a fact that due to increasing number of mobile telephones the demand of land line telephone has been experiencing downward trend. The registered demand of land line telephones for the last three years of (BSNL) Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited and (MTNL) Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited are as given below:

BSNL

Sl.No.	Year	Demand for telephone
1.	1999-2000	6129563
2.	2000-2001	4925728
3.	2001-2002	3887029

MTNL

Sl.No.	Year	Demand for telephone
1.	1999-2000	617610
2.	2000-2001	560248
3.	2001-2002	566627

(c) and (d) BSNL & MTNL is providing telephones on demand in most of the urban areas. The waiting list is scattered mainly in the rural areas. The provision of telephone connections by traditional wired line is not cost effective. Therefore, Wireless systems are being deployed to provide telephones in rural areas.

(e) No, Sir.

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

(g) BSNL's (Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited) current plans for Cellular services envisage the coverage of all district headquarters and other important cities. Further expansion would be based on anticipated demand in the areas and availability of funds.

Software Technology Parks

332. SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:
SHRI R.L. JALAPPA:

(a) the number of Software Technology Parks proposed to be set up by the Union Government during the current financial year i.e. 2002-2003; and

(b) the details of financial assistance sanctioned, State-wise for setting up the same during the said period alongwith the financial or technical assistance taken/being taken from the foreign countries for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SU THIRUNAVUKKARASAR): (a) During the year 2002-03 even STPI (Software Technology Parks of India) Centres are proposed to be set up viz. Trichy, Pondicherry, Nasik, Kolhapur, Thirunelveli, Mangalore and Hubli. Except Thirunelveli and Mangalore, funds for the remaining Centres were released during the previous years.

(b) The estimated cost of setting up a STPI Centre is about Rs. 3-4 crores. Out of this, the concerned State Government provides Rs. 1 crore as grant-in-aid and Rs. 50 lakhs are funded by Government of India. The balance fund requirement is met by Software Technology Parks of India (STPI), an Autonomous society under Department of Information Technology. Besides this, the State Government also provides the requisite land/built up space for the Centre. The details of financial assistance sanctioned by Government during the year 2002-03 are given in the Statement enclosed.

Statement

The Details of the Financial Assistance Sanctioned by Government of India for setting up STPI Centres during the Financial Year 2002-2003

(Rupees in Lakhs)

Sl.No.	Year	Name of centre	State	DIT	MOC&I
1.	2002-03	Thirupati	Andhra Pradesh	50.00	—
2.	2002-03	Warrangal	Andhra Pradesh	50.00	—
3.	2002-03	Vijaywada	Andhra Pradesh	50.00	—
4.	2002-03	Gurgaon	Haryana	50.00	492.50
5.	2002-03	Kanpur	Uttar Pradesh	50.00	—
6.	2002-03	Mangalore	Karnataka	50.00	—
7.	2002-03	Durgapur	West Bengal	50.00	—
8.	2002-03	Kharagpur	West Bengal	50.00	—
9.	2002-03	Goa	Goa	50.00	—
Total				450.00	492.50

DIT: Department of Information & Technology
MOC&I: Ministry of Commerce & Industries.

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

Development of Accelerator Driven System

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

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any accelerator driven system to produce nuclear power has been developed in a bid to utilise the vast reserves of thorium in the country and to minimise nuclear wastes; and

(b) if so, the progress made in this direction so far, indicating the quantum of thorium reserves in different States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) and (b) Development of accelerator driven system has recently been initiated and it would take considerable time before it can be used to utilise thorium resources and minimise nuclear wastes.

Investment by VSNL

334. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the decision of Videsh Sanchar Nigam Limited (VSNL) to transfer/invest Rs. 1.200 crore elsewhere is contrary to the terms of disinvestment; and

(b) if so, the response of the Government thereto and the action taken, if any?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) and (b) Sir, investment decision of Videsh Sanchar Nigam Ltd. (VSNL), after its disinvestment, would be governed by the provisions of Company Law and those of the Shareholders Agreement and Share Purchase Agreement. Investment which conform to these regulations and which enhances the enterprise value of the subject company is in consonance with the spirit and objectives of the disinvestment.

It was however agreed to form a Sub-Committee to carefully analyse and consider the desirability of such an investment by VSNL in the targeted company. The committee decided that, in the first 4 years, an amount

of Rs. 636-80 crores will be invested by way of equity in Tata Tele Services. An option has been kept to invest sum of Rs. 199.00 crores as per timetable and mode to be decided mutually between VSNL and Tata Tele Services Ltd. This arrangement has been found to be satisfactory.

[Translation]

Imposition of Conditions on Cricket Players

335. SHRIMATI PRABHA RAU:
SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR:
SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN:

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

(a) whether the International Cricket Council (ICC) has imposed unreasonable conditions on the Indian cricket players for their participation in the World Cup Cricket;

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

(c) if not, the details of steps taken to safeguard the interests of the Indian cricket players?

THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI VIKRAM VERMA): (a) to (c) Information is being collected from the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) and will be laid on the Table of the House on receipt.

[English]

Centre of Excellence Status to Government Ayurvedic College

336. SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that Government Ayurvedic College at Trivandrum is the nucleus of Ayurvedic education;

(b) if so, whether the College has fulfilled all the norms fixed by the Central Council of Indian Medicine to qualify as a centre of excellence;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken/being taken to declare the college as a centre of excellence?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) Government Ayurvedic College, Trivandrum is recognized for imparting Ayurvedic education.

(b) to (d) The college has sought assistance under the scheme for "Upgradation of Indian Systems of Medicine and Homoeopathy Institution to attain the Status of Centre of Excellence". The Scheme is yet to be approved by competent authority.

Waiving of Access Charges

337. SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Cellular operators have been demanding waiving of access charges of Rs. 1.20 per three minutes or the same charges should be levied on WLL services also; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) and (b) Sir, Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) is responsible for fixation of tariffs for Telecom Services in the Country. As per information furnished by TRAI, Cellular Operators Association of India (COAI) on behalf of the Cellular Operators, had made a representation to TRAI on the issue of access charges paid by them to Basic Service Operators at the rate of Rs. 1.20 per three minutes. After taking into account the views of all the stakeholders including COAI, TRAI has issued interconnection Usage Regulation dated 24.1.2003 which addresses the issue.

Nimesulide Drug

338. DR. MANDA JAGANNATH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that Nimesulide drug is being sold and manufactured in India which has been banned in almost all the countries; and

(b) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to confirm its reliability and reaction in children?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) Nimesulide has not been banned in almost all countries. The use of Nimesulide is reported to have been suspended only in Spain, Turkey and Finland. Nimesulide is a non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug (NSAID), and is reported to be used in about 50 countries including India. It is indicated for acute pain/inflammation and fever. In India the drug was approved in 1995, and is a prescription drug.

(b) A detailed examination has been undertaken by an expert committee (Sub-Committee) of Drug Technical Advisory Board to deliberate on the issues concerning the safety of Nimesulide, including its use in Children. More than 20 expert pediatricians across the country and the Indian Academy of Pediatrics (IAP) were consulted. Majority of experts have confirmed the reliability of Nimesulide and no serious adverse reaction in children have been reported in the country.

National Highway-5A

339. SHRI PARSURAM MAJHI: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have a proposal for four laning of National Highway No. 5-A and also for the improvement of Road connectivity to Paradip port in Orissa;

(b) if so, the present status of the project;

(c) the year by which the project is likely to be completed; and

(d) the details of the allocation of fund made for the purpose?

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

(b) Detailed project report for the project has been prepared. Bids from pre-qualified civil work contractors have been invited. Last date for receipt of bids is 21st March, 2003.

(c) Project is likely to be completed by December, 2005.

(d) This project is proposed to be executed through a Special Purpose Vehicle and funds would be infused, based on its financial analysis.

Resumption of Indo-Pak Dialogue

340. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK:
SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have a proposal to initiate talks with Pakistan to establish better bilateral relations;

(b) if so, whether some conditions have been laid down for the purpose;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the response of the Pak Government thereto; and

(e) the possibility of resumption of Indo-Pak dialogue?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI VINOD KHANNA): (a) to (e) India remains firmly committed to the path of dialogue and reconciliation in keeping with the Simla Agreement and Lahore Declaration. India has repeatedly called upon Pakistan to end its sponsorship of cross-border infiltration and terrorism directed against India so that a conducive environment can be created for the resumption of bilateral dialogue.

General Musharraf committed on 12th January, 27th May and 6th June, 2002 to end cross-border infiltration on permanent basis, not allow the territory of Pakistan to be used for terrorist activity anywhere in the world and not allow any organization in Pakistan to indulge in terrorism in the name of Kashmir. As cross-border infiltration and terrorist violence has not ended, India's response would be based on implementation of Pakistan's commitment to end cross-border infiltration and terrorism.

Blood Banks

341. SHRI P.D. ELANGO VAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have fixed any norms and criteria for starting of Blood Bank by the NGOs;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the list of Government/Private Blood Banks operating in the country during the last three years, State-wise;

(c) the total quantity (in terms of units) of blood collected from the donors in the country and the total units of blood utilized during the above period, State-wise;

(d) whether the Government both at Centre and State find it very difficult to collect and store required units of blood in the Government Blood Banks to cater to the needs of the people;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the steps being taken to increase the capacity/number of Blood Banks in Government Sector?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) Yes, Sir. All blood banks, whether in the government, NGO or private sector, need to be licensed before they start operations. All of them have to meet the minimum criteria of space, equipment and staff as laid down in the Drugs and Cosmetics Rules before they are licensed.

(b) Details of blood banks operating in the country during the last three years, State-wise, given in the statement-I enclosed.

(c) Statement-II regarding collection of blood units during the last three years, State-wise, is enclosed. Only those blood units which meet the prescribed norms/criteria specified in the Drugs and Cosmetics rules are utilised.

(d) and (e) The government blood banks regularly collect units of blood, screen these and then store them for use by the patients. There are shortages of some rare blood units.

(f) The Government has been assisting in modernising and setting up a number of Blood Component Separation Units as well as Blood Banks in the country. Ten States have also been identified for setting up of Model Blood Banks particularly in underserved areas of the country.

Statement-I

Status of Licensed Blood Banks in the Country as on 31st December, 2002

Sl.No.	State	Govt.	Voluntary	Pvt. Hosp.	Pvt. Commercial	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Andaman & Nicobar	2	—	—	—	2
2.	Andhra Pradesh	63	14	43	48	168

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	2	1	—	—	3
4.	Assam	30	3	10	5	48
5.	Bihar	16	5	3	17	41
6.	Chandigarh	3	—	—	—	3
7.	Chhattisgarh	4	1	2	10	17
8.	Daman & Diu	1	—	—	—	1
9.	Delhi	17	2	15	8	42
10.	Goa	4	—	1	2	7
11.	Gujarat	20	60	2	58	140
12.	Haryana	17	2	6	10	35
13.	Himachal Pradesh	12	—	—	—	12
14.	Jammu and Kahsmir	13	—	—	1	14
15.	Karnataka	38	12	45	36	131
16.	Kerala	31	3	80	9	123
17.	Madhya Pradesh	44	19	8	33	104
18.	Maharashtra	81	24	55	86	246
19.	Manipur	3	—	—	—	3
20.	Meghalaya	2	—	2	—	4
21.	Mizoram	3	—	2	—	5
22.	Nagaland	3	—	—	—	3
23.	Orissa	9	54	7	2	72
24.	Pondicherry	5	—	6	—	11
25.	Punjab	40	4	23	2	69
26.	Rajasthan	45	1	9	6	61
27.	Sikkim	3	—	—	—	6
28.	Tamil Nadu	81	8	49	47	185
29.	Tripura	3	—	3	—	6
30.	Uttar Pradesh	71	2	17	40	130
31.	Uttaranchal	13	—	3	1	17
32.	West Bengal	67	7	19	33	126
Total		746	222	410	454	1832

Statement II

Sl.No.	State/UT	Total units of blood collection		
		2000	2001	2002
1	2	3	4	5
1.	A&N Islands	2550	3273	3543
2.	Andhra Pradesh	158743	213968	270331
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	970	0	1140
4.	Assam	26639	27370	25629
5.	Bihar	57457	85273	38391
6.	Chandigarh	48237	43447	47555
7.	Chhattisgarh	0	0	7995
8.	Delhi	137085	163025	247573
9.	Goa	7760	8808	8616
10.	Gujarat	290219	441888	484475
11.	Haryana	81232	84328	71659
12.	Himachal Pradesh	14539	15837	11696
13.	Jharkhand	0	0	2541
14.	Jammu & Kashmir	27669	31501	38921
15.	Karnataka	249687	264374	264638
16.	Kerala	129934	90190	149337
17.	Lakshadweep	0	24	14
18.	Madhya Pradesh	57125	68103	79221
19.	Maharashtra	326497	333025	340890
20.	Manipur	14762	10687	9893
21.	Meghalaya	1729	1822	2605
22.	Mizoram	8630	7657	9124
23.	Nagaland	1126	1444	1819
24.	Orissa	107005	65081	82192
25.	Pondicherry	5093	12592	13568
26.	Punjab	88930	89063	106972
27.	Rajasthan	115124	144695	148113
28.	Sikkim	999	768	954

1	2	3	4	5
29.	Tamil Nadu	304097	297452	269176
30.	Tripura	10638	11796	12219
31.	Uttar Pradesh	156643	179237	211726
32.	Uttaranchal	0	9295	13859
33.	West Bengal	73569	324271	268701
Total		2504688	3030294	3245086

TRAI

342. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the extent to which TRAI is functioning independently;

(b) whether it is providing genuine level of playing field to all the industry players; and

(c) if so, the manner in which TRAI compares with the regulators in developed countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) to (c) The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has been empowered, under the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India Act 1997, to carry out functions as considered appropriate in the Indian conditions. The TRAI Act was amended in the year 2000 to strengthen the entire regulatory framework. TRAI is functioning independently in the discharge of the functions entrusted to it under the TRAI Act. TRAI has informed that it has formulated its regulations, and issued its directions and orders on the principles of non-discrimination and to provide a level playing field; furthermore, all issues of key importance are decided through an open consultation process involving all stakeholders.

National Service Scheme

343. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Service Scheme is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme;

(b) if so, the details and objectives of this scheme;

(c) the number of universities covered under the Scheme during the last three years, State-wise;

(d) whether the Government propose to cover more universities in 2003-2004; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the funds likely to be allocated for this purpose?

THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI VIKRAM VERMA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The objective of the NSS is 'personality development of student volunteers through community service' and to channelize their energies in a constructive manner for integrated national development.

The expenditure on NSS Programme is being shared between the Centre and State Governments based on the allocation of student volunteers on year to year basis. The pattern of sharing expenditure is in the ratio of 3 : 1 in the case of North Eastern States and other hilly areas and 7:5 in other States/Union Territories. In case of Jammu & Kashmir and Union Territories without legislatures, the entire expenditure is met by the Central Government.

(c) Statement showing the number of universities covered under the Scheme during the last three years, State-wise is enclosed.

(d) and (e) Extension of the NSS to new educational institutions viz. + 2 schools, colleges and universities is decided upon by the respective State Governments based on overall allocation of volunteers to them each year. Usually, a 10% increase in volunteer strength is offered to States/Union Territories each year subject to their willingness to accept the same. The budget estimates under the scheme for the year 2003-04 is 26.00 crores (Plan) and Rs. 4.94 crores (Non-Plan).

Statement*Number of Universities covered under the NSS during the last three years (State-wise)*

Sl.No.	State/UT	1999-2000	2000-2001	2001-2002
1	Gujarat	12	12	12
2.	Karnataka	10	10	10
3.	Madhya Pradesh	7	7	7
4.	Chhattisgarh	2	2	2
5.	Orissa	7	7	7
6.	West Bengal	9	9	9
7	Punjab	5	5	5
8.	Himachal Pradesh	3	3	3
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	3	3	3
10.	Tamil Nadu	14	14	14
11.	Delhi	5	5	5
12.	Haryana	4	4	4
13.	Assam	5	5	5
14.	Manipur	1	1	1
15.	Meghalaya	1	1	1
16.	Andhra Pradesh	12	12	12
17.	Rajasthan	5	5	5
18.	Uttar Pradesh	20	20	20
19.	Bihar	7	7	7
20.	Jharkhand	4	4	4
21.	Maharashtra & Goa	16	16	16
22.	Kerala	8	8	8

*[Translation]***Impetus to IT Sector in Bihar and Jharkhand**

344. SHRI RAJO SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to give impetus to Information Technology in Bihar and Jharkhand;

(b) if so, the amount proposed to be sanctioned during 2003-2004;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the State Governments have sent any proposals to the Union Government in this regard;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SU THIRUNAVUKKARASAR): (a) and (b) Department of Information Technology (DIT) through National Informatics Centre (NIC) has been providing network backbone and e-Governance support to Central Government Departments, State Governments and District Administration in the country. As a part of this activity, NIC has provided NICNET connectivity to almost all the districts of Bihar and Jharkhand. NIC has developed and implemented a number of IT projects for these States, details of which are given in the enclosed statement. DIT, however, has no plan provision to allocate/sanction funds, State-wise.

(c) to (f) DIT has received requests from Government of Bihar and Government of Jharkhand for the setting up of Software Technology Park. In terms of present guidelines for setting up of such centres, certain commitments from State concerned are required in terms of provisioning of land and their share of grant-in-aid. These commitments are awaited from them.

Statement

IT Projects developed and implemented by National Informatics Centre (NIC) in the States of Bihar and Jharkhand

BIHAR

- VC based Public Justice for under-trials
- Launching of Bihar Official Website
- Bhu-Abhilekh for the Land Record Computerisation in Bihar
- Websites of Bihar Tourism Development Corporation, BSEB
- Commercial Taxes 'STAMINA' and 'TACKIS' software made operational
- BSEB Computerisation
- Statewide District Transport Computerization
- Statewide Lower Court Computerisation
- Statewide District Treasure Computerisation
- Statewide GPF Computerisation
- Computerisation of Commercial taxes, elections, Budget.

JHARKHAND

- All the districts of Jharkhand have been facilitated with Video Conferencing.
- Local Area Networking have been started in a big way in the Jharkhand Secretariats and other major buildings of the State capital.
- Web page development and hosting of major departments/organizations as well as various districts.
- Land Record Computerisation started successfully in two districts.
- GPF application software successfully implemented in various districts.

[English]

Policy Measures for NRI and PIO Investment

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

(a) whether the Government are considering a slew of policy measures to create attractive investment climate for the NRIs and PIOs as reported in the *Indian Express* dated January 7, 2003 under caption "Policy soon to attract NRI and PIO investment";

(b) if so, by when these policy measures are likely to be announced;

(c) whether all the recommendations of the committee constituted by the Government in September, 2000 under the Chairmanship of Dr. L.M. Singhvi have been implemented by the Government;

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

(e) by when they are likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI VINOD KHANNA): (a) and (b) The Government has been consistently reviewing policy measures with a view to create a favourable investment climate, focusing on economic reform process, that would facilitate an active role by NRIs/PIOs in generating investment. In this regard, a set of policy measures were announced on the 10th January, 2003 during the PBD celebrations.

(c) to (e) The High Level Committee on the Indian Diaspora has made wide ranging recommendations falling

under the jurisdiction of various Ministries, State Governments and other agencies. It is the endeavour of the Government to implement the recommendations as far as feasible. Some recommendations like, Revised PIO Card, Pravasi Bharatiya Divas and Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Awards have already been implemented. Other recommendations were sent to the concerned Ministries/ Departments of the Government of India and State Governments for examination for a decision on the implementation. Given the wide ranging nature of the recommendations it is not possible to indicate a time frame for their implementation.

Launch of Global War on Terrorism

346. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL:
SHRI J.S. BRAR:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether U.S. President had sometime back announced the launch of a global "war on terrorism";

(b) if so, whether terrorism against India from across the border has not been included therein and rather the attitude of U.S. is that of tacit acceptance; and

(c) if so, the response of the Government thereto?

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

(b) Since October 2001, the United States has, on a number of occasions, said that the campaign against terrorism is a comprehensive one, directed against terrorism everywhere, including terrorism that affects India. The United States has repeatedly asked Pakistan to end cross-border terrorism against India and had, in June 2002, conveyed to the Government the commitment it had received from President Musharraf in this regard.

(c) Cross-border terrorism, and Pakistan's support for it, continues. Government believes that the international community, including the United States, must take appropriate steps to ensure the fulfilment of the commitment that it has received from President Musharraf.

Inadequate Dialysis Facilities in Government Hospitals

347. SHRIMATI PRABHA RAU:
SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR:

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 "inadequate facilities of Dialysis in the Government Hospitals" appearing in the 'Navbharat Times' dated December 21, 2002;

(b) if so, the details 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 AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (d) The newspaper report primarily highlights the lack of/inadequate facilities available for renal transplantations in the country and the need to augment the facilities in government Hospitals.

Health being a State subject, it is for the State Governments to provide necessary medical facilities in their respective States as per the needs and available resources. It has been the endeavour of the Central Government to improve and upgrade the standard of medical facilities in various Central Government Hospitals for better health care including treatment of renal diseases.

Termination Charges

348. SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that 38 paise per minute is being proposed as termination charges payable by WLL an Basic subscribers, if they make calls to cellular phones; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India has prescribed termination charges payable by Basic Service Operators to Cellular Mobile Telephone Service operators for terminating calls in cellular network made by WLL and basic subscriber with effect from 1.4.2003 at the rate of 30 paise per minute and 40 paise per minute in Metro and Telecom Circle service areas respectively.

Disinvestment of NALCO

349. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK:
SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH:
SHRI RAMDAS RUPALA GAVIT:

Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are considering disinvestment in National Aluminium Company Limited (NALCO);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of applications received so far in this regard; and

(d) the amount likely to be raised from the disinvestment in NALCO?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) and (b) The Government has decided to disinvest 30% of NALCO's equity through public offer of shares, 10% of which would be in the domestic market and 20% through ADR issue to be followed soon after by the sale of 29.15% equity to a strategic partner.

(c) Fifteen Expressions of Interest were received for the strategic sale of NALCO, of which fourteen have been shortlisted as Qualified Interested Parties (QIPs).

(d) The amount likely to be realised through disinvestment depends on the timing of the disinvestment, performance of the company, level of competition and other factors. It is difficult to estimate the realizable amount with confidence.

Buildings for Indian Embassies and High Commissions

350. SHRI P.D. ELANGOVAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any plan to build own buildings to house the offices of Indian Embassies and High Commissions in such countries where the offices are at present rented;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the list of places where lands were purchased by the Government for these construction purposes; and

(c) the total amount allocated for such construction purposes in each of the last five years?

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

(b) Land was purchased by the Government in Abuja (Nigeria), Dhaka (Bangladesh) and Warsaw (Poland) for construction of Chanceries. In the case of Abuja and Dhaka, architects have been short listed for the construction projects, and in the case of Warsaw, contract with the selected architect is being signed.

(c) The following budget grain allocations under the Capital Outlay were made during the last five years:

(i)	1998-1999	Rs. 100 crores
(ii)	1999-2000	Rs. 100 crores
(iii)	2000-2001	Rs. 100 crores
(iv)	2001-2002	Rs. 94.20 crores
(v)	2002-2003	Rs. 103.79 crores

Express Highway from Kazhakootam to Chalinkal

351. SHRI T. GOVINDAN: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any scheme from Kerala Government to start Express Highway from Kazhakootam in Thiruvananthapuram district to Chalinkal in Kasaragod district connecting 507 kms north and south of Kerala to avoid bottlenecks at railway crossing and accidents in the State; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) Does not arise.

Bridge on NH-52

352. SHRI M.K. SUBBA: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any study has been conducted by a specialised agency for the proposed bridge on NH-52 at Chowkighat;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

- (c) the estimated cost thereof; and
- (d) the steps taken to implement the project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI): (a) and (b) Initially a techno-economic preliminary study was carried out by Central Water and Power Research Station, Pune for the proposed bridge on NH-52 at Chowkighat. However, due to the river changing its course, a new model study needs to be carried out for finalizing the scheme for the construction of the bridge.

(c) and (d) It is too early to indicate these details as the construction of the bridge will depend upon the outcome of the study.

Pak Stand on Nuclear Options against India

353. SHRI RAMJIVAN SINGH:
SHRI DINESH CHANDRA YADAV:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the recent statement of Pakistan President regarding Pak's nuclear options to be exercised against India;

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

(c) whether in view of the open admission by Pak in favour of exercising the nuclear options against India, the Government have considered the question of reviewing their policy in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) to (d) According to media reports, Pakistan President Pervez Musharraf, addressing an Air Force gathering in Karachi, said "I personally conveyed messages to [Indian Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee] through every international leader who came to Pakistan, that if Indian troops moved a single step across the international border or line of control, they should not expect a conventional war from Pakistan".

The spokesman of the Pakistan President, subsequently maintained that the reference to "unconventional war" was not meant to convey nuclear war.

Government constantly reviews all developments that have a bearing on India's security environment and is committed to taking all necessary steps to safeguard nation's security.

[Translation]

National Highway-77

354. DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether flanks, road and several bridges on the Patna-Hajipur-Muzaffarpur-Sitamarhi-Sombarsha (NH-77) at some places are in dilapidated condition;

(b) if so, whether the condition of this road has deteriorated after attaining the status of national highway;

(c) the estimated amount for this NH specification and converting it into four lanes alongwith the amount spent as on date;

(d) the amount spent or sanctioned for the development of this highway by the Union Government after declaring it NH;

(e) the details of year-wise allocation and expenditure thereof;

(f) whether this road is to be developed/repared by the NHAI; and

(g) if not, the steps proposed to be taken to prepare NH-77 as per the specifications?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI): (a) Shoulders are depressed in some of the stretches, certain sections of the road need improvement and some bridges need rehabilitation on the Patna-Hajipur-Muzaffarpur-Sitamarhi-Sonbarsa NH-77.

(b) No Sir.

(c) and (d) Detailed estimates for required improvement work for bringing the entire Road to National Highway standards, including four-laning, are yet to be prepared. It is too early to indicate the amount required for improvement as well as phasing of the expenditure.

(e) After declaration of the road as National Highway in 1999, Rs. 5.13 crore during 1999-2000, Rs. 7.05 crore

during 2000-01 and Rs. 2.68 crore during 2001-02 have been sanctioned for the improvement of this NH.

(f) No, Sir.

(g) Improvement of the road to NH standards would be undertaken in phases, depending upon availability of funds and inter-se priority of works on all India basis.

[English]

Allocation to North Eastern States

355. SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: Will the Minister of DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION be pleased to state:

(a) the amount allocated to North-Eastern States from different Ministries and the allocation made to different States out of it during 2001-2002; and

(b) the details of the allocation and disbursement of amount, State-wise?

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

(a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House.

Upgradation of State Roads in Orissa

356. SHRI PARSURAM MAJHI: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the proposal for the upgradation of the State Roads from Brahampur to Koraput in Orissa to National Highway has been submitted by the State Government of Orissa to his Ministry;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the present status thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI): (a) to (c) A proposal for the

upgradation of the State Road from Brahampur to Koraput to a National Highway was received from the State Government of Orissa. It was returned to them in June 2002 for review based on the revised criteria for declaration of new National Highways. No proposal after review has been received.

[Translation]

Telephone Services in Villages

357. SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI:
DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA:

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

(a) whether private operators were required to provide telephone services in the villages throughout the country;

(b) if so, the details of the targets fixed in respect of all operators separately;

(c) by when these targets were to be achieved;

(d) whether the date for achieving the targets has been extended;

(e) if so, the revised/extended date for achieving the targets;

(f) the number of villages provided with telephone services by each of the private operators till December, 2002; and

(g) the number of villages likely to get operational and efficient telecom system by the end of 2004?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) The six private basic telephone service operators were required to provide telephone services in villages in the service areas of Madhya Pradesh (including Chhattisgarh), Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat and Punjab.

(b) and (c) The details of the targets fixed in respect of above operators and the dates when these targets were to be achieved are as follows:

Name of the Operators	Name of Service Area	No. of Village Public Telephones to be provided during first 3 years of the effective date	Target date
1	2	3	4
M/s Bharti Telenet Ltd.	Madhya Pradesh	16,500	30.09.2000
M/s Tata Teleservices Ltd.	Andhra Pradesh	9,635	30.09.1998

1	2	3	4
M/s Hughes Tele com Ltd.	Maharashtra	25,760	30.09.1999
M/s Reliance Telecom Ltd.	Gujarat	8,635	30.09.1998
M/s Shyam Telelink Ltd.	Rajasthan	31,834	4.3.2001
M/s HCL Infotel Ltd.	Punjab	5,442	30.09.1998

(d) Yes, Sir.

31.3.2003.

(e) The private basic telephone service operators have been asked to fulfil their roll out obligations by

(f) The details are as follows:

Name of the Operators	Name of Service Area	No. of Village Provided with telephone service till 31.12.2002*
M/s Bharti Telenet Ltd.	Madhya Pradesh	348
M/s Tata Teleservices Ltd.	Andhra Pradesh	1,314
M/s Hughes Telecom Ltd.	Maharashtra	1,140
M/s Reliance Telecom Ltd.	Gujarat	2,894
M/s Shyam Telelink Ltd.	Rajasthan	693
M/s HCL Infotel Ltd.	Punjab	734

*As reported by the private basic telephone service operators.

(g) Private basic telephone service operators have been asked to fulfil their roll out obligations by 31.3.2003.

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

Rashtriya Samvikash Yojana

358. SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK:
SHRI C.N. SINGH:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have launched 'Rashtriya Samvikash Yojana' to remove the regional imbalance;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the total amount earmarked during the year 2002-2003 under the said scheme, State-wise;

(d) whether the Government have fixed any time limit to remove regional imbalance;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) to (c) The Development and Reform Facility i.e. Rashtriya Sam Vikas Yojana (RSVY) has been initiated in the current year and consists of three components viz. (i) Special Plan for KBK districts of Orissa; (ii) Special Plan for Bihar; and (iii) Backward Districts Initiative.

For the current year 2002-03, Rs. 100 crore has been allocated for the Special Plan for KBK districts of Orissa and Rs. 200-300 crore has been allocated for the Special Plan for Bihar. The third component viz. Backward Districts Initiative is being implemented in the current year on a pilot basis. Under this component, 25 districts of 12 States have been selected for which Rs. 15 crore for each district is being allocated to the States. A statement

indicating the names of the States, number of districts covered and the amount allocated is enclosed.

(d) to (f) The removal of regional imbalances is a continuing process and it would not be appropriate to fix any time limit for the same.

Statement

Names of the States, number of districts covered and the amount allocated under the Backward Districts Initiative component of Rashtriya Sam Vikas Yojana (RSVY)

Sl. No.	Name of the State	Number of districts covered	Amount allocated (Rs. in crore)
1.	Andhra Pradesh	2	30.00
2.	Chhattisgarh	2	30.00
3.	Gujarat	1	15.00
4.	Jharkhand	3	45.00
5.	Karnataka	1	15.00
6.	Kerala	1	15.00
7.	Madhya Pradesh	3	45.00
8.	Maharashtra	2	30.00
9.	Rajasthan	2	30.00
10.	Tamil Nadu	1	15.00
11.	Uttar Pradesh	5	75.00
12.	West Bengal	2	30.00

Obsolete Equipment

359. SHRI BHUPENDRASINH SOLANKI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to give permission to treat people in India with obsolete equipment procured from America;

(b) if so, the number of equipment that has come to India from America till date;

(c) whether they have been utilized;

(d) if so, whether the Government propose to stop

(e) if so, by when and if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

Vacancies of SCs/STs

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

(a) whether some posts of scheduled castes and scheduled tribes in different categories in various Departments of his Ministry are lying vacant;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the employees working in the said Departments have been promoted and fresh appointments made during the last three years;

(d) if so, the year-wise and category-wise details of appointments made under the various categories during the said period and the current year, till date;

(e) whether the prescribed rules have been followed regarding the recruitment and promotion of candidates from scheduled castes and scheduled tribes; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) and (b) Some posts of scheduled castes and scheduled tribes in different categories in various Departments of the Ministry of External Affairs are lying vacant. The details in respect of the Ministry of External Affairs are as follows:

Group	Scheduled Caste	Scheduled Tribe	Total
"A"	Nil	8	8
"B"	Nil	Nil	Nil
"C"	Nil	7	7
"D"	Nil	Nil	Nil

The information in respect of Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) and Central Passport Organisation (CPO) is being collected and will be placed on the table of the House.

(c) and (d) Yes, the details in respect of the Ministry of External Affairs are given below:

Group	2000-2001				2001-2002				2002-2003			
	Promotion		Direct Recruits		Promotion		Direct Recruits		Promotion		Direct Recruits	
	SC	ST	SC	ST	SC	ST	SC	ST	SC	ST	SC	ST
A	Nil	Nil	Nil	1	Nil	Nil	Nil	2	Nil	Nil	Nil	2
B	Nil	8	1	1	3	6	Nil	3	5	24	Nil	7
C	7	1	1	Nil	2	1	Nil	Nil	6	3	1	Nil
D	Nil	Nil	1	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

The information in respect of Indian Council for Cultural Relations and Central Passport Organisation is being collected and will be placed on the table of the House.

(e) Yes, The Ministry follows the prescribed rules regarding the recruitment and promotion of candidates from the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe.

(f) Does not arise.

Persons Living Below Poverty Line

361. SHRI SHIVAJI MANE:
SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the persons with per capita expenditure less than Rs. 49.09 in rural areas and Rs. 56.64 in urban areas in a month are considered to be living below poverty line;

(b) if so, the reasons for prescribing the criterion of per capita expenditure as the basis for determining BPL status;

(c) whether in other countries per capita income instead of per capita expenditure is considered for determining poverty; and

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

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

MOOKHERJEE): (a) The monthly per capita expenditure of Rs. 49.09 in rural areas and Rs. 56.64 in urban areas are the poverty lines at national level at 1973-74 prices. These poverty lines are updated for price rise in subsequent years. The money value of these poverty lines in 1999-2000 are monthly per capita consumption expenditure of Rs. 327.56 in rural areas and Rs. 454.11 in urban areas. Therefore, persons with monthly per capita expenditure of Rs. 327.56 in rural areas and Rs. 454.11 in urban areas are considered to be living below the poverty line in 1999-2000.

(b) The Planning Commission has adopted per capita consumption expenditure is the criterion to determine the persons living below the poverty line precisely for two reasons. First, expenditure data reflect more accurately people's actual level of living while income data are more concerned with people's potential level of living. Secondly, expenditure data are considered more reliable than income data.

(c) and (d) Most of the developing countries follow the criteria of per capita expenditure for determining poverty.

[English]

Road Accidents

362. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the social cost of road accidents is over 3 per cent of the GDP;

(b) if so, whether any new scheme has been launched to minimise the accidents on the National Highways;

(c) whether non-availability of fund is a reason for not providing amenities to bring down accident rates; and

(d) if so, the remedial steps being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI): (a) In the report of the Working Group on Road Accident, Injury prevention and Control constituted by the Planning Commission in 2001, the social cost of road traffic accident in India has been indicated at 3% of GDP.

(b) Various Road Safety Programmes under implementation during 9th Plan are being continued during the 10th Plan with appropriate modifications wherever required. These are as under:

- (1) Provision of refresher training to drivers of heavy motor vehicles.
 - (2) Publicity campaign on road safety awareness through audio-visual-print media.
 - (3) Grants-in-aid to voluntary organizations for administering road safety programmes.
 - (4) Encouraging use of simulators in driver's training.
 - (5) Institution of National Award for voluntary organizations/individuals for outstanding work in the field of road safety.
 - (6) Organising All India Essay Competition on road safety for school children with a view to create awareness.
 - (7) Tightening of fitness norms for transport vehicles.
 - (8) Widening/improvement of roads, etc.
- (c) No, Sir.
- (d) Does not arise.

Village Public Telephone by Private Companies

363. SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY:
PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU:

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

(a) whether the private telecom operators have sought the deletion of the condition of providing regular and efficient phone service to villages;

(b) if so, whether the Government have agreed to the deletion or dilution of this condition;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

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

(d) Contractual obligations of private telecom operators are not proposed to be diluted.

PM's Package for N-E

364. SHRI M.K. SUBBA: Will the Minister of DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prime Minister's Package included in the Tenth Plan for Socio-economic development of the North-Eastern region has been revised and raised;

(b) if so, the details of the revised strategy and targets; and

(c) the allocation and target contemplated thereunder for Assam?

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND MINISTER OF DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (DR. C.P. THAKUR): (a) The Hon'ble Prime Minister of India had announced an Agenda for socio-economic development of the North Eastern region on 22n January 2000 at Shillong. The Agenda covers 28 Programmes/Schemes relating to the Development of the Power Sector, Border Trade, Horticulture, Rural Infrastructure, Roads and Air-links, Medical and Health Services, Industrial Training Institutes, Information Technology, Border Fencing and Upgradation of Police Infrastructure, etc. The list of Programme/schemes announced in Package is not subjected to revision on five year plan basis. The details are available at the Prime Minister's Office Website www.pmindia.nic.in.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) PM's Package mentions specific Projects/ Programme/schemes for socio-economic development of the North Eastern Region and is not in terms of allocation or targets for any individual State.

Inter Connect Charges

365. SHRI J.S. BRAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the private basic operators propose to approach TRAI and the Government regarding levy of inter connect charges;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

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

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

[Translation]

Rotary Cancer Hospital

366. SHRI SUBODH ROY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that many patients have died due to long waiting list for treatment in the Rotary Cancer Hospital, as reported in the 'Rashtriya Sahara' dated October 23, 2002;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (c) According to the information furnished by the Indian Rotary Cancer Hospital (IRCH) (AIIMS) it is not correct to say that many patients have died due to long waiting list for treatment. There is also no delay in registering patients in OPD and all patients reporting within the scheduled timings are registered. As per the statistics for the period 1998-99 to 2001-2002, i.e. even during the period when construction work was going on, there has been substantial increase in number of Indoor patients, number of Surgical Operations conducted, Medical Oncology procedures undertaken and Radiological Investigations conducted details are given in the enclosed statement.

Statement**Rotary Cancer Hospital**

	1998-99	2001-02
OPD Patients	43,099	49,975
Indoor Patients	7,009	11,229
Total Patients on Chemotherapy	10,433	15,155
Surgical Operations:		
(a) Major	283	375
(b) Minor	338	1,161
Medical Oncology Procedures		
(e.g. BM Biopsy, Aspiration etc.)	1,049	2,111
Radiological Investigations	9,259	14,079

[English]

Annual Expenditure for Maintenance of National Highways

367. SHRI A. NARENDRA: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have estimated the amount of annual expenditure required for the maintenance of National Highways in the country, State-wise; and

(b) the average amount allocated and spent for the maintenance of National Highways during the last two years?

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

(b) During last two years, following amount have been allocated and spent for the maintenance of National Highways:

(Rs. in Crore)		
Year	Allocation	Expenditure
2000-2001	702.50	685.48
2001-2002	725.00	677.36

[*Translation*]**Telephone Facilities in Villages**

368. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA:
SHRI B.K. PARTHASARATHI:
SHRI GANTA SREENIVASA RAO:

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

(a) whether all the villages of Rajasthan and Andhra Pradesh have been provided with telephone facilities;

(b) if not, the number of villages without telephone facilities in the above States, district-wise;

(c) whether any time-frame has been fixed by the Government of providing telephone facilities in each and every village of the 60th States; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) The district-wise number of villages without telephone facility in Rajasthan is enclosed as statement. However, as regards Andhra Pradesh, this information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(c) and (d) M/s Shyam Teletelink Ltd. and M/s Tata Teleservices Ltd. have been given time up for 31.3.2003 for providing Village Public Telephones in the remaining uncovered villages of Rajasthan and Andhra Pradesh respectively.

Statement*District-wise Number of Villages without Telephone Facilities in Rajasthan*

Sl.No.	Name of the District	No. of villages without telephone facility as per 1991 census
1	2	3
1.	Ajmer	161
2.	Alwar	1166
3.	Banswara	652
4.	Barmer	624

1	2	3
5.	Bharatpur	457
6.	Bhilwara	524
7.	Bikaner	147
8.	Bundi	410
9.	Chittaurgarh	1348
10.	Churu	56
11.	Dhaulpur	345
12.	Dungarpur	316
13.	Ganganagar	3404
14.	Jaipur	1598
15.	Jaisalmer	248
16.	Jalor	124
17.	Jhalawar	775
18.	Jhunjhunu	100
19.	Jodhpur	174
20.	Kota	102
21.	Nagaur	314
22.	Pali	242
23.	Sawaimadhopur	682
24.	Sikar	176
25.	Sirohi	88
26.	Tonk	392
27.	Udaipur	1088
Total		15711

[*English*]**Express Highways in Kerala**

369. SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of Express Highways newly planned and constructed in the country particularly in Kerala;

(b) the amount sanctioned for the purpose; and

(c) the details of States which have not been covered by the Express Highways?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI): (a) The Government has planned and constructed only Ahmedabad-Vadodara Expressway in Gujarat. Out of 93.302 km. of this Expressway the Ahmedabad-Nadiad section of 43.40 km. (Phase-I) has been recently opened to the traffic. The balance length of Nadiad-Vadodara Section (Phase-II) is under progress. At present, there is no proposal to construct any Expressway in Kerala.

(b) The total approved cost for construction for the Ahmedabad-Vadodara Expressway is Rs. 682.19 crore.

(c) At present only Gujarat has an Expressway constructed by National Highways Authority of India.

Condition of National Highways In West Bengal

370. SHRI AKBOR ALI KHANDOKER: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of poor condition of National Highways passing through West Bengal;

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government for proper maintenance of the National Highways in the country especially in West Bengal;

(c) whether the maintenance of National Highways in West Bengal could not be taken up due to resource crunch; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI): (a) and (b) Out of total length of 2007 km. of National Highways in the State of West Bengal, riding quality of a length of 900 km. has been improved during the last two years. A length of 177 Km has been taken up for Four laning under NHDP.

(c) and (d) As against a requirement of Rs. 39.58 crores for Maintenance and Repairs of National Highways in West Bengal, Rs. 15.09 crore could be made available during the current year. National Highways are being maintained in traffic worthy condition within the available resources.

Reduction in Monthly Rate

371. SHRI RAM MURTI SINGH VERMA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the monthly rent of cellular phones and the charges of incoming and outgoing calls are being slashed frequently owing to the competitions between national and foreign companies;

(b) if so, whether the Government are contemplating to reduce the monthly rent and charges of call on landline connections given provided by the Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited and BSNL and to provide more facilities to the subscribers; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) Sir, Licences for Cellular Mobile Telephone Service (CMTS) have been granted only to Indian registered companies and not to foreign companies. Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) is responsible for fixation of tariffs for Telecom Services in India. Tariff for CMTS have continuously shown a downward trend in the recent past due to greater competition in the market with the entry of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) and Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) as third Cellular operator, and with the entry of fourth cellular operator in some of the Service Areas. Moreover, in the present commutative scenario in telecom, revision of tariff is a continuous exercise.

(b) and (c) No reduction in monthly rental and call charges is being contemplated at the present in view of the fact that the current rental charges for fixed telephones is below the cost of provisioning. BSNL has made all phone plus Services such as abbreviated dialing, call transfer/forwarding, hotline, three party conferencing and Calling Line identification facility on land-line connections free of cost with effect from 22.1.03.

NH-52

372. SHRI M.K. SUBBA: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the steps being taken by the Government to improve the condition of NH-52 in the border areas of N.E. and make it all weather highway; and

(b) the annual allocation for its maintenance during 2001-2002 and 2002-2003 and the expenditure incurred thereon during the said period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI): (a) Due to inadequate maintenance of NH-52 by the State PWD, this road was transferred to the Border Roads Organization (BRO) in May, 2002, when the monsoons were already on. Immediate repairs to bridges and road surface have been carried out. Conductivity has also been restored at Samarajan by the construction of an embankment. BRO are now in the process of improving the riding quality of road surface. Now NH-52 is traffic worthy.

(b)	(Amount Rs. lakhs)	
Year	Allocation for maintenance	Expenditure
2001-02	90.10	90.10
2002-03	386.00	190.00 (so far)

[Translation]

Allocation of Funds under PMGY

373. DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the amount proposed to be spent during the Tenth Five Year Plan under Pradhan Mantri Gramodaya Yojana;

(b) the heads under which the amount is likely to be spent under the said yojana;

(c) the details of allocation for different heads under the said yojana, State-wise and year-wise;

(d) whether each State is utilising the amount within the specified time limit;

(e) if not, the head-wise details of expenditure incurred under the said yojana, State-wise and year-wise;

(f) the action being taken by the Government against the States which did not utilise their amount within the specified period; and

(g) the nature of the amount received under the PMGY?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) During the Tenth Five Year Plan,

an amount of Rs. 2800 crore has been proposed to be allocated each year for the Pradhan Mantri Gramodaya Yojana (PMGY).

(b) The six components of PMGY for which the funds would be spent are Rural Drinking Water, Elementary Education, Primary Health Care, Rural Shelter, Nutrition and Rural Electrification.

(c) Planning Commission allocates the Additional Central Assistance (ACA) among the States for the PMGY for the programme as a whole. However, the States have flexibility to make their own component-wise allocations depending on their priorities. The State-wise allocations for PMGY during 2000-01, 2001-02 and 2002-03 are given in statements I, II and III respectively.

(d) to (f) Most of the States have by and large utilised the funds allocated for the programme within the specified time limit. However, a few States could not utilise the funds within the stipulated time frame for various reasons for certain components of the Programme. In these cases, the second installment of ACA for these specific components of PMGY was not released to these States. The statement showing component-wise funds allocated by the States and released State-wise under different components of PMGY during 2001-02 and State-wise and component-wise funds released during 2000-01 are given in statements IV and V respectively.

(g) The ACA for PMGY released to the States comprises of both loan and grant components. While for the Special category States, it is in the form of 90 percent grant and 10 percent loan, for the Non-Special Category States, it is in the form of 70 percent loan and 30 percent grant.

Statement I

Allocation of ACA for PMGY—2000-01

Sl. No.	Name of State/UTs	ACA 2000-01 (Rs. in Lakh)
1	2	3

Non Special Category States

1.	Andhra Pradesh	14206.00
2.	Bihar	28725.00
3.	Goa	78.00
4.	Gujarat	6479.00

1	2	3
5.	Haryana	1678.00
6.	Karnataka	7513.00
7.	Kerala	6908.00
8.	Madhya Pradesh	11377.00
9.	Maharashtra	9913.00
10.	Orissa	9855.00
11.	Punjab	4040.00
12.	Rajasthan	9640.00
13.	Tamil Nadu	10479.00
14.	Uttar Pradesh	34891.00
15.	West Bengal	16782.00
	Sub total	172564.00
<i>Spl. Category</i>		
1.	Arunachal Pradesh	6817.00
2.	Assam	17957.00
3.	Himachal Pradesh	7061.00
4.	Jammu & Kashmir	17158.00
5.	Manipur	4856.00
6.	Meghalaya	4059.00
7.	Mizoram	4041.00
8.	Nagaland	4113.00
9.	Sikkim	2811.00
10.	Tripura	5083.00
	Sub total	73956.00
<i>Union Territories</i>		
1.	NCT of Delhi	1105.00
2.	Pondicherry	477.00
3.	A&N Islands	1027.00
4.	Chandigarh	456.00
5.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	132.00

1	2	3
6.	Lakshadweep	177.00
7.	Daman & Diu	106.00
	Sub Total	3480.00
	Grand Total	250000.00

Statement II*Allocation of ACA for PMGY—2001-2002*

(Rs. in lakh)

Sl. No.	Name of State/UTs	ACA 2001-02
1	2	3
<i>Non Special Category States</i>		
1.	Andhra Pradesh	15911.00
2.	Bihar	24579.00
3.	Chhattisgarh	3517.00
4.	Goa	87.00
5.	Gujarat	7256.00
6.	Haryana	1879.00
7.	Jharkhand	7592.00
8.	Karnataka	8415.00
9.	Kerala	7737.00
10.	Madhya Pradesh	9225.00
11.	Maharashtra	11103.00
12.	Orissa	11038.00
13.	Punjab	4525.00
14.	Rajasthan	10797.00
15.	Tamil Nadu	11736.00
16.	Uttar Pradesh	37671.00
17.	Uttaranchal	3907.00
18.	West Bengal	18796.00
	Sub total	195771.00
<i>Spl. Category</i>		
1.	Arunachal Pradesh	6817.00
2.	Assam	20112.00

1	2	3
3.	Himachal Pradesh	7908.00
4.	Jammu & Kashmir	19217.00
5.	Manipur	5439.00
6.	Meghalaya	4546.00
7.	Mizoram	5041.00
8.	Nagaland	4526.00
9.	Sikkim	3796.00
10.	Tripura	7084.00
Sub total		84486.00
Grand Total		280257.00

Statement III*Allocation of ACA for PMGY—2002-03*

(Rs. in lakh)

Sl. No.	Name of State/UTs	ACA 2002-03
1	2	3
<i>Non Special Category States</i>		
1.	Andhra Pradesh	15644.00
2.	Bihar	24173.00
3.	Chhattisgarh	3435.00
4.	Goa	72.00
5.	Gujarat	7122.00
6.	Haryana	1834.00
7.	Jharkhand	7446.00
8.	Karnataka	8273.00
9.	Kerala	7608.00
10.	Madhya Pradesh	8500.00
11.	Maharashtra	10917.00
12.	Orissa	10863.00
13.	Punjab	4442.00

1	2	3
14.	Rajasthan	10611.00
15.	Tamil Nadu	11547.00
16.	Uttar Pradesh	37087.00
17.	West Bengal	18490.00
Sub total		188064.00
<i>Spl. Category State</i>		
1.	Arunachal Pradesh	6500.00
2.	Assam	19000.00
3.	Himachal Pradesh	7000.00
4.	Jammu & Kashmir	18000.00
5.	Manipur	4800.00
6.	Meghalaya	4112.00
7.	Mizoram	4300.00
8.	Nagaland	4526.00
9.	Sikkim	3000.00
10.	Tripura	5000.00
11.	Uttaranchal	7000.00
Sub total		83238.00
<i>Union Territories</i>		
1.	NCT of Delhi	1078.00
2.	Pondicherry	485.00
3.	A&N Islands	1002.00
4.	Chandigarh	442.00
5.	D&N Haveli	128.00
6.	Lakshadweep	172.00
7.	Daman & Diu	111.00
Sub total		3398.00
Grand total		274700.00

Statement IV*Statewise total allocation and releases made against for different components under PMGY for the year 2001-02*

(Rs. in lakhs)

		Drinking Water		Primary Health		Primary Education		Shelter		Electrification		Nutrition		Total	
		Allocation	Released	Allocation	Released	Allocation	Released	Allocation	Released	Allocation	Released	Allocation	Released	Allocation	Released
1.	Andhra Pradesh	2841.20	2841.20	2841.20	2841.20	2841.20	1420.60	2841.20	2841.20	1705.00	1705.00	2841.20	2841.20	15811.00	14490.40
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	1315.00	1315.00	1201.00	1201.00	1707.00	1707.00	764.00	382.00	684.00	684.00	1146.00	1146.00	6817.00	6435.00
3.	Assam	3051.00	3051.00	4011.00	4011.00	2011.00	2011.00	2011.00	2011.00	6011.00	6011.00	3017.00	3017.00	20112.00	20112.00
4.	Bihar	2457.90	1228.50	2457.90	—	4915.80	2457.90	8602.65	4301.32	2457.90	2457.90	3686.85	3686.85	24579.00	14132.47
5.	Chhattisgarh	881.20	440.60	351.70	351.70	351.70	351.70	351.70	351.70	851.70	851.70	729.00	729.00	3517.00	3076.40
6.	Goa	29.85	29.85	11.70	11.70	11.70	11.70	11.70	5.85	9.00	4.50	13.05	13.05	87.00	76.65
7.	Gujarat**	3265.20	3265.20	725.60	—	725.60	725.60	725.60	362.80	725.60	362.80	1088.40	—	7256.00	4716.40
8.	Haryana	471.20	471.20	398.45	398.45	351.70	351.70	187.90	187.90	187.90	187.90	281.85	281.85	1879.00	1879.00
9.	Himachal Pradesh**	3650.00	3650.00	1596.40	1596.40	1581.60	1581.60	0.00	—	100.00	100.00	980.00	980.00	7908.00	7908.00
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	7167.00	7167.00	4164.00	4164.00	4164.00	—	450.00	—	1922.00	1922.00	1350.00	1350.00	19217.00	14803.00
11.	Jharkhand	759.20	379.60	759.20	759.20	759.20	—	3416.40	379.60	759.20	379.60	1138.80	—	7592.00	1898.00
12.	Karnataka	1127.00	1127.00	1300.00	1300.00	1500.00	750.00	1500.00	1500.00	841.00	841.00	2147.00	2147.00	8415.00	7665.00
13.	Kerala	3426.00	3426.00	800.00	800.00	775.00	775.00	800.00	400.00	775.00	594.50	1161.00	1161.00	7737.00	7156.50
14.	Madhya Pradesh	1460.62	1460.62	1460.62	1460.62	1460.62	—	1460.62	730.31	1460.62	1460.62	1921.90	1921.90	9225.00	7034.07
15.	Maharashtra	3105.07	1552.58	1344.42	1344.42	1663.13	831.46	1110.30	55.15	1901.08	1901.08	1979.00	1979.00	11103.00	8163.79
16.	Manipur	1473.15	736.57	900.00	900.00	1100.00	550.00	550.00	—	600.00	600.00	815.85	815.85	5439.00	3602.42
17.	Meghalaya	954.60	954.60	854.90	854.90	1000.00	1000.00	454.80	454.80	600.00	600.00	681.90	681.90	4536.00	4546.00
18.	Mizoram	1500.00	1500.00	1054.15	1054.23	655.70	327.85	606.15	606.15	598.00	598.00	627.00	627.00	5041.00	4713.23
19.	Nagaland	1923.60	1923.60	565.60	565.60	452.60	452.60	452.60	230.35	452.60	452.60	679.00	679.00	4526.00	4303.75
20.	Orissa	2203.80	2003.80	1103.80	1103.80	3467.10	3467.10	1103.80	1103.80	1703.80	1703.80	1665.70	1665.70	11038.00	11038.00
21.	Punjab	1000.50	1000.50	452.50	452.50	452.50	452.50	452.50	226.25	1488.25	1488.25	678.75	678.75	4525.00	112,98.75
22.	Rajasthan**	1620.00	1620.00	1646.00	1646.00	1446.00	1446.00	1446.00	1446.00	1080.00	1080.00	3559.00	3559.00	10797.00	10797.00
23.	Sikkim	978.00	978.00	650.00	650.00	650.00	650.00	950.00	950.00	0.00	0.00	570.00	570.00	3798.00	3798.00
24.	Tamil Nadu	1500.00	1500.00	2173.60	2173.70	2905.64	2905.64	2222.76	2222.76	1173.60	1173.80	1760.40	1760.40	11736.00	11736.00
25.	Tripura	920.79	920.79	800.00	800.00	1027.00	1027.00	2124.90	2124.90	850.00	850.00	1361.31	1361.31	708.00	7084.00
26.	Uttaranchal	781.40	781.40	390.70	390.70	781.40	781.40	390.70	70.35	976.75	976.75	586.05	586.05	3907.00	3586.35
27.	Uttar Pradesh	7534.00	7534.00	5651.00	5651.00	5651.00	5651.00	3767.00	3767.00	9417.00	9417.00	5651.00	5651.00	37671.00	37671.00
28.	West Bengal	5403.00	5403.00	2518.00	2518.00	3355.00	3355.00	1880.00	940.00	2820.00	2820.00	2820.00	2820.00	18796.00	17856.00
	Total	62600.28	58261.61	42183.44	39000.02	47763.19	35041.45	40634.08	28150.99	42151.00	41223.60	44827.01	42699.81	280259.00	244377.48

*Allocation have been revised.

JDS 04.4.2002

Note: Original allocation for these States and UTs under PMGY during 2001-02 was Rs. 2800.00 crore out of which Rs. 2761.02 crore meant for the States.

**Additionality of Rs. 10.00 crore released to Gujarat for Gramin Area.

Additionality of Rs. 11.35 crore released to Rajasthan for Nutrition.

Arrears of Rs. 4.3971 crore released to Himachal Pradesh for Nutrition.

Total ACA released to States under PMGY including the above mentioned Additionality, adds upto Rs. 246952.19 lakhs.

Statement V*The funds released under different components of PMGY during 2000-01*

Sl.No.	States	Primary Education	Nutrition	Primary Health	Rural Drinking Water	Gramin Awaas	Total
1.	Andhra Pradesh	2840.90	1065.45	2841.90	2840.90	1065.40	10654.60
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	511.28	1022.56	1022.56	2550.00	511.28	5617.88
3.	Assam	1346.78	2693.56	2693.56	1346.78	1346.78	9427.46
4.	Bihar	2154.37	2154.37	2154.37	2154.37	3291.90	11909.38
5.	Chhattisgarh	471.00	471.00	471.00	471.00	471.00	2355.00
6.	Goa	11.70	11.70	11.70	5.85	11.70	52.65
7.	Gujarat	971.84	485.92	485.92	2590.84	485.92	5020.44
8.	Haryana	125.84	390.55	251.70	471.20	251.70	1491.00
9.	Himachal Pradesh	1710.01	529.58	1334.15	3077.00	0.00	6650.74
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	1286.85	1286.85	1286.85	1286.85	1286.85	6434.25
11.	Jharkhand	1016.85	1016.85	1016.85	1016.85	1016.85	5084.25
12.	Karnataka	1126.95	3004.95	1126.94	1127.00	563.47	6949.31
13.	Kerala	1040.00	1036.20	1036.20	518.10	518.10	4148.60
14.	Madhya Pradesh	853.27	3406.54	1235.55	1803.55	853.27	8152.38
15.	Maharashtra	743.47	1486.95	1486.94	2414.00	1486.95	7168.31
16.	Manipur	364.20	728.40	728.40	364.20	364.20	2549.40
17.	Meghalaya	1000.00	608.85	608.86	1000.00	608.86	3826.57
18.	Mizoram	303.08	790.15	303.08	1006.00	606.15	3008.46
19.	Nagaland	616.96	962.00	616.96	1322.01	-616.95	4134.38
20.	Orissa	1478.26	739.13	1478.26	2478.25	1478.25	7652.15
21.	Punjab	303.00	909.00	606.00	1616.00	606.00	4040.00
22.	Rajasthan	2705.00	1446.00	1446.00	2158.00	1446.00	9201.00
23.	Sikkim	600.01	210.83	421.65	600.00	210.83	2043.32
24.	Tamil Nadu	3018.45	785.92	1571.84	1571.85	2330.85	9278.91
25.	Tripura	762.44	762.45	762.44	2033.22	762.45	5083.00
26.	Uttar Pradesh	8597.14	4718.81	8526.25	6727.00	5045.25	33614.45
27.	Uttaranchal	188.40	188.40	188.40	188.40	188.40	942.00
28.	West Bengal	3355.00	2517.30	2517.30	5874.00	1258.65	15522.25
	Total	39503.06	35430.27	38231.63	50613.22	28684.06	192482.24

Reserved Vacancies*[English]*

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

(a) whether some posts under different categories for scheduled castes and scheduled tribes are lying vacant in several departments and undertakings under his ministry;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether some of the employees working in these departments and undertakings have been promoted and fresh appointments made during the last three years;

(d) if so, the details of appointments made under different categories, year-wise and category-wise, during the said period and the current year;

(e) whether the prescribed rules have been followed with regard to recruitment and promotion of candidates from scheduled castes and scheduled tribes; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI): (a) There are no Departments and Undertakings under the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways.

(b) to (f) Do not arise in view of (a) above.

Development of Roads in Andhra Pradesh and Uttaranchal

375. SHRI A. NARENDRA: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether foreign financial institutions (other than World Bank) have given any financial assistance for development of roads in Andhra Pradesh and Uttaranchal States;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of the projects undertaken by the said assistance in the above States; and

(d) the other steps taken by the Government to develop the road infrastructure in these States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI): (a) Foreign financial institutions (other than World Bank) have given financial assistance for development of roads in Andhra Pradesh only and not for Uttaranchal State.

(b) and (c) Details are given in the enclosed statement.

(d) National Highways Authority of India is developing 1860 km. of Highways passing through the State of Andhra Pradesh under National Highway Development Project, Port Conductivity and other projects.

Statement

Projects undertaken with assistance from foreign institutions other than World Bank in Andhra Pradesh

Sl. No.	Stretch	NH	Length (in Km)	Cost (Rs. in crores)	Funded by	Status
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Nandigama-Vijayawada (Km 217 to Km 265)	9	48	88.60	Asian Development Bank	Completed
2.	Eluru-Vijayawada	5	72	370.00	Asian Development Bank	Completed

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
3.	Vijayawada-Chilikaluripet Package-I	5	25	60.16	Japan Bank for International Cooperation	Completed
4.	Vijayawada-Chilikaluripet Package-II	5	32	59.43	Japan Bank for International Cooperation	Completed
5.	Vijayawada-Chilikaluripet Package-III	5	23.78	55.19	Japan Bank for International Cooperation	Completed
6.	Vijayawada-Chilikaluripet Package-IV	5	2.88	52.80	Japan Bank for International Cooperation	Completed
7.	Four-laning and strengthening of existing two-lane carriage-way from km. 358/0 to 395/875 of Vijayawada-Visakhapatnam Section and from km 0/0 to 2/837 of Visakhapatnam Section of NH-5 including strengthening of Ankapalle Bypass.	5	46.33	118.10	Asian Development Bank	Completed
8.	Rehabilitation and Improvement of Hyderabad-Karimnagar-Ramagundam Road	State Road	225.00	144	Asian Development Bank	Completed
9.	Improvement of Kakinada-Rajanagram Road	State Road	54.00	58.50	Asian Development Bank	Completed

[English]

12.00 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): I beg to lay on the Table:

(1) A copy 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 Latex Limited, Thiruvananthapuram, for the year 2001-2002.

(ii) Annual Report of the Hindustan Latex Limited, Thiruvananthapuram, for the year 2001-2002, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

(2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. 6962/2003]

(3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Central Council of Indian Medicine, New Delhi, for the year 2001-2002, along with Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Central Council of Indian Medicine, New Delhi, for the year 2001-2002.
- (4) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (3) above.
[Placed in Library. *See* No. 6963/2003]
- (5) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the International Institute of Population Sciences, Mumbai, for the year 2001-2002, along with Audited Accounts.
(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the International Institute of Population Sciences, Mumbai, for the year 2001-2002.
- (6) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (5) above.
[Placed in Library. *See* No. 6964/2003]

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI BHAVNABEN DEVRAJBHAI CHIKHALIA): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following statement (Hindi and English versions) showing action taken by the Government on the assurances, promises and undertakings given by the Ministers during various sessions of Ninth, Tenth, Eleventh, Twelfth and Thirteenth Lok Sabha:

NINTH LOK SABHA

1. Statement No. XXXII Seventh Session, 1991
[Placed in Library. *See* No. 6965/2003]

TENTH LOK SABHA

2. Statement No. XL Second Session, 1991
[Placed in Library. *See* No. 6966/2003]
3. Statement No. VII Fifth Session, 1992
[Placed in Library. *See* No. 6967/2003]

ELEVENTH LOK SABHA

4. Statement No. XXX Second Session, 1996
[Placed in Library. *See* No. 6968/2003]
5. Statement No. XXVIII Third Session, 1996
[Placed in Library. *See* No. 6969/2003]
6. Statement No. XXVIII Fourth Session, 1997
[Placed in Library. *See* No. 6970/2003]
7. Statement No. XXV Fifth Session, 1997
[Placed in Library. *See* No. 6971/2003]

TWELFTH LOK SABHA

8. Statement No. XXVIII Second Session, 1998
[Placed in Library. *See* No. 6972/2003]
9. Statement No. XXII Third Session, 1998
[Placed in Library. *See* No. 6973/2003]
10. Statement No. XXII Fourth Session, 1999
[Placed in Library. *See* No. 6974/2003]

THIRTEENTH LOK SABHA

11. Statement No. XX Second Session, 1999
[Placed in Library. *See* No. 6975/2003]
12. Statement no. XX Third Session, 2000
[Placed in Library. *See* No. 6976/2003]
13. Statement No. XVI Fourth Session, 2000
[Placed in Library. *See* No. 6977/2003]
14. Statement No. XIV Fifth Session, 2000
[Placed in Library. *See* No. 6978/2003]
15. Statement no. XIII Sixth Session, 2001
[Placed in Library. *See* No. 6979/2003]
16. Statement No. XI Seventh Session, 2001
[Placed in Library. *See* No. 6980/2003]
17. Statement No. VIII Eighth Session, 2001
[Placed in Library. *See* No. 6981/2003]
18. Statement No. VI Ninth Session, 2002
[Placed in Library. *See* No. 6982/2003]

19. Statement No. III Tenth Session, 2002
[Placed in Library. See No. 6983/2003]
20. Statement No. I Eleventh Session, 2002
[Placed in Library. See No. 6984/2003]

[English]

12.01 hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORT, TOURISM AND CULTURE

(i) Sixty-second Report

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA (Ponnnani): I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Sixty-second Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Transport, Tourism & Culture on the Major Port Trusts (Amendment) Bill, 2001.

(ii) Evidence

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA: I beg to lay on the table a copy of the record of evidences tendered before the Standing Committee on Transport, Tourism and Culture on the Major Port Trusts (Amendment) Bill, 2001.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Ramji Lal Suman may speak on the situation arising out of the arrest and subsequent release of a correspondent of 'The Kashmir Times'.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJILAL SUMAN (Firozabad): Mr. Speaker, Sir, first of all I extend my thanks to you. The correspondent of 'The Kashmir Times'—Iftikhar Gilani, was arrested by the Government on 9th June under the law related to espionage. An allegation was levelled that he indulged in spying of the Army and was arrested under the same allegation. Iftikhar Gilani remained in jail for 7 months and his bail application was rejected six times. The Home Ministry asserted that there are serious allegations against him and had repeatedly opposed for granting him bail. It was alleged that Gilani was in possession of secret documents of the army but the most important thing is that when information in this regard

was sought from the Ministry of Defence, the Director General of Army Intelligence Department Shri O.S. Lochav, in his own opinion, said that the documents recovered from the son-in-law of the leader of Hurriyat Conference, Saiyyed Ali Shah Gilani, i.e., Iftikhar Gilani were not classified documents. Meaning thereby, that the allegations levelled against him were baseless. The Parliament as also the journalists outside it opposed to the action that Gilani was erroneously arrested. The Parliamentarians said that there are no charges against Iftikhar Gilani who has been arrested. In the meanwhile his family was also harassed. He was put behind the bars for 7 months and was tortured. The I.B. said that they have solid evidences that Gilani is involved in terrorist activities and is spying in the Indian Army. Very serious charges were levelled against him. It is ironical that a person, against whom, there are no charges, is imprisoned for 7 consecutive months and then later on the Government makes an appeal to the Court to release him. Whereas, on the one hand, the Government requested the Court to dismiss the bail application of Iftikhar Gilani, on the other they say before the Magistrate that they do not have any concrete, or solid evidence. It is not at all proper to imprison any innocent person in this manner. Gilani's family should be given compensation and strict action should be taken against the officers who levelled charges against Gilani without any concrete base. He has been deliberately harassed. It is a serious issue. I request you that the family of Iftikhar Gilani should be given compensation and action should be taken against persons who have given wrong statement, or have presented wrong facts, or who have suppressed the facts.

SHRI SUBODH ROY (Bhagalpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, our farmers are victims of the serious crisis occurring due to every natural calamity due to the absence of a Comprehensive Crop Insurance Policy. Recently farmers have become victims of hailstorm and continuous floods, drought etc. in Bihar and continuous drought in other States. And crops viz-maize, wheat, vegetables, oilseeds, cereals etc., as also mango got destroyed. Dozens of people got killed and thousands of houses devastated. My constituency has suffered heavily in this devastation. I would appeal the hon. Prime Minister that he may provide assistance to these farmers from the National Calamity Relief Fund and implement the Comprehensive Crop Insurance Policy immediately.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali): Mr. Speaker, Sir I support his viewpoint. Farmers have got ruined due to natural calamity in Bihar. There was hailstorm and cold and all the crops are damaged. And therefore, a comprehensive crop insurance policy should be implemented. The Government should send a team there for investigation so that farmers could get relief.

SHRI KIRTI JHA AZAD (Darbhanga): Mr. Speaker, Sir, protectors have become destructors in Bihar. This is due to the mis-management of the Government. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY (Khammam): The Chief Minister, Andhra Pradesh came here and took rice in exchange of 'food for work'. The State Government has not come forward to give crop insurance to the farmers of Andhra Pradesh despite the Centre saying that *Mandal* as a unit has also been taken into consideration. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI KIRTI JHA AZAD : Mr. Speaker, Sir, please ask him to sit down.

MR. SPEAKER: I am asking him to sit down.

SHRI KIRTI JHA AZAD: Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is no administration in Bihar. ...*(Interruptions)* These people are talking about farmers before the Chair. The farmers are devoid of tubewell, power, seeds and even fertilizers in Bihar and these people are talking of their welfare. Those persons were shot dead by the administration who were badly affected by the floods and came to seek some help from the Government. Atrocities have been committed against women there. People belonging to the backward classes are being killed. Just two days back five people were killed in Communal riots in Bihar. Last year some persons were indiscriminately shot-dead. The new DGP said that his priority would be to stop crimes but it is really disgusting that 23 people have been murdered during the last five days. The police themselves give protection to such persons who do such injustice and commit atrocities. A journalist was abducted in the recent past. And our journalist friends raised their voice against this for three consecutive days and observed a strike, as a result of which party President of that area assured that the whereabouts of that journalist would be known within three days, but the journalist was traced within two and a half hours. Person who could not be traced by police three days was found within two and half hours only. This way, there. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur): Sir, it may be that in some States important events and serious events of law and order are happening. Should they be discussed everyday in this House? This House is becoming an Assembly of different States. How can it be

allowed? Everyday it is being raised. Everyday State matters and State law and order matters are being raised.

SHRI KIRTI JHA AZAD: ...*(Interruptions)* I fail to understand what Shri Somnath Chatterjee is saying. ...*(Interruptions)* The rights of the people given under the Constitution, article 355—rights of the minority communities and rights of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes—are being violated. ...*(Interruptions)* How can he stop anyone from speaking? ...*(Interruptions)* He knows this very well. He is a very senior Parliamentarian. ...*(Interruptions)* I do not know how he got the Best Parliamentarian Award which he never deserved. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

The Government of Bihar will have to explain with regard to the incidents in which children of 12 to 22 thousand women belonging to the minorities were kidnapped and killed in Bihar in the last 11 years. What would they do. Innocent people are killed in Bihar by the police in fake encounters. Infact even military personnel coming out of a bank who were about to go to their homes were openly shot dead. ...*(Interruptions)*. The Union Government should, therefore intervene in the atrocities being committed in Bihar and President's rule should be imposed there. There is no other option left. I request that the Government must do something on this. I have given notice on this under rule 193 for holding discussion. I request you that in view of the serious situation of Bihar, a discussion should be held under rule 193 and action may be taken against the Government of Bihar.

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Sir, this is very bad. We oppose this. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI UTTAMRAO DHIKALE (Nasik): Mr. Speaker, Sir, Nasik is my constituency.

MR. SPEAKER: Dhikale ji, please sit down.

SHRI UTTAMRAO DHIKALE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Nasik city is my constituency. This city is expanding day by day. It is also called 'Southern Kashi'. 'Kumbh Mela' is going to be held in Nasik in the year 2003-2004. And lakhs of saints, ascetics and many other pilgrims would participate in this Mela, that is why the Government of Maharashtra have sent proposal to the Union Government for converting the National Highway number three and 50 into four lane highways.

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Somnath Chatterjee, you have raised a right point. The first thing is that there are no rules about 'Zero Hour'. Secondly, I had made a statement saying that in the 'Zero Hour', the submissions of public importance should be made. Thirdly, there should be no repetition and the same submission should not be made again and again. But with all this, I have been seeing this thing happening. When I go through the list, I find that there are only five Members whose submissions should be allowed to be made in the 'Zero Hour' today. That way, we will be depriving the right of all those 25 or 30 hon. Members who want to raise the issues of their constituencies or States during the 'Zero Hour.' Therefore, we have always been very considerate. But if the entire House agrees, I have no objection to permit only the submissions of national importance and no submissions pertaining to the States will be permitted from tomorrow. If this is the consensus of the House, I am very happy to do it.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Sir, my appeal to you is this. We have seen that there have been some attempts sometimes to raise certain issues. I can understand that if some serious issues concerning the *dalits*, women are raised. We have always been considerate in raising such issues. We have never objected to them. But everyday law and order issues of one State or the other are being raised here. Then, where do we put a stop to that? ...(Interruptions)

[*Translation*]

SHRI ARUN KUMAR (Jahanabad): Mr. Speaker, Sir, issue of Bihar is a very serious one. ...(Interruptions). Why are they being prevented from speaking!

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE (Mumbai, South-Central): Sir, 23 people were killed in Bihar in one single day. What kind of law and order is prevailing there. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (Maharajganj, Bihar): Mr. Speaker, Sir, situation in Bihar is very serious. There is no such thing as law and order in Bihar. ...(Interruptions) Innocent people are being killed there in fake encounters and the Government of Bihar says that they have killed the criminals. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI KIRTI JHA AZAD : Chatterjee Saheb, you are such a senior leader and you are speaking such things. The situation of Bihar is really serious. ...(Interruptions)

[*English*]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: I would like to put it to you that we are not enhancing the prestige of Lok Sabha if we are confining ourselves to raise such matters here. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, please sit down. The only remedy left to me is to take up this issue to the Leaders' Meeting. I would take it to the Leaders' Meeting. There, we will discuss and come to a conclusion. In the mean time, Shri Uttamrao Dhikale to speak.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I will take this issue to the Leaders' Meeting.

...(Interruptions)

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER: I would discuss this topic in the meeting of the leaders.

...(Interruptions)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, please sit down. Nothing should be taken on record except what Shri Uttamrao Dhikale says.

...(Interruptions)*

[*Translation*]

SHRI UTTAMRAO DHIKALE: The Union Government has not given approval for these proposals. The proposal for approval of four-laning of National Highway number-three has been sent for a stretch of 60 kilometers-starting from village 'Gonde' to village 'Pilpaigaon Baswant.' The pre-qualification report of the contractor of this four-laning Highway was sent by the Maharashtra Government to the Union Government on 11th October, 2001 and draft bid documents have also been sent.

The second four laning proposal is with regard to National Highway no. 50, which is from Nasik to village Sinnar. The pre-qualification report and draft bid document of this proposal too have been sent. The work of both of the highways is going to be done through the B.O.T. I, therefore request the Union Government to immediately give approval to both of the proposals.

*Not recorded.

[English]

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU (Srikakulam): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the drought situation in Andhra Pradesh is very serious and alarming. Recently, a Central Team visited the State of Andhra Pradesh and toured the drought-affected areas. The Government of Andhra Pradesh has submitted a Memorandum requesting for the sanction of Rs. 2,373 crore as drought relief and also release of 20 lakh metric tonne of rice.

Recently, I saw in the newspapers that the Central Government has announced a drought relief package of Rs. 3,000 crore for the State of Rajasthan. We have no objection to that, but I would like to submit that it should be done in a scientific way.

Sir, the State of Andhra Pradesh has received 46 per cent less rainfall as against the normal rainfall during a year. So, according to the economic condition of a State and the prevailing financial situation, the drought relief package should be given in a scientific way. The Central Government should study the severity of the drought situation in each State and accordingly they should allot funds for drought relief. It may be for Rajasthan or Andhra Pradesh or West Bengal, but it should be done in a scientific manner. The Calamity Relief Fund is also not sufficient to give money to all the States.

Recently, thousands of Muslims have offered prayers for rains. This is the situation prevailing in Andhra Pradesh. So, to prevent migration of people from Andhra Pradesh and to provide drinking water, the Government of India should immediately sanction money and release rice for the Food for Work Scheme. I appeal to you to give a direction to the Government of India to extend all the support to the Government of Andhra Pradesh without any further delay. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to make a small submission.

MR. SPEAKER: Shrimati Renuka Chowdhury, you should give a notice for that. But you never give a notice. You are a senior Member and you know the rules very well.

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Sir, it is not a question of being a senior or junior. I want justice to be done to the farmers in Andhra Pradesh. The Government of Andhra Pradesh has declared 921 *Mandals* in Andhra Pradesh as drought-prone. They have taken *mandal* as a complete unit, but they have not properly used the rice given for the Food for Work Scheme.

Sir, they have not given crop insurance also to any farmers in Andhra Pradesh, because the State Government has to give its share which they have not done. I also want that water to be released to Andhra Pradesh and we definitely want fund allocation for drought relief in Andhra Pradesh, but the Food for Work Scheme is not fairly implemented by the State Government. There are enough evidences published in newspapers that certain contractors are misusing the rice allotted for the Food for Work Scheme. It is being misused and even under the Crop Insurance Scheme, the farmers are not getting any benefit. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P.H. PANDIAN (Tirunelveli): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Government of Tamil Nadu also has sent a proposal to the Central Government for sanction of Rs. 2,900 crore as drought relief package for the State of Tamil Nadu and they have also requested for the release of seven lakh tonnes of rice for the Food for Work Scheme. The Central Team also visited the drought-affected areas of Tamil Nadu. They met the Chief Minister and she apprised the Central Team of the problems being faced by the people of Tamil Nadu. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Pandian, you are a member of the Panel of Chairmen and you know the rules very well.

SHRI P.H. PANDIAN: Sir, I request the Central Government that they should immediately sanction the drought relief package as requested by the Government of Tamil Nadu. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI LAKSHMAN SETH (Tamluk): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to bring to the attention of the Government, through you, a matter of national importance. Every citizen of India must have a right to study in his mother tongue, even if he resides outside his State.

Sir, Bengali language is the second largest principal language of our country. Recently, the Government of Jharkhand has stopped teaching Bengali language in Bengali medium schools there. Even the Andaman and Nicobar Islands Administration has taken a similar step. As a result of that, millions and millions of Bengali speaking people including all other citizens are deprived of having education in their mother tongue. So, the Government of India should come forward to enact a law to ensure that the Bengali speaking people are able to study through their mother tongue, even if they reside in other States. ...*(Interruptions)* I also demand that all the NCERT books should be published in all the languages of the country. ...*(Interruptions)* Sir, I seek your indulgence because this is a very important issue.

MR. SPEAKER: Yes, I agree with you that this is important. Please take your seat now. Shri Prabhunath Singh will make his submission now.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Prabhunath Singh.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Prabhunath ji, I have been repeatedly calling your name but you are not even listening to me. Your issue is regarding problems being faced by the industrial workers in Faridabad.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, when you called my name I thought that my name was struck off from the list itself as some problems had occurred during the question hour. Therefore, I could not understand.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, Faridabad in Haryana is an industrial town where more than a lakh people reside in slums. Out of these some are locals and some have come from different parts of the country. The State Government is ousting these people from slums. Police force was deployed on 9 October, 2002 and slums were bulldozed which caused great resentment amongst the slum-dwellers.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to urge the Central Government to direct the State Government of Haryana to arrange rehabilitation of estimated 5-10 lakh people whose slums are being demolished. At least some arrangement should necessarily be made for their rehabilitation.

SHRI RAGHURAJ SINGH SHAKYA (Etawah): Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to raise a very important issue. Two districts, namely Etawah and Orैया fall in my constituency which are facing grave drought. Consequently, ground water level has gone quite low. My constituency also include some hilly area also. Depletion of water level has put our farmers in troubles. Water is not available in private tubewells. Even hand pumps have run dry. Therefore, farmers are facing great difficulty in irrigation. Land has gone total dry in absence of water for irrigation, Men and animals are not getting water to drink. My submission is that the Government should provide funds from Prime Minister Relief Fund for boring 100 Government tubewells and 1000 handpumps in my constituency.

[English]

SHRI VINAY KUMAR SORAKE (Udupi): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the recent creation of new railway zones, aimed at improving operational and administrative efficiency, had generated much hope for the people of my region-coastal Dakshina Kannada, especially the merger of Mysore Division of Southern Railway with the newly formed South-Western Railway with Hubli as its zonal headquarters.

Yet surprisingly, Kankanady Station (Mangalore) has still been left within the jurisdiction of Palghat Division of Southern Railway. Hubli being in Karnataka, it would lend geographical and linguistic affinity if Kankanady is brought within the newly-formed South Western Railway. The facilities of communication and easier access are other factors that prompt the inclusion of Mangalore (Kankanady) in the South-Western Zone.

I would urge upon the hon. Minister of Railways to accede to this just request from the people of my region by making a suitable mention to this effect during his Railway Budget Speech, 2003.

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the farmers all over the country are in pitiable condition but the condition of farmers in Bihar is far worse. It is because, on the one hand they are facing natural calamity and in addition, Central Government are also not rendering any help to them. The Central Government had assured that it would open 100 procurement centers in Bihar for procurement of paddy. But so far only some thousand tonne paddy has been procured whereas its production in Bihar was 1 crore and 23 lakh tonne. It has rendered plenty of foodgrains surplus in Bihar whereas procurement is not being done sincerely. Sometimes, FCI says it has no place to stock the grains, sometimes it is said that bank are closed or it takes the plea of non-availability of weighing machines. Such sort of negligent approach is being adopted by FCI. Consequently, the farmers are forced to return with their grains from Mandi.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, farmers in Bihar worked very hard and produced paddy and other grains. Now, since FCI is not procuring, they are forced to sell their grains at throwaway price. Therefore, my submission is that the Central Government should apprise the House regarding total procurement made from various procurement centers in Bihar and the Government should make arrangement for procurement of more grains where less procurement has been made so that the farmers may get support price.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, Sen Gupta Committee in its report has stated about negligence of some States with regard to procurement. Thus, my submission is that the Government of India should make a statement in the House in this connection so that the farmers in any State do not get raw deal and grains of all the farmers is procured so that they can get support price for their produce and recommendations of Sen Gupta Committee be implemented urgently.

[English]

SHRI MOINUL HASSAN (Murshidabad): Mr. Speaker Sir, the Government of India has sanctioned construction of fencing on Indo-Bangladesh Border to stop the influx from Bangladesh. It is very much necessary and I agree with the decision.

In my State and in my constituency particularly, due to the fencing the common people are facing problems because of the mishandling of fencing. The farmers are prohibited to go to their land to cultivate. The announcement of odd hours to go there is not proper to cultivate. Farmers are forced to walk miles after miles to go to their land because there are no sufficient gates to go there. The harsh attitude of paramilitary personnel towards the common people further worsens the situation. Even the crop cutting system has also been hampered in this area. There is not only the cultivable land but there are populated villages also. They are in trouble to lead their lives. They face problems while going to schools, markets and hospitals. Beyond the fencing area on the side of Bangladesh, our country has 150 yards of land where the common people are residing and they are facing a lot of problem in that particular space in West Bengal and other parts of the country.

So, I urge upon the Government to take necessary action to solve these problems.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Jadhavji, I have called out your name thrice, why do you not get up.

SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV (Parbhani): Mr. Speaker, Sir, in this House and even outside the House I have been demanding since long that a postage stamp should be released in the name of farmer, the plough bearers of this country. I do not oppose release of a postal stamp in the name of Dhirubhai Ambani. 70-80 percent farmers in our country toil in very odd conditions and produce grains for us so why not a postal stamp be released in their name.

Sir, through you, I would like to say that I am a Member of Consultative Committee also, and I had placed my demand before Shri Pramod Mahajan as well for releasing a postal stamp in the name of our farmers. But nothing has been done in this regard so far. Therefore, I again urge upon the Government to release a postal stamp on farmers as early as possible. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA (Gopalganj): Reliance is running the Government. Then whose stamp it would release if not Dhirubhai's one. Why it would release stamp in the name of farmers.

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA (Mumbai North East): Mr. Speaker, Sir, Cable Operators in Mumbai, Pune, Delhi, Rajkot, and in other parts of the country have hiked the fee by Rs. 100 per-house in the month of January and February. I had visited your constituency though without your permission. I found that consumer organizations themselves have formed an Action Committee. When they protested against the hike, the Cable operators, MSOs and owner of pay channels in connivance with each other illegally cut the cable connections of 50,000 people. The police in Mumbai, Collector and officials of Excise Department have not taken any action so far. Consumers should be protected.

Sir, I would like to raise a question that there are 20 lakh cable users in Mumbai and operators collect rupees 30 per moth as service and entertainment tax from 20 lakh users but they deposit the tax for four lakh users only. I would like to submit that interest of cable users should be protected and cable connections of the users disconnected earlier should be restored. The Government should intervene in it. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR (Barrackpore): This issue is critical. Proper attention should be paid to check mafia activities of cable operators and some way should be found out.

[English]

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (Hoogly): Sir, you have agreed to allow a discussion on the disinvestment of the profit making oil majors like HPCL and BPCL. But what I want to add is that the workers and employees, including the top management, are opposing disinvestment irrespective of any political affiliations.

All the Trade Unions are united to oppose the decision of this Government. So, the Government should not make any further progress in the matter. They should not proceed at all till a final decision is taken by this

Parliament, because nationalisation took place by an Act of Parliament. Whatever the interpretation of others, this House cannot be taken for granted. The right of this sovereign august body cannot be allowed to be diluted in such a manner. The Executive is accountable. There is no consensus in the Government. There is no consensus among the partners of the Government. In such a situation, the Government should not proceed even a single step before a final decision is taken by this Parliament. Since you have already assured, I am not elaborating the issue. But corruption is taking place. private monopoly is going to stay after disinvestment. All these are major issues. The Government should not proceed any further before a final decision is taken by this Parliament. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: You are also allowed to associate with this issue.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR: The Attorney-General is not an authority. The Attorney-General can give his opinion and we can differ. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, we support this issue. We have opposed the disinvestment and even the employees there have opposed it. The sentiments of the employees must be respected. They propose to go on strike. Here, Shri Basu Deb Acharia had raised this issue. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: We fully support his view. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI CHANDRASHEKHAR (Balia, U.P.): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I know that whatever I say won't affect this Government, but still it is a very serious matter. Not only the Members of the opposition but those sitting in treasury benches are also of the opinion that our industries should not be sold out in this manner. But it seems that the Government have made it an issue of national prestige. I do not know as to what the Government would gain by selling these units, except doing a favour to the national companies and certain big companies in the country. This would benefit neither the workers nor the farmers nor any other engaged in this sphere. It is going to benefit a few persons only and the Government is talking as if this is very necessary to uphold the national prestige. The Government had set out to mobilise Rs. 12,000 crore but so far only Rs. 3000 crore have been

collected. In how many years in the future, i.e. in the next five to ten years the Government propose to sell this national property worth seventy thousand crore rupees. The Government should also consider the fact whether it can reestablish those industries if the need arises and can it reinvest such a hefty sum of seventy thousand crore rupees? Suppose all the fertilizer plants are sold and other countries stop exporting this fertilizers to us, then what would happen to our green revolution and to farmers? The Government also propose to sell our oil refineries and airports etc. Mr. Speaker, Sir, you have also always maintained a clear cut opinion on this issue and I don't want to highlight it, but it would certainly augur well for the country if you could exercise some moral influence on the Government.

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Jaipal Reddy, I think you want to speak on the same issue.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY (Miryalguda): Yes, Sir.

Sir, I completely endorse the views expressed by Shri Chandra Shekhar. I think it is not merely a legalistic question. What opinion has been given by the Attorney General can at best be termed as legalistic though some of us doubt the legal validity of the advice given by the Attorney-General because many senior advocates in the country have questioned the legal reasoning behind the advice given by the Attorney-General. Therefore, we have the considered view that the Attorney-General could be requested to come to the House to explain to us as to what was the basis for the opinion he tendered to the Government.

Quite apart from the legalistic implications, there are substantive issues. The HPCL and the BPCL have been built at a huge cost over the decades. It is very easy for you to dismantle them and sell them off as part of a distress sale. I do not think the Government should rush in like fools where angels fear to tread. Therefore, we are of the view that this issue should not only be discussed in the House but the Government should also not take it as a prestige issue. The Government should in fact review the entire process. We are for disinvestment in areas that are not strategic and in regard to PSUs incurring losses. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: Sir we have discussed this in the Question Hour and you have also promised a full-fledged debate. So, why should we start discussing the whole issue again? ...(*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have to say only one thing. Some of the Members of the Council of Ministers had opposed it. Now, they should explain in the House as to how they have changed their stand and started to support it. Is this the compulsion that they want to retain their place in the Cabinet or something else? ...*(Interruptions)* They should clarify as to why they supported it ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: As Shri Kirit Somaiya has said, this subject has already been discussed for 40 minutes. I permitted Shri Chandrashekher to speak on this subject as he wanted to do so. Similarly, I also gave an opportunity to Shri Jaipal Ready to speak. However, I can not allow an open discussion on this subject. Moreover, a discussion on this subject is scheduled to take place taken as and when agreed to by the Business Advisory Committee. You can speak on it at that time. Right now, I can not allow anyone to speak on this subject.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKER MAHALE (Malegaon): Sir, there is a big depot of Food Corporation of India in my constituency, Manmad in Nasik district in Maharashtra. More than 4000 posts in this depot are lying vacant, out of which 55 posts were to be filled up on compassionate ground but there are still lying vacant. The employees in this depot also don't get the allowance on the lines of the allowance received by the group 'C' employees of the Special Stationary Corporation under the Ministry of Heavy Industries. The section 12A of the Food Corporation of India Act, 1967 should be amended. Through you, I would like to request the Minister of Food, Consumer Affairs & Public Distribution to immediately resolve this problem.

[English]

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil): Sir, I have been patiently waiting for my turn to speak but you are allowing all other hon. Members ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Your name is just coming.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: I am a person who would not intervene in any matter without a cause but I am losing every day.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Radhakrishnan, you are a very good Member of Parliament.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: I am raising a very important matter with regard to the State of Kerala and also the country as a whole.

The agreement entered into between the Government of India and the World Trade Organisation has resulted in drastic measures that the prices of coconut and rubber have come down. All the plantation crop growers in Kerala are adversely affected. The prices of tea, cardamom, pepper and other such crops have been drastically reduced. A lot of growers of plantation crops like coconut and rubber are starving. Thousands and thousands of people are thrown out of employment. This is the very grave situation that the State of Kerala is facing nowadays. No step has been taken or initiated by the Central Government in spite of repeated requests. We have made several representations to the Government of India for taking some steps to improve the condition of the farmers but nothing has been done. The Government of India has not taken any action to make some amendments in the agreement entered into with the World Trade Organisation. That has also not been done. So, the position has become very worse. There is no subsidy or no help from the State Government or from the Central Government. The State Government is not helping rescue the farmers and they are not taking any action. The coconut growers are starving. Similarly, the Central Government is also not coming to the rescue of the farmers. The farmers, at last, have now decided to stage a continuous *dharna* for 101 hours before the Secretariat and in the headquarters of districts. This will be a historic movement. Lakhs of farmers are going to participate in the continuous *dharna* to be organised on 24th March. I am also going to participate in the *dharna*. It has become a very important issue.

So, I would request the Central Government and the State Government to take immediate steps in this regard and help the farmers of Kerala. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: He is also a share holder of UTI. There is a discrimination against my farmers. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI RAM NARESH TRIPATHI (Seoni): Mr. Speaker, Sir, crops in many parts of Madhya Pradesh have been devastated due to frost and hailstorm and damage is extensive, especially in Jabalpur, Narsimhapur and Seoni districts where cent percent crop has been damaged. The Elderly people told us that frost on such a scale have not been witnessed in that area for the fast fifty

years. It was there till 12 O'clock in the noon and the crops started to stink. There was hailstorm in those districts again. The weather practically worsens almost every week and hail falls. The size of hail was so big that it did not melt for days. The farmers collected the hail and stuffed it in bags and showed it in the tehsil and district offices next day. The Government of Madhya Pradesh has been showing laxity in making an assessment of the losses suffered by the farmers. It is also resorting to discrimination in this regard and corruption is rampant there. The maxim that charity begins at home applies in this regard.

I urge the Government of India to provide assistance to them from the Prime Minister Relief Fund. The assessment of damage needs to be made correctly so that farmers could get due compensation from the Government of India. The Farmers in those villages should be distributed fertilizers and seeds free of cost for the Kharif crop, particularly where the crop has been completely damaged. The regular supply of power should also be ensured because the Kharif crop can not be grown without proper irrigation facilities. The interest component of the loan given to the farmers alongwith electricity bills should also be waived off. The realisation of the loans from the farmers be postponed. I urge upon the Government of India to intervene in this regard. ...(*Interruptions*)

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH (Maharajganj, U.P.): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am still seeking your protection. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA (Ponnani): Sir, there is a pressing need for strict vigilance and firm action against increasing attempts to arouse anti-minority passions and vitiate communal atmosphere in various parts of the country. Particularly with Assembly elections drawing near, venomous outbursts and speeches are doing their provocative rounds. Open threats of force and serious consequences are repeatedly aired on the Ayodhya issue. There are reports of large-scale distribution of *trishuls* in Rajasthan. More than 2,600 *trishuls* were distributed in the last 35 days alone. This is in addition to the *trishuls* distributed earlier. The alarming situation is that the number of communal incidents has increased along with the campaign of arming people with *trishuls*. This is confirmed by the Gujarat experience. It may be recalled that regions in Gujarat where *trishuls* were distributed witnessed the worst and the largest number of killings. Such, therefore, is the dangerous situation that is developing with elections coming nearer to various Assemblies in the country.

Again, in Rajasthan in Jakhan village (Jodhpur) there is in offing a boycott of Muslims. I do not want to go into the details. But these are the matters that threaten communal harmony in our country. Then, the situation in Madhya Pradesh is tense-an Ayodhya is being sought to be created on the question of entering the Bhojshala-Kamal Moula mosque at Dhar. This is under the Archaeological Survey of India. An *andolan* was organised and stones were freely hurled. Our government cannot turn a blind eye to these developments and the danger of developments threatening peace and amity in our country. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI PRAKASH MANI TRIPATHI (Deoria): It is a matter of debate. How is it a matter to be raised during 'Zero Hour'? I want your ruling on this. When there is no urgent matter involved, How is it being raised here? We are being told about all the history. This is what is vitiating the atmosphere. This is a clear case of vitiating the atmosphere. What is being raised here, how is it a matter of public importance? ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA: The *Parivar* may belong to the largest constituent of the ruling Front, but that does not mean that it has an open general licence to ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO (Kalahandi): He has mentioned about *trishuls*. *Trishul* is a symbol of Hinduism, and there is nothing wrong in it. He has mentioned the world '*trishul*' so many times. The Punjabis, particularly the *Khalsas*, are allowed to carry '*Kirpan*' with them. Hon. Member, Shri Mann had come with a *kirpan*. In the same way, why can a Hindu be not allowed to carry a *trishul*? There is nothing wrong in it. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Whatever is objectionable in his speech, I will expunge it after seeing the record.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA: Sir, peace and harmony in the country cannot be destroyed by the vicious elements. I appeal to the Government to take serious note of these developments and see to it that necessary action is taken to maintain peace and to maintain communal harmony in our country.

MR. SPEAKER: Let us maintain peace in the House also.

[*Translation*]

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is a long tradition of staging dharmas and demonstrations by various political parties against the injustice,

administrative tyranny and atrocities and this has been prevailing since pre Gandhian era. Now a new situation has developed. It is being seen that various State Governments are resorting to atrocious means by lathicharging and firing on the innocent demonstrators. During the last session, three persons were done to death in the police firing in village Munderva of district Basti in Uttar Pradesh. The State Government furnished wrong facts and the Union Government reproduced those misleading facts in which the death of only one person was mentioned. Even before the soil drenched with the blood of innocent persons in Munderva could be washed, the President of the Student Union of the Lal Bahadur Degree College was ruthlessly murdered on 19th December in the broad day light. When his dead body was brought to his House on 20th, the thousand of people thronged there to have a last glimpse of him. The cruel police of Maharajganj district resorted to firing on the congregation to teach them a lesson in which three persons died. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Akhilesh, Now please conclude. You should conclude within two minutes.

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, let me finish. The most unfortunate aspect of this incident is that the Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh said that Samajwadi Party had a hand in these incidents of Munderwa as well as Maharajganj. We accepted her challenge and through staging of dharnas and demonstration demanded, from the Government of India to get a problems into the entire incident done by the CBI and take action against those founded guilty. However even today *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Ramesh Chennithala, now you speak. Your speech would go on record.

*...(Interruptions)**

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Whatever you want to say, you have to say it within two minutes, and you should not take more than two minutes.

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA (Mavelikara): Hon. Speaker, Sir, I would like to raise a very important issue which is agitating the people of Kerala, Lakshadweep and other parts of the country. *...(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Rameshji, please continue.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You make a good speech but take much time.

[English]

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA: Hon. Speaker, Sir, I would like to raise an issue which is agitating the minds of the people of Kerala, Lakshadweep and other parts of southern India. This is regarding the non-availability of SIM cards of BSNL telephones. In Kerala, prepaid SIM cards of BSNL were given to 70 thousands people. According to the statistics of BSNL, in Kerala, two lakh people are waiting to get them. The entire Lakshadwip area and other southern parts in India are not at all covered by the BSNL SIM cards. People of Tamil Nadu are also raising the same issue. This seems to be a conspiracy to help the private mobile telephone operators.

Why are people asking for BSNL SIM cards? It is because the coverage of BSNL is good, cheap and the people of more number of areas can get this connection. That is the reason why they are insisting on getting BSNL SIM cards. However, the BSNL authorities and other responsible officers, are not taking enough measures to issue more SIM cards to the people who are really in need of them.

I therefore, urge upon the Minister through you, Sir, to see that the Government takes necessary steps urgently to provide more BSNL SIM cards to the people who are really in need of them.

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer): Mr. Speaker, Sir, Government had given assurance to the thousands of employees working in the office of Traffic Accounts and Compilation at Ajmer for the last 50 years under Western Railways that even after the setting up of new North-Western Railway Zone, the headquarters of Traffic Accounts and Compilation would remain in Ajmer only. However, orders have been issued to transfer those employees to Mumbai. Due to this thousands of these employees, who are living in Ajmer for the last so many years, would face housing problems as well as educational problems for their wards in Mumbai. They will also have problem in acclimatizing themselves in the prevailing

metropolitan culture. Hence they will face a lot of problems if they are transferred to Mumbai. Therefore, through you, I would like to request the Central Government that the assurance given earlier by the Railway Minister at the time of setting up of new railway zones that the employees would not be transferred rather they would be adjusted in their present place, should be followed. Even after the setting up of North-Western Railway Headquarters, the headquarters for Traffic Accounts and Compilation should not be shifted from Ajmer. Those who have given option, may be transferred to Mumbai and others should be adjusted in Ajmer only. Thousands of affected railway employees are demonstrating in Ajmer on this issue. They are staging Statyagrahs, dharanas and are sitting on hunger strike. In such a situation, I would like to request the Government to let those employees remain working in Ajmer who were working in Ajmer.

SHRI J.S. BRAR (Faridkot): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am grateful to you that you gave me the opportunity to raise the problems of farmers who comprise 70% of our country's population. Central Government have announced to procure wheat from 1st April at a price of Rs. 620 per quintal. It was same in last year also. The first point I would like to mention is that as per the report received from the Universities by the Agriculture Price Commission, the minimum support price of wheat should be fixed at Rs. 885 per quintal assuming 1970-71 as the base year. If the minimum support price is fixed at this rate, it would be really in the interest of the farmers. It seems that the Government have already started implementing anti-farmer report of Kalekar Committee. I want to say that the support price fixed by the Government is very less. Second point is that Punjab has the highest contribution in central pool with the stock of worth Rs. 11500 crore i.e. 175 lakh tonne of foodgrain is getting rotten in our godowns. My complaint is that neither the employees nor the FCI is sympathetic towards the problems being faced by the farmers. Sir, through you, I would like to request hon'ble. Sushma-ji that FCI has to pay an outstanding amount of Rs. 5 thousand crore to Punjab. Farmers are neither getting remunerative prices nor the releasing orders. Punjab is getting ruined. Foodgrain stock kept by the farmers is not being cleared. Almost 95% stock is lying outside the godowns. Therefore, Central Government should take immediate steps in this regard.

[English]

SHRI K. FRANCIS GEORGE (Idukki): Sir, I would bring to the attention of the Government a very serious matter affecting the Indian nationals in the Gulf countries.

Due to the prevailing war situation in Iraq, in the adjacent countries including Kuwait, the Indian nationals, and their children who want to appear for the CBSE examinations are in a very difficult situation now.

Sir, the CBSE examinations start in the first week of March, and the Board has not taken a decision whether to hold these examinations in Kuwait and other Gulf countries. If a decision is not taken immediately, it would not be possible to make the alternative arrangements in the respective States of these students. Our Embassy in Kuwait is awaiting a decision of the CBSE Board.

Sir, the first week of March is not very far away. Only a few days are left. But the CBSE Board is sleeping over the future of the children of the Indian nationals in Kuwait and other Gulf countries.

What I would suggest and request to the Government of India is that immediately a direction has to be given to the CBSE Board to conduct the examinations either in those countries, or some alternative arrangements have to be made in the respective States of these students in India. So, a decision has to be taken immediately.

I would again request the Government of India to direct the CBSE Board to take this very vital decision at the earliest. Thank you.

[English]

12.57 hrs.

BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Forty-sixth Report

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): Sir, I beg to present the Forty-sixth Report of the Business Advisory Committee.

MR. SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned to meet again at 1.45 p.m.

12.57½ hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned for Lunch till forty-five minutes past Thirteen of the Clock.

13.48 hrs.

The Lok Sabha re-assembled after Lunch at forty-eight minutes past Thirteen of the Clock.

(MR. SPEAKER in the Chair)

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Now, we shall take up matters under Rule 377.

(i) Need for Construction of an airport at Ajmer, Rajasthan.

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer): Sir, Ajmer is a historical place which is famous all over the world. This city is a centre for communal harmony. Dargab of world famous Garib Nawaj Khwaja Muinuddin Chishti is situated here. The famous pilgrim centre Pushkar ji with the pious temple of Brahmaji and a sarovar is also situated here. It is also an important city from educational, tourism and strategic point of view. Lakhs of people from other countries and also from our country visit the 'melas' organized here regularly and get blessings of the God. Ajmer is a centrally located place in Rajasthan and remained a union territory till 1956. It had been the work place of freedom fighters but this city is not yet on the map of air traffic. Various eminent leaders and Ministers felt the need for airport at Ajmer and gave assurance to take immediate action but no results were achieved.

Therefore, in view of the special status of Ajmer, Central Government is requested to take immediate action to procure suitable land by themselves and construct an airport there at the earliest.

(ii) Need for laying of rail line between Hajipur and Sugoli via Areraj, Bihar.

SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH (Motihari): Sir, there is long standing demand for Hajipur-Areraj-Sugoli railway line at Indo-Nepal Sandhi Sathal for visiting highest Stupa of Lord Budha situated in Someshwar Dham of Vaishali Kesaria, the mother of democracy. This route is one of the most important routes in the country from historical and religious point of view. It's gateway of Nepal. The demand for this railway line has been raised since Britishers' time.

Therefore, through you, I would like to request the hon'ble Railway Minister to issue orders, granting approval for the immediate construction of Hajipur-Areraj-Sugoli railway line.

(iii) Need to check steep rise in the tariff charged by cable operators

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA (Mumbai North East): Attention of I & B Minister is drawn towards steep rise in the tariff charged by cable operators for pay channels. The rates have increased from Rs. 100/- to Rs. 350/- per month in the last 14 months. I request the Union Government to take steps to safeguard the interests of the consumers.

(iv) Need to ensure better upkeep of newly born animals in Military Dairy Farm and Dairy of Jawaharlal Nehru Agriculture University, Jabalpur.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI JAYASHREE BANERJEE (Jabalpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Military Dairy Farm and Dairy of Jawaharlal Nehru Agriculture University, Jabalpur abandon the newly born calves in jungles to fell prey to flesh eating mice, Jackal, fox, kite, vulture, crow etc. It is sheer cruelty. In the same way, cows suffering from genetic and other diseases are also left to die painful death to avoid responsibility. Immediate efforts should be made to save them. These superior breed calves should be looked after properly and can be utilized in far-flung villages in order to improve the cow progeny. Sick cows should be sent to 'Gaushallas' of public trust. Besides, fodder grown in government pastures should be sent for them. Dayodaya Animal Promotion and Environment Centre at Jabalpur is working actively in this direction.

Therefore, I request the Government to provide assistance to this public trust.

[English]

(v) Need to provide stoppage of Rajdhani Express at Balharshah Railway Station and other non-super fast trains at Chandrapur Railway Station in Maharashtra.

SHRI NARESH PUGLIA (Chandrapur): Train Nos. 2429-2430 Bangalore Rajdhani Express running between Bangalore and Hazrat Nizamuddin and train Nos. 2433-2434 Chennai Rajdhani Express running between Chennai and Hazrat Nizamuddin do not have a scheduled stoppage at Balharshah Railway Station but they have only a technical halt there. The passengers who want to travel by these trains have to purchase tickets from/to Secunderabad/Vijayawada. Similarly, a large number of trains do not stop at Chandrapur Railway Station on

Nagpur-Balharshah Section of Central Railways, although Chandrapur is a district headquarter and a large number of industries, Super Thermal Power Plant, Cement Plants are there. It is requested that in this year of passenger amenities, the Government should explore possibilities of providing a scheduled stoppage of Rajdhani Express trains at Balharshah Railway Station and a stoppage of at least non-super fast trains at Chandrapur Railway Station.

(vi) Need to start construction of Talcher-Bimalagarh rail line in Orissa and provide necessary funds for the same in the Budget, 2003-04

SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO (Jagatsinghpur): The Government and people of Orissa have been demanding for the construction of Talcher-Bimalagarh Rail line since 60s, more than 40 years now. Survey was conducted several times. The latest survey conducted during 2000-01 by the Railway Ministry depicts that this Talcher-Bimalagarh rail line of 154 km. length would give the rate of return of 10.18 per cent with construction cost of Rs. 606.60 crore. This line shall pass through the backward tribal area and forest and mineral resource rich area and commercially, it would be a very profitable line. I request the Union Government and Railway Minister to start the construction of this rail line quickly and include it in the Budget of 2003-04 positively.

[*Translation*]

(vii) Need for early completion of Yamuna-Satluj Link Canal Project

[*Translation*]

DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA (Sirsa): Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to draw attention of the Government towards Yamuna-Satluj Link Canal Project. The work on Yamuna-Satluj Link Canal Project is going on for the last two decades, but it is still incomplete. I fail to understand if one part of the country becomes prosperous, and other States remain economically weak, then how the country can develop. The construction work of this project has been stopped on the plea of water scarcity. If there is a scarcity of water, the entire country will face this challenge and if water is in abundance, then also the entire country will be benefited. Recently the Supreme Court has done away with all the technical shortcomings in respect of this project and has facilitated the Union Government for completing this project immediately.

I request the Union Government to complete this Project at the earliest.

[*English*]

(viii) Need for laying of third line between Kharagpur and Panskura in South Eastern Railway

SHRI PRABODH PANDA (Midnapore): There has been a long-standing demand of third line between Kharagpur and Panskura in South Eastern Railway. Howrah-Kharagpur Section of South Eastern Railway is one of the busiest routes of Indian Railways. This is an important area from the commercial point of view. There was a third line from Howrah to Panskura. But, between Kharagpur and Panskura, there is no third line. So, each and every day most of the trains are running late due to absence of third line. Hundreds of express, passenger and goods trains from the Southern Zone and the Western Zone of India are running of these up and down lines. Kharagpur Railway Junction is one of the largest junctions in our country. There is a longest platform in the world at Kharagpur Station. I would like to urge upon the hon. Railway Minister to fulfill the long-standing demands of people as early as possible.

(ix) Need to set up more power plants in Maharashtra with a view to solve acute power shortage in the State.

[*Translation*]

SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE (Malegaon): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the power crisis is prevailing in Maharashtra. The power has become costlier. The farmers are facing hardships due to non-availability of power on time. Common people are also facing difficulties due to irregular power supply.

Setting up of new power plants has become essential in view of this major crisis in Maharashtra.

Through you, I request the hon. Minister of Power to set up more power plants in Maharashtra at the earliest.

(x) Need to open a 'Sainik School' in Mahendragarh parliamentary constituency, Haryana

DR. (SHRIMATI) SUDHA YADAV (Mahendragarh): Mr. Speaker, Sir, my parliamentary constituency Mahendragarh is an army personnel dominated area and lakhs of youth of this area are serving in Army and more than one lakh retired Army officers and officials are residing in this area. But there is not even a single Sainik school in this area for their children due to which they are deprived of proper education. In 1983 the then Minister of Defence had made

[Dr. (Shrimati) Sudha Yadav]

an announcement regarding opening of a Sainik School over there, but till now proper action has not been taken although Gram Panchayat of that area had offered to give 300 acres of land for this purpose. The Army Personnel and ex-servicemen of this area have been continuously raising the demand for opening a Sainik School over there and I too have made efforts in this regard. I have come to know that the State Government has also sent a proposal to the Union Government in this regard.

Through you, I would like to request the hon. Minister of Defence to issue orders to take suitable action for opening a Sainik School in army personnel dominated area, Mahendragarh (Haryana).

[English]

13.58 hrs.

DISCUSSION UNDER RULE 193

Threat to International Peace Due to Mounting Tension between USA and Iraq

MR. SPEAKER: We now go on to the Discussion under Rule 193. The discussion is to be raised by Shri Nawal Kishore Rai. Since he is not present in the House, the next name is that of Shri Ramji Lal Suman. I would request him to initiate the debate but, let me make it clear to the Members that, as decided in the Business Advisory Committee, this debate will continue for two hours. Since the hon. External Affairs Minister is not in India, the former Minister for External Affairs has agreed to reply to the debate. Therefore, we will be calling him immediately after the discussion is over or he may come and sit in the House even before that.

14.00 hrs.

Or he may come before that and sit in the House. But I want that after two hours, we should start the reply to the debate.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL (Latur): This is an important debate and in the Business Advisory Committee, as far as allocation of time for this subject was concerned, we did not pay any attention to it and we did not discuss it also. Two hours should be sufficient. But if it is not sufficient, let us discuss it for some more time.

MR. SPEAKER: As far as possible, we should complete it in two hours.

[Translation]

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi): Mr. Speaker, Sir, if anything special happens, then it is a different thing, otherwise two hours are enough.

MR. SPEAKER: Therefore I said, as far as possible, it should be completed in two hours.

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: All Political parties are unanimous in this regard, there is no difference of opinion.

[English]

The difference of opinion is only in the expression of our views. So, two hours' time should be sufficient.

MR. SPEAKER: Let us try to complete it in two hours.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Firozabad): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to express my gratitude to you for giving me an opportunity to initiate a discussion on a subject, about which the entire world is concerned. After Second World War it was thought that democratisation of international system shall take place and effort shall be made to resolve disputes by dialogue. Being a political worker, I too agree that any problem of the world can be resolved if one has good intentions.

Today, America is impatient to attack Iraq. We all are conscious about the consequences of a war. War brings destruction. War is not beneficial for anyone, it is destructive. The people of the country against whom war is fought face consequences. Therefore, it is a duty of all democratic powers and peace-loving people to avoid war in any part of the world, we should also made efforts in this regard.

India is a country of Gandhiji and we worship non-violence. It is our duty to make efforts to avoid attack on Iraq. No country of world should attack other country. Therefore, we should not only oppose it but should also take a meaningful initiative and lead in this regard. Therefore, I would also like to say that India should also take meaningful initiative to prevent the bullying tactics being adopted by United States to attack Iraq.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, what I would like to submit that the problem of Iraq is not confined to Iraq only. 30 lakh Indians reside in Gulf countries. If any tension is created in this area, whether direct or indirect, we may also be affected by it. We have great respect for the hon. Prime Minister. The Prime Minister and Government's point of view is clear that the Iraq's dispute should be settled by

the United Nations. On the other side, America's point of view is that if United Nations will not cooperate, then it will attack Iraq.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, when U.S. attacked Afghanistan, India was the first one to give unconditional support to it, as a result of it world opinion was formed in America's favour. Therefore, it is our duty to pressurize America, and we should make efforts in this regard. It is a different issue that who was ruling Afghanistan. But when war takes place, the people of that country face its consequences and they are, very heart-rendering. I am of the opinion that in case war takes place this would be repeated in Iraq.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the bone of contention is not the atomic bomb or nuclear bomb, instead America intend to capture the oil reserves of Iraq and because of this target all these steps are being taken. Resolution 1441 was introduced in the UN Security Council to this effect that Iraq is in the possession of nuclear weapons. There are 5 permanent and 10 non permanent members of the security council. All the 15 Member Countries agreed that an investigation be held in this regard and an expert, Hans Blix was sent as weapon inspector. After inspection he reported that he had not got any such weapons. Despite they are talking of action against Iraq. No country in the world except Britain, Belgium and Italy is in favour of this bullying attitude of America. Germany, France and Russia are against the war and it has been stated not once but several times by UN Secretary General Kofi Annan that war should not take place at any cost and we should consider on the report submitted by Hans Blix.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have clippings in this regard. The Nobel prize winners of the world have issued a joint appeal that the American intent to attack Iraq should be opposed at all costs. This is true America used to have a greater say in security council. However on this issue America has found itself alone even in Security Council. America went to attack Iraq. Never before any war was opposed so vehemently after Vietnamese war. Two and a half lakhs persons held demonstrations and raised slogans against the war in the victory of UNO office in Newyork. Similarly, agitation were held in Chicago also. Lakhs of people also held demonstrations in Europe, Belgium and Britain. Five lakhs people organized demonstration in London and this figure was ten lakhs in the Italian capital Rome who demonstrated against this war.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the demonstration so far has been held in 600 cities across the world in which approximately

60 lakhs people have participated and have raised anti-war slogans. According to a survey more than 60 percent Americans are against the war and they have changed the slogan for removal of bush and opposed the use of bombs. The entire world community is against this war Digvijay Singhji is sitting here. He is the Minister of State in the Ministry of External Affairs. He has twice visited Iraq within last eight months.

Iraq is our friend and has a liberal attitude. America consider itself the greatest democratic country in the world but is bent upon attacking Iraq while on the other hand preach us to resolve our differences with Pakistan through dialogue. I would like to know as to what is the stand of America on North Korea. America wants to act according to its convenience.

Sir, today existence of UNO has been threatened because America has openly said that it does not bother about it. We should also review our own position in UNO. We are among the founding Members of UNO. Alongwith Marshal Teto, Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru also played an important role in the establishment of United Nations. Despite our repeated requests we have not been given permanent Membership of security council. We have served as the non permanent member security council of UN seven times but last year we lost this candidature against Japan. It is really unfortunate that we are not even the non-permanent Member of UN Security Council but Pakistan has become the non-permanent Member for the next two years. This is something very serious, UNO is not playing an effective role in world affairs as it should.

Sir, it is heartening to note that the countries like France and Germany are opposing America but the most unfortunate aspect is that Security Council has the power to veto but they are not exercising it but India should oppose the American move to attack Iraq at all costs. If any among the super powers uses its veto power on any issue it can be withheld. All the countries in the world have opposed the American attack. As far I know the French Parliament has even passed a resolution in this regard. It has been reported in Washington Post that as per many of the official documents, America itself supported and encouraged Iraq for manufacturing these weapons in the decade of eighty. The present defence Secretary of USA Donald Rumsfield had visited Baghdad on 20th December, 1983 and held a talk for 90 minutes.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is a very serious matter. I had submitted earlier also that war always brings devastation. India should play an important role in defusing the tension prevailing in six various parts of the world. I am of the

[Shri Ramji Lal Suman]

view that our problem with Pakistan is more serious than that of Iraq. It is separately conveyed that America has no role to play and it would not be a mediator. India and Pakistan should resolve their differences through mutual dialogue. When America can preach us then why can we not convey to America that there is no problem in the world which can not be resolved through talks but our intention should be clear. I do not have much knowledge about our relation with Pakistan and America. The hon. Minister of Finance is sitting here. America has announced that it should provide an aid of 53.25 million dollars to India and of 326.25 million dollars to Pakistan. It means that America favours Pakistan more as compared to India.

Sir, I want your protection, this is not an issue confined to any party alone. The Parliament represents all the sections and religions of the country. I would like to make a very humble submission to the Members of treasury benches that their allies are supporting America on the issue of American attack on Iraq. They are doing no good to society. The statement of Pravin Togadia was published recently. Malhotraji, why are you waiving your hand. ... (*Interruptions*) of course, you are a learned person but I am also know something. Your job is to save the Government. You can do this job later on. Not once but several times it was published in the newspaper that India should support America, if the war with Iraq takes place then I do not think that it is a good thing. Vijay Malhotraji, I would like to tell you that it is not good even for your health. Undoubtedly you need newspaper but I do have some knowledge. You should certainly raise these issues when you get opportunity to speak.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you I would like to submit that the entire House should pass a resolution to condemn the America's intention to attack Iraq and also deployment of its one and half lakh forces and the forces of its allies including Iraq. Sir, I want your protection and request you to bring a resolution to condemn the intention of America and America should not attack Iraq at any cost. I hope that it would reflect the feeling of all the Members of the House. I would be grateful if we could send this message to the world through the Parliament. This is what I wanted to submit.

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the House is discussing a very important matter. War is looming large on the world and everybody is concerned at the possibility of a war that seems imminent. Definitely, India is against war. War is not desirable anywhere and at anytime unless and until there is no other option. The whole world is aware of the

havoc a war creates. Thousands of people are killed in war, women are widowed and kids become orphaned. Fertile lands become barren. Thus it is the concern of each to avoid war. We all are sure that war should be averted at all costs. War is being threatened on the plea that Iraq has weapons of mass destruction, chemical weapons, but so far no evidence to this effect has been found. Even the weapon inspectors of the UNO say that they have found no evidence of such weapons there. In such a scenario, all efforts to disarm Iraq should be made through UNO. No one country has the right to settle such issues as if that is the only supreme force in the world. There is no reason to think that one country can become the leader of the world.

We would also like to destroy all their chemical or other weapons. But first evidences of the existence of such weapons should be found and then a global opinion be mobilised for it. We also agree on waging war against terrorism. Action against Al-Qaeda, Bin Laden should be taken by all the countries united. War against terrorism is on, but if the USA is really sincere in its war against terrorism then its target should be Pakistan instead of Iraq. They have targeted Iraq even though they have no evidence, but the whole world is aware of such evidences in Pakistan. The actions of Pakistan are known to all. The member of Al Qaeda and Taliban in Afghanistan have got refuge in Pakistan. All the persons released in Abu Dhabi are being provided shelter in Pakistan. Those who were arrested in Pakistan have been released. On a number of occasions, the House has expressed concern over cross border terrorism of Pakistan against us. I agree that the USA has provided the status of Most Favoured Nation to Pakistan and giving the assistance of \$326 million and this funds are spent for increasing terrorism in India and the world and in assisting Al Qaeda and Bin Laden. The USA has turned a blind eye towards it.

Bangladesh has evolved as a new centre of terrorism. Concern in this regard has been expressed by the Chief Minister of West Bengal. Shri Buddha Deb Bhattacharya and others. But the USA is not concerned. If the USA is really serious about stamping out terrorism, then it should be concerned about those who are really spreading terrorism. USA should also have regard for the UNO and it should not be pressurised. Such a view has been expressed by the most of the European countries also and thus, more time should be given for collecting evidences of weapons. Once the weapons are found, all countries should make united efforts to destroy those weapons. Such efforts and methods can also be adopted through democratic relations.

Our economic interests are linked to it. Petrol is becoming costlier. What will be the impact if US, in its insistence, is able to occupy Iraq in two or four months. It seriously affects our economic interests and also lakhs of our people who are trapped in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait. We also have economic interests in Iraq and Iraq has helped us on a number of occasions.

I would like to point out that it is not a conflict of civilisations. It is definitely not so, because even before, when US-Iraq war took place, a number of Muslim countries had fought alongside USA. At that time they had attacked Kuwait which was under Iraqi occupation. Therefore it is not a conflict of civilisation, nor of cultures or religions. It should not be regarded as such. World opinion is against this war. If there are any weapons, adequate time be given to locate and destroy them. In addition, world opinion should be mobilised to destroy chemicals weapons and weapons of mass destruction from all places. I only want to submit, that if the USA is really serious about fighting terrorism, then it should target Pakistan.

[English]

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR (Mayiladuturai): Mr. Speaker, Sir, ever since the hon. Minister of State Shri Digvijay Singh and his senior colleague assumed office in South Block, the distortions that have been introduced in the foreign policy by their predecessor have begun to be rectified. I must, in all fairness, add that the enormous mistakes which Shri Yashwant Sinha committed in the Ministry of Finance have begun to be rectified by Shri Jaswant Singh. Perhaps, the original sin lay in the decision of the Prime Minister to have placed them in the wrong places. But because I see that the ghost of the past is likely to be responding to this debate, I would urge Shri Digvijay Singh to please counsel restraint upon his senior colleague and ensure that India's foreign policy continues along the lines he and Shri Yashwant Sinha are laying down, rather than the distortions which we had to suffer during Shri Jaswant Singh's tenure.

I particularly wish to draw the attention to the fact that after Shri Jaswant Singh demitted the office, we have had one extremely important statement made about the situation obtaining in Iraq by the Permanent Representative of India in the United Nations. It was made in the Security Council on October 17, 2002. I do not think that statement could be bettered. I think it does provide a basis for the restoration of a national consensus on foreign policy specifically in respect of Non-Alignment which, I regret, has been absent between 1998 and 2002-

03. So, we had hoped that the Treasury Benches would, in the new wisdom that has dawned upon them, agree to carry the voice of all of India to Kuala Lumpur instead of only the voice of the Government of India. I do not know what reasons have prevented them from taking this path of national consensus, for, foreign policy has traditionally been a matter of consensus and not a matter of confrontation in this House.

It seems to me that the speech made by Shri V.K. Nambiar in the United Nations Security Council in October, 2002 contains most of the elements that are required for putting together a consensus view of this Parliament which, had it been made, could have reverberated in the Conference Hall in Kuala Lumpur. But as the Government is not willing to do that, all that we can do is to urge Shri Digvijay Singh to kindly ignore the gentleman sitting to his right and listen carefully to those who are standing opposite him so that he could perhaps move forward in the direction of making this country a great country.

The tragedy between 1998 and 2003 is that in the realm of foreign policy, this country, whose voice was listened to with utmost respect in the councils of the world, has become something of a lap-dog. We have a Prime Minister whose knees had happily been surgically corrected but we have a Government whose knees are still knocking against each other and falling upon those knees.

What we need to understand is that the foreign policy is the external expression of our internal sovereignty. Unless we have the courage and unless we have the conviction to be able to say what we want to say in international affairs loudly, clearly and with the best articulation, our voice will not be heard. Let us not forget that we are not a country of great military might; we are not a country of great economic power; we are not a country of huge political clout. What we are is a country, a civilization, which has taught the world in contemporary times the meaning of morality in international affairs.

In 1946, even before we became independent, our Foreign Minister at that time, Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru, articulated non-alignment and although there was a time when non-alignment came to become the foreign policy of the world at large. Let us not forget that between 1947 and 1961, we were alone in expressing our views in the world in contradistinction to the two blocs. Then on-Alignment Movement consisted of one member from 1947 till 1956. Only after nine years did five countries get together in Brunei and started the embryo of what became the Non-Aligned Movement. The first summit of the Non-

[Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar]

Aligned Movement was held in 1961 in Belgrade, a good 14 years after we became independent and a good 16 years after we first started articulating the principles of Non-Alignment. During this period, when we were really all alone in the world was when we counted for the most. Let us not forget that the war in the Korean peninsula was brought to an end only after India was persuaded to accept the Chairmanship of the Neutral Nations Repatriation Commission and the war in Indo-China was ended only after India was persuaded to accept the Chairmanship of the International Control and Supervision Commission in the three countries of Indo-China. We mattered in the world because we used the one currency which we could parley in international affairs, which is the currency of morality. If we wish to merely be a second-rate power, acting as a photocopier in international conferences, repeating what other people have to say, being frightened of the power that bigger countries exercise, then, I am afraid we will not be articulating our view in the world and, therefore, we will be extinguishing independence in external policy which is the external expression of our internal sovereignty. So, in effect, if we start getting speeches in South Block dictated from Foggy Bottom, Washington, we cease to be an independent country. That is the key issue before us. Now, in the last 10 years, there has been confusion in foreign policy. I deliberately take 10 years because I do not think this is a partisan matter. It was a little over 10 years ago that the Soviet Union began its long process of collapsing and getting extinguished from the world stage. So, since the word 'Non-Alignment' had come out of not being aligned with the one bloc or the other, the conundrum that foreign policy makers have faced in India for the last decade or so is how do we remain non-aligned in an unaligned world. This has been the moral dilemma. And because we have not succeeded as a nation in resolving this, and because the Non-Aligned Movement as a movement has not come to grips with this fundamental issue, the voice of the non-aligned and the voice of India as the founding genius of the Non-Aligned Movement has become so soft and so inaudible as to not matter in world affairs. But, we are at a historic new conjunction and it is for the Ministry of External Affairs to cease this new opportunity which has just arisen in international affairs.

Sir, I draw your attention and that of the House to a very interesting article that was reproduced in *The Indian Express* a couple of days ago by an Indian who has turned American and is regarded as something of a foreign policy guru in the United States of America because he is the editor of the prestigious foreign policy journal. He is the son of one of our well-known colleagues, Shri Rafiq Zakaria. His name is Farid Zakaria.

Farid Zakaria has pointed out in a fascinating article that the concept of the West is an artificial construct with no bases really in history.

It is only in the face of a hostile East that the idea of the West emerged. Otherwise, through thousands of years of Western history, the West has mostly been embroiled in internecine conflicts among itself. So, a homogenous Western position is, in historical terms and civilisational terms, an aberration. It existed because of the Cold War. Now that the Cold War is genuinely over and people are beginning to realise how completely finished it is, the West is going back to its traditional internecine differences. And we see this reflected first in the differences that are taking place and are so obvious between the bulk of the people of the West on the one hand and the Governments of the United States and the United Kingdom on the other, as also between the London-Washington axis on the one hand and the Paris-Berlin axis on the other. West Europe has at long last found its voice. There is an old Europe which is reasserting itself and a new Europe which cannot because it is economically dependent upon Washington, but otherwise the genuine voice of the West, the voice of the enlightened, the voice of the renaissance, the voice of John Stuart Mill, the voice of Winston Churchill, the cry for democracy and the end of oppression and of peace is beginning to arise once again in Europe.

During the founding years of the Non-Aligned Movement, Europe was an indistinguishable part of the West. Today, Europe is beginning to assert itself and we have the historic opportunity of bringing about a union of hearts and minds between the Non-Aligned Movement and this emergent European Union. They need our numbers. We are 114 countries and we need them because of reasons of race, politics and economics. Washington listens more to what Europe has to say than perhaps it has to the under class of Asia, Africa and Latin America. In these circumstances, Shri Digvijay Singh and his colleagues have a historic opportunity to convert the challenge of Iraq into an opportunity to restructure our foreign relations in such a manner as to make the voice of India count once again. But this is not an opportunity which comes on a daily basis. I think, it was Shakespeare in *Hamlet* who says: "There is a tide in the affairs of men, which, taken at the flood leads to great things" and if not, we get drowned in that tide.

Sir, the Non-Aligned Summit is before us. In just three days from now, the hon. Prime Minister will be appearing upon the largest international stage in the world, short of ceremonial summits of the United Nations, 114

countries, of whom 113 would be wanting to hear the voice of Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee as the voice of the country that founded the Non-Aligned Movement. Will he rise to the occasion? That is the question which our countrymen and women are asking themselves, and, at this point, if we purse our lips, if we revert to the distortion of thinking that our irons will be pulled out of the fire by Washington or London, then, of course, we will miss this opportunity. We are at crossroads and, I think, the Government is simply not understanding how important is this crossroads by this petty partisan attitude of saying that they, who came into power five years ago, know more about the Non-Aligned Movement than we who brought this country to freedom, created the philosophy of Non-Alignment and converted it into a Movement. They do not have the courage to just reach out across the table, shake the hand which is available and make the whole world listen to what the Parliament of India has to say. This is a deep psychological feeling which reflects the inferiority complex which has started inflicting South Block ever since 1996.

Having said that, where do we need to go from here? Again, what we need to understand is that the fundamental, central point of the philosophy of Non-Alignment is upholding the UN Charter and preserving the United Nations as the one and only forum for the resolution of international differences. It is not that we are satisfied with the structure of the United Nations. Indeed when one looks at the composition of the United Nations and the kind of powers that had been given to the UN Security Council but denied to the UN General Assembly, and the special veto powers that had been given to the Permanent Members of the UN Security Council, who were all just accidentally allies in the Second World War which ended 57 years ago, the fact is that the UN Charter itself, rather like the Constitution of India, has a provision for effecting changes. If the Constitution of India can be amended nearly 100 times in 50 years, there is a possibility of amending the UN Charter appropriately to make it a more democratic organisation.

14.41 hrs.

(MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER *in the Chair*)

So, I am not praising the UN in itself but saying that as a concept, it is invaluable to world peace. The history of the West, for a very long time has been that of ignoring the United Nations and bypassing it whenever it does not suit their particular interests. Thus, when it came to Palestine, the creation of Palestine, the partition of Palestine and the creation of Israel, the Soviet Union and the United States of America joined hands together to deny the Indian voice, which pleaded in 1947: "The

tragedy of partition is upon this sub-continent. Please do not repeat the tragedy of partition in Palestine because you cannot divide in order to unite."

The colonials went on to do exactly the same thing in Cyprus. They had been doing it for a long time in Ireland. No problem has been resolved by partition. It was India which said at that time in 1947: "The only way of preserving peace in the whole of West Asia is to create a Federal State of Palestine-Israel where there will be autonomy in the Palestinian and Israeli regions respectively, but a democratically elected Government of Palestine-Israel to run the larger national issues in that particular State." We were not at issue. We were overwritten. But when it came to 1950 and the Korean War was about to start, the United States took advantage of the absence of the Soviet Union from the United Nations to pass the Uniting for Peace Resolution under which they acted in Korea. But once they had done that, when the Soviet Union returned, they never agreed to going back to the Uniting for Peace Resolution of 1950. Therefore, the whole of Vietnam War was fought without reference to the United Nations. Again and again, we are seeing that the United Nations is being bypassed by the Permanent Members of the UN Security Council. But that was also true of the Afghans on both sides.

In these circumstances, there is a need for voice of peace which bases itself on the principles of the Charter of the United Nations. That voice for peace is the Non-Aligned Movement. Shrimati Indira Gandhi, as Prime Minister, on the occasion of her being elected as the Chairperson of the Non-Aligned Summit in 1983 here in New Delhi, described the Non-Aligned Movement as the biggest peace movement in the world. Can we say today that NAM is the biggest peace movement in the world? It seems to have become an organisation where they meet in order to decide that they will meet again. Life has to be given again to this Movement. That life can come only in two ways. One is through the Indian Prime Minister raising his voice loud for peace at a time when the United Nations is being threatened, when the United Nations is being bullied, when the United Nations is being intimidated, when the United Nations is being told that if you do not do our will, then we do not care for you. If, at this juncture, we do not raise our voices loud and clear in Kuala Lumpur, the Non-Aligned Movement will fail to be true to the purposes for which it was created.

At the same time, this is the moment for us to reach right across to Europe remembering that Europe is the western peninsula of Asia, even as South Asia is the southern peninsula of the Asian mainland. We are linked to Europe. We are geographically linked to them. There

[Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar]

we find that there is a new voice that is rising. Yet when we had the French Prime Minister in India only a few days ago, there was so little attention paid to the great historical revolution that is taking place in Western Europe led by France that, apart from some anodyne words about Iraq and the United Nations, there was almost nothing to signal a new alliance between New Delhi and Paris to raise the voice of peace.

That is why, I am extremely nervous, even though the hon Shri Digvijay Singh instructed his Permanent Representative correctly in the month of October 2002, whether in February 2003 he will so advise the Prime Minister as to have India's voice ringing loud and clear in favour of peace and against this obscene suborning of the United Nations which we see going on at the present moment. I used the word "obscene" advisedly. The kind of language which we have seen emanating from Washington, the kind of minatory attitude adopted by US representatives at the United Nations are completely unacceptable to civilised behaviour.

Sir, it is true that we are a developing country. And it is also true that the United States is a developing civilisation. But for that reason it is necessary that the United States be made to listen to the voice of this ancient land, that is a voice of peace, pronounced without the influence of baubles. I am afraid this Government is so keen on the handouts it gets from Washington, and it has so lost its will to confront our enemies that it is looking to Washington to pull its irons out of the fire, that we do not have the kind of will in the Government necessary to infuse the Non-aligned Movement with the spirit that is required to make Non-alignment count again and to take advantage of the new configuration in international relations which is making Western Europe a friend of India, a friend of the Non-aligned.

Now, the Government lacks the will but this nation does not lack the will, this Parliament does not lack the will. We know how without fear to raise our voices. We raised them when Gandhiji was leading our Freedom Movement. He was confronted with the mightiest military empire that world history has ever known. It was a much stronger empire than Chengiz Khan's or Tamerlanes. It was a much stronger empire than the Hum's, it was the strongest military empire known to humanity and Gandhiji stood up in one single voice and said that 'none of your goals is my goals, none of your means is my means and I will answer your military might with the only weapon in my armoury, which is moral mind'. It was the values of the Freedom Movement that we translated into the Non-aligned philosophy which formed our Foreign Policy after Independence.

Non-aligned Movement is the extension in international affairs of non-violence and truth and so long as we remained firm on those principles, our voice was heard with respect. It is when we departed from those principles that we ceased to be heard. But certainly, it is true that never at any time, when we have subordinated our voice to the voice of others, subordinated our interests to the interests of others, subordinated our capacity to dominate our destiny to others that we have mattered. We cannot matter as a 'B Team'. We cannot matter as a second class country. We have to have a certain uniqueness to ourselves at all times, a certain asymmetry in our goals and means vis-a-vis the super power because if we are symmetrical with them then either our goals get subordinated to their goals or their means are superior to ours.

The genius of Jawaharlal Nehru lay in inventing this asymmetry in foreign policy which came to be known as the philosophy of the Non-Aligned Movement. That is what took our influence from one country, India, to 114 countries who are assembling now in Malaysia. Bearing in mind the enormous historical responsibility that rests upon the shoulders of our hon. Prime Minister, we wish him well, but we do so with very little comfort, for there is nothing in the record of the NDA Government to suggest that the hon. Prime Minister is capable of rising to this historic occasion. We are disappointed that the hand of co-operation which we extended to the Treasury Benches has been so summarily rejected by them. The loss is not ours. The gain is not their. The loss is that of this country and the gain is that of the war-mongers whose inability to understand the real world, whose insatiable lust in the quest for dominance is endangering not only the people of Iraq but also endangering the people everywhere.

They, the biggest military power in the world, attacked Afghanistan, the most helpless country in the world, blasting it from the sky. They managed to kill a lot of sheep, they managed to murder a large number of Afghans, but their target, Osama Bin Laden, got away. In 1991, we saw the same thing. They rained their bombs on Baghdad, but they did not have the courage to follow it up with an infantry attack, for they knew from history that Baghdad was liberated from the Turkish Empire, not by the Americans, but by the Indian Army. Which is why the most important quarter in the city of Baghdad, where I had the honour of being posted for two years from 1976 to 1978, is still today called Arassat Al India-the Indian camp. It was we who liberated Baghdad under Captain Downsen, going all the way up from Basra to Baghdad, losing so many of our soldiers on the way.

I do not know whether the Treasury benches are aware of it. I would certainly like to remind the House, through you, Sir, that in the period of the British mandate over Iraq from 1919 to 1932, Iraq was governed as a district of the Bombay Presidency from Bombay. That is how close Iraq is to us. I am not talking of Governments, but I am talking of people, I am talking of civilisation. Iraq and India are intertwined in their destiny. Therefore, an attack upon Iraq, which is unjustified and unmandated by the United Nations, is tantamount to an attack upon us. This is the kind of intrusive inspection that is taking place. It is for this one reason that Indira Gandhi refused to sign the Non-Proliferation Treaty. She said that this is what is going to come. Her voice sounds prophetic 20 years after she passed away, for, when she said it, people wondered what was meant by intrusive inspection. This was the word we used in the Ministry of External Affairs without quite knowing its meaning. It has taken us till today now to discover what is meant by intrusive inspection.

If this is the level at which inspection can taken place, then surely a proposal made by India as many as 15 years ago, which is based upon a satisfactory inspection regime, should be at the top of the UN agenda, that is, the action plan for a nuclear weapons-free and non-violent order put forward by Rajiv Gandhi in the United Nations on the 9th of June, 1988. It is based on this idea that all kinds of inspections are now taking place. The Americans then said, 'such inspections cannot take place. So we reject your action plan' Today, they have taken up all that system of inspection provided for them, but not done anything about disarmament. The country that is bristling with arms but without an enemy is the United States of America. There are more weapons of mass destruction in the United States than in all the rest of the world put together. So lunatic is that policy that they were capable of destroying the world 17 times over.

Now, they have entered into an agreement or a set of agreements with Russia, the consequence of which is, they can destroy the world three times over. Even the most lunatic human being would not want to destroy the world once over and this is the country towards which we are genuflecting in a situation where in order to establish their dominance, they are subverting the United Nations.

I leave the House with this historical memory. In the 1930s, Benito Mussolini ignored the League of Nations; the consequence was the World War II. In this century, it is the United States imitating Mussolini, which is,

ignoring the United Nations. Then, it was the League of Nations; now, it is the United Nations; and, consequences much worse are bound to follow. For, what was available in terms of weapons of mass destruction in the 1930s are nothing compared to the weapons of mass destruction available now.

It is all very well for Shri Vijay Kumar Malhotra to link up terrorism with the issue over here, but the fact of the matter is that those who are upset with the United States and do not have the weapons to match their weapons, will, like Gandhi, choose weapons that do not match weapons. Gandhi chose the weapon of non-violence; the terrorists have chosen the weapon of violence;

It is Osama Bin Laden, whether you like him or not, who has said that he would die in the eagle's belly. The eagle to which he referred is the eagle, which is the symbol of the United States of America. But why would he want to die in its belly? In the attack on the World Trade Centre, it was not only American citizens who were killed but Indian citizens were also killed and so also would the destruction of the United States by world terrorism destroy all of us.

It is utterly irresponsible of Shri George W. Bush III to give him his full title to decide to wage war on our behalf without asking us. We do not want war. There is no *causus belli*. There is no cause for war. The belligerence is all on one side; the hurry is all on one side. There is no need whatsoever to deploy these armadas of ships and these fleets of aircraft in the Indian Ocean. When I was in the Foreign Service, we hoped the Indian Ocean would become a zone of peace but that sounds like a joke today. It is in that area that they are bristling and the Indian Ocean is named after our country. We have to save ourselves. We have the opportunity of saving ourselves. We have friends in Europe who will help us save the world but we have a Government which does not know its own mind.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (Hoogly): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, we are at the crossroads. There are moments both in the life of the individual and the family and in the case of nations when the position has to be made clear. If we fail to do that and if we indulge in obfuscation, haziness, opportunism and changing positions according to domestic needs, it would spell disaster. It is the lesson of history. But I charge that this Government is indulging in the same sort of obfuscation and haziness. It has happened even yesterday. The hon. Prime Minister, while addressing the BJP MPs, said certain things and it had to be modified. It had to be changed.

[Shri Rupchand Pal]

The script of the American plan of action was written long back. Even as early as on the 12th September, 2001 itself, it was written. At that time, a very important functionary of the US Administration said, 'Let us not lose this opportunity; let us seize this opportunity.' The plan of action was to attack Iraq immediately, the day next to the attack on the World Trade Centre.

15.00 hrs.

There is a relationship between what is being shown as the audio tapes of Osama Bin Laden. No intelligent person world-over has accepted that. Osama Bin Laden has always been against Saddam Hussein. They have tried to manufacture evidence. They have indulged in falsehood. They have tried to prop up the dummies. They have tried coup seven times but still they have not been able to win the hearts of the people of Iraq. They have not been able to convince the world opinion that there is a case against Iraq. An official of the U.S. Administration has stated that we have met the Indian authorities and we have convinced them. Richard Hass of the U.S. Department-the Member of the National Security Council when the Gulf war had taken place-had stated and I quote:

"U.S. would also ask India for cooperation for its military aggression on Iraq. India is a natural partner and ally."

Has India protested? Has ever the Government of India publicly stated that it oppose this military action. It opposes these preparations of war against Iraq? India has never spelt out its position that we are opposed to war. What has been stated that principles and pragmatism will have to be made a judicious mixture. At this point of history principles matter.

Now, I would like to quote from the speech of the hon. President in the President's Address, which he delivered on February 17, 2003 in Parliament.

"We share the concern of the entire world on the unhappy situation..."

This has not happened even at the time of Vietnam War. Out of twenty million people the world-over, only two million people assembled in Hyde Park, in the United Kingdom, in the United States, in the Asian countries, in the African countries, in the Latin American countries, etc. In such a situation, we share the concern of the entire world on the unhappy situation. Is it simply some unhappy situation that there are preparations of war and every preparation is being made to attack Iraq? What

for? Is there any case for such an attack on Iraq? Is it because Saddam Hussein is a dictator? Is it because he does not believe in democracy? However, our neighbour, does he believe in democracy? There are so many dictators of the world who always sit in the lap of United States everyday. A number of dictators are their friends and they have picked up Saddam Hussein as a dictator. Is it because he is not complying with Resolution 1441? Who told you? You have prepared the dossiers. You have supplied the documents to the UN Inspectors and they have come back. What do they say? Till today there is no evidence of weapons of mass destruction in Iraq. Till today there is no proof anything like nuclear programme. After 12 years of rigorous sanctions, you just imagine that it never happened in history. Millions and millions of people have to depend on this regime only for their food. Five million children have either lost their lives or they are subjugated to inhuman sufferings for want of medicines. During these 12 years, no less than 15 lakh of people have died.

There is an estimate prepared by the UN contingency planners that if this war takes place, another 10 million people will suffer. What is going to happen? What will remain of Iraq? Their infrastructure-power stations, electricity, oil fields and everything-has been destroyed, dismantled and about US \$ 200 billion worth of property already destroyed. What for? There is no case against Iraq and the USA are just advancing arguments which are not accepted even by their erstwhile allies-European Union, NATO partners. Even inside America, there is a strong opinion against all these things. Ever swelling number, millions and millions of people in different parts of the world are calling for peace. We, this Indian Parliament, have a duty at this important moment, critical moment to spell out clearly that we oppose this military preparation, the preparation to attack the sovereignty of Iraq to re-map the political geography of Western Asia, the Gulf region. This attack on Iraq is something isolated. For a new international order, it will cause paradigm shift in international laws, it will cause paradigm shift in the case of the existing international institutions. Will the united Nations become irrelevant? Can UN Security Council be allowed to be made irrelevant? The institutions which have been built up as a part of human civilisation brick by brick, on the heartrending experiences of the wars of the past, will be dismantled to subserve the interest of America only.

Mr. Colin Powell has stated on 23rd January publicly that so long as it serves their purpose, they will do whatever they consider to be appropriate without listening

to any voice, public opinion, members of the United Nation's Security Council, European Union and the vast number of people of the other countries. They do not care about them. United States has a stockpile up weapons of mass destruction and they say that they will not hesitate even to use the nuclear weapons against the non-nuclear powers.

If this continues, in such a situation, do we not owe to our nation, does this Parliament not owe to the people of the world, to say that we have a glorious heritage of anti-imperialism which was the outcome of our freedom struggle? We have a foreign policy for decades based on national consensus which emphasises on peaceful solution of problems of the world. Between war and peace, there cannot be any such choice that at this point of time let us be pragmatic and surreptitiously support the war. There is a doubt that this Government is surreptitiously preparing itself to support the military operation, aggression on Iraq. The Government owes it to the nation to spell out clearly that we oppose it. Till today, they have not stated that they oppose the military aggression on Iraq, this proposed attack on the sovereignty of Iraq, this attempt of regime change. How can they do that? The sovereign power, the people of that country will determine the fate of that country.

Some new expressions are coming like 'material breach'. When Israel does not care for nay of the United Nations' Resolutions, it does not matter. When friends of US, ignore them, the basic resolution of the United Nations does not matter. Take Resolution No. 1441. They say that they shall edit all the 12,000 pages. Who gave them the authority?

US shall supply information and their own agency should supply. But we find that what they have given is ridiculous, what the UK Prime Minister had given to the inspectors as dossiers are ridiculous. Some old document was picked up from some articles. All these were arranged and re-arranged and put into the document.

In such a situation what should be the role of this Parliament? I earnestly plead with the Government. We have been doing this for the past few days, that in one voice, in conformity with our glorious heritage of anti-imperialism and anti-hegemonism, in conformity with the spirit of our freedom struggle and the NAM spirit, we should spell out clearly that this Parliament, this country, this nation is opposed to such military aggression on Iraq as is being tried by US-UK allies.

It is only for oil, hegemony is for oil. Military aggression will not end in Iraq only. The axis of evil is

there. Afghanistan is within the grid. The puppet Government has been propped up; and another puppet Government or planted Government by putting some former criminals at the helm of affairs. What will happen? Saddam Hussain represents Arab nationalism after Nasser. He is the only person who has been able to keep Iraq united. USA has used Iraq against Iran and have encouraged them as they have done in the case of Afghanistan. Osama Bin Laden is their creation. Now, they say this in the name of fighting terrorism.

One VHP international leader Shri Praveen Togadia says that: "We shall support America in its military aggression over Iraq". Why? It is because it is an attack on a Muslim country. Let the Government spell out clearly that what has been stated by Shri Praveen Togadia is not the view of this Government.

What I want to say is that in a situation where a new international order is proposed to be set up, when the re-mapping of the political geography, when the total control over the oil resources of Iraq and surrounding region is being attempted, we should be careful in our statement. Iraq is a country which has historically been friend to us, it is not only that it is secular, it supports India on the issue of Kashmir, it has been by our side in the face of situations *vis-a-vis* Pakistan. They have supported us.

We have been dependent on oil imports and in the situation of world recession, after the military aggression, if it continues a little longer, what will happen to our economy and to our oil imports? We have good export market in Iraq. Nearly 3.5 million people are there in the Gulf region and foreign exchange is coming from there. What will happen to that now?

We have the experience of the Gulf war. The war was for a few days only and there was cess on petrol. We had the bitter experience of those days. What is the contingency plan of this Government? What is the role of the Government going to play when they are going to Kuala Lumpur? When it is proposed that let there be a unanimous Resolution adopted in Parliament, we are told that the hands of the External Affairs Minister should not be tied, let it remain flexible. There are certain basic principles, which form the basis of NAM. Why cannot you reiterate those principles that we are against military aggression; we are against hegemony; we are against the war designs of US and UK. The heavens are not going to fall if we adopt such a Resolution.

[Shri Rupchand Pal]

I think, the Parliamentary Affairs Minister has already consulted the hon. Prime Minister on this issue. Why are they backing out? Is it because of some hidden agenda? Is it that at one point of time, you will surreptitiously surrender to U.S. pressure when some carrots are dangled before you, as has happened in the case of some others? The Ruling Party, the Government, owes it to the nation that they have to spell out clearly what has happened when the representatives of the U.S. met the External Affairs Minister. What has transpired there? What did they say and what did we say? Did they say, "You are a natural ally; we hope to have your cooperation for the military aggression." Till today, we have not stated any such thing.

I would not elaborate much, but I would like to say that as a result of what is happening concerning Iraq, fundamentalism will grow not only in Arab countries, but also in Pakistan as a backlash, and we will have to bear the brunt. In the sub-continent-in Pakistan, Bangladesh, Maldives, Bhutan and in other places-there are about 500 million Muslim people. In such a situation, when there is a deep conspiracy to divide the Indian society on communal lines, when people like Praveen Togadia say that since it is going to be an attack on an Islamic country, we should support America, what will happen to our relationships within the SAARC countries? What will be our position with in NAM? This Government is lacking the strength to stand up and firmly say that this is our position. Instead we oppose war preparation of U.S. They are destroying the whole infrastructure of our foreign policy, which has been built up over these decades. It has always been built on a national consensus.

Anti-imperialism has been the key element in our foreign policy. Now, this Government is subjugating itself by making itself subordinate to the American desires and to the American plan of action. We are going to lose our friends in Asia, Africa, Europe and in other countries of the world. This is high time when we stand up and say that "we oppose the war designs, and we are not ready to subserve their narrow interests. The people, all over the world, have a right to live peacefully. If there is any problem, it should be resolved through diplomatic channels, and peaceful solutions should be found out through discussions." There are appropriate institutions for that, like the United Nations and the Security Council, and our Parliament should make its contribution.

I believe, we should pass a unanimous resolution distancing India from the moves of U.S.-U.K. alliance to attack Iraq to capture oil reserves, to control the Gulf region, to establish US hegemony and start a new world

order, which will be done at the diktat of U.S. and its allies.

Sir, it was in 1941, during the Second World War, Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore, just before his death said something very important. He was agitated over the War that was going on then-those who have seen Satyajit Ray's documentary on Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore would know about it. He was otherwise calm and quiet but very agitated over developing war.

Walking from one end of the room to the other he said, "To lose faith in humanity is a sin. The mighty and the powerful may try but the course of history ultimately is determined by common man. One should not lose faith on them. He was speaking on the crisis of civilisation." It was one of the remarkable pieces of writings of Tagore during the period of war. It is not a question of "crisis of civilisation" as has been made out by some theoreticians. In such a situation we should contribute to strengthening the human civilisation, to protect what has been built up globally-the rights under the UN Charter, the United Nations, the Security Council and all values associated with human civilization. At such times we should say 'no' to war. We should unanimously say 'no' to American designs. We should say to the world the Iraq should be protected today by another super power, a strong public opinion of the world. We should join that voice. Let the Indian Parliament join that voice for peace and against war.

DR. B.B. RAMAIAH (Eluru): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, today we are discussing the threat of war on Iraq. Attention of the whole world is now focused on this particular issue. Hon. Prime Minister, Shri Vajpayee made it very clear that India opposes war because from the beginning we have followed the path of non-violence and because we are one of the founders of the Non-Aligned Movement.

As some hon. Members have mentioned, I am sure the Prime Minister will make it a point to explain our point of view very clearly at the forthcoming NAM Summit, to be held in Kuala Lumpur, and see that war is not encouraged. We all know what happened in 1990 when Saddam Hussain attacked Kuwait. They came and asked for support. At that time, the United Nations had probably given support thinking that they could not prevent aggression. Today the issue is entirely different.

What happened after the war, as Shri Rupchand Pal has put it, is that millions of people have suffered. Even today, many children are suffering for want of food and

medicines. The after effects of sanctions are calamitous on Iraq that the lives of citizens are severely affected.

Today, there is a feeling that they have some weapons of mass destruction. The United Nations imposed a condition that Iraq should be inspected by the International Weapons Inspection Team for weapons of mass destruction. Saddam Hussain agreed to that. The UN Team of Weapons Inspectors made a thorough search. Yet they could not find any weapons of mass destruction in Iraq. They wanted some more information. Saddam Hussain gave permission to them to carry out further inspections. Therefore, I think that without the permission of the United Nations and the Security Council, any aggression on Iraq is uncalled for.

Our country is strongly opposed to war. The whole world is against it. There is a wave of public protests against war not only in the United States but all over the world. Under such serious circumstances, I am sure our Government will definitely take a positive step in the right direction.

We all know that a few days back the Chief Weapons Inspectors Hans Blix said that they were not able to find any evidence so far of Iraq having weapons of mass destruction. They have been given unrestricted access to sites in Iraq now. They are able to go wherever they want to conduct their inspections. Under such circumstances, without the approval of the United Nations or the Security Council, any action by any country on Iraq is not desirable.

I am sure that our Parliament and the Government will definitely support any move to see that war on Iraq is avoided.

[Translation]

SHRI RASHID ALVI (Amroha): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the issue on which we are discussing, is very important one, Not only our country but the entire world has been waiting to find out as to what would happen to Iraq after the war. India has many a friends in the world but Iraq has been among the most friendly countries of India for the last 50 years and it is Iraq which has maintained most sincere relations with India in the international sphere. Iraq stood by India when Indira Gandhi had imposed emergency and several countries in the world, especially Pakistan started accusing India. Today Iraq is facing a crisis and I would like to submit to the Government that as per the wishes of Members, a resolution be unanimously passed to condemn American intention to attack on Iraq. What is the attitude of America

which is the superpower in the world. The power balance in the world was disturbed after the disintegration of USSR I would like to say very humbly that neither any solution by Parliament of India nor the opposition by the Government of France nor crores of people who have demonstrated on roads against the American attitude, are going to deter America from attracting Iraq. However, it is our moral responsibility to highlight before the entire world as to what is the stand of India on this conflict. We should make it clear in no uncertain terms that India would neither tolerate nor cooperate in any country's action, not only against Iraq, but against any other country of the world.

Sir, why does America want to attack on Iraq, what are reasons therefor? Does Iraq is in possession of the weapons of mass destruction, does not America has such weapons? Whether the other countries in the world do not have those weapons? UN Resolution asks for carrying out the inspections in Iraq. Nothing can be more humiliating for the country than that of this but being a weak country, it is ready to tolerate even this. The weapon inspectors deputed by UN are searching for weapons in Iraq but nothing has been found as an evidence by them so far. I and Digvijay Singhji had visited Iraq and saw that bunker where 500 women and innocent children had taken shelter. They were the family Members of Iraq fighters. American attacked that bunker with missile and we also saw the remains of blood and flesh strewn around the bunker wall. What kind of terrorism is being talked about and which country is harbouring terrorists, no country other than America is the biggest terrorist state in the world. This was not for the sake of prestige alone but for subjugating the world. Yesterday only somebody has rightly said that Bush is reminiscent of Hitler. The world's average daily petrol consumption is 77 barrel. As per the statistical provided by British Petroleum Energy Information Centre, America imports 1.7 million barrels oil from Saudi Arabia, 8.84 lakh barrels from Nigeria, 1.5 lakh barrel from Venezuela, 2.5 lakh barrel from Kuwait, 2.78 lakh from Algeria and 77 thousand barrel per day from Canada and produces 7.95 lakh barrel oil indigenously. Why such a huge quantity of oild is being stored? America wants to sale this oil at exorbitant rates in case war with the Iraq takes place and thereby to blackmail the entire world.

I would like to suggest the Government that we should have clear cut policy in this regard. We can not achieve anything by mere verbal talk. India should formulate a long term plan in this regard. I would like to request you not only as an M.P. but as a common citizen of India, and without naming anybody like Togadias and

[Shri Rashid Alvi]

others as mentioned by many others, that these persons should be treated by a psychiatrist because they do not deserve to make any comment. I would like to say that the security covers of the Muslim communalists or Hindu communalists or who cause social strife and tension, should be withdrawn and let them speak as they like. They spy anything amidst the security cover but the moment security cover is withdrawn people would take care of such persons. The security of all those who want to cause hatred in India be withdrawn and let them speak as per their wish. Those who want to form disharmony in the country should be dealt with severely in order to strengthen our social fabric. There is only one way of replying America.

America is the greatest power in the world. Russia is almost powerless and India has the capacity to challenge American might by working hard. If the temple and mosque controversies are set aside and if we desist fomenting trouble between Hindus and Muslims then India can definitely rise to the challenge of America. If we do so no power on earth can stop us from achieving our objectives. Therefore, there is only one way we can retort America by passing a unanimous resolution in the Parliament that, henceforth we will put an end to all such in order to make India such a powerful country so that she can reply America effectively.

Today United Nations is a puppet in the hands of America. I would like to say that this information should also be sought from United Nations as to how many resolutions have been passed by them and name of the countries who honoured UN Resolutions and who have not honoured. Yassir Arafat was put under house arrest by Israel in his own premises and the United Nations and America kept mum. No country reacted to the house arrest of the head of a nation by Israel. America devastated the whole of Afghanistan on the pretext of fending Osama Bin Laden and it is unfortunate that we also asserted them in that operation India has offered the American to visit land and Air space. I do not want to talk about other countries like Pakistan. They may do whatever they like but we will have to think for ourselves as to whether America can act in the same way with India as it is acting with Iraq. There is only one solution for all these things i.e. to follow what I have said. I do not want to go in details and I am about to conclude. We should take lesson from Iraq incident for there is still time to decide. The world do not allow a weaker entity to survive and do not respect weaker country. This would only understand the language of might. India can definitely come to the rescue of smaller nations if it emerge stronger.

Today entire Arab world is entirely prosperous. India can lead all those countries and can become a major power if India changes its foreign policy a bit. Today Saudi Arabia is ready to offer its all air bases to America. Turkey is also willing to allow America to use its airdromes and air space. They are not doing so out of love for America but out of fear of America. India can definitely lead if India possess power, if she emerges stronger. It would give a lot of strength to the world. There is a couplet by Allamah Iqbal:-

"Takdir ke kazi ka yeh fatwa hai azal se.

hai jurme jafee ke saza marge mafhazat."

Which means that if a country or a person or a community is weak then it would have nothing but death as their fate. Hence we want to live honourably in this world then we will have to achieve power. Lastly, I would like to suggest the Government that we should pass a resolution on Iraq and try to make this country powerful by putting an end to all our differences which have proved our down fall until now.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, it has been said for our country:

"Arun Yeh Madhumay Des Hamara,

Jahan Panhunch Anjan Kshitij ko,

Milta ek sahara"

Our country has been a champion of world peace for centuries together. People of various communities and races across the globe, having different ideologies came and settled in our country and it is said about this holy land that 'sare jahan se achha Hindustan hamara, Hum Bulbulen hain Iski ye Gulistan Hamara. Yunan, Misra, Rama sab mit gaye jahan se, magar ab bhi baki hai namo-nishan hamara.'

It is ridiculous that a person with a perverse mentality like Mani Shankar Aiyar ji is trying to preach us in a land which has been enlogised in the above lines by referring to the weak knees of the hon. Prime Minister, he has only reflected his narrow minded mentality which is worthy of condemnation.

Through you, I would like to say that the Congress ruled for 45 years in the 50 years of country's independence. The Congress regime gave birth to so many shortcomings and evils and weakened the country to the extent that it prompted NDA to make every effort to salvage the country. ...*(Interruptions)* One National Democratic Alliance Government made all out efforts...*(Interruptions)* Now it is a force to reckon with and is standing tall on the knees before the world ...*(Interruptions)* We have by conducting nuclear

test and not succumbing to American pressure, told the would that India can not remain under domination ...*(Interruptions)*. Our Community friends are trying to preach us lessons of peace but we do not need to learn it from them because they always used to support a particular camp. If inside Russia. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY (Miryalguda): This is a debate on Iraq. We do not want to get the House or the nation divided. We want to strengthen the hands of the government. Therefore, let the Minister of the ruling Party control his Members. ...*(Interruptions)* Why is he trying to convert it into a debate on Party lines?

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: I am replying to what he said....*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR (Vadodara): You should also show some restraint. ...*(Interruptions)*

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: That I can never be appreciated. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The debate has been continuing in a very harmonious way.

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to say that the hon. Prime Minister has made it clear several times that war should not take place anywhere in the world whether it is Iraq-America war or Indo-Pak war. We have been the harbinger of such a concept of universal peace. The Prime Minister has reiterated several times that UNO should not be weakened and it should only be strengthened and our friends are saying repeatedly that ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (Pandharpur): Such things should not be uttered either by the members of treasury benches or by the opposition. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I would given you also a chance to speak.

...*(Interruptions)*

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: Iraq is our friendly country. The question of supporting American attack on

Iraq does not arise. I would like to say that NDA Government is neither pro-America nor pro-Russia but has a pro India inclination and no one should have even an iota of doubt in the fact that it would make its best effort to bring peace in the world keeping the interest of India always supreme. Our communist friends referred to a particular person time and again. It might have been said by a particular person but they should not lose focus of the fact that people of RSS ideology have also said that India should condemn America and should make every efforts to ensure that America does not attack Iraq. This was said by none other than the people of RSS ideology to which Pravin Togadiaji belongs. This thing was not mentioned for once but time and again what Togadiaji said was, this may be the viewpoint of a particular person but not of the Government of India. The Government of India believes in the principle of peaceful co-existence from the very beginning. The NDA Government is also following the same policy and I would like to assure the people on behalf of NDA that we won't let that policy be changed.

America wants to establish its hegemony. It seems that America has been decided by the fervour of the war and America has, by threatening Iraq and accused it of producing chemical weapons. America sent UNO's inspectors to Iraq after getting a resolution framed in the UNO. They hoped that investigation report would sent their designs but the report submitted by Hans Blix mentioned that clear cut evidence is lacking to prove that such chemical weapons or weapons of mass destruction are being manufactured in Iraq. Now it was the turn of America to search for another pretext.

American episode reminds me a story of the wolf and the lamb which we used to hear during our childhood. A lamb was drinking water from a river downstream. Wolf was determined to hunt the lamb. The wolf asked the lamb as to why he was contaminating the water. Lamb replied humbly that the water was flowing downstream. How could he pollute the water. The wolf was not convinced and he killed the lamb accusing that his ancestors might have committed the crime of contaminating water. I am of the opinion that America represents that wolfish mentality today and want to suppress the country like Iraq through might and also wants to thrust the whole world into the war. However people all over the world whether they be Americans, Europeans and Rome, be London at any other place have, by staging demonstrations in lakhs, revealed that they want peace and not war at any cost. Hence India has been trying to ensure that no war takes place in Middle East. The inspectors have hinted in ambiguous

[Prof. Rasa Singh Rawat]

terms that further evidence is necessary to reach any conclusion that Iraq is manufacturing WMD and that further information in regard to noxious gas and anthrax is needed to be gathered. I am of the view that India should also try to ensure that the weapon inspectors revisit Iraq through UNO and reveal the truth before the world. However it should not serve as an alibi for war which should be the last option of the Government. We are not in favour of war. There must be peace in the world. We have always been a votary of peace and so shall we even remain. There are only three countries of the world which are speaking in tune with America. First is England which has always cherished the politics of colonialism, the second is Belgium while the third country is Italy. All these three countries have supported America. The rest of the countries including France, Russia, Germany or China which have veto power, have tried their best to persuade America not to go for a war against Iraq. We want that the United Nations Organisation should become a stronger body and that it should not be a puppet in the hands of a few powerful countries of the world. If the UNO disintegrates or becomes weak then there will not be any effective international forum left to mediate between the conflicting groups or parties to restore peace. Therefore, India has always strived to see UNO as a strong body. The channel of UNO must be exercised, peace must prevail upon war. The members of Security Council which enjoy the veto power, they must always try to convince the belligerent nation like America to shun the option of war and not to attack Iraq with a view to take control of the oil wells of America. We as a nation believe in the policy of non-alignment and I hope that our Govt. besides safeguarding the interests of the country and giving it the priority, must come out to protect the interest of friendly countries and must even strive for restoration of peace.

I would like to mention here that the league of nation was formed in 1919. But this organisation was weakened and then we witnessed the second world war. Therefore, the UNO was formed on 24th October, 1945. Now again the existence of UNO has been threatened. However, UN Secretary General Kofi Annan is trying hard on his part and other forces of world are also trying their best to avoid war. But America is out to wage a war under some pretext. We supported America when the later attacked Afghanistan to end the Talibani regime and to liberate the people of that country, but we can not support America for waging a war against Iraq. Therefore, I would like to submit that without condemning any country in particular, a message should go from this House that we want peace. Peace resolution should be passed and UNO may become strong and powerful enough so that these

peace efforts may get greater impetus through it. As regards investigation of arms, the arms inspection team should be sent again in March and that team should give its report. Saddam Hussein has declared and assured the people of the world to renounce the policy of developing any type of atomic or chemical or destructive weapons any more. When such an assurance has been given, then I think that the world opinion should also rely upon his statement. With regard to the discussion taking place under rule 193, I would like to say that we have always been the worshipper of peace and irrespective of whether it is a friendly nation of ours or, howsoever powerful a nation may be in the world, we will support only the right kind of policies pursued by it and will always oppose the wrong policies of that nation and we can never support its tendencies reflecting war hysteria. With these words, I thank you for providing me an opportunity to speak.

[English]

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA (Canara): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. one hears the term terrorism everywhere today. No debate, no discussion, nothing takes place anywhere without terrorism in one form or the other being dragged into it. You can turn anyone into a terrorist. You can condemn anybody you want and you can convert anything into a terrorist sponsored or a terrorist-friendly outfit. It is becoming a new *mantra*, if I may say so, in international relations. Someone spoke about the weaknesses of the Congress Government over the past 50 years.

SHRI P.H. PANDIAN (Tirunelveli): You should not say 'someone'. You should say one hon. Member.

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA: All right. One of the hon. Members said it. I get corrected by him.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, please tell him not to interrupt me.

Who understands the pangs of terrorism better than my own Party which has lost three leaders to the evil of terrorism? We have paid the price over the years. Please do not say the Congress Governments have been weak. We have faced the worst threat of the Seventh Fleet in the Indian waters during the Bangladesh war, but Shrimati Indira Gandhi refused to buckle and refused to give in. She was prepared to stand up to all the threats and fought to the finish until victory was ours. Therefore, I would like really not to get lessons, and as was said before, I do not want to divide the House into Government and Opposition on this crucial issue. I think we are all concerned with the world around on what is happening and would all like to find a peaceful solution to the

challenges which we face not only in our neighbourhood, but which are growing all over the world.

For decades we from India spoke about the danger of international terrorism. At every international meeting India was drawing the attention of the world community to the threat of terrorism. But we were told 'oh, go slow; these are battles for self-determination; these are battles of independence; talk to people; negotiate; find a solution; after all, you must find a solution to the problem.' But one attack in New York in which not only Americans died, but people of all nationalities died in that attack, and suddenly it becomes a world war against terrorism! Is it because the thousands who died in other parts of the world, including India, over so many years were not as important? Is it because of the colour of the skin of those who died earlier, which was not white perhaps? Nobody took notice of that. but, three thousand people died from different countries, and the heartland of a particular country had been attacked and then it declared a war on terrorism and the world was told 'you are either with us or you are against us; you join the coalition, otherwise you are against the war on terrorism.'

What followed after that? You and I have been witnesses to the invasion, I would call it, of Afghanistan with bombings, occupation and overthrowing of the regime. I am not defending any regime. Please do not misunderstand me. I am not holding any brief for any repressive regime anywhere. But the way in which they walked into a country, bombed the people in which thousands of civilians died, thousands have fled or have been carried away to camps in Cuba and other parts of the world. Is this the meaning of democracy or the meaning of international law? Or I would ask, is this the meaning of a world in which justice can ever be expected or given to people who are weaker than those who have all the arms and all the power? Injustice breeds violence and unless there is justice in international relations the world will never see peace again. I want to say this today without any hesitation.

In the United States, after the 11th September incident, we have seen what has been happening. Asians have been targeted; minorities have been targeted; all sorts of repressive laws, systems are coming into place and everyone who belongs to particular communities, particular countries are being deported or are being marked as terrorist suspects or having links with terrorists. The type of fear psychosis, the type of—if I may say—the new world order of suspicion, of setting one against the other all over the United States and in other parts of the world today is creating more and more tensions. And

yet, after all that they have done, Al-Qaida still survives in many parts of the world. Bin Laden is still supposed to be alive and sending his messages. Other leaders whom they wanted to bomb out of existence have managed to get out. And what have they achieved except turning Afghanistan and other areas around it into rubble and innocent people being forced out of their homes? And now, having done that, they turn their eyes on Saddam Hussein. Well, we are finished with Afghanistan, they are not.

Let us be very clear on this point. The American troops are engaged in ground battles all over Afghanistan even today. The Russians tried subjugating the tribes of Afghanistan, they paid a price and withdrew. It is said that Shrimati Indira Gandhi had advised the Soviet President, when he come to India, not to get involved with Afghanistan because even the British and nobody down the centuries have been able to subjugate the Afghan tribes. The Americans have gone in now. Let us see what happens. We thought that they have learnt the lesson after the Vietnam war but it looks like they still have lessons to learn in Asia and in this part of the world. And now, it is Saddam Hussein. They think, "We could not get Bin Laden, we will get Saddam Hussein and so, you must attack Saddam Hussein. You must attack Iraq, you must bomb Iraq, you must occupy Iraq, you must control Iraq and you must give a regime which suits you, which will be friendly to you and which will help you to control the oil resources of the Middle East." That is the whole game plan. let us look at it simply and honestly.

As has been said, it does not matter what they destroy. "The American eagle must swoop and get its prey". That is the battle cry. The UN Security Council has refused to endorse the war game. The Arms Inspector Team has asked for more time and it has said it very clearly in its recent report. I have it here and I would like to quote from it to show that they have not found anything of mass destruction there. This is the report and I would quote from it.

"While the United States and UK had hoped to use Blix's second report to push through a second resolution authorising war, the outcome was just the opposite. The Guardian reports, "The French and Russian foreign ministers were given rare applause in the council chamber yesterday (Friday) when they demanded more time for inspections, in striking contrast to the stony silence that greeted hoarse and irritable insistence that time had run out from Colin Powell, US Secretary of State.

[Shrimati Margaret Alva]

"In a crucial report to the United Nations, chief inspector Hans Blix gave Iraq a mixed review—though today's assessment was far less scathing than the one in January. He again raised questions about Iraq's stock of anthrax and nerve agent VX and its long-range missiles, but also took a swipe at the two satellite images presented by Colin Powell to the Security Council. Powell argued that the images showed Iraqis moving arms out of certain sites to evade inspectors. He said, 'The reported movement of munitions at the site could just as easily have been a routine activity as a movement of prescribed munitions in anticipation of an imminent inspection.'"

The Report of the US Inspector has not confirmed the many wild reports which the US and UK were trying to sell to the world. And now, they are faced with this. But what does Mr. George Bush say? I quote his statement:

"If you want to keep the peace, you've got to have the authorisation to use force," said Mr. Bush, adding, "If the United Nations Security Council won't deal with the problem, the United States and some of our friends will".

16.00 hrs.

In other words, it is a challenge to the United Nations. We want you to do what we say. If you do not do it, we will do it any way. Is this the international law or the rule of law. Is this what we expect from the so-called most powerful nation in the world which they claim to be? It is said that out of 6,000 inspections carried out over 91 months, there have been only 100 cases where the inspectors and the Iraqis have differed. It is out of 6000 inspections. Yet we are being told that there have been blatant violations of the commitments made for the inspection. Sixty per cent of Iraq has been declared by these two countries, not by resolutions of the United Nations, as 'no fly zones'. No Iraqi plane can fly. Nobody can overfly. Only the US and the British bombers and U-2 planes can fly for surveillance. It is closed to everybody else. These are some of the facts which we are faced with.

Of course, the British Prime Minister, in response to the US persuasion and perhaps to the slogan 'you are either with us or you are against us, so join the coalition', like the little poodle, jumped on to the President's laps and dances to his master's tunes. Israel has been violating all the Resolutions of the UN and carrying on its aggressive acts against the Palestinians, but nobody says anything! The Arabs look for a peaceful way out, but,

they have their limitations. Fortunately, for the world, the European Parliament and the European Union has rung the warning bell. France has very firmly and clearly refused to go along and Germany quietly has said enough about its reservations.

But with all the diplomatic balancing that Shri Jaswant Singh has done over the past so many years after Government's balancing efforts, its periods of meditation and *mauna* from time to time, its accusations and proof of complicity against Pakistan, Pakistan has not been condemned. Though words have been heard from time to time from the US against Pakistan, still they admit publicly that they are their strategic partners in the war against terrorism. So, they survive; they have their nuclear installations; and they have their camps. They do everything they want, but the United States will not touch them in any way nor will they touch North Korea. Why am I saying this? Because, for them it is only Saddam and it is only Iraq which is the cause of terrorism today after Afghanistan. I would like to ask as to where do we stand. Why have we scuttled SAARC? Why have we debunked the Non-Aligned Movement? Why have we been repeatedly silent at the United Nations? There was a time when India's voice was heard with respect, and was looked forward to by those who had to take a stand. They wanted to know what India had to say so that they could also follow it alike. But today we are afraid to let our voice be heard.

In fact, the Government speaks in so many different voices. Somebody quoted some one. I do not give so much importance to people who just talk through their hats. But someone says, 'support the war', someone else says, 'do not support the war', someone says, 'we have no stand on the war' and someone says, 'our interests are more important than Iraq'. Why are there so many differing voices coming from our Government? I think the country and Parliament has the right to know what is their stand and what they intend doing Iraq has been a friend of India at most crucial times. We have had—as it has already been explained, I am not saying that again—a long relationship of friendship between the Iraqi people and India. I am not defending a regime. There might be limitations in the running of that State. There might be aberrations. I am not condoning them. My point is this. Does another power have the right to change a Government because it does not suit that power? I would like to pose this question. Who decides it? Can the international community keep quiet? Can India really be a silent spectator?

The other day I was at the Airport. I got introduced to an American Professor who had come to India for a seminar on Indo-Israel-U.S. cooperation in security

arrangements to fight terrorism. So, I looked at him. I asked him as to what he is doing in a Seminar like this. He said: "Now, we have to save the world from terrorism." I said "the Americans have no business telling us about fighting terrorism", I further told him that they are responsible for most of the terrorist acts in the world either themselves or because of their actions. I asked of him: "What are you trying to teach us?" So, he got quite upset. He said: "You forget that we liberated Asia from the Japanese. We liberated Europe from the Nazis. We liberated the Afghanistan from the Talibans and so on and so forth." He went on saying this. He further said that they liberated Kuwait from the Iraqis and so on and so forth. Then, I looked at him and said: "When do you think that you have to liberate Pakistan and you have to liberate Kashmir from India? Is that also on your agenda? You want to liberate the world. You are teaching the world what is good for it." I further told him that they should first search their conscience and see why the world is in the condition in which it is today. As I said before, injustice, which has been perpetuated in various parts of the world, will never ever lie without reaction from the people. They may be small countries. Since they cannot fight openly, they will take to acts of terrorism and sacrifice their lives so that they could get even with others.

The recent statement of the President of Pakistan is also very telling. President Musharraf, who is supposed to be their strategic partner, says very openly. "It is quite possible that we will be the next victims after Saddam." For the President of Pakistan to admit that, I think, is saying quite a lot.

There have been protest marches all over the world. Thousands, may, millions have marched in London, Paris, Madrid, Rome, New York and California. Name the countries and name the cities they are marching in their millions saying "no" to war and "no" to the attack on Iraq. In fact, bus-loads of volunteers have gone to Iraq from Europe as shields to protect the Iraqi people from their own forces. They say: "We will die before you touch the Iraqi people." This is the kind of emotion that is felt around the world. Perhaps, the most interesting banner which was widely published in India on the front pages. It says: "We have an empty warhead in the White House." I think that is saying a lot. This is not I who am saying it, but the American people in their march towards the United Nations said this. I would just like to say that this is not the clash of civilisations or this is not a religious war. It is a battle for oil and the desire to control the Middle-Eastern oil fields by the country which we know.

Here, I would like to read what appeared in the *Observer* in the U.K. It says and I quote:

"The U.S. plans to withdraw all its troops and bases from the country-Germany-and pull the plug on decades of military and industrial cooperation between the two countries."

It is so because they have opposed the war in Iraq. It further says and I quote:

"The plan—discussed by Pentagon officials and military chiefs last week on the orders of Defence Secretary Donald Rumsfeld-is designed 'to harm' the German economy to make an example of the country for what U.S. hawks see as Chancellor Gerhard Schroder's 'treachery'.

So, if you do not fall in line, you pay the price. This is the latest blackmail. Wars are also meant to rekindle the military and economic complex of the West. If there are no wars, there is no economic development in that country and there is an interest, therefore, in provoking wars and keeping them going.

I would appeal to the House on behalf of all of us that, I think, there is a need for us to, in no uncertain terms, come out with a Resolution on behalf of the people of India and say in very clear terms from this House that we are the representatives of the people of India and the voice of the people of India is: "no war on Iraq".

16.11 hrs.

(SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV *in the Chair*)

I think, at this time we need to stand up, be heard and counted as those who had the courage in a time of crisis like this to tell the world that India has a stand that this Parliament will not support aggression on Iraq or on anybody else, because what happens to someone else today could happen to us tomorrow.

So, I appeal to the Government and its good sense that before the Prime Minister goes to the Non-Aligned Summit, he should carry a unanimous Resolution of the House saying that this is what we feel, this is what we want and this is what we have to tell to the world.

[*Translation*]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali): Mr. Chairman, Sir, today the entire world has focused its attention on the issue of Iraq and it is being seen that America wants its writ to prevail in Iraq and efforts are being made to let down the UNO. In the past, people were of the opinion that America is a democratic country

[Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh]

and would respect the public opinion of the countries of the world and that reasonably it should do so. But what we see today is just contrary to that and it is evident that America is desperately looking for excuses to attack Iraq. Not only India but some other countries of the world have also protested against it. When terror strikes were made, the people of the world formed the opinion against it. When America was hit with terror strikes, it struck to that country what terrorism actually means. When America stood up against terrorism, it was then that public opinion was formed to end terrorism. It is a blot not only on mankind but on the entire civilized world. But today it is being seen that America wants to misutilize that mass-support. From mass support America wrongly assumed that its every action, right or wrong, would elicit mass support. But it is not so. Recently America has given a statement that irrespective of whether opinion of the world supports it or not, it is firm on its stand. Shall we allow this kind of writ to prevail in the world?

Mr. Chairman, Sir, our landmass constitutes 2.4 percent of the total land areas of the world but in terms of population, we are 16 percent of the total population of the world and we are the sixth nation. Now India should show its will power as the sixth nation of the world and as per our legacy, Lord Buddha had preached the doctrine of peace, Lord Mahavira, Mahatma Gandhi and Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru had sent the message of Ahimsa across the world. Keeping that in view, India should have created such an atmosphere and shown such a will power and have led the world it, but what we have seen is that the government is behaving in such a way as if it is the lackey of America. If something wrong happens in the world, then India should come forward and oppose that. For this purpose we require diplomacy. For this public opinion should be formed in a diplomatic way and India should use its diplomacy to mobilise the ideology of the powerful countries of the world so that American domination and influence may not longer continue in the world in any manner and if there is injustice and dictatorship any where in the world, India should stand against that.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, Annan Sahib is the Secretary General of the UNO. He has been making efforts. Inspectors have been sent to Iraq for the purpose of inspection. It is an irony that America is sending a team of inspectors to Iraq to locate as to what type of weapons are there in Iraq's possession. While America itself has stock piled nuclear bombs and other weapons of mass destruction. They are trying to find out a pretext or hatching a conspiracy to attack Iraq despite the fact that they did not find any weapon of mass destruction.

Although, they are sending out this message that they are ready to withdraw in case Saddam is prepared to quit. No country world over has the right to intervene into the internal matters of other country. The people of that particular country are free to elect anybody. Every country is free to elect their leader. Newsreports and communiqué issued assure that they would not inflict war on Iraq. Provided Saddam Hussein quits the power. What we want that the solution to this problem should come out with the intervention from UNO. We can not remain unaffected. people of India are living world over. If a country attacks the other, India is bound to be affected therefrom. Now, America is not searching for the terrorist, Laden Reports are there that Laden is hiding somewhere in Pakistan. Pakistan is assisting, supporting and providing shelter to the terrorists. America is adopting double standard on this matter. On one side, it is seeking our support in its fight against terrorism and on the other hand it is adopting double standards extending assistance to Pakistan more than us. There is a need to expose America before the world. The Government should come forward to do this. So, a message in unequivocal terms should be sent forth from this supreme House which represents one sixth population of the world that the issue, whatever it may be, should in any case be resolved through dialogue. The prestige of UNO should not be undermined instead the entire crisis should be resolved through talks. If America, attacks despite all these efforts, then we would come out against it and India should lead this protest.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I request you to be brief.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: I am trying to be brief. Union-Minister for External Affairs is not present here, Minister of State is here...*(Interruptions)*

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: He is also from Bihar.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: The House can not run without Bihar. Even international level politics would need Bihar. We can not undermine Bihar.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude now. Shri Brahmanand Mandal, now it is your turn.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: God, Budha attained enlightenment in Bihar itself. The person delivering the speech is from Bihar and the person, who is occupying the chair, is also from Bihar. Bihar cannot remain a silent spectator. God, Mahavir, was born in Bihar and spread the message of truth and non-violence. Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi launched Champaran-movement. Bihar has the period to witness all this.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Brahmanand Mandal ji, you please start.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: I therefore, suggest the Government of India, hon. Minister is present here, to stick to their convention and send a message through a resolution cautioning America against inflicting war on Iraq in any case. The matter should be resolved through dialogue. Showing disrespect to the principles of UNO should be stopped and activities leading to high-handedness of America should be stopped. Double standards being adopted by it should be exposed.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing would go on record.*

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: With these words, I conclude.

SHRI BRAHMANAND MANDAL (Monghyr): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to participate in the discussion under Rule 193. Today we are having a discussion here in the House on imminent American invasion on Iraq.

We know that most of the countries of the world except two three countries, are against this war. We also know that more than sixty lakh people in more than 600 cities all over the world came on streets to express their sentiments against this war. They were of the view that Iraq should not be attacked. The charges that Iraq possess weapons of mass destruction should be examined and be solved peacefully. We are aware that a team of weapon inspectors of the United nations visited Iraq in connection with inspection of weapons of mass destruction and they have gone through the documents made available to them and inspected the weaponry in that country but they did not find any evidence of Iraq having those weapons. They have not expressed any doubt in this connection. Despite all this America says that Iraq is a hub of terrorism. Iraq is a threat to America and hence, Saddam Hussein should step down and should leave Iraq. If he does not step-down and leave the country America will attack Iraq.

It is said that America is the largest democratic country in the world but the same America is not heeding to the views of the governments of other countries of the world. This is because America does not compromise with its own interests. History stand testimony to the fact that wherever in the world America saw its interest at stake, it has used force there. It is America which has abetted terrorism in every part of the globe. When abetting

of terrorism does not serve its interest, it directly uses its might.

Mr. Chairman Sir, our Government and our hon'ble Prime Minister have strongly opposed the American preparedness for war on Iraq but merely this much will not do. We all know that the whole world is passing through a phase of recession at present. Therefore, we should also see whether the reasons for this war that America failed in all its efforts to put its economy, which is passing through recession, back on track and now wants to resort to war. Oil prices are skyrocketing. America is the leading oil exporting country in the world and every country in the world use oil for different purposes. Oil prices are soaring in the international market. It is causing difficulty to every country in the world. Most of the money paid for oil goes to America.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Member, Shri Brahma Nand Mandal, please conclude now. This issue was to be discussed upon till 4 O'clock. Now, the time has been extended as other members also want to put forth their views on it. I request you to conclude in two minutes.

SHRI BRAHMANAND MANDAL: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I have just begun. I want to say that America is threatening even UNO and dictates UNO the modalities to work upon. UNO will have to act on the directions of American President. America does care the least about other Members of United Nations Organisation. Security Council will also work as per the dictates of the American President. Today the situation in the world is that America wants to solve every problem by using its own force. Power has gone into its head and it has become insane. We all are well aware of the word 'insane' as meant 'pagal' in our country. It is very difficult to assess the acts and behaviour of an insane person.

Sir, we have to assess our country's interest in international perspective. A mention has been made about the non-aligned countries also. At present, there are 114 non-aligned countries, out of which 66 are Islamic. These countries are staunch followers of Islam. These 66 Islamic countries have large population. That is why despite having huge oil resources, they are still poor, backward and are suffering from starvation. That is why, they are weaker nations. We are the propounders of Non-alignment movement. We must ponder as to who would lead these weaker nations. It is worth pondering whether India should lead these 66 nations and if it will be in our interest and also whether there should be some policy in this regard. I would like to state that in the national interest as well as in international perspective, we should not only protest

*Not recorded.

[Shri Brahmanand Mandal]

against America's attack on Iraq but also diplomatically make a move to bring all Non-aligned countries under a single umbrella so as to compel America to keep away from war. The second point is related with our economic interests. We share economic interests not only with Iraq but with all middle east countries.

Sir, just now my friends from CPM was saying that 200 million dollars would be wasted in war. I would like to tell him that he has not made the right assessment. War would adversely affect our economy and people would be distressed. Therefore, we should not only oppose this war but also mobilise all the nations of the world so as to check America which is preparing for aggression violating all the norms and regulations ...*(Interruptions)*

16.31 hrs.

(MR. SPEAKER in the Chair)

MR. SPEAKER: Mandal ji please conclude now.

SHRI BRAHMANAND MANDAL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, please give me two more minutes to speak.

MR. SPEAKER: I cannot give you two more minutes. Your time is over. Now please sit down now. I would allow you to speak on another resolution.

SHRI BRAHMANAND MANDAL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I conclude my speech but I would like to state that in the present global scenario, we should play a constructive role in international politics. It will strengthen India's position in the world. At present, the world has become uni-pollar. America is trying to rein in the world on its own terms. If it succeed, it would be highly detrimental for our country. I want to submit this much only. With these words, I conclude.

[English]

SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM (Thanjavur): Thank you, Sir.

No national interest is above the interest of the people. People even from America and England are against the war but the President of the United States and the British Prime Minister are eager to go for a war against Iraq.

The US wants to have a war with the approval of the UN but now it is clear that it would go ahead even without UN approval. Anything related to America is a

matter of world concern for them but anything not related to America is of least concern.

Ours was the first country to condemn the September 11, 2001 attack on the United States and support the stand of the US. Now, ours must be the first country to oppose the American move against Iraq.

Our Parliament, the highest symbol of our democracy was attacked by terrorists. Even after that, we did not declare a war against Pakistan. That is our greatness and that shows our Gandhian way of rule. Peace-loving countries like India should now allow big powers like America to attack Iraq.

Iraq is very much co-operating with the UN inspectors. I would like to know whether the United States would allow the inspectors to check their arms in the same way.

On behalf of my party, the DMK, I would like to say that as our leader Dr. Kalaignar has said, the issue must be solved on the basis of the guidelines issued by the UN Council.

I whole-heartedly support the Resolution to be unanimously passed by our Parliament against war to restore peace in the world.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Sir, they have not allowed a Resolution. Everything you said is right. Come and join us. They have not allowed a Resolution.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri P.H. Pandian. I am giving you three minutes.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI P.H. PANDIAN: Sir, is it only three minutes? We need ten minutes even for local issues. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: The speaker before you took only two minutes.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI P.H. PANDIAN: Sir, I thank you very much for giving me this opportunity to participate in the discussion regarding threat to international peace due to tension between USA and Iraq.

Sir, India has the highest stakes in the oil in that area. Over 60 per cent of India's crude oil imports are

sourced from the Gulf. I need not apprise anybody about it. India's exports to the Gulf countries in 2001-02 were valued at \$ 3.7 billion.

Sir, I would say that there are differences among dictators. I view Musharaff in a different way and I view Saddam Hussein in a different way. Saddam Hussein's administration is different from General Musharaff's. He has a secular idea. Secularism is there. He gives free education in that country. There is subsidised food. So, I view Musharaff and Saddam Hussein differently. Then, health is also free. This fact cannot be shut off. There is a good democratic administration. Though Saddam Hussein used to be a dictator yet his way of administering that country is different. The first democracy in the world is United States, but it has declared war.

Sir, after the September incident in America, Mr. Bush had said that it was going to hang down Osama Bin Laden. But he has not done it. So, these are all empty words.

As far as we are concerned, we are civilised. We believe in negotiation; we believe in discussion and we believe in participating in U.N. That is why, the U.N. Resolution is adopted in both the Houses of Parliament in the United States and also in Iraq. Even though we are not discussing that Resolution, yet we are discussing the contents of the matter here in Parliament. There should be a consensus on this issue because it is a global issue. There is no global Government, there is no global Parliament; and there is no global control except the United Nations. So, we have to strengthen the hands of the United Nations. They have submitted a Report after an inspection. We have to take into consideration all the circumstances of the matter connected therewith. The Government and the Opposition should take a unified one view. There cannot be divergent views on this matter. There is no unipolar world. We have different entities, different Governments, different States and different countries. Each country is electing its own leader. No country can ask the other country to elect a different leader. America cannot say that you elect this man as a Prime Minister. It is a democratic right of each and every country. ...(*Interruptions*) Saddam Hussein's invasion of Kuwait is bad. Everybody has agreed about it. There are shortcomings on both the sides. ...(*Interruptions*) Please listen to me. ...(*Interruptions*) We are in the Centre of this Parliament. You belong to Congress. They belong to BJP. You are an alternative to BJP and they are an alternative to you. We are in between. ...(*Interruptions*) But we cannot compromise on principles. India has its own principles, the policy of non-violence or non-

declaration of war. We have not declared even a war against Pakistan, though General Musharaff's diabolical attitude demanded a war. His behaviour on the negotiating table at the diplomatic level has not yielded any result. When we have spared Pakistan and when we have not waged a war against Pakistan, why should we support the U.S. to wage a war against Iraq? We should have declared a war immediately after the incident on the attack of our Parliament building. But war is an uncivilised way and it will destabilise the whole world.

But there are some countries which are against US declaring a war. There were large protests from Washington to San Francisco, Japan to Paris, Beirut to Buenos Aires and London to Moscow and to Damascus. So, there were worldwide protests, but there is a conflict of behaviour between President George Bush and Saddam Hussein.

Sir, I should say that it is high time that UN resolutions should be adhered to, UN resolutions should be respected. Though the USA was not a member of the United Nations all these years—though the United Nations' building was situated in New York, but they have not cared to become a member of the United Nations—now their big brother attitude spoils the whole peaceful atmosphere.

We are for peace; we are against war, but circumstances demand that a war should be declared only against Pakistan and not against Iraq.

MR. SPEAKER: Now, Shri Bhartruhari Mahtab will speak. You have only three minutes. So, you start quickly.

SHRI P.H. PANDIAN: This is a big issue. For local issues, we debate for two hours or three hours.

MR. SPEAKER: I know. We have some other constraints also.

SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB (*Cuttack*): Mr. Speaker, Sir, with war clouds gathering thick and fast over Iraq, India's foreign policy options in the new, more complex, world are being defined by circumstances as much as by its own volution.

Non-alignment ceased being an influence in the world long ago and although the movement is technically still in existence, its fate can be judged by the travails of two of its founder members. Yugoslavia has disintegrated and has now even lost its name and Egypt lives on some US \$ 2 billion in American military and economic

[Shri Bhartruhari Mahtab]

assistance every year. West Asia remains divided and beholden to the Western powers, particularly the USA, for protection.

At this juncture, I would like to quote hon. President's Speech. Just two days ago, he had stated in para 71:

"We share the concern of the entire world on the unhappy situation relating to Iraq. We have deep interest in peace, stability and security in that region. We hope that the wisdom of the international community, expressed through the UN Security Council, will result in peaceful resolution of this matter in a manner, which would benefit humanity."

At this juncture, I would like to deal with two or three aspects of the situation that has arisen today. Indeed, the world of 9/11, as it is very often quoted, is an inhospitable place for many States in the Arab world. America's horrendous experience of the terrorist attacks in September, 2001 has been grasped by a neo-conservative Republican administration to try to shape a new world order.

Americans cannot forget the fact that the overwhelming majority of the hijackers used passenger planes as missiles to hit the World Trade Centre and the Pentagon. They belonged to Saudi Arabia. Almost overnight, the cosy relationship the USA maintained with Saudi rulers over the decades, had been called into question. If the proclaimed goal of the new American policy is to democratise the region, it is unrealistic, if not hypocritical.

The truth is that West Asia today is volatile and unstable. The poison of the Israeli-Palestinian confrontation, with a built-in American pro-Israeli bias is spreading like cancer. India has general and specific interests in West Asia, particularly in Persian Gulf. In broad terms, New Delhi must controvert the American thesis of its right to act against a nation-State pre-emptively.

MR. SPEAKER: Please conclude.

SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB: I would suggest today that if an American intervention were to be the beginning of a period of instability in the region, New Delhi's problems would multiply. Flexibility must remain the watchword in promoting Indian foreign policy in a changing world.

Recently, we have also seen how the Chinese, Russians and the French have made it clear after General

Powell's recent passionate performance in the United Nations that despite Mr. Saddam Hussien's alleged offences against the U.N. Security Council's Resolution 1441, they most emphatically did not want war. It is an open secret today that invading Iraq would invite disaster. As the Malaysian Prime Minister Dr. Mahathir Mohammad and others have warned, it could kindle the fires of international *jihad*.

The cry for revenge will resonate from Xinjiang to the Philippines with more Chechen and Palestine, more Bali and Mombassa bombings.

MR. SPEAKER: Now, I call Shri Ajoy Chakraborty.

SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB: Sir, I would conclude. In the American scheme of things, NATO is being assigned peace-building' chores and ideally the United Nations should not make policy, but stand ready to undertake following duties after American power prevails. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Mahtab, please cooperate with the Chair.

SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB: Sir, I would conclude with one sentence. India's options are infinitely more limited, but it can seek to emulate Washington in choosing different partners for different occasions.

SHRI AJAY CHAKRABORTY (Basirhat): Hon. Speaker, Sir, through you, I urge upon all the hon. Members, cutting across party lines, to adopt a unanimous resolution against the war-monger and also against the aggressive attitude adopted by the America and Britain towards Iraq. This Indian Parliament should also adopt a unanimous resolution against war and in favour of peace all over the world. That message should go to the entire world.

Since Independence, I wish to remind the hon. Members that India was the leader of the peace movement in the world. Our the then Prime Minister Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru took the initiative of uniting all the countries of the Third World in favour of peace. He was one of the founding fathers of the Non-Aligned Movement.

When I was a student in the school, in my boyhood, I recollect from my memory that England and France jointly attacked Egypt. At that time, under the leadership of Pandit Nehru, our entire country was united against Britain and France. He had initiated a dialogue with the

then Soviet Union leader Nikita Krushchev so that Soviet Union could come forward to save Egypt.

I am sorry to say that this Government has refrained itself from taking a stand on adopting a unanimous resolution. In the other House, the hon. Parliamentary Affairs Minister told the Members that they were not in favour of the Parliament adopting a unanimous resolution. Our country was the leader of the peace movement in the world, our country was the leader of the Non-Aligned Movement, but I am sorry to say that this present Government is very much reluctant to take a bold stand against America.

I urge upon the Government to keep in mind the sentiments of our countrymen and follow our age-old tradition of peace. The Government should raise a loud and strong voice and condemn the war-mongering attitude of America as well as Britain, which is destroying the mankind and the world.

You may recall that on the 15th of this month, peace marches in protest of war have been taken out at different places in the world. The entire world marched in the streets in favour of peace and against war. In the country of Tony Blair, who was the greatest sycophant of George W. Bush, in London city, two million people assembled on the streets and took a march in favour of peace and against war.

Spain supported America in the Security Council. However, in the capital city of Spain, in the city of Madrid, three million people assembled on the streets and marched against war and in favour of peace. Not only in London and Madrid, in New York, in Rome and everywhere in the world including our country, thousands and lakhs of people assembled and conducted peace rallies and protested against war. Taking all this into account, our Government should maintain bold attitude against America.

Mr. George W. Bush said, 'I will unarm Saddam Hussain.' Who is Mr. Bush to unarm Saddam Hussain? The greatest number of weapons of mass destruction are lying in America. For the sake of peace in the world, who should be unarmed first? I believe that as long as America has these weapons of mass destruction, peace cannot be maintained in the world. Mr. George W. Bush said that he would remove Mr. Saddam Hussain from power. People of Iraq will decide as to who would be the leader of Iraq. Israel cannot remove Mr. Yasser Arafat. The people of Palestine will decide who would be the leader of Palestine. Ignoring the public sentiments and

the UN Security Council, America is unilaterally trying to take a decision to attack Iraq. I hope and believe that if they attack Iraq, the same thing will happen to America what happened in Vietnam. I urge upon the Government to take initiative and adopt a resolution for peace and against war which would send a message to the world.

Lastly, I say, 'Hands off the people of Iraq; hands off Iraq,' against the warmongers of America and Britain.

SHRIMATI KRISHNA BOSE (Jadavpur): Sir, I am usually brief, but it is difficult to be brief on a subject like this. However, I will try my best.

The discussion on Iraq is taking place today at a very critical moment when the whole world is poised uncertainly between war and peace.

Sir, I happened to be present at the Security Council in November, when the Iraq Resolution was passed. It is now famous as SCR 1441. I saw fifteen hands go up and a gong, and our fate was sealed then and there. It was a peculiar feeling. There was no dissenting voice that day. Though the Resolution was interpreted by different countries in different ways, we heard all the speeches that followed. US and UK spoke in one voice. France was totally interpreting it in a very different manner. In a way, we all had a sense of relief that at least the US had been brought to the U.N. and they were not doing anything unilateral. That was the concession for which we were thankful on that day.

However, Iraq was told that was their final opportunity to disarm and if they did not, they faced serious consequences.

The history after that, we all know. The inspections have been going on, reports are being placed every day, and the Chief Weapons Inspectors as also the representatives of the Atomic Energy Commission have said that they have not found any weapons of mass destruction yet.

The UN is now again in Session. It is heartening to hear a voice of sanity coming from France. The other European countries, including Germany and Russia, have come out very strongly against war. It is very heartening to see that. But it was much more heartening to see the people marching in the streets of London, New York and the other cities for peace and against war. That brings back our faith in mankind that everything is not lost yet.

Sir, I happen to meet in my Standing Committee on External Affairs many delegations that come from abroad,

[Shrimati Krishna Bose]

and I was pleasantly surprised to see that most of them were strongly against war even though the Government of their country unilaterally was for war. For example, recently we had an interaction with the Labour Party MPs here. I was quite surprised to find that all the Labour Party MPs were for peace and against war, and they did not support their own Prime Minister, Tony Blair's view. It was a pleasant surprise for me talking to them. They were much more strident in their views than we Indians were at that point of time.

Sir, I would agree with Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar that the Non-Aligned Summit has suddenly become very important, which is taking place so soon. When the Non-Aligned Movement was there, it was bipolar world. But India was one of the path finders. We had a moral command over other nations as it were at that time. But then came the unipolar world, and there was only one superpower—the U.S.

Now, India must look at its own self-interest which we did, and we were carrying on constructive dialogue with the US. Our former Foreign Minister is here. He was carrying on a dialogue with the US. I do not see anything wrong in that. We must not have an unthinking anti-Americanism in our mind, as some of my colleagues seem to have on the other side. But at the same time, we have to be clear that we will not uncritically support any short-sighted view or any terrible decision that the United States wishes to take. We cannot do that. On the one hand there should be no unthinking anti-Americanism and on the other hand, there should be no uncritical support to their actions.

Sir, Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar had mentioned about the Non-Aligned Movement. It has weakened, no doubt. People are asking: 'movement aligned with whom or against whom?' Sir, I think, we should give it a new name. It may be 'a movement for multilateralism.' That is the word which is now coming into real importance. It should be a movement for multilateralism now. There are 114 countries there. Our Prime Minister is going there. If we also get the support of the old European countries which are against the war, it is going to be a very strong support indeed.

Multilateral approach to all international crises, to all international issues should be India's stand now.

Sir, India has, I think, a unique role to play now, and the Non-Aligned Summit may give us an opportunity to get back the moral command that we once had over the other nations of the world. I do not know why the opposition members are casting doubt on our hon. Prime Minister as to whether he would be able to rise to the occasion. I am sure, he will rise to the occasion.

Sir, war will bring untold suffering and turmoil in this region. So, from our Parliament today, instead of saying anything against each other, one voice should go that we are all for peace and against war. Let this message strongly go to the world from us today. Mr. Speaker, I have done.

17.00 hrs.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA (Ponnani): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the two reports of the United Nations Weapon Inspectors and the International Atomic Energy Agency, presented to the United Nations Security Council on the 27th January, 2003, present irrefutable conclusion and evidence that there is no cause whatsoever for war against Iraq. These reports make it very clear that there is a definite and more co-operative attitude from Iraq. They have also made it very clear that there is no evidence of Weapons of Mass Destruction in Iraq. At the same time; Iraq repeatedly assures its continued co-operation with Inspection Commissions and assures that full explanations would be given, whenever called for.

Iraq has also enacted a law banning Weapons of Mass Destruction. The entire world, Mr. Speaker, Sir, is thankful to France, Russia, Germany and majority of the countries of the United Nations Security Council for their unequivocal stand in support of the work of the inspectors and in their clear 'no' to the war.

Sir, it is most unfortunate and highly condemnable that the United States has declared that it is prepared to go for war against Iraq even without the support or the approval of the United Nations.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the United States' strategy bears the mark of double standard. Look at the United States' attitude—an attitude of full support to Israel which has violated more than 500 UN resolutions, and certainly has amassed Weapons of Mass Destruction. On the other hand, the United State demonstrates impatience with Iraq even to the extent of flouting the world opinion. We know that there are protests throughout the world against war. There are protests even in the United States of America.

Interestingly, there are protests not only in the United States of America, but there are doubts even within United States' Intelligence Agency with respect to the justification of the White House to go to war.

Sir, I may point out that *The Guardian* in its issue, dated 9th October, 2002 carried a report under the caption: "White House exaggerating Iraqi threat: Bush's televised address attacked by United States' Intelligence'.

Again, Sir, *The Philadelphia Inquirer* in its issue dated 8th October, 2002 carried a report under the caption: "Officials' Private Doubts on Iraq War".

Sir, it must be understood that the United States' objectives are neither to counter terrorism nor to destroy the alleged piles of Weapons of Mass Destruction. The US's strategy is clearly to promote its own interests; its greedy eyes are fixed on the oil wells. The US' strategy is to boost its sagging economy. The US' strategy is to keep the Arabs and the Third World divided and weak in the interest of the US' supremacy. The US seeks to assert that it is the super power which has the right to go ahead and destroy military capability of any country that does not endorse its interests. The US desires, by flouting the world opinion, to assert that it is the super power that has the right to remove Governments in other countries and to remove even leaders in other countries, whom the US considers as a threat to its own interests.

Recently the US even wanted Mr. Yassar Arafat to step down. It is clear that there is no State that is a terrorist State greater than the USA. Iraq has suffered a lot. When it has demonstrated a definite will to cooperate, and cooperate more, the time is to consider even lifting of the sanctions against Iraq. Its people have suffered a lot; children in large numbers have suffered a lot because even the life-saving drugs were not available.

India has rightly emphasised that there should be a peaceful solution. But I regret that the main issues have not been addressed by India. Let it be made very clear that there can be no support for a war; there is no cause for war. Let India's voice resound: 'No war' and let there be a resolution to that effect from this House.

SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH (Rajgarh): Please give me a minute.

MR. SPEAKER: You can give your speech in writing; it will be taken on record.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Sir, I would like to raise a point of order with reference to section 43, entry 16 of the Handbook for Parliamentarians, relating to Parliamentary Etiquette, which says that after an hon. Member has made a speech, he should remain in the House.

For the last five years, I find that every time, hon. Dr. Vijay Kumar Malhotra makes a speech in the House, immediately he quits and goes. I have been waiting for five years for him to obey the instructions of the hon. Speaker. I request you to kindly reprimand him for this lack of Parliamentary Etiquette and request him to be here. When he can be here when the Minister speaks, there is no reason why he should not be here when other hon. Members are responding to the points that he made. Thank you.

[*Translation*]

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Sir, you are aware that I sit in the House more often than he does. I am sitting here since morning. Only on behalf of the Chief whip I could have left the House to call some hon'ble Members. I do not know, why this matter is being raised today. It is inappropriate to raise such issue when we are discussing Iraq issue ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY: Sir I want to make only a few points. Will you give me a minute please?

MR. SPEAKER: You can give your speech in writing; it will be taken on record. Now, the hon. Minister.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Ramdas Athawale, you can go to his chamber; he is a nice Minister.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Now, Mr. Minister, you can start please.

...(*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Mr Speaker, Sir, I want to say ...*(Interruptions)*

*SHRI JOACHIM BAXLA (Alipurwaras): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I condemn America's attack on Iraq. By attacking Iraq under the leadership of Bush, America wants to prove that it does not want to increase its dominance in the unipolar world, rather it wishes to restore global peace and stability by destroying the mass-killing weapons lying in the custody of Saddam Hussain. However, I do not support this argument. Various countries of the world are against this war.

In my view, America wants to re-establish its empire through military manoeuvres in the same way as Britishers had extended their imperialism in 19th century. It will prove detrimental for the world especially for the small countries. In view of the losses and the damage caused by the Gulf war in 1991, I think that this war should be opposed otherwise our country will have to face a bigger crisis. We want peace, not war.

*SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH (Rajgarh): Hon. Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am not an expert of foreign policy and I would request the hon. Members to forgive me if there is any mistake in my speech.

At the outset of this session, three main issues came up for discussion.

- (i) drought situation;
- (ii) construction of Ram mandir in Ayodhya;
- (iii) likely war between America and Iraq.

On the basis of priority, discussion on America's war against Iraq was taken up first.

Hon. Mr. Speaker, Sir, war between Iraq and USA took place 12 years ago for the first time in 1991. USA dropped 88 thousand 500 tonnes of bombs on Iraq between 16th January 1991 and 1st March, 1991. The number of bombs was 7½ times more than those dropped on Hiroshima. USA bombarded Iraqi masses,

there water resources, gas pipelines, hospitals, schools and about 9 thousand houses. More than 2 lakh people died in that attack. When asked about the casualties in Iraq, the then General Colin Powell of USA replied that he did not have any interest in the number of dead. His statement was published in *New York Times* of 23rd March.

Only 157 Americans were killed in that war. Through you, I would like to ask the Government if that war was between two equal powers. I am a Kshatriya and Kshatriya Dharm and our 'Shastras' state the weaker than oneself should not be hit. Now you may please tell whether we should oppose this war or not.

Today the situation all over the world is that no country except USA and UK is favouring war. History manifests that neither USA nor UK ever helped or favoured our country on political front. We must remember the days when late Smt. Indira Gandhi was Prime Minister and USA had sent its 7th fleet through ocean route to attack India. Due to some reasons, the war has been averted, otherwise India would also have fought war with America. The other country which is supporting the war is U.K. It is the same country which has ruled our country for 250 years, and even after the independence poverty is prevailing in our and many other countries and U.K. is responsible for all this. I understand that if we support the war, it would be the biggest fault.

Recently, Koiharton Watson visited India on 29 April, 2002. Through newspapers we came to know that he is a "Climate change Negotiator." As his visit was not much highlighted, we have some apprehensions. Is it possible that under pressure of USA we may against the agreement signed by us i.e. Kyoto Protocol. Whenever war takes place, it adversely affect the environment and therefore we must always keep this in mind.

Finally while associating myself with Mani Shankar Aiyarji, I would like to urge upon the Prime Minister as he is going to participate the meeting of Non-aligned countries, we hope that he will present India's point of view very strongly and see that the situation of war is averted, because USA has given support to the Kashmiri militants and we hope that he will never support the

country who has encouraged terrorism in Kashmir. You shall make these lines meaningful in NAM meeting.

Vijayi Vishwa Tiranga Pyara,
Jhanda uncha rahe hamarea

MR. SPEAKER: Athawale ji, you are a noble person. Please take your seat.

[*English*]

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Whatever Shri Ramdas Athawale is saying will not go on record.

...(Interruptions)*

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: I am reciting a poem.

"Jab Osama Bin Laden ban gaya dhoort,
Tab America ko yaad a gaya hamara buddh
Agar America karega Iraq ke sath uddh
To Sari duniya ho jayegi krudh
Aur America ke sath karegi uddh"

I would like to urge that India should not support America on this issue. It should support Iraq.

MR. SPEAKER: The speech will not go into record, but poem may go into record.

[*English*]

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am grateful to all the hon. Members, a number of them who have participated in this discussion. No doubt the Government will consider the views expressed by them seriously. My distinguished colleague, the Minister of External Affairs, who unfortunately is not here, will be fully briefed on this account. I do wish to express my gratitude to all the hon. Members.

One hon. Member, who initiated the discussion, chose to rather personalise his observations against me. I know that this is a recognised syndrome and inability to stop talking, therefore, I chose to ignore what he said. I must make explicit the Government of India's position in this regard.

It was made quite clear. It has repeatedly from time to time been made clear. In the last Session there was a full-fledged discussion on this very subject in the other House. But let me reiterate the sanction of the Government of India's position in this regard.

The Government has been maintaining active diplomatic engagement with the international community on the evolving situation with regard to Iraq. The Government's position is guided by its belief in maintaining the relevance of the United Nations in matters relating to international peace and security; the need to ensure fulfilment of the unanimously adopted UNSC Resolution 1441; the need to avoid a war and avert a humanitarian crisis in Iraq; the importance of maintaining international and regional stability; and India's vital political, economic and security interests in the region, including the security and welfare of the large Indian Diaspora in the Gulf area, and the traditionally strong economic ties with Iraq, which have weakened over the past decade as a result of UN sanctions against that country.

After the UN Security Council unanimously adopted the Resolution 1441 on 8th November, 2002, the Government had publicly stated that it recognises the validity of this unanimous decision of the United Nations Security Council. This Resolution is under Chapter VII of the UN Charter, also that Iraq had accepted the terms of the Resolution. The Government had further stated that Iraq had to faithfully comply with the provisions of this Resolution; that if Iraq did not comply with UNSCR 1441, the Security Council should decide on the action to be taken; and, if Iraq complied fully with the provisions of the Resolution, then sanctions against Iraq should be lifted. The Government had also expressed its belief that in the interest of all humanity, the issue should be resolved peacefully through the United Nations.

The Government has been closely following the developments—as I said in my introductory observation—in the UN Security Council on the issue, including the different interpretations of the reports presented by weapons inspectors to the Security Council as also the facts, and evidence presented by the United States to the Security Council as also the facts, and evidence presented by the United States to the Security Council on 5 February, 2003. The heads of UNMOVIC and IAEA have informed the Council in carefully-worded, concise, and though briefings on 27 January and 14 February. Their reports constitute the essential basis on which the Council would require to take decision on a matter of international peace and security.

*Not recorded.

[Shri Jaswant Singh]

The Government's position remains that a war should be avoided and, for this purpose, all concerned parties should fully cooperate in finding a peaceful Resolution to the issue. Iraq has to faithfully comply with the provisions of UN Security Council Resolutions. At the same time, on a matter of grave international importance, further action should be based on the broadest possible international consensus and it should be the Security Council that should decide on what further action needs to be taken.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, we sense, and the world senses, that the Security Council is coming close to making a decision between war and peace. We know that before it makes a final determination on the question, it would seriously consider the numerous complex ramifications that surround any step taken by it. These include issues such as the dangers posed by the development of weapons of mass destruction, risks of their diversion to non-State actors; the significance and credibility of enforcement action under Chapter VII of the Charter, also the important question of compliance with its Resolutions; the rationale and effectiveness of weapons inspections; and the continuing pressure of sanctions. Apart from the immediate consequences of military action in a region that is already volatile, the Council will need to take into account the impact of its actions, its larger implications for peace, stability and security in the region, as well as the dangers of radicalisation of public opinion around the world. Yet another set of issues of a different order of magnitude concern the potential massive internal displacement of people and possible refugee flows, the disruption of oil supplies, and other such immediate economic and social repercussions of a possible outbreak of conflict.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, these are questions that do not have simple answers. But they are questions that cannot be evaded. As the multilateral organ of the UN, charged with safeguarding of international peace and security, the Security Council must give a careful thought to these questions and issues before it makes an irrevocable move.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, India has also consistently maintained three other essentials:

1. That wars and conflicts are always the last option—never the first;
2. That the inspectors must have a full and completely unfettered opportunity to complete their onerous task, but equally that the UNSC cannot be expected to wait indefinitely to secure, what Resolution 1441 had itself said, immediate, active and unconditional co-operation;

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Sir, this is a distortion. It says that the UN Security Council shall be seized of the matter. That is the final decision and not that any kind of ultimatum or deadline can be unilaterally given by the United States to Iraq. But this is what is happening.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: I would prefer really to carefully state the Government's position. I did say that this is a well-recognised syndrome and I do not wish to keep on reacting to it. ...*(Interruptions)*

India has always maintained the primacy of the multilateral route in addressing the issue of Iraq. Indeed, the hon. Prime Minister had in the UN General Assembly last year stated that the world needed multilateralism.

The third point is that India has been and remains deeply concerned about the humanitarian situation in Iraq. The Iraqi people have suffered grievously. Ten million people—men, women and children—are dependent on the—UN Oil for Food programme—for their food. It is a part of India's overall concern and that is why, Mr. Speaker, Sir, I had said that these are questions that do not have simple answers but they are questions that cannot be evaded. I am very glad that we have an opportunity to address these questions in the form of this discussion.

* Thank you.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: Sir, the Government's position on this issue has not been spelt out. We would like to know whether the Government is opposing military action or not. What is the position of the Government? ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: The Government have patched up this issue. America is giving full protection to Pakistan who is indulged in cross-border terrorism. In such circumstances the patching up of this issue is not for the interest of the country ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Now, the House would take up Legislative Business—Further Consideration of the following motion moved by Shri Arun Jaitley on the 18th February, 2003, namely:-

"That the Bill further to amend the Representation of the People Act, 1951 and the Indian Penal Code, be taken into consideration."

Shri Janardhan Reddy.

[English]

Dr. Raghuvansh Pd. Singh

...(Interruptions)

SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY: What is the position of the Government? ...(Interruptions)

SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR: Sir, please allow one or two clarifications on this ...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: Iraq has given open support to India on Kashmir issue. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I have already taken up the next item.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: Sir, we had requested for a unanimous Resolution on this issue ...(Interruptions) Sir, nobody is above law. ...(Interruptions) This is an aberration from the well-accepted foreign policy of Non-Alignment as practised by this country ...(Interruptions)

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: The Minister has walked out amidst the discussions!

[Translation]

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: Sir, the hon'ble Minister has left the House after giving reply although it is a very serious matter ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You know that I have already taken up next item, that is why hon'ble Minister has left.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I have already gone to the next item.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Friends, you are aware that the question as to whether a resolution is to be adopted unanimously was discussed in the Business Advisory Committee.

[Translation]

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Mr. Speaker it would be better if Iraq issue is not be politicised. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Malhotraji, I am talking to him. The discussion had taken place in a nice manner in the House. As for the resolution, there was no unanimity on whether a resolution should be taken or not and therefore it was decided that there will be a discussion. And the discussion has taken place already. So, there is no question of a resolution in this regard. I have gone to the next item; Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh to speak.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR: It shows the arrogant attitude of the Government.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Why is it that the Minister refrained from informing the country through the House of what he has told you privately in the Chamber?

MR. SPEAKER: No privately. I will make it clear to you. This issue was discussed in the Business Advisory Committee. There was no unanimity there. Therefore finally the discussion took place and now the discussion has been concluded.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: I accept that. But, when on the floor of the House, a demand has been made for a resolution so that the Government can tell us its stand, the Minister had no business to scuttle what was raised in the Parliament and this would not do in a democracy. Then he comes here and reads out a written statement. He does not take into account what has been stated here. Over and above that, he has insulted me saying that Mr. Aiyar always talk too much. Is this the way the Minister is expected to behave? ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: The discussion is over. Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh, if you want to speak, you speak now.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: America wants to rule the entire world ...(Interruptions)

SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR: In the face of all this, the Indian Parliament should adopt a unanimous resolution against the aggressive attitude of the UK and USA. Does the Ruling party agree to it?

SHRI SUNIL KHAN (Durgapur): We should adopt a resolution unanimously that we are against the war.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Sunil Khan, please go back to your seat.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Let one Member speak; I am prepared to hear. What do you want to say exactly? Why do you shout unnecessarily? I do not want Members to shout like this in the House. If one Member has to make any point, he can stand up, I will permit him to speak. If you want to make a point, let others sit.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI PRAKASH PARANJPE (Thane): There are many serious problems prevailing in our country, but he want to talk about Iraq ...(Interruptions)

[English]

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

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: We were informed by the principal speaker on the Treasury Benches that in his opinion there was unanimity in the House as to what should be stated on this occasion.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Paranjpe, please sit down. I have permitted Shri Aiyar to speak. Let there be discipline in the House. Please sit down and do not talk like this in the House. I have permitted Shri Aiyar. Let him make his point clear. What is this going on?

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: The principal spokesman on the Treasury Benches said, even before we had opened our mouths, that there was unanimity in the House, on the question of threat that the US is making to Iraq, in the context of the rising and mounting international tensions between two countries. On the basis of his opinion that there is unanimity in the House, we laid down the elements of that unanimity. I specifically, on behalf of my party, said that whatever had been stated by the permanent representative of India in New York in October, 2002 contained the elements on the basis of which Parliament's opinion could be unanimously expressed with the expressed desire of strengthening the Prime Minister's hands when he goes to Kuala Lumpur so that he can speak on behalf of the whole of India and not just the Government of India.

I awaited a response from the Minister who is doubling as the Minister for external Affairs—this goes,

from the past—expecting that he would give us reasons as to why the Government of India did not desire a unanimous resolution from a House which, according to the Treasury Benches themselves, is unanimous on this issue. Therefore, if we could have either been given the reasons as to why not adopt a resolution or given an opportunity, I would be very grateful ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I am not going to permit every Member to speak. I am sorry. Is there anybody to respond to this point from the Government?

[Translation]

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am very sorry to say that yesterday it was discussed in your chamber, that this will not be conveyed outside that there is difference of opinion in House in regard to Iraq issue. There are two three basic things that India want to avert the war. India want that this matter should be settled through Security Council and all countries shall form consensus in this regard. Our country want that weapons in Iraq should be disarmed through Security Council, and instead of fighting one sided war. America should try to solve this matter through Security Council. Basically, the Congress Party and other parties too have expressed this opinion. Now, unanimity is being reached on this matter. I am astonished, it seems that CPM people have decided to not to be unanimous. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Pal, you have to listen to him now.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: Sir, I have not got a reply to my question. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Pal, please listen to what he has to say.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: On behalf of the Government, Shrimati Sushma Swaraj would make the stand clear on the issue.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: Sir, I had asked a specific question. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down. I have not permitted you. She is not replying to the questions asked by you.

[*Translation*]

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon'ble Member, Shri Manishankar Aiyar has raised a very pointed issue. He has asked when there is unanimity in the House, then why does not Government pass unanimous resolution in the House. This is very pointed issue. I would like to give reply in this regard.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you I would like to inform the House that we had decided in BAC meeting that instead of bringing resolution on the issue discussion should be held on this issue, and the very simple reason is that views are expressed in discussion, but in resolution only selected words are used. When representatives of Union Government go to international forum, it is expected that they should go with the spirit that they have to put forward the views and feeling of people of our country, as were expressed in the House, but ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: But they did not go with that spirit.

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: While speaking from the international forum, there should be some scope for selection of words. After passing of resolution the House, reaches to a mandate. Then, there is no scope for even minor changes like comma and full stop. If resolution with different language, other than as it was passed in House, is passed in NAM, it will be said that mandate of the House has not been considered. Therefore, I would like to tell Mani Shankarji, that there was no objection. But it was only that some scope should be left for change of words. The Government will work according to your views only, and will represent your opinion. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: The issue is over now.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing should go on record now.

...(*Interruptions*)*

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record now.

...(*Interruptions*)*

MR. SPEAKER: I am sorry, this is not the way to conduct the House.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Now, the House will take up item no. 7.

17.36 hrs.

THE ELECTION LAWS (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1999-*contd.*

[*Translation*]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (*Vaishali*): Mr. Chairman, Sir, hon. Minister of Law has joined the Cabinet again. We felt very sorry when he was removed from that post, now I feel happy when he has been taken again. While we were in college, we used to proxy each other's attendance which was considered bad and students were punished for it. That very concept of proxy is imprinted in our mind that proxy is foul, it is not fair. Proxy voting was not permissible by law, but it has now been brought by the hon. Law Minister himself in the shape of a Bill. The bill should also be pondered over. Army is the pride of our country it is our protector it defends the country. Army personnel should be given every kind of facility since they defend the country and should be given respect. No citizen in the country would ever say that there should be any dilution in the honours due to the army personnel on account of their serving and defending the country or that any rights should be denied to them. The common man has no objections on this score.

Sir, this bill to amend the Election Laws has been brought to provide for proxy voting which has been necessitated due to the delay in postal ballots causal by the reduction in the number of days for election campaigning from 20-21 days to 14 by the Election Commission. During those 14 days votes could be cast through postal ballots. But since there were delays and ballots could not reach within 14 days, this measure of proxy voting has been suggested. But we can see that proxy voting is already taking place. So many committees were set up to bring about electoral reforms. The Government on the contrary has brought such a bill that would undo the very system. Where in elections we think of fair and peaceful elections in every possible manner since democracy is where people have the right to vote. But when the very fundamentals will not be observed i.e. the votes shall not be cast in proper manner the democracy will not be strengthened, it would remain weak. It was already not permissible by law. It is being said that proxy voting would violate and put an-end to secrecy, confidentiality. An hon. Member on the other side,

[Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh]

Shri V.P. Singh said that there should be trust between husband and wife. Husband can proxy his wife or wife can act as a proxy for husband. It is all a question of having faith in proxy. Hon. Law Minister should understand the secrecy in ballot as also secrecy between husband and wife. Whether anybody would agree with a Bill which hampers secrecy and he talks about trust between husband and wife, allowing the wife in lieu of her husband, whether such kind of a logic is pleaded in the House. Trust between husband and wife is taken for wife acting as a proxy. ...*(Interruptions)*

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Standing Committee of the House upholds the unanimous proposal of right to vote to Army and several measures should be taken so that they may not be deprived of this voting right. They talk of technology expansion era and still the postal management cannot function so as to carry the postal ballots to its destination in 14 days which reflects their failure. They say that right of proxy voting should be given to army personnel since the postal ballot fails to reach between 14 days. I sense some political conspiracy therein. They do not even spare God in politics, what about sparing the army from being dragged to politics. It is their mawkish attempt to appease the army with the grant of this right leading them to believe that they are strongly in favour of giving high respect to the army by granting them this right to which the common man is opposed which is not true. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA (Gopalganj): Then why are you opposing it?

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: We oppose the proxy vote. One who is serving the country is acting as a proxy. You are in favour of proxism. That is why the committee opined that it needs to be deliberated upon and a way out should be taken, so that the army personnel living on the border should not be deprived of their right to vote. Even their mandate should be considered in elections, that is why I said that all the political parties should deliberate and must take a way out leaving proxy, so that they get the right to vote and are able to cast their vote.

Consensus was not reached among the political parties. Despite that the Government brought this Bill. It is contempt of the Committee and violation of Parliamentary decorum. It is the commitment of the Government to ensure consensus in whatever they do. The House should ask the Government what this controversy or divergence of opinion over the right of the army is all about. The Government must try for unanimous

decision, but they are eager to demonstrate that only they are strong supporters of army personnel. There are several measures in the wake of technological expansion and advancement but they have brought this bill. A personnel whose entire family lives there and is out of station at the time of voting, whom would he authorise and how would he do so within 14 days? These are all questions.

The people of Bihar have spread throughout the country, they go to other States as labourers, who will act as their proxy? How he will not have a proxy. The Government should see to it in the light of Equality. It is a fundamental right under the Constitution., Who so ever is out of his home town/state to serve anywhere in the country or abroad has got equal right. Question would be raised to grant him equal rights. It smells of politics, it is utter selfishness and the Government has not applied its full brain. The Government did not apply its brain to make full use of the recent technology that could help army personnel in exercising their right to vote and are not deprived of this right instead they brought this Bill straightway. It will not streamline the election process rather would undo it and how would they be able to stop proxy voting, we would like to know it from the Government.

With these words, we emphasise the streamlining of election process and not undoing the entire process as suggested by this Bill that too in the name of army. The whole exercise is dangerous that is why I would request the hon. Minister to give reply to the questions raised by me.

SHRI PRAKASH PARANJPE (Thane): What you have to say in regard to Bihar where proxy Government is in power? ...*(Interruptions)*

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Bihar is the birth place of democracy. Lechhavi was the first democracy of the world, there was right to vote, so you should not speak ...*(Interruptions)* Democracy was born in Bihar, so it becomes our responsibility to ensure its strengthening ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRAKASH PARANJPE: In Bihar*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Prakash Paranjpe ji, please resume your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Radhakrishnan you may please speak.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil): Mr. Speaker, Sir, there can be no doubt that everybody should be given the right to vote, particularly the persons serving in the Army should be given all opportunities in respect of their franchise. Now, our Indian Constitution provides the right to vote as a Fundamental Right. The citizenship includes the right to vote and the right to get elected also. Now, in the case of the people serving in the Army and in the case of the people serving in the Government service, they have voluntarily surrendered one right, the right to get elected. But everybody is getting the right to vote. Some people have surrendered the latter part of the citizenship right that they cannot be elected because they are serving in the Army or they are serving in the Government service. They are not allowed to get elected. So, it is a non-transferable right. The citizenship right is a non-transferable right and it is a Fundamental Right. I say you cannot transfer that right. Citizenship right includes both these things. I would submit that it is non-transferable.

So, I oppose this amendment for the simple reason that it is violative of the fundamentals of our Constitution. This is one thing and, secondly, another important thing I would like to say is that secrecy should be maintained. The hon. Law Minister was referring to the Supreme Court ruling. But the Supreme Court did not consider this question as such. There the question was of the corrupt practices being detected. When blatantly a corrupt practice is being introduced, the Government and the Supreme Court discuss *inter alia* not in regard to secrecy. The Supreme Court has never expressed the opinion that secrecy should not be maintained in the matter of corruption. That is not the question. So, secrecy is also a fundamental issue. So, in this particular case there are two violations, the one that I have already mentioned and the second one is that the secrecy is also lost.

Then, suppose we give the right to vote by proxy. Would we achieve free and fair elections? I do not think it is possible because in our land the wife will have a separate opinion about a political matter. The wife may not agree with the husband in voting for a particular candidate. Suppose a proxy is given to the wife. How can we presume that he or she will exercise the right of her husband in the way he would like because the man is serving in the Army far away. The election focus is in the constituency. The wife is entering the polling both

and exercising his vote. How we can presume that she will be voting according to the wishes of her husband? We have instances wherein the wife is opposing the husband and the husband is opposing the wife. It is quite possible that the father is opposed by the son and the son is opposed by the father. It is quite natural. Each and everybody in a family will have his or her own opinion. We cannot presume that the wife will exercise the mandate in the way in a free and fair manner.

So, it is also not possible. We are not giving a proper opportunity for the Armed Forces personnel to exercise their franchise by proxy. We are living in an electronic age and so many scientific developments have taken place in our country. So, we can find out a remedy for this.

Sir, I have participated in the election process at all levels till date. I have contested in the Panchayat elections, I have contested seven times in the State Assembly elections and I have contested three times in the Lok Sabha elections. Many scientific developments have taken place in our country and we are now having Electronic Voting Machines. So, we can use the modern technologies and we can find out a scientific method of giving voting right to the personnel of the Armed Forces. I hope common sense will prevail on the Government. We can pass this Bill at a later date by providing some other method of voting to the Armed Forces. Therefore, I request the hon. Law Minister to have a discussion with all the parties and come to a consensus on this matter.

With these words, I strongly oppose the Bill, as it is moved before the House now.

MR. SPEAKER: With the permission of the House, I extend the time of the sitting of the House till this Bill is fully considered and voted.

SHRI ADHI SANKAR (Cuddalore): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I thank you very much for giving me this opportunity to participate in the debate on the Election Laws (Amendment) Bill, 1999.

Sir, the Government should first convince the House as to whether each individual's right is transferable or not. Now-a-days, most of the people in our country do not cast their vote in the elections. Voting is a democratic right and it is also a fundamental right. It is the spirit of Indian democracy. This Bill is a long-felt need of the Armed Forces personnel. Everybody is aware that the personnel of the Armed Forces are one of the most disciplined sections of the people in our country. They must feel that this House is aware of their problems and feelings.

Sir, I feel that if this right is given to them, they will not misuse it. Our Party, the DMK, has the highest respect for the Armed Forces personnel. The Armed Forces personnel have expressed their feeling that they are not able to participate in the electoral process of the country due to the place of their posting in remote, border areas. There was unanimity in the Standing Committee also that the Armed Forces personnel must be given this opportunity to exercise their voting right. In the Parliament also, each party is very keen to see that our Armed Forces personnel get involved in the electoral process in a manner as others do.

Sir, I personally feel that the time has come for us to give this right not only to the people serving in the Armed Forces, but also to others who are serving in other places outside their constituency where their names are enrolled in the Voters List. They should also be given this right so that they are also able to exercise their democratic right.

Sir, on this occasion, I would like to say a few words about the State Election Commission in Tamil Nadu. In the last 1½ years, four or five bye elections were held to the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly. In these elections, the Ruling Party in Tamil Nadu have misused their powers and misused the Government machinery. The ordinary people were not allowed to cast their vote in a free and fair manner. All the polling booths were captured by the Ruling Party people with the help of rowdy elements and with the connivance of the police. Then, Voters Identity Cards were also fabricated by the Ruling Party people. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P.H. PANDIAN (Tirunelveli): Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is not correct. These kind of remarks should not go on record. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: If there is anything objectionable, it will be removed.

SHRI ADHI SANKAR: Sir, in the local body elections also, the same kind of practices were adopted by the Ruling Party people and all the counting centres were captured by them. In most of the places, workers of Opposition parties were assaulted by rowdy elements. Many complaints have been given to the State Election Commission about these practices. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P.H. PANDIAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is not a good practice. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ADHI SANKAR: But up till now, no action has taken place. At the time of election or by-election, most of the bogus voters are included in the list of voters. There is also fabrication of identity cards and misuse of Government machinery. All this is done by the AIADMK, which is the ruling party. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P.H. PANDIAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is not good. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ADHI SANKAR: Because of all these reasons, all the regional parties belonging to the opposition have decided to boycott the Sathankulam by-election. ...*(Interruptions)*

On behalf of the DMK, I support the Bill. With these words, I conclude my speech.

[Translation]

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: (Maharajanj, UP): Mr. Speaker, Sir, an amendment bill to the People's Representation Act has been brought by the Government and under this amendment bill the provision of proxy voting has been incorporated. I do not want to blame any particular State. There are so many States including Uttar Pradesh and Bihar in which during the elections we get reports that by booth capturing persons are being elected to the Parliament and the Legislative Assemblies against the will of the people. The biggest threat of proxy voting is that it tends to favour the booth capturers.

17.57 hrs.

[DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH in the Chair]

Another thing I would like to say is that as far as proxy voting is concerned it is not necessary that the soldier fighting on the border has the same opinion as his wife has or vice-versa. I would like to cite an example of Gamhar village of district Ghazipur where every family has at least one member in the army Shri Vishwanath Singh Gamhari has been a very eloquent member of his House and he was more than confident that when the ballot box of Gamhar was opened he would surely win but to his utter shock he tasted defeat in his own village. I am saying all this because I think that our soldiers in the forces or anybody else working elsewhere must get the right to vote, but if polls are conducted on the basis of proxy voting it is more than possible that the feelings of those soldiers or the employees will not be represented in a true manner. So through you I would like to say that this provision of proxy voting should be done away

with. The amendment bill in question is dangerous. Another thing I would like to say is that technological advancements have come such a long way today that we are using electronic voting machines in the States, and if we can do that we can also take the help of technology to register the votes of our citizens who are far away from their homes, and if need arises, we should get their votes counted and the result reported to the concerned returning officer. But if we go in for proxy voting, it is most liable to be misused. I must also say it with humility that from Shri T.N. Sheshan to all other Chief Election Commissioners, they all have tried to reform the electoral process from time to time, but in vain.

Today with regard to the ceiling of expenditure you have fixed for elections of the Vidhan Sabhas and the Lok Sabha. I would say with confidence that only five percent Vidhan Sabha and Lok Sabha elections are fought within that limit and in the rest of the cases crores of rupees are spent and the entire administrative machinery remains a silent spectator to that. The proxy voting you are talking of, I think, is going to prove meaningless. Today you are not able to curb the influence of money as more than one third people sitting today in this House have the blessings of the money masters, and if we keep aside that money, I would quite clearly say that the situations in this House and Vidhan Sabhas will certainly improve. So when you are not able to reform those things, you will certainly give birth to more lacuna by giving this right of proxy voting.

18.00 hrs.

So once again my humble submission is that you should give a second thought to this and send it to the select committee, and in consultation with all the parties try to reach a consensus to find out a way so that our soldiers deployed on the borders may use their franchise. If that is not possible, we shall have to find some other way out, otherwise, this dangerous process you are going to introduce will certainly prove to be a bad omen for our democracy.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (Maharajganj, Bihar): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the army personnel, be a sepoy or an officer do not get chance to exercise their franchise at the time of election. And if at all they get a chance their ballots are sent by post. This must be the practice in your area also. Such votes do not exceed 50-100 in number.

Ever since George Fernandes became the Defence Minister, he would visit border area regularly. When he

was on such a visit, the soldiers and officers of the army urged upon him that they play with their lives while protecting the borders and they face the barrage of bullets from the front at the war time but they do not get chance to cast their votes in election. They do not participate in the Government forming process as they are away on duty. Then a process started, meanwhile there was some progress in this direction. We are given to know that the Ministry of Law had sent a letter to the Election Commission in this regard but when we contacted the Election Commission, they told that they have not received any such letter. We congratulate George Fernandes Saheb as a meeting was convened with his efforts. The Law Minister also attended that meeting alongwith the ministers and the officers of other concerned departments. The officials of the Election Commission were also there. And with that a process started in this direction. And today it's a day of joy that our armed forces personnel can also exercise their franchise now. And we congratulate the Law Minister for that. Now they will also decide as to who should form the Government in the country. And their opinion will also count in this regard.

As far as the right or wrong voting is concerned, then who knows better than the Hon. Chairman himself or we ourselves. How the rigging takes place or the rigging does not take place. If the rigging does not take place, Bihar will be benefited by it. Police help in rigging the polls in Bihar.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, you are a wise man. We are proud of a person like you. But it seems that at times you do not speak your mind but you pay heed to what others say. You say that the labourers working in far-flung areas of the country should also get the right to vote. Here you are drawing a parallel between a worker and a soldier, facing bullet at the border. It seems that someone has misled you. When you were sitting in the Central hall, someone misguided you, that is why you have said so.

MR. CHAIRMAN: There should not be any aspersion cast on the chair. You address the chair.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: It is a matter of trust between husband and a wife. Husband and a wife still trust each other in villages. May be in cities, there may be some problem on this score.

[Translation]

However there are more such families even in cities in which the husband and wife's thinking is alike. When

[Shri Prabhunath Singh]

the mutual trust between spouse is strengthened only then the relation survives. I would like to submit to the Minister of Law that the right to vote should be given to the closest relative of a personnel serving in military only in case of the absence of spouse and a provision to this effect should be framed.

MR. CHAIRMAN: In Bihar, Shri Jugal Kishor Singh belonged to the Samajwadi Party and Shrimati Ramdulari Sinha was the Minister as a Member of the Congress Party.

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Please do not say such thing from the Chair.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Chair need not learn the lessons of impartiality from the hon. Member. I have only given the information and the Chair has this right to inform the hon. member besides the duty to provide correct information.

[English]

SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL (Patan): Will the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs let me know where Shri Swaraji is? Is he in the same Party or in different Party?

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): It is not necessary to be in the same Party but certainly I won't oblige Shri Swaraji by voting on his behalf. Being in different parties is insignificant? It is a question of faith and also whether or not to entertain his view.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: The faith can be seen in Bihar. There is a MP in Rajya Sabha from Bihar. Rabriji follows her husband's decision. ...*(Interruptions)* Hence it is not right to claim that mutual trust between husband and wife does not exist. The relation of husband and wife is based on trust and it is keeping this faction in view we strongly support the Bill and I would also like to give this suggestion to the Government that such an alternative arrangement should be made that none other than the wife should have the right to vote. I would like to congratulate the hon. Minister of Defence Shri George Fernandes and hon. Minister of Law Shri Arun Jaitleyji for respecting the statement of lakhs of soldiers and this Bill would provide an opportunity to the armymen to use their franchise.

[English]

SHRI P.H. PANDIAN (Tirunelveli): Sir, I rise to support this Election Laws (Amendment) Bill, 1999 on the following grounds. It was earlier piloted by a very senior advocate and former Law Minister, Shri Ram Jethmalani, and now again it is being piloted by the present Law Minister who happens to be a senior counsel. The proxy voting is not unknown to the world. It is known to the entire civilised world. In the United States, there is proxy voting. The handicapped and other people, who have deformities, can be represented by proxy at the booth. So also, proxy voting is in vogue in Japan—the most industrialised country—Belgium and in some other countries of the world. So, the right to vote is a Constitutional right. Right to stand for election is a statutory right. Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan had said that the right to get elected is a fundamental right. Nobody has got the right to get elected. The people have to decide that. But you have got the right to stand for election.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: That is what I said.

SHRI P.H. PANDIAN: So, the whole Bill is not defective. It is totally appreciative of the present circumstances. It is totally legal. It is Constitutional. It can stand the test of the law before any court because they have said it will attract article 14. It is not like that.

While exercising the franchise for the Army personnel, the wife is going to deliver the wishes of her husband. All these years, the Army personnel, who are deployed on the border, were not able to cast their votes. Now, they are able to exercise their Constitutional right of casting votes. So, at this time, the Government of India has given the Constitutional right to the Army personnel. So, I appreciate the Government because both the former and the present Law Ministers, Shri Ram Jethmalani and Shri Arun Jaitley, have brought out this Bill without any legal defect.

There is no legal defect. That is why I said that it has been tested in the United States and other countries. It would stand the test here also because our courts would follow the decisions taken in foreign countries. The entire Bill is in legal form.

I support this Bill in the interest of the personnel of the Armed Forces who sacrifice their lives. They are given this right for serving in the Forces. We have taken this decision after a big deliberation in our Parliamentary Party meeting chaired by our General Secretary and Chief

Minister of Tamil Nadu, Dr. Jayalalithaa. We had a discussion because I happen to be a member of the Standing Committee. We had a different view in the Standing Committee. That is why it was referred here. Some hon. members of the Standing Committee had a different view saying this right should not be given because it might be misused and some other hon. members said that it should be passed in the present form. So, we came to a conclusion in our Party meeting. The All India Anna DMK Party has taken the Parliamentary party and the Legislature Party and everybody into confidence because Armed Forces personnel and ex-servicemen constitute a very big population in Vellore, Tirunelveli and some other parts of Tamil Nadu. We, from Tamil Nadu, have produced many freedom fighters. A lot of our freedom fighters like Vanchinathan, V.O. Chidambaram Pillai and Subrahmanya Bharathi hail from Tamil Nadu. So, we have a patriotic feeling and out of that patriotic feeling we are extending our support to the Law Minister for having piloted this Bill. I support this Bill fully on behalf of the All India Anna DMK.

SARDAR SIMRANJIT SINGH MANN (Sangur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I want to dispel some misconceptions about the Indian Armed Forces that have crept up in this House.

The Treasury Benches have tried to ask, 'What message would the Opposition be sending to the Armed Forces if this Bill were not passed?' Now, this is clearly an emotional blackmail. I think, the Opposition is as patriotic as the Treasury Benches as far as the Armed Forces are concerned.

Secondly, India luckily has a voluntary Army. It is not a conscripted Army. If our soldiers are fighting in Siachen, Bomdila or in the North-East, they have gone on their own option. Nobody has forced them to go to these heights.

With the advent of militancy, now, we are all frontline soldiers. The other day, our Parliament was attacked. If the militants had come into Parliament, do you think anyone would have laid down and got shot? We would have grappled with the militants. Even if Parliament tells us now that we, as members of Parliament, have to go to the borders to defend the country, we have to go and we would do so willingly. But where is the sense in this emotional blackmail that if we do not vote for this Bill, what sort of message would we send to the Armed Forces? My party and I debunk this theory totally because the Armed Forces have been left out of the purview of the National Human Rights Commission. I do not see

any reason why anybody should enjoy a special status if there is equality in India and its Constitution. So, my party's view is that the Armed Forces should have the right to vote. We will stand by them. But they will not get any extra things that a common citizen does not get.

Sir, an hon. Member from Bihar has challenged your statement that you wanted the Bihari labourers to get the right of proxy vote. Now, I want to tell you that in Punjab, the Bihari labourers have been shot down just like any other person. So, if you say that the Bihari labourers should get the right of vote, why should not they get the right of vote? They also faced the same difficulties as the Armed Forces face on the border. So, I do not think that this argument will serve the purpose that just because they are serving on the heights of India and they are living in a danger zone and in a precarious situation, they should be given special rights.

I do not think that either the Judiciary or the President is out of the purview of discussion in this sovereign Parliament. We can impeach the President over here and we can even impeach the Supreme Court judges here. So, I do not think that it is a taboo, not to discuss the Army and that we should give them special rights.

My Party and I are totally against this new concept of building something special and extraordinary in India. This happened in the Emergency also when you could not criticise the Government machinery and the Government, and if you did so, you were peremptorily sent to jail. So, this concept of a special status for anybody, I debunk and I reject it. I do not want this sort of thing to happen.

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): Mr. Chairman Sir, I am extremely grateful to the hon. Members who have expressed their detailed views on this Bill. As I had said in my opening remarks while introducing this Bill, there were possibly two opinions even in the Standing Committee and the reason why there were two opinions in the Standing Committee was that one set of opinion was that because of the procedural and the logistical difficulties, we virtually have a very large section of our security forces who, on the polling day, are disfranchised. There are several categories of persons who, on account of the call of duty on the day of the polling, because they are serving a public duty, are outside their constituencies. There has been a reference to certain other categories also and I will deal with them. But the security forces and those who will get covered are approximately 15 lakh people

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who are living in far-flung areas. The logistical difficulty really being that in a Lok Sabha election, 540 Returning Officers will send Ballot Papers to the Army Headquarters or the Naval Headquarters where they will have to sort them out then trace out as to where a particular *jawan* or a particular officer is posted. Then, they will send it to that regional zone base and from there it will be sent to the border where he is posted. It is only then that he can exercise his vote and it is sent back to the Returning Officer by post, as a result of which a very minuscule percentage of votes come back after the elections are over. Even when there has been a gap between the polling and the counting, not many votes have come back.

Now, the Lok Sabha election is almost spread over three weeks. So, in the first round it is not that the number of votes which are returned back from the borders are numerically much larger than the others. So, virtually, a large section of our Armed Forces are disfranchised because of these procedural difficulties. The alternate view was that this would be finalised later because this is only an enabling Bill. The rules for conduct of elections will have to be amended in consultation with the Election Commission. It is not necessarily the wife, it could be wife, it could be father or it could be an adult child. Those rules will have to be framed in consultation with the Election Commission as to who could be the authorised proxy holder and those authorisation procedures would all be finalised under the rules so that an additional option is given to them.

After this Bill is passed, the personnel of the Armed Forces would have three options. If he is available near his constituency, he can go to the polling booth. He will still have the option of postal ballot. The third option would be that he would have the option of appointing a proxy from amongst the authorised persons. One of the doubts which was expressed by those opposing this Bill was what if you have no faith in your wife, what if the wife has political independence or political conflict with your views? Well, if somebody is in that difficulty, I am sure that he will not exercise the option of appointing his wife. He may appoint his adult child or he may appoint his father. If he has no faith in anybody, he may still exercise the option of postal ballot. It is not a compulsory option. It is only an enabling provision which is given to him. Those who do not trust the authorised persons, do not have to go *via* this route. They can still go *via* the traditional route of either coming to the polling booth and voting or alternatively, casting their votes through a postal ballot with the risk involved that it may or it may not reach.

The second argument which was given was that it is going to effectively violate the principle of secrecy. Violation of the principle of secrecy is important in every election, but I know of political parties which have expressed disagreement with this Bill, but which are openly supporting the other proposals which we have brought. Let us take open voting in a Rajya Sabha election. One of the principles on which this principle of open voting in a Rajya Sabha election is being brought is that if secrecy breeds corruption, then transparency perhaps may remove it. If secrecy principle in the case of Armed Forces is trying to ensure that it leads to deprivation of the voting right, then you have to make a judgment call. On the one hand, you can stand by the principle of secrecy and go by the existing principle. Even 90 per cent of your Armed Forces will not be able to vote. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL: I am sorry that it does not convince us. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRAKASH PARANJPE: It does not matter whether they are convinced or not, but the majority is convinced. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: Sir, I may not be able to convince every Member of this House. I am conscious of the virtues of unanimity. We have endeavoured to achieve unanimity on this Bill. When the Standing Committee expressed its opinion on the 13th September, 2001, an all-party meeting was called. We attempted to attain unanimity in that meeting, but we did not succeed. We have had informal consultations with political parties thereafter also. We have not succeeded in persuading everybody to come around unanimity, but absence of unanimity cannot mean that we paralyse the decision-making process and this Legislature abandons its responsibility of thinking about those who strongly feel that because they are in far-flung areas, because they are responding to the call of duty, because on the polling day, they are away from their constituencies, they must be deprived of their voting rights because the procedures we have followed are so long winded. So, if unanimity or consensus is not possible, I think, it is known to parliamentary democracy that in that event, let the vote prevail. We have tried our best to obtain unanimity. We are conscious of the virtues of unanimity, but unanimity will not be for the sake of sacrificing principles if you tend to believe in them.

Sir, this is not the only case. I referred in the case of corruption the Supreme Court's observations which almost said that secrecy is not so vital. If secrecy, at

times, leads to corruption and corrupt practice in an election, then the Supreme Court also said let transparency come in.

Here, the principle of secrecy, which we are following by a postal ballot, is leading to deprivation of the right to vote. It is leading to 90 per cent of our Armed Forces virtually being de-franchised. Do we then not have a little more dynamic thinking and look how people elsewhere in the world have thought of it? Now, I have cases. I have tried to study as to what they do in the other countries. It is not that we are experimenting it here for the first time. Liberal democracies in the world have experimented it. The United States of America, the United Kingdom, the Netherlands, Japan, Ivory Coast, France, Canada and Belgium are all countries which have now in a general election experimented the principle of proxy voting. That used the word 'proxy'. We are confining it to only Armed Forces, but they have, in some cases, gone a step ahead of us. There are some countries where visually challenged people, physically challenged people can appoint a proxy holder to vote for them.

We are not making such an exception today. There was a question yesterday which an hon. Member had raised, but we first have to see how our experiment succeeds because in the case of diplomatic staff in our country, we do not have to go *via* the Army Headquarters and the regional headquarters and then to the frontiers. We have a two-day service where you can send the vote through the diplomatic bag and in another two days it can come back through the diplomatic bag. We do not have a problem of this kind. In the case of diplomats, most diplomats have their immediate families residing with them in whichever sector of posting they are there. So, this problem which is peculiar to the Armed Forces in the non-family stations does not apply to diplomats. There may be some who have the same constraints, but there are countries which I have named, where diplomatic staff and those working in Missions abroad, have been allowed proxy voting.

United Kingdom has gone to the extent that if somebody on the date of elections is travelling outside the country, he can go to the returning officer before his travel, take a proxy form and authorise somebody else. It is because it is not something which you are compulsorily imposing upon another person, it is a voluntary exercise of that proxy. So, if the person who has a right to cast his vote voluntarily decides that I do not want the postal ballot, I do not want to go myself, I am 2,000 kilometers away, I am authorising my father or my son or my daughter or my wife and I trust them that they would

cast their vote according to the principle, this is the principle on which the proxy voting has been given.

The other option is, if you do not follow this route, then continue the present *status quo* where 90 per cent of the Armed Forces are virtually deprived of their right to vote. Now, in these situations we have to make a choice as to which of the two principles we really follow. We in the government and those hon. Members supporting us consider that given a choice between virtually defranchising them or giving them a voluntary option of appointing a proxy, we feel that the second option perhaps will be a more balanced option. This will be an experiment which we should try in a democracy like ours, particularly when officers of the Army have appeared before our Standing Committee. They have strongly argued the case. Our Armed Forces strongly feel that there must be a system where they must get a right to vote and, therefore, perhaps we have felt that this system would be the best.

We have considered other options. Even Members who are opposing say, 'we are not opposed to the army getting this right, make it more effective but think of another alternative'. Sir, in the All-Party Meeting, in informal consultations, and even here the Members made a suggestion which is this other option. The other option will not fly from heaven. The options have to be made by human beings. So, please suggest a better option. Suggestions have been made. Can you agree to extend this 14 days time to 21 days or 28 days?

Most Lok Sabha Members feel that this would again increase the cost and the effort involved in elections, so it is not a viable option. After the voting is over, wait indefinitely for two to three weeks for the ballots to come. People are not prepared for this. Even when in the first phase of Lok Sabha elections you have three weeks before the counting, it has not increased the number of army ballots which are coming.

Well, we are in an age of electronic revolution, and in an age of electronic revolution find out an electronic method by which the vote will be cast. Now, leaving aside the argument that hacking is not unknown to electronic methods and the entire secrecy would disappear the moment hacking takes place, how would it take place? You will have a small contingent of the Armed Forces in a ship, the naval officers, somebody on an airbase, some 1,000 people on a mountain somewhere, somebody on a border frontier, 540 Lok Sabha constituencies. So, if there are 10,000 army personnel in a given place, we send 540 electronic machines there, 25 at another place, there

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may be 100 at another place because these forces are going to be located not at hundreds but at thousands of places. To send 540 electronic machines at all places and, therefore, by that process you cast your vote, is probably a remedy which would be worse than what the existing problem really is. Therefore, to simply suggest 'to find out an electronic method or find out a better way', even though I cannot suggest a better way, will not serve the purpose. We have tried this for the last four years and we have not got a better suggestion as yet. Therefore, this seems to be a new experiment which we must make. If this experiment succeeds, we can always decide how to go further about it. If improvements are required at a later date, I am sure, this House is always there to make those improvements.

With these words, I commend to this hon. House that this Bill be accepted and taken into consideration.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That the Bill further to amend the Representation of the People Act, 1951 and the Indian Penal Code, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House will now take up clause by clause consideration of the Bill.

The question is:

"That clauses 2 to 5 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was accepted.

Clause 2 to 5 were added to the Bill.

Clause 1	Short Title & Commencement
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Amendment made:

Page-1, line 4,--

for "1999"

substitute "2003" (2)

(Shri Arun Jaitley)

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That clause 1, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 1, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Enacting Formula	Amendment of section 171-D
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Amendment made:

Page 1, line 1,--

for "fiftieth"

substitute "Fifty-fourth" (1)

(Shri Arun Jaitley)

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That the Enacting Formula, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

*The Enacting Formula, as amended,
was added to the Bill.*

The Long Title was added to the Bill.

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed."

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed."

The motion was adopted.

[*Translation*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now the House stands adjourned till 11 o' clock forenoon February 20, 2003.

18.33 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Thursday, February 20, Phalguna 1, 1924 (Saka)

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