

LOK SABHA DEBATES

(English Version)

Twelfth Session
(Thirteenth Lok Sabha)



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LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Wednesday, April 30, 2003/Vaisakha 10, 1925 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at
Eleven of the Clock.

(MR. SPEAKER in the Chair)

(i) Re: Proposed talks between India and Pakistan

[Translation]

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

MR. SPEAKER: Let Shri Prabhunath Singh ji speak first. After him you can speak.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (MAHARAJGANJ, BIHAR): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have already requested him to allow me to speak first. It has been reported in the newspapers that the Prime Minister of Pakistan had a long talk with the Indian Prime Minister over telephone and the Pakistani Prime Minister invited the Indian Prime Minister to visit Pakistan for holding dialogue so that some solution could be found out to ease the mounting tension between the two countries. We are not against the talks and if the problem can be solved through talks, it is all the more better. The people of the country also wish that the tension between the two countries must end. But whenever we extended our hand for friendship with Pakistan, our country has suffered a set back. ...*(Interruptions)* When our Prime Minister went to Pakistan by bus we had to face the Kargil war. When we invited Musharraf Saheb to Agra, a number of incidents took place here, whether it was attack on the Jammu-Kashmir Assembly, attack on the religious places or the attack on the Parliament.

MR. SPEAKER: We can have discussion on this subject. You may request B.A.C. to allot time for discussion on this.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: I will conclude within a minute. I want to say that there were statements of the Prime Minister and the Home Minister also that unless and until the terrorists go back to Pakistan there will not be any talks. There was also a statement that there will not be any talks until the cross border terrorism stops.

MR. SPEAKER: I have to start Question Hour.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: I am going to conclude

within a minute. I want to say that there was a statement from the Prime Minister that Pakistan must not test our patience. There was also a statement that now we will have final war. First of all our Prime Minister should take this House and nation into confidence He should give a statement in the House stating the special conditions which have compelled the Prime Minister to initiate talks with Pakistan. Through you, Sir, we want to know this. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI (KHAJURAHO): Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is a very important issue. I urge upon you to kindly give priority to this and there should be a discussion on this issue. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I understand this is an important issue.

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, as Shri Prabhunathji said that whenever there has been talks between India and Pakistan there were no satisfactory results. The Prime Minister of India had taken initiative earlier also by taking a bus to Pakistan and later on there was a summit at Agra; even after that not only this Government and this House but the nation also has accepted that unless and until Pakistan stops to encourage the terrorist activities we will not have any talks with them. This a very serious issue. I would like to know from the Government as to what new conditions and circumstances have built up due to which the Government is going for talks with Pakistan?

MR. SPEAKER: Raise this point when there is a discussion on this issue.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Yesterday there was a major incident at Jammu where 13 terrorists were killed in encounter and 6 Jawans became martyr. That is why we want to know the special circumstances and situation which have compelled the Government to have talks with Pakistan? ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You can raise these points when a discussion is held on this issue. Please take your seat. I have to start the Question Hour.

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Pakistan is not desisting from its activities but on the other side we are anxious to have talks with him. Whether it will be appropriate to have talks with them without taking the nation and this House into confidence? It is my request that this is an important issue, we should have a detailed discussion on this subject and the Prime Minister should also give a statement in this regard.

[English]

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY (MIRYALGUDA): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to associate myself with the arguments advanced by my colleagues. Sir, the Prime Minister, the Deputy Prime Minister, the Foreign Ministry spokesmen have been speaking in different voices, resulting in not only contradiction but confusion. There is a need for a full-fledged debate on the issue. There is a need for the Government to make a specific statement. As of now, our confusion has been worst confounded by all these statements.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: I am not holding discussion over this subject but I am just giving opportunity to the Members, who have given notice. Mr. Raghunath Jha kindly tell us whether you agree with this subject or not.

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA (GOPALGANJ): When Hon'ble Prime Minister paid a visit to Jammu and Kashmir he declared to have talks with the Pakistan and said that we want to have friendship with Pakistan. I want to say that friendship should be initiated from both sides. Prime Minister had also said that first of all Pakistan should stop terrorist activities in our country then only we will hold talks. ...*(Interruptions)*

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (SOUTH DELHI): Let the Question Hour start. This issue can be raised during the Zero-Hour also.

MR. SPEAKER: Today, there is no Zero-Hour that is why I have allowed him to speak.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV (JHANJHARPUR): The Government has succumbed to external pressures. The Government should state the situations which have compelled them to hold talks. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SAIDUZZAMA (MUZAFFARNAGAR): I have also given a notice.

MR. SPEAKER: You can raise your point when the Finance Minister replies.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Kindly make your point in a sentence.

[English]

SHRI PRABODH PANDA (MIDNAPORE): Sir, no intervention is required on this issue. ...*(Interruptions)* Though

the role of Pakistan in reviving the terms for talks is condemnable, though the cross-border terrorism is there, peace initiatives should be taken. No third party intervention is required and nothing should be put before the UNO in this regard. Let discussion be the only way to resolve the matter.

MR. SPEAKER: Now, I am going to Question Hour.

11.07 hrs.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Diabetes and Cardiovascular Diseases

*563. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether leading doctors of the Birmingham-based University of Alabama and the Madras Diabetes Research Foundation have sounded warning of a high incidence of diabetes and cardiovascular diseases in India;

(b) if so, whether India has the highest incidence of these diseases;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether any extensive study on the increasing cases of heart disease has been done by the Union Government;

(e) if so, whether any steps have been taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to bring down the cost of surgery of heart patients;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the action plan chalked out to check the incidence of diabetes and cardiovascular diseases in the country?

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (g) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

There is no nation wide data collection regarding the number of people suffering from diabetes and heart diseases. However, according to Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) the doctors of the University of Alabama at Birmingham and the Madras Diabetes Research Foundation (MDRF) in Chennai have emphasized the high incidence of diabetes and cardiovascular disease in India. It has been estimated that 19.4 million individuals were affected by diabetes in India in 1995 and these numbers are expected to increase to 57.2 million (1/6th of the world total) by the year 2025.

As far as heart diseases are concerned, World Bank Health Sectoral Priorities have estimated doubling of deaths due to CVD between 1985-2015 in India. Meta analysis of the published surveys reported in the Indian Heart Journal indicates that the prevalence of coronary heart disease which is one of the heart ailments is increasing in India over the decades from 1960-95. The number of cardiac patients are 65 million which include hypertension, Ischaemic Heart Disease (IHD), stroke and Rheumatic Heart Disease which is 6.6% of the total population and deaths due to Cardiovascular Disease are 6,00,000 consisting of 6.8% of total deaths.

Treatment of diabetes and heart ailments is available in the regular health care delivery system in the country. For complicated cases, specialized institutions in the different parts of the country provide necessary treatment. Government hospitals like Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia (RML), Safdarjung Hospital and Jawaharlal Institute of Postgraduate Medical Educational and Research (JIPMER), Pondicherry etc. as well as premier institutions like All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), Post Graduate Institute (PGI), Chandigarh etc. The cost of surgery is either free or highly subsidized in Government institutions. The National Illness Assistance Fund (now known as Rashtriya Arogya Nidhi) is also available for providing financial assistance for treatment of poor patients.

Since diabetes and CVD are lifestyle related diseases, it is very important to adopt preventive lifestyle intervention measures such as healthy diet, increased physical activity, avoidance of tobacco and stress weight reduction etc. for control of diabetes & CVD in India. These interventions are being emphasized through Information, Education & Communication (IEC) activities of the Government including through Central Health Education Bureau (CHEB).

[English]

SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Sir, it has been pointed out in the statement referred to in the reply that it has been estimated that 19.4 million individuals were affected by

diabetes in India in 1995 and these numbers are expected to increase to 57.2 million by the year 2025. The number of cardiac patients also is 65 million; it has been stated in the reply given by the hon. Minister.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Raghunath Jha ji, it is Question Hour please do not talk with other Members. I want to tell the Minister also that please do not talk with each other. Let the Question of the Hon'ble Member be heard.

[English]

SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: I want to draw the attention of the hon. Minister to a news item on health care management which says: 'India to have 100 million heart patients by 2020. So, such is the alarming situation, that the number of patients will go to 100 million by 2020.

[Translation]

The facility for the treatment of Heart diseases is only available in big cities like Kolkata, Chennai, Delhi and Bangalore. These facilities are not available at District or Divisional Headquarters. In Bangalore the Jaidev Government Hospital is having this facility. People from throughout the state can not visit that hospital. I want to know from the hon. Minister whether there is any proposal under consideration to provide the facilities of primary checkup or facilities like Angiography at Divisional headquarters because the number of heart patients is increasing? Since this facility is costly, a common man can not afford to avail this. That is why a common man can not go for surgery, treatment or for the investigation of this disease. Whether there is any scheme with the Government to provide these facilities to the common people at the Divisional Headquarters of various states so that the death rate due to this disease and the alarming situation that has arisen can be brought into control?

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Mr. Speaker Sir, the concern shown by the Member regarding the increase in the number of cardio-vascular disease is really genuine. It is true that this disease is spreading.

Tertiary health care is necessary for controlling these kinds of diseases because it is a super speciality disease. It gives me a pleasure that the Government of India has decided to provide tertiary care, which was restricted to very limited places, at few more places and you must have read this in the newspapers also. For this the Government has mentioned that 6 more hospitals on the pattern of AIIMS will be constructed. Besides a mention has been made to upgrade the facilities of Medical colleges. If 6 hospitals, on the pattern

of AIIMS are constructed and the Medical colleges are upgraded by providing the infrastructure of a Super speciality hospital than the concern shown by the hon. Member can be solved to a great extent. Government hospitals caters the need of the poor people. Private hospitals are meant for rich people. Private health care centers have facilities for treating various heart diseases but the cost of treatment is very high. They do not cater the needs of poor people. But what ever facilities I have mentioned above will now be available in Government hospitals. As the facility of surgery for the poor people is free or at a very less cost in AIIMS the same facility will now be available in Government hospitals also.

[English]

SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: I would like to know, whether the Government's attention has been drawn to the news item which appeared in the Asian Age dated 27.3.2003 that the incidence of diabetes and cardiovascular diseases in India is much higher than in China. Increase in incidence of these two diseases have become a major concern. That is the view expressed by Dr. V. Mohan who heads the Madras Diabetes Research Foundation. If so, I would like to know the Government's reaction in this regard.

[Translation]

Whether the Government has taken any preventive measures or has started any awareness campaign for the patients of Diabetes and Heart diseases so that they can know the reasons of the various diseases and they can get awareness about them. Whether any such programme is under consideration?

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: It is true that the number of Diabetic patients is increasing. Diabetic disease which was supposed to be a rich man's disease or the disease prevailing in cities has now spread among the poor and people in rural places. A National Diabetes control programme was launched in the Seventh five plan of India but that programme could not be taken up at a larger scale. As the hon. Member has said just now and keeping in mind the fact that Diabetes is a gate way for other various diseases. The Government has felt the need of national level awareness campaign programme. So far as awareness of this disease is concerned if true information like controlling obesity, having balanced diet, going for a walk or doing exercise can avoid a person becoming a patient of Diabetes. Besides Yoga, naturopathy can prevent us from this disease. If people are made aware of these things then they can save themselves. We are preparing a package of information, education and communication for diabetes. Four Video Spots are ready which will be shown on

Doordarshan and at other places. Gravity of the situation as presented by hon'ble Member of Parliament is shared by me also and I would like to say that we shall prepare a comprehensive plan to combat such type of diseases.

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, I would like to tell hon'ble Minister through you that in Maharashtra Dr. Aparna Nandedkar and her brother Ravi Nandedkar who has done M. Pharma also, they both have done research on diabetes. They gave anti-diabetic herbal to 5000 patients and it happened first time in the world that 5 out of those 5000 patients were completely cured. Three institutions of Zurich University International society for Medicine and Research and Ethnoformocology called upon them for a conference in Switzerland and they gave their presentation in that conference. After 6 months of correspondence with them they were again invited in three to seven weeks in "Natural Product Research and challenges in the new Millennium" conference and 56 Scientists from different countries were present there and their medicine was acclaimed there. The conference was inaugurated by Noble Prize winner Dr. Richard. There was a panel of judges and that committee approved their anti diabetic herbal medicine. I am also suffering from diabetes and today morning itself I rang them up. I am also taking their medicine. If the Government of India want to have their patent then they are ready to surrender. Do you want their patent and would like to inspire them to continue the research further?

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: The basic theme of hon'ble member's speech is that herbal medicine can also be relevant and effective in diabetes; this is true. I would like to say that the health care delivery system we have and through which we cure diabetes is comprised of Ayurved, Homeopathy, Unani and Siddha. Whatever he has talked about a specific doctor's research work, we shall examine that research work. If it is found suitable and useful and if it can be used for the benefit of common man, then we will take action in that regard.

[English]

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: Sir, about three years back, a great revolution was ushered in the field of medical world when the mapping of the gene was conducted. At that time it was told that because of the improvement in the field of biotechnology, medicines for the prevention of diabetes could be invented within two years. My question to the hon. Minister is this. Has there been any research and development in our country for the production of such medicines which would prevent diabetes?

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Mr. speaker, Sir, Research and development work on the level of diabetes is a continuous process which continues and our various branches are doing research work on it. You are only talking about modern medicine, but research on diabetes is going on in Ayurved and Homeopathy too. As a result of this diabetic patients are getting cured in the small places also. I have only to say this is a continuous process.

SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI: Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, hon'ble Minister has told that many programmes are going on for diabetes and heart ailments in the field of health but the situation is just contrary to it. If we look at the annual budget of Government of India whatever amount is allocated for health services is the same amount as allocated during last year. The amount has not been increased. I have to say that 40% people of the country live below poverty line and 70% people reside in villages. A large percentage of those people is not aware of the fact that whether they are suffering from diabetes or any kind of heart ailment or not. Due to poverty they can not afford to pay a visit to cities for medical check up or for treatment by spending money. Those who reside in villages and are suffering from any kind of disease can not afford a treatment due to lack of knowledge or shortage of money. Whether government has any scheme for them? You have said that you want to open some branches of AIIMS. My submission is that recently a 800 bed capacity ultra modern hospital with all facilities has been set up in Reeva district. Last year our leader Smt. Sonia Gandhi, the leader of the congress, inaugurated that hospital which has been constructed with the help of OPEC countries. The building of the hospital is grand with all facilities. I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister, will you give your permission to that hospital to operate as a branch of AIIMS? I request that that hospital to be taken over to provide medical facilities to poor of this backward region.

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon'ble Member has asked three supplementary questions intertwined into one. I shall reply them one by one. First thing he has told that there is no increase in the present allocation in comparison with last year under the Head of health services. I would like to say that the year 2002-2003 was the first year of our five year plan so the budget estimates could not be utilized fully. Once budget is made next time, then the last year's expenditure is reviewed and on that basis the amount is increased or decreased. Since last year's fund could not be spent fully so it was considered that the present BE will not be lesser than RE, it will be according to that. But it does not mean what you meant to say. If we spent more this time, we will get enhanced RE. We will spend more this

time and we will get more fund allocation in RE with your kind cooperation.

Second thing he told that if we have any scheme for those people who are not aware of their diseases. Sir, you yourself organised Health Mela in your constituency, where people got their blood-tests done at their own door steps, so that they can know whether they are suffering from diabetes or not. We do small investigation and tell them. This Mela has succeeded in your constituency. People could never have thought that so much investigations can take place at their own door steps. A kind of awareness came through Health Mela. We carry investigations and tell them the result then and there. This experiment had succeeded to a large extent. Now they can get their treatment and blood test done. Our government has a big plan to bring awareness through Health Melas and this helps in tests being done.

Third thing as Mr. Tiwari has said about the hospital built by OPEC countries. He himself called upon me and he knows my answer. I had told him that if we get an already built hospital, then we can run it by recurring expense. This a good news that your party president went there. If your party president or Chief Minister who also belongs to your party writes a letter to us to take over Reeva Hospital and to run it on recurring expenditure basis like AIIMS. As I had assured them personally and I give assurance in the house also that if we get that hospital, our building expenditure will be avoided. If we get that 800 bed hospital then we can run it as a branch of AIIMS, but a written request should come from your Chief Minister that he is ready to let this hospital run as a branch of AIIMS.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Q. No. 564. Shri Raghuraj Singh Shakya - not present.

Shrimati Shyama Singh.

Violation of Norms by Drug Importers

+

*564. **SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH:**

SHRI RAGHURAJ SINGH SHAKYA:

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

(a) whether the Union Government have recently imposed certain restrictions on drug importers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the import of drugs under Open General Licence (OGL) without the clearance of the Ministry is not permitted;

(d) if so, whether the drug importers have violated the various norms; and

(e) if so, the action taken/being taken by the Government against drug importers?

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (e) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has published a Gazette Notification GSR No. 604 (E) dated 24.8.2001 amending various provisions of the Drugs & Cosmetics Rules, thereby introducing a new provision for the registration of the manufacturing premises of foreign drug manufacturers and the individual drugs prior to their import into the country. The new registration requirements have come into force w.e.f. 1st April, 2003.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) and (e) This Ministry has not received any complaints about violation by importers of the norms set out in the registration requirements.

[English]

SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH: Hon. Speaker, Sir, only 10 per cent of the people in this country are covered by CGHS facilities, and they are the more fortunate ones. How is the Government ensuring and taking care of the rest of the 90 per cent of the people in this country who need a life saving device like limb implant? Throughout the Congress regime there was never a duty imposed on a limb implant. How has the Government imposed an eight per cent tax on this limb implant, which is also a life saving device? What is the Government doing to ensure that the people in the poverty-stricken area can have access to a very important life saving device like limb implant?

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Mr. Speaker, Sir, this question relates to drug import and registration. Though these two supplementary questions do not arise out of the original question but I would like to reply them with your permission.

As far as CGHS is concerned this Scheme is only for serving and retired government Servants.

SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH: They are only 10 percent.

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: They are 10 % because this Scheme is only for them. CGHS Scheme covers only serving and retired government employees. If it covers the 10 percent population of the country and CGHS is for them but as I have told CGHS is not the only organisation that provides health facility in the entire country. There are government hospitals besides that as take the case of Delhi - there is not only CGHS but there are RML, Safdarganj and AIIMS also. Besides this there are PGI Chandigarh, JIPMER Pondicherry and PGI Lucknow. I am only talking about Central Government Hospitals. Health is a state subject. All primary health Centres, Community health centres are being run by State Government. General Public is not covered under CGHS. They get health facilities through various other schemes. As far as duty on limb implantation is concerned, this relates to the Ministry of Finance. Certainly Ministry of Health and Family Welfare writes to them, but they have got their own constraints through which they decide it. Why they have increased or decreased the duty or why have they brought it to 5 percent, only Ministry of Finance and not the Ministry of Health can provide the answer.

[English]

SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH: I never got an answer to my question.

MR. SPEAKER: As a matter of fact, this was not arising out of the original Question, but still she has replied. So, you can ask your supplementary question now.

SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH: Is the Government also aware that the imports of these drugs, which come from abroad, have a very circuitous route to travel? It reaches the Ministry; the Ministry refers it to the Department; and there are so many Departments that one has to go through. By the time the medicines, which are really required to be imported, reach here, a long time elapses before all this can be taken care so. So, could the movement of these activities be strengthened and curtailed a little more?

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is not a circuitous route at all. There are fixed places that only such Railway stations, Ports and Airports will receive them. It is also not there that the comprehensibility of the whole nation is involved. Only two departments namely-custom and health are concerned. After arrival of any consignment on any port, health officer is called upon by custom officials to check the

consignment that everything is alright. Once health officer certifies it then custom department gives the clearance. No third department interferes here. These two departments are necessary because custom officer is not aware of the authenticity of medicine unless he takes this certification from health officer that the imported medicine is genuine.

[English]

SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to ask the hon. Minister, what are the main objectives of the restrictions and regulations on governing the import of drugs. I would like to know whether one of those objectives is to prevent those drugs that are banned abroad. If that is the case, what are the main drugs which are banned in various developed countries, that are still being imported in India? Part (b) of the same question is, what is the Government's policy regarding imports of life-saving drugs which have been marked as principal killer disease drugs under the National Health Policy to keep the connected drug prices within the reach of the common man? Finally, a country's well-being is always judged by the health of its citizens. In our country, today unfortunately, out of every hundred rupees spent, Mr. Speaker, Sir, only Rs. 0.34 is spent on health. The hon. Minister has said that she is going to ask for a high allocation in the next year's Budget. But in addition to that, I would like to recommend and suggest to look into the accountability of budget allocation as to how that money is being spent and whether it is being spent for the purpose for which it is earmarked.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to start my answer from the last question since the Member have raised 4-5 questions at one-go. Hon'ble Member has asked in his last question whether there is accountability in the budget? Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is a Standing Committee system and budget of each and every Ministry is presented before the concerned Standing Committee which scrutinize it. Every such committee consists of 45 Members from Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha. If the budget remains unspent they make the situation clear and comment thereon which is the more prominent institution than Parliament to whom Ministries are responsible? We have a clear-cut system of accountability. Besides, there is office of C & AG, i.e. comptroller and Auditor General who scrutinize the budget. Then we have a Public Accounts Committee which examines it. The provision of accountability has been made in the Parliamentary democracy and no Ministry can escape from it. In Parliamentary democracy, particularly in India, much emphasis is laid on budget with its accountability. So far as his question regarding objectives of this policy is concerned, this policy has two

objectives - to import appropriate drugs and to supply it in the market. What are reasons for bringing this policy? We brought this policy because we know the problem faced by Indian Drugs Manufacturers Association, Bulk Drugs Manufacturers Association, Chemical and Pharmaceutical Industry who complained that when they exported goods, there they faced a very strict regime and their goods were checked in about 20 places and about 20 conditions were imposed on them. But I would like to say that we have a very liberal regime that is why, we decided that there should be a stricture regulatory Mechanism and this policy was put forward. This drug policy helped in improving the quality of drugs.

Mr. Speaker Sir, hon'ble Member asked about the banned drug I would like to tell him that it is not a fact at all. In our country approved drugs are needed to be registered. We approve the drugs ourselves which check the entry of unapproved drugs in the market so that these drugs are not registered. This registration policy is meant for approved drugs only. I think I have answered the question raised by hon'ble Member.

[English]

Garuda Mobile Service

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

(a) whether the Garuda Mobile Service of MTNL is facing any problem with regard to providing connectivity to new subscribers;

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

(c) the details of the imports made by the MTNL during the last three years for providing mobile service in the country including names of such countries and companies;

(d) whether all the imported equipment have been put to use;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the steps taken by the Government to provide better connectivity service of Garuda Mobile Service?

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

Statement

(a) and (b) Sir, there is no problem in providing connectivity of Garuda Mobile Service to new subscribers of both Delhi and Mumbai units of MTNL. In order to meet future requirements, expansion plans have been taken up.

(c) MTNL provides services only in Delhi and Mumbai. Details of imports made by the MTNL during the last three years for providing Wireless in Local Loop (WLL) mobile services (Garuda) for these two Metros are given in the Annexure.

(d) and (e) All the imported equipment supplied for Phase-I has been put to use in Delhi and Mumbai units of MTNL. Equipment for Phase-II for MTNL, Delhi was supplied in January, 2003 and has been commissioned on 24.4.2003. In MTNL, Mumbai, the equipment has been received and its installation/commissioning is targeted for July, 2003.

(f) During the Phase-II commissioning, additional Base Station Trans Receivers (BTs) are being added (46 in MTNL, Delhi and 27 in MTNL, Mumbai) to improve the connectivity.

Annexure*Details of the Equipment Imported by MTNL for WLL Mobile Service***MTNL-Delhi**

Equipment	Cost	Imported Through	Country
1	2	3	4
Infrastructure Equipment			
Phase-I 50,000 lines	\$ 69,93,406 (USD)	Imported from M/s Motorola Inc..	USA and China
Phase-II 100,000 lines	\$ 1,05,43,411 (USD)	-do-	-do-
Hand Sets and Wall Sets			
45000 (30000 HHT and 15000 FWT)	Rs. 76,77,57,000	HFCL	S. Korea
1000	Rs. 1,78,95,000	HFCL	S. Korea
3750	Rs. 5,31,18,750	LG Electronics System India Ltd.	S. Korea
1250	Rs. 1,77,06,250	Indian Telephone Industries	S. Korea
30000 (Purchase Order placed)	Rs. 15,00,12,900	XL Telecom	USA

MTNL, Mumbai**Infrastructure Equipment**

Phase-I 50,000 lines	Rs. 46,95,28,944	M/s. Fujitsu Ltd.	Japan
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1	2	3	4
Phase-II 92,000 lines	Rs. 53,22,66,028	-do-	-do-
Hand Sets			
30000 (Purchase Order placed)	Rs. 15,00,12,900	XL Telecom	USA

Note: HTT = Hand Held Terminal FWT = Fixed Wire Telephone

[Translation]

SHRI SUBODH MOHITE: Mr. Speaker Sir, My question is related to Garuda Mobile Service, theme of this service is 'quality' -

[English]

What is the quality of the Garuda Service provided by the MTNL?

[Translation]

I would like to say that same question was raised in Lok Sabha on 12 March, 2003 as an unstarred question. In reply to the question three points were made. First point was related to the question - whether complaints in this regard were received from Garuda. In reply, it was stated that three types of major complaints were received regarding Garuda Service - First was about its coverage, second about false ring-back-tone and third type of complaint was regarding the quality of handsets. Hon. Minister in his reply to above USQ has mentioned that the action was taken by the Garuda Service after receiving these three types of complaints. In this reply it was stated that firstly Fujitsu was vendor and Government is pursuing the matter.

[English]

Regarding handsets, they are procuring and providing better quality handsets.

[Translation]

In the reply to the above unstarred question Ministry told that

[English]

Our service is not a foolproof techno-economic service.

[Translation]

Since we are providing inferior services we are facilitating the complaints received.

[English]

The inferior service is directly proportionate with misappropriation of funds. This is a natural equation. It might be in the purchase procedure or quality of equipment which might have resulted in inferior quality of service.

[Translation]

My question is that when the equipment worth crores of rupees was purchased on like-to-like basis whether its status in quality wise and like-wise was compared with the standard equipments of another company? Whether government wants to conduct a thorough enquiry by the appropriate authority to put and end to repetition of such inferior services?

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, Hon'ble Member is right that reason behind the problem was the equipments supplied by the Fujitsu. Hon'ble Member pointed three types of problems which were regarding coverage, false ring-back-tone and deficiency in handsets. I would like to inform the hon'ble Member that action has been taken against it. There was a sum of Rs. 90 crore payable to Fujitsu company for its project in Mumbai. Government has withheld its 34 crore rupees and stopped the payment. Secondly, their performance guarantee worth rupees Nine crore is also with the government. In second phase for Mumbai 87 crore rupees was payable to it but no payment has been made. Consequently company has set up three towers for better coverage free of cost. Besides, they are developing a software package at their own cost for solving the problem of false ring-back-tone. And no payment shall be released till then.

SHRI SUBODH MOHITE: Sir, my point is that Minister has candidly accepted that the quality of service is inferior and Ministry has taken three actions against it. Out of 90 crore rupees an amount of 30 crore rupees has been withheld and performance guarantee worth rupees nine crore was also withheld and even government has stopped the payment of 87 crore rupees. It means that you have accepted the inferior quality of the system. My original question was whether you will initiate investigation against it through an appropriate authority. I want to know about conducting of enquiry into this matter in public interest.

[English]

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: In all new systems you will find some difficulties of this kind when you introduce new systems. I do not want to say, but even in the case of private companies, when they are introducing these systems, if you see the service to the customers, you will find the customers are complaining about many things. For instance in the case of billing. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Subodh Mohite, let him complete.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: I am with you that all of us want to have and ensure good service, especially from MTNL and BSNL. All of us are possessive about that. There have been difficulties with Motorola, Fujitsu and Lucent technologies and there are difficulties that the private operators are facing today. You are reading in the newspapers that in their roll-out today of Reliance, there are difficulties. So, in every roll-out, there will be difficulties of this kind and the best pressure to put on these companies is not just long judicial enquiries but withholding of payments and fully exercising the liquidated damages which they are supposed to pay. So, I will certainly be working towards that and we will strive towards better quality of service. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Subodh Mohite, the question, which you asked was your supplementary.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to request the hon'ble Speaker that the question raised is regarding the technical defect and it is a part of that question.

[English]

But regarding the availability of the instrument and services. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Kiritji please wait for a minute. Mohitji you may ask now?

SHRI SUBODH MOHITE: Sir my second supplementary question is same as my main question. My query is whether comparison of equipment was made on international standard for the purchases. I have not got the answer to this question will you conduct an enquiry into it?

My third question was regarding the persons who are suffering due to inferior quality. Are you going to give them any type of compensation in terms of lowering of prices of services.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Subodh Mohite, please repeat the question.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SUBODH MOHITE: Have you compared the equipment with the international standard equipment? This is the first question. The second question is whether you are conducting any enquiry or not. The third question is are you adopting any compensation package for having provided inferior service to the public.

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: Sir, as I mentioned, there is a provision of liquidated damages to be charged on the suppliers in case his equipment is not good. ...*(Interruptions)* I will just come to you. ...*(Interruptions)*

Secondly, now there is no compensation that is provided as a package. This is not an injury that has occurred. If there are grievances, then there are two mechanisms. One is that you have, under the Consumer Protection Act. ...*(Interruptions)* Just one second, please do not get angry. ...*(Interruptions)* Under the Consumer Protection Act, any individual consumer can go and ask for compensation. Secondly, if there is a group of consumers, who have been injured in this way, then they can appeal to the TRAI and TDSAT under those Acts for redressal in that regard. There are liquidated damages against the supplier.

Secondly, we have to see whether there were international comparisons or not. All these service providers are always trying to match the others. In this case, the equipment was taken by tendering process. There is a Tender Evaluation Committee. I am certain that they would have compared these things from various criteria before coming to the conclusion.

[Translation]

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: Hon'ble Speaker Sir, as you have stated in your reply—

[English]

"In order to meet future requirement, expansion plan has been taken up.

[Translation]

It is quite cheaper and very popular in Mumbai but there is problem in its availability. Considering that

[English]

If it is cheaper and beneficial for the common customer,

[Translation]

What is your plan to make it more popular and for its expansion? How this service will be provided in Mumbai? Secondly I would like to ask you whether you are going to convene a joint meeting of the MPs of Mumbai to find some solution to this problem and to increase the availability of the services provided by MTNL?

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am ready to hold the meeting at the convenience of the hon'ble MPs. I am sure I will definitely learn at least some thing from the meeting. As you know meetings of the MPLADS were used to be held in Mumbai under your Chairmanship.

So far as question regarding expansion is concerned, I would like to tell you that in Mumbai total capacity of WLL is 50 thousand and there are 49,500 subscribers. Process of installation of 90 thousand additional lines is in progress and I hope it will become operational by July.

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL: Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, B.S.N.L have started its mobile service throughout the country. Today is the age of competition and B.S.N.L has to compete with the big companies like Reliance.

And if BSNL can not compete then it will have to make its way out. It's an impossible task to get a BSNL connection in many cities today.

Sir, I am not aware as to how easily BSNL connections are available in Mumbai and Delhi but people in my city Kanpur are waiting for their connections for more than 2-3 months while mobile connection of other companies are available within 24 to 48 hours.

Sir, the other complaint about BSNL is that its services are very poor. Sometimes people can not get connected even after half an hour and also one can not get quick connectivity when making a call from BSNL mobile to another mobile service provider. Will BSNL, with its scores of shortcomings and problems, be able to take on various big companies in India in the present time of fierce competition?

Sir, my question to the hon'ble Minister is that whether he will order an inquiry to the fact that why mobile connections

are not available before 3 months in Kanpur and would ensure its availability. My next question is whether the Minister will make efforts to bring the services of BSNL at par with other companies so that delays can be avoided and a direct and quick connectivity with other mobile service providers is achieved?

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am pleased to inform the House that within last few months BSNL has got 22 lakh customers. Bharati is the largest mobile phone company in the country which has 30 lakh customers even after so many years,

[English]

In seven months, BSNL has got 22 lakh customers.

[Translation]

You must have also noticed the fact that only because of BSNL's aggressive marketing and tariff plan, the other companies had to lower their mobile tariffs.

Sir, I fully agree with the hon'ble Member that problems are being faced in many places. Shri Rajo Singh had told about Patna and just now you mentioned about Kanpur. I would like to tell you that the total mobile phone capacity in Kanpur Telecom District was 14,500. Out of which 40% was for pre-paid & Excel services and 60% for post-paid cell-one. Pre-paid connections can still be provided, though they are not much in demand but there was a lot of demand in the market for the post-paid. You are right that it had to be suspended. Its network has been expanded on 17th April and further connections will be available from 3rd May, the advertisements of which will appear in the local newspapers on 2nd May. Similarly, hon'ble Members from some other cities, like Patna, have told the same problem. Upon inquiry, it was found that the switch taken from public enterprises C-DOT was defective. I have been assured that this switch will be replaced with the Ericsson Switch within one month in Ranchi and Jamshedpur. Patna will also get the Ericsson switch. In this way, we are fully confident that we can compete with the other companies.
...(Interruptions)

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL: The hon'ble Minister had not said anything about the quality.

MR. SPEAKER: Quality will be improved.

[English]

DR. M.V.V.S. MURTHI: Sir, we are very happy to hear from the hon. Minister that the BSNL is able to clinch about 22 lakh connections. But it is very disappointing to note that

in almost all the cities, connections were given far exceeding the capacity that has been created in each town or city, in anticipation of creating the capacity. When a customer dials the exchange, generally he does not get the line or the reply given is: 'the lines are busy; you try afterwards' etc.

Is it a fact that the customers are turning towards the private mobile operators for connections cancelling these BSNL connections? I think there are several such instances. If it is so, why are they unnecessarily creating a bad name for the BSNL and MTNL or giving excess connections?

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Murthi, let the hon. Minister reply now.

DR. M.V.V.S. MURTHI: So, I would like to know whether the connections will be restricted to the capacity that has been created or not. As and when there is additional capacity being created, you can always get the lines. There is no problem as long as you can maintain the quality. But is it not that creating something and creating a bad history is reflecting on the Ministry? Is it not reflecting on the great history that has been created? I would like to have a specific answer to this question.

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: Sir, it is a very important consideration that when services are provided, they must be of high quality because otherwise the customers get turned off. I entirely agree with the hon. Member. Here, as far as I have been able to understand, the capacities are being created well in advance of the demand. But what happened in the case of BSNL is that. ...*(Interruptions)*

DR. M.V.V.S. MURTHI: Sir, that is not the answer to my question.

MR. SPEAKER: Please listen to the reply.

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: I agree with what he has said. I was just mentioning that that was the anticipation by which the capacities were created. It so happened that the demand for BSNL cellular service was so large, especially for the post-paid services which they had not anticipated, and it was against the market trend. Generally 60 per cent of the orders are for pre-paid and 40 per cent for post-paid.

But here, it turned out to be the other way - 65 per cent for post-paid - and that created some difficulties. The capacities are being enlarged.

One of the problems was the SIM card availability which many friends have mentioned. Now, that has been addressed and we have many more now. ...*(Interruptions)*

DR. M.V.V.S. MURTHI: Sir, even people with SIM cards are not getting the connections.

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: Secondly, on the switches which I have mentioned, we are attending to that and I would be grateful for any suggestions.

MR. SPEAKER: Q. No. 567 - Shri Adhir Chowdhury to ask the question.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI PRAKASH PARANJPE: Sir, Reliance is deliberately defaming us.

[English]

The MTNL is giving a good service; the BSNL is giving a good service. But the contractors of Reliance are cutting the cables and blocking the airways. ...*(Interruptions)* Have your officers lodged a complaint against Reliance? You will have to take action. ...*(Interruptions)* They are cutting the cables. Their contractors are responsible. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Prakash Paranjpe, please resume your seat.

SHRI PRAKASH PARANJPE: Sir, they are playing mischief with us. ...*(Interruptions)* They are defaming the Government services. Why are you not penalising the Reliance people? They are playing mischief with us. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: Mr. Speaker, Sir...

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, you need not answer it. We have gone to the next Question.

Shri Prakash Paranjpe, anyway your question is noted by the hon. Minister.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRAKASH PARANJPE: Sir, it is a serious offence. A number of times a number of telephones are stopped because of cutting of cables by the Reliance contractors. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please maintain silence.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Prakash ji, please take your seat. Ramdas ji, please take your seat.

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: We want that you should restrict your friendship with Reliance.

[English]

Osteoporosis

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*567. DR. CHARAN DAS MAHANT:

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY:

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

(a) whether the Government are aware that prevalence of Osteoporosis is on the rise in the country particularly in Delhi as reported in the Hindustan Times dated April 05, 2003;

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

(c) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to check the spread of this disease?

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

Osteoporosis is emerging as an important health problem in view of the increasing number of older people in India. Exact figures on a national level are not available since most patients with osteoporotic fractures, with the exception of hip fractures, are not hospitalized.

Osteoporosis is a metabolic bone disease of the aging population (especially older women). With the increase in the number of older people in the population, there is bound to be an increase in the number of osteoporosis cases. Increase in life expectancy, sedentary life style, lack of physical activity, smoking, alcoholism, mal-nourishment and altered dietary preferences are the main reasons for increase in osteoporosis.

The National Policy on Older Persons (1999), National Population Policy (2000) and National Health Policy (2002) have recognised osteoporosis as an important health problem of later life which may affect well being of the aging population. Treatment for osteoporosis by specialists is available at most of the Medical College Hospitals, State Government Institutions and Central Government Institutions like All India

Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), Post Graduate Institute of Medical Education and Research (PGI) Chandigarh, Safdarjang Hospital and Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital etc.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Do you not want answer? You ask the question.

DR. CHARAN DAS MAHANT: Hon'ble Mr. Speaker, Sir, the department has not given proper reply to my question. A general information has been given while I wanted to know about the osteoporosis disease which is more common among older men and especially older women, who have to face calcium deficiency after pregnancy and who are unable to get calcium or vitamin D supplement. So, firstly I would like to ask the hon'ble Minister whether she will make efforts to provide vitamin D and vitamin C to the women after their pregnancy in the country?

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Mr. Speaker Sir, first of all I would like to know on which grounds he has said that the department did not give proper reply. His question was too small to which we have given a very comprehensive reply containing all the questions being asked.

He has rightly said that this disease is common among older women and older men, and in fact, older women are more affected by it. Osteoporosis is related to growing age when Bone Mass declines and the bones become weaker resulting in the disease. Regarding your point of providing calcium and vitamin D, I would like to tell the hon'ble Member that presently 1,37,311 sub centers are being run by us in the country through which we run our family welfare programme where the pregnant woman, post-pregnancy woman and the newborn baby - all the three are taken care of. The medicine kit supplied by us contains vitamin D and calcium in large quantity so that it can be given to the woman after pregnancy. Now the question is that such women should reach the sub-centre. We have recently launched Janani Suraksha Programme for this so that pre-natal women can reach the sub-centres and remain in touch with the sub-centre even after their pregnancy is over. We are also making arrangements for supplying the medicine kit containing calcium and vitamin D to them.

DR. CHARAN DAS MAHANT: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to know from the hon. Minister that some survey reports keep on publishing in newspaper & Magazines. As far the information available with me, 40 percent women above 45 years of age or in post menopause stage suffer from this disease. Being a female Minister would hon. Minister like to tell that what special arrangement she would make for the

women of the country in such circumstances. Will she get a survey conducted, get medicine distributed or something else?

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Women health has always been a cause of concern for me and after taking over the charge of Ministry of Health the responsibility of bringing it in order has fallen on my shoulders. It is true that women above 45 years of age suffers from this disease but it is such a disease which can be prevented through right awareness. For example, calcium can be had not only from pills but also from milk & milk products and it is not necessary to take milk only for sufficient calcium as it can also be had from chhachh, lassi or mathha whichever may be available. The physical movement in the form of exercise is essential as sitting idle aggravates the disease. For this we are organising awareness campaigns in which we advise them to do some exercise to increase the intake of milk and tell them about the calcium riched items. Alongwith this, we advise them to take calcium pills which are very cheap and available at our health centres if they take these calcium pills from these centres they can save themselves from this disease to a great extent. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Minister told that it is necessary to walk, to stand, therefore he was standing. Minister should have also told that it is not for the House but who can make Shri Ramdas Athawale understand this thing.

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL: Mrs. Minister, women should be taught the methods of exercise on T.V.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Dr. V. Saroja, now you may please ask your question.

[English]

DR. V. SAROJA: Hon. Speaker, Sir, osteoporosis is a disease of women, especially in the peri-menopausal age group, around cessation of the menstrual cycle. Women form 51 per cent of the Indian population. The hon. Minister in her statement has said that national level figure is not available. I would like to ask the hon. Minister whether the Government would focus its attention on updating the statistics. Secondly, will the National Health Policy also focus attention on it? As the hon. Minister rightly said, it is a disease which occurs because of withdrawal of calcium from blood, which affects the bones, especially the long bones and more specifically the knee bones. Will the hon. Minister address this issue by focussing the National Health Policy over this 40 per cent of

the osteoporosis of different grades available in India? Then, physiotherapy forms the sheet anchor for the preventive aspect of this disease. Will the Government focus its attention on this? I would like reply from the hon. Minister on these two aspects.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Mr. speaker, Sir, so far as National Health policy is concerned, it has been made. As I told that women health has been a subject in itself which we call gender health. So far as getting survey conducted is concerned, we have an International Population Study Institute that conducts study on different subjects. I like the suggestion of the hon. Member that a survey should be conducted on Osteoporosis in order to find out the number of women suffering from Osteoporosis after 45 years. It will be a good study but I.C.M.R. has already conducted a study. I.C.M.R. has conducted a study in 2002 about osteoporosis and the diseases of old people, this study will be completed in 2005. Thereafter, we shall have statistics about this disease.

MR. SPEAKER: Question No. 568: Shrimati Rajkumari Ratna Singh - absent.

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, this question is very important. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You can ask this question again in the next session.

[English]

Eradication of Malaria

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*569. **SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:**

SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI:

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

- (a) whether the Union Government have taken steps for the eradication of Malaria in the country;
- (b) if so, the measures taken in this regard in 2002-03;
- (c) whether the Government are considering ICON an effective medicine for the eradication of Malaria; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE

AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) The eradication of Malaria, which means total elimination of the vector mosquitoes and malaria parasite, is not technically feasible. Therefore, all possible efforts are being made to control malaria. For this purpose, the Central Government provides technical support, anti-malaria drugs, approved insecticides and larvicides, Medicated Bednets for personnel protection etc. to the State Governments. Funds for IEC and Training activities are also provided under the National Anti Malaria Programme. The North-Eastern States and 100 Tribal districts in 8 States are provided additional support for meeting the operational expenses including transportation cost of the materials and spray wages.

(b) 5800 Metric Tonnes of DDT, 382 Metric Tonnes of Synthetic Pyrethroids, 42.43 crores tablets of Anti Malarial Drugs and 2.67 lakh ampoules of Quinine Injections have been provided as commodity assistance to the States during the year 2002-03. In addition, cash assistance to the tune of Rs.32.51 crores has been provided to the 8 States with tribal districts covered under the Enhanced Malaria Control Project and the North Eastern States. Funds for IEC and Training have been released to the other States through the Regional Directors.

(c) and (d) ICON is one of the Synthetic Pyrethroids which is already being used for indoor residual spray in selected areas under the Enhanced Malaria Control Project with World Bank support.

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, just now, in response to a question hon. Minister has informed the House that the Deptt. of Health is not using banned or prohibited medicines or chemicals. On the contrary, in response to my question hon. Minister has herself accepted that 5,800 metric ton D.D.T. is being used for the prevention of Malaria. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Question hour is to be over after two minutes, therefore, ask your question quickly.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI: In brief, I would like to ask two things. Firstly, the Minister should explain why D.O.T. is being used against Malaria despite being banned at the international level and what is its alternate? Secondly, whether

you are aware of the fact that Dengu fever and cerebral Malaria are some new and dangerous forms of Malaria. Research is going on in the country to prevent these types of fever. I want to know what progress has been made in this regard in the country and what steps the Government is going to take?

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Mr. Speaker, Sir, first of all I want to reply the first question otherwise that would create confusion. D.D.T. is banned for all other purposes except Malaria at international level. Its use has been allowed only for Malaria. But D.D.T. is banned for other uses. For Malaria in African Countries. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI: Mr. speaker, Sir, it is a matter of great surprise. If D.D.T. is used it would have its adverse impact on human health, whether it is used against Malaria or used as pesticides.

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Mr. Speaker, Sir, in world Health Assembly especially in their report it has been said that when we compare D.D.T. and Malaria we find that it is better to use D.D.T. and prevent Malaria than allow Malaria to spread. It means that the use of D.D.T. has not been banned for Malaria on international level, on the contrary, it has been said that D.D.T. should be used against Malaria. Now, I reply to your question. At present, internal residual spray is done by D.D.T. The use of D.D.T. that was banned was only for agriculture sector. Earlier, D.D.T. was sprayed in agricultural fields but now three different policies have been adopted for Malaria. One of them is residual inner spray i.e. the spray done inside the houses, that D.D.T. spray is very effective. Therefore, D.D.T. is not banned but allowed that it should be sprayed inside the houses so that mosquitos may not die inside. Therefore, we are not using even a single drug that is prohibited and banned by W.H.O. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI: The D.D.T. being used in agricultural fields, is being used outside the village, that has been stopped and whether the D.D.T. being sprayed inside the houses will not leave harmful effect on the health of human beings? What is its alternate? ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Its different alternates have come, for example, synthetic pyrethrides is one. Where D.D.T. is not being supplied synthetic pyrethrides is being supplied there. Medicated bednets are being supplied. But the quantity of D.D.T. that has been allowed to be used is not prohibited. Only the allowed quantity of D.D.T. is being used and it has been allowed on international level. Its use for Malaria has not been prohibited.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS*[English]***Stress Management Programme**

*565. SHRI SHRINIWAS PATIL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government employees are more susceptible to heart attacks;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether any stress management programme for Government employees has been planned by the Union Government; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (d) There is no nationwide data collection on the number of people suffering from heart disease. In the document World Bank Health Sectoral Priorities, it has been estimated a doubling of deaths due to Cardiovascular diseases (CVD) between 1985 to 2015. Meta-analysis of the published surveys reported in the Indian Heart Journal indicates that the prevalence of coronary heart disease is increasing in India over the decades from 1960-95.

People from all walks of life including Government servants may be affected by heart disease. The major risk factors are diabetes, high blood pressure, smoking, obesity, lack of physical exercise, positive family history, increased blood cholesterol and, mental stress. With a view to avoid these major risk factors, there is a need to highlight the various life style intervention measures to the community.

There is no specific stress management programme for Government employees. However, Central Council for Research in Yoga and Naturopathy (CCRYN) under the Department of Indian Systems of Medicine encourages practice of yoga among the government employees by taking up yoga programmes in government offices. In addition, the Government has strategies/programme including use of print and electronic media to spread health messages to increase public health awareness about heart diseases and healthy living practices.

*[Translation]***Retrenchment of PSU Employees**

*568. SHRIMATI RAJKUMARI RATNA SINGH:

SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO:

Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the disinvestment process had led to deprivation of jobs of the employees;
- (b) if so, whether a large number of disinvested Public Sector Undertakings have retrenched a certain percentage of their employees from jobs;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) the reasons for retrenching such a large number of employees despite assurance given by the Government with regard to their job security;
- (e) the provision made to ensure that the employees are not deprived of their jobs while following the disinvestment process; and
- (f) the number of employees deprived of their jobs due to disinvestment during the last two years and the role played by the Government in providing job security to the employees in the wake of disinvestment?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) The experience, so far, shows that disinvestment cannot be directly related to unemployment. There was a net reduction in employment in Public Sector Undertakings from a level of 2.179 million employees in 1991-92 to a level of 1.806 million in 1999-2000, even before disinvestment through strategic sale commenced. In comparison, the loss of employment in disinvested companies has been much less while in some cases it has increased through fresh recruitment. Major expansion plans have been set afoot in disinvested enterprises such as BALCO; these will make the enterprises more competitive and thereby provide the best guarantee of continued employment; they are also the one sustainable way of ensuring expansion of employment.

(b) to (d) It is not a fact that a large number of disinvested Public Sector Undertakings have retrenched employees. However, Government has lately been informed of retrenchment of 115 employees in one case of disinvestment namely that of Hotel Grand Ashok, Bangalore. The matter is now before the Labour Department of Government of Karnataka on a petition moved by the employees.

(e) and (f) Protection of employees' interest is an integral part of the disinvestment policy. Adequate provisions are typically made in the Transactions Agreements, executed as a part of strategic sale, to ensure that there is no retrenchment

of employees for one year after disinvestment and even thereafter separation is possible only under the Voluntary Retirement Scheme as applicable under DPE guidelines or the Voluntary Retirement Scheme which was prevailing in the company prior to disinvestment whichever is more beneficial for the employees. Government intervenes in case of complaints by employees in this regard post-disinvestment.

The data compiled for the last two years indicate that for eight disinvested companies and ten hotels of ITDC and one hotel of Hotel Corporation of India, against an initial employment level of 41,134 at the time of disinvestment, there was a total attrition of 2,801 employees, while 921 employees have been recruited. Therefore, the net loss in employment was 1880, which is around 5% of employment at the time of disinvestment, of which 584 were on account of retirement and resignation and 1761 through VRS. In the case of CMC there has been a net addition in employment of 425 against the employees strength of 3119 at the time of disinvestment.

Cases of SARS

*570. SHRI AKHILESH YADAV:

SHRI RAMPAL SINGH:

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

(a) the number of cases of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome. (SARS) detected in the country, State-wise;

(b) the details of such patients alongwith the position of their treatment;

(c) whether the Government propose to set up one cell in each major city for the treatment of such cases by constituting a team of health specialists;

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

(e) the further action plan of the Government to deal with this disease?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (e) As on 28th April, 2003 nine laboratory positive SARS cases have been registered. Details of these cases are contained in the attached statement-I.

Keeping in view the implications of an epidemic, Government of India has taken necessary steps which include the following:

A High level Centre-State Joint Committee has been formed for close monitoring of the situation and providing technical assistance to all the State Governments. Related technical inputs including patient management protocol, standard operating protocol and transfer protocol have been provided to the State Governments.

Mandatory Screening has been introduced on all the International Airports and a proforma has been prescribed for all the persons disembarking in India for symptoms of suspected/probable SARS. The health care facilities at International Airports and Ports have been strengthened by deploying additional doctors and evolving a standard operating protocol. Health counters for screening have been opened in all the international airports. The health staff is monitoring passengers of flights and ships arriving in India.

Facilities for treatment of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome in isolation have also been arranged in the Central Government Hospitals as also in other infectious Diseases Hospitals. The State Governments have identified hospitals with isolations facilities for treatment of SARS, details of which are given in the attached statement-II. To meet the immediate requirements, Central Government is procuring special respirators from Defence Research Development Organisation for distribution to the State Governments. Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has obtained the required primers for preparing reagents to diagnose the viruses believed to be causing SARS. National Institute of Communicable Diseases, Delhi and National Institute of Virology, Pune have been identified as the nodal agencies for laboratory investigation of any suspected/probable case.

Statement-I

Treatment details of laboratory positive patients (PCR - Test) for SARS As on 28.4.2003

S.No.	State and City	Name of the patient	Treatment details
1	2	3	4
1	Goa (Goa)	Mr. Prasheel Vardhe	Supportive therapy. Treated at isolation ward of Goa Medical College. Patient became symptom free, discharged on 18.4.2003 and advised home quarantine.

1	2	3	4
2	Maharashtra (Pune)	Mr. Stanley D'silva	Admitted to Siddharth Hospital, Pune on 17.4.2003. Shifted to Naidu Hospital, Pune. Treated at isolation with supportive therapy. Patient symptom free.
3		Mrs. Vimla D'silva (mother of Mr. Stanley D'silva)	Admitted to Siddharth Hospital, Pune on 19.4.2003. Shifted to Naidu Hospital, Pune. Treated at isolation with supportive therapy. Patient symptom free.
4		Ms. Julie D'silva (Sister of Mr. Stanley D'silva)	Admitted to Siddharth Hospital, Pune on 17.4.2003. Shifted to Naidu Hospital, Pune. Treated at isolation with supportive therapy. Patient symptom free.
5		Mr. Joseph Pawar	Admitted to Naidu Hospital, Pune on 25.4.2003. Treated in isolation with supportive therapy. Patient symptom free.
6	Mumbai	Mr. Bhaskar Murthy	Admitted to Kasturbha Infectious Diseases Mumbai Hospital, Mumbai on 22.4.2003. Patient became symptom free and discharged. He was readmitted in Delhi in the Infectious Diseases Hospital on the basis of positive PCR test report. Patient symptom free.
7		Mr. Kawaza Sheik	Close contact case of index case Mr. Stanley. D'silva. Admitted to Kasturbha Hospital, Mumbai on 24.4.2003 with the complaints of cough and fever. PCR test positive reported on 28.4.2003. Patient symptom free.
8	West Bengal (Kolkata)	Mr. Ashitava Purkayastha	Admitted on 20.4.2003 in Sunflower Nursing Home, Kolkata as a case of acute myocardial infarction. He later developed fever and pneumonitis for which he was referred to I.D. Hospital, Kolkata. Subsequently, the patient got shifted to AMRI Apollo Hospital, Kolkata. Patient is stable and symptom free. Patient has been given the standard treatment regimen for myocardial infarction. His heart functions are being monitored.
9		Shri Radhey Shyam Gupta	Admitted to ID Hospital, Kolkata on 19.4.2003. Samples tested at NIV Pune, reported positive by PCR test on 28.4.2003. Patient under supportive treatment.

Statement-II*List of Identified Hospitals in the States*

S.No.	Name of the State	Name of the identified hospital
1	2	3
1	Delhi	1. Safdarjung Hospital 2. Dr. RML Hospital 3. LHMC & SSK Hospital

1	2	3
		4. AIIMS
		5. Infectious Diseases Hospital
		6. Hindu Rao Hospital
		7. L.N. Hospital
		8. G.T.B. Hospital

1	2	3	1	2	3
		9. Deen Dayal Upadhyay Hospital	8	Andhra Pradesh	1. Govt. General & Chest Hospital, Hyderabad
2	Maharashtra	1. Kasturbha Infectious disease Hospital, Mumbai			2. Govt. Hospital for Chest & Communicable Diseases Hospital, Vishakapatnam
		2. V.N. Desai Hospital, Mumbai	9	Punjab	1. Guru Nanak Dev Hospital, Amritsar
		3. Naidu Hospital, Pune	10	Goa	1. Goa Medical College, Panaji
3	West Bengal	1. Infectious Disease Hospital, Kolkata	11	Rajasthan	1. SMS Medical College Hospital, Jaipur
4	Tamil Nadu	1. Madras Medical College Hospital, Chennai	12	Uttar Pradesh	1. Bairampur Hospital, Lucknow
		2. Communicable Disease Hospital, Tondiarpet, Chennai			2. SSPG District Hospital, Varanasi
		3. Coimbatore Medical College Hospital			3. Deen Dayan Hospital, Varanasi
		4. Tuticorin Medical College Hospital, Tuticorin	13	Bihar	1. Infectious Diseases Hospital, Gaya
		5. Trichy Medical College Hospital, Trichy.	14	Assam	1. Guwahati Medical College Hospital, Guwahati
5	Kerala	1. General Hospital, Thiruvananthapuram	15	Orissa	1. SCB Medical College Hospital, Cuttack
		2. Calicut Medical College Hospital	16	Chandigarh	PGI, Chandigarh
		3. General Hospital, Ernakulam	17	Pondicherry	JIRMER, Pondicherry
6	Gujarat	1. New Civil Hospital, Ahmedabad	18	Manipur	1. J.N. Hospital, Prompat
		2. V.S. General Hospital, Ahmedabad			2. Regional Institute of Medical Sciences, Imphal
		3. Govt. Hospital, Bhuj	19	Sikkim	STNM Hospital, Gangtok
			20	Jammu & Kashmir	Sher-i-Kashmir Hospital, Srinagar
7	Karnataka	1. Epidemic Disease Hospital, Bangalore	21.	Himachal Pradesh	1. Zonal Dist. Hospital, Kangra
		2. Rajiv Gandhi Institute of Chest Diseases			2. Zonal Dist. Hospital, Hamirpur
		3. District Govt. Wenlokc Hospital, Mangalore			3. Zonal Dist. Hospital, Mandi
					4. Zonal Dist. Hospital, Shimla

*[English]***Review of Functioning of PHCs**

*571. SHRI PARSURAM MAJHI : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have reviewed the functioning of the Primary Health Centres (PHCs) in the country;

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

(c) the major findings of the review; and

(d) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. A Facility Survey at

district level was conducted in 1999 to assess the Health Care Facilities and their utilization in the health sector covering 221 districts. In this Survey, 7959 Primary Health Centres (PHCs) were covered which revealed that, at the all India level, 36% of the PHCs are adequately equipped in infrastructure, 38% in staff, 31% in supply of drugs and contraceptives and 56% in equipments. The state-wise position is enclosed as statement.

Under the Reproductive and Child Health (RCH) Programme, a sum of Rs.10.00 lakh have been provided to each district in the country for minor civil works like repairs in labour rooms, water supplies and electrical connections. In addition, funds have been provided to recruit 8681 additional Auxiliary Nurse Midwives (ANMs), 1,691 Staff Nurses, 568 Lab Technicians on contractual basis. Besides, 6989 drugs kits have also been supplied to Primary Health Centres during 2002-03.

Statement*Percent of adequately equipped *Primary Health Centres by specific components*

Sl. No.	State/UT	No. of PHCs	Percent of PHCs adequately equipped in			
			Infrastructure	Staff	Supply	Equipments
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Major States						
1	Andhra Pradesh	622	32	50	16	84
2	Assam	333	9	21	26	23
3	Bihar	339	10	4	0	25
4	Gujarat	614	73	71	11	88
5	Haryana	115	49	78	94	47
6	Karnataka	854	47	24	45	64
7	Kerala	790	19	46	10	44
8	Madhya Pradesh	386	6	31	15	28
9	Maharashtra	645	88	60	87	96
10	Orissa	364	18	13	4	32
11	Punjab	51	92	84	78	92
12	Rajasthan	484	26	32	47	59

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
13	Tamil Nadu	672	52	55	65	67
14	Uttar Pradesh	486	13	12	4	34
15	West Bengal	825	15	28	19	30
Smaller States/Union Territories						
16	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	17	100	53	53	76
17	Arunachal Pradesh	21	33	29	5	14
18	Chandigarh	2	50	0	50	0
19	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	6	83	100	100	83
20	Daman & Diu	3	100	100	67	67
21	Delhi	5	60	60	80	80
22	Goa	17	100	88	59	88
23	Himachal Pradesh	22	45	36	64	55
24	Jammu & Kashmir	38	16	0	13	45
25	Lakshadweep	4	100	75	75	100
26	Manipur	31	13	81	0	65
27	Meghalaya	55	20	56	5	78
28	Mizoram	43	42	65	5	65
29	Nagaland	16	25	25	13	38
30	Pondicherry	19	58	21	63	68
31	Sikkim	24	100	63	46	100
32	Tripura	56	52	48	0	50
India		7959	36	38	31	56

* Having at least 60 percent of critical inputs

Source: Facility Survey 1998/99

[Translation]

Blacklisted Telecom Firms

*572. SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN:

SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY:

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

(a) whether his Ministry is taking action against the blacklisted telecom firms;

(b) if so, the names of these firms; and

(c) the details of the action taken against these firms, firm-wise during the last two years?

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

(b) and (c) The names of telecom firms blacklisted and details of action taken against these firms are given in statement-I and II for Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) and Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL)

respectively. The information in respect of ITI (Indian Telephone Industries) is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Statement-I

Telecom Firms Blacklisted and Action Taken by BSNL

Sl. No.	Name of Firm	Action Taken against the Blacklisted Telecom Firm
1	2	3
1	M/s Hindustan Tools Industries, Faridabad	Security of Rs. 50,000/- forfeited
2	M/s Uniword Telecom Ltd., Noida	Debarred for one year
3	M/s Rajashi Moulding & Engg. Industries, Howrah	Debarred for two years
4	M/s Tele Global Industries, Noida	Debarred for two years
5	M/s Super Plateck Industries, Parwanoo	Debarred for two years
6	M/s Om Computer, Jhunjhunu	Debarred for one year, EMD* & SD# forfeited
7	M/s. V.K.S. Cons., Delhi	Debarred for one year & EMD forfeited
8	M/s Rakesh Singh, Mathura	The firm was blacklisted forever as per report of CBI case no. PE/8(A)/91 dated 12.11.91 SPE JPR.
9	M/s Pankaj Construction, Bikaner	Debarred for two years & security deposit forfeited
10	M/s Kumar enterprises, Suratgarh	Debarred for two years & security deposit forfeited
11	M/s Vindya Construction Company, Suratgarh	Debarred for two years & security deposit forfeited
12	M/s Parkash Electronics, Kota	Debarred for one year
13	M/s Ganesh Construction Company, Gamoorwali	Debarred far three years & security deposit forfeited
14	M/s Compu Tax Forms (P) Ltd., Pune	Debarred for two years, EMD & SD forfeited
15	M/s. Pestica Labour Services Pvt. Ltd., Pune	Debarred for one year, EMD forfeited
16	M/s Yogesh Kumar, Agra	Debarred for indefinite period
17	M/s Ronix Polymers, Kolkata	Debarred for three years & Bank Guarantee forfeited
18	M/s Foundry of India, Ranchi	Debarred for three years
19	M/s Shri Sai Kripa Industries, Jabalpur	Debarred for three years
20	M/s Valiant Plast Pvt. Ltd., Himachal Pradesh	Debarred for three years
21	M/s Phoel Industrial Ltd., New Delhi	Debarred for three years
22	M/s Trio Tech. Systems, Ahmedabad	Debarred for three years
23	M/s. Anu Trading Co., Surat	Debarred for three years
24	M/s. DEEP Constructions, Surat	Debarred for three years

1	2	3
25	Shiva Refrigeration, Ahmedabad	Debarred for three years
26	M/s. Refrigeration, Ahmedabad	Debarred for three years
27	K.C. Kothari, Rajkot	Debarred for three years
28	Dhara Construction, Rajkot	Debarred for three years
29	M/s. P.V. Kalukha, Pune	Debarred from participating in future tenders of BSNL, Pune for three years
30	M/s. P.G. Bansude, Pune	Debarred from participating in future tenders of BSNL, Pune for three years.
31	M/s Dhanraj Printers, Pune	Debarred from participating in future tenders of BSNL, Pune for three years.
32	M/s Vastusajawal, Pune	Debarred from participating in future tenders of BSNL, Pune for three years and forfeited SD Rs. 13000.
33	M/s. Thomas Joseph, Panaji, Goa	Debarred from participation in tenders of BSNL for two years.
34	M/s Rahul Trade Channel, Valsad	Debarred from participation in tenders of BSNL for two years.
35	M/s. Anilmaa Associates, Delhi	Debarred for 5 years from participating in Polythene Insulated Jelly Filled (PIJF) underground cable tender from the year 2002-03.

* Earnest Money Deposit # Security Deposit

Statement-II

Telecom Firms Blacklisted and Action Taken by MTNL

Sl. No.	Name of the Firm	Action Taken
1	M/s Pushpa engineering Corporation, D-4/92, Sector-15, Rohini, New Delhi-110085	Debarred for one year and Bank Guarantee forfeited.
2	M/s Yasheen Construction 226, Kailash Hills, Near C- Block Market, East of Kailash, New Delhi, Name changed as below: M/s Yasheen Construction (P) Ltd. 226, Kailash Hills, Near C-Block Market, East of Kailash, New Delhi.	Debarred for one year.
3	M/s Yogiender Singh 226, Kailash Hills, Near C-Block Market, East of Kailash, New Delhi. Name changed as below: M/s Yogiender Singh Construction & Engineers (P) Ltd., 226, Kailash Hills, Near C-Block Market, East of Kailash, New Delhi.	Debarred for one year.
4	M/s Usha Electronics (A division of Coral Telecom Pvt. Ltd.) A- 70. DDA shed Okhla Industrial Area, Phase-II, New Delhi -110020	Debarred for one year

*[English]***Launching of Health Satellite**

*573. SHRI RAJIAH MALYALA:

SHRI CHADA SURESH REDDY:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) is considering launching a health satellite to enhance telemedicine facilities and help the country's health care sector;

(b) if so, whether India has got the expertise in this field;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) if not, whether the Government propose to obtain this technology from some country; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) DOS/ISRO have undertaken Technology Demonstration of telemedicine by providing satellite connectivity. Studies have been initiated to assess the experience gained and build-up a data base. Configuring a unique health satellite depends on the assessment of database over a longer period of time.

(b) Yes, Sir. Requisite technical resources are available.

(c) There are four broad areas of expertise needed for conducting telemedicine activity:

- Specification for monitoring the information related to patient's health problems, like the diagnostic test reports, images, etc. These are done by specialist doctors, who have good understanding of analyzing this information and providing necessary advice and treatment.
- The information of the patient including the different images of X-ray, ECG, pathological slides, etc. will be processed by the telemedicine computer hardware and software, both at the patient-end and specialist-end hospital. These are commercially available in the country.

- This information from the computer of the patient-end hospital is transmitted through VSAT system by up-linking to INSAT satellite, which will be received by this similar VSAT system at the speciality-end hospital. Again this capability exists within the country and they are commercially available in the country.

- Interpretation of the video images like X-ray, CT, MRI, ECG, etc. received at the speciality hospitals will be carried out by specialists doctors, who have demonstrated this expertise in the areas of cardiology, radiology, pathology, ophthalmology, etc.

In all, India has the end-to-end expertise in the area of telemedicine.

(d) and (e) Do not arise

Visit of Sri Lankan President

*574. SHRI K. MALAISAMY:

DR. M.V.V.S. MURTHI:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the President of Sri Lanka visited India recently;

(b) if so, the details of discussions held between the two countries and the outcome thereof;

(c) whether all agreements have been signed on the occasion;

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

(e) whether the issue of sending back Sri Lankan refugees from Tamil Nadu was also raised during the visit; and

(f) if so, the current status of the issue including the terms and conditions laid down for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) to (f) Her Excellency Mrs. Chandrika Bandaranaike Kumaratunga was on a working visit to India from April 7-10, 2003, wherein she met President, Prime Minister, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of External Affairs, Minister of Finance & Company Affairs, Leader of Opposition and Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu. She discussed Indo-Sri Lankan bilateral relations and gave her assessment of the latest developments in the peace process in Sri Lanka. No agreements were signed during the visit.

The issue of sending back Sri Lankan refugees from Tamil Nadu was not raised.

Shortage of OFCs

*575. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL:

SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR:

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

(a) whether the Government are aware of the fact that there is shortage of Optical Fibre Cables in the country;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the number of Telephone exchanges in each State that has not been provided OFC/Microwave facilities so far;

(d) the steps taken by the Government to provide OFC/Microwave facilities at least to those Exchanges having 1000 lines; and

(e) by when all the telephone exchanges specially in the rural areas are likely to be provided OFC/Microwave facilities?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) No, Sir. There is no shortage of optical fibre cable in the country.

(b) Not applicable in view of (a) above.

(c) The number of telephone exchanges in each State that have not been provided Optical Fibre Cable/Microwave facilities is given in the statement enclosed. Only 2% of the exchanges are not on OFC/Microwave media.

(d) Except 36 exchanges in Punjab and one each in Tamil Nadu and Mizoram, all exchanges having 1000 lines and above have been provided with Optical Fibre Cable/Microwave facility. These 38 exchanges are likely to be provided with Optical Fibre Cable/Microwave connectivity during 2003-2004.

(e) According to existing guidelines, all exchanges including rural exchanges are to be connected by reliable medium such as Optical Fibre Cable, Microwave, Satellite, Cable PCM or Underground cables. As such there is no plan to connect all exchanges by only Optical Fibre Cable/Microwave. Out of 36,073 exchanges in BSNL network, 35,912 exchanges have already been connected by reliable medium

and the balance 161 exchanges will be connected by reliable medium by 30.6.2003.

Statement

Number of Telephone Exchanges Not Provided with OFC/Microwave Facilities

Sl. No.	State	No. of Telephone Exchanges not provided with OFC/Microwave facilities
1	2	3
1	Andhra Pradesh	2
2	Assam	8
3	Bihar	47
4	Jharkhand	0
5	Gujarat	21
6	Haryana	40
7	Himachal Pradesh	26
8	Jammu & Kashmir	40
9	Karnataka	9
10	Kerala	0
11	Madhya Pradesh	8
12	Chhattisgarh	0
13	Maharashtra	161
14	Goa	0
North East-I		
15	Meghalaya	12
16	Tripura	18
17	Mizoram	22
North East-II		
18	Arunachal Pradesh	13
19	Manipur	0
20	Nagaland	4
21	Orissa	1

1	2	3
22	Punjab	105
23	Rajasthan	125
24	Tamil Nadu including Chennai	14
25	Uttar Pradesh	0
26	Uttaranchal	71
27	West Bengal including Kolkatal	29
28	Sikkim	1
Total		777

Revamping of CGHS

*576. SHRI KAMAL NATH:

SHRI NARESH PUGLIA:

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

(a) whether the problems faced by the CGHS beneficiaries have been assessed;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is quite often shortage of medicines in CGHS dispensaries and the behaviour of the medical staff is also not very cordial; and

(d) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken to improve the CGHS system?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government had got an evaluation study of the CGHS done through Indian Institute of Public Administration, New Delhi. The broad conclusions of the study are as under:-

(1) CGHS Coverage

- (i) CGHS is a preferred scheme by the beneficiaries because of their faith in it and also because of the fact that alternative facilities are expensive.
- (ii) CGHS facilities to Ex-Vice President, Ex-Governors, Members and Ex-Members of Parliament

should not be part of CGHS budget. Serving/Retd. employees of autonomous bodies should be extended CGHS facilities.

- (2) Introduction of Health Card with a photograph for every CGHS beneficiary.
- (3) CGHS should make its own purchases without depending upon Medical Stores Organisation, Dte.GHS for procuring the right quality of the medicines at the right time by adopting the following measures:-
 - (i) Rational and comprehensive formulary
 - (ii) 100% procurement and supply by the CGHS Medical Store Depots.
 - (iii) Specialist prescriptions be restricted largely to formulary drugs.
 - (iv) Although the authorised local chemists appointed by the CGHS are giving discounts, it will be economical for the CGHS to purchase drugs at Government approved rates.
- (4) Developing of computerized Integrated Information System for CGHS in order to simplify administrative procedures.
- (5) Human Resource Development
 - (i) Development of an integrated Continued Medical Education (CME) and training programmes for Doctors and different categories of Staff in the CGHS.

(c) and (d) There have been instances of shortage in supply of medicines due to strike of local chemists, opting out by some authorised local chemists from the dispensaries to which they are attached, etc. To overcome shortage of medicines, the CGHS has procured medicines in bulk from the manufacturers.

General instructions are in existence to ensure that the staff in the CGHS dispensaries is fully responsive and well behaved towards the CGHS beneficiaries.

Improvements of various services in CGHS provided in CGHS dispensaries is an ongoing process. There is an inbuilt mechanism in CGHS to improve the functioning of CGHS dispensaries by way of inspections, supervisions and guidance by the Senior Officers of the CGHS. Eight special inspection teams have also been constituted to monitor the functioning of CGHS dispensaries in Delhi. For monitoring the functioning of CGHS dispensaries in cities outside Delhi, surprise visits are made from time-to-time and remedial action taken accordingly by the respective Additional Directors/Joint Directors of the CGHS.

[Translation]

Review of Family Planning Programme

*577. SHRI Y.G. MAHAJAN:

YOGI ADITYA NATH:

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

(a) whether the Government have made any review of the achievements made in the implementation of the Family Planning Programme in the country during the Ninth Five Year Plan period;

(b) if so, the targets fixed, achievements, made and financial assistance provided to each State for the purpose during the said period;

(c) the targets set under the said programme for the Tenth Five Year Plan and the funds allocated and released to each State so far; and

(d) the details of schemes introduced/proposed to be introduced by the Government for desired results under the programme during the Tenth five Year Plan period?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) The Steering Committee of the Planning Commission on Family Welfare for the 10th Five Year Plan submitted its report in September 2002. The Committee reviewed the progress achieved during the IXth Five Year Plan and also suggested broad strategies for the Xth Plan. It noted that several states have achieved goals set for some components of the RCH Programme during the IXth Plan, demonstrating that these can be achieved within the existing infrastructure, manpower and inputs. For example:

- Andhra Pradesh, Punjab, West Bengal and Maharashtra have shown substantial decline in birth rates; the latter three states are likely to achieve replacement level of fertility, ahead of the projection made.
- Punjab has achieved couple protection rate and use of spacing methods far ahead of all other states.
- Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh have achieved increase in institutional deliveries
- Kerala, Maharashtra, Punjab and Tamil Nadu improved immunization coverage
- Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh had achieved improvement in coverage and quality of antenatal care.

(b) The National Population Policy, 2000 (NPP) affirms the commitment of the government towards voluntary and informed choice while availing of reproductive health

services and continuation of target free approach in administering family welfare services.

The progress achieved by states against expected level of performance by 2002 is given in the statement-I. Funds released to State Governments, during the IXth Five Year Plan and in 2002-03, towards compensation for loss of wages to acceptors of sterilization are in the enclosed statement-II.

(c) Of the ten monitorable targets fixed for the Tenth Five Year Plan (2002-07), the following three pertain to the Department of Family Welfare:

- Reduction in the decadal rate of population growth between 2001 and 2011 to 16.2%.
- Reduction in Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) to 45 per thousand live birth by 2007 and 28 by 2012.
- Reduction in Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR) to 2 per thousand live births by 2007 and 1 by 2012.

The level of upscaling of Family Planning services estimated state-wise, in order to achieve the goals of the 10th Plan are given in the enclosed statement-III.

(d) Reduction in fertility, mortality and population growth are major objectives of the 10th Five Year Plan. Towards this end, the Jansankhya Sthirata Kosh is being registered in the Department of Family Welfare with a corpus of Rs. 100 crores for mobilizing funds from the private sector for Family Welfare Programme. An Empowered Action Group has been created to focus on the specific unmet needs of the eight socio-demographically lagging States viz. Bihar, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Uttar Pradesh, Uttaranchal, Orissa and Rajasthan. In an attempt to improve the service delivery, a proposal for sanctioning 8669 Sub-centres throughout the country is under consideration. Besides, the Government of India has accepted funding for total number of sub-centres, since April 2002. New contraceptives have been added to the programme, namely IUD 380A and the Emergency Contraceptive.

Greater efforts shall be made under the RCH-II programme to address the issues of family planning and mother & child care. A Community Incentive Scheme to involve the Local Government Institutions in the Family Welfare Programme is under formulation. To involve the NGOs in a more meaningful manner, the guidelines have been revised to ensure that NGOs shift from mere advocacy to service delivery. The social marketing guidelines are also being finalised, to improve access to RCH services. The Department of Family Welfare is undertaking specific studies aimed at providing core information needed to formulate a health insurance scheme for the country. Special attention is being given to issues of adolescent health and urban and tribal population. The male involvement in Family Welfare Programme is sought to be raised. At the same time, an attempt is being made to make the Family Welfare Programme gender sensitive during the 10th Five Year Plan.

Statement-I*Expected Level of Achievements*

Sl. No.	States/Union Territories	CBR		IMR		TFR	
		Expected Level of Achvt. by 2002	Current Level as per 2001 SRS	Expected Level of Achvt. by 2002	Current Level as per 2001 SRS	Expected Level of Achvt. by 2002	Current Level as per 1999 SRS
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
	INDIA	24-23	25.4	56-50	66	2.9-2.6	3.2
1.	Andhra Pradesh	20-18	20.8	60-55	66	2.3-2.1	2.4
2.	Assam	25-22	26.8	60-55	73	2.7-2.5	3.2
3.	Bihar	27-25	31.2	50-44	62	4.0-3.0	4.5
4.	Chhattisgarh	29-25	26.3	80-70	76	3.5-2.8	3.9
5.	Gujarat	22-20	24.9	40-35	60	2.5-2.2	3.0
6.	Haryana	27-23	26.7	50-45	65	3.0-2.5	3.2
7.	Jharkhand	27-25	26.3	50-44	62	4.0-3.0	4.5
8.	Karnataka	21-20	22.2	60-50	58	2.4-2.1	2.5
9.	Kerala	16-15	17.2	10-9	11	1.7-1.6	1.8
10.	Madhya Pradesh	29-25	30.8	80-70	86	3.5-2.8	3.9
11.	Maharashtra	20-17	20.6	41-36	45	2.5-2.2	2.5
12.	Orissa	25-21	23.4	90-70	90	2.7-2.4	2.7
13.	Punjab	21-18	21.2	44-40	51	2.5-2.2	2.5
14.	Rajasthan	28-24	31.0	56-50	79	3.5-3.0	4.2
15.	Tamil Nadu	18-16	19.0	39-35	49	1.9-1.7	2.0
16.	Uttar Pradesh	30-26	32.1	75-60	82	3.8-3.4	4.7
17.	West Bengal	24-20	20.5	51-46	51	2.6-2.4	2.4
18.	Arunachal Pradesh	22-20	22.0	50-45	39	4.0-3.0	2.8
19.	Delhi	18-16	18.7	24-20	29	2.5-2.2	1.6
20.	Goa	14-12	13.9	10-9	19	1.6-1.5	1.0
21.	Himachal Pradesh	22-20	21.0	50-45	54	2.5-2.3	2.4
22.	Jammu & Kashmir	27-24	20.1	45-45	48	2.7-2.5	NA
23.	Manipur	18-16	18.2	24-20	20	2.4-2.1	2.4
24.	Meghalaya	25-23	28.3	40-35	56	2.8-2.5	4.0
25.	Mizoram	18-16	15.7	24-20	19	2.4-2.1	NA

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
26.	Nagaland	16-15	NA	8-5	NA	2.6-2.4	1.5
27.	Sikkim	18-17	21.6	40-35	42	2.4-2.1	2.5
28.	Tripura	18-16	16.1	40-35	39	2.4-2.1	3.9
29.	Uttaranchal	30-26	18.5	75-60	48	3.8-3.4	4.7
30.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	16-15	16.8	24-20	18	2.0-1.8	1.9
31.	Chandigarh	15-14	16.1	40-35	24	2.0-1.8	2.1
32.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	26-25	29.3	55-50	58	2.5-2.0	3.5
33.	Daman & Diu	18-16	22.3	24-20	40	2.0-1.8	2.5
34.	Lakshadweep	22-20	20.4	24-20	33	2.2-2.0	2.8
35.	Pondicherry	18-16	17.9	18-16	22	1.9-1.7	1.8

Statement-II

Funds Released under the Scheme, Compensation for Sterilisation and IUD Insertion During IX and X Five Year Plan

(Rs. in lakhs)

SI. No.	Name of State/UT	During IX Plan	2002-03
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	7981.23	1864.43
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	13.83	25.18
3.	Assam	1137.62	1262.00
4.	Bihar	1195.68	630.79
5.	Goa	74.36	4.80
6.	Gujarat	3038.36	604.84
7.	Haryana	1269.98	215.59
8.	Himachal Pradesh	315.19	72.86
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	132.9	17.97
10.	Karnataka	5185.74	1038.01
11.	Kerala	1808.62	418.20
12.	Madhya Pradesh	3700.66	633.67
13.	Maharashtra	6182.86	1542.05
14.	Manipur	67.25	8.35
15.	Meghalaya	65.82	55.79
16.	Mizoram	119.92	69.77
17.	Nagaland	41.84	29.00

	1	2	3	4
18.	Orissa		1276.09	314.40
19.	Punjab		1660.78	105.24
20.	Rajasthan		2753.77	503.04
21.	Sikkim		53.62	39.24
22.	Tamil Nadu		4827.73	1119.86
23.	Tripura		148.74	86.92
24.	Uttar Pradesh		5306.49	1307.50
25.	West Bengal		3101.38	958.17
26.	Chhattisgarh		269	317.39
27.	Jharkhand		238	279.47
28.	Uttaranchal		184.3	223.57
Total - States			52151.76	13748.10
UTs with Legislature				
1.	Pondicherry		132.75	48.00
2.	Delhi		488.85	
Outlays for UTs without Legislature				
1.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	24		
2.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	20		
3.	Chandigarh	48		
4.	Lakshadweep	3.15		
5.	Daman & Diu	8.5		
Total - UTs			725.25	48.00
Grand Total			52877.01	13796.10

Statement-III

Goals for the Tenth Plan - March 2007

Sl. No.	Name of States/ UTs	Expected Level Contraceptive Acceptance (Modern)		Expected Level Birth Rate	Expected Level T.F.R.	Expected Level I.M.R.	Expected Level NNMR	Expected Level Safe Delivery	Expected Level 3 ANC's
		Permanent	Spacing						
	India	50.00	15.0	21	2.3	45	26	80	90
I.	Major States								
1.	Andhra Pradesh	65.0	10.0	17	1.8	42	22	90	95
2.	Assam	35.0	16.9	22	2.3	50	30	55	80
3.	Bihar	30.0	10.0	24	2.8	45	25	70	80
4.	Chhattisgarh	45.0	10.0	22	2.6	50	38	95	85
5.	Gujarat	60.0	21.2	20	2.1	40	22	80	95
6.	Haryana	56.3	26.0	22	2.2	40	23	80	95
7.	Jharkhand	30.0	10.0	22	2.6	50	35	60	80
8.	Karnataka	60.0	12.7	20	2.0	40	21	85	95
9.	Kerala	60.0	10.7	15	1.6	9	5	100	100
10.	Madhya Pradesh	55.0	17.0	23	2.6	58	30	70	85
11.	Maharashtra	66.0	14.9	17	2.1	34	20	95	98
12.	Orissa	55.0	12.9	21	2.2	68	35	70	90
13.	Punjab	55.0	30.0	18	2.1	35	15	90	95
14.	Rajasthan	45.0	15.5	22	2.7	50	30	70	80
15.	Tamil Nadu	60.0	12.0	16	1.7	30	20	100	100
16.	Uttar Pradesh	35.0	21.0	24	2.7	58	35	75	80
17.	West Bengal	50.0	19.4	17	2.1	38	25	80	95
II.	Smaller States								
1.	Arunachal Pradesh	30.0	20.8	20	2.4	40	30	65	80
2.	Goa	45.0	12.4	12	1.5	9	20	75	100
3.	Himachal Pradesh	65.0	19.6	20	2.0	35	15	80	85
4.	Jammu & Kashmir	40.0	18.6	17	2.0	40	30	75	80
5.	Manipur	30.0	15.8	16	2.0	20	10	85	80
6.	Meghalaya	30.0	10.8	23	2.6	50	40	50	80
7.	Mizoram	56.8	15.5	16	2.0	19	12	90	90
8.	Nagaland	30.0	14.1	15	1.5	32	15	60	85
9.	Sikkim	31.3	28.5	17	2.1	45	20	60	85
10.	Tripura	30.0	36.4	16	2.6	35		60	85
11.	Uttaranchal	40.0	18.2	18	2.0	40	30	80	80
III.	Union Territories								
1.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	50.0	15.0	15	1.7	22		80	100
2.	Chandigarh	40.0	35.0	14	1.9	25		80	85
3.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	35.0	10.0	23	2.8	50		60	85
4.	Daman & Diu	50.0	10.0	16	2.1	45		85	90
5.	Delhi	40.0	30.0	16	1.6	25	20	85	85
6.	Lakshadweep	30.0	10.0	20	2.4	25		85	100
7.	Pondicherry	65.0	10.0	16	1.6	20		100	100

Statement-III
Goals for the Tenth Plan - March 2007

Current acceptors of Sterilizations (in 000's) 2001-02	Required no. per year to be Sterilized (in 000's) by 2007	Current acceptors of IUD (in 000's) 2001-02	Required No. per year to be IUD (in 000's) by 2007	Current acceptors of Eq. Oral P# Users (in 000's) 2001-02	Required no. per year to be Eq. Oral P# Users (in 000's) by 2007	Current acceptors of Eq. Condom Users (in 000's) 2001-02	Required no. per year to be Eq. Condom Users (in 000's) by 2007
4726	8234	6202	17232	7475	15006	145569	30013
808	897	280	882	242	768	543	1536
26	142	39	434	20	378	26	755
152	467	145	984	84	857	63	1713
99	270	105	536	170	466	285	933
255	491	402	1120	188	975	893	1950
88	195	159	582	68	507	342	1014
68	152	51	320	16	278	3	556
399	511	323	888	158	600	278	1199
150	278	73	319	27	278	102	556
328	785	466	1555	521	1354	1239	2709
696	1023	460	1457	339	1268	410	2537
92	314	171	471	128	410	262	821
110	199	352	697	138	607	448	1215
252	425	238	937	533	816	1057	1632
390	577	389	730	191	636	230	1271
418	954	2256	3849	816	3178	1569	6355
282	658	75	1609	394	1401	358	2802
2	5.1	3	22	2	19	1	38
5	9.1	3	16	2	14	1	28
35	69	32	133	23	116	69	231
16	59	19	175	7	152	13	308
0.8	9.2	6	31	0.8	27	3	53
2	9.4	2	21	3	18	1	37
2	7	2	12	2	10	1	21
0.6	6.3	2	19	2	16	0.2	32
0.8	2.5	1	14	3	12	1	24
6	16	4	122	33	106	17	213
28	49	105	186	46	162	75	325
2	3.1	1	6	1	5	2	10
3	6.4	5	36	0.5	32	12	63
0.8	1.3	0.3	2	0.2	2	0.009	4
0.6	1.2	0.3	2	0.3	1	1	3
39	102	63	496	16	432	182	864
0.03	0.3	0.04	1	0.08	1	0.4	1
13	12	4	12	2	10	11	20

[English]

Expansion of Major Ports

*578. SHRI G. S. BASAVARAJ: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under consideration of the Government for the expansion of major ports;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any matter related thereto is pending with the Public Investment Board;

(d) if so, the time by which it is likely to be cleared alongwith the targeted date of the completion of this expansion work; and

(e) the details in terms of estimated investment and resource mobilisation?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI SHATRUGHAN SINHA): (a) and (b) Expansion of major ports is a part of the ongoing process of their development, keeping in view the demands of maritime trade. During the Tenth Five Year Plan (2002-07), an amount of Rs.4531.29 crores has been allocated for development including expansion and modernisation of major ports. Out of this, Rs.2955.37 crores has been earmarked for new schemes to be taken up during the Tenth Plan. In addition, an investment of about Rs.11257.00 crores by the private sector is also envisaged in the major ports during the above period. The schemes included in the Tenth Plan are expected to yield an additional capacity of 127.10 million tonnes per annum (MTPA) through construction of additional berths, extension of existing berths and modernisation of cargo handling equipment through fresh procurement, replacement/upgradation in various major ports. Out of this, the new schemes are expected to yield an additional capacity of 63.60 MTPA.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

Monitoring AIDS Control Funds

*579. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the procedure adopted for verifying the antecedents of NGOs for providing funds by the National AIDS Control Organisation (NACO);

(b) whether the monitoring and evaluation system adopted has been effective in checking malpractices, if any, by NGOs; and

(c) if not, the further steps taken to tone up monitoring and evaluation of works done by NGOs in AIDS control?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) Under the National AIDS Control Programme-II, funding of NGO activities is taken up by the respective State AIDS Control Societies (SACS) to facilitate closer monitoring and providing support at local level. As part of its guidelines for NGO activities, National AIDS Control Organisation (NACO) stipulates certain parameters for selection of NGOs through a stringent and transparent process by issuing an advertisement in the newspapers for inviting proposals from NGOs. The NGOs which apply for grant are assessed with regard to their legal status, infrastructure, organizational structure and past track record of their work in other development fields. The NGO is required to have audit reports and annual reports relating to its past activities for 3 years. The NGO should not be among the NGOs blacklisted by the Central Social Welfare Board (CSWB) and Council for Advancement of People's Action and Rural Technology (CAPART) or any other Government agency. The proposals received from the NGOs are placed before a Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) of the SACS. The Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) approves the NGO proposals, and only those approved are then followed up with field inspection by a Joint Appraisal Team (JAT) to ascertain the credibility of the NGO within the local community. The recommendations of Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) and Joint Appraisal Team (JAT) are placed before the Executive Committee of the SACS chaired by Secretary (Health) in the State Government for final decision on sanction of grant.

(b) and (c) A detailed monitoring and evaluation system has been built into the programme. A Computerised Management Information System and a Programme Finance Management System have been developed by the NACO. These systems and procedures ensure regular feedback from the NGOs through their respective State AIDS Control Societies in respect of diverse parameters for evaluation. Additionally, regular visits are made by the officers and the NGO Advisor of SACS. NGOs are also required to submit detailed activity reports and audited statement of expenditure. The accounts of the NGOs funded are further subject to audit by the Comptroller Auditor General of India from time to time.

External evaluation is carried out in respect of those NGOs who have been implementing the intervention programme for more than three years.

With these intensive monitoring and evaluation systems, the SACS have been able to check malpractices by NGOs. Resultantly, during the year 2000-2001, funding was discontinued for 19 NGOs and during 2001-2002, funding was discontinued for 22 NGOs.

Pre-Natal Health Care Facilities

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

(a) whether the Government have a proposal to provide adequate health care and nutritious food to the expectant mothers under pre-natal health care facilities in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the manner in which the facilities are likely to be provided to them?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (c) A number of schemes for providing adequate health care to expectant mothers are being implemented as part of the ongoing RCH Programme. These interventions include essential obstetric care including prophylaxis and treatment of iron deficiency anaemia, emergency obstetric care; provision of referral transport through panchayats and provision of drugs and equipment at sub-centers, primary health centers, community health centers and first referral units.

Keeping the importance of maternal nutrition during the pregnancy in view, the Planning Commission has operationalised a pilot project in 51 districts of the country, through the Department of Women and Child Development for the undernourished expectant pregnant women and adolescent girls. The scheme envisages providing food grains at the rate of 6 kg. per month, totally free of cost for a period of 3-6 months.

In order to improve the benefits of the existing interventions and to promote institutional deliveries, there is a proposal to introduce a new scheme in the name of Janani Suraksha Yojana. This scheme shall not only integrate the existing National Maternity Benefit Scheme with the ongoing Maternal Health Schemes but will also introduce several new initiatives. The main features of the new scheme would be as follows:

- (i) The scheme will be 100% centrally sponsored
- (ii) The benefit will be available to all women living in both rural and urban areas

(iii) All women aged 19 years and above, belonging to households below poverty line will be eligible for taking benefit of this scheme.

(iv) The implementation in the urban areas will be through Municipal Health authorities and in rural areas, through the Chief Medical Officers of the districts.

(v) Up to two live births, assistance of Rs. 500/- for birth of male child and Rs. 1000/- for birth of a female child. For pregnant women who opt for sterilization, she would be given the benefit of the scheme, even after the birth of two children.

(vi) While three antenatal check-up will not be insisted upon, delivery in health centres/hospitals will be necessary for availing the benefits.

(vii) Assistance up to Rs. 150/- for transporting the pregnant women to a health centre/hospital will be provided.

(viii) Self-declaration will be accepted for Below Poverty Line (BPL) status in case the pregnant woman does not possess a BPL card

(ix) Dais will be paid incentive amount of Rs. 25 per case where they take the pregnant women to health centers/hospitals, for delivery.

(x) The scheme will be implemented at the State level through the Department of Family Welfare in the States/UTs. District Level Committees will have the responsibility of implementing the scheme in their respective districts through the ANM/Anganwadi workers with whom an imprest amount of Rs. 5,000/- will be placed for disbursement to the beneficiaries after delivery.

Involvement of Gram Panchayats in Family Planning Programme

*581. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK:

SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO:

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

(a) whether the Government propose to involve Gram Panchayats and other local Government bodies in Family Planning Programme;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the State Governments have been

directed by the Centre to entrust such responsibility to the Gram Panchayats;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the response of the State Governments thereto?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) and (b) The National Population Policy, 2000, recognizes the Panchayati Raj Institutions as an important means of furthering decentralized planning and programme implementation for population stabilisation. The 73rd and 74th Constitutional Amendment Acts, 1992, have already made Health, FW and Education, a responsibility of Village Panchayats.

Under the IXth Five Year Plan, the following schemes were implemented through the PRIs under the National FW Programme:

- (i) The National Maternity Benefit Scheme for providing cash assistance of Rs.500/- to pregnant women in Below Poverty Line (BPL) families.
- (ii) The Referral Transport Scheme for assisting women from indigent families in 25% of the Sub-centres in select states for transportation to a referral unit during emergency.
- (iii) Village level planning being undertaken by ANMs, under Community Needs Assessment Approach, which involves rural communities.
- (iv) Preparation of District IEC Plan, through the Zila Saksharata Samiti.
- (v) Under some area projects implemented in States, the task of construction of buildings was entrusted to the local PRI bodies.
- (vi) The Mahila Swasthya Sanghs and the Village Self-Help Groups were used to propagate agenda of family welfare in the villages. Although, these bodies do not strictly come within the system of PRIs, however, vigilant and active members of the village are often represented both on PRIs and in such bodies.
- (vii) Trainings were organized for members of the PRIs, especially the women representatives, to sensitize and enlighten them about the RCH programme, and their role in it.

A new Community Incentive Scheme is being conceptualized to increase the involvement of members of Panchayati Raj Institutions in Family Welfare programme, for the 10th Five Year Plan.

(c) to (e) Necessary instructions have been given to the States/UTs, for involving Panchayati Raj Institutions for the implementation of National Maternity Benefit Scheme, Referral Transport Scheme and Community Needs Assessment Approach. A National Consultative Workshop was organized at NIHFWS, on 3rd/4th February, 2003, on the "Role of Panchayati Raj Institutions and Urban Local Bodies in Health and Family Welfare Programme". Representatives from the States of Chhattisgarh, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal, attended the Workshop. The Department of Family Welfare is publishing a Handbook containing information on the primary healthcare system in rural areas and on various reproductive and healthcare Programmes, which shall be distributed to Panchayat Heads at village/block/district levels in the eight Empowered Action Group States of Bihar, Jharkhand, U.P., Uttaranchal, M.P., Chhattisgarh, Rajasthan and Orissa.

The State Governments are involving the PRIs in the Family Welfare Programme in varying degrees. The Government of Kerala has transferred funds, functions and functionaries to the PRIs under the model of decentralised planning. Other states like Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, West Bengal, Haryana and Orissa are also making efforts to involve the PRIs in Family Welfare Programme to increase the acceptability and the effectiveness of the programme.

Co-operation with South Korea in IT Sector

*582. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have a proposal to establish co-operation with South Korea in the field of information technology;

(b) if so, whether any high level discussion in this regard was held recently between India and South Korea;

(c) if so, the outcome thereof;

(d) the details of South Korean companies which propose to make investments in the IT sector of India; and

(e) the details of the other countries with which co-operation has been established in the field of IT?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. India and South Korea have signed the following Memorandum of Understanding (MoUs) for bilateral cooperation in the IT Sector:

(i) An MoU has been signed between India and South Korea for bilateral cooperation in IT sector in April, 2001, to facilitate industry-to-industry cooperation in the following areas:

- IT software including telecom software
- IT enabled services
- E-Commerce and information security
- Electronic Governance
- IT and electronic hardware
- HRD for IT education and IT enabled education
- Research and Development
- Exploring Third Country Market
- Other areas as mutually agreed upon by the parties

(ii) An MoU has been signed between National Informatics Centre (NIC), Government of India and National Computerization Agency (NCA) of Republic of Korea for cooperation in the area of E-Governance in April, 2002.

(iii) Electronics and Computer Software Export Promotion Council (ESC), an autonomous organisation under Department of Information Technology (DIT), has signed an MoU with Korean IT Industry Promotion Agency (KIPA) in April,

2001, to promote the business relation between the industries of India and South Korea in the field of electronics, IT and related services.

(iv) National Association of Software Services and Companies (NASSCOM) has signed an MoU with the Korean IT Industry Promotion Agency (KIPA) to facilitate the business promotion between the Indian and South Korean industries in IT sector.

In addition, the Korea-India IT Forums were organised in April, 2002, August, 2002 and April, 2003, at New Delhi for purpose of strengthening the global competitiveness among the industries in IT sector of India and South Korea.

(d) A Statement on company-wise details of inflow of foreign direct investment received from South Korea during the period from 1.1.2000 to 31.12.2002 is enclosed. The total Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) received up to 31.12.2002 is Rs. 71.12 crores.

(e) India has signed MoUs with the following 26 countries (other than South Korea) for bilateral cooperation in IT sector:

Brazil	Mongolia	Russia
EU	Egypt	Iran
Vietnam	Italy	Bulgaria
Belarus	Malaysia	Hong Kong
Thailand	Mauritius	New Zealand
Singapore	Israel	Ireland
Colombia	China	Ghana
France	Romania	Australia
Cyprus	Sri Lanka	

Statement

Company-wise details of Inflow received during the period from 01/01/200 to 31/12/2002

(Amount in Crore)

S.No.	Route Country	Name of the Company	Amount of Inflow (In Rs)
1	2	3	4
1	FIPB Korea (South) Location: Delhi Sector: Electricals Equipment (Incl. S/W & Elec.)	Samsung Electronics (India) Pvt. Ltd.,	21.97

1	2	3	4
2	FIPB Korea (South) Location: Delhi Sector: Electricals Equipment (Incl. S/W & Elec.)	Soft Technologies India Pvt. Ltd.,	0.12
3	RBI Korea (South) Location: Karnataka Sector: Electricals Equipment (Incl. S/W & Elec.)	Inchang Electronics India Pvt Ltd.	0.20
4	RBI Korea (South) Location: Maharashtra Sector: Electricals Equipment (Incl. S/W & Elec.)	Kortind Designs Pvt. Ltd.	0.01
5	FIPB Korea (South) Location: Delhi Sector: Electricals Equipment (Incl. S/W & Elec.)	Samsung Electronics (India) Pvt. Ltd.,	48.82
Grand Total			71.12

Container Terminal at JNPT (Mumbai)

5599. SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the P&O multinational company has its own container terminal at the J.N.P.T. -Nhava Sheva (Mumbai) port;

(b) whether our terminal has been incurring losses due to the above mentioned terminal;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to remedy the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI): (a) Nhava Sheva International Container Terminal Private Limited, a company whose 95% shares are beneficially owned by P&O Australia Ports Pty Limited, is operating a Container Terminal on Build, Operate and Transfer (BOT) basis at Jawaharlal Nehru Port in Navi Mumbai.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Safety Measures for Nuclear Plants

5600. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the radioactive release limits prescribed by the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board are the same as the international limits;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the safety measures in the nuclear plants are on the lines of international norms; and

(d) if so, the type of safety measures provided in each of the Nuclear Power Stations in the country?

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

(b) The Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB) has stipulated that dose to the public due to the operation of a nuclear facility shall not exceed 1mSv per year. This is in line with the recommendations of the International Commission on Radiological Protection.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) All nuclear power plants in India are designed based on principles of defence-in-depth, diversity, redundancy and have adequate safety systems in place. Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB) licenses for operation of all nuclear power plants are based on a multi-tier review of safety

systems. The safety measures are ensured by proper operating procedures and deployment of trained manpower licensed by AERB. Multiple barriers exist to prevent the escape of radiation to the environment. In addition, emergency preparedness, as a matter of abundant caution, is ensured by well laid down plans and procedures which are periodically rehearsed by the plant and the State authorities.

Creation of Postal Circles/Divisions

5601. SHRI A. NARENDRA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have a proposal to create some new postal circles and new postal divisions during 2003-2004;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SU THIRUNAVUKKARASAR): (a) The creation of new postal Circles/Divisions depends on the need, justification and also the orders of the Government on creation of new posts. As per the extant orders, no new Circles or Divisions can be

created unless ban on creation of new posts is relaxed by the competent authority.

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

[Translation]

Curtailment of Expenditure

5602. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the year-wise expenditure incurred under various heads such as publicity, advertisement, hospitality, catering, opening ceremonies, seminars, conferences, tours (including foreign visits), STD and ISTD telephone bills, electricity bills of airconditioners and coolers and other office expenses in various departments under his Ministry during the last three years;

(b) whether the Government propose to launch any drive to cut down the expenditure being incurred under the above heads;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a)

	2000-2001	2001-2002	2002-2003 (Provisional)
	(Rs. in crores)		
(i) Advertising and publicity	15.06	22.52	20.25
(ii) Hospitality/catering/opening ceremonies	20.68	25.24	19.60
(iii) Seminars/conferences	0.195	0.39	0.21
(iv) Tours (including foreign visits)	20.71	25.72	26.10
(v) STD/ISTD Bills	03.999	03.73	03.15
(vi) Electricity bills (including charges for Airconditioners and coolers as separate bills indicating charges only on this account are not issued.)	01.32	01.10	01.19
(vii) Other office expenses	28.79	27.55	25.99

(b) and (c) It is a constant endeavour to economise on expenditure being incurred under the above heads.

(d) Does not arise

Opening of Post Offices

5603. SHRI VISHNUDEO SAI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of post offices proposed to be opened in Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh;

(b) the number of new post offices sanctioned during the last three years in the above States and the locations where these were opened;

(c) the number of post offices upgraded to district post offices in the above States during the said period; and

(d) the details of the new posts sanctioned for these post offices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SU THIRUNAVUKKARASAR): (a) There was proposal to open 11 new post offices in Chhattisgarh State and 28 new post offices in Madhya Pradesh State during the year 2002-2003.

(b) Location-wise details of the post offices sanctioned during the last three years in the above States are given in the enclosed statement.

(c) 5 district post offices (Mukhya Dak Ghar) were upgraded in Chhattisgarh State and 8 in Madhya Pradesh State during the said period.

(d) No new post was sanctioned for these post offices.

Statement

Location-wise details of New Post Offices Sanctioned during the last three years in Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh

Chhattisgarh State

Sl. No.	2000-2001	2001-2002	2002-2003
1	2	3	4
1.	Putpura	Irai	Khairjhili

Madhya Pradesh State

Sl. No.	2000-2001	2001-2002	2002-2003
1	2	3	4
1.	Bhopal Kolar Road TSO	Tekapar garhi	Suraj Nagar, Bhopal
2.	New High Court Gwalior	Tidni	Champa Khedi
3.	Mohgaon Haweli (Through upgradation)	Kunwarpur	Tila
4.	Bargaon Khurd	Kherinaka	Satnai

1	2	3	4
2.	Parsada	Umargaon	Sureli
3.	Hathneora	Hirri	Puspal
4.	Shikaripali	Bunagaon	Chhindwara
5.	Samnapur	Mudar Sardi	Deosagar
6.	Kasira	Belardona	Baghadola
7.	Kurkunga	Buchatola	Khajja
8.	Shahpur	Mundi Bhanwar	Khokhsipali
9.	Ghatpiparia	Darrighat	Rajpur
10.	Barelaghat	Talakurra	Bherakhar
11.	Karanndiya	Marda	Mohlali
12.	Banjari	Murmurda	
13.	Tali	Chhuria	
14.	Chhapara		
15.	Hadbada		
16.	Bhagochar		
17.	Binjhiya		
18.	Janpur		
19.	Mughapar		
20.	Naikin		
21.	Sahajpura		
22.	Vijaypani		
23.	Subhashnagar		
24.	Misirgawan		
25.	Darbai		
26.	Mohgaon Haweli		

1	2	3	4
5.	Badnagar	Kutkipura	Gogarpura
6.	Barkhedl Tumen	Bhadata	Lasudia
7.	Sagwali	Deori	Hamavada
8.	Rinda	Ajnodha	Chhayan
9.	Limboda (Hotpiya)	Patondi (Binaganj)	Panda Jagir
10.	Dabragaon	Hasinabad (Burhanpur)	Dhabla Chagwan
11.	Dudhlai	Gohinda	Kheda
12.	Jaida Mandi	Tal	Paraslighata
13.	Lalkneda (Jaora)	Khadbada Kukdesheswar	Saheli
14.	Khajuria Bina	Aroli (Ashta)	Talanpur
15.	Dabadi	Umarthana	Jajam Khedi
16.	Khalbujurg	Bani	Dhekana
17.	Haraswat	Raipur Dhamkan (Narwar)	Gopalpura
18.	Kalsuda Khurd	Sirwel (Biston)	Harduli
19.		Koidia (Anjad)	Bansa
20.		Jamnapur (Khalwa)	Agasaud
21.		Mehgaon Deb	Dighauri
22.		Bagh Mugalia	Mangali
23.		Magroni	Jhurremines
24.		Morena Distt. Court	Sewati
25.		Rajpura	Pokhara
26.		Saroli	Juri
27.		Lamhaita	Ghughari
28.		Gangi	
29.		Gokalthana	
30.		Khatola	
31.		Khari	
32.		Kauwadongri	
33.		Top	
34.		Rajendranagar Coly.	
35.		Jaypeepuram	
36.		Kosamdongri	
37.		Mohnia	

**Number of National Highways
in Maharashtra**

5604. SHRI SHIVAJI MANE: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the existing number of National Highways in Maharashtra alongwith the details of their condition;
- (b) the number of National Highways out of them which requires repair; and
- (c) the details of proposals with regard to construction of new National Highways and repair of existing highways in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI): (a) There are 14 numbers of National Highways in Maharashtra. All are in traffic worthy condition.

(b) Maintenance and repair of National Highways is a continuous process.

(c) All proposals for conversion of State roads into National Highways have been returned to the respective State Governments including those of Maharashtra. Presently there is a ban on declaration of new National Highways due to fund constraints. Existing highways are being maintained by doing routine/normal repair activities.

Disinvestments of Oil Sector

5605. SHRI RAM SINGH KASWAN: Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the amount of money earned by the Government on account of the disinvestments made in the oil sector during the last three years;
- (b) whether the Government propose to make more disinvestments in the oil sector; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) The amount realised by the Government from the disinvestment of some Public Sector Undertakings in the oil sector during the last three years (2000-01, 2001-02 and 2002-03) is Rs.2471 crore.

(b) Yes. Sir.

(c) Government have decided to disinvest 34.01 % equity shares in Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) through strategic sale and 35.20% equity shares 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 each in both the companies through Employees Stock Purchase Scheme (ESPS) to the employees.

Cancer Control Programme

5606. SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the State Governments also share the financial responsibility for the implementation of National Cancer Control Programme (NCCP);
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the programmes/schemes implemented under NCCP during the last three years, State-wise and the funds, loans, grants or other financial assistance provided to the States in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) and (b) Health is a State Subject and it is responsibility to State Govt. to provide medicare facilities to the people. This Ministry augments the efforts of the State Governments in this endeavour. Under the National Cancer Control Programme this Ministry has recognized 20 Regional Cancer Centres in different parts of the country enclosed as statement-I. Of these, barring 8 institutions which are either privately owned or fully funded by this Ministry, the remaining 12 are financed by the State Governments and the contribution of this Ministry to these RCCs is only a recurring annual grant of Rs.75.00 lakhs for purchase of equipment.

(c) Under the National Cancer Control Programme this Ministry is implementing various schemes aimed at creating awareness among the people and for facilitating treatment and research activities, details of which may be seen enclosed as statement-II. The details of grant-in-aid released to the State Government and Regional Cancer Centres during the last three years are enclosed as statement-III.

Statement-I*List of RCCs*

*Kamla Nehru Memorial Hospital,
Allahabad, Uttar Pradesh.

Chittaranjan National Cancer Institute,
Kolkata, West Bengal

Kidwai Memorial Instt. of Oncology,
Bangalore, Karnataka

* Regional Cancer Institute (WIA),
Adyar, Chennai, Tamil Nadu

Acharya Harihar Regional Cancer,
Centre for Cancer Research & Treatment,
Cuttack, Orissa

Regional Cancer Control Society
Shimla, Himachal Pradesh

* Cancer Hospital & Research Centre
Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh

Pt. J.N.M. Medical College,
Raipur, Chhattisgarh

Indian Rotary Cancer Institute,
(A.I.I.M.S), New Delhi

* R.S.T. Hospital & Research Centre,
Nagpur, Maharashtra

Regional Cancer Centre, Thiruvananthapuram

*Gujarat Cancer Research Institute, Ahmedabad,
Gujarat

MNJ Institute of Oncology, Hyderabad,
Andhra Pradesh

Pondicherry Regional Cancer Society, JIPMER,
Pondicherry.

Dr. B.B. Cancer Institute, Guwahati, Assam

* Tata Memorial Hospital Mumbai, Maharashtra

Indira Gandhi Institute of Medical Sciences,
Patna, Bihar.

Civil Hospital, Aizawl Mizoram

Acharya Tuls Regional Cancer Trust & Research
Institute (RCC) Bikaner, Rajasthan

Regional Cancer Centre, Pt. B.D. Shamra Post
Graduate Institute of Medical Sciences,
Rohtak, Haryana

* Non-Government Organisations

Statement-II*National Cancer Control Programme***Development of Oncology Wing in Medical College Hospital**

This scheme is available only for Government Medical Colleges to fill up the geographical gaps in the detection and treatment of cancer in the country. Financial assistance up to Rs.2.00 crores is provided to an institute under the scheme for purchase of equipments like Cobalt Machine, Brachytherapy etc. This is a one-time grant.

Setting up of Cobalt Therapy Unit

Financial assistance up to Rs.1.50 crore is provided to State Government for setting up of Cobalt Therapy Unit in Government institutions.

An amount of Rs.1.00 crore is provided for Cobalt Therapy Unit to the Non-Government Organisations.

The Mammography equipment has also been included under the scheme for setting up of Cobalt Therapy Unit. A Central assistance up to Rs.30.00 lakhs is provided to those institutions/organisations who have the facilities for treatment of cancer patients and has well-equipped Radiotherapy Department. All these are one-time grant.

District Cancer Control Programme

A scheme of district project (duration-five years) for health education, detection and pain relief measures under National Cancer Control Programme was initiated during the year 1990-91. In this scheme, financial assistance of Rs.15.00 lakhs is provided to the State Government/UT administration for each district selected under the scheme with a provision of Rs.10.00 lakhs per annum for each district for the remaining four years of the project period. After five years, the project is to be taken over by the State Government.

Financial Assistance to Registered Voluntary Organisations

Under the scheme assistance upto Rs.5.00 lakhs is provided to the Voluntary Organisations for undertaking health education and early detection activities in cancer on the specific recommendations of the State Government.

Regional Cancer Centres

This Ministry has recognised 20 Regional Cancer Centres in different States/UTs. The Chittaranjan National Cancer Institute, Kolkata and Institute Rotary Cancer Hospital (IRCH), AIIMS, New Delhi have got a different funding pattern. Remaining RCCs are paid an amount of 75.00 lakhs annually. These RCCs extend treatment facilities and conduct research in the field of Cancer.

Statement-III

(A) RCC grants to Government Institutions

Amount (Rs. in lakhs)

Sl. No.	State	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
1	2	3	4	5
1.	West Bengal	300.00	450.00	700.00
2.	Tamil Nadu *	75.00	75.00	75.00
3.	Kerala	75.00	75.00	75.00
4.	Karnataka	75.00	75.00	75.00
5.	Gujarat *	75.00	75.00	75.00
6.	Andhra Pradesh	-	75.00	75.00
7.	Maharashtra *	75.00	75.00	75.00
8.	Madhya Pradesh *	75.00	75.00	75.00
9.	Rajasthan	75.00	82.50	75.00
10.	Bihar	75.00	75.00	75.00
11.	Chhattisgarh	-	75.00	35.00
12.	Orissa	75.00	75.00	75.00
13.	Uttar Pradesh *	75.00	75.00	75.00

1	2	3	4	5
14.	Himachal Pradesh	75.00	75.00	-
15.	Haryana	75.00	75.00	-
16.	Mizoram	-	-	75.00
17.	IRCH (AIIMS), New Delhi	1500.00	1300.00	1000.00
18.	Pondicherry	-	75.00	75.00

* Private Institutions

(B) Cobalt grant to Government Institutions

1.	Andhra Pradesh	-	71.00	79.00
2.	Kerala	7.50	-	-
3.	Uttar Pradesh	-	150.00	200.00
4.	Haryana	150.00	-	-
5.	Tamil Nadu	300.00	-	-
6.	West Bengal	157.50	285.00	-
7.	New Delhi	325.00	-	400.00

(C) Oncology grant to Government Institutions

1.	West Bengal	-	200.00	200.00
2.	Tamil Nadu	-	90.00	231.00
3.	Rajasthan	-	-	110.00
4.	Karnataka	400.00	-	200.00
5.	Madhya Pradesh	320.00	-	80.00
6.	Uttar Pradesh	-	200.00	-
7.	Maharashtra	150.00	-	-
8.	Mizoram	-	101.00	-
9.	Haryana	-	100.00	-
10.	Chhattisgarh	-	150.00	-
11.	Jharkhand	-	229.00	-
12.	Bihar	-	200.00	-
13.	Gujarat	-	300.00	-
14.	Chandigarh	-	200.00	-

*[English]***Development of Ayurveda**

5607. SHRI T. GOVINDAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any project for approval from Kerala Government for the development of Ayurveda; and

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the action taken in this regard?

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

(b) During 2002-2003, grants-in-aid to two Ayurveda Colleges and 9 projects for developing medicinal plants to Government organisations in Kerala and assistance for purchase of drugs for dispensaries are some of the projects already approved.

*[Translation]***Discontinued Health Project**

5608. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of States where WHO sponsored State Health Development Project initiated in the year 1996 has been discontinued as on date;

(b) the reasons therefor; and

(c) the achievements made thereunder?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) The State Health System Development Project II initiated in 1996 has been assisted by the World Bank and not WHO. During that year, projects were taken up in the states of Karnataka, Punjab and West Bengal. These were to come to end in March, 2002. However, the World Bank has agreed to extend this project upto March, 2004.

(b) Question does not arise.

(c) The achievements made under the project in the three states are as follows:

(i) Karnataka: The World Bank Review Mission had

reported in June, 2002 that about 84 percent of the credit had been disbursed. By June 2002, out of 204 hospitals taken up under the project, work in 178 hospitals had been completed. Besides, considerable progress has been achieved in other components of the project like increase in bed strength, procurement of equipment and drugs, disease surveillance, strengthening management and information systems, etc.

(ii) Punjab: The World Bank Review Mission had reported in November, 2002 that about 81% of the credit had been disbursed. There has been an improvement in the availability of drugs and supplies, enhancement of clinical skill of doctors and nurses and increase in the number of beds strengths. By November, 2002, out of 154 hospitals taken up under the project, 150 have been renovated/upgraded.

(iii) West Bengal: The World Bank Review Mission had reported in November, 2002 that about 81% of the credit had been disbursed. By November, 2002, out of 214 hospitals taken up under the project, 199 have been renovated/upgraded. Besides, considerable progress has been achieved in other components of the project like increased availability of drugs and supplies and equipment in the completed facilities, enhancement of clinical skills of doctors, nurses and paramedics, formation of diseases surveillance units in all districts.

*[English]***Opening of Branch Post Offices**

5609. SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to open branch post offices in rural areas of Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any target has been fixed in Tenth Five Year Plan for this purpose; 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) Yes, Sir. Branch Post Offices are being opened in rural areas in the country including Maharashtra during the current year subject

to fulfilment of norms relating to population, distance and income and availability of requisite resources under Annual Plan.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. A target for opening of 1000 Extra Departmental Branch Post offices throughout the country has been allocated in the Tenth Five Year plan. The Circle-wise break up of the target is finalized each year.

Compensation to Cellular Service Companies

5610. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the cellular service companies have requested for compensating their losses by allowing fixed line operators to provide limited mobility in their wireless in local loop (WLL) networks;

(b) if so, whether the Government have examined the proposal;

(c) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) to (d) On the basis of the recommendations of Telecom Regulatory Authority of India it had been decided to bring licence fee for cellular services at par with basic services, to permit more points of interconnection, to allow to retain 5% of charges collected by cellular operators for the fixed leg of the call as well as permitted to provide fixed phone based on their GSM infrastructure. These are applicable for the period for which the limited mobility is not prohibited.

Appropriate Guidelines on Appointment

5611. SHRI PRAKASH YASHWANT AMBEDKAR: Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have formulated any guidelines on the appointment of investment bankers for disinvestment of Government share holdings in Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) and transfer of management control to private sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons for not making such guidelines?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) to (c) Advisers to assist the Government in the process of disinvestment through strategic sale are appointed through a process of competitive bidding on the basis of eligibility criterion based on sector expertise, experience, research capabilities, qualifications of the deal team etc. as decided by an Inter-Ministerial Group specifically set up for each disinvestment consisting of representatives of the administrative Ministry, concerned PSU, Department of Public Enterprises, Ministry of Finance, Department of Legal Affairs and the Ministry of Disinvestment. In addition, Advisers are also required to be eligible under the guidelines issued by the Ministry of Disinvestment on 13th July, 2001 which are enclosed as statement. Expressions of Interest are invited through an advertisement in the leading newspapers and the advertisement is also posted on the web site of the Ministry of Disinvestment, the concerned administrative Ministry and the concerned PSU. The interested parties are also required to make a presentation before the Inter-Ministerial Group which evaluates the proposals received and recommends the appointment of a particular Adviser to the Core Group of Secretaries on Disinvestment chaired by the Cabinet Secretary, the recommendations of which, are put before the Minister of Disinvestment for approval. Generally, Advisers have been either merchant bankers, consultancy companies or accounting firms.

Statement

No.6/4/2001-DD-II
Government of India
Department of Disinvestment

Block 14, CGO Complex
New Delhi.

Dated 13th July, 2001.

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

Subject: Guidelines for qualification of Advisors for disinvestment process

Government has examined the issue of framing comprehensive and transparent guidelines defining the criteria for selection of Advisors, so that the parties selected through competitive bidding inspire public confidence. Earlier, a set of criteria like sector experience, knowledge, commitment etc. used to be prescribed. Based on experience and in consultation with concerned departments, Government has decided to prescribe the following additional criteria for the qualification /

disqualification of the parties to act as Advisors to the Government for the disinvestment transactions:-

- (a) Any conviction by a Court of Law or indictment / adverse order by a regulatory authority for a grave offence against the Advising concern or its sister concern would constitute a disqualification. Grave offence would be defined to be of such a nature that it outrages the moral sense of the community. The decision in regard to the nature of offence would be taken on a case to case basis after considering the facts of the case and relevant legal principles by the Government. Similarly, the decision in regard to the relationship between the sister concerns would be taken, based on relevant facts and after examining whether the two concerns are substantially controlled by the same person/persons.
- (b) In case such a disqualification takes place, after the entity has already been appointed as Advisor, the party would be under an obligation to withdraw voluntarily from the disinvestment process, failing which the Government would have the liberty to terminate the appointment/ contract.
- (c) Disqualification shall continue for a period that Government deems appropriate.
- (d) Any entity, which is disqualified from participating in the disinvestment process, would not be allowed to remain associated with it or get associated merely because it has preferred an appeal against the order based on which it has been disqualified. The mere pendency of appeal will have no effect on the disqualification.
- (e) The disqualification criteria would come into effect immediately and would apply to all the Advisors already appointed by the Government for various disinvestment transactions, which have not yet been completed.
- (f) Before disqualifying a concern, a Show Cause Notice why it should not be disqualified would be issued to it and it would be given an opportunity to explain its position.
- (g) Henceforth, these criteria will be prescribed in the advertisements seeking Expressions of Interest (EOI) from the interested parties to act as Advisor. Further, the interested parties shall be required to provide with their EOI an undertaking to the effect that no investigation by a regulatory authority is pending against them. In case any investigation is pending against the concern or its sister concern or against the CEO or any of its Directors/Managers/Employees, full details of such investigation including the name of the investigating agency, the charge/offence for which the investigation

has been launched, name and designation of persons against whom the investigation has been launched and other relevant information should be disclosed, to the satisfaction of the Government. For other criteria also, similar undertaking will be obtained along with EOI. They would also have to give an undertaking that if they are disqualified as per the prescribed criteria, at any time before the transaction is completed, they would be required to inform the Government of the same and voluntarily withdraw from the assignment.

- (h) The interested parties would also be required to give an undertaking that there exists no conflict of interest as on the date of their appointment as Advisors in handling of the transaction and that, in future, if such a conflict of interest arises, the Advisor would immediately intimate the Government of the same. For disinvestment proposes, 'conflict of interest' is defined to include engaging in any activity or business by the Advisor in association with any third Party, during the engagement, which would or may be reasonably expected to, directly or indirectly, materially adversely affect the interest of Government of India or the Company (being disinvested) in relation to the transaction, and in respect of which the Advisor has or may obtain any proprietary or confidential information during the engagement, that, if known to any other client of the Advisor, could be used in any manner by such client to the material disadvantage of Government of India or the Company (being disinvested) in the transaction. The conflict of interest would be deemed to have arisen if any Advisor firm/concern, has any professional or commercial relationship with any bidding firm/concern for the same disinvestment transaction during the pendency of such transaction. In this context, both Advisor firm and bidding firm would mean the distinct and separate legal entities and would not include their sister concern, group concern or affiliates etc. The professional or commercial relationship is defined to include acting on behalf of the bidder or undertaking any assignment for the bidder of any nature, whether or not directly related to disinvestment transaction.
- (i) On receiving information on conflict of interest, the Government would give the option to the Advisor to either eliminate the conflict of interest within a stipulated time or withdraw from the transaction and the Advisor would be required to act accordingly, failing which Government would have the liberty to terminate the appointment/ contract.

-Sd/-

(A.K. Tewari)

Under Secretary to the Government of India.

*[Translation]***Vacant Post of MTNL**

5612. DR. BALIRAM: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of employees retired or died in harness during the period from November 1, 1998 to March 31, 2003 in Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited, category-wise;

(b) the number of dependents of the deceased provided jobs and the number of appointments made under various categories to the posts vacated by the retired employees during the said period; and

(c) the time by which the vacant posts, if any, are likely to be filled up by the Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) The category wise number of employees retired or died in harness during the period 1.11.98 to 31.3.2003 in MTNL is as under:

Category	Died in Harness	Retired
A	25	232
B	22	191
C	657	1544
D	467	581

(b) No. of dependent of deceased employees provided jobs is as under:-

Group "C"	Group "D"
499	765

Information in respect of appointments made under various categories of posts vacated by the retired employees during the said period is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(c) No time limit can be set in view of general ban on recruitment.

*[English]***Widening of Roads in Punjab**

5613. SHRI J.S. BRAR: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to undertake the works of widening roads in Punjab during 2003-04;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the funds allocated for the purpose; 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) This Ministry is responsible for development and maintenance of National Highways. Four laning of following stretches of NHs passing through or located in Punjab is targeted to be undertaken during 2003-04:

- (i) Km 387 to 407 of NH 1 in Jalandhar-Amritsar section.
- (ii) Km 26 to 117 of NH 1A in Jalandhar-Pathankot section

Funds for the four-laning will be allocated from the resources available with NHAI on award of the work.

The stretches of NH 21 from Chandigarh to Kiratpur and NH22 from Ambala to Kalka passing through Punjab have also been identified for examining feasibility for four laning with private sector participation and for four laning of the stretch of NH 1 from Jalandhar to Wagha border excluding Km 387 to 407, various alternatives of funding are under consideration. It is, however, too early to indicate whether four laning of these stretches will be taken up in 2003-04.

Disinvestment of PSUs

5614. SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE:

SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:

DR. M.V.V.S. MURTHI

Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the disinvestment commission has recently recommended disinvestments of some PSUs including RCF (Rashtriya Chemicals and Fertilizers Limited);

(b) if so, the details of such PSUs; and

(c) the stand of the Union Government on the recommendations of disinvestment commission?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) and (b) The

disinvestment of Government equity in Rashtriya Chemicals and Fertilizers Ltd. was recommended by the erstwhile Disinvestment Commission in XII Report, August 1999.

Disinvestment Commission constituted in the month of July, 2001 has so far submitted reports containing fresh recommendations in respect of fifteen companies and review recommendations in respect of four companies.

Report	Month	Name of the PSUs
No. XIII	Jan. 2002	1. Neyveli Lignite Corporation Ltd. (Review)
		2. Manganese Ore (India) Ltd. (Review)
		3. Rail India Technical & Economic Services Ltd. (Review)
		4. Projects & Equipment Corporation Ltd. (Review)
No. XIV	Sept. 2002	1. IRCON International Ltd.
		2. Central Inland Water Transport Corporation Ltd.
		3. Cochin Shipyard Ltd.
		4. Hindustan Shipyard Ltd.
No. XV	Nov. 2002	1. Dredging Corporation of India Ltd.
		2. National Projects Construction Corporation Ltd.
		3. Semiconductor Complex Ltd.
		4. Telecommunications Consultants India Ltd.
No. XVI	Dec. 2002	1. Cotton Corporation of India Ltd.
		2. Indian Medicines Pharmaceuticals Ltd.
		3. Jute Corporation of India Ltd.
		4. National Buildings Construction Corporation Ltd.
No. XVII	Jan. 2003	1. Hooghly Dock & Port Engineers Ltd.
		2. National Small Industries Corporation Ltd.
		3. Rajasthan Drugs & Pharmaceuticals Ltd.
No. XVIII	Mar. 2003	1. Central Mine Planning & Design Institute Ltd.
		2. Karnataka Antibiotics & Pharmaceuticals Ltd.

(c) The Disinvestment Commission has not recommended disinvestment in the case of Semiconductor Complex Ltd. and National Small Industries Corporation Ltd. The Government has decided to disinvest its equity in Rashtriya Chemicals and Fertilizers Ltd. and also in respect of Manganese Ore (India) Ltd., Central Inland Water Transport Corporation Ltd. and National Buildings Construction Corporation Ltd. No decision has been taken on the recommendation of the commission in respect of the other PSUs.

[Translation]

Activities of Cultural Centres Abroad

5615. SHRI MANSUKHBHAI D. VASAVA:

PROF. DUKHA BHAGAT:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Council for Cultural Relations propose to review the activities of the cultural centres abroad;

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

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. The activities of the Indian Cultural Centres abroad are constantly reviewed through regular supervision by the Head of Indian Missions in those countries, and by the ICCR through monthly reports received from these Centres.

(c) Does not arise.

Representation from the Federation of Small Scale Industries

5616. SHRI MANSINH PATEL:

PROF. DUKHA BHAGAT:

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

(a) whether the Government have received any representation from the Federation of Small Scale Industries, wherein the Government have been requested to punish certain companies and remove the provision of reservation of reserved areas for the small scale industries; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF NORTH-EASTERN REGION (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) and (b) Government have occasionally received complaints of violation of reservation policy by large scale manufacturers from various quarters. Action against the violators of the reservation policy is initiated as per the provisions of the Industries (Development & Regulation) Act, 1951 (IDR Act). As regards representations for removal of the provision of reservation, the issue of reservation/dereservation of items for exclusive manufacture in the Small Scale Industries (SSI) sector is examined on a continuous basis by the Government based on the recommendations of the Advisory Committee constituted under the IDR Act. In addition, the Ministry of Small Scale Industries always consults the stakeholders in this respect.

[English]

Service Tax on Pre-Paid Cards

5617. DR. MANDA JAGANNATH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the private mobile operators in the country, Airtel in particular, have increased their processing and service tax on Pre-paid Cards from 35% to 50% without any notice to the subscribers; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) Sir, Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI), as per the TRAI act, is responsible for fixation of tariffs for Telecom services in the country. As per information furnished by TRAI, some private operators of Cellular Mobile Telephone Service (CMTS) including, Bharti group of companies which have a brand name of Airtel for providing CMTS, have recently revised their pre-paid tariff schemes. This revision interalia, includes an increase in the processing fee and reduction in call charges, however, no instance have come to notice where the revised tariffs have been implemented without intimation to the subscribers.

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

[Translation]

Reservation Policy for SCs/STs/OBCs

5618. SHRI RAJO SINGH: Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the reservation policy for the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Classes would continue in the Public Sector Undertakings and Companies even after their disinvestment; and

(b) if not, the steps taken by the Government to ensure continuance of reservation policy?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) and (b) In the case of disinvestment by Government through the strategic sale route, resulting in Governments share holding going below 51%, the agreement between the Government and the Strategic Partner (SP) typically incorporates in the Recital that the SP recognizes that the Government in relation to its

employment policies follow certain principles for the benefit of the members of the Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribes, physically handicapped persons and other socially disadvantaged categories of the society and that the SP shall use its best efforts to cause the Company to provide adequate job opportunities for such persons. It typically incorporates further, in the event of any reduction in the strength of the employees of the Company, the SP shall use its best efforts to ensure that the physically handicapped persons, Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes are retrenched at the end.

[English]

Chemical Weapons Convention

5619. SHRI VINAY KUMAR SORAKE: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have set up a national authority to implement obligations under the Chemical Weapons Convention;

(b) whether India has been making periodical declarations of its stockpile of chemical weapons and production facilities within the stipulated time frame;

(c) whether India has enacted a domestic legislation relating to scheduled chemical production as per the norms of the Convention; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) to (d) As an original signatory to the Chemical Weapons Convention which came into force on 29.4.1997, India has taken the required steps to implement its obligation under the Chemical Weapons Convention. The National Authority for Chemical Weapons Convention has been set up as of 5th May, 1997. The Chemical Weapons Convention Act, 2000 has been enacted by the Parliament. The Act provides for giving effect to the various provisions of the Chemical Weapons Convention. India has been making regular and periodic declarations, in regard to various obligations, as per the provisions of the Chemical Weapons Convention.

[Translation]

Cases Referred to CBI

5620. DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA:

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether several cases were referred to the CBI in 1999-2000, 2000-2001 and 2001-2002;

(b) if so, the number of such referred cases during the said period, year-wise;

(c) the number of cases in respect of which the investigation has been completed, year-wise; and,

(d) the number of cases which has been referred to the courts by the CBI during the said period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) to (d) The details are given below:

Calendar Year	Number of cases		
	Referred by State Governments/ assigned by the Courts	Investigation has been completed	Referred to Courts
1999	157	21	6
2000	113	64	28
2001	155	91	39
2002	142	97	51

Rashtriya Punarnirman Vahini Scheme

5621. SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the "Rashtriya Punarnirman Vahini Scheme" being implemented by his Department is yielding positive results;

(b) if so, whether this scheme is likely to be continued; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI VIKRAM VERMA): (a) An evaluation of the Scheme has been entrusted to 5 independent agencies by the Planning Commission and the outcome will be known after the evaluation is completed.

(b) and (c) A decision regarding continuance of the

Scheme will be taken after reports of the evaluation are analysed.

[English]

Grants for SAI Training Centres

5622. SHRI K.E. KRISHNAMURTHY: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Sports Authority of India is planning to increase the number of Trainees in the SAI Training Centres in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any demand has been received from Andhra Pradesh concerning SAI centres; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI VIKRAM VERMA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Sports Authority of Andhra Pradesh has requested for increase of disciplines and trainees in the following Sports Training Centres (STCs) as per details given below:

Place	Existing Discipline	Total	Proposed Discipline	Total
STC Nizamabad	Archery	15	Wrestling	15
			Athletics	15
STC Eluru	Weightlifting	23	Weightlifting	20
			Athletics	15
			Aquatic	15
STC Secunderabad	Hockey	56	Same	48
STC Kurnool	Badminton	12	disciplines are	12
			Athletics	14
STC Kurnool	Football	29	proposed	16
			Football	25
			Basketball	38

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Sports Authority of Andhra Pradesh has requested to shift SAI Training Centre, Medak to Hyderabad alongwith the existing disciplines of Athletics and Boxing and addition of Gymnastics discipline.

A new centre has also been proposed at Vishkhapatnam with disciplines of Boxing, Swimming, Volleyball and Athletics.

Central Road Fund Assistance to States

5623. SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether under the Central Road Fund, assistance of about Rs.1000 crores per year is being given to the State Govts. for Highways and Rs. 2500 crores for Rural Road Development; and

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

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

(b) Management of the funds for Rural Road development under Central Road Fund (CRF) is not within the purview of this Ministry. The State-wise details of accrual and release of funds under CRF for improvement of State roads for the year 2002-2003 are enclosed as statement.

Statement

State-wise details of Accruals and Release of Funds under CRF for Improvement of State Roads during the year 2002-03

(Rs. in Crores)

S. No.	Name of the State/UT	Accruals for the year 2002-03	Release of funds during the year 2002-03
1	2	3	4
1	Andhra Pradesh	81.45	111.24
2	Arunachal Pradesh	10.86	10.08

1	2	3	4
3	Assam	15.40	35.64
4	Bihar	33.90	23.99
5	Chhattisgarh	17.28	42.85
6	Goa	4.09	1.31
7	Gujarat	68.13	63.76
8	Haryana	35.75	21.03
9	Himachal Pradesh	10.75	11.89
10	Jammu & Kashmir	31.05	22.70
11	Jharkhand	11.25	5.39
12	Karnataka	58.13	76.34
13	Kerala	27.71	6.68
14	Madhya Pradesh	66.59	80.65
15	Maharashtra	101.41	96.81
16	Manipur	3.24	2.60
17	Meghalaya	4.29	6.64
18	Mizoram	2.96	0.96
19	Nagaland	2.47	2.11
20	Orissa	29.82	18.21
21	Punjab	40.43	54.12
22	Rajasthan	76.71	99.34
23	Sikkim	1.10	1.55
24	Tamil Nadu	67.22	62.30
25	Tripura	1.93	2.09
26	Uttaranchal	7.59	10.55
27	Uttar Pradesh	96.43	50.19
28	West Bengal	36.88	23.82
UT's			
29	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	1.83	0.00

1	2	3	4
30	Chandigarh	2.21	2.86
31	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	1.07	0.41
32	Daman & Diu	0.76	0.00
33	Delhi	27.05	0.00
34	Lakshadweep	0.05	0.00
35	Pondicherry	2.19	2.19
Total		980.00	950.28

Ban on Ageing Ships

5624. SHRI BHASKARRAO PATIL:

SHRI NARESH PUGLIA:

SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH:

SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA:

SHRI C. SREENIVASAN:

Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that the European Union has recently put a ban on ageing ships from entering European waters;

(b) if so, the details in this regard;

(c) the likely impact of such a decision on Indian ships owned by the Shipping Corporation of India; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI): (a) and (b) Yes Sir, the Government is aware that the European Union has agreed to an action plan and have set a stringent time table for adoption of new rules to phase out single hull oil tankers in European waters by 1st July, 2003.

(c) The Shipping Corporation of India has 8 single hull crude oil tankers that are over 23 years of age. 2 of these tankers are on storage duty with the Oil and Natural Gas Commission and British Gas. The other 6 tankers are operating between Persian Gulf and India and on the Indian coasts. Hence, there is no impact of this decision on Shipping Corporation of India's tanker fleet.

(d) India has already acceded to International Convention for Prevention of Pollution from Ships, 1973 as amended by its Protocol, 1978 (MARPOL 1973/78). Regulation 13 G of the Convention envisages phasing out of world's most single hull tankers of 500 Gross Registered Tonnage by the year 2015. The Directorate General of Shipping has issued a circular in December, 2002 to all Indian ship owners regarding the applicability of the mandatory Condition Assessment Scheme, to all category 1 vessels continuing to operate after 2005 and all category 2 vessels after 2010 and category 3 vessels after 2015.

National Road Safety Council

5625. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have constituted a National Road Safety Council;

(b) If so, the details thereof including the composition of the Council;

(c) whether there is any proposal to include people and groups who have been continuously working for road safety in the Council;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) The details are enclosed as statement.

(c) and (d) Non-Official members of the Council are persons and organizations working in the field of road safety, the details of which are in statement enclosed.

(e) Does not arise.

Statement

The Gazette of India: Extraordinary

[Part I-Sec 1]

Ministry of Road Transport and Highways

(Road Safety Cell)

Resolution

New Delhi, the 24th April, 2003

No. RT-25014/2/2002-RSC.- In exercise of the powers conferred under Section 215 of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988 and in supersession of Resolution No. RT -23018/3/88-T dated 16th May, 1991 as modified from time to time, the Chairman National Road Safety Council is pleased to re-constitute the Council as under :

S.No.	Particulars	No.	Brief Remarks
1	2	3	4
A.	Official Members:		
(1)	Minister of State (IC) for the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways	-1-	Chairman
(2)	Minister in-charge of Road Transport, of all States/UTs	-35-	Member
(3)	DGs/IGs of Police of all States/UTs.	-35-	Member
(4)	Representatives from Central Ministries/Departments	-7-	Member
	(i) M/o Home Affairs,		
	(ii) M/o Human Resource Development,		

1	2	3	4
	(iii) M/o Railways,		
	(iv) M/o Petroleum & Natural Gas,		
	(v) Dept. of Industrial Development, M/o Industry & Commerce		
	(vi) M/o Environment and Forest		
	(vii) Planning Commission		
(5)	Secretary, M/o Road Transport and Highways	-1-	Member
(6)	Chairman, National Highways Authority of India	-1-	Member
(7)	Director General (Road Development) & Spl. Secy. M/o Road Transport & Highways	-1-	Member
(8)	Joint Secretary (Transport), M/o RT&H	-1-	Member Secretary
B.	Non-Official Co-opted Members		
(9)	Road Safety Award Winners	-2-	Members
	(i) Shri Sham Sunder Juneja, Ludhiana, Punjab		
	(ii) M/s. Krishna District Lorry Owners Association, Vijayawada		
(10)	Individuals Nominated by Minister for Road Transport & Highways	-5-	Members
	(i) Vice Chancellor, Hemavati Nandan Bahuguna University, Pauri Garhwal, Pauri, Uttaranchal		
	(ii) Shri Chandu Bhide Parmar, Pune (Three Members shall be nominated later)		
(11)	Non-Government Organizations (Funded by M/o RT&H)	-5-	Members
	(i) M/s. Trust in the Area of Social Activities, Tamil Nadu		
	(ii) M/s. Institute of Driving Training and Research (IDTR), Delhi.		
	(iii) M/s. Avadh Grameen Vikash Sansthan, Sultanpur, Uttar Pradesh.		
	(iv) M/s. Lokmanya Medical Foundation, Pune, Maharashtra.		
	(v) M/s. Zoram Drivers' Union Aizwal, Mizoram		
(12)	Government Institutions related to road Construction, Road Safety and insurance	-7-	Members
	(i) Chairman, Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India		
	(ii) Director, Automotive Research Association of India, Pune.		
	(iii) Director, Central Road Research Institute, New Delhi		
	(iv) Director, Central Institute of Road Transport, Pune		
	v) Director, Vehicle Research Development Establishment, Ahmednagar,		

1	2	3	4
	(vi) Director, I.I.P. Dehradun, Uttaranchal.		
	(vii) Commissioner, Railway Safety, New Delhi		
(13)	Associations related with Road Safety	- 6-	Members
	(i) President/Secretary, Society of India Automobile Manufacturers. New Delhi;		
	(ii) President/Secretary, Automobile Association of India;		
	(iii) Executive Director, Association of State Road Transport Undertakings, New Delhi;		
	(iv) President, Automotive Component Manufacturers Association, Delhi;		
	(v) Indian Motor Transport Congress, New Delhi;		
	(vi) All India Confederation of Goods Vehicle Owners Association, New Delhi.		
2.	Terms of References and functions of the Committee shall be:		
	(i) To advise on all matters pertaining to planning and coordination of policies, standards of safety in the road transport sector;		
	(ii) To formulate and recommend road safety programme for implementation by State Road Safety Organizations as also other State agencies in-charge of road transportation;		
	(iii) To suggest areas for research and development to improve safety aspects in the road transport sector including maintenance of statistics of road accidents and their analysis;		
	(iv) To generally oversee and monitor through Central level Road Safety the road safety measures undertaken by States/UT agencies.		
3.	The Council shall decide the procedure and methodology to be adopted for its functioning.		
4.	The Council will hold its meeting at least once a year. TA/DA shall be paid to the Non-Official Co-opted members at Serial Number (9) to (11) as per the prevailing provisions applicable to the Grade I officers of the Government of India, that is first class or second A/C train fare or actual whichever is less.		
5.	The tenure of the above co-opted institutional/individual members will be for a period of two years from the date of issue of this Resolution.		

Alok Rawat, Jt. Secy.

[Translation]

Condition of NHs 101-107

5626. DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the condition of National Highways 101-107 of Bihar is bad;

- (b) whether the State has sent any estimate for their improvement;
- (c) if so, the details thereof, and
- (d) by when sanction is likely to be given in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.))

B.C. KHANDURI): (a) Some of the stretches of National Highways 101 and 107 need attention.

(b) Yes Sir.

(c) For National Highway 101, 3 numbers of estimates for improvement of riding quality of road for a length of 50.5 km amounting to Rs. 7.85 crore were received during the year 2002-03. For National Highway 107, 7 numbers of estimates for improvement of riding quality of road for a length of 62 km length amounting to Rs. 16.51 crore were received during the year 2002-03.

(d) On NH-101, 1 number of estimate for improvement of riding quality for a length of 15.5 km amounting to Rs. 2.46 crore and on NH-107, 2 Nos of estimates for a length of 25 km amounting to Rs. 4.76 crore respectively, have been sanctioned.

Works to the extent of allocation made during 2002-03 have been sanctioned. Further sanction will depend upon the increase in allocation for Bihar.

[English]

Loans to Consumers

5627. SHRI C.N. SINGH:

SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK:

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

(a) whether the Department of Posts propose to formulate any scheme to provide loans directly to the consumers; 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) No, Sir. Department of Posts has no proposal to formulate any scheme to provide loans directly to consumers.

Outer Ring Road in Bangalore

5628. SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the construction of outer ring road in Bangalore is being taken over by National Highway Authority; and

(b) if so, by when the construction of this ring road is likely to commence and complete?

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.

SAARC Cardiac Society

5629. SHRI ANANT GUDHE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the SAARC Cardiac Society comprising of leading specialists from the region held its biennial meeting at New Delhi recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the agenda discussed and the main observations/recommendations made for appropriate action; and

(c) the details of the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (c) SAARC Cardiac Society held its biennial meeting on February 10-12, 2002 in New Delhi organized by a Private Hospital & Research Centre. At the meeting the guidelines for preventing Cardiovascular diseases in SAARC region were discussed and released.

Change of Designation of Non-Teaching Specialists

5630. SHRI A.C. JOS: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry have no objection to the change of designation of Non-Teaching Specialists to that of Teaching Specialists working in Safdarjung Hospital, New Delhi;

(b) if so, whether this is not against the C.H.S. Rules and also contrary to the Recruitment Rules followed by the Union Public Service Commission; and

(c) if so, the reasons for such a change of designation?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (c) Due to non-availability of posts of medical teachers in some para-clinical and clinical subjects at Vardhaman Mahavir Medical College, New Delhi, this

Ministry has agreed to the proposal of Guru Govind Singh Indraprastha University for granting of teaching designation to the Non Teaching Specialist officers working in Safdarjang Hospital, New Delhi for academic position in Vardhaman Mahavir Medical College, subject to following conditions:

1. The grant of teaching designation to Central Health Service officers of other than Teaching sub-cadres, will be limited to academic purposes of functioning of the Vardhaman Mahavir Medical College at Safdarjang Hospital, New Delhi.
2. The grant of teaching designation shall not, in any way, confer any right for regularization/absorption/promotion etc. in the Teaching sub-cadre of Central Health Service and the officers will continue to be governed by the service conditions of their sub-cadres as indicated in the CHS Rules, 1996 amended from time to time.
3. The grant of Teaching designation shall not confer any right to the officer for comparison of seniority with the officers of Teaching sub-cadre of Central Health Service.

[Translation]

Expansion of Delhi-Haridwar Road

5631. DR. ASHOK PATEL:

SHRI RAMPAL SINGH:

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

- (a) whether there is any proposal to widen the Delhi-Haridwar road and include it under the "four lane" expansion scheme;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government have received any request from the Uttaranchal Government in this regard; and
- (d) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto?

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

(b) Delhi-Haridwar road is National Highway No. 58. The road portion from Delhi to Meerut is an existing 4 lane facility. The road from Meerut (Km. 52/2) to near Rishikesh (km. 216) is envisaged to be 4-laned on Built-Operate-Transfer (BOT) basis for which preparation of Detailed Project Report is in progress.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

[English]

VRS Amount of BALCO Workers

5632. SHRI AJAY CHAKRABORTY: Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the workers of the privatised Public Sector Company BALCO's Korba Plant in Chhattisgarh who had taken VRS have not been paid the VRS amount in full and they are being charged penal rent and income tax on the full amount of VRS.

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) to (c) As informed by the company VRS has been given in five instalments along with the interest at the rate of 7% per annum, on the future four instalments, after deducting applicable tax at source. Under the instalment scheme gratuity amount is paid in full along with the first instalment. Ex-gratia amount due together with notice pay, leave salary etc. less all outstanding loans and accrued interest etc. is divided in five instalments. Loan is also deducted in five instalments and not in the first instalment.

Denial of Treatment

5633. SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE:

SHRI NARESH PUGLIA:

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR:

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL:

SHRI K.E. KRISHNAMURTHY:

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

(a) whether the Government are aware that the patients with serious injuries who require immediate medical aid are not admitted and given first-aid by some of the Government hospitals despite Supreme Court Orders to this effect as reported in the Times of India dated April 02, 2003;

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

(c) whether the Union Government have issued any directions to the Government and private hospitals for providing first-aid to trauma victims requiring immediate medical aid;

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

(c) to (e) Yes, Sir. The Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in their judgement dated 6.5.1996 in SLP (C) No.796/92- Paschim Banga Khet Mazdor Samity & Others Vs. State of West Bengal & Others suggested remedial measures to ensure immediate medical attention and treatment to persons in real needs. Hon'ble Court had given directions that other States though not parties should also take necessary steps in the light of recommendations made by the Inquiry Committee which was set up by the State Government of West Bengal and further directions as given by the Court. The copies of the judgement of the Hon'ble Supreme Court were circulated on 12.12.1996 to all States/Union Territories with the suggestions to take appropriate action for carrying out orders of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India. Suitable guidelines to deal with the emergency patients were also issued on 15.12.1996 to all hospitals/institutions under Central Government viz. All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi, JIPMER, Pondicherry, PGIMER, Chandigarh, Safdarjung Hospital, Dr. R.M.L. Hospital and Lady Hardinge Medical College & Associated Hospitals, New Delhi. As per these guidelines, all patients whose condition is morbid/serious should be admitted even if beds are not available and have to be paid all necessary attention. In no case the patient will be left unattended for want of vacant beds in the emergency/casualty department.

Health being a State subject under the Constitution of India, regulation of private hospitals comes under the purview of the State Governments.

Funds Crunch in C-DOT

5634. SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether C-DOT is facing shortage of funds for the past many years:

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the fund crunch has seriously affected its growth and development of indigenous technology in the field of communications;

(d) if so, the facts thereof; and

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

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

(b) to (e) Do not arise in view of (a) above.

Opening of Departmental Sub-Post Offices

5635. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of departmental sub-post offices opened in the country during each of the last three years, State/Union territory-wise;

(b) whether the number of post offices presently in operation in the country is grossly inadequate to meet the expanding needs of the people;

(c) the steps proposed, if any, to expand postal services commensurate with the requirement;

(d) whether there is any proposal to franchise/appoint agents for certain postal activities; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SU THIRUNAVUKKARASAR): (a) The number of departmental sub-post offices opened in the country during each of the last three years, State/Union Territory-wise is given in the statement enclosed.

(b) No, Sir. The country has the largest network of post offices in the world, spread throughout the length and breadth of the country and efforts are made each year to assess emerging needs and provide access to postal facilities.

(c) Expansion of postal services is a continuous process, subject to the availability of requisite resources and fulfilment of prescribed norms for various categories of post offices.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. There are schemes under which

Licensed Stamp Vendors and Panchayat Sanchar Sewak Agents are being appointed for certain postal activities, like sale of stamps. A review of the earlier scheme of Licensed Postal Agency System in urban areas is also presently underway.

Statement

Departmental Sub Post Offices opened during the last three years

Sl. No.	Circles	2000-2001	2001-2002	2002-2003
1	Andhra Pradesh	2	Nil	Nil
2	Assam	3	2	1
3	Bihar	1	Nil	Nil
4	Chhattisgarh	1	1	1
5	Delhi	2	2	1
6	Gujarat	4	2	Nil
7	Haryana	1	1	1
8	Himachal Pradesh	1	Nil	Nil
9	Jammu & Kashmir	1	Nil	Nil
10	Jharkhand	1	1	Nil
11	Karnataka	2	2	1
12	Kerala	1	1	1
13	Madhya Pradesh	3	3	1
14	Maharashtra	7	10	8
15	North East	3	2	1
16	Orissa	2	2	1
17	Punjab	2	8	1
18	Rajasthan	2	4	2
19	Tamil Nadu	2	2	1
20	Uttar Pradesh	Nil	2	1
21	Uttaranchal	1	1	Nil
22	West Bengal	10	5	3
Total		52	51	25

Gujarat includes Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu.

Kerala includes Lakshadweep.

Maharashtra includes Goa

North East includes Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland and Tripura.

Punjab includes Chandigarh.

West Bengal includes Andaman and Nicobar Islands and Sikkim.

[Translation]

Postal Agents

5636. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to start a revised scheme for postal agents holding licence in urban areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when the said scheme is proposed to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SU THIRUNAVUKKARASAR): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Department is proposing to revise the earlier scheme for Licensed Postal Agents in urban areas during the current financial year. The details of the revised scheme are yet to be formulated.

Reduction in Code Numbers

5637. KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of total S.T.D. codes in the country;

(b) whether the Government are contemplating to reduce the code numbers;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) the details of the facilities proposed to be provided as a result of reducing the STD code number; and

(e) by when it is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) At present, the total number of S.T.D. codes in the country is 2645.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) to (e) Do not arise in view of (b) above.

*[English]***Condition of National Highways**

5638. SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the pathetic condition of the National Highways after the flood and drought every year and the inadequate funds for the maintenance of National Highways all over the country;

(b) if so, whether there is any proposal pending with the Government for allocation of more funds to the States for better maintenance of National Highways; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI): (a) to (c) Repairs to damaged sections of National Highways due to floods and other reasons are attended to expeditiously through the State PWD or the maintaining agency and the roads are restored in traffic worthy condition. Government has also initiated the programme for improvement of Riding Quality of existing National Highways since 1999 to supplement maintenance effort. Riding Quality of about 29,000 kms has so far been improved. Riding Quality of the balance length of National Highways is targeted to be improved within the next two years. During the year 2002-03 the assessment of funds for repairs to National Highways due to flood damages was Rs. 258.64 crore, against which funds to the tune of Rs.88.50 crore could be allocated keeping in view the availability of funds and inter-se-priority.

The requirement and allocation of funds for maintenance of National Highways during the last three years are as under:

Year	Requirement (Rs. in Crores)	Allocation of Funds (Rs. in crores)
2000-2001	1350.00	702.50
2001-2002	2000.00	725.00
2002-2003	2000.00	702.56

*[Translation]***Revival of Closed SSI Units**

5639. SHRI CHINMAYANAND SWAMI: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of small scale industries lying closed in the country, particularly in Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh and Gujarat;

(b) the number of workers rendered jobless as a result thereof, State-wise;

(c) whether the Government have mooted any scheme for the revival of these small scale industries; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH-EASTERN REGION (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) and (b) The information on closed units is not maintained centrally. However, as per the sample survey of registered Small Scale Industries (SSI) units conducted during 2000-01 in respect of units registered upto 31.03.1998 it was estimated that 29% of the SSI units were closed in the country. Besides, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) compiles data on sick SSI units financed by the scheduled commercial banks. As per the latest information available with the RBI, there were 1,77,336 sick SSI units as at the end of March, 2002 in the country including 7270, 17843 and 6679 units in the States of Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh and Gujarat, respectively. State-wise data on the number of workers rendered jobless as a result of closure/sickness is not maintained centrally.

(c) and (d) Government is fully seized of the incidence of industrial sickness among SSI units and has taken various measures to facilitate timely identification and rehabilitation of potentially viable sick units. Some specific measures for tackling sickness are as under:

1. RBI has issued detailed revised guidelines to banks on 16th January, 2002 for detection of sickness at an early stage and taking remedial measures for rehabilitation of sick SSI units identified as potentially viable. The revised guidelines include criteria for identifying sick units as per revised definition.
2. Setting up of Institutional mechanisms in the form of State-level Inter-Institutional Committees (SLICs) for timely identification and rehabilitation of potentially viable units.
3. Special rehabilitation cells in banks and State financial institutions.
4. Elaborate guidelines issued by the Reserve Bank of India for extending rehabilitation assistance to eligible units.

5. A One-time Settlement formula (Samadhan Scheme) upto loan of Rs. 5 crore was announced by RBI on July 27, 2000 for one time settlement of dues.
6. RBI has announced another One-time Settlement scheme upto Rs. 10 crore on 29th January, 2003.

SSI Units in Jharkhand

5640. SHRI NAGMANI: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have received any proposal from the Government of Jharkhand for setting up of small scale industries in the State during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the amount allocated therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH-EASTERN REGION (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) The Union Government have not received any proposal from the Government of Jharkhand for setting up of small scale industries in the State during the last three years.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Opening of Post Offices

5641. DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV

SHRI SHRICHAND KRIPLANI:

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

(a) the number of villages in the country without post offices;

(b) whether the Government propose to open new post-offices in such villages;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the number of villages in Rajasthan where post office facility is available;

(e) the details of the post offices opened in Rajasthan during the last three years and till date, location-wise;

(f) the number of the new post offices proposed to be opened in the State during 2003- 2004; and

(g) the locations where these post offices/sub-post offices are proposed to be opened?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SU THIRUNAVUKKARASAR): (a) Post Offices do not exist in 456836 villages in the country as on 31.3.2002.

(b) and (c) Opening of new post offices is subject to the norm based justification and availability of requisite resources.

(d) The facility of delivery and collection of mail and sale of postal stamps and stationery is available in all the villages in the country, including those in Rajasthan.

(e) The details of new post offices opened in Rajasthan during the last three years and till date are given in the enclosed statement.

(f) and (g) The target for opening new post offices in the State during the year 2003-2004 is being finalised. Location of the post offices will be dependent on justification as per norms.

Statement

Location-wise details of New Post Offices opened in Rajasthan during the last three years and till date

Year	Serial No.	Location	District
1	2	3	4
2000-2001	1.	Vidyadhar Nagar Jaipur DSO	Jaipur
	2.	Binanigram DSO	Sirohi
	3.	Seethal BO	Alwar

1	2	3	4
	4.	Paraswara BO	Bharatpur
	5.	Chawandhera BO	Dausa
	6.	Badolas BO	Sawaimadhopur
	7.	Kotwal BO	Chittorgarh
	8.	Sareri Cehho BO	Banswara
	9.	Karediya BO	Dungarpur
	10.	Jadoli BO	Udaipur
	11.	Amli BO	Tonk
	12.	Phalamada BO	Bhilwara
	13.	Udpura BO	Chittorgarh
	14.	Ralayata BO	Bhilwara
	15.	Seetsar BO	Churu
	16.	Deorajgarh BO	Jodhpur
	17.	Hansiyabad BO	Churu
	18.	Karadka BO	Sikar
	19.	Sameja BO (15 PTD)	Sriganganagar
	20.	Dharamsinghwala BO	Sriganganagar
	21.	Adarshnagar BO	Jhunjhunu
	22.	Delitali BO	Bikaner
2001-2002	1.	Khajuriwas DSO	Atwar
	2.	Heerapura Jaipur DSO	Jaipur
	3.	Utarada BO	Bharatpur
	4.	Mokhampura BO	Jaipur
	5.	Nizamnagar	Atwar
	6.	Sawa DSO	Chittorgarh
	7.	Ogna DSO	Udaipur
	8.	Pratapgarh BO	Pali
	9.	Bhadrona BO	Jalore

1	2	3	4
	10.	Lunawas BO	Jalore
	11.	Nanderi BO	Jodhpur
	12.	14 S (Manjiwala) BO	Sriganganagar
	13.	Jetsar BO	Jodhpur
	14.	Khadat BO	Sirohi
	15.	Jaydara BO	Sirohi
	16.	STPS Suratgarh BO	Hanumangarh
	17.	Kesarpura BO	Chittorgarh
	18.	Sankariya BO	Chittorgarh
	19.	Kasyakalan BO	Bhilwara
	20.	Panasichoti BO	Banswara
	21.	Santokpura BO	Bhilwara
	22.	Gadajasrajapura BO	Dungarpur
	23.	Godna BO	Udaipur
	24.	Chiboda	Udaipur
2002-2003	1.	Jagatpura Jaipur DSO	Jaipur
	2.	Rathanjana DSO	Chittorgarh
	3.	Singhaniyan BO	Sawaimadhopur
	4.	Saleta BO	Alwar
	5.	Undra BO	Bharatpur
	6.	Surana Jaipur BO	Jaipur
	7.	Gudhagokulpura BO	Bundi
	8.	Chetpur BO	Udaipur
	9.	Jalia BO	Chittorgarh
	10.	Morila BO	Udaipur
	11.	Matajika Khera BO	Bhilwara
	12.	Sagwa BO	Banswara
	13.	Jharas BO	Banswara

1	2	3	4
	14.	Babugularian BO	Barmer
	15.	Dadhwada BO	Nagaur
	16.	Bhooni BO	Nagaur
	17.	Sadokan BO	Nagaur
	18.	Barkidhani BO	Jhunjhunu
	19.	Himmatpura HO	Jodhpur
	20.	Leelki BO	Churu
Till Date		Nil	

*[English]***Statement****Opening of Post Offices in Gujarat**

5642. SHRI SAVSHIBHAI MAKWANA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of post offices opened in the rural areas of Gujarat, during the last three years and the current year, district-wise;

(b) the number of villages without post offices in the State; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SU THIRUNAVUKKARASAR): (a) District-wise number of new post offices opened in the rural areas of Gujarat during the last three years and the current year is given in the statement enclosed.

(b) There are 9894 villages in Gujarat where post offices do not exist.

(c) Opening of new post offices is subject to the justification as per norms relating to population, distance and income and availability of requisite resources. Facility of delivery and collection of mail and sale of postal stationery and stamps is available to all the villages in the country, including those in Gujarat. Basic postal facilities are also provided under the Panchayat Sanchar Sewa Yojana to the Panchayat villages where opening of post office is not found to be justified under the existing norms and the Panchayat has opted for the said Yojana.

District-wise Number of New Post Offices Opened in Gujarat during the last three years and in the current year

Sl. No.	Name of District	Year 2000-2001	Year 2001-2002	Year 2002-2003
1.	Surat	1	-	-
2.	Gandhinagar	1	-	-
3.	Banaskantha	1	1	1
4.	Sabarkantha	2	2	2
5.	Panchmahal	1	5	5
6.	Valsad	2	3	2
7.	Bharuch	1	3	1
8.	Bardoli	-	3	3
9.	Navsari	-	2	-
10.	Vadodara	-	-	1
Total		9	19	15

No new post office has been opened so far during the current year i.e. 2003-2004.

HIV - TB Project

5643. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether her Ministry, NACO and the TB Department are proposing any pilot project of HIV-TB in Mumbai;

(b) whether there is any link between recent increase in TB patients due to HIV in Mumbai;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether Global Fund has earmarked fund for TB-HIV Project;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether her Ministry, NACO, TB Department and others have planned any coordinated efforts for Mumbai 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, Sir. A joint HIV-TB programme is being implemented in the six high HIV prevalence States in India, including Mumbai. The basic purpose of the joint HIV-TB programme is to ensure optimal synergy between the two disease control programmes.

(b) and (c) There has been an increase in the number of TB patients put on Directly Observed Treatment Short-course (DOTS) in Mumbai in the last 3-4 years:

Years	No. of cases treated
1999	13643
2000	16404
2001	17764
2002	22685

The increase is attributed to (i) enhanced case detection on account of the involvement of Medical Colleges of the State of Maharashtra, (ii) the involvement of the medical fraternity in the public and private sectors. At this stage, the increase cannot be definitely attributed due to HIV in Mumbai.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

(f) Yes, Sir.

(g) A HIV - TB co-ordination committee has been established under the chairmanship of the Executive Health Officer for this purpose. Project Director, Mumbai District AIDS Control Society (MDACS) and Member Secretary, Mumbai District TB Control Society (MDTCS) are also members of

this committee. The meeting of this committee is held every quarter. Sputum microscopic centers and DOTS treatment centers have been started in most of the hospitals/institutions where Voluntary Counselling and Testing Centres (VCTCs) are located. The staff of the VCTCs has been trained on the importance of HIV-TB programme co-ordination. IEC materials on HIV-TB have been prepared and are exhibited in all VCTCs, MCs, etc. for increasing awareness.

Income from Major Ports

5644. SHRI KHAGEN DAS: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) the total income earned by Government from all major ports during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) the total amount of funds spent by the Government on the maintenance of ports during the said period;

(c) whether our ports are facing problems in handling imported Urea and other fertilisers;

(d) if so, whether the Government have assessed the position in this regard; and

(e) if so, the details of remedial measures taken for proper handling of imported fertilisers?

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

(b) Government has released Rs. 889.98 crores as budgetary support for plan and non-plan schemes in major ports during the last three years.

(c) No Sir.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

Disinvestment of Loss Making PSUs

5645. DR. RAJESWARAMMA VUKKALA: Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Public Sector Undertakings under the Central Government which are running in loss for the last three years;

(b) the names of loss making Public Sector Undertakings likely to be taken up for disinvestment during the next two years; and

(c) the time by which all the loss making Public Sector Undertakings are likely to be disinvested?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) As per Department of Public Enterprises Survey 2001-2002, the number of PSUs under Central Government which are running in loss for the last three years 1999-2000, 2000-2001 and 2001-2002 are 105, 110 and 109 respectively.

(b) The names of the PSUs which were loss-making in 2001-2002 and in which disinvestment process is at different stages are given in the enclosed statement.

(c) The time by which the PSUs is likely to be disinvested 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. 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.

Statement

Hindustan Organic Chemicals Ltd.

Braithwaite & Co.

Burn Standard & Co.

Hindustan Salts Ltd.

Hindustan Copper Ltd.

Madras Fertilisers Ltd.

MECON Ltd.

National Instruments Ltd.

NEPA Ltd.

State Trading Corporation of India Ltd.

Tyre Corporation of India

Tungabhadra Steel Products Ltd.

Bharat Ophthalmic Glass Ltd.

Instrumentation Ltd., Kota (Mother Unit) Includes Palakkad unit, which is disinvested separately.

Hotel Corporation of India Ltd - (note 1)

India Tourism Development Corporation (note 2)

Joint sector hotel properties of ITDC

Hotel Ranchi Ashok, Ranchi

Hotel Neelachal Ashok, Puri

Hotel Lake View Ashok, Bhopal

Hotel Pondicherry Ashok, Pondicherry

Note 1: Hotel Airport, Delhi (including Chefair Delhi) and Chefair Mumbai. The Hotel Corporation of India Ltd., are under disinvestment. The HCI, as a whole, incurred loss in the year 2001-2002.

Note 2: ITDC Hotel Samrat, New Delhi, ITDC Hotel Jaipur Ashok, ITDC Hotel Palliputra Ashok, ITDC Hotel Kalinga Ashok, ITOC Hotel Jammu Ashok are under disinvestment. The ITDC as a whole incurred loss in the year 2001-2002.

Projects in Orissa

5646. SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of projects which are in progress in Orissa and the details thereof;

(b) whether there is any proposal to link Gopalpur Port City with Takher through express highway;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI): (a) This Ministry is mainly responsible for development and maintenance of National Highways. 67 numbers of projects for improvement of National Highways at a cost of Rs. 173.66 crore are in progress in Orissa as on 1.4.2003. The details are given in the statement enclosed.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) The present priorities of the Ministry are improvement of riding quality of all the National Highways and development of newly declared National Highways to NH Standards. Other improvements like expressways would be considered thereafter.

Statement*Details of on-going works as on 01-04-2003 in respect of Orissa State*

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl. No.	Name of work	N.H. No.	Date of Sanction	Sanctioned/ Revised Amount
1	2	3	4	5
Bridge Works				
1	Const. of H.L bridge over Neta Nallah at 74/208	23	29.12.98/20.09.00	295.415/345.115
2	Const. of M.B. over Bisoi Nallah at 244/3-6	6	31.03.99	84.85
3	Const. of H.L. bridge over Samkoi river	23	09.07.99	874.19
4	Reconst. of M.B. over Sasahandi Nallah at 347/4-6	43	08.08.2001	89.35
Road Works				
5	W/S from Km. 229-235 in Bangriposhi Ghat	6	19.01.98	328.50/404.46/463.67
6	LA for Km. 358-361	43	30.11.98	7.99
7	W/S from Km. 437-446	43	29.12.98/09.03.00	329.42/415.05
8	Techno-economic feasibility for Deogarh Bye-pass	6	31.03.99	2.86
9	Imp. to geometrics by wid at Km. 315	23	31.03.2000	15.99
10	LA for Km. 172-173 & 181-182	42	31.03.2000	2.39
11	Const. of missing link from Ch. 46110-54580 including earth & C.D. works	23	31.03.2000	344.41
12	Str. Weak 2-lane pavement from Km. 548-558	6	31.03.2000	314.68
13	CDR - Providing P.S. Km. 223-229	6	09.03.2001	45.75
14	Providing paved shoulder from Km. 3-7, 14-19/5, 23-27	203	02.11.2001	196.28
15	W/S of SL from Km. 348-357	43	29.11.2001	498.66
16	Misc. work under NH division Sambalpur	6/201	21.02.2002	108.53
17	Improvement of riding quality of the stretch from Km. 143/0 to Km. 147/0 & Km. 177/0 to Km. 185/0 of NH-201	201	28.02.2002	189.46

1	2	3	4	5
18	Improvement of riding quality of the stretch from Km.260/0 to Km.280/0 of NH-5	5	13.03.02	406.25
19	W/S from Km. 24-34	215	15.03.2002	452.33
20	W/S from Km. 70-80	215	15.03.2002	413.14
21	W/S from Km. 257-270	201	22.03.2001	763.28
22	Rehabilitation/Reconstruction of Culvert No. 144/4, 146/4, 147/1, 147/2, 150/1 & 168/2	42	31.03.2002	28.13
23	Rehabilitation/Reconstruction of damaged Culverts/Bridges, construction of drain, protective works under NH division Sambalpur	6/42/201	31.03.2002	65.20
24	Improvement of riding quality of the stretch from Km.389/5 to Km.405/0 of NH-200	200	10.07.02	280.68
25	Improvement of riding quality of the stretch from Km. 243/6 to Km.250/0 of NH-23	23	10.07.02	135.35
26	Improvement of riding quality of the stretch from Km. 200/0 to Km.216/0 of NH-5	5	12.07.02	295.93
27	Improvement of riding quality of the stretch from Km.275/0 to Km.285/0 of NH-6	6	26.07.02	187.40
28	Improvement of riding quality of the stretch from Km.0/0 to Km.8/0 of NH-203	203	19.09.02	294.98
29	Improvement of riding quality of the stretch from Km.206/6 to Km.230/0 of NH-42	42	19.09.02	456.06
30	Improvement of riding quality of the stretch from Km.322/0 to Km.329/0 & Km. 368/0 to Km. 382/0 of NH-43	43	19.09.02	360.97
31	Improvement of riding quality of the stretch from Km.300/0 to Km.313/0 of NH-201	201	22 10.02	250.46
32	Improvement of riding quality of the stretch from Km.66/0 to Km.72/0 of NH-200	200	22.10.02	99.23
33	Improvement of riding quality of the stretch from Km.109/0 to Km.121/0 of NH-215	215	22.10.02	227.37
34	Improvement of riding quality of the stretch from Km.0.500 to Km.6.000, Km. 48.000 to Km. 51.000 & Km. 62.000 to Km. 67.000 of NH-217	217	22.10.02	229.08

1	2	3	4	5
35	Improvement of riding quality of the stretch from Km.256/0 to Km.263/0 of NH-6	6	22.10.02	130.03
36	Improvement of riding quality of the stretch from Km.200/0 to Km.206/290 of NH-215	215	22.10.02	154.09
37	Improvement of riding quality of the stretch from Km. 10/0 to Km.13/0 & Km. 55/0 to Km. 62/0 of NH-6	6	22.10.02	255.63
38	Improvement of riding quality of the stretch from Km.389/0 to Km.393/0 Km. 397/0 to Km. 401/0 & Km. 402/0 to Km.403/0 of NH-43	43	22.10.02	160.77
39	Improvement of riding quality of the stretch from Km.233/0 to Km.237/0, Km. 238/0 to Km. 243/0, Km. 243/0 to Km. 245/0 & Km. 250/0 to Km.251/0 of NH-5	5	22.10.02	229.26
40	Improvement of riding quality of the stretch from Km.41/0 to Km.51/0 of NH-5-A	5-A	22.10.02	265.74
41	Improvement of riding quality of the stretch from Km.256/0 to Km.259/0, Km. 284/0 to Km. 286/0 & Km. 351/0 to Km.355/0 of NH-217	217	23.10.02	121.78
42	Improvement of riding quality of the stretch from Km.294/0 to Km.300/0 & Km. 309/0 to Km.319/0 of NH-200	200	24.10.02	187.75
43	Improvement of riding quality of the stretch from Km.1/0 to Km.3/0 & Km. 6/0 to Km.19/0 of NH-201	201	24.10.02	276.72
44	Improvement of riding quality of the stretch from Km.219/0 to Km.227/0 & Km.232/0 to Km.240/0 of NH-200	200	24.10.02	83.03
45	Improvement of riding quality of the stretch from Km.0/0 to Km.6/0, Km. 10/0 to Km 15/0, Km. 17/0 to Km. 20/0 & Km. 30/0 to Km.34/0 of NH-200	200	24.10.02	161.95
46	Improvement of riding quality of the stretch from Km.136/0 to Km.138/0 & Km. 139/0 to Km. 147/0 & Km. 180/0 to Km.182/0 of NH-217	217	24.10.02	56.27
47	Improvement of riding quality of the stretch from Km.376/0 to Km.388/0 of NH-217	217	24.10.02	171.36
48	Improvement of riding quality of the stretch from Km.357/0 to Km.375/0 of NH-217	217	24.10.02	253.54

1	2	3	4	5
49	Improvement of riding quality of the stretch from Km.390/0 to Km.404/0 of NH-217	217	24.10.02	185.68
50	Construction work for Construction of high level bridge over river Hati along with approaches at 114th Km. of NH-201	201	28.10.02	8.89
51	Improvement of riding quality of the stretch from Km.409/0 to Km.412/0, Km. 415/0 to Km. 417/0 & Km. 429/0 to Km.432/0 of NH-43	43	28.10.02	192.28
52	Improvement of riding quality of the stretch from Km.241/100 to Km.269/0 of NH-215	215	07.11.02	458.46
53	Improvement of riding quality of the stretch from Km.195/0 to Km.201/290 of NH-42	42	07.11.02	152.27
54	Improvement of riding quality of the stretch from Km.138/0 to Km.171/0 of NH-215	215	07.11.02	541.07
55	Improvement of riding quality of the stretch from Km.405/0 to Km.414/0, Km. 417/0 to Km. 421/0, Km. 423/0 to Km. 432/0 & Km. 434/0 to Km.438/0 of NH-217	217	08.11.02	432.91
56	Improvement of riding quality of the stretch from Km.342/0 to Km.352/0 & Km. 378/0 to Km.389/500 of NH-200	200	08.11.02	364.10
57	Improvement of riding quality of the stretch from Km.295/0 to Km.310/0 & Km.314/0 to Km.320/0 of NH-6	6	08.11.02	404.48
58	Improvement of riding quality of the stretch from Km.72/0 to Km.80/0, Km. 116/0 to Km. 134/0 & Km. 147/0 to Km.152/0 of NH-201	201	08.11.02	422.88
59	Improvement of riding quality of the stretch from Km.368/0 to Km.383/0 of NH-6	6	08.11.02	355.56
60	Consultancy work for Construction of high level bridge over river Kusei along with approaches at 36th Km. of NH-215	215	13.11.02	9.53
61	Improvement of riding quality of the stretch from Km.59/0 to Km.61/521 of NH-203	203	28.11.02	569.44
62	Improvement of riding quality of the stretch from Km.330/0 to Km.357/0 of NH-6	6	13.02.03	600.60

1	2	3	4	5
63	Improvement of riding quality of the stretch from Km.427/0 to Km.440/0 of NH-6	6	13.02.03	802.71
64	Reconstruacion of culverts of 6.0 m. span R.C.C. slab culvert at 222/9 Km. On NH-215	215	31.03.03	44.20
65	Improvement of vertical gradient in respect of 5 Nos. of culverts in Km. 312/850 to Km. 315/070 of NH-23	23	31.03.03	47.29
66	Improvement of vertical gradient in Km. 20/225 to Km. 20/500 including construction of drains etc. on NH-200	200	31.03.03	40.11
67	Completion of balance work of H.L. bridge across river Suktel along with two spillzone bridge and approaches at 257.55 Km. of NH-201	201	31.03.03	281.27
			Total	Rs.17366.72 lakhs

Assistance for Medical Infrastructure and Medical Equipment

5647. SHRI P.D. ELANGO VAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the total funds allocated, disbursed for medical infrastructure and for the purchase of latest medical equipment during each of the last three years, State-wise;

(b) whether the Government have allocated additional funds for the construction of hospitals and special wards during the above said period, State-wise; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

National Highway Accident Relief Service Scheme

5648. SHRI CHINTAMAN WANAGA: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have implemented National Highway Accident Relief Service Scheme;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have provided Grants-in-Aid to NGOs for road safety programme; and

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

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

(b) Under the National Highways Accident Relief Service Scheme a total number of 112 ambulances and 70 cranes have been provided to the state governments/NGOs since its inception in the year 2000-2001.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) During the year 2002-2003, 79 NGOs were provided grants-in-aid for Road Safety Programmes in 18 states. The state-wise details of these NGOs are given in the enclosed statement.

Statement	
Name of States/ UTs	Number of Non- Government Organisations
1	2
Andhra Pradesh	1
Arunachal Pradesh	5

1	2
Assam	4
Haryana	3
Karnataka	7
Kerala	5
Madhya Pradesh	8
Maharashtra	6
Manipur	1
Nagaland	1
Orissa	6
Punjab	2
Rajasthan	5
Tamil Nadu	2
Uttaranchal	2
Uttar Pradesh	7
West Bengal	6
Delhi	8
Total	79

[Translation]

Telephone Exchanges in Dhanbad Division

5649. PROF. RITA VERMA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether all the telephone exchanges of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited in Dhanbad Telecommunication Division under Jharkhand Circle are based on modern technology;

(b) if so, the details of such Telephone Exchanges alongwith the year of their installation;

(c) whether all the Telephone Exchanges with modern techniques are functioning smoothly;

(d) if so, the facts thereof;

(e) whether the new Telephone Exchanges have suffered heavy losses due to fire incidents recently;

(f) if so, the causes of such incidents alongwith the details of losses suffered by these Telephone Exchanges;

(g) whether any responsibility has been fixed in this regard;

(h) if so, the details thereof; and

(i) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) Details are given in the enclosed statement.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. All the exchanges in Dhanbad Telecom Division are of digital type and are functioning smoothly.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) to (i) Do not arise in view of (e) above.

Statement

Details of Telephone Exchanges installed with Modern Technology in Dhanbad Division

Sl. No.	Name of the District	Name of Exchange	Year of Installation
1	2	3	4
1.	Dhanbad	Dhanbad (N)	1993-94
		Dhanbad (S)	1999-2000
		Jharia	1993-94
		Loyabad	1999-2000
		Baliapur	1996-97
		Sindri	1998-99
		Baghmara	1996-97
		Sinidh	2002-03
		Katras	1999-2000
		Kusum Vihar	1999-2000

1	2	3	4
		Mandu	1999-2000
		Moko	2000-01
		CFRI	2001-02
		Hirapur	2002-03
		Topchanci	1997-98
		Gomoh	2001-02
		Rajganj	1997-98
		Bhulinagar	2002-03
		Jamadoba	2002-03
		Govindpur	1997-98
		Tundi	1997-98
		Chikunda	1999-2000
		Nirsa	2001-02
		Mugma	2002-03
		Maithan	1999-2000
		Panchet	2000-01
		Maharajganj	2000-01
		East Barwa	2001-02
		Kaliasole	2002-03
2.	Bokaro	Bokaro E-10B	1993-94
		EWSD Bokaro	2000-01
		Sector- V Bokaro	1999-2000
		Chas	1997-98
		Chas Bazar	2001-02
		Balidih	1998-99
		Sector-VIII Bokaro	2000-01
		Sector- XII	2000-01
		Sector-IV	2001-02

1	2	3	4
		Jainamore	2002-03
		Bhojudih	1999-2000
		Chandan Kiyari	1998-99
		Gomia	2002-03
		Lalpanin	2001-02
		Bormo	2000-01
		Bhandaridah	2000-01
		Kathara	2000-01
		Peterwar	2002-03
		BTPS	2000-01
		Tenughat	2001-02
		Nawadih	2002-03
		Tupkadih	2000-01
		CTPS	2000-01
		Bahadurpur	2000-01
		Kashmar	2000-01
		Dugdha	2001-02
		Pichari	2001-02
		Khairachatar	2001-02
		Kurpania	2002-03
		Augwali	2002-03

[English]

Use of Asbestos

5650. SHRI RAM NARESH TRIPATHEE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the material which is used to manufacture drinking water pipe is injurious to human health;

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

(c) whether the Government propose to ban the use of asbestos; and

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

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SUSHMASWARAJ): (a) and (b) Asbestos pipes are commonly used for supply of drinking water. As per IPCS (1986) Environmental Health Criteria, the studies conducted to date provide little convincing evidence of an association between asbestos in public water supplies and cancer induction. Ecological epidemiological studies conducted in areas having high concentration of asbestos fibres in the drinking water supply pipes have shown no evidence of association between levels of asbestos fibres from asbestos cement pipe and the incidence of digestive tract cancer.

(c) At present, there is no proposal to ban the use of asbestos.

(d) Does not arise.

Joint Mission to Moon: with Canada

5651. SHRI RAMJIVAN SINGH:

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Canadian Government for a joint Mission to Moon;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the nature of Government's participation in the joint Mission;

(d) the estimated share of the expenditure likely to be met by the Government on the Mission; and,

(e) by when the Mission to Moon is likely to be sent?

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. However, a Memorandum of Understanding with Canada exists, which inter alia, provides for study of co-operative programmes in space research.

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

Construction of Flyovers in Karnataka

5652. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether some flyovers are under construction in Karnataka with Central assistance;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the amount of Central assistance sanctioned for those flyover projects; and

(d) the details thereof, project-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI): (a) Yes, Sir. Total 103 Flyovers are under construction in Karnataka with the Central assistance.

(b) to (d) Details are enclosed as statement.

Statement

Sl. No.	NH No.	Reach	No. of flyovers (grade separators, Under/ Over Passes)	Approximate cost (Rs. in Crores)	Central Assistance (as % of cost)
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	4	Km. 29.5 to Km. 62.00	4	21.70	About 16%
2.	4	Km. 62 to Km. 75	3	7.70	100%
3.	4	Km. 75 to Km. 116.400	8	4.60	100%
4.	4	Km. 122.3 to Km. 189	18	9.70	100%
5.	4	Km. 189 to Km. 207	8	6.40	100%

1	2	3	4	5	6
6.	4	Km. 207 to Km. 284	23	15.50	100%
7.	4	Km. 284 to Km. 340	9	8.80	100%
8.	4	Km. 340 to Km. 404	4	18.00	100%
9.	4	Km. 433 to Km. 495	4	8.30	100%
10.	4	Km. 495 to 515	8	20.00	100%
11.	4	Km. 515 to Km. 592	7	7.00	100%
12.	7	Km. 555.90	1	50.00	65%
13.	7	Km. 556-539 & Km. 525 to Km. 527	6	22.74	100%
Total			103	200.44	

Closure of Post Offices in Ghaziabad

5653. SHRI SHRINIWAS PATIL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- whether many Letter Boxes in Ghaziabad city are lying un-locked;
- if so, the details thereof;
- whether many of the post offices have been closed;
- if so, the names of the post offices closed during the last three years;
- whether only one mail is being despatched from Ghaziabad R.M.S./H.Q. every day instead of two;
- if so, the reasons therefor; and
- the remedial steps proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SU THIRUNAVUKKARASAR): (a) and (b) No. Sir. There is no Letter Box in Ghaziabad city that is lying unlocked.

(c) and (d) Post Offices at (i) Nehru Nagar NDTSO and (ii) Jain Industrial Estate Post Office have been closed down during the last three years due to reduction in work load.

(e) No, Sir. There are several dispatches of mails from Ghaziabad Head Post Office to Ghaziabad City Sorting Office/RMS.

(f) and (g) Do not arise in view of (e) above.

[Translation]

Assistance to Software Industry of Karnataka

5654. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- the details of the steps considered or being considered by the Union Government to improve the software industry in the State of Karnataka; and
- the financial assistance provided by the Union Government to improve the software industry in the State during the last three years, years-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SU THIRUNAVUKKARASAR): (a) Software Technology Parks of India (STPI) Bangalore was set up in 1991 with an initial funding of Rs.527 lakhs from Government of India, Ministry of Communications and Information Technology, Department of Information Technology.

(b) In addition to Bangalore, STPI has set up four more STPI Centres at Mysore, Manipal, Mangalore and Hubli. For setting up of these Centres, Government of India, Ministry of Communications and Information Technology, Department of Information Technology has provided one time grant-in-aid of Rs.200 lakhs (@ Rs.50 lakhs/per centre).

Expenditure Incurred Under Various Heads

5655. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the year-wise expenditure incurred under various heads such as publicity, advertisement, hospitality, catering, opening ceremonies, seminars, conferences, tours (including foreign visits), STD and ISTD telephone bills, electricity bill, especially the electricity bills of air conditioners and coolers and other office expenses in various departments and undertakings under his Ministry during the last three years;

(b) whether the Government propose to launch any drive to cut down the expenditure being incurred under the above heads;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI): (a) Ministry of Road Transport & Highways was created after splitting of erstwhile Ministry of Surface Transport in November, 2000. However the formal bifurcation of the establishment was effected w.e.f. 1.6.2001. There are no departments and undertakings under the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways.

The details of expenditure incurred under various budget sub-heads of the Ministry during the financial year 2001-02 and 2002-03 are as under:

Sub head	Financial year 2001-02 (Rs.)	Financial year 2002-03 (Rs.)
Advertisement/Publicity	Nil	Nil
Hospitality	5,76,217	6,87,854
Telephone	55,50,055	32,51,293
TA (Domestic)	17,30,000	10,63,137
TA (Foreign)	22,93,704	19,86,090
Electricity	9,76,446	6,57,021
Other Office Expenses	1,63,47,099	1,86,96,517

No separate record in respect of expenditure incurred on electricity bills of air conditioners and coolers is maintained.

(b) to (d) All possible steps are taken to cut down the expenditure as per instructions of the Ministry of Finance.

Closure of SSI Units in Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh

5656. SHRI VISHNUDEO SAI: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of small scale units lying closed in Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh as on March 31, 2003 and since when.

(b) the extent of capital investment in such units and the number of people employed in them; and

(c) the details of action taken by the Union and State Governments to revive them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH-EASTERN REGION (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) and (b) The information on closed units is not maintained centrally. However, as per the sample survey of registered Small Scale Industrial (SSI) units conducted during 2000-01 in respect of units registered upto 31.03.1998 it was estimated that 29% of the SSI units were closed in the country. Besides, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) compiles data on sick SSI units financed by the scheduled commercial banks. As per the latest information available with the RBI, the number of sick SSI units in the States of Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh as at the end of March, 2002 is 64 and 6964 and the amount outstanding with these units is Rs. 4.31 crore and Rs. 152.00 crore, respectively. Data on the number of people employed in these units are not maintained centrally.

(c) Government is fully seized of the incidence of industrial sickness among SSI units and has taken various measures to facilitate timely identification and rehabilitation of potentially viable sick units. Some specific measures for tackling sickness are as under:

1. RBI has issued detailed revised guidelines to banks on 16th January, 2002 for detection of sickness at an early stage and taking remedial measures for rehabilitation of sick SSI units identified as potentially viable. The revised guidelines include criteria for identifying sick units as per revised definition.
2. Setting up of Institutional mechanisms in the form of State-level Inter-Institutional Committees (SLIICs) for timely identification and rehabilitation of potentially viable units.
3. Special rehabilitation cells in banks and State financial institutions.
4. Elaborate guidelines issued by the Reserve Bank of India for extending rehabilitation assistance to eligible units.
5. A One-time Settlement formula (Samadhan Scheme) upto loan of Rs. 5 crore was announced

by RBI on July 27, 2000 for one time settlement of dues.

6. RBI has announced another One-time Settlement scheme upto Rs. 10 crore on 29th January, 2003.

Projecting Indian Stand Abroad

5657. SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:

SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the government are aware that our Embassies abroad are not equipped adequately to project our stand on various issues, such as our foreign policy, Kashmir issue, stand on terrorism and nuclear disarmament;

(b) if so, the steps being contemplated by the Government to project our stand effectively; and

(c) if so, the details of the expenses involved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI VINOD KHANNA): (a) to (c) It has been the consistent endeavour of the Ministry of External Affairs to adequately equip all Indian missions abroad with up-to-date information and publicity materials so that they can project a positive image of the country effectively highlighting our stand on various issues of importance to the international community. The missions, in coordination with Ministry of External Affairs, work to well-defined action plans that encompass, inter-alia, close contacts with opinion-makers, dissemination of materials and information, maintenance of websites, talks and seminars, press briefings and so on. Adequate budget for publicity are provided to the missions.

[English]

Containing Filaria Cases

5658. SHRI PARSURAM MAJHI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the Central Scheme being implemented to control Filaria;

(b) whether the Government have identified the Filaria prone/affected areas in Orissa;

(c) if so, the steps being taken to control Filaria in those areas; and

(d) the details of achievements made to control Filaria under the said scheme during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) A National Filaria Control Programme (NFCP) with the objective to contain the Filariasis is in operation since 1955. Under this scheme, larvicides and anti filarial drugs are supplied to the endemic States by the Centre.

(b) Angul, Balasore, Bhadrak, Cuttack, Dhenkanal, Gajapati, Ganjam Jagatsinghpur, Jajpur, Kendrapara, Khurda, Koraput, Nayagarh, Puri and Raygada in Orissa have been identified as filaria prone/ affected areas.

(c) There are 15 National Filaria Control Programme Units for undertaking anti larval measures, 15 filaria clinics for detection and treatment of Mf. Carriers and cases and 2 survey units for delimitation of Filariasis in the State. Puri, Ganjam, Balasore and Khurda districts have been covered under Mass Drug Administration (MDA) for elimination of Lymphatic Filariasis during 2002.

(d) As per information received from the States, Micro-filaria and disease rates were 0.95% and 1.96% in the year 2000, 0.68% and 1.42% in the year 2001 and 0.42% and 0.92% in the year 2002 respectively.

Telephone Connections on Priority Basis

5659. SHRI V. VETRISELVAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of telephone connections allotted and installed on priority basis during the last two years in Tamil Nadu;

(b) whether all the allotted connections issued on the priority basis have been installed; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) Sir, the number of telephone connections allotted and installed on priority basis during the last two calendar years in Tamil Nadu are 6165 and 5875 respectively.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) The connections are pending due to technical non-feasibility of the areas.

*[Translation]***Health Care Programme for Children**

5660. SHRI SHIVAJI MANE:

SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN:

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

(a) whether the Government propose to introduce a health care programme for the school going poor children in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; 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) At present, there is no proposal to introduce a health care programme for school going poor children. However, National Population Education Programme is being implemented by the Ministry of Human Resources Development, which includes increasing awareness about health issues among the school children by adopting curricular and co-curricular approaches.

*[English]***Visit to Doctors**

5661. SHRI AKHILESH YADAV:

DR. RAJESWARAMMA VUKKALA:

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

(a) whether Pensioners are entitled to opt for CGHS dispensaries of their own choice;

(b) if so, whether dispensary in-charge has been authority to impose conditions that doctors would not visit residence of pensioners even in emergency;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) if not, whether such undertakings was insisted upon in Sunder Vihar Dispensary in Delhi during 2002-03; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE

AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) CGHS pensioner card holders have an option to get their CGHS card registered with anyone CGHS dispensary in any concerned CGHS covered city irrespective of whether their place of residence falls within the area covered by that CGHS dispensary, or not. However, if the residence of the pensioner falls outside the covered area of dispensary, then the CGHS facilities provided to the pensioner would be subject to the following conditions:

(i) They will neither be entitled to any domiciliary visits by the CGHS doctor nor would be entitled for any travel expenses for availing facilities from the dispensary.

(ii) They will not be eligible to be attached with any VIP CGHS dispensary such as North Avenue and south Avenue CGHS dispensaries in Delhi and other heavily loaded CGHS dispensaries.

(b) to (e) No, Sir. Domiciliary visits are normally performed during emergency, for which the CGHS doctors visit the beneficiaries including CGHS pensioner beneficiaries at their residence provided their residence falls within the covered area of the particular CGHS dispensary.

In view of the aforesaid facts, insistence on an undertaking does not arise.

Ambulances/Trauma-Care Mobile Vans on National Highways

5662. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Ambulances made available on the National Highways in Tamil Nadu;

(b) whether the medical help provided on the National Highways is adequate;

(c) if not, whether the Government propose to provide trauma-care mobile vans on the National Highways to deal with the accident cases; and

(d) if so, the time by when the facility is likely to be made available?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI): (a) The State of Tamil Nadu has been provided 11 ambulances during the last three years under the National Highway Accident Relief Service Scheme.

(b) Provision of Medical help on National Highways is under the purview of the State Government.

(c) and (d) Trauma care facilities are not provided by this Ministry.

Losses Incurred by Cellular Operators

5664. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY:

SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH:

DR. CHARAN DAS MAHANT:

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

(a) whether the Telecom Dispute Settlement and Appellate Tribunal has recently asked Cellular operators to furnish details of losses incurred by them due to limited mobility service;

(b) if so, the details in this regard;

(c) whether the cellular operators have since furnished the required information to TDSAT;

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

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) to (e) Do not arise in view of (a) above.

Village Health Guide Scheme

5665. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL:

SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR:

SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK:

SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL:

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

(a) whether the Government have constituted an Expert Committee to look into various aspects of the Village Health Guide Scheme;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the said Committee has submitted its report to the Government;

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

(e) if not, by when it is likely to be submitted?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A Committee of Experts was set up under the Chairmanship of Shri P.K. Umashankar, Ex-Director, Indian Institute of Public Administration, New Delhi with three members in December, 1997 to assess the work and usefulness of Village Health Guide Scheme.

(c) Yes, Sir. The Committee had already submitted its report in November, 1998.

(d) Important findings of the Committee are:

(1) The original objective of the Village Health Guide Scheme has remained mostly unfulfilled. The major objective of providing a functional link between the community and the health care systems has not been achieved;

(2) Most of the State Governments who were responsible for operating this Scheme had lost confidence in it;

(3) The Committee too is of the considered view that it may not be possible, to activate the scheme and make it useful for promoting health and family welfare programmes;

(4) The Committee also noted that States having failed to utilize their services for promotion of health and family welfare programmes tended to ignore the presence of the VHGs; and

(5) The Panchayati Raj institutions had also not been able to make use of the services of the VHGs in any significant manner.

Keeping in view the above, the Committee recommended that the Village Health Guide Scheme must be discontinued as early as possible.

Government of India accepted the recommendations of the Committee and discontinued the Scheme w.e.f. 1.4.2002. The State Governments are, however, free to continue with the scheme in its existing/improved/amended version as may suit their respective requirements from within their own resources.

(e) Does not arise.

Raising of Finances by IWA

5666. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Inland Waterways Authority of India has raised finances through the system of bonds from the open market;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is any limit to such funding to be raised by the Inland Waterways Authority of India;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps proposed to be taken to make IWA a more active body?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. However, the tenth plan outlay for IWT Sector envisages raising of resources by IWA through bonds, to the tune of Rs.136 crore.

(e) An IWT policy which facilitates IWA playing a greater role is already in place.

Immunization of Hepatitis A & B

5667. SHRI C.N. SINGH:

SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK:

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

(a) whether various Non-Governmental Institutions have been provided subsidies by the Government for immunization of Hepatitis-A and Hepatitis-B;

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

(c) the amount of subsidy provided to each institution during 2001, 2002 and current year, till date?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The NGO Division of the Department of Family Welfare has sanctioned Rs.35 lakhs to Yuvak Pratisthan, Neelam Nagar, Mulund (East), Mumbai for Immunization against Hepatitis B to vaccinate about one lakh children.

(c) The amount was released in two instalments.

(i) First instalment of Rs. 20 lakhs was released during the year 2000-01;

(ii) Second instalment of Rs.15 lakhs was released during the year 2002-03.

Fly-Overs at Busy Junctions/Intersections

5668. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have conducted a survey for construction of fly-overs at busy junctions/intersections of all the National Highways in order to ensure smooth traffic;

(b) if so, the number of fly-overs to be constructed on various National Highways during the next three years, State-wise, location-wise; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to prepare time bound action plan to ensure smooth traffic on all the National Highways by way of construction of fly-overs wherever necessary?

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) At present the priority is on improvement of riding quality of all existing National Highways to provide comfort to road users. However, Fly-overs/ Road Over Bridges (ROBs) are being constructed, based on requirements, where four-laning of National Highways has been taken up under National Highways Development Project (NHDP).

Drug-Coated Stents

5669. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether drug-coated stents are considered by doctors to be much more effective in preventing re-blockages in arteries after angioplasty;

(b) if so, whether drug coated stents are being manufactured in India;

(c) if so, the names of companies manufacturing drug-coated stents in the country;

- (d) the present price of each drug-coated stent;
- (e) whether the Government have taken any measures to ensure that the price of drug-coated stents is reduced or subsidised by the Government; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (d) The drug-coated Angioplasty Stents are the most effective tool to permanently remove artery blockages. Unlike the uncoated stents used commonly during angioplasty, the drug-coated stents which have recently come up lead to much lesser incidence of recurrence of re-blockage after angioplasty. According to AIIMS, Indian Companies namely; (i) Sahajann Medical Technologies Pvt. Ltd. (ii) Care Ploymed Ltd. have started manufacturing drug-coated stents recently, however, they are still under evaluation. The drug-coated stents vary in cost from Rs. 81000/- to Rs. 1,37,500/.

(e) and (f) No Sir, since drug coated angioplasty stents have just become available in the market and are experimental as long term results are not available.

Shortage of Anaesthetists

5670. DR. MANDA JAGANNATH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the acute shortage of anaesthetists in Government hospitals, particularly in rural areas, causes a large number of maternal deaths as reported in the Times of India dated April 3, 2003;
- (b) if so, the facts thereof;
- (c) whether due to lack of attractive and future prospects, anaesthesia is not the preferred area of specialisation for most doctors; and
- (d) if so, the efforts made/proposed to be made by the Government to make anaesthesia, the preferred area of specialisation?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) and (b) The complications associated with pregnancy and childbirth is not always predictable and in many cases immediate treatment of pregnant women at adequately equipped and staffed referral centres/hospitals becomes necessary to save her life. One of the major problems being faced in provision of emergency obstetric care in rural

areas has been the non-availability of post of specialist in Anaesthesia at the Community Health Centres (CHC) level. CHCs have sanctioned post of only four other specialists such as General Medicine, pediatrics, obstetrics & gynaecology.

(c) and (d) As per available information, the post-graduate seats in the speciality of anaesthesia are readily taken up by the under-graduate doctors. However, keeping the need for doctors trained in anaesthesia for provision of emergency obstetric care in view, the following initiatives have been taken as part of the Reproductive and Child (RCH) Programme.

- (i) The states have been asked to increase the number of seats in Diploma course for anaesthesia in consultation with Medical Council of India (MCI). Funds for this have been committed by Government of India.
- (ii) To tide over the immediate needs, states have been permitted to engage the anaesthetists from the private sector on a payment of Rs.1000/- per case for emergency obstetric cases at the sub district and CHC levels
- (iii) An 18 weeks training programme for training of MBBS doctors on Life Saving Anaesthetic
- (iv) Skills for Emergency Obstetric care has been initiated on a pilot basis at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences, based on the experience from this pilot programme, it will be extended to other medical colleges in the country.

[Translation]

Training to Artisans of North-Eastern Region

5671. SHRI Y.G. MAHAJAN:

SHRI RAMDAS RUPALA GAVIT:

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

- (a) whether the Government are formulating any scheme to impart training to the artisans of the North-Eastern region;
- (b) if so, the details of the scheme;
- (c) the funds proposed to be provided by the Government for the implementation of the said scheme; and
- (d) the extent to which the artisans of the North-Eastern region are likely to be benefited from the said scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH-EASTERN REGION (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) Training is being imparted to small scale entrepreneurs including artisans of the North Eastern Region by the various Organisations of the Government of India through a number of on going Schemes.

(b) and (c) The on-going Schemes for training small scale entrepreneurs including artisans inter-alia include Schemes run by.

1. Ministry of Small Scale Industries. They are:
 - (i) Entrepreneurship Development Training
 - (ii) Management Development Training
 - (iii) Skill Development Training

These Schemes are being operated by the field Institutions of the Ministry of Small Scale Industries. During the current financial year, the Ministry of Small Scale Industries has allocated Rs.15 lakhs for meeting expenditure on the above training programmes.

2. The Ministry of Agro and Rural Industries. They are:
 - (i) Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana, under which training is provided to entrepreneurs including artisans for managing their enterprises, Funds to the tune of Rs.1.05 crores have been earmarked during the current financial year.
 - (ii) Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC), under which training is provided to entrepreneurs including artisans in spinning/weaving of silk including muga silk, processing of fruits & vegetables, bee keeping, agarbatti & candle making, hand-made paper making, furniture from cane & bamboo and other utility items, etc. The Ministry of ARI has earmarked a Budget of Rs. 311.21 lakhs for the current financial year.
3. Ministry of Textiles through the Offices of the Development Commissioner (Handloom) and Development Commissioner (Handicrafts) for training entrepreneurs including artisans in weaving, dyeing, designing as well as in the manufacture of handicrafts. Development Commissioner (Handloom) has earmarked a

Budget of Rs. 4.5 lakhs while Development Commissioner (Handicrafts) has earmarked a Budget of Rs.14 lakhs during the current financial year.

(d) The training imparted by the various Departments to entrepreneurs including artisans in the North Eastern Region aim at upgrading their knowledge & skills for setting up and effectively managing their small/tiny scale enterprises.

Hot Line Services

5672. SHRI NAGMANI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether all hot line telephones installed in rural regions of Jharkhand are not functioning properly;
- (b) if so, the number of complaints received in this regard during the last three years, till date; and
- (c) the steps being taken by the Government for redressal of these complaints?

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

(b) and (c) Only Chatra-Ranchi Police Hotline is not working due to fault in Private Branch Exchange (PBX) board owned by District Police Head Quarter which has become unserviceable. However, the channel provided by BSNL over which this hot line exists is working alright.

[English]

Quality Education

5673. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government propose to set up a Medical Council at the national level on the pattern of University Grants Commission (UGC) in addition to the University of Health Sciences in order to formulate policies with regard to the imparting of quality education in the medical field;
- (b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the decision of the Government thereto; and
- (c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to create more opportunities for imparting specialised education to the doctors?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) and (b) Medical Council of India is in existence for maintaining the quality and standard of medical education. National Health Policy-2002 envisages the setting up of a Medical Grants Commission for funding new Government Medical and Dental Colleges in different parts of the country and for funding upgradation of the infrastructure of the existing Government Medical and Dental Colleges of the country, so as to ensure an improved standard of medical education.

(c) The institutions under the control of Central Government are already running number of post graduate and Superspeciality courses. Besides, the facilities available in the Central Government institutions are also upgraded from time to time by introducing new post graduate as well as superspeciality courses and by increasing seats in these courses to create more opportunities for specialized training of doctors. In addition, the Medical Council of India regulations provide for starting of new or higher course of study in medicine. Under these regulations, the Central Government is granting permission for starting of postgraduate and superspeciality courses and also increase in intake capacity in these courses in institutions managed by the State Governments as well as Private Trusts, which is an ongoing process.

National Highway from Ahmedabad to Bharuch

5674. SHRI SAVSHIBHAI MAKWANA: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government have received any proposal for the construction of National Highway from Ahmedabad to Bharuch via Petlad; 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.

Telecom Ducts Along the Golden Quadrilateral

5675. SHRI VINAY KUMAR SORAKE: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the NHAI had finalised plans to lay telecom ducts along the Golden Quadrilateral;

(b) if so, whether the bids from multinationals in the telecom sector and also from the BSNL are still being evaluated;

(c) whether apprehensions were expressed by the experts of the viability of the plan and the capabilities of NHAI to undertake such project; and

(d) if so, the present status of the NHAI telecom ducts project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI): (a) No final decision has been taken in the matter.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Please see answer to (a) above.

Disinvestment of ITDC and Fertilizer Companies

5676. SHRI P.D. ELANGO VAN: Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any plans to disinvest the remaining properties of ITDC as well as some Fertilizer Companies;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of the total amount realized so far by disinvesting the PSUs and the utilization mode of the realized amount?

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

(b) The ongoing cases of disinvestment of the hotel properties of India Tourism Development Corporation Limited (ITDC) and Central Public Sector Undertakings (CPSUs) in the fertilizer sector are detailed below:

ITDC:

S.No.	Hotel
1	2
1	Hotel Jaipur Ashok, Jaipur
2	Hotel Kalinga Ashok, Bhubaneswar

1	2
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3	Hotel Pataliputra Ashok, Patna
4	Hotel Jammu Ashok, Jammu
5	Hotel Samrat, New Delhi (Lease-cum-Management contract)

Joint Venture Hotel properties of ITDC:

6	Hotel Ranchi Ashok, Ranchi
7	Hotel Neelachal Ashok, Puri
8	Hotel Lakeview Ashok, Bhopal
9	Hotel Brahmaputra Ashok, Guwahati
10	Hotel Pondicherry Ashok, Pondicherry
11	Hotel Donyi Polo Ashok, Itanagar
12	Hotel Anandpur Ashok, Anandpur Sahib (incomplete project)

CPSUs in Fertilizer Sector:

Sl.No.	CPSU
1	National Fertilizers Limited
2	Fertilisers and Chemicals Travancore Limited
3	Madras Fertilizers Limited
4	Rashtriya Chemicals & Fertilizers Limited

(c) Since 1991-92 an amount of Rs.29,486 crores has been realised as disinvestment proceeds. The amount realised from disinvestment in PSUs to date has been deposited in the Consolidated Fund of India. In order to provide complete visibility to the Government's continued commitment of utilization of disinvestment proceeds for social and infrastructure sectors, the Government proposes to set up a Disinvestment Fund during the current year. The Fund will be used for financing fresh employment opportunities and investment, and for retirement of public debt.

Ageing Ships of Shipping Corporation of India

5677. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) the number of ships with the Shipping Corporation of India (SCI) at present;

(b) whether most of these ships are ageing;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to overcome this problem?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI): (a) As on 24.4.2003 SCI has a fleet of 86 vessels of 2.53 million GT (4.32 million DWT) and one ship on lease of 16,834 GT (26.174 DWT).

(b) and (c) No, Sir. As per the age norms of Govt. of India, the effective life of the vessels of various kinds is between 20-30 years. The age profile of SCI vessels is as under:

<5 Years	<5-10 Years	10-15 Years	15-20 Years	20 Years>	Total
7	11	12	40	17	87

The following is the List of vessels of over 20 years of age.

S.No.	Vessel Name	Category	Year Built
1.	Ramanujam	Passenger/Cargo	1972
2.	N.S. Bose	Crude Oil Carrier	1973
3.	Harshavardhana	Passenger/Cargo	1974
4.	Vivekananda	Crude Oil Carrier	1974
5.	C.P. Shivaji	Crude Oil Carrier	1974
6.	B.R. Ambedkar	Crude Oil Carrier	1974
7.	Satyamarti	Crude Oil Carrier	1975
8.	Lokmanya Tilak	Crude Oil Carrier	1975
9.	Rajendra Prasad	Crude Oil Carrier	1975
10.	Maharshi Karve	OBO	1978
11.	State of Nagaland	General Cargo	1978
12.	Vishva Kaumudi	General Cargo	1980
13.	Rani Padmini	Dry Bulk Carrier	1981
14.	C.V. Raman	Crude Oil Carrier	1981
15.	Jhulelal	Product Carrier	1981
16.	Basaveshwara	Product Carrier	1982
17.	Homi Bhabha	Crude Oil Carrier	1982

(d) For replacing the some of the above ageing tankers, SCI has on order the following crude oil tankers:

- (i) 3 Nos. New building Aframax size crude oil tankers on Hyundai Shipyard, South Korea, One of these tankers was being delivered on 25,4,2003 and delivery dates for the other two vessels are to be delivered in May 2003 and August 2003 respectively.
- (ii) 2 Nos. New building Suezmax size crude oil tankers on Daewoo Shipyard, South Korea and these tankers are to be delivered in February 2004 and May 2004 respectively.

Apart from the above, SCI has also planned to acquire two new building very large size crude oil carriers (VLCCs) and one new building aframax size crude carrier to replace the above ageing tankers.

Prices of Cancer Drugs

5678. SHRI G. GANGA REDDY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government have any mechanism to regulate the prohibitive prices of majority of imported drugs to treat cancer; and
- (b) if so, the remedial steps 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) and (b) The National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) fixes/revises the prices of seventy four scheduled bulk drugs and medicines based on them as per provisions of Drugs Prices Control Order (DPCO), 1995. Most of the drugs used in the treatment of Cancer are outside price control.

Prices of drugs not under price control are fixed/revised by manufacturers/importers themselves, keeping in view various factors like cost of production, landed cost of import, marketing cost, trade margins etc. NPPA also monitors the prices of medicine which are outside price control. Wherever abnormal increase in the prices are noticed, NPPA takes appropriate action under the provisions of DPCO, 1995.

The Government has totally delicensed pharmaceutical sector with a view to improving availability of medicines at reasonable prices, allowing market forces to operate leading to increased investment and production and promotion of competition.

[Translation]

National Highway Project for Karnataka

5679. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government had sanctioned 35 National Highway projects for Karnataka;
- (b) if so, whether out of them, six projects are still pending;
- (c) if so, the main reasons for which these six projects have not been cleared;
- (d) whether any final decision in this regard has been taken;
- (e) if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) by when, these projects are likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI): (a) No, Sir. Ministry has instead sanctioned 78 works amounting to Rs.16321.50 lakhs during the year 2002-03 for Karnataka State.

(b) to (f) Do not arise.

Curtailment of Expenditure

5680. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

- (a) the year-wise expenditure incurred under various heads such as publicity, advertisement, hospitality, catering, opening ceremonies, seminars, conferences tours (including foreign visits), STD and ISTD telephone bills, electricity bill especially the electricity bills of airconditioners and coolers and other office expenses in various departments and undertakings under his Ministry during the last three years;
- (b) whether the Government propose to launch any drive to cut down the expenditure being incurred under above heads;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Eradication of Malaria, Dengue

5681. SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:

SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI:

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

(a) whether the Government have taken any action to eradicate the diseases like Malaria, Dengue as is being done in the case of Polio;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the time frame has been fixed for the eradication of these diseases; 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) Eradication of Malaria and Dengue, which are Vector Borne Diseases, is not technically feasible.

However, steps are being taken for control of Dengue and Malaria. The strategies adopted include:

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

[English]

Grievances Cells in Tamil Nadu

5682. SHRI V. VETRISILVAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the places in Tamil Nadu where public grievances cells have been set up to make the telephone service more efficient;

(b) the details of demands/suggestions/complaints received by these PGCs during the last three years; and

(c) the action taken by the Government on those demands/suggestions/complaints?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) Places in Tamil Nadu where Public Grievance Cells have been set up by BSNL, are as follows:

1) Chennai, 2) Chengalpattu, 3) Coimbatore, 4) Coonoor, 5) Cuddalore, 6) CRDA (Kumbakonam), 7) Dharampuri, 8) Erode, 9) Karaikudi, 10) Madurai, 11) Nagarcoll, 12) Pondicherry, 13) Salem, 14) Tiruchy, 15) Thanjavur, 16) Tirunelveli 17) Tuticorin, 18) Vellore and 19) Virudhanagar.

(b) The number of demands/suggestions/complaints received by the Public Grievance Cells during the last three years are as follows:

Year	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Number of Cases Received	33410	29508	23617

(c) All the cases except those relating to provision of new telephone connections in technically non-feasible areas, were settled.

Outstanding Amount

5683. SHRIMATI MINATI SEN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the ET&T Corporation Ltd. is still having its franchisee network;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of the franchisee appointed after September 23, 2000 by the ET&T Corporation Limited;

(d) the details of the amount outstanding against each franchisee as on June 30, 2002; and

(e) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to recover outstanding amount from them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SU THIRUNAVUKKARASAR): (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha.

Polio Eradication Programme

5684. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY:

SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH:

DR. CHARAN DAS MAHANT:

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL:

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

(a) whether Uttar Pradesh is posing a major hurdle to the global effort for the eradication of Polio as reported in the Statesman dated April 7, 2003;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) whether the WHO has expressed concern over Polio scare in Uttar Pradesh;

(d) if so, whether the pulse polio vaccination programme has failed to control and eradicate Polio in the state;

(e) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the new strategy to be adopted by the Government to eradicate Polio in the State?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) and (b) During 2002, UP accounted for 78% of reported cases in the country (1242 out of 1600) and 64% of cases reported globally (1242 out of 1921). UP also accounts for 22 out of 73 cases reported during 2003 so far.

(c) and (d) The number of cases in U.P. declined from 881 in 1998, to 773 in 1999, 179 in 2000 and 216 in 2001. The number of polio-affected districts in UP declined from 46 in 2000 to 30 in 2001. Thus, by the end of 2001, significant progress was achieved in limiting the spread of virus to certain foci in the western and central U.P. However, the polio eradication effort suffered a setback during 2002 due to large scale outbreak in UP and spillover of the transmission into other neighbouring States.

(e) Reduction in the number of polio rounds in UP from 6 during 1999-00 to 4 during 2000-01 to 3 during 2001-02 and 10-15% children were left out unvaccinated during 2001-02 polio rounds.

(f) The yearly strategy for polio eradication is

decided on the basis of the recommendations of the Indian Expert Advisory Group (IEAG), epidemiological data and the actual transmission situation in different parts of the country in consultation with the States. As against four rounds during 2002-03, the 2003-04 strategy provides for six rounds in UP during April (already conducted on 6.4.03), June (scheduled for 1.6.03), September 03, November 03, January 04 and February 04. Both the Government of India and the UP State Government are closely monitoring and supervising the polio eradication activities in the State. Various interventions have been made to improve the quality of the polio rounds and to reach out to the un-reached children. The State of U.P. has also taken initiatives to strengthen the routine immunization.

Rashtriya Arogya Nidhi

5685. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have set up a Rashtriya Arogya Nidhi recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of the life threatening diseases to be funded out of it; and

(d) the details of the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to help people in need of expensive medical care?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) and (b) Rashtriya Arogya Nidhi has not been set up recently. Only the name of National Illness Assistance Funds, which was set up in 1997, has been changed as "Rashtriya Arogya Nidhi" vide Government's Resolution No. W.11011/2/2003-NIAF dated 8.4.2003.

(c) and (d) The Rashtriya Arogya Nidhi provides financial assistance to patients, living below poverty line who are suffering from major life threatening diseases, to receive medical treatment at any of the Government/Superspeciality Hospitals/Institutes. An illustrative list of such diseases is enclosed as statement. The financial assistance to poor patients is released in the form of 'one-time grant'.

Statement

An illustrative list* of categories of diseases covered for treatment under the Fund is given below:

1. Cardiology & Cardiac Surgery

Pacemakers disposable for interventional procedure

including TMT, Echocardiography Coronary Angiography, Angioplasty Aherotomy, Heart surgery for Congenital and Acquired conditions including C.A.B.G., Vascular Surgery stents and Cardiac Transplantation, etc.

2. Cancer

Radiation treatment of all kinds.

Anti Cancer Chemotherapy.

3. Urology/Nephrology

Dialysis alongwith consumable goods (coils and dialysis solution etc.) Vascular shunts for Dialysis, P.C.N. & P.C.N.L. Kits, Lithotripsy (for stones)-disposable and stents for endoscopic surgical procedure in Urology and Gastroenterology, Renal & Hepatee transplantation.

4. Orthopaedics

Artificial prosthesis for limbs, implants and total hip and knee replacement external fixaters, AO implants used in the treatment of bone disease and fractures.

5. Miscellaneous

Intra-ocular lens implants, hearing aids and shunts for hydrocephalus.

6. Investigations

Ultra-sound, Doppler shidres, Radiooneulcolide scans, CT scan Mammography, Angiography for all organs, M.R.L., E.E.G., E.M.G., Urodynamic studies.

7. Drugs

Immuno-supressive drugs, Anti TB drugs, Anti D, Anti Haeomophhille globulin, Erythropoten, Blood & Blood products, Plasma for patients of burn.

8. Other major illness considered appropriate for assistance by Medical Superintendent/Committee of Doctors could be added to the List.

* The list could be modified by the Technical Committee.

[Translation]

Financial Assistance for Medical Services

5686. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of proposals received by the Union Government from Jharkhand for financial assistance to improve the medical services of hospitals in the State during the last two years till date;

(b) the action taken by the Government thereon;

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

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (d) During the year 2001-02 an amount of Rs. 100.00 lakhs and Rs. 129.00 lakhs were released to the medical College, Ranchi and Patliputra Medical College, Dhanbad respectively under the National Cancer Control Programme for Development of Oncology Wing. In addition an amount of Rs. 100.00 lakhs was also released to the Meherbai Tata Hospital, Jamshedpur a private hospital for setting up of Cobalt Therapy Unit.

The allocation of more funds to Jharkhand and Bihar is subject to the proposals received from the respective State Governments and, fulfillment of conditions of the scheme(s) and availability of funds.

[English]

Implementation of 5th Pay Commission

5687. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether some States have been burdened due to the implementation of the recommendations of the 5th Pay Commission;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) whether the Government have made any provision in the plan of each State to reduce the financial burden of the States arising as a result thereof;

(d) if so, 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) to (e) Finances of the State Governments have generally deteriorated since 1997 mainly due to the upward revision of salaries of the State Government employees. The relatively stagnant revenues of the State Governments forced them to depend more and more on borrowed funds.

The Financial Management of the States is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments and it is for the respective State Governments to initiate remedial action. However, in order to alleviate the mismatch in the States' cash flow, the Government of India releases plan assistance, share in central taxes and small savings loans in advance depending on the need and request of the State Government. In addition to Ways and Means support by Reserve Bank of India, Central Government also provides Ways and Means advance to States.

Pursuant to the recommendations of the Eleventh Finance Commission a Medium Term Fiscal Reform Plan (MTRFP) has been drawn up by the Government of India. Under the scheme, States have been encouraged to draw up a monitorable fiscal reforms programme aimed at improving their financial position in the medium term. Incentive funds will be made available to States periodically depending on the progress in achieving fiscal reform targets.

Violation of Indo-Sri Lanka Agreement

5688. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Sri Lankan Government has violated the Indo-Sri Lankan Agreement on Kachchativu by curtailing the traditional rights of Indian fishermen to fish and dry the nets in that Island;

(b) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to protect the rights of our fishermen as provided in the agreement;

(c) whether the traditional rights given to the Indian fishermen as enshrined in the agreement have been held in abeyance since 1983;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the manner in which the Government propose to deal with the situation?

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

Indo-Sri Lanka Maritime Boundary was settled through the Agreements of 1974 and 1976. In terms of these Agreements, the island of Kachchativu lies on the Sri Lankan side of the International Boundary Line. There is no change in Government's position in this regard.

The traditional rights of our fishermen regarding access to Kachchativu as provided in these agreements is for resting, drying of nets and attending the annual festival of St. Antony. The traditional rights do not include the right to fishing in and around Kachchativu.

(b) to (e) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Awareness About Indian Systems of Medicine

5689. SHRI Y.G. MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are taking special measures to increase awareness among people for Indian system of medicine and homoeopathy treatment;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the funds spent by the Government for creating awareness among people for Indian Systems of Medicine and Homoeopathy Treatment during 2000-2001, 2001-2002 and 2002-2003?

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

(b) The Government is creating awareness about Indian Systems of Medicine and Homoeopathy Treatment through print and audio-visual media, distribution of publicity material, holding exhibitions and conferences and participation in health melas.

(c) The funds spent by the Government for creating awareness among people for Indian Systems of Medicine & Homoeopathy Treatment are as under:

Year	Rs. (in lakhs)
2000-2001	357.34
2001-2002	208.24
2002-2003	480.34

*[English]***Setting up of Medical College**

5690. SHRI SAVSHIBHAI MAKWANA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have received any proposal from the Gujarat Government for the opening of medical college in Mehsana district;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) 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) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Dues Pending with Iraq

5691. SHRI VINAY KUMAR SORAKE: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether more than Rs.1200 crores stuck on Iraqi bonds is likely to be recovered with the imminent change in Iraqi regime;

(b) if so, whether the Government had written off the amount because of sanctions against Iraq;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the US has promised to honour all non-military obligations of Iraq;

(e) if so, whether India propose to stake its claim for the payment of the same; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI VINOD KHANNA): (a) to (f) The Government of India and the Government of Iraq entered into a series of Deferred Payment of Agreements between 1983 and 1989 relating to payments for projects executed by Indian companies in Iraq. After the Gulf war in 1990 and the imposition of sanctions in Iraq, Iraq did not make any payments under the Deferred Payment Agreements and other receivables. The Government of India issued cash and bonds to Indian companies to the extent of approximately Rs.1568.72 crores against certified receivables from Iraq. US has not promised to honour of non-military obligations of Iraq. India has not

written off the dues and the liability continues with the Government of Iraq.

Survey on Patent Regime

5692. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether according to the survey conducted by market research firm AC Nielsen ORG-Marg, only 17% of doctors interviewed were aware of the current patent regime in India;

(b) if so, whether the study was intended to determine the level of knowledge as well as opinions of the medical community regarding pharmaceutical patents;

(c) if so, the main features of the survey;

(d) whether the Government have examined the survey report; and

(e) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken to impart knowledge to the doctors on the patent regime?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (e) The Government does not appear to be in receipt of the results of the survey conducted by the Market Research Firm AC Nielsen ORG-Marg. However, further information is being collected on the matter.

All the concerned Departments of the Government of India are very well aware of the implications of the Patent Law and the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, through the Indian Council of Medical Research, have been conducting IPR/WTO awareness workshops for ICMR Scientists as also doctors in various medical colleges and other institutions in India to improve the knowledge base of Indian doctors about the new patent regime.

Youth Exchange Programme

5693. Shri J.S. BRAR: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have been sending Indian Youth to foreign countries under Youth Exchange Programme;

(b) if so, the details of Indian youth sent abroad during the last three years and the expenditure incurred thereon; and

(c) the criteria for selection of youth and officials for the said programme?

THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI. VIKRAM VERMA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The year-wise break up is as follows:

Year	No. of Youth	Expenditure (in lakhs)
2000-01	56	1.50
2001-02	68	2.49
2002-03	60	6.30

(c) The Ministry calls for nominations from National Service Scheme Programme Adviser's Cell and Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan. The final selection of youth and officials is made by the Government.

[Translation]

Cultivation of Medicinal Plants

5695. SHRI Y.G. MAHAJAN:

SHRI RAMDAS RUPALA GAVIT:

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

(a) whether the Government have formulated any schemes for the cultivation, protection and development of medicinal plants in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the financial assistance provided by the Government to different States for the implementation of these schemes during the last three years?

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

(b) The National Medicinal Plants Board has introduced Promotional and Commercial schemes for development of medicinal plants which include their cultivation and protection (conservation).

(c) The Board has funded various schemes during last 3 years. The assistance provided is as under:

Year	All States	Maharashtra
2000-01	0.935 crores	0.108 crores
2001-02	9.97 crores	0.508 crores
2002-03	14.19 crores	0.37 crores

[English]

Arrest of Indian Fishermen by Pakistan

5696. SHRI SAVSHIBHAI MAKWANA:

SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of Indian fishermen and their boats were captured by Pakistan Marine Security Agency recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government for the release of these fishermen and boats from Pak custody?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) and (b) As per available information, 282 Indian fishermen and 54 fishing boats are currently in custody in Pakistan.

(c) Government have consistently taken up the issue of their release and repatriation with the Government of Pakistan through diplomatic channels. As a result, Government of Pakistan provided consular access to 245 fishermen on March 26-29, 2003. Verification of their nationality is under Process by the concerned state authorities. Government of Pakistan has also been asked to provide consular access to the remaining fishermen in its custody. Earlier, 280 Indian fishermen and 44 boats had been released by Pakistan on 24.2.2003.

[Translation]

Loss Due to Hurricane

5697. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the total loss suffered due to damage to National Highways/bridges in the hurricane during the last three years till date in the country;

(b) whether such damages have been suffered due to heavy rains in other States also including Delhi;

(c) if so, the details thereof for Delhi and other States;

(d) whether the Government have taken any steps to repair these roads/bridges;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether the Government of Delhi has requested for funds from special central fund to repair these damaged National Highways/bridges; and

(g) if so, the details thereof and the steps 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) to (c) Year-wise details of estimated loss to National Highways/bridges due to natural calamities in various States are enclosed as statement.

(d) and (e) Repairs to damaged sections of National Highways/bridges due to floods and other reasons are attended to expeditiously through the State PWDs or the agency maintaining them.

(f) No, Sir.

(g) Does not arise.

Statement

Amount of Estimate Sanctioned for Repairs to National Highways/ Bridges due to Natural Calamities

(Rs in Lakhs)

Sl. No.	State	2000-01	2001-02	2002-2003
1	2	3	4	5
1	Andhra Pradesh	595.04	274.09	323.00
2	Assam	376.18	751.72	652.00
3	Bihar	967.43	1074.64	1299.00
4	Chhattisgarh	70.00	400.00	632.74
5	Goa	59.95	44.92	129.53
6	Gujarat	513.93	238.23	116.20
7	Haryana	172.37	27.87	0.00
8	Himachal Pradesh	770.76	517.91	430.15
9	Jammu & Kashmir	14.92	33.08	0.00
10	Jharkhand	260.36	136.09	13.00
11	Karnataka	270.00	300.28	649.51
12	Kerala	1003.76	801.62	501.09
13	Madhya Pradesh	150.00	501.00	649.99
14	Maharashtra	550.00	810.00	655.00
15	Manipur	129.05	101.38	265.00

1	2	3	4	5
16	Meghalaya	127.65	10.26	270.00
17	Mizoram	166.53	101.99	268.00
18	Nagaland	117.05	53.36	0.84
19	Orissa	600.00	1543.00	1341.96
20	Pondicherry	10.29	0.00	0.00
21	Punjab	0.00	56.07	0.00
22	Rajasthan	502.55	499.86	0.00
23	Tamil Nadu	122.50	306.38	208.81
24	Uttar Pradesh	968.64	1000.01	873.09
25	Uttaranchal	430.36	350.01	118.32
26	West Bengal	2525.46	1013.61	683.29

Note: In addition to above, an amount of Rs. 18.89 cr. and Rs. 16.60 cr. was allocated by Border Roads Organization and National Highways Authority of India respectively for repairs of National Highways/Bridges damaged due to natural calamities during last three years.

[English]

Participation of Employees in Bidding of PSUs

5698. SHRI V. VETRISLVAN: Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have allowed the employees to participate in bidding in the sale of PSUs;

(b) if so, whether any guidelines have been issued in this regard; and

(c) If so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Government has issued guidelines for management - employee bids in strategic sale under O.M. No. 4/38/2002/DD II dated 25th April, 2003. The following guidelines have been laid down for evaluating the employee/management bids.

(i) The term 'employee' will include all permanent employees of a PSU and the whole time directors on the board of the PSU. A bid submitted by employees or a body of employees will be called an "employee bid".

(ii) At least 15% of the total number of the employees

in a PSU or 200 employees, which ever is lower, should participate in the bid.

(iii) An employee bid would be exempted from any minimum turn over criterion but will be required to qualify in terms of the prescribed net worth criterion. They will be required to follow the procedures prescribed for participation by Interested Parties in the process of strategic sale including, but not limited to, filing the expression of interest along with all details, as applicable to other investors, furnishing of bank guarantee for payment of the purchase price etc.

(iv) Employees can either bid directly and independently or, for the purpose of meeting the financial criteria like net worth, can form a consortium or bid through a joint venture (JV) or a special purpose vehicle (SPV), alongwith a bank, venture capitalist or a financial institution. However employees will not be permitted to form consortia with other companies.

(v) If the bidding entity of the employees is a consortium, JV or SPV, employees must have a controlling stake and be in control of the bidding entity.

(vi) If the bid is submitted through a consortium, JV or

- SPV, employees must contribute at least 10% of the financial bid.
- (vii) If the employees form a consortium, the consortium partners would be prohibited from submitting individual bids independently.
- (viii) If it is not the highest bid, the employee bid shall be considered only if the said bid is within 10% of the highest bid.
- (ix) The employee bid shall, subject to fulfilling the conditions above, have the first option for acquiring the shares under offer provided they match the highest bid and the highest bid being equal to or more than the reserve price.
- (x) If the employee bid is not the highest bid and there are more than one employee bids within the 10% band, the highest of the employee bids will have precedence for purchase at the highest bid. If such employee bidder is unwilling or unable to match the highest bid, the option will pass on to the next highest employee bid and so on till all the employee bids, within the 10% band, are exhausted.
- (xi) In the event of no employee bidder, within the 10% band, being willing or able to match the highest bid, the shares under offer will be sold to the highest bidding entity.
- (xii) There will be a lock in period of three years for the shares disinvested by the Government.

All the bidders for the management-employee buy-outs will also have to satisfy the provisions of the 'Guidelines for qualification of bidders seeking to acquire stakes in Public sector Enterprise through the process of disinvestment' issued vide the then Department of Disinvestments Office Memorandum No. 6/4/2001-DD-II dated 13th July 2001 or as amended subsequently along with other qualification criterion as generally applicable and not specifically excluded herein.

Indo-US Cooperation in Nuclear Field

5699. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the visit of Chairman of the UN Nuclear Regulatory Commission has reactivated Indo-US cooperation in the civilian nuclear field which was affected by the post-Pokhran sanctions;

(b) whether on the Indo-US cooperation front, two new programmes have been added to the original three, which were agreed upon in the mid-1990s;

(c) if so, the details of new programmes that have been added; and

(d) the extent to which UN official visit has boosted the nuclear ties between the two countries?

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 visit of Chairman of US Nuclear Regulatory Commission has helped to reactivity the Indo-US cooperation in the field of nuclear safety.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The two new areas are:

(i) Risk Informed Performance based Regulation.

(ii) Procedures for Licence Renewal and Periodic Safety Review.

(d) The visit of US officials has added momentum to the ongoing dialogue between the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board of India and Nuclear Regulatory Commission of US for cooperation in the field of Nuclear Safety.

Works Under MPLAD Scheme

5700. SHRI SAVSHIBHAI MAKWANA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state the details of the works that have been undertaken during each of the last three years by the Andaman and Nicobar Administration and the State Government of Gujarat under MPLAD Scheme?

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): Information in respect of the number of works taken up under the MPLAD Scheme in the Union Territory of Andaman & Nicobar and the State of Gujarat during the period in question year-wise is as under:

Year	Union Territory of Andaman & Nicobar	Gujarat
2000-01	89	7289
2001-02	70	5599
2002-03	63	3935

Detailed information in respect of MPLADS works is maintained at the district level.

[Translation]

Finalisation of Annual Plan

5701. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the outlay for annual plan for 2002-03 has been finalised;

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

(c) the names of the States to whom the 'special Central assistance' has been provided during the last three years; and

(d) 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) The Annual Plan 2002-03 of States have been finalised. Statement-I showing major sector-wise details of Annual Plan 2002-03 of States, is enclosed.

(c) and (d) Statements-II to IV showing details of Special Central Assistance given during 2000-01, 2001-02 and 2002-03 including names of States to which Special Central Assistance were given, are enclosed.

Statement-I

Details of Approved Annual Plan 2002-03 of States

(Rs in Crore)

Sl.No.	States	Annual Plan 2002-03
1	2	3
1	Andhra Pradesh	10100.00
2	Arunachal Pradesh	676.00

1	2	3
3	Assam	1750.00
4	Bihar	2964.40
5	Chhattisgarh	1757.00
6	Goa	586.00
7	Gujarat	7600.00
8	Haryana	2034.00
9	Himachal Pradesh	1840.00
10	Jammu & Kashmir	2200.00
11	Jharkhand	2652.00
12	Karnataka	8610.61
13	Kerala	4026.00
14	Madhya Pradesh	4821.00
15	Maharashtra	11562.00
16	Manipur	550.00
17	Meghalaya	545.00
18	Mizoram	430.00
19	Nagaland	424.00
20	Orissa	3100.00
21	Punjab	2793.00
22	Rajasthan	5160.00
23	Sikkim	350.00
24	Tamil Nadu	5750.00
25	Tripura	625.00
26	Uttar Pradesh	7250.00
27	Uttaranchal	1533.13
28	West Bengal	6307.00
Total		97996.14

Statement-II*Allocation of Special Central Assistance to States during 2000-01*

(Rs. in Crore)

Sl. No.	States	HADP	TSP	BADP	Special Central Assistance	Total
0	1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh		21.83			21.83
2.	Arunachal Pradesh			6.75		6.75
3.	Assam	50.90	24.44	3.74		79.08
4.	Bihar		17.11	3.64		20.75
5.	Chhattisgarh		36.95			36.95
6.	Goa					0.00
7.	Gujarat		31.40	10.26		41.66
8.	Haryana					0.00
9.	Himachal Pradesh		5.14	8.16		13.30
10.	Jammu & Kashmir		7.76	39.65		47.41
11.	Jharkhand		34.23			34.23
12.	Karnataka		6.16			6.16
13.	Kerala		2.19			2.19
14.	Madhya Pradesh		62.57			62.57
15.	Maharashtra		29.75			29.75
16.	Manipur		6.09	4.16		10.25
17.	Meghalaya			4.70		4.70
18.	Mizoram			12.32		12.32
19.	Nagaland			4.16		4.16
20.	Orissa		51.88			51.88
21.	Punjab			14.08		14.08
22.	Rajasthan		29.15	30.32		59.47
23.	Sikkim		0.86	4.63		5.49

0	1	2	3	4	5	6
24.	Tamil Nadu	22.01	2.58			24.59
25.	Tripura		8.32	12.96		21.28
26.	Uttar Pradesh	240.86	0.42	8.32		249.60
27.	Uttaranchal		0.58	4.16		4.74
28.	West Bengal	22.23	17.59	37.99		77.81
	Total (States)	336.00	397.00	210.00		943.00

Notes: Uttar Pradesh excluded from HADP from 2001-02 following creation of Uttaranchal State

HADP - Hill Area Development Programme

TSP - Tribal Sub Plan

BADP - Border Area Development Programme

Statement-III

Allocation of Special Central Assistance to States during 2001-02

(Rs. in crore)

Sl. No.	States	HADP	TSP	BADP	Special Central Assistance	Total
0	1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh		27.33			27.33
2.	Arunachal Pradesh			13.51		13.51
3.	Assam	51.11	30.59	7.48		89.18
4.	Bihar		5.57			5.57
5.	Chhattisgarh		46.26			46.26
6.	Goa					0.00
7.	Gujarat		39.31			39.31
8.	Haryana					0.00
9.	Himachal Pradesh		6.44	19.31		25.75
10.	Jammu & Kashmir		9.72	34.85		44.57
11.	Jharkhand		58.70			58.70
12.	Karnataka		7.71			7.71
13.	Kerala		2.74			2.74

0	1	2	3	4	5	6
14.	Madhya Pradesh		78.33			78.33
15.	Maharashtra		37.24			37.24
16.	Manipur		7.62	4.16	125.00	136.78
17.	Meghalaya			5.36		5.36
18.	Mizoram			16.08		16.08
19.	Nagaland			4.16		4.16
20.	Orrisa		64.95			64.95
21.	Punjab			10.08		10.08
22.	Rajasthan		36.50	30.32		66.82
23.	Sikkim		1.08	5.72		6.80
24.	Tamil Nadu	22.10	3.23			25.33
25.	Tripura		10.41	12.96		23.37
26.	Uttar Pradesh		0.32	8.32		8.64
27.	Uttaranchal		0.93	2.08		3.01
28.	West Bengal	22.33	22.03	19.78		64.14
	Total (States)	95.54	497.01	194.17	125.00	911.72

Notes: Uttar Pradesh excluded from HADP from 2001-02 following creation of Uttaranchal State

HADP Hill Area Development Programme

TSP Tribal Sub Plan

BADP - Border Area Development Programme

Statement-IV

Allocation of Special Central Assistance to States during 2002-03

(Rs. in crore)

Sl. No.	States	HADP	TSP	BADP	Special Central Assistance	Total
0	1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh		27.32			27.32
2.	Arunachal Pradesh			13.51		13.51
3.	Assam	51.11	30.58	7.48		89.17

0	1	2	3	4	5	6
4.	Bihar		5.56	7.28		12.84
5.	Chhattisgarh		39.30			39.30
6.	Goa					0.00
7.	Gujarat		6.43	10.26		16.69
8.	Haryana					0.00
9.	Himachal Pradesh		9.71	10.98	200.00	220.69
10.	Jammu & Kashmir		7.71	100.00	421.00	528.71
11.	Jharkhand		2.73			2.73
12.	Karnataka		78.33			78.33
13.	Kerala		37.23			37.23
14.	Madhya Pradesh		7.61			7.61
15.	Maharashtra		64.95			64.95
16.	Manipur		36.49	4.16	100.00	140.65
17.	Meghalaya			8.00		8.00
18.	Mizoram			16.32	48.42	64.74
19.	Nagaland			4.46		4.46
20.	Orrisa		1.08			1.08
21.	Punjab			10.08		10.08
22.	Rajasthan		3.23	40.32		43.55
23.	Sikkim		10.41	5.72		16.13
24.	Tamil Nadu	22.10	0.32			22.42
25.	Tripura		22.02	18.19		40.21
26.	Uttar Pradesh		46.26	17.45		63.71
27.	Uttaranchal		58.70	5.23		63.93
28.	West Bengal	22.23	0.92	45.56		68.81
Total (States)		95.54	496.89	325.00	769.42	1686.85

Notes: Uttar Pradesh excluded from HADP from 2001-02 following creation of Uttaranchal State

HADP - Hill Area Development Programme

TSP - Tribal Sub Plan

BADP - Border Area Development Programme

Disinvestment of HPCL and BPCL

5702. SHRIMATI MINATI SEN: Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Supreme Court has given any ruling on a petition challenging the disinvestment of the public sector undertakings HPCL and BPCL etc. by the Government without obtaining prior permission of the Parliament for their privatisation;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have submitted their reply to the Supreme Court; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) and (b) On a Writ Petition filed on 13.3.2003 by M/s. Centre for Public Interest Litigation, the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India has issued notice to Government of India to show cause as to why Rule Nisi in terms of the prayer of the Writ Petition should not be issued and application for stay as prayed for should not be allowed. The prayer of the petitioner in the Writ Petition is that the Government be restrained from proceeding with the disinvestment in HPCL and BPCL in a manner so that they cease to be Government companies, without the approval of the Parliament and without amending or repealing the Esso (Acquisition of Undertaking in India) Act, 1974, The Burma Shell (Acquisition of Undertaking in India) Act, 1976 and the Caltex (Acquisition of Shares of Caltex Oil Refining India Limited and all the Undertakings in India for Caltex India Limited) Act, 1977.

(c) and (d) Government will respond to the notice by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India within the stipulated period.

[English]

III-Effect of Computers

5703. SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether long hours at computers may cause blood clots as reported in the 'The Hindu' dated January 31, 2003;

(b) if so, the facts thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to tackle the situation?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMETARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (c) According to the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), blood clot is not due to long hours at computer but due to sitting in cramped position which may lead to deep venous thrombosis.

Discrimination Against Indians

5704. DR. ASHOK PATEL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether cases of discrimination against Indians have come to light in UK as reported in the Newstime dated March 10, 2003;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) the details of the other such cases reported from various countries; and

(d) the nature of protest lodged by the Government with the concerned authorities and the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) and (b) Government of India is aware of the particular case of discrimination against Ms Sushila Phillips, a British national whose mother is of Indian origin, by Bristol University as reported in the Newstime of 10 March, 2003. The University in question has reportedly denied admission to Ms. Phillips.

(c) None.

(d) Since Ms. Phillips is a British citizen, Government of India cannot involve itself directly in the matter.

Supply of Boulder by Malaysian Company

5705. SHRI SUNIL KHAN: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Malaysian company has received any tender to supply boulder from Bankura district to NH2 in West Bengal;

(b) if so, the quantity supplied by the company and the rate per sq. ft. thereof;

(c) whether this boulder is better than Pakur of Birbhum district in West Bengal/Bihar; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Performance of Infotech Companies

5706. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the ongoing slowdown, Gulf war and appreciation of rupee against the US dollar are likely to erode profitability of Indian infotech companies;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the total loss suffered by Indian IT industry so far as a result thereof; and

(c) the steps taken or being taken by the Government to minimise the woes of IT industry by providing then more facilities and concessions for their survival?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SU THIRUNAVUKKARASAR): (a) and (b) The on-going global slow down, Gulf war and the appreciation of rupee against the US dollar are likely have some impact on the profitability of Indian infotech companies. Volumes are still growing at a healthy rate, though margins are under pressure.

However, global outsourcing model for IT software & services has come to the main stream and is gaining momentum. Gulf war initially slowed down the pace of the growth in this area. But the momentum is expected to pick up in the remaining part of this calendar year.

(c) Government is seized of the situation. Steps taken by the Government to promote IT sector are enclosed as statement.

Statement

Steps taken by the Government to promote the Information Technology Sector

1. Export promotion Capital Goods scheme (EPCG) has been rationalized and extended uniformly to all sectors without any threshold limit on payment of 5% duty.
2. Approval for all foreign direct Investment proposals relating to the Information Technology sector, with the exception of Business-to-Consumer (B2C) e-commerce are under the automatic route.

3. Electronic Hardware Technology Park (EHTP) and Software Technology Park (STP) Schemes are implemented under the aegis of the Department of Information Technology, Ministry of Communications and Information Technology, through a single window mechanism of the Inter-Ministerial Standing Committee (IMSC).

4. Supplies of Information Technology Agreement (ITA-1) items in the Domestic Tariff Areas (DTA) by EHTP/EOU/EPZ units shall be counted towards fulfilment of minimum Net Foreign Exchange earning as a Percentage of exports (NFEP) and the minimum Export Performance (EP), provided that the items are manufactured in time unit and attract zero rate of basic customs duty. Positive NFEP is required to be achieved in 5 years instead of every year.

5. DTA access upto 50% of the FOB value of export is permitted for electronics hardware units under EOU/EPZ/EHTP schemes and the software units under EOU/EPZ/STP schemes.

6. Accelerated depreciation norms extended to computers and computer peripherals to all units and capital goods of IT hardware units under Export Oriented schemes (EOU/EPZ/EHTP). These shall stand depreciated to overall limit of 90% over a period of 3 years.

7. Special Economic Zones are being set up to enable hassle free manufacturing and trading for export purposes.

8. The Depreciation on Computers is allowed @ 60%.

9. In the Budget 2002-03, the peak rate of customs duty has been reduced from 35% to 30%. Customs duty has been reduced on stepper motors for computers/printers from 5% to 0%, floppy diskette and unrecorded magnetic tape from 15% to 10%, Ink cartridges/ribbon assembly/ribbon gear assembly/ribbon gear carriage for use in printers for computers from 25% to 5%. 56 items of capital goods for manufacture of semiconductors from 5% to 0%, 24 items of capital goods for manufacture of electronic components from 25-35% to 15%. tools/moulds/dies for electronics industry from 25% to 15% and on 46 items of raw materials for manufacture of electronic components from 25-35% to 5%.

* Customs duty on Computers and Peripherals continues to be @ 15% and all storage devices, integrated circuits, microprocessors, data display tubes and deflection components of colour monitors continue at 0%. The concessional rate of customs duty @ 5% for specified

- raw materials for the electronics industry (121 items) continues. Customs duty on Information Technology Agreement (ITA-1) items of WTO (IT and Telecom products) continues @ 15%, parts of Telecom continue @ 5%, parts, components and accessories of mobile handsets including cellular telephones continue at 0%.
10. The Central Excise duty structure was rationalized from multiple rates to single rate of 16% and single rate of Special Excise Duty (SED) @ 16%, in the Budget 2001-02, and continues.
 11. Information Technology Software is exempted from Customs and Excise Duty.
 12. Second hand capital goods upto 10 years are freely importable.
 13. EOU/EPZ/STP/EHTP units are eligible for Income Tax benefit on export profits, upto 2010, in terms of Sections 10A and 10B of the Income Tax Act.
 14. Exemption of withholding tax on interest on External Commercial Borrowings (ECBs) is available to the IT sector.
 15. Definition of Computer Software, as in Section 80 HHE of the Income Tax Act covers transmission of data.
 16. Benefit of Section 80 HHE is available to supporting software developers.
 17. IT Enabled Services are eligible for Income Tax benefit under Sections 10A, 10B and 80 HHE of the Income Tax Act.
 18. DEPB rate will be same for a product whether exported as CBU or in CKD/SKD condition.
 19. Threshold limit for obtaining 'Export House' status reduced to Rs.5 crores from Rs.15 crores for Small Scale Industry, tiny sector, cottage sector, units located in North East States/Sikkim/J&K; exporters exporting to countries in Latin America/CIS/Sub Sahara Africa and units having ISO 9000 (series) status. The status holders are eligible for the following new/special facilities:
 - 100% retention of foreign exchange in Exchange Earners' Foreign Currency (EEFC) account;
 - Enhancement in normal repatriation period from 180 days to 360 days.
 20. The donation of computers, Imported duty free by EOU/EPZ/STP/EHTP units to recognized non-commercial educational institutions, registered charitable hospitals, public libraries, public funded research and development establishments, etc., two years after their use by the said units is permitted.
 21. The second-hand computers and computer peripherals donated by an outside donor to Government schools and recognized schools run on a non-commercial basis by any organisation are exempted from customs duties.
 22. Income by way of dividends or long-term capital gains of a Venture Capital Fund or Venture Capital company from investment made by way of equity shares in a Venture Capital Undertaking, which has been expanded to include the Software and IT sectors, will henceforth not be included in computing the total income.
 23. To give thrust to Venture Capital finance, SEBI has been made the single point nodal agency for registration and regulation of both domestic and overseas venture capital funds.
 24. There will be no tax on distributed or undistributed income of Venture Capital Funds. The income distributed by the VCFs will only be taxed in the hands of the investors at the rates applicable to the nature of the income. VCFs will continue to be eligible for exemption even if the shares of the VC undertaking in which the VCFs have made the initial investment are subsequently listed in a recognized stock exchange in India.
 25. Under policy on portfolio investment, Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) are permitted to invest in a company upto an aggregate of 24% of equity shares, extendable upto 40% subject to approvals. This limit was raised from 40% to 49% in the Budget 2001-02.
 28. Tax holiday under provisions of Section 80-IA (Infrastructure Status) has been extended to Internet Service Providers (ISPs) and Broadband Network providers.
 27. Two-way fungibility has been permitted for ADRs/GDRs. Local shares can be reconverted into ADRs/GDRs, subject to sectoral caps.
 28. With a view to give a boost to the manufacturing sector, it is proposed in the Budget announcements 2002-03, to allow a deduction of a further sum of 15% of the actual cost of such machinery or plant acquired and installed after 31.3.2002 in case of new industrial undertaking or substantial expansion by an existing industrial undertaking. The proposed amendment will take effect from 1.4.2003 and will, accordingly, apply in relation to the assessment year 2003-04 and subsequent years.

29. To encourage re-location of Industries to India, plant and machineries would be permitted to be imported without a licence, where the depreciated value of such relocating plants exceeds Rs.50 crores.
30. India Companies wishing to invest abroad may now invest upto US \$ 100 Million on an annual basis through automatic route without being subject to the three year profitability condition, up from existing limit of US\$ 50 million (Budget announcement 2002-03).
31. Indian Companies making overseas Investment in joint ventures abroad by market purchases may now do so without prior approval upto 50% of their net worth, up from existing limit of 25% (Budget announcement 2002-03).
32. To induce more investment for R&D activities, a weighted deduction of 125% on the sums paid to any university, college or an Institution or a Scientific research association for the purposes of scientific, social or statistical research is available.
33. For reduction of transaction time for export/import clearances, Ministry of Civil Aviation has finalized the scheme of 'Known-Shippers' for doing away with the 24 hours cooling off period.
34. Two shifts have been introduced on week days and single-shift on holidays at the Air Cargo Complexes at Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai, Bangalore, Hyderabad, Delhi and Goa.
35. Information Technology Act, 2000 dealing with Cyber

Security, Cyber Crime and other Information security related legal aspects is in place to encourage expansion of e-commerce through internet.

Fall in PSU Scrips

5707. SHRI Y.V. RAO: Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is a sharp fall in PSUs Scrips as reported in the Economic Times dated March 17, 2003;
- (b) if so, the factual position in this regard;
- (c) the reaction of the Government thereto alongwith the factors responsible for the same; and
- (d) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A statement indicating the movement of share prices at different dates in respect of Engineers India Ltd., Shipping Corporation, Container Corporation of India, Dredging Corporation, NALCO, BPCL and HPCL is enclosed.

(c) and (d) The movement of share prices depends on various factors. The decision on disinvestment and the process is one among the many factors. As indicated in the statement, the BSEPSU index rose by 87% upto July 2002 and has come down marginally by 7% upto March, 03. The decrease in the BSEPSU index during the period from July 2002 to March 2003 is in line with the trend of BSE sensenx.

Statement

Sl. No.	Name of the Company	Date	Price (Rs. per Share)	Date	Price (Rs. per share)	Percent increase over previous column	Date	Price (Rs. per Share)	Percent increase over previous column	Percent increase Dec. 01 to Mar. 03
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
1.	Engg. India Ltd.	31.12.01	80	17.06.02	391	389	07.03.03 13.03.03	242 249	-38	202
2.	Shipping Corp. of India	31.12.01	30	04.06.02	110	265	13.03.03	56	-49	85
3.	Container Corp. of India	31.12.01	147	11.06.02	334	127	11.03.03	211	-37	44
4.	Dredging India Corporation Ltd.	01.01.02	90	08.04.02	388	331	11.03.03	230	-41	156
5.	NALCO	31.12.01	50	06.06.02	106	114	13.03.03	79	-25	60

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
6.	HPCL	31.12.01	140	06.06.02	265	90	13.03.03	283	7	103
7.	BPCL	31.12.01	189	06.06.02	248	31	13.03.03	210	-15	11
8.	BSE PSU Index	31.12.01	907	12.06.02 15.07.02	1673 1700	84	13.03.03	1587	-5 -7	75
9.	BSE SEN	31.12.01	3263	12.06.02	3344	2	13.03.03	3108	-7	-5

Source: Reuters: BSE

National Reconstruction Corps

5708. DR. N. VENKATASWAMY: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to set up units of National Reconstruction Corps (NRC) at all schools and colleges; and

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

THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI VIKRAM VERMA): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The scheme of National Reconstruction Corps is meant for the non-student youth.

Utilisation of Funds

5709. SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government provide grants to State Government to carry out projects in the health, welfare and other such sectors;

(b) if so, the criteria being followed in this regard;

(c) whether the Government have any mechanism to ensure that the grants so given are utilised for the said purpose;

(d) if so, the details of projects for which grants were given during the last three years to Uttar Pradesh and not fully utilized for the purpose for which these were given; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to ensure that the grants given to the States are utilised properly?

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) Central Assistance for States is given in the uniform grant:loan ratio of 30:70 for non-Special Category States and 90:10 for Special Category States. Outright grants have not been given to States for carrying out projects in the health, welfare and other such sectors during the last three years 2000-01, 2001-02 and 2002-03. Outright plan grants are given mainly for development of specific areas which have special characteristics that need to be addressed through special allocation of plan funds. For example, grants are given for Border Area Development Programme for development blocks that have international land borders.

(c) There already exists constitutional mechanism to ensure the utilisation of funds by States for the purpose for which it is sanctioned. In accordance with the Article 151 of the Constitution, the Audit Reports in respect of financial transactions of the State Governments prepared by the Comptroller and Auditor General of India, which includes matters like proper utilisation of funds and diversion of funds from the purpose for which they are sanctioned, is presented to the Vidhan Sabha and it stands referred to the Public Accounts Committee in respect of Civil and Revenue Receipts. The Government Departments are then to submit suo motu Action Taken Notes on all Audit paragraphs and reviews to the Public Accounts Committee, duly vetted by Audit. The Public Accounts Committee selects some of the paragraphs/reviews for detailed examination after which a report containing their observations and recommendations is presented to the Vidhan Sabha.

(d) No project specific grants have been given as central plan assistance to Uttar Pradesh during the last three years, viz. 2000-01, 2001-02 and 2002-03.

(e) The guidelines on the implementation of the schemes for which grants are given provide for normal financial and audit procedure to be followed in order to ensure proper utilisation of funds. Planning Commission also conduct periodic evaluations of programmes and has also decided to introduce from the Tenth Plan quarterly reviews of the financial and physical progress of plan schemes implemented by States.

Adulteration

5710. SHRI RAMCHANDRA PASWAN:

COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY:

SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL:

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

(a) whether the Government are aware that some businessmen are adulterating milk, edible oil, spices and pulses;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of samples of such products lifted by the Government during each of the last three years, State-wise; and

(d) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to check it alongwith the action taken against the guilty persons under PFA?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (d) The Food (Health) Authorities of the States/U.T.s, are responsible for the implementation of the provisions of the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954 and Rules made thereunder in the country. The Food (Health) Authorities are also advised from time to time, to keep a strict vigil to check adulteration in their States/UTs.

[Translation]

BOT Projects

5711. SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN:

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI:

SHRI VINAY KUMAR SORAKE:

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

(a) whether any decision has been taken to divide the national highways into 23 sections and construct for lanes;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to adopt new bidding norms for 23 short-listed BOT projects for four-laning of national highways;

(c) whether the bids will be for a complete turn-key package from project feasibility to construction, operation and maintenance;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the details of the length of these sections alongwith the places from where these sections start and end;

(f) by when these are likely to be completed;

(g) the names of the agencies to whom the construction of these sections have been entrusted; and

(h) the estimated cost of construction worked-out in regard to each of these sections?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Stretches will be selected based on the volume of traffic; cost of construction availability of land etc.

(f) The construction period may vary from 3-5 years after the awards of the contract.

(g) Till date, no bid has been invited for any section and no agency has been fixed.

(h) Cost of construction can be arrived at only after the contracts are awarded.

[English]

Damage Control Measures by NASSCOM

5712. SHRI AJAY SINGH CHAUTALA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the NASSCOM has initiated any damage control measures by sending a delegation to America to create a lobby in favour of Indian IT professionals on the issue of outsourcing of Business Services of call centres; 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) Yes, Sir. With active support from the Government of India, NASSCOM has been working very closely with us policy makers, media, legislators, customers and US Industry Associations to highlight the benefits of outsourcing, creation of jobs and competitiveness of various industries. It has also hired a reputed Public Relations firm to do the lobbying on behalf of the Indian IT Industry. A NASSCOM delegation visited USA in March 2003 and had meetings at New Jersey, Washington D.C., Maryland and Washington.

Telephone Exchanges in Nagaland

5713. SHRI K.A. SANGTAM: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that the Telephone Exchanges operating in Nagaland particularly in Zunheboto and Tuensang districts are situated in lightning prone areas;

(b) if so, whether any study has been conducted or proposed to be conducted to assess the impact of lightning;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the measures being taken to check frequent power cuts and damage caused to these exchanges due to lightning?

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

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. M/s ITI has been asked to study and submit a report.

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

(e) The routine preventive measures are being taken and specific action shall be taken based on the findings of the study report.

MPLAD Scheme for Gujarat Rehabilitation

5714. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the works undertaken under the MPLAD scheme for rehabilitation in Kutch have been completed;

(b) if so, the present status thereof;

(c) the details of the amount collected/contributed by Members of Parliament in this regard;

(d) the details of the Members who have contributed one crore and above in the said scheme;

(e) whether the works have been delayed since long; and

(f) if so, the efforts being made for the expeditious completion of the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) As on 31.03.2003, 21 primary schools, 31 community halls, 185 class rooms of primary schools and 75 work sheds have been completed under MPLADS Rehabilitation Project in Kutch. The remaining rehabilitation works are at various stages of implementation.

(b) A statement indicating the present status of the works assigned to the two implementation agencies identified by the MPLADS Committee of the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha is enclosed.

(c) Members of Lok Sabha have contributed Rs.21.93 crore to the Rehabilitation Project in the earthquake affected areas of Gujarat. The contribution of the Member of Rajya Sabha amounts to Rs. 25.70 crore.

(d) Contributions of Rs.1 crore and above have been made by 5 Lok Sabha MPs and 6 Rajya Sabha MPs.

(e) After an initial delay, the pace of execution has improved.

(f) The progress of the rehabilitation works is reviewed by the Parliamentary Committees on MPLADS from time to time and appropriate directions given to the State authorities and the implementing agencies.

Statement

Details of works allotted/completed under MPLADS in earthquake affected areas of Kutch District, Gujarat

(A) Works implemented by Housing & Urban Development Corporation Ltd.

	Nos. allotted	Nos. completed	Nos. to be completed shortly	Nos. likely to take some time
Primary Schools	139	21	67	51
Community Halls	62	13	13	36
Dispensary/PHC/Hospital	7	-	4	3
Ashram Shala/Dharam Shala	4	-	3	1
Vocational Training Institute	1	-	1	-
Work sheds	120	75	45	-
Marketing Centre	1	-	1	-

(B) Works implemented by National Building Construction Corporation Ltd.

	Nos. allotted	Nos. completed	Nos. to be completed shortly
Class Rooms of Primary Schools	330	185	145
Community Hall	68	18	50
Dispensary	8	-	8
Sub-Centre	3	-	3
ITI	1	-	1

[Translation]

Projects in Bihar

5715. SHRI RAJO SINGH: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of ongoing projects in Bihar and the details of works of widening, expansion and repair of roads that have started on National Highways last year;

(b) the details of the projects the cost of which have escalated due to their non-completion in time;

(c) the time by which works are likely to be completed on the above National Highways and by when the works are likely to be started in the remaining National Highways;

(d) the details of funds spent for the above works on these National Highways during the last three years; and

(e) the measures taken by the Government to speed up the projects in order to prevent cost escalation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI): (a) There are 64 numbers of on-going development projects in Bihar. 48 numbers of works of widening and expansion and 25 numbers of works of repair of roads have been started during last year.

(b) Nil as on date.

(c) Does not arise. The work on remaining stretches of National Highways will be taken up depending upon availability of funds and inter-se priority.

(d) Amount spent on development, maintenance and repair of National Highways in the State of Bihar during 2000-2001, 2001-2002 & 2002-2003 are Rs. 215.74 crore, Rs. 141.09 crore & Rs. 209.52 crore respectively.

(e) Timely payment, frequent inspections and review meetings, are some of the measures adopted for expeditious completion of the projects.

[English]

R and D Schemes for Yoga

5716. SHRI ANANT GUDHE: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have recently reviewed schemes for promoting Research and Development in Yoga in the country;

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

(c) the details of NGOs working and receiving grants from the Government for promoting Research and Development in Yoga in Maharashtra alongwith the performance and utilisation of funds by them in the State; and

(d) the action taken against NGOs found misutilising funds and the names of such NGOs?

THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI VIKRAM VERMA): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Development of Indian Telephone Industry

5717. SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the budgetary support for Indian Telephone Industry (ITI) has been gradually coming down over the years;

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

(c) whether the Government propose to make efforts for the development of ITI; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) and (b) The budgetary

support given by the Government for the last five years are given below:

Year	Rs. (in Crores)
1998-1999	21.18
1999-2000	5.11
2000-2001	4.00
2001-2002	4.00
2002-2003	6.63

(c) and (d) M/s ITI Ltd. is a Board managed Company. The Board of Directors is primarily responsible for its functioning and development. However, the Government support the company by extending reservation quota, advances, waiver of bid bonds, etc.

Projects of Communication Infrastructure Network

5718. SHRI A. NARENDRA:

SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ:

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

(a) whether the Government have reviewed recently the implementation of ongoing projects of communication infrastructure network in Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka particularly in tribal areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the standard monitoring norms, targets set and achieved in completion of the said projects; and

(c) the details of fresh initiatives taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to develop, promote and strengthen communication infrastructure network in these States and the tribal areas during the current financial year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): **Reply in respect of Telecom Sector :**

(a) and (b) Yes, Sir. BSNL (Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited) is monitoring quarterly achievements of on-going projects of telecommunications infrastructure network in Tribal areas. Targets and Achievements of Tribal Areas in Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka for the year 2002-2003 are as under:

Parameters	Andhra Pradesh		Karnataka	
	Targets	Achievements	Targets	Achievements
Direct Exchange Lines	2750	4970	21790	15785
Switching Capacity	6100	5498	29920	23690
Telephone Exchange	2	1	3	13
OFC (Route Kms)	0	122	75	128

(c) BSNL has proposed following tentative targets in the Tribal Areas of Andhra Pradesh & Karnataka during the year 2003-2004, subject to demand and availability of resources.

Parameters	Andhra Pradesh	Karnataka
Direct Exchange Lines	1500	8000
Switching Capacity	1500	12500
OFC (Route Kms)	50	50

Note: Opening of New Exchange not planned as coverage is proposed by WLL (Wireless in Local Loop)

Reply in respect of Postal Sector :

(a) and (b) No, Sir. However, implementation of important plan projects, including those in tribal areas are monitored on a monthly basis, keeping in view physical and financial targets approved for the given financial year, by the competent authority.

(c) The development and strengthening of postal network is done through plan schemes implemented through Five year Plans and Annual Plans. The department plans to open 100 Sub Post Offices, 1000 Branch Post Offices and 5000 Panchayat Sanchar Sewa Kendras throughout the country. The allocation of targets for normal and tribal areas in Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka is to be done during the corresponding years of the said plan.

Other schemes to strengthen the infrastructure include computerization of post, mail and administrative offices. During the Tenth plan, it is proposed to computerize and network all head offices, and post offices (having more than 2 counters), including those in Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and in tribal areas. One Head Record Office (HRO) of Karnataka Circle namely Q Division, Bangalore is proposed to be computerized during current financial year plan. The Computerization of various mail offices in Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka Circle is under consideration but the name of the offices have not

yet been identified and the same will be done according to merits and availability of funds.

Construction of buildings for operative and administrative offices and staff quarters are also proposed to be implemented during the tenth plan. However, the details of the scheme are yet to be approved by the competent authority.

Indo-American Cancer Institute and Research Centre

5719. DR. N. VENKATASWAMY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any proposal/ request from Andhra Pradesh for financial assistance to Indo-American Cancer Institute and Research Centre, Hyderabad;

(b) if so, the details of the decision taken thereon; and

(c) 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) to (c) A proposal received from the Indo-American Cancer Institute & Research Centre for financial assistance for purchase of various equipment and for support of proposed cancer screening wing programme for about Rs.6.25 crores could not be acceded to as under the scheme of Setting up of a Cobalt Therapy Unit an amount of Rs.1.00 crore has already been released in 1999 to Smt. NBT Rama Rao Memorial Cancer Foundation, Hyderabad which has been promoted by this Institute and that this is a one time grant.

Under the Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO) scheme of National Cancer Control Programme (NCCP) another proposal of Rs.5.00 lakhs from Indo-American Cancer Institute & Research Centre, Hyderabad has been received. Sanction of the grant depends on receipt of the requisite information (which have already been sought) and clearance of the same by the Standing Committee on Radiotherapy

Development Programme chaired by the Director General of Health Services.

Bye-Pass Road in West Bengal

5720. SHRI SUNIL KHAN: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether NH-2 is going straight through Panagar Bazar or a bye-pass road has been sanctioned in West Bengal;

(b) whether the road got badly damaged within a year of the completion of NH-2 from the point of DVC more Durgapur in West Bengal to Muchipara, Durgapur; and

(c) if so, the action taken or proposed to be taken against the contractor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI): (a) A bypass around Panagarh is planned.

(b) and (c) No, Sir. The road is in traffic-worthy condition. Some pot holes had developed which were got rectified at contractor's cost under the defect liability period.

Use of Banned Drugs by Athletes

5721. SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA:

SHRI MANJAY LAL:

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

(a) whether many top Indian athletes tested positive for banned drugs during the National Games held in Hyderabad last year;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether these Athletes were allowed to participate in the National Games though they tested positive of banned drugs;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the action taken against the said athletes and the officials who allowed them to participate in the National Games ?

THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI VIKRAM VERMA): (a) and (b) Out of 464 samples tested of athletes who took part in the National Games at Hyderabad, 22 athletes tested positive for banned drugs.

(c) and (d) The Indian Olympic Association allots the National Games to a State Olympic Association in consultation with the concerned State Government. The respective State Olympics Associations send their teams for participation in these Games. Since the dope test reports were received after the Games, these athletes had participated in the Games.

(e) These reports are based on 'A' sample test. An athlete can only be punished if proven guilty after a proper inquiry is conducted and giving him/her a chance a defend his/her case.

National Youth Policy

5722. SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of the draft new National Youth Policy;

(b) whether consultations with States and others is going on in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) by when the new National Youth Policy is likely to be announced?

THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI VIKRAM VERMA): (a) to (d) The Government had formulated a National Youth Policy in 1988. However, a need was felt to revise the National Youth Policy taking into consideration the emergent needs of the youth and rapid socio-economic changes in the country. Accordingly, a draft new National Youth Policy was formulated in consultation with State Governments, Central Ministries/Departments, Universities, Youth Wings of Political Parties and Voluntary Organisations. The draft Policy is in the process of being finalized by the Government.

[Translation]

Katni-Gumla National Highway 78

5723. SHRI VISHNUDEO SAI: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) when the sanction for Katni-Gumla National Highway No.78 was given;

(b) the funds spent thereon as on March 31, 2003;

(c) the works for which sanctions have been given and the proposals which have been turned down;

(d) whether the quality of work has been examined;

(e) if so, by whom; and

(f) the details of action taken against defaulting officers and contractors for sub-standard construction and repair?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI): (a) to (c) Katni Gumla Road was declared as National Highway 78 on 6.1.99. Rs.23.00 crore have been spent upto 31.3.2003 for this National Highway. 26 works amounting to Rs. 34.43 crore have been sanctioned during the last three years. No proposal has been turned down.

(d) and (e) Yes Sir, by the officers of State PWD and Ministry.

(f) State Government of Chhattisgarh has been instructed to take necessary action for blacklisting a contractor for collecting sub-standard quality of metal in some stretches between Jashpur to Pathalgaon on this National Highway.

[English]

Role of NGOs in Schemes

5724. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken necessary

steps to implement various schemes with the help of NGOs;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the number of NGOs involved in these schemes particularly in Mumbai during 2002;

(c) the funds made available in this regard during 2001-02, 2002-03, 2003-04; and

(d) the measures taken to promote government and NGO partnership?

THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI VIKRAM VERMA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Out of the various schemes being implemented by this Ministry, the NGOs are also given financial assistance under the following specific schemes:

(a) Promotion of Youth Activities and Training.

(b) Promotion of National Integration.

(c) Promotion of Adventure.

(d) Creation of Sports Infrastructure.

(e) Installation of Synthetic Playing Surfaces.

The details of the Budget allocation under the above five schemes during 2001-02 to 2003-04 are as under:

(Rs. in crores)

Sl. No.	Name of the Scheme	Budget Estimates		
		2001-02	2002-03	2003-04
1.	Promotion of Youth Activities and Training	5.40	6.50	6.50
2.	Promotion of National Integration	4.50	3.40	4.50
3.	Promotion of Adventure	2.25	2.25	2.25
4.	Creation of Sports Infrastructure	8.50	7.90	13.00
5.	Installation of Synthetic Playing Surfaces	5.40	3.81	4.50

No NGO of Mumbai was assisted under these schemes during 2002.

(d) The implementation of the above schemes, primarily through the NGOs, is an example of Government NGO partnership.

Upgradation of Health Care Services

5725. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Maharashtra has decided to upgrade the health care services in the Government medical colleges and hospitals at Kolhapur, Latur, Chandrapur, Gadchiroli and Amravati so as to convert them to regional referral centres;

(b) if so, whether the State Government had prepared a detailed scheme in this regard for obtaining financial assistance from Japan;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether Maharashtra has requested the Union Government to recommend its case to the Government of Japan; and

(e) if so, the assistance sought for and the reaction of the Government with regard to the proposal submitted by the State Government?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (e) Yes, Sir. The proposal seeking financial assistance of Rs.21.45 crore from Japan for Upgradation of Health Care Services at Govt. Medical Colleges & Civil Hospitals at Kolhapur, Latur, Gadchiroli, Chandrapur and Amravati to make them to regional referral centres was received from the Govt. of Maharashtra.

The proposal has been posed to the Government of Japan in February 2002 and is under consideration of Government of Japan.

Disinvestment of PSUs

5726. SHRI SHIVAJI MANE:

SHRIMATI RAJKUMARI RATNA SINGH:

Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of instances in which PSUs have been sold and resold with profit motive;

(b) the details thereof with regard to bidding/reselling price at each point of sale;

(c) whether any inquiry has been conducted into it; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) and (b) An instance of sale of shareholding of Batra Hospitality Private Limited has been brought to the notice of Government. The entire business of Centaur Hotel Airport Mumbai (CHMA), a unit of Hotel Corporation of India Limited (HCI) was transferred to M/s Batra Hospitality Private Limited (BHPL) on 'slump sale' basis through the process of disinvestment on the basis of their financial bid of Rs.83 crores received on 18.1.2002. The Agreement to Sell between HCI and BHPL was executed on 18.4.2002 and transfer of the business in favour of BHPL took place on 5.6.2002. Shri A.L. Batra, erstwhile Chairman

of BHPL, has intimated that the entire shareholding of BHPL has been bought over by Sahara India Group from the then existing shareholders of BHPL on 10.10.2002. It has also been intimated by Sahara India Group that the total transaction value paid to the shareholders of BHPL amounted to Rs.45 crores in addition to repaying the borrowings from Oriental Bank of Commerce to the extent of Rs. 70.50 crores. The Agreement to Sell entered into between HCI and BHPL for transfer of the business of CHMA to BHPL prohibits Assignment of the Agreement, benefits or burdens under the Agreement without the prior consent of HCI. Similarly, the Lease Agreement between Airports Authority of India (AAI) and BHPL for the land on which the hotel is located prohibits mortgage, assignment, transfer or sub-lease of the property by BHPL without the prior consent of AAI.

(c) and (d) The Government had sought the advice of the Attorney General of India (AG) on the sale of its entire shareholding by Batra Hospitality Private Limited (BHPL) to Sahara India Group (SIG) and the subsequent change in the name of the company to Sahara Hospitality Private Limited (SHPL). The advice rendered by the Attorney General of India in the matter was as follows:

With respect to the question whether the provisions of the Article 13.4 of the Agreement to Sell between BHPL and Hotel Corporation of India (HCI) have been violated because of the transfer of the entire shareholding by the then shareholders of BHPL to SIG without the consent of HCI, the Learned AG has opined that it is a well-established principle that a company is a body corporate distinct from its members. In other words, a company is a juristic person and is distinct from its shareholders. Transfer of the entire shareholding by the then shareholders of BHPL to the SIG does not in Law amount to an "assignment". BHPL is a legal entity separate from the shareholders. Even after the transfer of shareholding, BHPL is obliged to perform the terms and conditions of the Agreement to Sell. There has been no assignment by BHPL of the "benefits or burdens" of the Agreement to Sell to SIG. Consequently, there was no obligation on BHPL to obtain any prior consent as contemplated by Article 13.4 of the Agreement to Sell and there has been no breach by BHPL.

As regards the issue of whether the provisions of the Article 24 of the Lease Agreement between BHPL and Airports Authority of India (AAI) have been violated because of the transfer of the entire shareholding by the then shareholders of BHPL to SIG without the consent of AAI, the Learned AG has opined that Article 24 of the Lease Agreement requires prior written approval of the Lessor if the Lessee, i.e., BHPL desires to mortgage, assign, transfer or sublet the leased premises. Transfer of shareholding of a company does not amount to either a mortgage, assignment, transfer or sub-

leasing of the land which has been leased. Consequently, there was no obligation to obtain prior approval in writing from the Lessor, i.e., AAI. Hence, there has been no breach of the Lease Agreement.

In response to the question of whether BHPL has violated the provisions of the Agreement to Sell and the Lease Agreement because of change of name of the company to SHPL, the Learned AG has advised that it needs to be borne in mind that change of name does not affect the entity of the company or its continuity as the same entity. The company remains the same corporate body and the change does not affect any of its rights or obligations or render defective any legal proceedings by or against it. In the AG's view, this legal position is reinforced by Section 23(3) of the Companies Act, 1956 which reads as under:

"The change of name shall not affect any rights or obligations of the company, or render defective any legal proceedings by or against it; and any legal proceedings which might have been continued or commenced by or against the company by its former name may be continued by or against the company by its new name".

As regards the question of whether any action can be taken against BHPL and SHPL to pierce the corporate veil and taking remedial actions for canceling the Agreements, the Learned AG has advised that there is no material which establishes fraudulent conduct or any illegality in the transactions and therefore, the doctrine of piercing the corporate veil would be inapplicable. Hence in the AG's opinion, cancellation of the agreements would not be warranted.

Panchayat Sanchar Seva Yojana

5727. SHRI C.N. SINGH:

SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:

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

- (a) the number of villages covered under the Panchayat Sanchar Seva Yojana in the country, State-wise;
- (b) the number of villages yet to be covered by this Yojana, State-wise;
- (c) whether it is fact that the Yojana is not giving desired result in rural areas;
- (d) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (e) the steps taken to make the Yojana successful?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SU THIRUNAVUKKARASAR): (a) By 31.3.2002 there were 4677 Panchayat Sanchar Sewa Kendras opened in villages. State-wise details are given in the enclosed statement.

(b) During the Tenth Five Year Plan, 5000 Panchayat Sanchar Sewa Kendras are proposed to be opened in the villages. One Panchayat Sanchar Sewa Kendra can cover one or more villages in the Panchayat.

(c) Yes, Sir. Panchayat Sanchar Sewa Kendras are opened in villages which do not justify a Branch Post Office as per income norm, subject to demand by the Panchayat for this facility.

(d) Reasons in this regard include availability of alternate and faster modes of communication, restricted product range, lack of interest on the part of the Panchayats in the scheme, need for greater monitoring and control etc.

(e) Efforts have been made by addressing the Chief Secretaries of various States to educate Gram Panchayats to use this facility optimally. Action has been taken to ensure that basic infrastructure is provided for running the services and that there is closer monitoring and supervision.

Statement

Number of Panchayat Sanchar Sewa Kendras opened during Ninth Plan

Sl. No.	Circles	97-98*	98-99	99-2000	2000-2001	2001-2002	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1	Andhra Pradesh	Nil	31	30	60	30	151
2	Assam	Nil	Nil	5	21	135	161
3	Bihar	Nil	17	40	464	570	1091

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
4	Chhattisgarh			45	106	99	250
5	Delhi			0	0	0	0
6	Gujarat	Nil	20	38	68	50	176
7	Haryana	Nil	Nil	10	69	70	149
8	Himachal Pradesh	Nil	Nil	1	50	55	115
9	Jammu & Kashmir			0	12	12	24
10	Jharkhand			4	77	72	153
11	Karnataka	Nil	10	12	20	18	60
12	Kerala			0	0	0	0
13	Madhya Pradesh	Nil	55	35	115	175	380
14	Maharashtra	Nil	10	62	208	150	430
15	North East	Nil	Nil	5	47	118	170
16	Orissa	1	29	24	76	19	149
17	Punjab	Nil	5	20	44	26	95
18	Rajasthan	Nil	Nil	35	77	80	192
19	Tamil Nadu	Nil	12	30	80	80	202
20	Uttar Pradesh	Nil	30	62	284	240	616
21	Uttaranchal			5	44	43	92
22	West Bengal	Nil	5	10	6	Nil	21
	Total	1	224	482	1928	2042	4677

* No Target were allotted.

Grants to States

5728. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state the grants given by the Centre to different States to promote sports and games in the rural areas in the last three years, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI VIKRAM VERMA): Grants released by the Central Government to different States under the schemes of "Rural Sports Programme" and "Grants to Rural Schools for Purchase of Sports Equipment and Development of Play Ground" to promote sports and games in the rural areas during the last

three years, State-wise are given in the enclosed statement.

Statement

(Rs. in Lakhs)

Sl. No.	State	2000-2001	2001-2002	2002-2003
1	2	3	4	5
1	Andhra Pradesh	3.07	2.7	1.13

1	2	3	4	5
2	Arunachal Pradesh	0.32	1.79	-
3	Assam	6.26	18.5	8.67
4	Bihar	4.22	7.83	1.72
5	Goa	4.23	2.02	2.35
6	Gujarat	2.69	1.10	1.55
7	Haryana	5.07	42.92	14.74
8	Himachal Pradesh	2.32	34.45	11.17
9	Jammu & Kashmir	4.10	6.60	3.70
10	Karnataka	3.58	18.57	28.08
11	Kerala	5.71	7.01	5.27
12	Madhya Pradesh	23.81	28.78	14.12
13	Maharashtra	6.13	19.00	35.76
14	Manipur	8.06	3.21	6.30
15	Meghalaya	-	-	-
16	Mizoram	2.1	-	0.75
17	Nagaland	16.27	3.25	6.62
18	Orissa	11.25	18.67	27.53
19	Punjab	0.67	8.10	7.78
20	Rajasthan	7.08	20.78	14.71
21	Sikkim	-	-	-
22	Tamil Nadu	85.04	79.39	20.13
23	Tripura	3.41	4.89	3.74
24	Uttar Pradesh	17.12	17.29	24.05
25	West Bengal	51.72	38.45	88.55
26	Delhi	1.46	-	-
27	Chhattishgarh	-	5.58	6.40
28	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	-	-	-
29	Chandigarh	-	-	0.60

1	2	3	4	5
30	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	-	-	-
31	Daman & Diu	-	-	-
32	Pondicherry	-	-	-
33	Lakshadweep	-	-	0.60

North-South-East-West Corridor

5729. SHRI P.D. ELANGO VAN: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the status of the works carried out in Tamil Nadu under North-South-East-West Corridor of Golden Quadrilateral Projects;

(b) whether there is a delay in some NH-works particularly in construction of road over-bridges and bye-pass roads;

(c) if so, the details of the such works pending completion in Tamil Nadu and the total allocation made for the execution of each of the works; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to expedite the completion of these projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI): (a) In the State of Tamil Nadu, the total length of Golden Quadrilateral is 342 kms along National Highways-5, 7, 46, and 4. Out of this, 16 kms length between Hathipalli and Hosur on National Highway-7 has already been 4-laned and the remaining stretches are under implementation with the target of completion by December, 2004. The length of North-South Corridor in Tamil Nadu is 851 kms along National Highway-7, out of which 26 kms on Bangalore-Salem section had been 4-laned and 28 kms length is under implementation.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Completion of Poonamalee-Karlchipuram section of National Highway-4 is delayed due to problems of land acquisition and slow mobilization by the contractor. Delay may also occur on some other stretches due to slow progress on the construction of seven Road-over-bridges (ROBs) on existing railway level crossings 6 of which are being constructed by Railways as deposit work. Details of these ROBs are attached as statement.

(d) Following steps are being taken to expedite the completion of these projects-

- (i) regular review meetings with State Government Authorities to solve the problems of land acquisition;

(ii) regular monthly meetings with zonal Chief Engineers and Ministry of Railways to expedite construction of ROBs; and

(iii) constant monitoring of the projects at various levels in National Highways Authority of India and by Minister of Road Transport & Highways.

Statement

Details of Road-over-Bridges under construction in Tamil Nadu which are behind schedule.

Sl. No.	Location	National Highway No.	Chainage in NH Km.	Estimated Cost (Rs. in Lakhs)
1	Thirumalpuram-Kanchipuram	4	72.50	807.73
2	Jolarpettai-Kettandapatti	46	44.30	1020.38
3	Kettandapatti-Vaniyambadi	46	46.79	757.52
4	Kettandapatti-Vaniyambadi (Vaniyambadi Bypass)	46	50.39	844.79
5	Vaniyambadi-Pachakuppam	46	73.60	904.67
6	Vello Bypass	46	117.03	877.69
7	Karuppur-Magnisite	7	195.00	250.00

TDS Certificate

5730. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Postal Department has developed a system to issue TDS certificate to its small saving agents;

(b) if so, whether any defect in this regard has been brought to the notice of Mumbai Post Office by Members of Parliament and Small Saving Agents Association;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether no TDS Certificate has been issued to agents in Mumbai area;

(e) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the details of the system developed to issue TDS Certificate for the year 2002-2003 alongwith the full details about the System?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SU THIRUNAVUKKARASAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (e) There is no defect in the system developed to issue TDS certificates to small savings agents. TDS certificates are being issued to agents in Mumbai area. There was some shortage of TDS forms for sometime but now action has been taken to supply the prescribed forms to all post offices.

(f) TDS Certificate for the year 2002-2003 are being issued to the small savings agents on the basis of a record of commission and TDS maintained by the Post Office.

Old Petrol Pumps on National Highways

5731. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Department/National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has started closing the approaches of the old petrol pumps approved as per IRC guidelines 1983 and are situated on National Highways in municipal limits;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to remove/resite all petrol pumps situated on National Highways in operation for the last so many years;

(d) whether new guidelines have been issued in this regard;

(e) if so, whether the new guidelines are likely to have retrospective effect;

(f) if so, the details thereof;

(g) whether the NHAI proposes to give exemption to the old and approved petrol pumps; and

(h) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) and (c) In view of the increase in traffic, speed of vehicles and safety requirements, revised guidelines have been issued in August, 2000 according to which any deficiency has to be rectified at the time of renewal of licence for which a notice will be issued four months before the expiry of the existing licence. In case of failure to do so, necessary action will be taken.

(d) Last guidelines were issued in August, 2000.

(e) and (f) Please see answer to (b) and (c) above.

(g) No, Sir.

(h) The guidelines of August, 2000 are mandatory.

Development of Telecommunication

5732. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the salient features of the plan formulated for the development and expansion of Telecommunication in the country in general and Karnataka in particular during the Tenth Plan Period;

(b) the funds earmarked therefor;

(c) whether the areas have been identified for private sector participation in the Telecom Sector during that plan period; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) The salient features of the Tenth Five Year Plan formulated for the development and expansion of Telecommunication in the country is as follows:

1. Provision of universal service to all uncovered areas, including rural areas.
2. Building a modern and efficient telecommunications infrastructure to meet the convergence of telecom, IT and the media.
3. Transformation of the telecommunications sector to a greater competitive environment providing equal opportunities and level playing field for all the players.
4. Strengthening R&D efforts in the country.
5. Enabling Indian telecom companies to become truly global players.

The targets for Tenth Five Year Plan of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) including Karnataka and Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MINL) are given in the enclosed statement-I and II respectively. The Annual Plan for the circles of BSNL are prepared on yearly basis, therefore it is not possible to give the targets set during Tenth Five Year Plan as a whole for Karnataka Telecom Circle. However, the targets and achievement for 2002-2003 for Karnataka Telecom Circle is given in the Annexure-I.

(b) The financial outlay of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) for the Tenth Five Year Plan is Rs. 664.12 Crores. The allocation of funds for individual states/circles is made on yearly basis. The funds allotted for BSNL as a whole for the year 2002-2003 are to the tune of Rs. 10804.94 Crores and for Karnataka Telecom Circle in particular as Rs. 633.32 Crores. The funds earmarked by MTNL for the Tenth Five Year Plan is Rs. 11955.46 Crores.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. However, the National Development Council (NDC) document, as approved by the Government, has indicated an addition of 255 lakh Direct Exchange Lines by the private sector during the Tenth Plan period.

Statement-I

Physical Targets-Network proposed to be added during Tenth Five Year Plan (2002-2007) of BSNL

S.No.	Parameter	Unit	Target
1	2	3	4
1	(a) Fixed Phones	Lakhs	81.7
	(b) Mobile Phones	-do-	218.34
	(c) WLL Phones	-do-	67.60
	Total	-do-	367.64

1	2	3	4
2.	Optical Fibre	RKms(Route Kilometres)	250000
3.	Microwave	-do-	15000
4.	TAX Lines	Lakhs	57.60

Targets - Achievement for 2002-03 i.e. 1st Year of Tenth Five Year Plan for Karnataka Telecom Circle.

Sl. No.	Telecom Parameter	During 2002-2003	
		Target	Achievement
1.	DELS (Lines)	430000	362151
2.	Switching Capacity (Lines)	455350	475133
3.	TAX (Lines)	17500	18500
4.	OFC (Rkms)	1500	2802
5.	Microwave (Rkms)	0	174

Statement-II

Some of the salient features of Tenth Five Year Plan for MTNL (Delhi and Mumbai) are as under:

1. Use of New Technology like ADSL, HDSL, DLC in the Access Network and introduce DWDM in the backbone and junction network.
2. The deployment of smart card based payphone.
3. Provision of data services, call centers and entertainment based services.
4. Replacement of first generation digital E10B Switches.
5. Replacement of paper core cable.

Physical Targets for Tenth Five Year Plan:

Sl. No.	Item	Total
1	2	3
1	Landline DELs+WLL (Wireless in Local Loop) Phones	1599098
2	Mobile Phones	1157500
3	Switching capacity including WLL	1782000
4	GSM capacity	1275000

1	2	3
5	TAX/Tandem capacity	448000
6	OF Cable (Rkms)	9930
7	Internet capacity	410000
8	Replacement of E 10 B Exchanges	923150
9	PCUT (Paper Core Unit Twin) cable replacement (LCKM) (Lakh Conductor Kilometre)	583

Disinvestment of Companies

5733. SHRI SHIVAJI MANE: Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the name of the companies which were slated for disinvestment, their turnover and profit/loss during the last three years;

(b) the average monthly price of their share in the share market during the last three years;

(c) whether any assessment has been made by the Government as to whether the depreciation reflected in fixing targets on sale proceeds and target date is affecting their share prices;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) The names of the companies which are at different stages of process for disinvestment alongwith their turnover and profit and loss account for the last three years are given in the enclosed statement-I.

(b) The average monthly share market price for the last three years or as available for the following listed company is given in the enclosed statement-II.

1. Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd.
2. Balmer Lawrie & Co. Ltd.
3. Engineers India Ltd.
4. Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd.
5. Hindustan Machine Tools Ltd.

6. Hindustan Organic Chemicals Ltd.
 7. National Aluminium Company Ltd.
 8. Shipping Corporation of India
 9. State Trading Corporation of India Ltd.

10. Madras Fertilisers Ltd.
 11. Fertilisers and Chemicals Travancore Ltd.

(c) to (e) No, Sir. The movement of share prices depends upon various market conditions and the decision of the Government to disinvest and the implementation process is one of the factors.

Statement-I

Name of PSUs	Turnover (Rs. Crore)			Profit after Tax (Rs. Crore)		
	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Hindustan Organic Chemicals Ltd.	421.18	408.29	301.04	-105.02	-39.06	-62.68
National Fertiliser Ltd.	2452.66	2808.74	2943.13	34.89	27.31	40.6
Balmer Lawrie & Co. Ltd.	693.97	744.18	724.54	14.32	6.01	8.01
Braithwaite & Co.	62.04	111.84	40.52	-14.13	1.74	-33.55
Burn Standard & Co.	164.88	166.3	91.75	-35.41	-45.22	-78.35
Bharat Heavy Plates & Vessels Ltd.	125.52	256.69	234.09	-20.36	0.94	1.46
Engineering Projects India Ltd.	138.55	211.91	367.49	-48.13	17.76	9.43
Fertiliser and Chemicals Travancore Ltd.	1547.61	1732.9	1197.28	-39.8	-151.95	0.57
Hindustan Salts Ltd.	4.83	5.24	5.35	-2.91	-2.19	-1.91
Hindustan Copper Ltd.	511.46	655.87	605.56	-147.46	-105.8	-184.04
Madras Fertilisers Ltd.	1230.04	1404.81	1044.46	24.98	-29.76	-70.31
MECON Ltd.	235.04	274.47	275.71	-20.27	-51.36	-112.68
Minerals & Metal Trading Corporation	4802.27	5338.37	7267.94	14.97	12.39	18.54
National Aluminium Company Ltd.	2142.32	2406.32	2385.74	511.53	655.83	409.35
National Instruments Ltd.	2.94	5.35	7.09	-27.03	0.09	-5.90
NEPA Ltd.	97.68	130.79	96.01	5.68	4.86	-35.16
State Trading Corporation of India Ltd.	1321.17	1077.67	1590.44	22.92	26.65	-40.79
Shipping Corporation of India	2542.76	2994.76	2784.67	161.61	382.56	241.56
Tyre Corporation of India	59.24	36.6	18.92	-60.62	-66.43	-67.41
Tungabhadra Steel Products Ltd.	31.18	38.57	15.60	0.08	0.07	-20.03

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Engineers India Ltd.	444.14	972.82	546.74	126.2	123.86	24.71
Manganese Ore India Ltd.	134.11	165.22	167.92	11.73	20.05	19.52
Sponge Iron India Ltd.	20.68	29.29	32.26	-14.7	6.64	0.55
Bharat Ophthalmic Glass Ltd.	1.6	1.6	1.6	-37.69	-37.69	-37.69
Instrumentation Ltd., Kota (Mother Unit) Includes Palakkad unit, which is disinvested separately	124.48	106.74	107.85	-28.35	-34.52	-30.49
Hindustan Paper Corporation Ltd.	441.87	531.54	594.24	10.6	32.8	436.00
Hotel Corporation of India Ltd. (Note 1)	84.57	90.49	75.76	-1.6	-25.08	-35.56
India Tourism Development Corporation (Note 2)	274.36	295.71	175.83	-27.33	-35.47	-32.86
Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd.	33384.68	45932.07	39829.48	701.64	820.12	849.83
Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd.	33830.87	48566.84	44433.84	1057.41	1088.01	787.98
Hotel Ranchi, Ashok, Ranchi	1.18	1.37	1.74	-0.46	-0.07	-0.21
Hotel Neelachal Ashok, Puri	0.27	0.36	0.31	-1.03	-0.98	-0.98
Hotel Lake View Ashok, Bhopal	2.02	1.75	1.64	-0.54	-0.57	-0.51
Hotel Brahmaputra Ashok, Guwahati	2.27	2.83	2.98	-0.41	-0.2	0.16
Hotel Pondicherry Ashok, Pondicherry	0.75	0.68	0.67	-0.1	-0.25	-0.25
Hotel Donyi Polo Ashok, Itanagar	0.68	0.70	0.69	0.011	0.014	0.05
National Buildings Construction Corporation Ltd.	284.74	301.69	402.98	12.29	1.61	3.70
Rashtriya Chemicals & Fertilisers Ltd	2372.87	2091.69	2054.20	35.08	64.97	24.21
Central Inland Water Corporation Ltd.	10.92	5.23	9.6	-65.48	-78.26	431.28

Note 1: Data given is the Co. as a whole. However, 2 units of HCI at Centaur Hotel Airport, Delhi (including Chefair Delhi), Chefair Mumbai are being disinvested.

Note 2: Data given is the Co. as a whole. However, 5 units of ITDC at Hotel Samrat, New Delhi, Jaipur, Patliputra, Bhubneshwar and Jammu are being disinvested. Hotel Punjab Ashok, Anandpur Sahib is under construction.

Note 3: Residual share of Maruti Udyog Ltd. is also expected to be completed in 2003-04.

Statement-II		1	2
BPCL		Jun-00	103
Month	Monthly Average	Jul-00	101
1	2	Aug-00	85
Apr-00	120	Sep-00	89
May-00	92	Oct-00	78

1	2
Nov-00	100
Dec-00	119
Jan-01	140
Feb-01	183
Mar-01	180
Apr-01	197
May-01	200
Jun-01	186
July-01	181
Aug-01	179
Sep-01	150
Oct-01	163
Nov-01	181
Dec-01	202
Jan-02	205
Feb-02	289
Mar-02	315
Apr-02	303
May-02	282
Jun-02	267
Jul-02	291
Aug-02	290
Sept-02	212
Oct-02	193
Nov-02	187
Dec-02	209
Jan-03	219
Feb-03	212
Mar-03	219

1	2
BLMR	
Apr-00	22
May-00	22
Jun-00	22
Jul-00	20
Aug-00	20
Sep-00	22
Oct-00	21
Nov-00	23
Dec-00	25
Jan-01	26
Feb-01	32
Mar-01	28
Apr-01	23
May-01	25
Jun-01	28
July-01	24
Aug-01	20
Sep-01	20
Oct-01	20
Nov-01	22
Dec-01	25
Jan-02	27
Feb-02	42
Mar-02	36
Apr-02	49
May-02	83
Jun-02	99
Jul-02	96

1	2	1	2
Aug-02	90	Nov-01	88
Sept-02	85	Dec-01	86
Oct-02	84	Jan-02	89
Nov-02	75	Feb-02	153
Dec-02	80	Mar-02	201
Jan-03	53	Apr-02	300
Feb-03	80	May-02	329
Mar-03	75	Jun-02	376
EIL		Jul-02	368
Apr-00	174	Aug-02	332
May-00	134	Sept-02	319
Jun-00	166	Oct-02	294
Jul-00	168	Nov-02	230
Aug-00	174	Dec-02	273
Sep-00	158	Jan-03	286
Oct-00	122	Feb-03	281
Nov-00	134	Mar-03	248
Dec-00	138	HPCL	
Jan-01	134	Apr-00	128
Feb-01	159	May-00	126
Mar-01	98	Jun-00	134
Apr-01	98	Jul-00	125
May-01	102	Aug-00	117
Jun-01	108	Sep-00	119
July-01	89	Oct-00	107
Aug-01	93	Nov-00	126
Sep-01	76	Dec-00	138
Oct-01	78	Jan-01	163

1	2	1	2
Feb-01	187	May-00	7
Mar-01	166	Jun-00	7
Apr-01	167	Jul-00	8
May-01	172	Aug-00	8
Jun-01	161	Sep-00	7
July-01	153	Oct-00	6
Aug-01	136	Nov-00	7
Sep-01	113	Dec-00	7
Oct-01	119	Jan-01	7
Nov-01	137	Feb-01	8
Dec-01	148	Mar-01	6
Jan-02	156	Apr-01	5
Feb-02	241	May-01	6
Mar-02	299	Jun-01	6
Apr-02	283	July-01	5
May-02	278	Aug-01	4
Jun-02	272	Sep-01	4
Jul-02	286	Oct-01	4
Aug-02	277	Nov-01	5
Sept-02	212	Dec-01	5
Oct-02	206	Jan-02	5
Nov-02	209	Feb-02	7
Dec-02	269	Mar-02	6
Jan-03	297	Apr-02	8
Feb-03	311	May-02	14
Mar-03	297	Jun-02	23
HMT		Jul-02	29
Apr-00	7	Aug-02	25

1	2
Sept-02	18
Oct-02	19
Nov-02	18
Dec-02	20
Jan-03	18
Feb-03	16
Mar-03	14
HOCL	
Apr-00	8
May-00	6
Jun-00	7
Jul-00	7
Aug-00	6
Sep-00	7
Oct-00	6
Nov-00	7
Dec-00	9
Jan-01	8
Feb-01	9
Mar-01	7
Apr-01	6
May-01	7
Jun-01	7
July-01	8
Aug-01	8
Sep-01	7
Oct-01	7
Nov-01	7

1	2
Dec-01	7
Jan-02	7
Feb-02	11
Mar-02	12
Apr-02	13
May-02	18
Jun-02	25
Jul-02	22
Aug-02	17
Sept-02	14
Oct-02	14
Nov-02	15
Dec-02	18
Jan-03	19
Feb-03	19
Mar-03	15
NALCO	
Apr-00	46
May-00	45
Jun-00	48
Jul-00	51
Aug-00	44
Sep-00	44
Oct-00	41
Nov-00	44
Dec-00	47
Jan-01	47
Feb-01	53

1	2	1	2
Mar-01	56	Jun-00	15
Apr-01	56	Jul-00	15
May-01	60	Aug-00	16
Jun-01	59	Sep-00	18
July-01	58	Oct-00	16
Aug-01	55	Nov-00	23
Sep-01	46	Dec-00	27
Oct-01	44	Jan-01	30
Nov-01	51	Feb-01	42
Dec-01	50	Mar-01	33
Jan-02	54	Apr-01	33
Feb-02	71	May-01	39
Mar-02	84	Jun-01	34
Apr-02	89	July-01	31
May-02	96	Aug-01	29
Jun-02	101	Sep-01	23
Jul-02	108	Oct-01	24
Aug-02	115	Nov-01	27
Sept-02	98	Dec-01	29
Oct-02	93	Jan-02	34
Nov-02	77	Feb-02	55
Dec-02	91	Mar-02	66
Jan-03	88	Apr-02	71
Feb-03	91	May-02	90
Mar-03	80	Jun-02	94
SCI		Jul-02	87
Apr-00	14	Aug-02	78
May-00	13	Sept-02	78

1	2	1	2
Oct-02	71	Jan-03	100
Nov-02	58	Feb-03	103
Dec-02	65	Mar-03	92
Jan-03	61	MFL	
Feb-03	67	Jan-01	10
Mar-03	56	Feb-01	7
STC		Mar-01	9
Apr-00	20	Apr-01	6
May-00	15	May-01	6
Jun-00	16	Jun-01	6
Jul-00	20	July-01	4
Aug-00	18	Aug-01	4
Sep-00	17	Sep-01	6
Oct-00	18	Oct-01	5
Nov-00	18	Nov-01	5
Dec-01	20	Dec-01	5
Jan-02	39	Jan-02	4
Feb-02	44	Feb-02	4
May-02	106	Mar-02	4
Jun-02	168	Apr-02	8
Jul-02	160	May-02	13
Aug-02	126	Jun-02	16
Sept-02	124	Jul-02	13
Oct-02	109	Aug-02	10
Nov-02	101	Sept-02	9
Dec-02	102	Oct-02	9
		Nov-02	9
		Dec-02	9

1	2
Jan-03	10
Feb-03	9
Mar-03	8
FACT	
Jan-01	53
Nov-01	47
Feb-02	45
Apr-02	39
May-02	24
Jun-02	47
Jul-02	40
Aug-02	29
Sept-02	22
Oct-02	25
Nov-02	31
Dec-02	31
Jan-03	32
Feb-03	31
Mar-03	25

Guidelines Regarding Petrol Pumps

5734. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the IRC guidelines 1983 are applicable to State Government owned petrol pumps and Government properties in Haryana and Punjab;

(b) if not, whether the approaches to the State Government properties and State Government petrol pumps situated on National Highways are likely to be closed by the NHAI;

(c) if not, the reasons for discrimination and the list of such properties and Government petrol pumps thereof;

(d) the names and locations of Haryana State properties and petrol pumps on National Highways who have been given approaches and cuts between the centre verge on National Highways;

(e) whether the Government have finalised some rules/guidelines regarding the existing petrol pumps on existing National Highways; and

(f) if so, the details of these guidelines?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI): (a) IRC guidelines 1983 are applicable for all the categories of roads. Some of its provisions were modified for National Highways in the revised guidelines issued by this Ministry in August, 2000. These are applicable all over the country including the States of Haryana and Punjab.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) There is no discrimination for petrol pumps situated on National Highways.

(d) Nil.

(e) The guidelines issued in August, 2000 are applicable for the existing petrol pumps.

(f) Some of the salient features of August, 2000 guidelines are:

- (1) The minimum distance between two adjacent retail outlets should be at least three hundred metres.
- (2) A retail outlet should be at least one kilometre away from the check barrier.
- (3) The entrance and exit should be atleast nine metres wide.
- (4) The minimum frontage should be thirty metres.
- (5) A buffer strip of at least twelve metres long and three metres wide should be provided.

12.00 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN

THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI BHAWNABEN DEVRAJBHAI CHIKHALIA): Sir, on behalf of Maj. Gen. (Retd.) B.C. Khanduri, I beg to lay on the Table—

- (I) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under section 10 of the National Highways Act, 1956:
- (i) S.O. 1244 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 29th November, 2002 regarding acquisition of land for widening of National Highway No. 7 (Bangalore-Salem-Madurai section) in the State of Tamil Nadu.
 - (ii) S.O. 1269 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 5th December, 2002 regarding acquisition of land for widening of National Highway No. 7 (Bangalore-Salem-Madurai section) in the State of Tamil Nadu.
 - (iii) S.O. 1270 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 5th December, 2002 regarding acquisition of land for widening of National Highway No. 7 (Hyderabad-Bangalore section) in the State of Karnataka.
 - (iv) S.O. 1315 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 13th December, 2002 regarding acquisition of land for widening of National Highway No. 7 (Hyderabad-Bangalore section) in the State of Tamil Nadu.
 - (v) S.O. 233 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 26th February, 2003 regarding acquisition of land for four laning of National Highway No.45 (Chengalpattu-Tindivanam section) in Kancheepuram district in the State of Tamil Nadu.
 - (vi) SO. 234 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 26th February, 2003 regarding acquisition of land for four laning of National Highway No.4 (Chennai-Ranipet section) in Vellore district in the State of Tamil Nadu.
 - (vii) S.O. 244 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 27th February, 2003 regarding acquisition of land for construction of bypass connecting to the National Highway No. 4 and the National Highway No. 46 in the State of Tamil Nadu.
 - (viii) S.O. 326 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 26th March, 2003 making certain amendments in the Notification No. SO. 556(E) dated the 7th June, 2000.
 - (ix) S.O. 238 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 26th February, 2003 making certain amendments in the Notification No. S.O. 1016 (E) dated the 19th September, 2002.
 - (x) S.O. 397 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 4th April, 2003 regarding acquisition of land for four laning of National Highway No. 8 (at Ajmer of Ratanpur-Gandhinagar section) in the State of Gujarat.
 - (xi) S.O. 241(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 27th February, 2003 regarding acquisition of land for the public purpose of building, maintenance, management and operation of the National Highway No. 2 [Agra to Jaswant Nagar (Etawah)] in the State of Uttar Pradesh.
 - (xii) S.O. 294 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 13th March, 2003 regarding acquisition of land for widening of National Highway No. 7 (Bangalore-Salem-Madurai Section) in the State of Tamil Nadu.
 - (xiii) S.O. 296 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 17th March, 2003 regarding acquisition of land for four laning of National Highway No.46 (Krishangiri-Ranipet section) in Vellore district in the State of Tamil Nadu.
 - (xiv) SO. 297 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 17th March, 2003 regarding acquisition of land for four laning of National Highway No.46 (Krishangiri-Ranipet section) in the State of Tamil Nadu.
 - (xv) S.O. 312 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 24th March, 2003 authorising the Additional District Magistrate (Land Acquisition)-District Ajmer, Rajasthan as the Competent Authority to perform the functions of such authority under National Highways Act, 1956 in respect of National Highway No. 79A (Krishangarh to Nasirabad section) and National Highway No. 79 (Nasirabad to Baral section) in the State of Rajasthan.

(xvi) S.O. 315 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 25th March, 2003 regarding acquisition of land for four laning of National Highway No. 46 (Krishangiri-Ranipet section) in the State of Tamil Nadu.

(2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (i to iv) of (1) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 7581/2003]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table—

(1) A copy of Telecom Disputes Settlement and Appellate Tribunal (Form, Verification and the Fee for filing an appeal) Rules, 2003 (Hindi and English Versions) published in the Notification No. G.S.R. 296 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 2nd April, 2003 under section 37 of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India Act, 1997.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 7582/2003]

(2) A copy of the Memorandum of Understanding (Hindi and English versions) between the Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited and the Department of Telecommunications, Ministry of Communications and Information Technology for the year 2003-2004.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 7583/2003]

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): Sir, on behalf of Shri A. Raja, I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Dental Council of India, New Delhi, for the year 2001-2002.
- (ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Dental Council of India, New Delhi, for the year 2001-2002, together with Audit Report thereon.
- (iii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Dental Council of India, New Delhi, for the year 2001-2002.

(2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 7584/2003]

(3) A copy of the Memorandum of Understanding (Hindi and English versions) between the Hindustan Latex Limited and the Department of Family Welfare, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare for the year 2003-2004.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 7585/2003]

(4) A copy of the Notification No. G.S.R. 191 (E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 5th March, 2003 making certain amendments in the notification No. G.S.R. 732 (E) dated the 29th October, 2002 issued under section 26-A of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 7586/2003]

(5) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Central Council for Research in Unani Medicine, New Delhi, for the year 2001-2002, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Central Council for Research in Unani Medicine, New Delhi, 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. L.T. 7587/2003]

(7) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of Kamala Nehru Memorial Hospital (Regional Cancer Centre), Allahabad, for the year 2001-2002, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Kamala Nehru Memorial Hospital (Regional Cancer Centre), Allahabad, for the year 2001-2002.

(8) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing

reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (7) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 7588/2003]

- (9) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of National Institute of Mental Health and Neuro Sciences, Bangalore, for the year 2001-2002, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Institute of Mental Health and Neuro Sciences, Bangalore, for the year 2001-2002.
- (10) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (9) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 7589/2003]

[English]

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): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Tata institute of Fundamental Research, 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 Tata Institute of Fundamental Research, Mumbai, for the year 2001-2002.
- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 7590/2003]

- (3) A copy each of the corrected version of the Tenth

five Year Plan, 2002-2007 (Volumes I to III)* (Hindi and English versions).

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 7591/2003]

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions):
- (i) Memorandum of Understanding between the Dredging Corporation of India Limited and the Ministry of Shipping for the year 2003-2004.
- (ii) Memorandum of Understanding between the Shipping Corporation of India Limited and the Ministry of Shipping for the year 2003-2004.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 7592/2003]

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 7592A/2003]

- (2) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (4) of section 124 of the Major Port Trusts Act, 1963:-
- (i) G.S.R. 253 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 28th March, 2003 approving the Mumbai Port Trust Employees (Classification, Control and Appeal) Amendment Regulations, 2003.
- (ii) G.S.R. 321 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 9th April, 2003 approving the New Mangalore Port Trust (Recruitment, Seniority and Promotion) Amendment Regulations, 2003.
- (iii) G.S.R. 125 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 24th February, 2003 approving the Kandla Port Trust Employees (Leave) Amendment Regulations, 2003.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 7593/2003]

* The tenth Five Year Plan, 2002-2007 (Volume I to III) laid on the Table of the House on 9.4.2003 may be treated as replaced with the above documents.

12.02 hrs.

ESTIMATES COMMITTEE

Seventeenth Report

[English]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (AJMER): Sir, I beg to present the Seventeenth Report (Hindi and English versions) of Estimates Committee on the Ministry of Home Affairs - 'Relief and Rehabilitation Measures in Natural Calamities.'

12.20½ hrs.

COMMITTEE ON SUBORDINATE LEGISLATION

Tenth and Eleventh Reports

[English]

DR. B.B. RAMAIAH (ELURU): Sir, I beg to present the Tenth and Eleventh Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on Subordinate Legislation.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: With the permission of the House, I would like to take up the Calling Attention Notice after disposing of the Finance Bill or after the lunch, whichever is later.

I hope, the House agrees with me. Now, we will take up the Finance Bill.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA (PONNANI): Sir, I have given the notice of Adjournment Motion to you. My Adjournment Motion notice is before you.

[Translation]

SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH (RAJGARH): Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is acute shortage of power in my constituency. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (FIROZABAD): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the talks which are going on with Pakistan. *...(Interruptions)* We must have discussion over this subject. *...(Interruptions)* It is a very serious issue.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: All your issues will be taken up day after tomorrow.

*...(Interruptions)**[Translation]*

MR. SPEAKER: Today, the Minister of Finance is going to give reply.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the talks are being held without taking this House and the nation into confidence. *...(Interruptions)* It is a very serious issue. *...(Interruptions)* We would like to know whether any change has been made in Government's policy? There is no check over the terrorist activities. Yesterday only, 13 terrorists and our 6 Jawans were killed in Jammu. *...(Interruptions)* It is a very serious issue. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I have given you an opportunity to speak over this issue. You have spoken also. Then why are you speaking repeatedly. Please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, what circumstances have arisen that the Government is in haste? *...(Interruptions)* It is a very serious issue. The Government should give a statement on this issue. *...(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Tomorrow being a holiday, you can raise it day after tomorrow. You are all aware that the Finance Minister will be replying to the debate on the Finance Bill. Therefore, his reply will start now.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA: Sir, my notice of Adjournment Motion cannot be sidelined.

...(Interruptions)

12.04 hrs.

FINANCE BILL, 2003* - CONTD.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I am permitting Dr. V. Saroja to lay her speech on the Table of the House.

...(Interruptions)

* The Bill moved by Shri Jaswanti Singh on the 25th April, 2003

[Translation]

SHRI SAIDUZZAMA (MUZAFFARNAGAR): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Minister of Finance towards a special situation. ...*(Interruptions)* This will affect your personality also. ...*(Interruptions)* Now-a-days farmers are in great trouble. 24% duty has been levied on the tyres, which they are using for their carts. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: There is no 'Zero Hour' today.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI SAIDUZZAMA: All the farmers of this country are using it. There was no tax on it even during the regime of the Congress Party.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shrimati Renu Kumari is also permitted to lay her speech on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

SHRI SAIDUZZAMA: After levying tax, the price of the tyres would be rupees 800. It will cause great trouble to the farmers. It is a serious problem for the farmers.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Finance Minister, you can start now.

[Translation]

SHRI SAIDUZZAMA: The U.P. Government has already levied tax on it and now you have also levied tax on it. I urge upon the Minister of Finance to withdraw this. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: He has taken note of it. Please sit down now.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (PANDHARPUR): The amount under 'MPLAD' may be enhanced to rupees 5 crore.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing should go on record except the Finance Minister's speech.

...*(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: What I mean to say is that the amount under 'MPLAD' may be enhanced to rupees 5 crore. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHIVAJI MANE (HINGOLI): I support him.

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: The amount under 'MPLAD' may be enhanced to rupees 5 crores. The Minister of Finance should make an announcement in this regard.

MR. SPEAKER: Probably, the Finance Minister would make the same announcement. Please sit down now.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Whatever he says should not go on record.

...*(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Ramdas Athawale, you are speaking without my permission. Please sit down.

**SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH (SHILLONG): Participating on the discussions on Finance Bill 2003 I would like to draw the attention of the Finance Minister on the North East Region Industrial Policy 1997 which was announced on Christmas Eve, 24th December 1997. The Policy was well conceived and sought to redress 5 crucial areas, which are distinctively unique for the North East Region.

1. Overall backwardness of the Region in all fields.
2. Adverse effects of the Partition of India in 1947 which was indeed a huge body blow to the socio-economic conditions of the North East Region.
3. Historical backlog. Even in the pre-Independence days the region was comparatively isolated having excluded areas and semi-independent mini-states.
4. Distance from the mainland. The partition sliced off the entire Region and is connected only by a narrow land corridor.
5. Insurgency.

* Not Recorded

** Speech was laid on the Table.

[Shri P.R. Kyndiah]

In brief the Policy provided tax holidays for 10 years to all industrial undertakings and activities. It includes also transport subsidy.

Therefore the Policy announcement was received enthusiastically by the people of the North East Region as a means to bring about transformation in the economic conditions of the entire region. It was indeed looked upon as a Christmas gift.

This policy was further confirmed when the Prime Minister, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee declared special incentive package at Shillong on the 20th of January 2000, under the banner Agenda for Social-economic Development in the North East Region and Sikkim. The declaration was welcomed by the people of the North East.

Unfortunately, the steps taken by the Finance Ministry by arbitrary modification of the Central Excise Exemption contained in the Policy statement has created a sense of insecurity in the minds of the investors and its ramifications are far reaching. Withdrawal of exemptions from time has not only diluted the contents of the Policy but negate the very noble objective of the Central Government. These steps taken by the Finance Ministry will prevent all Industries who have planned or already moved to the North East Region for investment, it is a set back to the people of the North East Region. It is equally a set back to the credibility of the Central Government.

The Finance Bill includes a clause to scrap incentives announced in 1999 for a 10-year period with retrospective effect. Perhaps nowhere in the world in a democratic setup incentives given under a declared policy of the government is withdrawn retrospectively. 'My own view is' that this step is retrograde. I request the Finance Minister to undo what has been proposed for the interests of the people of the North East Region and good governance.

I will now say something on the priority problems facing my State, that is, Meghalaya and particularly my own constituency, 1-Shillong.

While Meghalaya was in the recent past a surplus State in power but with the pace of Industrialisation in the Byrnihat area, Khasi Hills, the State has become power deficit. There is an immediate need to procure additional power for the pending industrial connections in our industrial Complex at Byrnihat alone, which requires 100 MW power. What is urgently required is the construction of 8 KM long Sarusajai-Stage IV 220 KV D/C line along with a 100 MVA 220/132 KV transformer at Sarusajai. The Meghalaya portion of this feeder line has been completed since the year 1999-2000 but the

Assam portion is still remaining incomplete. As such I urge upon the Finance Minister to provide an amount of Rs. 10 crores for completions of the Assam portion of this very important feeder line.

As power is the engine of development and is a vital infrastructure I would like to refer to another area in my Constituency which is power starved and the need augmentation of power at Khliehriat area which is far flung. At the same time the power can be had by way of having the Power Grid Corporation and NEEPCO to provide transmission line for bringing power from Kopili, Assam to Khliehriat, Jaintia Hills, Meghalaya. May I request the Finance Minister to provide fund for this project.

Meghalaya is till today not appearing in the railway map of India. It has rail link nor a railway head. Which a view to achieving faster rate of growth of the economy, construction of railway line to Meghalaya is of utmost importance. The survey work for the realignment of the Railway line from Azara, Assam to Byrnihat, Meghalaya has been completed by the Railway authorities but the work could not be taken up for lack of funds. I request the Finance Minister to prevail upon the Railway Ministry to provide railway head for Meghalaya at the earliest.

The Shillong Bye-Pass is proposed Umiam at KM 61/800 of Guwahati-Shillong section of N.H. 40 and terminates at Mawryngkneng at Km 35/00 of Shillong Jowai section of N.H. 44. This Bye-Pass is a critical necessity for overcoming traffic breakdown within Shillong, which leads to daily delays in the flow of traffic from the Barak Valley Assam, Mizoram and Tripura. This project has been left pending for long years. I am given to understand that modalities for implementation of this project has been resolved by the State Government. What remains is paucity of fund. I request the Finance Minister to provide fund.

The National Highway from Jowai-Amlarem-Dawki, which seeks to connect Jowai, headquarters of Jaintia Hills District and Dawki a border and trading town adjacent to Bangladesh, is a road of strategic importance. Earmarking and allotment of funds is crucial for speedy construction of this Highway. I request the Finance Minister to extend all help on this matter.

I am sure in my mind that the Finance Minister whose close association with the North East Region is well known will extend his helping hand in solving the issue raised which in particular referring to North East Industrial Policy has been taken up by the North East MPs Forum, a body that cuts across all the party lines.

*DR. V. SAROJA (RASIPURAM): Mr. Speaker, Sir, presentation of Budget, it seems, has become a formality. Budget is required to mobilise resources to Finance Plan outlays which ultimately pave the way to achieve Plan objectives.

There have been significant changes in respect of Central Excise, Customs, Central Sales Taxes, Additional Central Excise has been dropped. There have been drastic reductions in import duties and rates of excise, service tax has been raised from 5 per cent to 8 per cent with 10 more services proposed to be added. As for income tax, much expected rise on the minimum exemption limit has not been materialised. Slabs remain the same. By and large, tax proposals for direct taxes are in line with the usual tinkering of the income tax law in every Bill so that the Finance Bill 2003 is no exception with a large number of amendments.

A host of concessions on the direct tax front has left the Finance Minister with only Rs.339 crore as additional tax. There is a revenue loss of Rs. 2,995 crore.

On the indirect tax front, there is a gain of Rs.3,294 crores.

In fact while the revenue receipts for the year 2003-2004 is estimated to grow by a meager 7.1 per cent the total expenditure is expected to grow at around 8.6 per cent.

The Kelkar Task Force had recommended reduction of the corporate tax rates to 30% for domestic companies and 35% for foreign companies. Against this the Finance Minister has brought down the effective tax rates to 35.8% for domestic companies and 41% for foreign companies.

The rates are still seems to be the highest in the world. In Singapore, it is 22%, in U.K. Corporate Tax rate stands at 30%, in Germany it is 26.5%, in China domestic companies are taxed at the rate of 33%, in Hong Kong only 16 per cent. So where is the level playing field for Indian companies. How can they compete with foreign companies. India is thus really a high taxed economy. Thus making it uncompetitive with other countries.

Removing various types of taxes on the well off when the total tax to GDP ratio in India is only a little over 10 per cent is not a prudent step. The service tax has been increased steeply from 5 to 8 per cent.

The proposed introduction of Value Added Tax is an important step. A number of lobbies and pressure groups have been pressing for either a postponement or a modification of

the proposed VAT regime. The superiority of VAT stems from the fact that it prevents the cascading impact of taxation. It is transparent and reduces the scope for evasion. The imposition of a uniform 12.5% on most commodities will result in prices of some essential commodities going up; the prices of medicines is one example.

A look at the resource mobilisation through taxation recalls that direct tax revenue is a proportion of GDP, after increasing from 1.9 per cent in 1990-91 to 3.2 per cent in 1997-98, declined to 3 per cent in 2001-2002.

On the other hand, indirect taxes as a proportion of GDP declined from 7.9 per cent in 1991 to 5.9 per cent in 1997-98 and further to 5.1 per cent in 2001-02.

The total expenditure GDP ratio of the Central Government after declining from 17.3 per cent in 1990-91 to 13.9 per cent in 1996-97 started rising from 1997-98.

The macro economic position is indeed serious. During 2002-03, the GDP growth rate is down to 4.4 per cent, with agriculture being the most effected. The revised estimates for the 2002-03 reveal a high deficit of 5.9 per cent with huge short falls in tax revenue and disinvestment receipts.

Today, 48.5 per cent of the Revenue Receipts are devoted to interest payments. So, there is hardly any scope for financing various development programmes adequately.

A look at the Budget documents reveal that the Capital Expenditure for the current year is only Rs.72568 crore as against Capital Receipt of Rs. 1,84,860 crores. Thus, there is a huge gap between Capital Receipts and Capital Expenditure. This reveals that funds meant for asset creation have been diverted to revenue side.

Infrastructure has been given a boost in the Budget with the Finance Minister proposing an outlay of Rs.60,000 crores spread over the next five years.

Investment in social sector especially in health, education and employment opportunities, however, are not enough. Most of the funds meant for the poor do not reach them. There is no plan to use the large food stock for a more ambitious food for work plan that can help build and improve rural infrastructure. The proposed community based health insurance scheme is a good idea if implemented properly.

The Central and State Governments have mutually agreed to introduce a debt swap scheme that will use the low interest rate regime to help states prepay expensive local loans taken from the Government and thus save an estimated Rs.81,000 crore.

A worrisome feature of the expenditure pattern of states

[Dr. V. Saroja]

is that the growth rate in development expenditure at 4.1 per cent in 2002-03 will be for lower than the growth of 11.7 per cent non-development expenditure.

As such both Centre and State Governments are finding it difficult to allocate adequate resources for financing infrastructure and social sector development schemes/programmes.

The main reason for poverty in India is poor growth and poor investment. There is little in the Budget about creation of jobs. Before 1994 employment grew by 2.7 per cent a year. Since that year, employment given by just about one per cent.

Growth in employment vis-a-vis poverty alleviation depend upon growth in investment especially in social sectors. But unfortunately Budget has though spoken high regarding poverty eradication and lifetime concerns of our citizens, infrastructure development, etc. it has not spelt out any strategy of financing these areas and sources of finance. A major portion of Government's revenue is taken away by interest payments, subsidies, defence expenditure, salaries, allowances and pension of its employees so that hardly any amount is left for financing the social sectors. In this scenario the Budget should have made an aggressive effect to mobilise resources, to curb tax evasion and to unearth black money

Our farmers, especially the small and marginal farmer, landless labourers, unorganised workers, media and small industries, handloom and powerloom industry etc. require our maximum attention. Let our tax policies do not harm these segments, let our expenditure proposals benefit these segments maximum.

The drought relief measures as requested by the Hon. Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu in terms of cash and foodgrains, i.e. 1760 crores cash and 5 lakh metric tonnes of foodgrains may be released.

Will Government of India may propose to take steps to start Cotton Trading Corporation and procure the cotton and supply to the powerloom and handloom sectors through the cooperative societies as that in the 17.5 lakh powerlooms and handlooms sectors clutches of the 2000 spinning mills in India can be removed. The present tax system, i.e. 9.2% of the excise duty of Government of India and 4% of the sales tax paid by the powerloom owners at the time of purchase of yarn may be continued to reduce the difficulties faced by the powerloom sectors in this country.

The Finance Minister at the time piloting the Finance Bill, 2003 pointed out that "from number one producer of the cotton in the world we have now slipped to number four in the global textile competition". So the Government should concentrate

on the production of cotton as well as reduce the export of cotton as well as reduce the export of cotton instead the Government should encourage the export of powerloom products, i.e. clothes.

I request that CENVAT must be withdrawn.

Accountability and responsibility must be fixed to the CMDs and the entire finance sector in recovering NPA.

The inter-linking of rivers, the dream project of Hon. Prime Minister as assured on the floor of the House in Lok Sabha on 20th November, 2002 and interlinking rivers in the Southern States may be expedited.

The Cauvery River Water Authority meeting may be called at the earliest possible to render justice to the people of Tamil Nadu.

*SHRI VINAY KUMAR SORAKE (UDUPI): Many of my colleagues have critically examined the Budget 2003 earlier and I would like to confine myself to a few points concerning the development of my region - Dakshina Kannada.

Small trading and business community will be adversely affected by the proposed VAT system as they are not equipped to record and render periodic accounts to the authorities. They cannot afford to engage an accountant for regular book-keeping nor an auditor to prepare annual statements. It will lead only to harassment of small trading community if VAT is enforced.

In the General Budget I observe that there are not adequate provisions to implement core projects nor schemes connected with social welfare. In order that the following schemes/projects concerning development of my constituency/region, I request the Hon'ble Minister to ensure that adequate funds and facilities are provided for:

- (1) Expansion of New Mangalore port to handle additional import/export cargo, upon the revival of Kudremukh Iron Ore Co and also completion of Mangalore-Hassan broad gauge rail link.
- (2) Expansion of Bajpe (Mangalore) airport including lengthening of runway for wide bodied aircrafts.
- (3) Setting up of a dedicated fishing harbour at Kulai adjoining New Mangalore Port.
- (4) Creation of a Tourism Circuit for Dakshin Kannada region including coastal beach resorts, pilgrim centres etc.

*Speech was laid on the Table.

- (5) Regular market intervention schemes for plantation crops like arecanut, coconut etc in the region.
- (6) Acceptance and implementation of Murari Committee recommendations on providing relief to fishermen community.
- (7) Promotion and development of horticulture/floriculture in the region including plantation crops.
- (8) Linking New Mangalore port with Golden Quadrilateral including four-laning of Hassan Mangalore stretch.
- (9) Implementation of Special Economic Zone at Padubidri.
- (10) Revival of Beedi and Tile Industry which provides traditional employment to large section of population in the region.
- (11) Setting up of a food processing unit to utilise abundant supplies of fruits, vegetables and other agri. produce.
- (12) Construction of a permanent sea-erosion prevention wall and strengthening of embankments.
- (13) Inter-linking of regional rivers for drinking water, irrigation, power generation and flood control.
- (14) More coverage of rural roads under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana.
- (15) Setting up a Computer-IT corridor between Mangalore-Udupi.
- (16) Revival of Kudremukh iron Ore Co Ltd. for processing additional ore from Bellary-Hospet hauled thru' Hassan-Mangalore broadgauge (under completion)
- (17) Retention of Syndicate Bank's Corporate Headquarters at Manipal.
- (18) Special development package for Konkan Railway Corporation to upgrade facilities in Coastal Karnataka.
- (19) Provision of adequate funds for implementation of Swajaldhara schemes in coastal belt of Dakshin Kannada.

The above mentioned project/schemes are essential for the economic development of the region, which has high potential to generate employment and provide relief to farmer community and I urge the Hon'ble Minister for Finance to be generous enough to enhance allocations under different ministries implementing the projects/schemes.

*SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA (KOLAR): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to emphasise for the consideration of the Finance Minister the following points which are agitating the minds of the people of the country and require immediate Solution by intervention at the highest level.

I would like to mention and emphasise that 75 per cent population of this country consists of agriculturists and agricultural labour. This sector has been neglected by this Governments and this class ignored. The farmers are producing such products like wheat, paddy, vegetables etc. but it is irony of fate that they are not getting the remunerative price. I urge upon the Government to set up Nodal agencies at District level to procure the produces at a price which is remunerative to the farmers.

Sir, the Government is aware that fifteen States in the country are facing acute drought and there is scarcity of drinking water due to scanty rainfall. Karnataka is facing the worst ever problem of potable water since the water table in the State has gone down to a depth of 600 to 700 feet in Kolar, Chitradurga and rural Bangalore and other parts of the State, such as Gulbarga and Bijapur. Whatever little water is available is full of fluoride and if it is consumed, it will lead to bone cancer and loss of teeth.

In view of the terrible situation due to water scarcity, our Party Leader, Smt. Sonia Gandhiji has welcomed the decision of linking of Rivers, which was earlier taken up Smt. Sonia Gandhiji. Mr. Suresh Prabhu, the Chairman of the Task Force Committee of the River Linking has recently mentioned in his Press statements that eight rivers, in the first phase, attention shall be given to this sector by linking Krishna, Godavari and other rivers. But I am sorry to say that he has not made any mention about Cauvery River linking. I urge upon the Government to direct the Task Force Committee to include, in the first phase, Cauvery Linking because the problem faced in this area is very acute.

Sir, the Disinvestment policy of the Government has destroyed the indigenous industry and what Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru once said that the heavy industry are the 'Modern Temples of the Country' has been put on the back seat. The entire industrial fabric has been ruined by the BJP Government and they have made lakhs and lakhs of persons unemployed. The novel method adopted by the Government forcing persons to opt for VRS is not going to solve the problem. The lump sum given to the retiring persons is not going to solve the problems of the masses. Rather this is indirectly inviting the multi-nationals to come in conveniently and promote their products in the country, when our industries are forced to close

* Speech was laid on the Table.

[Shri K. H. Muniyappa]

in the event of cheaper products being flooded in the country by multi-nationals. The important Hotels like Ashoka, Lakshmi Palace, Centaur, etc. which were built by the sweat and blood of the masses of the country are being sold much below their actual cost. All these acts of the Government are indirectly inviting a new East India Company in the country and this will be a step towards dependency and slavery of the country in times to come.

Sir, much was talked about Liberalisation and that as result of this policy the country will emerge as one of the strongest countries in the world scenario. But one is pained to see the plight the country is placed in. I would urge upon the Government through you, Sir, that the indigenous industry of the country should be protected and Government ensure remunerative prices of the products of Indian industry. The entire silk industry of the country is facing tough time with the import of silk from China and other countries. Lakhs of persons engaged in this industry are just on the verge of closing down. If steps are not taken to ensure remunerative prices, the entire indigenous industry will be forced to close down. In order to curb the imports and encourage local industry in the country, the Government can impose 100% or 200% import duty and thus given an incentive to the indigenous industry.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, coming to social justice and empowerment. 30% of the population belonging to SC/ST is just neglected. The budget allocation made for this class is very, very meagre. It is not even 1% of the total budget allocation for these people. To make India self-sufficient, we have to first assure to every citizen two square meals a day. The freedom will be meaningless if the Government is not able to provide food clothing and shelter to the citizens of the country. The government should evolve special programmes for the protection of the poor. Freedom will be of some meaning if the Government is able to provide food, education and better economic conditions to the masses.

I urge upon the Government to allocate more funds for economically weaker sections and backward classes so that they are absorbed in the mainstream of the country. I would urge upon the Government to start residential schools for the SC/ST in District headquarters. I propose in this regard to the Social Justice and Empowerment Ministry for the last ten years but nothing concrete is being done in this regard. I hope the Prime Minister, Minister of Finance, Minister of Social Justice would draw out special projects and start Residential Schools on the pattern of Navodaya Schools for the SC/ST in the District Headquarters throughout the country so as to bring the masses in the mainstream.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): Mr. Saiduzzama why are you becoming so impatient you had urged yesterday itself we will look into it and it would be better if hon. Members do not insist to enhance it to rupees 5 crores. Please have patience.

[English]

Sir, I have benefited greatly from the debate on the Finance Bill, 2003. As all the hon. Members know, this marks the completion of the entire budgetary debate cycle. It actually started on the 28th of February and this is the end of April that we have reached to. Ideally, it should be a shorter period from the presentation of the Budget to the completion of debate on the Finance Bill. If we could compress the time taken for this procedure, it would be better even for financial management. Anyway, that is beside the point. I have benefited greatly from the debate on the Finance Bill. I am very grateful to all the hon. Members - numbering over 40 - that participated in the discussion spread over three days. Today is the fourth day that we have debated this issue and I have the honour to reply to this.

I must thank all the hon. Members for their comments on various aspects of the Finance Bill, as also the views expressed. They did not remain limited to the Finance Bill. Inevitably, hon. Members spoke of various issues concerning their constituency interests, concerning their State interests and also made a variety of suggestions and general observations. I am grateful to them.

The Finance Bill is all about taxation - direct and indirect - and the broad philosophy of taxation that has guided our endeavours and does so even today, that has been expounded on several occasions.

In customs, it is rate rationalisation along with the gradual reduction of peak rates while simultaneously protecting the indigenous, the domestic manufacturers on agriculture and its products.

As regards excise, our aim has been to moderate duty regime along with the reduction and the multiplicity of rates. That is why, we have set in place, a three-tier duty structure of 8 per cent, 16 per cent and 24 per cent. I have continued the system adopted over the past and moved towards the system with a middle rate of 16 per cent now and a higher and a lower rate for demerit goods and for items of mass consumption respectively.

As regards direct taxes, it is a philosophy of tax law simplification in moderate rate structure and easing the burden of the citizens that has guided us.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, you would appreciate, and I am sure that the hon. Members would also appreciate. As many as 40 hon. Members participated in this discussion. It would not be possible for me to address the observations by each of the hon. Members. The observations, as I said, varied from the Finance Bill to general observations, on the financial situation, on the Budget etc. Permit me, therefore, Sir to come directly to the issues that relate to taxation.

Firstly, I come to direct taxes. While presenting the Budget on February 28, the changes had been proposed in respect of direct taxes both in policy as well as in administration so as to give a fillip to the economy and provide relief to the wide section of the tax paying community, as wide section as possible. The underlying idea is to unleash the entrepreneurial character and creative genius of our citizens. I do not wish to, at this stage, repeat many initiatives that have been taken by the Government. But I now have the benefit of different viewpoints and opinions, and taking cognisance of the suggestion, I accept that some of the proposals that had been mooted earlier, required a further fine tuning. Let me briefly enumerate them. Again, here it would not be possible for me to enumerate each and every point. But I am taking the major ones.

Sir, it had been proposed that tax exemption in respect of those insurance policies whose premium exceeded 20 per cent of the sum assured in any of the years be withdrawn. This was done because such policies, in a sense, expose as instruments for investment and not so much for covering of the risk on life. It has been brought to my notice that by the proposed change, the income earned on policies taken before the amendment could also be taxed, as this would be unjust. I recognise that. Therefore, to remove this unintended consequence, the proposal is being amended to ensure that income earned on the policies taken before the 1st day April 2003 will continue to enjoy the tax exemption as hitherto.

Sir, at present, interest and compensation paid to accident victims under the Motor Vehicles Act is subject to tax deduction at source. There are obvious practical difficulties involved here, particularly for the poor who are sometimes the unfortunate victims of accident, also our citizens from the rural areas who are not assessed to tax. I propose, therefore, to provide that no tax would be deducted from source and at the interest awarded as compensation, if it does not exceed Rs. 50,000.

In order to promote equity culture among our citizens, it

had been proposed that long-term capital gains on equity shares of the companies listed in any recognized stock exchange in India and acquired on or after March 1, 2003 but before March 1, 2004 would be exempt from tax.

Apprehensions have been expressed in some quarters that the proposed provisions is likely to be misused to launder money by showing false transactions or fake transactions in thinly traded shares. This is obviously not the intention of the Government. I therefore propose to limit the exemption to the equity shares appearing in the list of BSE-500, as on March 1, 2003 and where transactions of purchase and sale is on a recognised stock exchange of India. I also propose to extend this exemption to such equity shares as are allotted through a public issue on or after March 1, 2003 and are listed in recognised stock exchange before March 1, 2004.

Deduction equal to 100 per cent of profits and gains is available for five consecutive years to an undertaking set up in a Special Economic Zone, commonly known as SEZ.

There have been persistent demands from the industries located in SEZs for giving a re-investment allowance of 50 per cent of the profits ploughed back into business. There is a merit in this request and I have accepted it. Necessary amendment to give effect to this decision is being proposed. Restrictions imposed on carry forward of business losses and unabsorbed appreciation of the undertaking from SEZs are also being done away with. Necessary amendments are being made to grant export-status from domestic tariff area to units set up in SEZ; such sales will also enjoy the benefits under Section 80 HHC for a period of one year.

I am also providing 100 per cent tax exemption to Offshore Banking Units, OBUs, set up in the SEZs for three years, plus 50 per cent tax exemption for the subsequent two years. This has been a request from the Commerce Ministry. We find merit in it and this has been done after consultation with the RBI. This exemption will be available for income derived from operations undertaken by the OBUs to finance SEZ developers and the units in the SEZ.

At present, income of a political party from house property, other sources and donations is exempt from tax. Income from capital gains is however taxable. That has been brought to my notice that this had led to some avoidable difficulties. I therefore propose to end this by exempting from income tax, capital gains accruing to political parties.

Certain benefits available to tea industry have been extended to the coffee industry as well. Due to widespread demand from the rubber industry which is also a plantation-based industry - for which there is already an announcement

[Shri Jaswant Singh]

of the Prime Minister for a Plantation Fund - I propose to extend the benefits of all this to rubber industry as well.

Under the existing provisions, a shipping company loses the tax benefits available to it, if it sells or transfers the ships acquired out of amounts credited to the Reserve Account before the expiry of eight years. This period of eight years - it has been represented - is, under the current circumstances, too long because of the rapid technological upgradation that we are witnessing all around. I accept this and I therefore propose to reduce this lock-in period from eight years to three years.

One of the hon. Members has drawn my attention to Section 50(C) of the Income Tax Act which provides for land and building valuation for computation of capital gains on the basis of value assessed for stamp duty. This provision along with the simultaneous withdrawal of pre-emptive purchase of immovable property by the Central Government has been incorporated in the last year's Finance Bill.

This measure had to be introduced to remove unnecessary litigation and *ad hocism* in the valuation of property for computation of capital gains. If the assessee does not agree with the valuation, the assessing officer can refer the matter to the valuation officer. I think this actually is an assessee-friendly measure which avoids *ad hocism* in asset valuation and therefore, I intend to let it remain.

In the wake of Gujarat earthquake of 2001, Section 80G of the Income Tax Act was amended to provide a hundred per cent deduction for donation to be utilised for providing relief to earthquake victims. The funds allocated for this purpose had however to be utilised before March 31st, 2002. This date was later extended to March 31st, 2003. Requests from a number of hon. Members from both sides of the House as also from charitable institutions continue to be received for an extension of this date. I accept the validity of this request and extend the date of utilisation of donation by one more year, that is up to 31st, March, 2004.

Shri Dasmunsi, hon. speaker from the principal Party in the Opposition, and a number of other speakers have spoken about the need for promotion of sports. Indeed, the Prime Minister had sometime back announced the Special Sports Fund and has constantly emphasised the need for it. A suggestion was made by hon. Shri Dasmunsi that income of sports persons up to the age of 30 years should be exempt from income tax. This would be impractical because who will determine, who is a sports person and who is not. Instead, what we intend to do is, income of the sports persons, in both cash and kind, by way of approved reward or award from specified institutions is already exempt from income tax.

I now propose to allow a special deduction of up to Rs.75.000 from the income received as professional fee for participating in games or sports. The appropriate modalities for making this scheme operational will be worked out in consultation with the Ministry of Sports.

I would also like to sympathetically consider the demand for additional funds for sports, particularly in light of the preparations for Olympics that we must now undertake. Having said that, I now come to. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE. You have not mentioned anything about textiles.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: I am coming to that subject also. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE (AURANGABAD, MAHARASHTRA): Is it applicable to the national games also?

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: I generally said that we will consider for National sports and Olympics. I have already stated about this. An Hon. Member asked about the national games. I want to tell all the hon. Members that the hon. Prime Minister has already said about it and he has made announcement about it. We will fulfil that, whether they are national games or Olympics. There will be no shortage of funds for their preparations. Hon. Members have said that there are a lot of misunderstandings about Service Tax.

[English]

Permit me, Sir, to explain the whole aspect of Service Tax. In this Budget it had been proposed to extend Service Tax to certain new services. The Parliament has yet to legislate on it because this has to be shared between the States and the Centre and we are bringing a Constitutional amendment, which I believe we are considering next week.

Let me clarify that this tax will come into effect only from a date that is yet to be notified. After the Parliament has enacted, we will also, before notifying the tax, as per the past practice put on the website of the Finance Ministry all necessary details and invite comments from the concerned sectors of citizens, trade, industry and everybody, on the proposals about the Service Tax.

In this regard, the representatives that have already been received in anticipation of service tax, especially from various Sectors, I will attempt to a few like, for example, from vocational and computer training institutes against this proposed levy. I wish to assure all the hon. Members in the House that these

suggestions about computer training centres, about vocational training centres, and all other suggestions will be taken fully into consideration before the new service tax levies are given effect to which in any case not before 1st of July this year.

Some hon. Members as also some trade representatives have also expressed apprehension that the withdrawal of exemption from service tax arising from payments received in convertible foreign exchange could affect our export of services. I want to clarify that a service tax is location based. Whatever service is exported abroad whether it be through outsource computer or medical, it will, by law, be outside the proposed code of service tax. Therefore, there ought to be no apprehension or worry in this regard.

I think the hon. Shri Thomas, who is perhaps not present here, has made a representation that when premises of religious places, be the Churches or Temples or Gurudwaras or Masjids are used for holding social functions, the consideration received should not be charged to service tax. Now, though this issue does not actually relate to the Budget, I would like to assure the hon. Member that we will look into it and whatever appropriate relief I can provide in this regard, I will provide.

Sir, I will come to VAT before I go on indirect taxes. Let me begin by saying and repeating what I had said earlier that VAT is a modern, a forward looking, and a path breaking reform that the States amongst themselves actually agreed to implement. I have already submitted in the House that the VAT legislation presented for presidential assent do not conform the decisions of the Empowered Committee itself. In addition, I must clarify that there cannot be departures from the agreed list of commodities which would be subjected to 12 and a half per cent rate of Value Added Tax. The Empowered Committee in its meeting of April 29, i.e. yesterday, had considered these issues. It is very important that the legislation of the States are amended to conform to the decisions taken by the Committee itself and also to the agreed upon latest by 5th of May. Otherwise, it will not be possible to introduce VAT by 1st of June as suggested by the States themselves.

Now there is one additional point and I want to share this with the hon. Members that the proposed reduction in the rate of Central Sales Tax from four per cent to two per cent is contingent on the introduction of VAT by all major States and by all regions of India. I must emphasise that Central Sales Tax and Value Added Tax cannot actually live together for long. It is also not possible to have two regimes in CST or two kinds of State in the country, namely, those that are adhering to the VAT, hence the reduced CST rate and those that are not doing so. You could have a situation in which two adjacent

States could have differential rates of CST from four per cent to two per cent. This is not the practical way to administer the tax regime.

We have also, therefore, to take on board the question of adequate preparations in the administrative machinery before introduction of this very important tax reform. That is why I have said and I repeat that a patch work or an ill-implemented VAT will not serve our purpose. Therefore, first, we fully complete our ground work before we set a new target date for introduction of VAT.

Sir, I will not go to some of the issues that had been raised.

[Translation]

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (SOUTH DELHI): Kindly clarify here about VAT.

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH (MAHARAJGANJ, U.P.): Mr. Speaker, Sir, traders have given him full support. Now he is strangulating them by implementing the VAT. Today, they are advocating for VAT. BJP people cannot say that they are not at fault. They have strangulated farmers as well as traders. ... (Interruptions)

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA (DELHI, SADAR): Please explain position about the VAT. ... (Interruptions)

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Perhaps the hon'ble Member could not follow my point. Unless we are fully prepared, we cannot support the implementation of the VAT. ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: What else you want.

SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA (JHABUA): He should have said that no talk has been held in this regard. ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: He had not said earlier. But now he had said, please sit down. ... (Interruptions)

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI (KHAJURAHO): When no complete preparation was made then why the Government have proposed to implement the VAT. It means that those schemes are being implemented without any preparation which are supposed to be implemented by the Government itself. ... (Interruptions)

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: Many States like Delhi, Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh where Congress is in power proposed for implementation of VAT and given in writing to the committee empowered for its implementation. Only when

[Shri Madan Lal Khurana]

the Central Government has given its consent. Now these States governments are not sticking to their stand. Why the Central Government is blamed for it. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Rajbabbar ji, please take your seat. We do not have any question here.

SHRI RAJ BABBAR (AGRA): What would be the criterion for the preparation of VAT. If the hon'ble Jaswant Singh tells something about it, it will give some solace to me. What should be the criterion for the preparation, please tell us. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JASIWAL (KANPUR): Whether its criterion will be re-election. ...*(Interruptions)* Whether election is the only criterion and it will be implemented after elections. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Let the hon. Minister reply. No interruptions please.

[Translation]

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Hon'ble Members please do not be impatient listen to me silently. I will tell you about the criterion. Mr. Speaker, Sir, if you recall, I have already read out the criteria when I had initiated discussion on the Finance Bill. ...*(Interruptions)* The criteria have been approved by the empowered committee. The criteria was not fixed by the Central Government. These were fixed by the empowered committee and the officers of the committee are fully trained. What has been done by the Central Government upto district level.

[English]

This is a very useful tax system.

[Translation]

We said that we will try to handover a checklist upto district level from the Central Government. You may show that check list to your states and tell them that such and such work has been done, it is a part of criteria. Whatever legislation may be enacted should not be far away from the model legislation. As I have already said that the empowered committee itself had accepted the model legislation and same was sent to states but the states slightly deviated from it. As I told them to go according to that model legislation, it is another criterion over which the traders expressed their concern. We had told them that the organisations of traders or other

organisations and industrialists should have held discussions with each other regarding their problems and doubts. It has to be done by the states. We have also discussed about 12½ per cent. I do not want that these points should be mentioned here because I do not want to comment on it. We said that there was consensus on 12½ per cent Revenue Neutral rate. All were agreed on it. This is not a new matter but it is continuing for the last so many years. Since hon'ble Members have asked about it and have made several comments in this regard. So I have to comment on it. There was consensus on 12½ per cent revenue neutral rate and it was decided that even after imposing 12½ per cent revenue neutral rate, if there is any shortage in revenue receipt of the state government then this loss will be compensated cent percent by the Central Government for first year. For this purpose some commodities were also earmarked. Now empowered committee feels that the commodities which were earmarked, were charged by the state government other than the rates fixed at 12½ per cent. I request you that this may please be rectified. Therefore there are number of preparatory measures and unless these measures are fool proof it will not be easy to implement them. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY (MIRYALGUDA): All these must have been taken into consideration before the grandiose announcement. This is the mother of all rollbacks. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL (CHANDIGARH): Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon'ble Minister is not telling that owing to this the prices of general items, will go up which are used by poor people. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, when there are no proper ideas then the love for language automatically is created. I could not understand, what should I say about these comments.

Sir, there is no need of further analysis on 'VAT' unless these preparations are completed. I would clear it that it is impossible for the Central Government to implement it. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I think this assurance should be sufficient. This may be sufficient; now you can switch over to the next subject.

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (MAHARAJGANJ, BIHAR): Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to tell the Hon'ble Finance Minister that so far as the matter of imposing tax on traders, both ruling as well as opposition parties have expressed their concern. I would also like to know the views of the Finance Minister for bringing agriculture in the income tax network?

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is no taxation on illusion. It seems there is an illusion in the mind of hon'ble Member. I would like to submit that there is no question of imposing tax on agriculture. I want to clear the doubts of the honourable Member in this regard.

When the discussion on taxation is going on Raghuvansh Babu is not available here.

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT, MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): Mr. Speaker, Sir, he might be brandishing Lathi in Patna.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Raghuvansh Babu told me that he is going to reveal a secret.

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV (JHANJHARPUR): Mr. Speaker, Sir, owing to the recommendations made in the Kelkar Committee an illusion was created that tax will be imposed on agriculture. I request the hon'ble Minister please clarify his stand regarding taxation on farmers as per the recommendation of the Kelkar Committee.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon'ble Member is talking like a legend. He is mentioning very old issues here. These are past issues.

MR. SPEAKER: It is an old issue.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Raghuvansh Babu said in his typical style that he is going to reveal a secret. By saying so I was conscious. He said in the style of Kalidasa and Kautilya that system of taxation should be like black bee and honey bees. It seems that he is removing the black bees and honey bees from the roads of Patna with his lathi.

He has said something about the agriculture. I would like to mention about that. He said that agricultural machinery and implement should be exempted from excise duty. There is one exception. I am looking how can I reduce excise duty on Tractors.

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, like cars the hon'ble Minister should reduce excise duty on tractors also.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Hon'ble Member please do not expect that by shouting excise duty can be reduced, it can be reduced through deliberations. ... (Interruptions)

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI: If excise duty can be reduced on cars why not on tractors?

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: I am also telling the same thing. Hon'ble Members are saying that I have reduced excise duty on Cars. ... (Interruptions) duty on cars is 24 percent whereas on tractor it is 16 percent. In tractors input like steel and other material consist 16 per cent or above. I am committed to bring it below to 16 per cent in final product for which I have to bring down the input costs. Practically it is a reality - there is a proverb in Rajasthan - "Kohni par Gur Chipkana" I am not doing like this, I am stating the fact. ... (Interruptions)

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: "Haath Par Sarson Uga rahe hain, Yahan Gur Nahi Chipka Rahe hain. ... (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: I wish to do it because I really want to bring it down.

[Translation]

Particularly we requested the Reserve Bank to give special concessions to agriculture in its new policy and they have given concessions.

[English]

I do not want to go into all these things. But I am committed to reduce the input cost in agriculture and I will do it.

[Translation]

Raghuvansh Babu requested not to impose any tax on Zero tiller machine and bullet tractor. ... (Interruptions)

[English]

Power tiller is already exempted from excise duty.

[Translation]

Hon'ble Member will explain us what is zero tiller, we also exempt it from excise duty.

[Shri Jaswant Singh]

[English]

I want to say about the RIDF. During the Budget discussion, hon. Member, Shri Jaipal Reddy had asked me about the RIDF. Now, banks having a shortfall in lending to the priority sector like agriculture are required to contribute to the Fund which is created under NABARD. The size of the corpus of this Fund, in the current year, has been fixed at Rs. 5500 crore. The rates of interest payable to the banks on contribution to the RIDF have been made penal so that the banks are encouraged to lend directly to agriculture which means that if the banks fail to meet its target of credit extension to agriculture, then it will have to deposit that shortfall with RIDF, and the rate of interest there will be penal in the sense that it will be much lower than. I cannot do any more at the present moment on this to the health of the banking sector.

On hand pumps, considering the shortage and the difficulties that are being faced in regard to drinking water, I propose to fully exempt hand pumps from any excise duty.

There was a representation received in regard to nickel and metcoke. Now, as you know, we had taken certain steps in the steel industry in the revival stage. Earlier, I had unified the import duty on nickel and metcoke at ten per cent as against 5 per cent or 15 per cent depending on the end-use. Now, there are representations that this has actually increased the cost of iron and steel and ferro alloy industries. On the one hand, we are trying to do all that we can to revive a very important industry like the steel industry and this should be counterproductive. In order to bring relief to the entire industry, I propose to exempt metcoke used in these industries from SAD, Special Additional Duty.

Similarly, nickel oxide sinter and unwrought nickel used in steel making are also exempt from SAD.

In this Budget exercise, we had reduced the duty on nicotine polacrilex gum from 16 to 8 per cent. Some hon. Members have pointed out that since this is used as a gum for de-addiction, particularly of tobacco, it should be treated at par with other medicines of that variety. I find merit in this argument. I propose to exempt nicotine polacrilex fully from excise duty.

Some Members have suggested that there are a number of ceramic tile units which do not use any electricity or petroleum fuel for firing the kilns and merit a lower duty. I agree with that. Therefore, I propose to reduce the excise duty from 16 to 8 per cent on tiles made by units not using electricity or petroleum fuel for firing the kilns, but are using fire wood or agro waste.

I have received a suggestion from Shri Adhi Shankar

that the excise exemption for 100 per cent wood-free plain or pre-laminated particle or fibre-board, made from agro-waste, which is prone to misuse, should also be extended to 100 per cent forest wood-free board. There is already a duty of eight per cent on the agro-based industries. I will, however, look into the suggestion for extending the concessional duty for use of forest wood-free board also.

Information technology is an important industry where we have established a head start. In order to give a boost to indigenous manufacturers of information technology related goods, I propose to reduce the customs duty on specified capital equipments from 15 to 10 per cent.

On writing instruments, a number of representations were received that the indigenous writing instruments manufacturing industry has sought relief in customs on certain raw materials used in manufacturing process of such instruments. Therefore, I propose to reduce the customs duty on decorative transfer films and dyestuffs, used in manufacture of writing instruments from 25 to 15 per cent.

Sir, as far as tea development is concerned, excise duty for Re. 1 has been abolished and replaced by an equivalent cess for the development of tea industry. A number of Members, particularly from Assam, like Shri Sontosh Mohan Dev, had represented that this cess of Rs. 1 also ought to be removed. I am very sympathetic to this demand. But I am also mindful of what is required to be done for the entire tea industry. The tea industry in the South, as you know, has different problems from the tea industry of Assam. Some measures, like the Plantation Fund, announced by the Prime Minister, and a Re. 1 cess for the benefit of modernisation of tea industry, have been announced. It is one of the oldest agro industries. We must continue to nourish it. I am committed to doing it. I do not think that removal of Re. 1 is really going to help at that moment. I would benefit if there were any other ideas.

I do hope that hon. Shri Sontosh Mohan Dev will accept that at the present moment, if I am not able to accede to it, it is not because of any lack of commitment to the tea industry but because really I feel that this charge of Re. 1 is very minimal. Let us work it out for a little while and see later.

SHRIS. BANGARAPPA (SHIMOGA): What about coffee industry?

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Coffee is already there. I have just announced the benefits to coffee. I know about the coffee prices. There are many factors. I do not want to go into the details of it.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV (SILCHAR): In the past

also, this industry did face crisis. Dr. Manmohan Singh completely exempted it and then brought it back. I am not saying that you should exempt it for all times to come. For this period of recession, this can be exempted. That is my only request.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: I follow that. All plantation industries are currently going through a lean period.

I would request the hon. Member to recognise that the Finance Minister's job is the most thankless job.

Everybody asks the Finance Minister for resources and nobody says that he should raise resources. ...*(Interruptions)* Please sympathise with me. I will take on board what you have said, if I can, because I do not have to wait for the Finance Bill. I will go back to the hon. Prime Minister and take his instructions on the subject. But let me address the issue first. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Mr. Minister, please try to improve the tax collection system. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: I am trying to improve the tax collection system. Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal is very much agitated about the tax collection system. I will try to improve it. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: We are not suggesting measures for the improvement of it. That is what I said. A sum of about Rs. 59,000 crore is held up in the cases. This amount is due from the defaulters. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: I want to talk about edible oil. Hon. Members would recall that I had proposed an *ad valorem* duty of 8 per cent but specifically and only on branded refined edible oil and vanaspati packed in sealed containers for retail sale. I have studied the implementation of this measure. This is really to come into effect. I have observed that this has resulted in an unwarranted shift from branded to unbranded oil and only in order to avoid payment of duty. Of course, I am also very much concerned that this unjustified increase in prices of edible oil is there. There is obviously a need, therefore, to take such measures as will stabilise prices and eliminate any erosion of excise duty. With this objective, I now propose a specific duty rate of only rupee one per kilogram of refined edible oil and Rs. 1.25 per kilogram on vanaspati. This specific rate applicable at the refining outlets stage will be neutral to branded or unbranded oil. It will replace the proposed eight per cent duty. This amount of rupee one only is very nominal and should enable a correction of the anomalies that have been witnessed.

Simultaneously, I am also proposing a removal of the

high duty differential between imported refined palm oil and crude palm oil by reducing the customs duty on RVD palm oil from 85 per cent to 70 per cent - a 15 per cent point duty reduction. In addition, such refined palm oil would also be exempt from SED. This is an additional reduction of a little more than four percentage points. So, in all, we will be reducing on imported palm oil by 20 per cent of the import duty. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Sir, this will again hit the edible oil industry. I had pointed out to the hon. Minister the other day that there is no system of *Kutchi Ghani* now. People are agitated. ...*(Interruptions)* I had submitted that he should not confuse between the petroleum products refining and the mustard oil refining. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: It is only about palm oil. ...*(Interruptions)* It is coming down.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Bansal, I remember you did raise this issue. Please sit down now.

[Translation]

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, this government is anti-farmer *(Interruptions)* Farmers are being forced to commit suicide. ...*(Interruptions)* Now the government is reducing the duty. ...*(Interruptions)* This will kill the farmers. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: It does not affect coconut. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI: This government is totally anti-farmer. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Radhakrishnan, you please sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: This government is anti-poor. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI: This is an atrocity. This is an atrocity on farmers. This is atrocity against our local industries and oil industries. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, please sit down. Let the Minister reply. You can ask the question later on.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: It does not cover coconut.
...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Let the Minister reply. Let me know what he has to say. You have raised a question. Now, let the Minister say about it. Please sit down.

[Translation]

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, there are small trees. ...(Interruptions) They bow it down to eight feet to extract oil. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, if we import cheap oil. ...(Interruptions) and the prices of local oil will go down. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat. Let the Minister reply now.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA (MAVELIKARA): Mr. Speaker, Sir, reducing of duty on the import of palmolein will totally affect coconut cultivators in the country because there will be more import of palmolein into the country.
...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL: At one side government is providing incentives to enhance national production and on the other it is reducing custom duty.
...(Interruptions)

[English]

Mr. SPEAKER: I have permitted you to ask a question. Please take your seat. Let me listen what the Minister has to say.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You cannot interrupt like this. If you do like this, the Minister will complete his speech and will not reply to your question.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: I want Minister to answer. If you carry on speaking. How will the Minister reply? Please let him reply.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, you can continue now.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Sir, it does not cover coconut.
...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record now except the Minister's speech.

(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: I permitted you. You asked questions. Now after asking question please let the Minister give reply. Now you please sit down.

[English]

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: If you let me speak, I will explain. ...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Reddy, you please sit down. You are a senior member.

(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY (NARASARAOPET): Mr. Speaker, Sir, palmolein oil farmers are already suffering in our country and if the Minister reduces the customs duty further on the import of palmolein, then he is not encouraging the local farmers. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Janardhana Reddy, you have put your question. Let the Minister reply now. Please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: It is not that everybody will ask a question.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (CHIRAYINKIL):

Mr. Speaker, Sir, lakhs of coconut farmers in the country are suffering. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, you can go ahead.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Sir, the reduction of duty is only on palmolein. The interests of coconut farmers are fully protected. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA: Sir, with the reduction in customs duty on the import of palmolein, more palmolein will be imported into the country. So, how will the coconut farmers not be affected? It is a very serious issue. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU (SRIKAKULAM): Mr. Speaker, Sir, last year also the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh wrote a letter to the Prime Minister and the Finance Minister that due to import of palmolein oil with less duty, the groundnut farmers and coconut farmers are suffering in this country and so, he requested that it would be better to increase the duty on import of palmolein oil so that our farmers would get remunerative prices. Then, the hon. Minister agreed to increase the import duty. Now, with the reduction of duty on the import of palmolein, again the groundnut farmers and coconut farmers will be adversely affected. I would request him to answer to this point.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Sir, I will answer to the question. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Let me listen to the reply of the Minister now.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA: Sir, I would like to ask one question. All Members of Parliament from South India have time and again been asking for increase of duty on the import of palmolein so as to protect the interests of coconut farmers in the country. Now, with the reduction of duty on the import of palmolein, more palmolein will be imported into the country. Our coconut farmers and groundnut farmers have already been suffering.

13.00 hrs.

Every time, we are asking for a higher duty. Now, unfortunately, the Finance Minister is talking about lowering of the duty. It is highly detrimental to the interests of the coconut and groundnut farmers in the country. I would request the hon. Minister to reconsider this aspect, otherwise the entire Southern India will be suffering by this. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: The point that the Opposition wants to raise has been quite clear to the hon. Minister. It is for the Minister to give his replies on the questions that you have raised. But as soon as the hon. Minister starts, you interrupt him. If you start interrupting like this, you will not get a proper reply from him. Please cooperate.

I would request the hon. Minister to reply to the points raised by the hon. Members.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Radhakrishnan, please sit down. I am sorry, I cannot allow every Member to speak. Let the hon. Minister reply.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: This issue was raised last year also. I am very much aware of the issue.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Sir the issue relates to import of palmolein only. It does not cover groundnut, it does not cover copra, it does not cover soya. ...*(Interruptions)* Hon. Members are saying that if you reduce the duty on palmolein it will affect the prices of other oils, for example, coconut indigenously.

May I share a figure with me? The crude palmolein imports account for about 97 per cent of the total imports. ...*(Interruptions)* Please understand me. Now, the crude import is not being changed in the duty structure. What is happening is that only about three per cent of the total palmolein import is refined and what it is doing is that it is adding a certain degree of pressure on the consumer prices of oil in large parts of the country. All that I am doing is to remove the eight per cent of excise duty.

Shri Yerrannaidu spoke of Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh. The hon. Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh wrote to me and asked me to reduce the excise duty so that in the Public Distribution System of Andhra Pradesh, they are benefited. I had received requests from other Chief Ministers also, who said that oil prices edging upwards are causing a strain on the Public Distribution System of their States. What we have done is, we have tried to bring this down.

Here a suggestion is made that it is 97 per cent of the crude palmolein coming is remaining unchanged in its duty structure, Ninety-seven per cent. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI K. FRANCIS GEORGE (IDUKKI): Sir, crude oil is imported in the country and if is refined here. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: It is only on refined, which is three per cent of the imports. ...*(Interruptions)* I would request the hon. Member to be seated. Why does he trouble himself?

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Because we are starving!

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: He is not. ...*(Interruptions)* I will take care of this. We will certainly study the effect of this. It is not as if this duty management. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA: Sir, I would request the hon. Minister to call a meeting of MPs from these States and discuss it with them. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: The Minister agrees to sit along with the MPs. Please sit down now.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Please listen to me. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI K. FRANCIS GEORGE: Sir, it is because maybe the hon. Minister is not aware of the problem. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: But you can discuss this with him.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Sir, I will definitely look into this. ...*(Interruptions)* Let me complete please. ...*(Interruptions)* Sir, you will accept that in no system can we have a situation in which taxation duty structures are negotiated. We will certainly look into this. I will take on board the concern expressed here. This is only three per cent of the refined palmolein of which we are talking. I will watch it very carefully. In about ten day's time - I would request the Members who have voiced their concerns having watched the situation on the domestic oil price front - to see the results. These are not inscribed in stones. These duty structures are not being inscribed in stones, that they cannot be changed. It is logical that if any adverse consequence is felt, or adverse effect is felt, of course we will amend it. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: There should be no more discussions. Please sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, you can address the Chair now.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Except Mr. Minister's speech, nothing else will go on record.

*(Interruptions)**

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Let me now attend to textiles.

MR. SPEAKER: The important issue of textiles. Yes.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: This has been a matter of some considerable debate during the past few weeks. As I said at the beginning of the Debate on the Finance Bill, in textiles, which is the largest employment provider after agriculture in the country, with the multi-fibre agreement due to come to an end in 2004, a major challenge to India's competitiveness in international market is just about 18 months away. The essence therefore, of the proposals regarding textile industry was to completely safeguard the handloom. The handloom is not affected in any fashion whatsoever. Be it any of the Benarasi silk, be it Kanchipuram, be it Chanderi, be it all this. ...*(Interruptions)*

Also, Sir, I must say very clearly and categorically as a commitment of the Government we want to totally protect the interests of the small and the self-employed weavers and garment manufacturers. I will explain you how we will do it. To reduce the textile duty structure across the board in excise, which we have never done before. We have significantly reduced customs duty on textiles machinery and reduced it up to 5 per cent on specified machinery as given by the Textiles Ministry. We have announced at the time of presentation of the Budget itself promoting a modernisation package for power-looms. Now, we have already announced a financial and technical package for the modernisation of the entire textile industry like we have done it for the steel industry. It is done in order to complete the CENVAT chain, to eliminate deemed credit and, finally to improve the country's international ranking in the textile industry where India, which was on top of the international ranking, is today at No.4. We are behind Bangladesh. We are behind Pakistan, Thailand and China. If we do not improve - it will be a matter of deep regret to me - we might slip even behind Sri Lanka.

Now, let me just share one more fact with the hon. Members and I would request the hon. Members to please reflect on it. Sir, the total excise revenue from the textile industry in 2002-03 is Rs. 3,775 crore. This is an established figure. The industry has taken an estimated amount of Rs. 1,100 crore as deemed credit. Deemed credit is not money. It does not come to the Government. It will vapour. This sector has availed a duty drawback of Rs. 2,300 crore, and a duty entitlement passbook (DEPE) benefit of Rs. 1,300 crore.

It comes to a total of Rs. 3,600 crore. Please reflect. I do urge the hon. Members to reflect on this. We have a total textile production of Rs. 3,775 crore. Out of that, Rs. 3,600

crore, by these figures, are being exported. Is it anybody's suggestion that out of the total textile production of Rs. 3,700 plus crore, Rs. 3,600 crore are exported? This is what I am attempting to correct. This is what is employed by connecting the CENVAT chain and eliminating the deemed credit. Let me announce what are the specifics that I am now at it. I have always said that I am committed to the textile industry. How can it be, even imagine that we will not take care of the small or the self-employed? Let me announce that it is possible.

There is another worry that afflicted some of the power-loom and also the garment industry people. Let me further announce that it is possible that a number of power-loom owners who are self-employed have up-till now filed any income-tax return. I want to say this in advance and straightway that they may not have even proper books of account. I do not wish them to be troubled. I do now want the 'Inspector Raj' to proliferate but they may now wish, therefore, either to declare their stocks for CENVAT purposes or to join the chain. Therefore, to encourage them and new assesseees of the power-loom sector or the garments to come into the mainstream, the Income-tax Department has been instructed to encourage the power-loom owners to declare their stocks. Whatever the value of the stock that they declare and if it does not exceed Rs. 10,000 per power-loom, such declaration will not be subject to any questioning, any scrutiny or any other inquiry. Also this declaration will not have any retrospective application or consequences for income-tax purposes.

Sir, many hon. Members have suggested that there should be some dispensation. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR (NAGPUR): It has been stated that there will not be any 'Inspector Raj', but it has come back again. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (FIROZABAD): Excise duty has been imposed on handloom and readymade garments. The Minister should clarify in the house whether he is rolling it back or not. Excise duty on readymade garments worth one crore was exempted, but the Minister is not rolling it back. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE (MUMBAI SOUTH CENTRAL): Poors purchase clothes from powerloom. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAJ BABBAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, your thought and eloquence amply proved that you are talking about textile industry only. If your thoughts are interwoven, it will seem that you are providing relief to textile industry, but industries of India are on the verge of closure and government is inviting

multinationals. Textile industries are basically meant for garments. First VAT was imposed on cloths and now garments have been placed under the category of VAT. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Let the Finance Minister complete his speech.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI RAJ BABBAR: Hon'ble Minister is trapping us with his eloquence and we are getting trapped. I want to say that taxes are going to burden common man. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: You please listen me. There will be no burden. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: You can ask your question after his speech is over and not now. Please sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: I wish to announce a special dispensation for the units. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, you can complete your speech.

...*(Interruptions)*

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: The Minister is finishing his speech but let him tell whether he is abolishing the excise duty or not? ...*(Interruptions)* People are agitating over this issue. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Excise duty imposed on handloom should be rolled back. It is a very serious issue. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Ramji Lal Suman ji please sit down. This is not the proper way. I shall permit you to ask the question only after he completes his speech. The Minister has the right to complete his speech. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Ramdas, please sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: You go to your seats.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I can permit you to ask a question after he completes his speech. Otherwise, I will not give you that chance also.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down. Let him complete his speech. I do not want any more interruption. Let him complete his speech. Thereafter, you can put a question.

Mr. Minister, you can go ahead and complete your speech.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: So, I must explain this also. I will first announce and then explain. I propose to fully exempt from excise duty unprocessed fabrics up to the first clearance of Rs. 20 lakh provided they are woven by power-loom units having an annual turnover of Rs. 25 lakh. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Banatwalla, if you go on interrupting, I will not allow you to ask question afterwards.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: I am talking of the small scale and the self-employed. Let me explain what Rs. 20-25 lakh margin means. It means that the power-loom owners or the operators operating some of the traditional power-looms, not the modern variety, and holding up to almost 10 power-looms, will be totally free from excise duty.

MR. SPEAKER: It is very good.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: I only wish that the hon. Members would hear what I am saying. I am also making this very clear. I have made it very clear about the income tax that if they wish to declare their stocks, that the stock per loom will be of 10,000, no questions will be asked as to where that stock came from or about the past. It will not have any retrospective effect. Secondly, why have I said this?

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA (MUMBAI, NORTH-EAST): You tell us about the capital investment also.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: I cannot go into those complications. Those details will be announced later. ...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RASHID ALVI (AMROHA): What do you mean by traditional powerloom ?

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: I am requesting to you that there are individual shuttle powerlooms. Nowadays there are

some new powerlooms without shuttle. These are automatic powerlooms. Their production is very high and their cost is also very high. Each powerloom costs very high. Those who are self employed and work by themselves can not afford to pay 60-70 lakh. You have talked about traditional powerloom. They are of different kind in each state. For example U.P. has got old types of powerlooms. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: You need not reply.

[Translation]

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Why are you getting angry? You are not listening to me. You first listen to me, then get angry. I am saying that...

[English]

if they do not wish to, they need not register for CENVAT. It is as best as we can do under the circumstances to complete the CENVAT chain as also to eliminate the deemed credit about which I have just shared the arithmetic of the situation with the hon. Members.

I want to go to the readymade garments. Let me explain what do I mean by this Rs. 20-25 lakh.

It is totally exempt up to Rs. 20 lakh. I could be wrong and the actual estimate could be something else because every powerloom would not produce the same amount of cloth. So, why have I said, 'Rs. 20 lakh to Rs. 25 lakh'? It is again a protection that I am giving.

[Translation]

hon'ble members are of the view that if it comes down to Re. 1 from 20 lakh then there powerloom owners will have to pay tax on Rs. 20 lakh. I am providing this cushion. They have to pay Rs. 5 lakh as tax on Rs. 20-25 lakh.

[English]

It is a cushion that I am providing. I have given very strict instructions that there would be no visit to these powerlooms. There would be no inspections. I have introduced a self-assessment scheme so that these powerloom owners could give their own self-assessment.

[Translation]

and say that this is their production. I am giving you assurance that there will be no complaint of inspection by any Excise Inspector.

[English]

I assure you that I would take care of that situation.

Let me deal now with garments. I also propose to fully exempt from excise duty unbranded woven and knitted readymade garments up to the first level of Rs. 25 lakh provided that annual turnover does not exceed Rs. 30 lakh. I am sure hon. Minister would appreciate.

[Translation]

You told that 25-30 lakh are self employed

[English]

such units would however be required to keep only one record and it is a record of the yarn or fabric that they have purchased. There is no record that I am requiring them to keep.

Beyond that, I would share with hon. Members, in the Ministry of Finance, we have what is called a tax research unit. The tax research unit has the details of all garments producers in the country. We have analysed the tax research unit's detail thoroughly. I find that almost about 85 per cent of the garment manufacturers are in this Rs. 20 lakh to Rs. 25 lakh bracket that we are covering. Those that are above this are really major garment producers. They are not self-employed. They are all doing this work with the help of hired labour. I have also taken one more factor into consideration - what is the general annual mean income of a citizen in the country. As against that, in garments, if you are giving a total tax exemption of Rs. 20 lakh to Rs. 25 lakh, it is actually many multiples of the income that is available to an ordinary person.

[Translation]

the self-employed among these, who work with their hands whether he works in his house or in some small rented room, if he uses his own Brand and many people say that he uses his own Brand, then there will be no excise duty up to Rs. 20 lakh. This my promise to you.

[English]

I want to also add that I propose to extend this exemption scheme to garments of rubberised textile fabrics, cotton belting, mosquito nets and fabrics of mono-filament. Somebody had brought up this question of exempting mosquito nets. They are fully exempt from this.

[Translation]

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I

request the hon'ble Minister to raise it upto Rs. 50 lakh. Currently, all these people are sitting on strike in the country. It is a great injustice to reduce it to Rs. 25 lakhs from Rs. one crore. Industries are lying closed in Delhi and in other places in the country since one month. Therefore, I request the hon'ble Minister to make it atleast Rs. 50 lakhs.

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Hon'ble Finance Minister, make it atleast Rs. 50 lakh.

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would request the hon'ble Finance Minister to raise it upto Rs. one crore.

Hon'ble Finance Minister will have to agree that the exemption was one crore rupees earlier and you reduced it to Rs. 25 lakh. ...*(Interruptions)* Prices are rising but instead of raising it to Rs. one and half crore you are making it Rs. 25 lakh. You should not have reduced it to Rs. 25 lakh which is very low. If you want to do it, then reduce it to Rs. 50 lakh in place of Rs. one crore. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: Make it atleast Rs. 50 lakh.

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Sir, even Rs. 50 lakhs is inadequate. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Khaire, please take your seat.

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL: You have reduced it to Rs. 25 lakh rupees from Rs. one crore, it is wrong, it is injustice. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the readymade garments were exempted from excise duty upto the value of Rs. one crore, it should be fully exempted. ...*(Interruptions)* After agriculture, maximum number of people are employed in this industry. Rs. 25 lakh are nothing. The whole of the excise duty levied on readymade garments should be exempted. The excise duty has been levied on ready-made garments up to the value of rupees 25 to 30 lakh, it should be fully exempted.

MR. SPEAKER: The speech of the hon'ble Minister is going on. Mr. Minister has said that exemption can be given only upto a limit. You want this limit to be raised but this is not the way that the hon'ble Minister will do it only when people will rise and speak together in the House. It is possible that he will definitely keep in his mind the sentiments of the House and you have expressed your views on this issue. Let the Minister speak now. He will speak what he has to say. Now, let me listen the Minister.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, how much more time will you take?

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: Sir, Khuranaji is a very senior Member. He as well as many other Members of the party are angry over increase in the excise duty. The hon'ble Minister has no majority support on this issue. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, how much more time will you take?

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: I would like to submit that it is not at the personal level. ...*(Interruptions)* as the hon'ble Members are saying. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR (BARRACKPORE): He is totally unorganised. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Whichever abusive word you deem fit, you may use it. ...*(Interruptions)* It is not possible for me because whatever has been done, all these have been done after much consideration and analysis. As I have submitted earlier, it is not possible that we give any kind of rates. I move further on this. The same shall be applicable on rubberised textile fabrics, cotton belting, mosquito nets and fabrics of mono-filament.

[English]

I propose to reduce excise duty on predominantly hand processed fabrics on which a few specified finishing processes are carried out with the aid of power or steam from ten per cent to five per cent in the case of pure cotton fabrics, and from ten per cent to eight per cent for other fabrics, giving them a needed differential over fabrics processed completely with the aid of power or steam. It is my sincere hope that, with this incentive in place, the hand-processing industry will come forward with the needed urgent steps to adhere to environment-friendly measures to reduce water pollution. I will further review the duty regime for hand processors, in the light of the steps that the industry initiates.

I also want to remove an anomaly that has been observed in the Budget's indirect tax proposals on textiles. This is as follows:

It has been brought to my notice that whereas wearable fabrics attract excise duty at ten per cent, the duty on interlining fabrics used in making garments is 16 per cent. In order to remove the anomaly, I propose to reduce the excise duty on interlining fabrics also to ten per cent.

Let me now deal with shoddy. It is a small and important industry, but it is located in different parts of the country. The major input in this is imported shoddy on which duty rate was rather high, and the objection that is being raised is that because we had certain status, the duty rate was continuing.

Having calculated the whole thing, I find that, in fact, the shoddy industry will benefit and, therefore, I now propose to reduce the import duty on the major raw material of this industry which is rags, from the existing 25 per cent to five per cent. This is a 20 per cent duty reduction. I believe that this would adequately take care of all the requirements of the shoddy industry.

I want to further bring the coarse hair and flax at par with raw wool and I propose to reduce the customs duty on coarse animal hair and flax from 15 per cent to five per cent. I had, in this year's Budget, reduced the customs duty on a large number of textile machinery and their parts from 25 per cent to five per cent in order to encourage modernization of the textile industry. I have received representations seeking extension of this very facility and benefit to certain other capital goods used for manufacture of textile fibre, yarn and downstream products. In response, I propose to expand the concessional customs duty range of five per cent to 117 more categories of textile machinery and their parts. Then, I also propose to extend the concessional customs duty of 10 per cent available for twisters and re-winding machinery used in the silk sector to all such twisters and rewinding machines irrespective of the sector of use.

Regarding the North-Eastern region, a number of hon. Members from the North-East spoke on the issue of the North-East. Let me just, on a rather autobiographical note and in hesitation, say that my love affair with the North-East and the people of the North-East also goes back really to 1958. I had been there from 1958 to 1962; in the War in 1962, and I spent a lot of years in the North-East. I am committed. The hon. Prime Minister's announcement of the Industrial Policy for the North-East is not an empty announcement. I assure you even though all my friends from Assam - Shri Bijoy Handique is not here - raised it, I am not going on that. I wish to say that as far as the developmental concessions of the North-East are concerned, we remain committed. The issue here is really of the misuse of the development concession that was granted by the hon. Prime Minister. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: It was only by the cigarette industry and not by others.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: I will come to it. I understand it. I did not wish to name the industry or name the concern. But the concession granted was, most unfortunately, misused.

[Translation]

When bulls fight, crops suffer.

[English]

What it has resulted is in the creation of a very complex legal economic requirement. You would also, I am sure, understand it because this is argued very passionately by a number of hon. Members from the North-East also, by Shri Sontosh Mohan Dev also, that you can keep cigarette out but take the three others that are there. There is the *pan masala* because Assam is a very high producer of *supari* and it is traditional to offer just a pan and *supari*. But, Sir, in this I wish to share with you that it is also not just pan masala but there is *tambaku* and there is also the question of *gutka*. Both these are de-merit goods. If I extend concessions, firstly remove it from cigarettes and extend it to them being de-merit, I will complicate a legal situation. You please leave it with me. I am fully seized of this issue. I will examine the complicated legal and other aspects and I assure you in this regard. It is because these people stayed back and they did not leave Assam or the North-East.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: Would the hon. Minister kindly yield for a minute?

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Yes, certainly.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: Sir, some 1,700 engineers are appointed by various industries not only in the pan masala industry but other industries. SONY has gone there. GODREJ has gone there. They have also opened their units there. This package was declared by the hon. Prime Minister in Shillong. He reiterated that the gas cracker plant and Numaligarh Refinery will also get the benefit.

Considering this, even if you do not say about it just now, you reconsider the issue. I would request you not to create a situation wherein further troubles arise in the already troubled States. You must consider that peace has been brought in Assam and other Areas. Considering this, as you said, you are a part and parcel of it. I told that you were very much involved in the agitation. I know that you were there. I met you in various places. You kindly consider it from humanitarian point of view and job-oriented point of view.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: I wish to assure you that.
...(Interruptions)

SHRI K.A. SANGTAM (NAGALAND): Sir, I associate with my colleague. ...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SHYAM BIHARI MISHRA (BILHAUR): Sir, the blankets manufactured from Saudi yarn and which cost from Rs. 30 to Rs. 150/Sq. mtr. enjoy exemption from excise duty till now. These blankets, costing Rs. 70 to Rs. 150 per blanket, are used by the poor. Excise duty has been imposed on this also. We have demanded to exempt this. My second demand is that the concession of Rs. 25 lakh given to the powerloom and readymade garments be raised to Rs. 50 lakh.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: It has already been discussed.
...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI K.A. SANGTAM: Sir, through you, I just wanted to make one thing straight regarding this cigarette company, which has come with finished products manufactured from outside and which took the advantage of tax holiday and excise duty exemption. That is the scene as far as this business is concerned. But those industries, which are giving jobs, labour and employment to the people and which have been already set up there and have been lured into the North-East region, should not be punished. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Sir, I wish to answer that. No industry other than tobacco in the North-East region or Assam is affected by it. What you are now asking about tobacco is to make an exception for chewing tobacco and gutka. Leave the matter with me. I will consider it fully. I will try and find a suitable legal answer for this purpose.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, how much more time will you take? Are you completing now? There are several amendments also.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Sir, I will take just two minutes.
...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Hon'ble Minister has yet to speak about MPLAD. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You ask the question after the hon'ble Minister's speech is over.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Let the Minister complete his reply. Thereafter, you can ask clarifications. Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: There was another suggestion here from some Members regarding electrification of Dibrugarh-Guwahati railway line. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KOLUR BASAVANAGOUD (BELLARY): What about MPLAD Scheme? ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: On Dibrugarh-Guwahati railway line electrification, I have a very generous offer that you will name it after me. ...*(Interruptions)* Sir, if the Railway Ministry were to make such a recommendations, we will fully support it. Rather, I will only be naming it after me, Sir. ...*(Interruptions)*

I have no more to say in this regard. With these words, I commend that the Finance Bill be passed.

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU: Mr. Speaker, Sir. I am appreciating the hon. Finance Minister because he has given a lot of concessions to the needy sections. Even from my Party side, from the beginning, I am requesting the Prime Minister, Finance Minister and Deputy Prime Minister that you are taking cognisance of all the sections, but 17 States are facing drought. The poor farmers lost crops due to drought. We are asking for waiver of interest on *kharif* loans. Whatever *kharif* loans were extended to the farmers and those farmers who lost crop due to drought only, for them, we are asking exemption, waiver of interest. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: The point is that you cannot give a speech at this stage.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU: Only 20 per cent concession has been given by the Finance Minister, whereas the farmers in the whole country, who lost their crops due to drought, are awaiting an answer from the Finance Minister. I have received so many letters from the farming community, and they are all waiting for an answer. I am not requesting that it should be given to all the farmers; I am only requesting that it should be given to those farmers who lost their crops due to drought.

MR. SPEAKER: Your question has been heard by the Minister, now let him reply to that.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: I wish to answer this question. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRAKASH PARANJPE (THANE): I am going to sit on a hunger strike in the Well of the House, if the amount under the MPLADS is not increased. I have to face 28 lakh people in my constituency. For the last six years, I am making this request. If they are not going to accept my request, I am

going to sit on hunger strike in the Well of the House right now. I have decided to do that. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Paranjpe, please do not come to the Well of the House. You should not do anything of that sort.

13.41 hrs.

(At this stage, Shri Prakash Paranjpe came and sat on the floor near the Table.)

MR. SPEAKER: Please go back to your seat. Please take him back.

13.41½ hrs.

(At this stage, Shri Prakash Paranjpe went back to his seat.)

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI SHIVAJI MANE: People demand money from us, so you better discontinue the MPLAD scheme. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRAKASH PARANJPE: You do not listen to our demands.

[English]

The Ministers want our votes to sit in their chairs, but they do not want to listen to our genuine demands. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Khaire, a question has been asked and let its answer come. I will let you ask question after that, take your seat right now.

SHRI SHIVAJI MANE: People ask money from us when we go to our constituency. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Shivaji Mane, take your seat. I am on my legs,

[English]

Shri Raj Babbar, please sit down.

[Translation]

What is all this, please sit down. Is this the way? This cannot be allowed. Shri Ramdas ji, you also sit down.

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Sir, you also need MPLAD.

MR. SPEAKER: A very important question regarding drought affected areas has been asked, let it be answered. Have you any concern for the farmers or not? Let it be answered first and then ask other questions. I have told you to ask question later. Why do you rise again and again? Shri Ramdas ji, you do not have any concern for the farmers? You please sit down.

[English]

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: I wish to answer the point raised by hon. K. Yerranna. This is an important point. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: The whole country is facing drought, people are suffering. Let him reply.

[English]

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: This is an important point, which is drought-related. It concerns the loans taken by the farming community across 14 states of the Union. I am given to understand that the Governor of the Reserve Bank of India has already announced that this interest shall be waived. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY (KHAMMAM): Is it fully waived or is only 20 per cent waived? ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down.

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Please come to Maharashtra. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Minister has not completed his reply yet, please listen to him.

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: There is drought in Maharashtra also. Maharashtra is also among 14 states.

[English]

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Let us listen to what he has to say. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Khaire, please ask your question. Mr. Minister, he is on another question.

[Translation]

SHRI NARESH PUGLIA (CHANDRAPUR): There are Congress Governments in Maharashtra, Rajasthan and

Madhya Pradesh and you are deliberately doing unjust by not giving funds to these states. Fund is not being given for the supply of ration in drought affected areas of Congress ruled states. They are making mockery of state governments. This is a step-motherly treatment. The centre should treat all the states equal. You tell us about Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, I have asked Shri Khaire to ask question.

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: I have three issues. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: I make everything clear to you, you speak thereafter. Some issues are related to hon. Members. ...*(Interruptions)* Now hon. Members are asking for Rs. 500 crores. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Mr. Minister, please provide Rs. 500 crore to Maharashtra. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, there are two different issues. Firstly, the hon. Members have demanded that the interest should not be charged. I want to tell them that the Governor of Reserve Bank of India has made an announcement in this regard. I want to assure them that it is the announcement of the Prime Minister. Now it depends upon us how we do it. You leave it to us. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: How much?

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: The total interest. As to how it is done, please leave it to me. I assure you that the interest will not be charged in such States which are drought-affected. Leave the methodology to me because I have to go to the next point now. The other point raised is that Maharashtra should also be included. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

Please listen. I want to say that the Minister of Finance has to do a lot of work. It is not in my jurisdiction to announce whether a state is drought affected or not. There is a procedure for it. After completing that procedure the Government of Maharashtra. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI NARESH PUGLIA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, in Rajasthan, Maharashtra etc. Wherever there is a Congress Government, the visiting central team has done injustice with them. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Please Let the Minister speak.

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I had stated in my speech that Maharashtra should be declared a drought affected area. Just now, the Minister has told that he will decide the matter on the action taken by the Government of Maharashtra in this regard. The Government of Maharashtra has. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please ask your question.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: It is my request that the name of Maharashtra should also figure in the list of drought affected states. Secondly, Mumbai is the economical Capital of the country. You know it because you have been the Mayor and the Chief Minister of Mumbai and now you are the speaker also. Even though Mumbai contributes 44% revenue, adequate funds are not provided by the Central Government there. I demand from you to declare the policy formulated under the guidance of Shiv Sena for the people migrating to Mumbai from other places so that Mumbai could be developed better. Along with it, I also demand that more funds should be allocated to Mumbai.

My third demand is about increasing MPLAD funds. One of our hon. Members spoke about MPLAD for which he had come here to visit on fast. Before this he also had spoken at the time of budget speech. Now new delimitation is not going to be done. ...*(Interruptions)* I want to request that whereas declaration has been made on T.V. in this regard but you withheld it. I request you to increase the funds of MPLAD from two crores to three crores. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: First of all let me clear it. Some hon. Members have strongly demanded that Maharashtra should be declared a drought affected region. I want to submit that it comes under the jurisdiction of the State Government to declare an area as drought affected and it is not my jurisdiction in any way. If the State Government declares it how can I deny that? It is under the jurisdiction of the respective Government. ...*(Interruptions)* If you want to speak something, please speak. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I now go to the Motion for Consideration.

...*(Interruptions)*

13.49 hrs.

(As this stage, Shri Prakash Paranjpe came and sat on the floor near the Table.)

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Bill to give effect to the financial proposals of the Central Government for the financial year 2003-2004, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Mr. Minister is about to reply about MPLAD. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, would you like to reply to the question on MPLAD that has been raised by the hon. Members?

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I am asking the hon. Minister whether he would like to respond to the question on MPLADS because it was raised by several Members.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL (LATUR): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am not going to speak anything about MPLAD. ...*(Interruptions)*

So far as the drought is concerned, there is drought in Maharashtra. There should not be any delay in declaring whether it is drought or not and while making this declaration, the focus should not be on availability of huge resources with Maharashtra thereby concluding that the state does not need any assistance. This mindset should be avoided. This is what I want to say and nothing more than this. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: He is not talking about MPLAD. Later on it is not going to be materialised. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHIVAJI MANE: The Government should discontinue with MPLAD scheme. It is not required here. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, would

you allow me to ask a question? ...*(Interruptions)* Many things have been said about the middle-class, the rich, the industry and the firm owners. But not a single word has been uttered about the working class and the peasantry. ...*(Interruptions)*

13.52 hrs.

(At this stage, Shri Prakash Paranjpe went back to his seat.)

Clause-by-Clause Consideration

MR. SPEAKER: The House shall now take up clause-by-clause consideration of the Bill.

The question is:

"That clause 2 to 4 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 2 to 4 were added to the Bill.

Clause 5 Amendment of Section 9

Amendment made:

Page 4, --

for lines 45 to 49 substitute -

"Provided further that where such broker, general commission agent or any other agent works mainly or wholly on behalf of a non-resident (hereafter in this proviso referred to as the principal non-resident) or on behalf of such non-resident and other non-residents which are controlled by the principal non-resident or have a controlling interest in the principal non-resident or are subject to the same common control as the principal non-resident, he shall not be deemed to be a broker, general commission agent or an agent of an independent status.

Explanation 3. - Where a business is carried on in India through a person referred to in clause (a) or clause (b) or clause (c) of Explanation 2, only so much of income as is attributable to the operations carried out in India shall be deemed to accrue or arise in India." (15)

(Shri Jaswant Singh)

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That clause 5, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 5, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clause 6 Amendment of Section 10

Amendment made:

Page 5, line 8, --

for "an insurance policy in respect of which the premium paid in" substitute "an insurance policy issue on or after the 1st day of April, 2003 in respect of which the premium payable for" (16)

Page 5, --

after line 27, insert -

'(ea) in clause (23C), in the ninth proviso, for the figures "2003", the figures "2004" shall be substituted and shall be deemed to have been substituted with effect from the 1st day of February, 2001;' (17)

Page 6, --

for lines 36 to 38, substitute -

'(36) any income arising from the transfer of a long-term capital asset, being an eligible equity share in a company purchased on or after the 1st day of March, 2003 and before the 1st day of March, 2004 and held for a period of twelve months or more.

Explanation.- For the purposes of this clause, "eligible equity share" means,--

- (i) any equity share in a company being a consistent of BSE-500 Index of the Stock Exchange, Mumbai as on the 1st day of March, 2003 and the transactions of purchase and sale of such equity share are entered into on a recognised stock exchange in India;
- (ii) any equity share in a company allotted through a public issue on or after the 1st day of March, 2003 and listed in a recognised stock exchange in India before the 1st day of March, 2004 and the transaction of sale of such share is entered into on a recognised stock exchange in India.'. (18)

(Shri Jaswant Singh)

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That clause 6 as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 6, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clause 7 Amendment of Section 10A

Amendments made:

19. Page 6, --

Page 6, for lines 40 and 41, substitute-

'(a) for sub-section (1A), the following sub-sections shall be substituted with effect from the 1st day of April, 2004, namely:-

"(1A) Notwithstanding anything contained in sub-section (1), the deduction, in computing the total income of an undertaking, which begins to manufacture or produce articles or things or computer software during the previous year relevant to any assessment year commencing on or after the 1st day of April, 2003, in any special economic zone, shall be:-

- (i) hundred per cent. of profits and gains derived from the export of such articles or things or computer software for a period of five consecutive assessment years beginning with the assessment year relevant to the previous year in which the undertaking begins to manufacture or produce such articles or things or computer software, as the case may be, and thereafter, fifty per cent. of such profits and gains for further two consecutive assessment years, and thereafter;
- (ii) for the next three consecutive assessment years, so much of the amount not exceeding fifty per cent. of the profits as is debited to the profit and loss account of the previous year in respect of which the deduction is to be allowed and credited to a reserve account (to be called the "Special Economic Zone Re-investment Allowance Reserve Account") to be created and utilised for the purposes of the business of the assessee in the manner laid down in sub-section (1B).

(1B) The deduction under clause (ii) of sub-section (1A) shall be allowed only if the following conditions are fulfilled, namely:-

- (a) the amount credited to the Special Economic Zone Re-investment Allowance Reserve Account is to be utilised-
- (i) for the purpose of acquiring new machinery

or plant which is first put to use before the expiry of a period of three years next following the previous year in which the reserve was created; and

- (ii) until the acquisition of new machinery or plant as aforesaid, for the purpose of the business of the undertaking other than for distribution by way of dividends or profits or for remittance outside India as profits or for the creation of any asset outside India;
- (b) the particulars, as may be prescribed in this behalf, have been furnished by the assessee in respect of new machinery or plant along with the return of income for the assessment year relevant to the previous year in which such plant or machinery was first put to use.

(1C) Where any amount credited to the Special Economic Zone Re-investment Allowance Reserve Account under clause (ii) of sub-section (1A),-

- (a) has been utilised for any purpose other than those referred to in sub-section (1B), the amount so utilised; or
- (b) has not been utilised before the expiry of the period specified in sub-clause (i) of clause (a) of sub-section (1B), the amount not so utilised, shall be deemed to be the profits,-
 - (i) in a case referred to in clause (a), in the year in which the amount was so utilised; or
 - (ii) in a case referred to in clause (b), in the year immediately following the period of three years specified in sub-clause (i) of clause (a) of sub-section (1B), and shall be charged to tax accordingly."}

(ab) in sub-section (4), for the word, brackets and figure "sub-section (1)", the words, brackets, figures and letter "sub-section (1) and (1A)" shall be substituted;

20 Page 6, after line 43, insert-

'(ba) in sub-section (6),-

- (A) in clause (i), after the words "relevant assessment years", the words, figures and letters "ending before the 1st day of April, 2001" shall be inserted

and shall be deemed to have been inserted with effect from the 1st day of April, 2001;

- (B) in clause (ii), after the words "relevant assessment years", the words, figures and letters "ending before the 1st day of April, 2001" shall be inserted and shall be deemed to have been inserted with effect from the 1st day of April, 2001.

(Shri Jaswant Singh)

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That clause 7, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 7, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clause 8 Amendment of Section 10B

Amendment made:

21. Page 7, -

for line 7 to 21, substitute-

8. In section 10B of the Income-tax Act,-

(a) in sub-section (6), with effect from the 1st day of April, 2001,-

(A) in clause (i), after the words "relevant assessment years", the words, figures and letters "ending before the 1st day of April, 2001" shall be inserted and shall be deemed to have been inserted;

(B) in clause (ii), after the words "relevant assessment years", the words, figures and letters "ending before the 1st day of April, 2001" shall be inserted and shall be deemed to have been inserted;

(b) after sub-section (7), the following sub-section shall be inserted with effect from the 1st day of April, 2004, namely-

"(7A) Where any undertaking of an Indian company which is entitled to the deduction under this section is transferred, before the expiry of the period specified in this section, to another Indian company in a scheme of amalgamation or demerger-

(a) no deduction shall be admissible under this section to the amalgamating or the demerged company for the previous year in which the amalgamation or the demerger takes place; and

(b) the provisions of this section shall, as far as may be, apply to the amalgamated or resulting company as they would have applied to the amalgamating or the demerged company if the amalgamation or the demerger had not taken place.";

(c) sub-section (9) and (9A) shall be omitted with effect from the 1st day of April, 2004;

(d) Explanation 1 shall be omitted with effect from the 1st day of April, 2004;

(e) after Explanation 3, the following Explanation shall be inserted at the end, with effect from the 1st day of April, 2004, namely:-

"Explanation 4.- For the purposes of this section, "manufacture or produce" shall be include the cutting and polishing of precious and semi-precious stones.";

(Shri Jaswant Singh)

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That clause 8, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 8, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clauses 9 and 10 were added to the Bill.

Motion Re: Suspension of Rule 80(i)

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Sir, I beg to move:

"That this House do suspend clause (i) of rule 80 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha insofar as it requires that an amendment shall be within the scope of the Bill and relevant to the subject matter of the clause to which it relates, in its application to Government amendment No.22 to the Finance Bill, 2003 and that this amendment may be allowed to be moved."

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That this House do suspend clause (i) of rule 80 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha insofar as it requires that an amendment shall be within the scope of the Bill and relevant to the subject matter of the clause to which it relates, in its application to Government amendment No.22 to the Finance Bill, 2003 and that this amendment may be allowed to be moved."

The motion was adopted.

New Clause 10A Amendment of Section 12

Amendment made:

Page 7,-

after line 31, insert-

10A. In section 12 of the Income-Tax Act, in sub-section (3), for the figures "2003", the figures "2004", shall be substituted and shall be deemed to have been substituted with effect from the 3rd day of February, 2001. (22)

(Shri Jaswant Singh)

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That New Clause 10A be added to the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

New Clause 10A was added to the Bill.

Motion Re: Suspension of Rule 80(i)

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: I beg to move:

"That this House do suspend clause (i) of rule 80 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha insofar as it requires that an amendment shall be within the scope of the Bill and relevant to the subject matter of the clause to which it relates, in its application to Government amendment No. 23 to the Finance Bill, 2003 and that this amendment may be allowed to be moved."

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That this House do suspend clause (i) of rule 80 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha insofar as it requires that an amendment shall be within the scope of the Bill and relevant to the subject matter of the clause to which it relates, in its application to Government amendment No.23 to the Finance Bill, 2003 and that this amendment may be allowed to be moved."

The motion was adopted.

New Clause 10B Amendment of Section 13A

Amendment made:

Page 7. after line 31, -- insert -

10B. In section 13A of the Income-Tax, Act after the words "Income from other sources or" the words "Capital gains or" shall be inserted and shall be deemed to have been inserted with effect from the 1st day of April, 1979. (23)

(Shri Jaswant Singh)

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That New Clause 10B be added to the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

New Clause 10B was added to the Bill.

Clauses 11 to 13 were added to the Bill.

Clause 14 Amendment of Section 33 AB

Amendment made:

Page 7 line 50,--

for "and coffee development account" substitute ", coffee development account and rubber development account". (24)

Page 8, line 4--

after "coffee" insert "or rubber" (25)

Page 8, line 8,--

after "the Coffee Board" insert "or the Rubber Board" (26)

Page 8, line 13,--

after "the Coffee Board", insert "or the Rubber Board" (27)

Page 8,--

for lines 16 to 24 substitute-

"(d) for sub-section (4) of the following sub-section shall be substituted, namely:-

(4) Notwithstanding anything contained in sub-section (3) where any amount standing to the credit of the assessee in the special account or in the Deposit Account is released during any previous year by the National Bank or withdrawn by the assessee from the Deposit Account and such amount is utilised for the purchase of" (28)

Page 8,-

after line 42, insert-

24 of 1947

'(ab) "Rubber Board" means the Rubber Board constituted under sub-section (1) of section 4 of the Rubber Board Act, 1947;' (29)

(Shri Jaswant Singh)

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That clause 14, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 14, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Motion Re: Suspension of Rule 80(i)

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: I beg to move:

"That this House do suspend clause (i) of rule 80 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha insofar as it requires that an amendment shall be within the scope of the Bill and relevant to the subject matter of the clause to which it relates, in its application to Government amendment No.30 to the Finance Bill, 2003 and that this amendment may be allowed to be moved."

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That this House do suspend clause (i) of rule 80 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha insofar as it requires that an amendment shall be within the scope of the Bill and relevant to the subject matter of the clause to which it relates, in its application to Government amendment No.30 to the Finance Bill, 2003 and that this amendment may be allowed to be moved."

The motion was adopted.

New Clause 14A Amendment of Section 33AC

Amendment made:

Page 8,--

after line 42 insert--

14A. In section 33AC of the Income-Tax Act, with effect from the 1st day of April, 2004--

14A
(New)

(a) in sub-section (3), in clause (c), for the words "eight years", the words "three years" shall be substituted;

(b) after sub-section (3) and before the *Explanation*, the following sub-section shall be inserted, namely:-

"(4) Where the ship is sold or otherwise transferred (other than in any scheme of demerger) after the expiry of the period specified in clause (c) of sub-section (3) and the sale proceeds are not utilised for the purpose of acquiring a new ship within a period of one year from the end of the previous year in which such sale or transfer took place, such sale proceeds shall be deemed to be the profits of the assessment year immediately following the previous year in which the ship is sold or transferred." (30)

(Shri Jaswant Singh)

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That New Clause 14A be added to the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

New Clause 14A was added to the Bill.

Clause 15 was added to the Bill.

Clause 16 Amendment of Section 40

Amendments made:

Page 9, line 24,--

for "under Chapter XVII-B", substitute "before the expiry of the time prescribed under sub-section (1) of section 200 and in accordance with other provisions of Chapter XVII-B". (31)

Page 9, line 26--

for "XVII-B and paid", substitute "XVII-B or paid". (32)

Page 9, line 27--

for "tax has been deducted and paid", substitute "tax has been paid". (33)

Page 9,--

omit lines 28 to 31 (34)

(Shri Jaswant Singh)

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That clause 16, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 16, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clauses 17 to 24 were added to the Bill.

14.00 hrs.

Clause 25 Insertion of New Section 44 DA

Amendment made:

Page 11, line 2,--

after "the report of such audit", insert "in the prescribed form". (35)

(Shri Jaswant Singh)

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That clause 25, as amended, stand part of the Bill.

The motion was adopted.

Clause 25, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clauses 26 to 29 were added to the Bill.

Clause 30 Amendment of Section 72A

Amendment made:

Page 11,--

for lines 51 and 52, substitute-

"(i) has been engaged in the business, in which the accumulated loss occurred or depreciation remains unabsorbed, for three or more years;" (36)

(Shri Jaswant Singh)

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That clause 30, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 30, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clause 31 was added to the Bill.

Clause 32 Substitution of new section for section 80 DDB

Amendments made:

Page 13, line 25,--

for "incurred any expenditure", substitute "paid any amount". (37)

Page 13,--

for lines 30 to 32, substitute-

"the assessee shall be allowed a deduction of the amount actually paid or sum of forty thousand rupees, whichever is less, in respect of that previous year in which such amount was actually paid,". (38)

Page 13, line 40,--

for the words "expenditure incurred", substitute "amount actually paid." (39)

(Shri Jaswant Singh)

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That clause 32, as amended, stand part of the Bill.

The motion was adopted.

Clause 32, as amended, was added to the Bill.

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, what about MPLAD. I want to ask about MPLAD.

MR. SPEAKER: If hon. Minister want to reply, he can reply.

[English]

Motion Re: Suspension of Rule 80(i)

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Sir, I beg to move:

"That this House do suspend clause (i) of rule 80 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha in so far as it requires that an amendment shall be within the scope of the Bill and relevant to the subject matter of the clause to which it relates, in its application to Government amendment No.40 to the Finance Bill, 2003 and that this amendment may be allowed to be moved."

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That this House do suspend clause (i) of rule 80 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha insofar as it requires that an amendment shall be within the scope of the Bill and relevant to the subject matter of the clause to which it relates, in its application to Government amendment No.40 to the Finance Bill, 2003 and that this amendment may be allowed to be moved."

The motion was adopted.

New Clause 32A Amendment of Section 80G

Amendment made:

Page 14, after line 9, insert-

"32A. In section 80G of the Income-tax Act, 32A
in sub-section (5C) with effect from the 3rd (New)
day of February, 2001,--

- (a) In clause (iii), for the figures "2003", the figures "2004" shall be substituted and shall be deemed to have been substituted;
- (b) In clause (iv), for the figures "2003", at both the places where they occur, the figures "2004" shall be substituted and shall be deemed to have been substituted;
- (c) In clause (v), for the figures "2003", the figures "2004" shall be substituted and shall be deemed to have been substituted." (4)

(Shri Jaswant Singh)

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That New Clause 32A be added to the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

New Clause 32A was added to the Bill.

Motion Re: Suspension of Rule 80(i)

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Sir, I beg to move:

"That this House do suspend clause (i) of rule 80 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha insofar as it requires that an amendment shall be within the scope of the Bill and relevant to the subject matter of the clause to which it relates, in its application to Government amendment No.41 to the Finance Bill, 2003 and that this amendment may be allowed to be moved."

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That this House do suspend clause (i) of rule 80 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha insofar as it requires that an amendment shall be within the scope of the Bill and relevant to the subject matter of the clause to which it relates, in its application to Government amendment No.41 to the Finance Bill,

2003 and that this amendment may be allowed to be moved."

The motion was adopted.

New Clause 32B Amendment of Section 80 HHC

Amendment made:

41. Page 14,-

after line 9, insert

32B. In section 80 HHC of the Income-tax Act, with effect from the 1st day of April, 2004,-

- (a) in sub-section (4), the following proviso shall be inserted, namely:-

"Provided that in the case of an undertaking referred to in sub-section (4C), the assessee shall also furnish along with the return of income, a certificate from the undertaking in the special economic zone containing such particulars as may be prescribed, duly certified by the auditors auditing the accounts of the undertaking in the special economic zone under the provisions of this Act or under any other law for the time being in force.";

- (b) after sub-section (4B) and before the Explanation, the following sub-section shall be inserted, namely:-

"(4C) The provisions of this section shall apply to an assessee,-

- (a) for an assessment year beginning after the 31st day of March, 2004 and ending before the 1st day of April, 2005;
- (b) who owns any undertaking which manufactures or produces goods or merchandise anywhere in India (outside any special economic zone) and sells the same to any undertaking situated in a special economic zone which is eligible for deduction under section 10A and such sale shall be deemed to be export out of India for the purpose of this section.";
- (c) in the Explanation occurring at the end, after clause (d), the following clause shall be inserted, namely:-
- "(e) "special economic zone" shall have the meaning assigned to it in clause (viii) of the Explanation 2 to section 10A.";

(Shri Jaswant Singh)

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That New Clause 32B be added to the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

New Clause 32B was added to the Bill.

Clause 33 was added to the Bill.

Clause 34 Amendment of Section 80-IB

42. Page 14,-

For lines 27 to 40, substitute -

34. In section 80-IB of the Income-tax Act,-

(a) in sub-section (4), after the second proviso, the following proviso shall be inserted with effect from the 1st day of April, 2004, namely:-

"Provided also that no deduction under this sub-section shall be allowed for the assessment year beginning on the 1st day of April, 2004 or any subsequent year to any undertaking or enterprise referred to in sub-section (2) of section 80-IC.";

(b) in sub-section (8A), in clause (iii), for the figures, letters and words "1st day of April, 2003", the figures, letters and words "1st day of April, 2004" shall be substituted with effect from the 1st day of April, 2004;

(c) in sub-section (10), with effect from the 1st day of April, 2002,-

(i) in the opening portion, for the figures, letters and words "31st day of March, 2001", the figures, letters and words, "31st day of March, 2005" shall be substituted and shall be deemed to have been substituted;

(ii) in clause (a), the words, figures and letters "and completes the same before the 31st day of March, 2003" shall be omitted and shall be deemed to have been omitted;

(d) in sub-section (11), for the figures, letters and words "31st day of March, 2003", the figures, letters and words "1st day of April, 2004" shall be substituted with effect from the 1st day of April, 2004."

(Shri Jaswant Singh)

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That clause 34, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 34, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clause 35 and 36 were added to the Bill.

Motion Re: Suspension of Rule 80(i)

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Sir, I beg to move:

"That this House do suspend clause (i) of rule 80 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha insofar as it requires that an amendment shall be within the scope of the Bill and relevant to the subject matter of the clause to which it relates, in its application to Government amendment No.43 to the Finance Bill, 2003 and that this amendment may be allowed to be moved."

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That this House do suspend clause (i) of rule 80 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha insofar as it requires that an amendment shall be within the scope of the Bill and relevant to the subject matter of the clause to which it relates, in its application to Government amendment No.43 to the Finance Bill, 2003 and that this amendment may be allowed to be moved."

The motion was adopted.

New Clause 36A Insertion of new Section 80 LA

Amendment made:

43. Page 16, after line 27, insert-

36A. After section 80L of the Income-tax Act, the following section shall be inserted with effect from the 1st day of April, 2004, namely:-

"80LA. (1) Where the gross total income of an assessee,-

(i) being a scheduled bank (not being a bank incorporated by or under the laws of a country outside India);

(ii) owning an offshore banking unit in a special economic zone, includes any income referred to in sub-section (2), there shall be allowed, in

accordance with and subject to the provisions of this section, a deduction from such income, of an amount equal to-

- (a) one hundred per cent of such income for three consecutive assessment years beginning with the assessment year relevant to the previous year in which the permission, under clause (a) of sub-section (1) of section 23 of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949, was obtained, and thereafter;
10 of 1949
- (b) fifty per cent of such income for two consecutive assessment years.
- (2) The income referred to in sub-section (1) shall be the income-
- (a) from the offshore banking unit in a special economic zone;
- (b) from the business, referred to in sub-section (1) of section 6 of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949, with an undertaking located in a special economic zone or any other undertaking which develops, develops and operates or operates and maintains a special economic zone;
10 of 1949
- (c) received in convertible foreign exchange, in accordance with the regulations made under the Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999
42 of 1999
- (3) No deduction under this section shall be allowed unless the assessee furnishes along with the return of income,-
- (i) in the prescribed form, the report of an accountant as defined in the Explanation below sub-section (2) of section 288, certifying that the deduction has been correctly claimed in accordance with the provisions of this section; and
- (ii) a copy of the permission obtained under clause (a) of sub-section (1) of section 23 of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949.
10 of 1949

Explanation.- For the purpose of this section,-

- (a) "convertible foreign exchange" shall have the same meaning assigned to it in clause (a) of the Explanation

below sub-section (4C) of section 80 HHC;

- (b) "Offshore Banking Unit" means a branch of a bank in India located in the special economic zone and has obtained the permission under clause (a) of sub-section (1) of section 23 of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949;
- (c) "scheduled bank" shall have the same meaning assigned to it in clause (e) of section 2 of the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934;
2 of 1934
- (d) "special economic zone" shall have the same meaning assigned to it in clause (viii) of the Explanation 2 to section 10A."

(Shri Jaswant Singh)

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That new clause 36A be added to the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

New Clause 36A was added to the Bill.

Clauses 37 to 39 were added to the Bill.

Clause 40

Substitution of new section for Section 80 U

[Translation]

SHRI RAJO SINGH (BEGUSARA): Mr. Speaker, Sir, it was the sentiments of the House that funds under MPLADS should be increased but the Minister didn't give reply. Minister must have given reply in this regard. I am moving my amendment.

I beg to move:

Page 18, line 19 and 20-

for "seventy-five thousand rupees" (68)

substitute "one lakh rupees"

Page 18, line 39-

for "eighty percent"

substitute "fifty percent" (69)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I shall now put amendment Nos. 68 and 69 to clause 40 moved by Shri Rajo Singh to the vote of the House.

The amendments were put and negatived.

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That clause 40 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 40 was added to the Bill.

Clauses 41 and 42 were added to the Bill.

Clause 43 Amendment of Section 90

Amendment made:

Page 19, line 30,-

for "under this Act or under the corresponding law" substitute "under this Act and under the corresponding law". (44)

(Shri Jaswant Singh)

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That clause 43, as amended, stand part of the Bill.

The motion was adopted.

Clause 43, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clauses 44 to 67 were added to the Bill.

Motion Re: Suspension of Rule 80(i)

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Sir, I beg to move:

"That this House do suspend clause (i) of rule 80 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha insofar as it requires that an amendment shall be within the scope of the Bill and relevant to the subject matter of the clause to which it relates, in its application to Government amendment No.45 to the Finance Bill, 2003 and that this amendment may be allowed to be moved."

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That this House do suspend clause (i) of rule 80 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha insofar as it requires that an amendment shall be within the scope of the Bill and relevant to the subject matter of the clause to which it relates, in its application to Government amendment No.45 to the Finance Bill, 2003 and that this amendment may be allowed to be moved."

The motion was adopted.

New Clause 67A Amendment of Section 194A

Amendment made:

Page 24,-

after line 27, insert-

"67A. In section 194A of the Income-tax Act, in sub-section (3), after clause (viii) and before the Explanation, the following clause shall be inserted with effect from the 1st day of June, 2003, namely:-

"(ix) to such income credited or paid by way of interest on the compensation amount awarded by the Motor Accidents Claims Tribunal where the amount of such income or, as the case may be, the aggregate of the amounts of such income credited or paid amounts of such income credited or paid during the financial year does not exceed fifty thousand rupees." (45)

(Shri Jaswant Singh)

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That new clause 67A be added to the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

New Clause 67A was added to the Bill.

Clauses 68 to 79 were added to the Bill.

Clause 80 Amendment of Section 206 C

Amendment made:

46.

Page 26,

for lines 18 to 21, substitute-

'(b) in the Explanation below sub-section (11),-

(A) in clause (a), for sub-clauses (i) to (iii), the following sub-clauses shall be substituted, namely:-

"(i) a public sector company, or

(ii) a buyer in the retail sale of such goods obtained in pursuance of such sale;"

(B) for clause (b), the following clauses shall be substituted, namely:-

'(b) "scrap" means waste and scrap from the manufacture or mechanical working of materials which is definitely not usable as

- (viii) in tariff item 1516 20 91, for the entry in column (4), the entry "100%" shall be substituted;
- (ix) in tariff item 1516 20 99, for the entry in column (4), the entry "100%" shall be substituted;
- (x) in tariff item 1517 10 10, for the entry in column (4), the entry "100%" shall be substituted;
- (xi) in tariff item 1517 10 21, for the entry in column (4), the entry "100%" shall be substituted;
- (xii) in tariff item 1517 10 22, for the entry in column (4), the entry "100%" shall be substituted;
- (xiii) in tariff item 1517 10 29, for the entry in column (4), the entry "100%" shall be substituted;
- (xiv) in tariff item 1517 90 10, for the entry in column (4), the entry "100%" shall be substituted;
- (xv) in tariff item 1517 90 20, for the entry in column (4), the entry "100%" shall be substituted;
- (xvi) in tariff item 1517 90 30, for the entry in column (4), the entry "100%" shall be substituted;
- (xvii) in tariff item 1517 90 40, for the entry in column (4), the entry "100%" shall be substituted;
- (xviii) in tariff item 1517 90 90, for the entry in column (4), the entry "100%" shall be substituted;
- (xix) in tariff item 1518 00 11, for the entry in column (4), the entry "100%" shall be substituted;
- (xx) in tariff item 1518 00 19, for the entry in column (4), the entry "100%" shall be substituted;
- (xxi) in tariff item 1518 00 21, for the entry in column (4), the entry "100%" shall be substituted;
- (xxii) in tariff item 1518 00 29, for the entry in column (4), the entry "100%" shall be substituted;
- (xxiii) in tariff item 1518 00 31, for the entry in column (4), the entry "100%" shall be substituted;
- (xxiv) in tariff item 1518 00 39, for the entry in column (4), the entry "100%" shall be substituted;
- (xxv) in tariff item 1518 00 40, for the entry in column (4), the entry "100%" shall be substituted;

(Shri Jaswant Singh)

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That New Clause 125A be added to the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

New Clause 125A was added to the Bill.

Clauses 126 to 128 were added to the Bill.

Clause 129

Amendment of Section 4A

Amendment made:

Page 39,--

for lines 38 to 40, substitute-

"then, such goods shall be liable to confiscation and the retail sale price of such goods shall be ascertained in the prescribed manner and such price shall be deemed to be the retail sale price for the purposes of this section". (50)

(Shri Jaswant Singh)

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That clause 129, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 129, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clauses 130 to 149 were added to the Bill.

Clause 150

Modification of Act 32 of 1994

Amendments made:

(i) Page 45, line 44,--

for "shall have and shall be deemed", substitute "shall have effect and be deemed always"; (51)

Page 45, line 57,--

for "to be a person", substitute "always to have been a person".(52)

(Shri Jaswant Singh)

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That clause 150, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 150, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clause 151 Amendment of Act 32 of 1994

Amendments made:

Page 46, in line 32,--

for "maxicab", substitute "light motor vehicle"; (53)

Page 49, --

after line 42, insert-

'(61A) "light motor vehicle" means any motor vehicle constructed or adapted to carry more than six passengers, but not more than twelve passengers, excluding the driver,; (54)

Page 54, in line 6,--

for "maxicab", substitute "light motor vehicle"; (55)

Page 55, in line 20,-

for "maxicab", substitute "light motor vehicle"; (56)

Page 55, in line 29,-

for "maxicab", substitute "light motor vehicle"; 57)

(Shri Jaswant Singh)

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Sir, I beg to move:

Page 48, line 5 and 6,--

for

"with or without issuance of a certificate and includes coaching or tutorial classes but does not include pre-school coaching and training centre"

substitute

"but does not include coaching or tutorial classes by an individual or a group of individuals numbering not more than three and pre-school coaching and training centre" (1)

Page 49,--

for lines 45 to 49

substitute

'(63) "maintenance or repair" means any service

provided by any person under a maintenance contract or agreement in relation to maintenance or repair or servicing of any goods or equipment other than motor vehicles' (2)

Page 50,--

for lines 31 and 32

substitute

'(78) "photography studio or agency" means a commercial concern engaged in the business of rendering service relating to photography but does not include a self-employed individual photographer" (3)

Page 54,--

after line 50 insert--

"provided that a service shall not be taxable if its value does not exceeds rupees two hundred and where it involves a contract or agreement for maintenance or repair, the service provider is a self-employed mason, plumber, electrician, painter, mechanic or any other casual worker" (4)

[Translation]

SHRI RAJO SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move:

Page 55, line 10 and 11,-

for "eight percent"

substitute "five percent" (70)

Page 55, line 15 and 16,-

for "eight percent"

substitute "five percent" (71)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I shall now put amendment Nos. 1, 2, 3 and 4 moved by Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal and amendment Nos. 70 and 71 moved by Shri Rajo Singh to the vote of the House.

The amendments were put and negatived.

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That clause 151, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 151, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clauses 152 to 158 were added to the Bill.

by which total
income exceeds
Rs. 5,00,000 .

Clause 159 **Amendment of Second
Schedule to Act 21 of 1998**

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: I beg to move:

Page 60, line 45,-

for "One rupee and fifty paise per litre"

substitute "One rupee and ten paise per litre" (5)

MR. SPEAKER: I shall now put the amendment No.5 moved by Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal to the vote of the House.

The amendment was put and negatived.

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That clause 159 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 159 was added to the Bill.

Clauses 160 and 161 were added to the Bill.

First Schedule

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: I beg to move:

6. Page 61,-

For lines 9 to 28 substitute,- First Schedule

Rates of income-tax

- | | | |
|--|---|----|
| (1) Where the total income does not exceed Rs. 1,00,000 | Nil | |
| (2) Where the total income exceeds Rs. 1,00,000 but does not exceed Rs. 2,00,000 | 20 percent of the amount by which the total income exceeds Rs. 1,00,000 | 16 |
| (3) Where the total income exceeds Rs. 2,00,000 but does not exceed Rs. 5,00,000 | Rs. 20,000 plus 25 percent of the amount by which the total income exceeds Rs. 2,00,000 | |
| (4) Where the total income exceeds Rs. 5,00,000 | Rs. 95,000 plus 30 percent of the amount | |

7. Page 61,-

for lines 31 to 40 substitute,-

Rate of income-tax

- | | | |
|--|---|----|
| (1) Where the total income does not exceed Rs. 1,00,000 | Nil | |
| (2) Where the total income exceeds Rs. 1,00,000 but does not exceed Rs. 2,00,000 | 20 percent of the amount by which the total income exceeds Rs. 1,00,000 | 16 |
| (3) Where the total income exceeds Rs. 2,00,000 but does not exceed Rs. 5,00,000 | Rs. 20,000 plus 25 percent of the amount by which the total income exceeds Rs. 2,00,000 | |
| (4) Where the total income exceeds Rs. 5,00,000 | Rs. 95,000 plus 30 percent of the amount by which total income exceeds Rs. 5,00,000 | |

8. Page 61, line 44,-

for "35 per cent" substitute "30 per cent"

First Schedule

9. Page 62,-

for lines 9 to 11 substitute- "There shall be no surcharge on income-tax"

First Schedule

10. Page 62, line 29,-

for "40 per cent" substitute- "42 per cent"

First Schedule

11. Page 64 and 65,-

for line 53 and lines 1 to 10 respectively substitute- "There shall be no surcharge on income-tax"

First Schedule

12. Page 65,-

for lines 36 to 47 substitute- "There shall be no surcharge on income-tax"

First Schedule

- | | | | |
|---|----------------|---|--|
| 13. Page 66,-
for lines 10 to 12
substitute- "There shall
be no surcharge on
income-tax | First Schedule | (3) where the total income
exceeds Rs. Three
lakhs. | 30% of the amount by
which the total income
exceeds Rs. One lakh |
| 14. Page 66,-
for lines 46 to 48
substitute- "There shall
be no surcharge on
income-tax | First Schedule | 74. Page 61, line 44,-
for "35 per cent"
substitute "30 per cent" | The First Schedule |
| | | 75. Page 62,
omit lines 1 to 3 | The First Schedule. |
| | | 76. Page 62, line 15,-
for "35 per cent"
substitute "30 per cent" | The First Schedule |
| | | 77. Page 62, line 29,-
for "40 per cent"
substitute "42 per cent" | The First Schedule |
| | | 78. Page 62,
omit lines 30 to 33. | The First Schedule |
| | | 79. Page 64,
omit lines 52 to 53. | The First Schedule |
| | | 80. Page 65,
omit lines 11 to 10. | The First Schedule |
| | | 81. Page 66,
omit lines 9 to 12. | The First Schedule |
| | | 82. Page 66,
omit lines 17 to 19. | The First Schedule |
| | | 83. Page 66,
omit lines 24 to 27. | The First Schedule |
| | | 84. Page 66,
omit lines 45 to 48. | The First Schedule |
| | | 85. Page 73,
omit lines 45 to 47. | The First Schedule |
- SHRI RAJO SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Amendments No. 72 to 86 proposed by me are in the first schedule. These should be taken together and it will not take much time. We are opposing it.
- MR. SPEAKER: Rajo Singhji, there is no need to deliver a speech on amendments.
- SHRI RAJO SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move:
- | | | | |
|--|--|---|--|
| 72. Page 61,-
for lines 10 to 28
substitute- | The First Schedule | (1) where the total income
does not exceed one lakh | Nil |
| (2) where the total income
exceeds Rs. One lakh
but does not exceed
Rs. Three lakh | 10% of the amount by
which the total income
exceeds Rs. One
lakh. | (3) where the total income
exceeds Rs. Three
lakhs. | 30% of the amount by
which the total income
exceeds Rs. One lakh |
| 73. Page 61,-
for lines 30 to 36
substitute- In the case of Every cooperative society,-
Rates of Income Tax | The First Schedule | (1) where the total income
does not exceed Rs. one
lakh | Nil |
| (2) where the total income
exceeds Rs. One lakh
but does not exceed
Rs. Three lakh | 10% of the amount by
which the total income
exceeds Rs. One
lakh. | | |

86. Page 74,

omit line 2.

The First Schedule

SHRI RAJO SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, we have majority on amendments No. 85 and 86. You may have division on it in the House.

MR. SPEAKER: Rajo Singhji, do you want division on it.

SHRI RAJO SINGH: No, Sir.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I shall now put amendment Nos. 6 to 14 moved by Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal and also amendment Nos. 72 to 86 moved by Shri Rajo Singh to the vote of the House.

The amendments were put and negatived.

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the First Schedule stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

The First Schedule was added to the Bill.

The Second Schedule, the Third Schedule and the Fourth Schedule were added to the Bill.

Fifth Schedule

Amendment made:

Page 73, in line 8,--

for "the First Schedule", substitute "the said First Schedule". (58)

(Shri Jaswant Singh)

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Fifth Schedule, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

The Fifth Schedule, as amended, was added to the Bill.

The Sixth Schedule, the Seventh Schedule, the Eighth Schedule and the Ninth Schedule were added to the Bill.

Tenth Schedule

Amendment made:

59.

Page 80, after line 15, insert-

Tenth Schedule

"(2A) in Chapter 24,-

- (i) in sub-heading No. 2401.90, for the entry in column (4), the entry "26%" shall be substituted;
- (ii) in sub-heading No. 2403.11, for the entry in column (4), the entry "Rs. 115 per thousand" shall be substituted;
- (iii) in sub-heading No. 2403.12, for the entry in column (4), the entry "Rs. 390 per thousand" shall be substituted;
- (iv) in sub-heading No. 2403.13, for the entry in column (4), the entry "Rs. 580 per thousand" shall be substituted;
- (v) in sub-heading No. 2403.14, for the entry in column (4), the entry "Rs. 945 per thousand" shall be substituted;
- (vi) in sub-heading No. 2403.15, for the entry in column (4), the entry "Rs. 1260 per thousand" shall be substituted;
- (vii) in sub-heading No. 2403.19, for the entry in column (4), the entry "Rs. 1545 per thousand" shall be substituted;
- (viii) in sub-heading No. 2404.10, for the entry in column (4), the entry "300%" shall be substituted;
- (ix) in sub-heading No. 2404.31, for the entry in column (4), the entry "Rs. 6 per thousand" shall be substituted;
- (x) in sub-heading No. 2404.39, for the entry in column (4), the entry "Rs. 15 per thousand" shall be substituted;
- (xi) in sub-heading No. 2404.41, for the entry in column (4), the entry "34%" shall be substituted;
- (xii) in sub-heading No. 2404.49, for the entry in column (4), the entry "34%" shall be substituted;
- (xiii) in sub-heading No. 2404.50, for the entry in column (4), the entry "34%" shall be substituted;

(xiv) in sub-heading No. 2404.99, for the entry in column (4), the entry "34%" shall be substituted;

(Shri Jaswant Singh)

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Tenth Schedule, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

The Tenth Schedule, as amended, was added to the Bill.

The Eleventh Schedule, the Twelfth Schedule, and the Thirteenth Schedule were added to the Bill.

Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the long Title were added to the Bill.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: I beg to move:

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed."

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed."

The motion was adopted.

14.29 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned for Lunch till thirty minutes past Fifteen of the Clock.

15.34 hrs.

(The Lok Sabha reassembled after lunch at thirty four minutes past fifteen of the clock)

(MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER in the Chair)

(ii) **Re: Law and Order situation in the State of Bihar and need for centre intervention**

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA (MUMBAI, NORTH-EAST): Hon'ble Deputy-Speaker, Sir, there is an atmosphere of terror in Patna since morning today. ...(Interruptions) People of R.J.D. shot dead a worker of Bhartiya Janta Party in a broad day light. ...(Interruptions)

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (SOUTH DELHI): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we have just received the news that the people of R.J.D. have shot dead former candidate of B.J.P. in Bihar. At present there is Jungle Raj in Bihar.

By using lathis all offices have been closed. People of opposition are being attacked. People are being killed. In such a situation, there is a need to intervene by the Central Government. Today, there is Jungle Raj in Bihar. Such situation was never seen in the history of Bihar.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I cannot convert this into 'Zero Hour'. I have heard Shri Vijay Kumar Malhotra because he wanted to make a submission. I cannot convert this into 'Zero Hour'.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I cannot convert this into 'Zero Hour'. Now, we will take up Calling Attention.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Calling Attention please.

[Translation]

DR. M.P. JAISWAL (BETTIAH): Shri Satya Narayana Singh Yadav was a candidate of Bhartiya Janta Party there. He has been Killed today in the morning. ...(Interruptions) Please listen to me.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Dr. Madan Prasad Jaiswal, he wanted to make a submission and I gave him a chance. Now, we will take up Calling Attention. He has already made his submission.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, we have a notice in this regard. ...(Interruptions)

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (AJMER): To shoot a person in a broad day light in front of a House is a serious offence. People of Congress are encouraging such goondaism and people of Congress are extending their support to the party which is spreading such a goondaism. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs may lay the Report of the Business Advisory Committee on the Table.

15.37 hrs.

BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Fiftieth Report

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I lay on the Table Fiftieth Report of the Business Advisory Committee.

15.38 hrs.

(ii) **Re: Law and Order situation in the state of Bihar and need for centre intervention-contd.**

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Now, we take up Calling Attention. Shri Madhusudan Mistry.

[Translation]

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (SOUTH DELHI): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, you should know the views of the government in this regard. You should know the reaction of the Government on the incident of Bihar.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please do not make it a discussion now.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the question which was raised by Prof. Vijay Kumar Malhotra just now. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA (MAVELIKARA): Trishul, lathi and all kinds of weapons should be banned. ...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: We are not discussing about *lathi* and *trishul*. He wanted to make a submission and I gave him a chance. If the hon. Minister wants to say something. She can say. Please co-operate now.

[Translation]

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI (SITAMARHI): Shri Satyanarayan Singh Yadav was a candidate of Bhartiya Janta Party from Bihar. He was dragged out of the car and killed in front of the house of Laloo Prasad's Samdhi'. It has created an alarming situation there. Thousands of people in Bihar are terrorised after this incident.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: He has already mentioned this.

[Translation]

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI: We want protection from you. Whether the central government is sending its team to stop such acts? ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I can not make this as 'Zero Hour'. Please.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: On the issue raised by prof. Vijay Kumar Malhotra and Shri Nawal Kishore Rai, government will have to obtain the facts from the state government. We can not give any statement here without confirming the facts by the state government. Therefore, the Union Government will call for the facts from the State Government and only then it will make a statement in the House. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record except Calling Attention.

(Interruptions)...*

SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL (PATAN): Thank you very much. I would like to remind the hon. Minister here that before taking any decision on *lathi*, RSS may be consulted because without *lathi* there cannot be a *shakha*. Now, I come to the main subject.

15.39 hrs.

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

Situation arising out of Non-payment of Minimum Wages to the labourers engaged by various State Governments under Sampurna Gramin Rozgar Yojana and steps taken by the Government in regard thereto

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: We can now take up Calling Attention. Shri Madhusudan Mistry - not present. Shri Pravin Rashtrapal.

SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL (PATAN): Sir, I call the attention of the Minister of Urban Development and Poverty Alleviation and Minister of Rural Development to the following matter of urgent public importance and request that he may make a statement thereon:

"Situation arising out of Non-payment of Minimum Wages to the labourers engaged by various State Governments under Sampurna Gramin Rozgar Yojana and steps taken by the Government in regard thereto."

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION AND MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Sampurna Gramin Rozgar Yojana (SGRY) was launched from 25th September, 2001 after merging the erstwhile ongoing Programmes of Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS) and the Jawahar Gram Samridhi Yojana (JGSY). The EAS and JGSY, however, continued to be implemented as part of the SGRY upto 31st March, 2002 with the increased allocation of funds and fresh allocation of foodgrains. The SGRY became fully operational from 1st April, 2002 and being implemented throughout the country except Delhi and Union Territory of Chandigarh.

The Programme is implemented as a Centrally Sponsored Scheme. The cash component of the programme is shared between the Centre and the States in the ratio of 75:25 whereas foodgrains are provided to the States free of cost by the Centre. The cost of transportation of foodgrains from the FCI godown to the work-site/PDS and its distribution is the responsibility of the State/UT Governments. In the case of Union Territories, the Centre provides the entire (100%) funds under the Scheme.

The main objectives of the Programme are to provide additional wage employment in all rural areas and thereby provide food security to the rural poor. Wages under the Programme are paid partly in foodgrains and partly in cash.

The SGRY has also a Special Component under which additional foodgrains are supplied to Calamity Affected States free of cost. The cash component has to be met from other Schemes.

The Minimum Wages are fixed by each State Government under the State Act. The Minimum Wages vary from State to State and from District to District within the State depending upon price index for the commodities required to maintain the subsistence level of livelihood. Under the SGRY/ Special Component, for wages, the provisions are as follows:

- Minimum wages are required to be paid by the State Governments under the SGRY both for skilled and unskilled labourers. The wages are paid partly in kind and partly in cash. Minimum 5 kgs. of foodgrains and to the maximum of 75% of the wages can be paid in kind and balance subject to minimum of 25% in cash.
- Equal wages should be paid to both men and women workers under the Programme.
- Payment of wages should be made on a fixed day in a week preferably a day before the local market day.
- In case the Executive Agencies do not pay the wages for a category of employment at the rate notified for the relevant schedule of employment under the Minimum Wage Act, the DRDAs/Zila Parishads should withhold further release of funds to the concerned Implementing Agencies and inform the appropriate authority for taking suitable action against the erring officials against the Minimum Wage Act.
- If Central Government funds that the provision of minimum wages under the SGRY are being violated by a DRDA/Zila Parishad, the Centre can also withhold the further release of funds under the Programme to the concerned districts.

As reported by the State Governments, there is no difference between the minimum wages and the wages being paid under the SGRY. In the State of Gujarat, State Government has fixed Rs. 50.00 as wages to be paid for works under the SGRY. Out of Rs. 50.00, Rs. 25.00 are paid in cash and 5 Kgs. of Wheat. Wheat is valued at Rs. 5.00 per kg. which is the BPL rate. In the drought-affected districts, the State Government is paying for scarcity relief works @ 3 kgs. of wheat and Rs. 36 as cash. However, the wheat is valued at Rs. 2.00 per kg. In order to ensure that the rates are uniform in the case of the SGRY, in Drought Affected Areas, same wages are paid for both SGRY and for scarcity relief works.

The issue of Wages under SGRY has been taken up by

the Ministry of Rural Development with the State Government of Gujarat. The State Government has been asked to restore parity of Wages for the works to be taken up under the SGRY and the Special Component at the earliest possible. A letter to this effect has also been sent to the Principal Secretary (RD) Gujarat. The State has assured that the anomaly which is the result of past practices will be resolved within 10 days and the wage structure will be reworked to ensure that the minimum wage of Rs. 60/- per day is worked out as well as 5 Kgs. of foodgrains is issued. The Government of India is committed to ensure the payment of Minimum Wages to the rural poor for the works undertaken under the SGRY and the Special Component.

SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, thank you very much. You will kindly appreciate that this is a very serious issue concerning not only the State of Gujarat but many States where drought is there.

I am extremely sorry to go on record that as far as drought is concerned, it was declared in the month of August-September in various States, but in the case of Gujarat it was delayed politically on account of elections in the month of December and the drought in Gujarat was declared as late as February. Whether there is rain or no rain, the relief work will be closed in the month of June, latest by 20th of June.

I want to inform the hon. Minister on the issue on which he has replied. He has already admitted in his reply to a Starred Question asked by me on 10th April in Lok Sabha, wherein he has stated that the minimum rate of wage in Gujarat is Rs.60; in Rajasthan it is Rs.60; in Andhra Pradesh, it is Rs.80; in Bihar, it is Rs. 58.64; and in U.P., it is Rs. 58. But in the same reply, the hon. Minister has admitted that it is in Gujarat only where as against Rs. 60 as minimum wage, only Rs. 42.50 is paid by the State Government, in violation of the Minimum Wages Act.

The Minister has further stated that the two rates are differing only in the case of Gujarat. According to the State Government, lower wage rates in the drought affected districts are fixed by the Collectors in order to provide wage employment for maximum number of people for maximum workdays while providing relief work.

The question before this august House is, can a Government exploit rural poor, who are working under SGRY and relief work at the time of drought. The hon. Minister has today informed this House that the State Government has promised him to take remedial action within ten days. But from which date these ten days will be counted has not been made clear.

As far as I am concerned, my colleague Shri

Madhusudan Mistry and I had written letters to the hon. Minister of Rural Development, to the hon. Minister of Labour, and to the Chief Secretary, Government of Gujarat for taking appropriate action against the Collector of Patan, Banaskantha, Sabarkantha, Surendra Nagar and of various other districts where minimum wage is not paid according to the State's own law. I am extremely sorry that no action is taken till date.

In that view, one of the answers of the hon. Minister is that fund will be stopped to that State if it does not implement the law. That will be again a punishment to the poor workers. Why does he not take action against the Collectors who are not implementing the State and Central laws?

In that respect, I want to ask the hon. Minister, what action the Central Government will take against the concerned Minister, against the concerned Collectors of various districts in Gujarat who are not implementing the Minimum Wages Act in the State of Gujarat.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: As per the Calling Attention Rule 197 as many as five Members can be listed, but only three are listed here and from that the first and third Members, whose names are listed, are not present. As an exception, if one or two more Members want any clarificatory questions, that also I will explore and then the hon. Minister may reply. Generally, it is not done. But as only one Member is there, therefore, I am giving him a chance as an exception. It should not be taken as precedent.

SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN (SIVAGANGA): Thank you, Deputy Speaker, Sir. Actually the RLEGP and NREP were successfully implemented during the Congress period. They gave employment to the local people. They were given minimum wages. They were also getting the foodgrains when the market price was very high. But, when this particular Programme is being implemented now by the State Governments, especially at the local level, only the contractors are benefited, not the landless people or the people who are depending on these wages. I want to know whether the Government will stress that the contract system should not be applied, it should be given only to the panchayats and panchayats should implement it. Whosoever are coming forward to register their names for getting work under these Programmes, will they be given the benefit of minimum wages, employment and also cheap foodgrains?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Prof. A.K. Premajam. There should be just one clarificatory question.

PROF. A.K. PREMAJAM (BADAGARA): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, thank you very much for giving me this opportunity.

Sir, the Sampoorna Gramin Rozgar Yojana, which had been there in existence under some other name, is actually meant for ensuring employment and also food for the very poor in the country, namely, BPL families. But, of late, it is found that contractors with all gadgets, which can finish work quickly, are engaged in this process of implementing the Programmes under Sampoorna Gramin Rozgar Yojana. That is actually very adversely affecting the BPL families. My specific question is this. I would like to know whether this has come to the notice of the Government. If so, will the Government take immediate measures to stop this practice and ensure that employment and food security go to the deserving BPL families? Thank you, Sir.

[Translation]

DR. MAHENDRA SINGH PAL (NAINITAL): Not only Gujarat, but in other states also, workers are not being paid minimum wages under this scheme. They do not get job even for 10 days in a month, instead they must be provided job at least for 15 days. I request the hon'ble Minister to kindly ensure minimum wages to the people of B.P.L. working, under this scheme. I would also like to submit that the provision may be made to ensure payment of minimum wages as per the act in all the states and they may be provided work at least for 10 to 20 days.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question pertains to minimum wages only.

SHR: HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE (MALEGAON): Food for work is a good scheme. But the food grains provided under this scheme is so much rotten that even animals can not eat it. That is why people do not come to work. Therefore, it is a necessary to improve it.

SHRI AKBOR ALI KHANDOKER (SERAMPOR): In Bengal also work is in progress under this scheme. But grain of better quality are being supplied to shops and people do not get good quality foodgrain. The rice supplied from Delhi to West Bengal under this scheme is not given to people belonging to B.P.L. I, therefore, request the hon'ble Minister to conduct an enquiry through C.B.I. or any other agency to ascertain whether the rice supplied from Delhi to West Bengal has been fully utilized and whether it was supplied to genuine and eligible people? If it is not done, the poor people of West Bengal will face great difficulties.

PROF. S.P. SINGH BAGHEL (JALESAR): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, at many places work is executed through machines instead of labourers.

[English]

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I share the concern of my dear colleague Shri Pravin Rashtupal and other senior Members of this House regarding the minimum wages.

In regard to the State of Gujarat, our Ministry has already written a letter to the Secretary, Rural Development and I also personally spoke to the hon. Chief Minister of Gujarat. They have replied back that the anomaly would be corrected within the next ten days. I think, that will satisfy Shri Pravin Rashtupal as well as the House. Such anomalies existed in the State of Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh also but now they have been corrected.

Secondly, one of the hon. Members raised the question that

[Translation]

even animals are not eating this foodgrain, is not a fact.

[English]

Why? It is because whatever foodgrains are released by the Food Corporation of India, they are released after verification from the State Government. It is the responsibility of the State Government to take the foodgrains and to give the wage component, that means the cash component. The Sampoorna Gramin Rozgar Yojana is slated to give only 10 wage days of employment per month. Therefore, it is not possible to give 15 wage days. If 10 wage days are not being given in Madhya Pradesh, the matter should be taken up with the State Government of Madhya Pradesh.

This has been one of the very good programmes in the country which is being implemented and most of the BPL families are getting succour because of the Sampoorna Gramin Rozgar Yojana.

15.57 hrs.

(I) **Re: Proposed talks between India and Pakistan-
Contd.**

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (FIROZABAD): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, in the morning by suspending question hour, we tried to raise the question as to why this House and the people of this country are being kept in the dark on the matter of proposed talk between India and Pakistan. We also want that talk should be held. But we want to know whether a cordial atmosphere have been created for talks. We started bus

service to Pakistan and held talks there. We held talks in Agra also. Until Pakistan keeps on encouraging terrorist activities and training camps are established there no talk should be held with Pakistan. The talk which is being held without taking House and the country in to confidence is not good. This House and this entire country want to know from the government as to what are those circumstances which have compelled India to hold talks with Pakistan.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Ramji Lal Sumanji, this is not Zero hour, you may raise this question tomorrow by giving notice.

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, my notice has not been considered. This is a very important issue.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Speaker has also asked you to raise this issue tomorrow.

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV (JHANSARPUR): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, this House wants to know as to what are those circumstances? Whether any indication to end terrorism or check infiltration has been noticed. In the morning when the proceedings of the House started, hon'ble Prabhunath Singh ji raised this issue. This matter is very important. Whether Prime Minister have received any indication from the Prime Minister of Pakistan to stop Cross border terrorism and infiltration. What are those circumstances and the power which are compelling India to hold talks. Agra talks proved a failure and dictator of Pakistan disclosed everything to the press which was a breach of diplomatic norms. The talk which is going to be held must have guarantee against its failure. Unless the success of the talk is guaranteed, this is meaningless. Today, the entire country is in the dark:

16.00 hrs.

India-Pakistan dialogue should take place, Pakistan is our neighbour, but unless it gives guarantee to stop cross-border-terrorism and infiltration and full compliance of diplomatic norms, dialogue can not take place. Country and House can not be kept in dark in this regard. The government must clarify the situation.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL (LATUR): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, this is a very important issue. It was discussed during discussion on demands for grants of Ministry of External Affairs. At that time we had told that there is no harm in initiating dialogue with Pakistan but it will be better if it is done with full preparation. After that Prime Minister had made a statement in this regard when he was on the visit of Kashmir. Then some steps were taken from that side, but we do not want to go into that detail. But once this House is sitting and such an important issue has come up for discussion then it is necessary to throw

light on the policy of the government thereupon. I have read in the newspaper that Mr. Prime Minister has told that he will give the statement once the need arises so. We request, through you, Sir, if the information in this regard is provided to the House either through government or by Hon'ble Prime Minister then it will be very good thing and that should be done.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (MAHARAJGANJ, BIHAR): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want to say that today itself this issue was raised in the House at 11 o'clock morning. Mr. Speaker was in the Chair then. We are not against dialogue, but we are apprehensive, whenever we tried to shake hands with Pakistan, then country had to suffer heavily in one form or other. Mr. Minister is present in the House. We want that government should respond to this situation and must apprise the Prime Minister of the feelings of the House or Prime Minister himself should express his views in the House, so that people of the country should be taken into confidence.

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): Sir, I shall apprise the Prime Minister with the feelings and requests of the House.

16.02 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The House will now take up Matters under Rule 377.

(i) **Need to expedite rural electrification work in Singhbhum Parliamentary Constituency, Jharkhand**

[Translation]

SHRI LAXMAN GILUWA (SINGHBHUM): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, even after 55 years of independence 90% villages of my Parliamentary constituency Singhbhum are without electricity for that reason rural and Adivassi people are unable to develop economically and socially and to irrigate fields and to set up industries is just not possible without power. Last year many Members of the Jharkhand tried to draw the attention of the Government towards unsatisfactory work of electrification. A thorough investigation need to be done by Central Government in this regard.

So, I make a request to Central Government through you, Sir, to review the work of electrification and to expedite electrification in my Parliamentary Constituency Singhbhum.

(ii) Need to allocate more funds for Banas Project with a view to solve acute drinking water problem in Jaipur, Rajasthan

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA (JAIPUR): Sir, there is acute drinking water problem in Rajasthan. All reservoirs, wells and tanks have dried up. There is very little hope of rain now. The only drinking water source of Jaipur city the dam of Ramgarh is also almost dried up and the tubewells from where water was being pumped out continuously, their water level has gone down. Jaipur, the capital of Rajasthan will face a lot of problems for availability of drinking water in near future.

Hon'ble Prime Minister had assured that drinking water will be given priority. So you are requested to allocate more funds for Banas Project to complete it.

(iii) Need to introduce a direct train between Bhusawal and Mumbai during morning time.

SHRI Y.G. MAHAJAN (JALGAON): Sir, my constituency Jalgaon is the main district of Maharashtra and many industrial units are located there. Bananas and Sugarcane are the main agricultural products here. World famous caves are situated just 50 k.m. away from Jalgaon where many foreigner as well as Indian tourists visit.

This junction/station falls under Bhusawal division of Central Railway and connects up and down trains to Mumbai, Surat, Delhi and Howrah.

Jalgaon is the district Centre and Bhusawal is the headquarter of Railway division. There is a need to introduce a direct train from Bhusawal to Mumbai. This will facilitate the public of this area.

Due to change of time of Nagpur-Dadar Sewagram Express people of this area are facing great problems because there is no train in the morning for Nasik and Mumbai.

So, I suggest that a direct train service must be introduced between Bhusawal and Bombay during morning time immediately.

(iv) Need to start a flight between Ahmedabad and Delhi during mid-day

SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY (BANASKANTHA): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, there are no flights in a day between Ahmedabad and Delhi with a long waiting list in these flights. There is no flight during mid-day and this is causing a lot of inconvenience to the businessmen and others. People have to come to Delhi via Mumbai. It is the demand of the people of

Gujarat to start a flight between Ahmedabad and Delhi during mid-day also. There are approximately 20 flights daily between Delhi and Mumbai. Some of these flights can be diverted via Ahmedabad around noon. I request to Union Government to start a flight between Ahmedabad and Delhi immediately during mid-day.

(v) Need of high-speed inter-city rail link between Bangalore-Chennai and Bangalore-Hyderabad

[English]

SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA (HASSAN): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, silicon city, Bangalore, is one of the fast growing cities in India. The railway link between Bangalore and the Capital cities of neighbouring States is not at all encouraging. The railway line between Bangalore and Chennai has not been electrified in full till today. The doubling of this line is very slow. Similarly, the railway link between Bangalore and Hyderabad is very old. It is circuitous, cumbersome and time consuming. Hyderabad, like Bangalore, is coming up very fast in developing software industry. Both of these cities are very important educational and business centres. Hence a direct railway link between these two cities is very important.

The inter-city connection between Bangalore-Hyderabad and Bangalore-Chennai will not only change the entire concept of distance and time but also revolutionise the all-round development of these cities. Apart from the relief that this would provide to passengers and in freight movement as well as higher economic benefits, it would boost the economy of the region.

I therefore urge upon the hon. Minister of Railways to take up the work of this high-speed rail transport immediately.

(vi) Need to provide adequate financial assistance for upgradation and renovation of Motibagh Railway Workshop at Nagpur, Maharashtra

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR (NAGPUR): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Motibagh Workshop at Nagpur was established as far back as 1879 and was assigned POH of narrow gauge diesel locomotives, coaches and goods stock including manufacturing coaches for narrow gauge track. However, with the adoption of uni-gauge policy, this workshop required some changes so as to make it fit for BG coach POH work, etc. This could also obviate the changes of reducing the staff drastically. Pending decision by the Government, no work is being done at the workshop and a large number of staff members are under threat of either retrenchment or transfer.

16.09 hrs.

(SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV *in the Chair*)

The reduction in staff working in this workshop for many years has created a lot of resentment amongst them. The staff has gained tremendous experience in the POH of narrow gauge diesel locomotive coaches, etc. Their expertise can extensively be utilised for augmentation of the infrastructure facilities for BG coach POH work in the Motibagh Workshop, Nagpur. The detailed proposal has already been submitted for upgradation of infrastructure from narrow gauge to broad gauge.

I would urge upon the hon. Minister of Railways to kindly consider the proposal and to make available the necessary funds for up gradation, renovation and retention of Motibagh Workshop at Nagpur for the aforesaid purpose.

(viii) Need for early sanction of Budget allocation for the State of Uttaranchal

[Translation]

DR. MAHENDRA SINGH PAL (NAINITAL): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the budgetary amount to be allocated to the state of Uttaranchal has yet not been ascertained because of that reason newly created state of Uttaranchal is facing problem in passing the budget of state. So far this State has been confined to pass votes on accounts in its budget session. I request Minister of Finance and Central Government that Central Government must go for early sanction of budget allocation for the state of Uttaranchal and the amount suggested by Planning Commission in planned budget must be sanctioned immediately so that this new state can run its schemes properly. Beside this, government had announced for some special packages to Himachal and Uttaranchal just before recently concluded elections. It had not been implemented till date. All the schemes of the state government are pending for the want of timely budget allocations. So I make a request to the government and especially to the Minister of Finance for an early sanction of budget allocation and special package for the state of Uttaranchal so that the state government can announce budget provisions for the year 2003-2004.

(viii) Need to set up LPG bottling plant at Bhagalpur, Bihar

SHRI SUBODH ROY (BHAGALPUR): The work to set up LPG bottling plant at Bhagalpur is pending since long. The land acquisition work for this purpose has already been done on the Bhagalpur-Dumka road, but due to some reasons construction work has not been started.

Keeping in view the serious problem of LPG consumers and backwardness of industrial development in Bihar after the reorganisation of the state, I demand from the government of India to set up an LPG bottling plant of any one amongst I.O.C./B.P.C./H.P.C. immediately.

(ix) Need to boost export of potatoes by purchasing the same from farmers, particularly in Agra region, U.P.

PROF. S.P. SINGH BAGHEL (JALESAR): Mr. Chairman, Sir, having faith in the public announcement by hon'ble Minister of Agriculture that this time potatoes will be exported by the Central Government after being purchased from farmers, potato growers of entire country increased their area of cultivation of potato. This resulted in over-production and due to limited capacity of cold storages and recessions in the market, potato is rotting. Dreaded diseases are spreading in the villages. Cattles are dying because of eating rotten potatoes. Potato growers are committing suicide. Hon'ble Minister of Agriculture has admitted himself that it costs Rs. 212 to produce one quintal of potatoes whereas in the market it is being sold at Rs. 100 per quintal. Thus potato growers are suffering a lot. Hon'ble Minister had given the statement that potato will be purchased in Agra division for export but in my Lok Sabha constituency at Khandauli, Sadabad, Atmadpur & Tundla potato purchase was almost nil, so there was no improvement in the condition.

So, I request the Union Government to purchase the potatoes immediately for export.

(x) Need to withdraw excise duty on readymade garments

SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV (PARBHANI): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Government has levied excise duty on readymade garments in this year's budget which has put this industry in crisis. Mostly women work in this industry. If the excise duty is levied on this industry the manufactured product will become costly. Most of the products of readymade garments industry are exported and earn valuable foreign exchange for the country. If our product becomes costly in this sector then the readymade garments of Bangladesh, Pakistan and Sri Lanka will become cheaper and thus our product will not be able to compete in the foreign market. Not only lakhs of workers, especially women, employed in this industry will be rendered jobless but the country will lose foreign exchange also.

I, therefore, through this House, appeal to the Government to understand the gravity of the situation and to make this industry free from excise duty. Government should withdraw excise duty levied on readymade garments.

(xi) Need to provide a railway halt at Karu Khirhar Nagar between Saharsa and Baijnathpur railway junction, Bihar

SHRI DINESH CHANDRA YADAV (SAHARSA): Mr. Chairman, Sir, Saharsa city in Bihar has population of about 3 lakh people and its area is 5-6 kms. There is no stoppage of trains in the eastern part of the city therefore passengers have to face much difficulty in that part of the city. When people of that area get down at Saharsa junction after 10 pm, then they have to remain at the station instead of going to their homes.

Therefore, it is requested that a railway halt should be constructed immediately by the Ministry of Railways at Karu Khirhar Nagar near polytechnic between Saharsa junction and Baijnathpur station under Samastipur Division of Eastern - Central Railway.

16.15 hrs.

CIGARETTES AND OTHER TOBACCO
PRODUCTS (PROHIBITION OF ADVERTISEMENT
AND REGULATION OF TRADE AND COMMERCE,
PRODUCTION, SUPPLY AND DISTRIBUTION)
BILL, 2003*

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): Mr. Chairman Sir, I move -

"that the Bill to prohibit the advertisement of and to provide for the regulation of trade and commerce in and production, supply and distribution of Cigarettes and other tobacco products and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration."

Mr. Chairman, Sir, being the Supreme legislature of the country, the Parliament of India passes various Bills in each session but few of them create history and are known as milestone legislation. The Bill, which I have just moved for discussion and passing in the House will also be known as one such Bill in the field of Public Health. Whenever there will be any discussion on Public Health Reforms, this Bill will be discussed as a pioneer among the Bills brought according to the Reforms. Whenever we review the disease burden in our country, we find that most of the diseases are born out of using various tobacco products. For example, cigarette smoking results in T.B. Chewing of tobacco orally in any form leads to cancer. This cancer can be of throat, cheeks, mouth

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and the tongue. These are very dangerous diseases, when we mention their names it evokes fear. While consuming these products itself is a bad thing but to glorify them through advertisement and to encourage and motivate other people for using up these products is even worse than that. Other products only make its consumer a patient while cigarette is such a product which not only make its consumer a patient but the other people near him also without any fault on their part. You do not smoke a cigarette but someone is smoking nearby you then you are forced to inhale that smoke. That smoke destroys your lungs and you are helpless to bear it.

That is why the Committee on Subordinate Legislation of Parliament had recommended in 1995 that advertisements of tobacco products should be banned by bringing a Bill. The Government discussed it and on 7th March, 2001 a Bill was introduced in the Rajya Sabha. As you are well aware that we have a system of Standing Committees wherein one gets an opportunity to see a Bill in its entirety. Thus, this Bill introduced on 7th March, 2001 was sent to the Standing Committee on 12th March, 2001. The Standing Committee submitted its recommendations to the Government in December, 2001. The Government amended the Bill after considering all those recommendations. Almost all the amendments suggested by the Committee have been accepted. One amendment was accepted after some modification and I introduced the amended Bill once again in Rajya Sabha on 9th April, 2003. It was passed unanimously by Rajya Sabha after a brief excellent and meaningful discussion.

It has three main provisions which I would like to put in the Parliament. The first provision is that there should be a complete ban on the advertisements of cigarettes and tobacco products. There should be no advertisements - neither in electronic media nor in print media. Many cigarette companies sponsor sports events. This too should not be allowed and thus there should be a complete ban on advertisement of tobacco or tobacco products. The second amendment is that till now the cigarette packets carried warning written in Hindi or English.

[English]

"Cigarette smoking is injurious to health".

[Translation]

But there are many people in the country who do not know either Hindi or English. They know only regional languages. So, the statutory warning should also be written in regional languages. Now a person who hails from Tamilnadu will read it in Tamil, from Andhra Pradesh in Telugu, from Kerala in Malayalam and from Karnataka in Kannada. Thirdly, many

[Shrimati Sushma Swaraj]

people do not know any language, therefore, it would also be shown through picture on these packets that it is harmful. This way, if anyone looks at the packet or takes tobacco product in his hand, then he will understand that it is injurious to health.

Sir, cigarettes, bidis or other tobacco products would be banned within 100 yards distance from schools after this Bill is passed so that the teenagers are not lured. Often it happens like this way that someone lures by saying just try it and enjoy, how nice it feels and since these things are available near the school, they purchase and take it. After sometime this becomes a habit. Therefore, an effort has been made to ensure that no shop selling cigarettes, bidis or other tobacco products shall be opened within at least 100 yards distance from the school. The Committee had suggested a distance of 500 yards. Had the committee's recommendation been accepted then there would be no place found even in the cities which was 500 yards away from the school. So, we have accepted that suggestion in a practical way and in place of 500 yards, we have made it 100 yards.

Sir, it has 2-3 important aspects. It was passed by Rajya Sabha on 9th April, 2003. I request all my colleagues to discuss the Bill and pass it. Thus, it will be a great stride in the direction of improvement in Public Health.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Motion moved:

"That the Bill to prohibit the advertisement of, and to provide for the regulation of trade and commerce in, and production, supply and distribution of, cigarettes and other tobacco products and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration."

[Translation]

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL (LATUR): Mr. Chairman, Sir, this is a very important Bill. This Bill has been brought for the health of children, adults, villagers, city dwellers and to keep the environment clean and also to see that the tobacco consuming habits are not encouraged through advertisement. I have no doubt that this Bill will, therefore, be welcomed and supported by the House and passed unanimously.

Sir, sometimes it is seen that we wake up late after something is said about solving major problems of the world and then we bring legislation for that. It would have been better if it could be brought earlier. It was decided during World Health Assembly in 1990 that there should be some legislation in this regard. We are making that legislation now. It would have been much better if it was made earlier or immediately after 1990.

Sir, whenever some legislation is to be made, it is necessary to see how this will affect the people of the country. If some people are going to face problems due to this legislation then it is also necessary to express our views on this aspect and these problems should be removed. There should be some provisions in the legislation itself for removing their problems, so that people of the country do not face any difficulty in achieving good objective and if they face problem or incur losses, then it is also necessary to see how that can be removed. This is what we call balancing of interest. Whenever a legislation is made and is implemented in the society, its influence and impact depend upon the interests of different people. Keeping this in view, it is necessary to do the balancing of interest through law which, in the language of jurisprudence, is called social engineering. I am looking at the legislation from that point of view. But do not take this to mean that I am opposing it. This does not mean that we are going to tell something or demand something from the Government. Please understand me, we are not going to oppose this Bill. What would be the outcome of this legislation? I believe this legislation should be made because it has become necessary but we must see who are the people who will be affected by it. Our country produces tobacco. We exported our tobacco to China, Russia and other countries also. Our tobacco is neither very good nor bad also. We have tobacco which is used in cigar and bidi, perhaps we do not have tobacco for making churut, even if it is produced, it is on a small scale.

Sir, the people engaged in this work would be affected by it. If it is estimated, the number of people engaged in it is 35 million, it means approximately three & half crore people are engaged in it. If the making of this law creates problem in their livelihood and employment I would not say that they would completely lose their employment but if it does so we shall have to keep it in mind. Six million, i.e. 60 lakh tobacco farmers, 20 million farm labourers, 440 million bidi workers and 2.2 million tendu leave pluckers are engaged in it. In addition to this, two million retail shops and petty shop traders and people working in transport etc. are engaged. If their livelihood and employment are being affected we shall have to think over it. To construct an irrigation dam is essential. If we had not constructed Bakhara Nangal dam, today we would not have become self-reliant in grains, there would not be self sufficiency in the country. When we are going to construct Bakhara Nangal dam it is our responsibility to help the persons on whose land it is being constructed in order to compensate for their loss. Similarly, when we are making disinvestment, we must think about its repercussions on the jobs of SC, ST persons. In the same way, for constructing road we need to acquire land, we have to think about that also. Some arrangement or law should be made to

compensate for the loss and if we think that we can not do it by law, the Government should assure us that it would take care of it and try to solve such problems to the best possible extent. At least this much demand we can make and I think that the Minister would not disappoint us because our demand is genuine. If you work like this your purpose will be more successful. For this your name will be written in history. The name of the hon. Member who has brought this legislation will also be written in history and this year and this House will also be remembered. In that way, I think, its purpose would be fulfilled in a better way.

Sir, I would like to urge that the Government should do the best possible for the affected people. I would be satisfied if I get the assurance that you will do the best possible.

Secondly, whatever law is made it should be implemented. Any obstacle coming in the way of its implementation should be removed. When we were studying law in college, at that time Prohibition Act used to be the most talked about issue. Prohibition Act was in force in Mumbai which was brought there by Shri Morarji Desai. As a result, boot lagging was there and Prohibition Act was not being implemented and later on that Act had to be withdrawn. Today there are very few states where this law is in force. In rest of the states, this law has been withdrawn. Therefore, the law, despite having a good objective should be implementable also. I would not say that this law is not implementable. It is implementable, but your objective to restrict or limit the urge to smoke churut, Cigarette and bidi by advertising is not implementable, I would not say that but there are certain things in it which seem to me unimplementable. Please pay some attention if you think that whatever I am saying is true. Some of my friends have given suggestions, if we accept them, you should also accept them, if not, no problem. It is even good if you accept them after holding discussion.

You have written 100 yards at one place in the Bill, it was better to write 100 meters, there would be no shop of bidi cigarette in 100 yard area from the school. Some people have given me maps, especially the people of Mumbai saying that if we measure the radius of 100 meters and keep on making a round to find out 100 meter this way the entire area of Mumbai would be covered. If the entire area is thus, restricted in big cities, it means one cannot sell these articles any where. If such law is made, some one or the other will start selling them illegally making the law unimplementable and ultimately it will also meet the fate of prohibition.

Therefore, it is essential to look into the matter and I strongly support it. I support the view that these articles should not be sold near schools and colleges but the issue of 100 meter radius should be reconsidered. It should not be sold in

the cafeteria situated in the school compounds, there is no second thought about it, but there is a large compound of the school and that compound upto the distance of 100 meter there should be no shop selling bidi, cigarette, such restriction will lead to illegal selling and smuggling of these articles and it will follow the course of gut (boot) lagging as it used to happen earlier. Therefore, it should be kept in mind whether it is practical, implementable or not? While making such law we must see whether it will strengthen our objective or weaken it. I think that the provision of 100 meter will create problem. You will have to think about it.

My Colleagues have said that closest vicinity has been mentioned. Whether closest vicinity would be provided in rules because you can change the rules whenever you want. But after making it a law, you cannot change that. For making any amendment in the law it will have to be passed in the Parliament. There is a process for that, firstly you will frame a Bill, thereafter it would be introduced, then it would be sent to the Standing Committee, then it will come here and it will take a lot of time. To withdraw it or to go ahead will also take time. You will have to think about it. My suggestion about it is that State Governments should also implement it. You make it a law that such shops should not be in the school compound but the distance of the shop from the school should be mentioned in the rules. You can change it as per the requirements of implementation. I have a third suggestion also. My colleague is talking about that he will himself speak on this Bill but he wants that I should also touch that. It is related to skull and two cross bones. It is a very dangerous thing. I think that if it is dangerous, we should tell our children that if you smoke bidi or cigarette, it shall happen. If you can convey this message in other way, you should do it, this is what I have to say. I thank you for bringing this Bill.

[English]

SHRI ANADI SAHU (BERHAMPUR, ORISSA): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I stand here in support of the Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products (Prohibition of Advertisement and Regulation of Trade and Commerce, Production, Supply and Distribution) Bill, 2003.

Sir, 400 years back, it had brought havoc to this country. About 400 years back, the Portuguese had brought tobacco to India, and now we find that like wild fire, it has spread in very nook and corner of the country - whether it is cigarette, bidi or the raw cigar with the burning point inside the mouth. In my Constituency, in Shri K. Yerrannaidu's Constituency and down South also, we would find lots of people who smoke it upside down, creating problems for the mouth. Then, lot of people chew and spit everywhere, causing pollution everywhere.

[Shri Anadi Sahu]

And, how has it come? It is because of the Portuguese who had brought it to this country.

16.36 hrs.

(DH. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA *in the Chair*)

Sir, it is a good suggestion here that we must restrict advertisement and sale in some manner. Now, as this Bill itself says, it is not prohibiting smoking as such. In this context, I would like to quote Winston Churchill, the Second World War Prime Minister of U.K., who said:

"How can I tell you that the soothing influence of tobacco upon my nervous system may not have enabled me to comfort myself with calm and courtesy in some awkward personal encounter or negotiations or carried me serenely through some critical hours of anxious waiting?"

That was his opinion.

Well, anybody can smoke in privacy. But I would suggest: 'Do not smoke in the lobby of Lok Sabha itself because the passive smokers are getting bad effects; do not smoke in the Central Hall of Parliament also.' For the hon. Members, I think, it should be one of the cautions that should be given: Do not smoke here. But every now and then, we find our good friends – there are good friends also – who go out and smoke, and talk to us. But we being passive smokers, have lots of difficulties.

Sir, when this Bill has been initiated, I think the Standing Committee on Subordinate Legislation is to be thanked for having initiated this Bill. Another man who is also to be thanked is Shri Reddy, who was a Professor of the All India Institute of Medical Sciences. He had started an NGO to educate people in this regard. When we are thinking of the legislation, we must thank that man also. For the last five to six years, he has been taking up the cudgels against the smokers, the smoking people and the advertisers and all those things. That is a good thing.

Another person who has to be complemented is Ms. Betty Bullock, a 64-year old lady who had contracted cancer because of smoking, and her lawyer had brought in a compensation claim, a law of torts against a famous producer, Philip Morris, in Los Angles. They got 28 billion dollars punitive fine. That is a deterrent which is required in any sort of legislation that you bring about.

But unfortunately, although I support it, this legislation is very short. There has been a fine of 28 billion dollars in Los Angles for the type of contents the cigarette has. Now, a cigarette has tar and nicotine. What is the content? The content

of a cigarette relating to tar and nicotine has to be indicated, and that is being done in this Bill itself. But, I doubt very much that the people would come to know of it. If anybody has smoked a bidi, and puffed or inhaled the smoke, and if he takes a *dhoti* and exhales that smoke into the *dhoti*, he will find a black stain in it. We have seen that. I do not smoke, but I have seen that thing. That stain itself creates problem in the entire respiratory system. That was the issue which was taken up by those people in Los Angles. I think that has hastened this Bill.

As per the Directive Principle of the State Policy, the State has to see that the citizens are healthy. That is the first thing. There might be some difficulties in implementing it at a later stage, but it is a good legislation. This Bill itself has some flaw, in my opinion, some flaw in the sense that clause 4 speaks of smoking in public places. It has been made compoundable in clause 21. So far as good. Smoking in the public places has to be prevented. Clause 6 relates to sale of cigarettes and tobacco products near the schools and other places. For that this punitive provision is there in clause 22. It provides two years or fine, two years of imprisonment or fine for the first instance, and for the second instance five years and fine. So, for the first instance, it could be imprisonment or fine, or both taken together. But, in the second instance, it has to be imprisonment and fine. In my humble opinion, the first instance also should have imprisonment and fine taken together. It becomes a lenient punishment in my honest opinion.

Then there is clause 24. There is no provision for subsequent offences. I would crave your indulgence to read that clause itself. I will not read the whole clause. It says:

"Punishment for sale of cigarettes or any other tobacco products in certain places or to persons below the age of 18 years."

It does not say anything about subsequent offences. That means for any offence, a person would be fined only. That should not be so. For those people who are selling to persons below the age of 18 years or those traders who are selling near the schools within 100 metre radius and all that thing, there must be punishment for second or subsequent offence of a larger magnitude. That has not been provided. As a result of which what happens? It would be only catching hold of people, punishing them Rs. 100 or Rs. 200 fine and summary disposal of cases. You catch them, take them to the Magistrate for summary disposal. Ordinarily, in summary proceedings, the Court does not take much time. *Nammukkamma!* He would say, "Yes I have smoked; or he would say Yes I have sold this thing." Within five or ten minutes, the entire case is disposed of. But, that is not a deterrent. That would not act as a deterrent.

So, for making it a deterrent punishment, I am of the opinion, that clause 24 has to be properly amended, maybe at later stage. The rules have to be made in a very good manner to ensure that persons, who are to investigate, should not be smokers. Many of the police officers are smokers. How can a person who is a smoker go and catch other persons? Naturally, if he goes and catches somebody who is selling cigarettes, gutkas, or something like that, he can as well say that "You are smoking, you have been taking things from me, how have you come to me?" It would be better that those people who catch, should not chewing a *pan* with all sorts of tobacco or gutka, or smoking and all other things in public places. That should not be a status symbol also. There are many persons who go to the parties, and they would like to smoke in their house also. I know about one of the Chairman. He used to smoke pipes. He used to say: "Before my father I do not smoke, but when I come outside, I always smoke a pipe. That gives me a lots of credibility and comfort." So, there must be some role within the rule-making powers of the Government. There must be some provision to ensure that those people who catch should not be smokers. These are the few things, I thought I should speak.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (CHIRAYINKIL):

Sir, I rise to support the Bill. The Bill, as it is, is defective in many ways, which I will deal with.

We are making a new legislation regarding smoking. We belong to the World Health Organisation. The World Health Organisation has taken a decision to take all necessary steps to prevent smoking, which is injurious to health, which spreads heart disease and cancer. It may cause oral cancer also. All these things are there. So, it is a menace to humanity. There is no doubt about it.

When we pass this legislation, I must advise the Minister to remove all the ashtrays kept in the Lobby because it is an incentive to smoke. The Minister must also remove all the ashtrays kept in the Central Hall because it is an incentive to smoke. Smoking should not be allowed within the premises of this House. Then only we will have the right to pass this legislation. We are now making a law, advising students below 18 years not to smoke. But we, as lawmakers, should observe the law strictly. I am a person who has never smoked; I have not been a smoker throughout my life.

I would advise the hon. Minister to immediately take all the steps to inform people that we are strictly following the WHO's directive. I see many friends smoking in the Lobby because ashtray is kept there; I see many friends smoking in the Central Hall because ashtray is kept there. The Minister may have to see that they are removed. There should not be any kind of smoking within the precincts of Parliament House.

I have a bitter experience. When I go for morning walk, I always come across people who smoke cigarette or beedi, etc. I will have to stop for a moment, make that man go and then, I have to proceed. I find it very difficult. Even through the Supreme Court had given a directive not to smoke in public places, it is not being implemented till date. The Government should take immediate steps to see that it is implemented.

To some extent, I must say that smoking in the presence of wife is injurious to her and it is an offence. One should not smoke in the presence of family members. They may not object to it, but they are really ruined. As family members, nobody should smoke in the presence of others - whether it is son or daughter or wife or anybody else. In the normal course, they may not object, but we must have the courage or tendency to avoid smoking in the presence of other family members.

If a man is inclined to smoking, let him do it; we cannot prevent him because there are people who are prepared to commit suicide. This is another form of suicide, indirectly. If anybody is very much inclined to smoke, let him do it, without causing obstruction or without causing nuisance to others who are present there. I would request the hon. Minister to take steps in this regard; the hon. Minister is also very much interested in seeing that steps are taken.

I will have to point out here that we belong to the World Health Organisation. It is unfair on our part to include clause 32 in the Bill. That is not proper. That is not fair on our part. It says:

"Nothing contained in this Act shall apply to any cigarette or other tobacco products or package of cigarettes or other tobacco products which is exported."

By this, you are giving a licence for people to export them.

We are a member of WHO. How can India, being a member of WHO, give a tacit consent for export of cigarette and tobacco, giving attractive advertisements showing that skull is not required. In the place of skull, you can give a photo of an attractive lady smoking cigarette and thus can export cigarette and tobacco and let others face the consequence. Is it good on our part? We belong to WHO. Can India ever allow to export cigarettes without these restrictions? Restrictions should be made applicable to the export of cigarette. Why do you give exemption? There is a provision also, which is much more interesting. It says:

"Provided that nothing in this section shall be deemed to authorise the export of any package of cigarettes or other tobacco products, not containing the specified warning and indication of nicotine and tar contents to

[Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan]

any country if the law in force in that country requires that the same or similar warning and nicotine and tar contents shall be specified on each package of cigarettes or other tobacco products."

So, if there is a law in the country where it is being exported, then this will not be taken as a tacit consent. It is immaterial whether there is a law in the foreign country prohibiting advertisements and other such things, we champion the cause of humanity. We champion the cause that humanity should be free from cancer, cardiovascular diseases and even oral cancer. India champions a human cause. So, how can it say that it can export it to other countries? It means that you are allowing people to export these diseases to other countries. Are they not human being? I request the hon. Minister, who is an ardent supporter of this Bill, to delete that section. It looks awkward, unfair, unethical and immoral to have such a provision in the law, allowing people to export tobacco and cigarette with these restrictions. It is not good. By saying that if it is an offence in other countries, the allowance given will not be taken as a tacit consent, is not correct. It is not our look out to see whether there is any law prohibiting it. We champion the cause of WHO. So, I would request that it is only just and fair and in the fitness of things that clause 32 is deleted.

Regarding the scheme of this Act, there are difficulties. There are two provisions. One is, in the matter of confiscation the dispute will go to the Civil Court and in the matter of violation of law it will go to the criminal court. If you launch a prosecution, when are you to insert a clause that confiscation will also be a part of prosecution? Why should you go to the Civil Court? When the matter is taken to the civil court, there is appeal, show cause notice, hearing and so many other procedures will have to be followed. So, taking the matter in the civil court is definitely defeating the intentions of the provisions of the statute in the matter of criminal court also there will be difficulties because there will be a confusion that these two actions are possible. So, to make the position clear, I would request the hon. Minister to frame rules in such a way without giving room for any confusion or conflict of action.

That is another matter to which I would like to draw the attention of the Minister concerned.

The scheme is also not proper. It will have to be revised in such a manner that there must be specific instructions what are the offences to be taken to civil court; what are the violations which are not to be taken to civil court; and what are the violations of the law to be tried by the criminal court. There must be distinct and separate guidelines for these actions in the rules of procedure.

In the case of prosecution, any police officer, not below

the rank of a sub-inspector or any officer of State Food or Drug Administration or any other officer, holding the equivalent rank being not below the rank of Sub-Inspector Police, authorised by the Central Government or by the State Government is authorised to make searches. I think these things will lead to our bitter experience which we had in the implementation of Prohibition Act. When Prohibition Act was implemented, so many difficulties arose and the Act itself was found to be a failure. With the result, in so many States, the Prohibition Act itself was withdrawn. Without prejudice and with the good intention of this legislation, I would request to make specific provision in the matter of taking prosecution proceedings against the offenders.

Finally, with regard to company, the person who is to be prosecuted, he should be either the Secretary or the Director of a particular company. But it may lead to difficulties as innocent persons may be involved. Prosecution will be launched against innocent persons. So, we should be abundantly clear and cautious to see that innocent people are not brought to book. In these matters when the rules are framed, there must be specific provisions to make the Act more meaningful and more effective.

In regard to distance, as pointed out by Shri Shivraj Patil, there is a difficulty. In most of the urban areas and metropolitan cities, a distance of 100 yards will be a difficulty. You will have to take this into consideration. It should not be a licence to sell cigarettes within the precincts of a college or school. I think a provision can be made in the rules also. No sale should be effected near the college or educational institutions. That must be there. But regarding the distance, there may arise some difficulty. You will have to take care of that in the statute itself or in the rules. We will have to make a distinction. That must be done.

With these words, I once again support the Bill with my full strength.

SHRI K YERRANNAIDU (SRIKAKULAM) Mr Chairman, Sir, I have gone through the Bill and I indeed appreciate the initiative of the Government in this regard. I have gone through all the clauses. I want to have clarifications from the hon. Minister on three points.

As regards employment, India is the second highest grower of tobacco in the world and employs millions of poor people. The proposed Bill has the potential of disturbing the livelihood of 35 million farmers, small traders, and workers who are depending on the tobacco industry including more than two million tribals involved in the tendu leaf cultivation and five million poor shopkeepers depending on the sales of tobacco and tobacco products for their livelihood.

16.59 hrs.

(SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA *in the Chair*)

Clause 5 provides for prohibition of sale of cigarettes or any other tobacco products to persons below 18 years of age. There is also a provision of a distance of 100 yards. It will not benefit poor people as they have established thousands and lakhs of shops.

17.00 hrs.

These people have established these shops since the time of Independence. The provisions of this Act would affect every one of these people who are engaged in this trade. I would like to know as to what the Government proposes to do to provide alternate employment to these people who are likely to become unemployed on account of the provisions of this Bill. Shri Shivraj Patil ji also mentioned about this point.

Madam, the next point is about clause 7(i) and it is about printing and pictorial warnings and declarations about nicotine contents. This would not only be impractical but also discriminatory. Even for explosive substances, say, for example petroleum products also we use such pictorial warnings and all. In order to prohibit smoking we have to educate people and have to provide more funds for publicity to bring about an awareness that cigarette smoking is injurious to health and that it affects our body and even could lead to diseases like cancer. The Governments of Haryana and Andhra Pradesh have passed the Prohibition Act in their respective States. But the ground reality is that the provisions of the Act are not practical enough to be implemented. It is very easy to pass a legislation but there are a lot of problems when it comes to implementation of the provisions of the Act. So, the provisions of these two clauses of not having shops within the vicinity of 100 yards of school premises and printing of pictorial warnings would be impractical and discriminatory.

Madam, my third point is that every State has a legislation of its own in this regard. So, before passing of this legislation, the Government should have invited the concerned Ministers of the States and could have attempted to evolve a common legislation to achieve this common objective. Now, after passing of this Central legislation, the country as a whole would be left with two legislation for the same purpose and the concerned officers would take advantage of this situation that could lead to harassment of people. So, I would like to urge upon the Government to explore the possibility of convening a meeting of the representatives of the State Governments and formulate a common legislation for prohibiting smoking and all these things.

Madam, these are my suggestions and I would like to know from the Government as to how they propose to provide alternate employment to those who are likely to become unemployed because of passing of this Bill and also how the Government proposes to take care of the interests of the tobacco growing farmers.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI RENU KUMARI (KHAGARIA): Madam Chairman, I rise to support this Bill. Today, this Bill is essential for the health of the people. Today, not only elderly people but the young women and men are becoming victim of it. As the hon. Minister told cigarette, liquor and other tobacco products invite TB, Cancer and scores of other diseases. I want that cigarette and liquor should be eliminated the way the Government is eliminating cholera, plague and polio. Had it been eliminated in that way there would not have been cancer and TB. It is necessary to root it out. I also share the concern of the other Members. It has been provided in the Bill that there should be no sale of cigarette within 100 yards of educational institutions but Government and private offices should also be included in it. Hon. Member Mr. Shivraj Patil said that it becomes a circumference of 6.5 acres. In a state like Bihar Government schools have become dysfunctional. Private schools have mushroomed there. If you approve the distance of 100 yards, I don't think it would be possible to implement it because in every house there is a private school. I would like that it should be amended.

So far as the question of giving pictorial description of bone and skull cross is concerned, I don't think it to be practical because in developed countries like America, Japan and England it is not done. If there is a bride in veil people want to see her. When the veil is unveiled, the curiosity evaporates. The mind set of today's youth is such that they would like to see the skull and the cross. They are curious to know what consequence lies ahead. Their curiosity would increase. Therefore, I want that advertisement should be written in bold letters. Many laws were made to check dowry system and child-marriage but neither of the two could be checked. Therefore, cross should be replaced by something else. 90 percent people of our country do not know what is nicotine and tar and what damage it causes. I think it is not required and even if it is required, the people in villages use Khaini, which is also called surti in place of cigarette and tobacco, they smoke tobacco through Hukka, they smoke ganja, Rich people smoke churut. They don't even know nicotine and tar. They should be made aware of it or this clause should be removed.

Madam Chairman, Sir, it is written at page No.8 of the Act that besides Cigarette, Tobacco, Bidi and Cigar (Churutt)

[Shrimati Renu Kumari]

'Pan Masala' or chewing Gum have been included. One more item 'click' is there and if this is included, the purpose of this Bill will be met.

Madam Chairman, Sir, at last, I want to say that a number of people's employment is connected with this industry and as many hon'ble Members have expressed their concern over the fact that if this industry is closed, number of people will be rendered unemployed and their families will be on the verge of starvation. Although this law is good for health and all people have also supported this but the other side of this law is that 35 million people will lose their jobs. There should be some kind of arrangement for providing employment to these people. If the Minister does not pay attention to this matter, I think that the people can resort to any crime in order to satisfy their hunger. That is why I want that there should be a provision for employment to these people otherwise the fate of this Bill will be what happened with the Bill for Prohibition. A number of agitations, were held in protest of prohibition. A number of factories were closed at that time. However, despite the above prohibition, the number of liquor factories increased and the number of people, addicted to liquor, also increased. That is my request to the Minister to provide employment to such people, only then the purpose of this Bill would be fulfilled. I rise to support this Bill.

SHRI BAL KRISHNA CHAUHAN (GHOSI): Madam Chairman, Sir, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak on the Cigarette and other Tobacco products (Prohibition of Advertisement and Regulation of trade and commerce, production supply and distribution) Bill, 2003. The hon'ble Minister has presented a very good Bill for the betterment of the health and for the progress of the people and I rise to support this Bill.

Madam Chairman, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of hon'ble Minister towards some points. In the Bill, it has been mentioned to regulate the advertisement of tobacco products or cigarette and the distance of 100 meter from colleges and schools has been fixed. In the Metro cities of the country, where the population is more, the number of colleges or schools coming under a particular area is more than that in rural area of the country. So, two norms are required to be laid down with regard to distance. If it is a case of Metro city, the distance should be 100 meters and so far as the schools and colleges in rural area are concerned, the distance should be 500 meters. Nowadays smoking cigarette has become fashion and is seen as a symbol of status. The efforts made by the Minister to stop, control and discourage smoking is praise-worthy. The rules are being formulated to regulate smoking at public places and my suggestion is that places where marriages and such other ceremonies are performed, should also be included in the definition of public places. In

these ceremonies Bidi, Cigarettes and all other tobacco products are placed in a tray and served to the invitees, this attracts the children also who end up in using them. Tobacco is such a consumable item for which you cannot stop forcibly a particular individual to not to consume but it is the responsibility of the Government to discourage it for the sake of the health of the people.

Madam Chairman, the consumption of Bidi and Tobacco in villages is more. The Bidi workers are poor people and among them mostly women and children are engaged in this work. So far as consuming tobacco is concerned, it is not only injurious for the health of people who consume it but it also affects the people who are near the smokers. 99.0% of women and children, engaged in making Bidi are found to be suffering from T.B. You should make rules for such people. You should see that the factories, where such tobacco products are manufactured, should have such facilities that the worker do not fall sick and they should be protected from such diseases. Besides, it should be the responsibility of the Government to rehabilitate the workers, if such factories are closed.

Madam Chairman, I would like to draw the attention of the House towards a point. There is a mention of 'Pan Masala' and the tobacco used for Pan but there is no mention of the 'Pan' in the Bill. The number of cases of oral cancer is increasing due to consuming 'kattha' and 'chuna' in pan. The consumption of these items is also causing cancer in throat, over tongue and cheek. The biggest drawback from consuming tobacco is that whenever we travel in any vehicle, we see people spitting out by consuming Pan or Guthaka. Due to which, lack of civic sense is on the rise. Today, in absence of any regulation, the people are indulging in such uncivilized habits everywhere. Such things should be checked. I have warned many people who are addicted to Pan eating that their coming generation may take birth as dumb due to this genes. You must have often noticed that a person consuming 'Pan' would talk either like dumb or he will keep his upward and talk indecently. Such acts should be controlled. Besides, you see the corners of most of the Government office spoiled with 'Pan spittles. You may use any kind of Paint or do white wash to those corners, the colour of the spittle will remain as it is.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Kindly conclude your speech

SHRI BAL KRISHNA CHAUHAN: Madam Chairman, I am talking about exercising a control over this act. That is why this Bill may be appropriate to regulate this act.

Madam, people should not spit on the roads like this. It should be banned. We see animals ruminating but it looks awkward when we find men chewing Pan and ruminating like animals. It is a sign of lack of manners among them. As we have specified place for smokers, where they can go and

smoke, similarly we must specify places for Pan eaters, where they can consume 'Pan' and come back after cleaning their mouth. It is seen that there is no harm to the cloths of a person consuming Pan but the clothes of other person, who is listening to him are spoiled by spittals and he does not know it. This point must also be considered from humanitarian point of view. With this, I conclude and I strongly support this Bill.

[English]

SHRI H.D. DEVE GOWDA (KANAKPURA): Madam, Chairman, the hon. Minister of Health and Parliamentary Affairs has moved this Bill which has already been passed in the Rajya Sabha. But I do not know whether this Bill is going to be implemented by anybody. I would like to ask about the sincerity and honesty of the implementing authority. The question that I would like to pose to the hon. Minister is: Could it be possible and could it be practical? If you go through various sections, you will find that ultimately it is going to destroy the very industry itself. If you think that smoking is going to cause health hazard, it is all right. Everything is going to be a hazard. I can give you 101 instances. Since the person who is sitting in the Chair is a lady and the Minister is also a lady, I can not give a number of other instances.

If you want to improve the value in the society, there are several areas where it can be done. I can debate about it, but now I do not want to go beyond this. My primary concern is about the tobacco growers. In Karnataka, there are more than 25 lakhs of people who produce one of the best varieties of tobacco in the country. It is going to be imported by countries like Russia. What is going to be the future of these people?

MADAM CHAIRMAN: There is no ban on exports.

SHRI H.D. DEVE GOWDA: Madam, I am not such an expert. So far as the implication of this Bill is concerned, you can guide us.

Who is going to determine whether somebody is of 18 years of age or not? Will that be determined by the police officer? Who is that officer who is going to determine the age of the boy? If the husband is dead and if the lady opens a small and petty shop which will be looked after by her son, that family can earn something. If that is also not there, what is the fate of the family? If the mother is paralysed and if the son, who is eight or ten years old, is going to sit on the shop selling soap, cigarettes, etc., they can earn something. If that is also not there, are you going to make alternative arrangements? Do you know how many problems are you going to face for yourself? You are under the impression that you are going to have an ideal society. That is your dream. I am not going to say much harsh words. I would only say that

it is your dream. We are already seeing that in every walk of life, including public life, values have gone down. You want to now take up this issue.

My friend, Shri Yerrannaudu, was referring to section 5 of the Bill. It says:

"No person, for any direct or indirect pecuniary benefit, shall—

- (a) display, cause to display, or permit or authorise to display any advertisement of cigarettes or any other tobacco product; or
- (b) sell or cause to sell, or permit or authorise to sell a film or video tape containing advertisement of cigarettes or any other tobacco product; or
- (c) distribute, cause to distribute, or permit or authorise to distribute"

Madam Health Minister, if you go through all these things, it will be clear. You try to impose these types of conditions through this legislation. Could it be practical while implementing the law? This will give rise to harassment. I will tell you that today you are going to give another weapon to those officers who are going to harass the people. There was a period when Shrimati Indira Gandhi was the Prime Minister. One day, she introduced the Untouchability Act. Today, political rivalries are there very much. Every village has got some factions. Unnecessarily people are harassed.

You have not heard the experience of the State Government administration; how the State Governments are functioning and how the administration is run. We are talking of Bihar etc. In every State, we are witnessing it. I do not want to elaborate on this issue particularly when I am going to speak on this Bill. But my primary concern is that ultimately it is going to destroy the very people who are depending on this crop. About 25 lakh people depend on this profession. In addition to that, there are the beedi workers. As I said earlier, if you go through the clauses, you will come to realise it. I am convinced hundred per cent that it is going to destroy not only the entire tobacco growers but also those people who depend on this particular industry, the beedi workers or even the small petty-shop owners.

Then, there is a provision about conducting the business away from a distance of 100 yards of educational institutions. I am not going to quarrel with you on this aspect. But I want to remind you one thing. I hope you have also got the experience of some people entering the temple after drinking liquor. I do not want to take this thing as a ploy to oppose this measure. We can quote a number of such instances.

[Shri H.D. Deve Gowda]

The disease of cancer has been mentioned here. But those people who have never touched beedi, cigarette, and those people who never chew tobacco or gutka are suffering from cancer. Even a ten year old child is suffering from cancer nowadays. There are so many reasons for all these things. That being so, do you want to destroy the tobacco industry? What is the alternative that you are thinking of?

Shri Chandrababu Naidu may have been very fond of the IT industry. But people are dying there. I am sorry to say this. He might have formulated some legislation in Andhra Pradesh. But, ultimately, what is going to happen to the tobacco growers and the beedi workers? In this respect, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh are the worst hit States. I will tell you that in Mangalore today, lakhs and lakhs of beedi workers are there who earn their livelihood through this industry. Can you create any alternative profession? Where is the opportunity for these people? You want to bring about an ideal society in the country. Today, people are suffering from hunger. They have no food and shelter. That being so, what is the ideal society that you are creating? We can debate this issue for hours together.

The Bill may be good. The idea may be good. But unless you create an alternative job, what will happen? What is the fate of the farmers, beedi workers, the poor people who are selling beedis, cigarettes and other things? It is not a question of conducting the business beyond the distance of hundred yards. There may be a shop at a distance of 200 or 500 yards. Due to some extraordinary circumstances, if a boy's father dies, the mother opens a shop there where a ten year old child sits and does business. As per the law, we have banned child labour. But actually, what is going on in the field? Our Labour Minister was quoting certain examples in Delhi itself while replying to the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Labour. I do not want to argue much about this now. But I am very much perturbed about the future of the tobacco growers and the small petty merchants. Where do you find an alternative job for them? You can remove a shop which is there within hundred yards. But there may be a shop at a distance of 500 yards. The owner of that shop will sell these things. Who is going to determine the age of 18 years of a boy? Is it by looking at the size or going by the horoscope or by what? What is it that you want to do? I am telling you that it is going to bring you bad name and you people are going to suffer very much. I will tell you today that you must be ready to sit this side because people will teach you a very good lesson. I am sorry to say that the Government has introduced this Bill. I may be a little bit harsh but I would tell the truth that it is going to create so much of a problem and panic. The implementing authority is going to harass the people sufficiently and the people will ultimately be going to blame you.

That is all I would like to say at this moment. You may think that as the Health Minister, you are doing a very good job by stopping cancer etc. We can debate this issue for hours together.

I only request you to give protection to those people who are dependent on this crop, the workers who are dependent on this crop. That is much more important. I also mean those people who do not own big shops but own small general grocery shops and are selling these things. Somebody may book the case saying that the person is only 16 years old. Who knows whether he is 16, 18 or 19? Why do you introduce these things here? They ultimately bring a bad name. I am sorry to say this.

Thank you very much for your kind consideration for giving me some opportunity.

[Translation]

SHRI UTTAMRAO DHIKALE (NASIK): Madam Chairman, I am grateful to you for providing me an opportunity to speak.

While sitting here I was carefully listening to what the Minister telling about the Bill. I have also heard, what our senior Member Shri Shivraj Patil was telling. But if we seriously look into the situation of the tobacco industry, then we will realise that this Bill should be considered more seriously. Hon'ble Shivraj Patil Saheb has said that so far as the production of tobacco is concerned, India is placed on the 2nd position after China. If India could capture 5% of the tobacco export market in world, we can earn rupees 5000 crore of foreign exchange yearly. India exports tobacco to the tune of rupees 903 crore which is just 4% of the total agriculture products exported. Out of the total quantity of tobacco export, 85% export comes from Cigar. In a sense, after China we are placed on the 2nd position in the field of production of tobacco.

Although, we can not promote this industry but if we can increase the export of tobacco rationally, it would be better for our country.

I have read an advertisement of Advocacy Forum for Tobacco control. I have also read the advertisement given by the farmers and workers. Day before yesterday a farmer leader had met me and said when the Bill is passed, you should oppose that Bill. I said my conscious does not allow me to oppose the Bill that is why the Bill will be passed. But after the Bill is passed at least 3-5 crores small farmers, shopkeepers and businessmen, who are connected with this industry, will be affected by it.

I do not want to take much time of the House. It's my

suggestion that before passing this Bill, kindly consider the actual position of the tobacco industry and provide relief to 3.5 crores of people, who are connected with this industry and also take measures to increase the production of tobacco. This is my request. I want to say one more thing and that is to lessen the distance of 100 meters. It would be better to do so. I support this Bill.

[English]

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL (CHANDIGARH): Madam Chairperson, this piece of legislation which aims to prohibit the advertisement of, and to provide for the regulation of trade and commerce in, and production, supply and distribution of, cigarettes and other tobacco products deserves approval and support by everyone. We are all aware of the dreadful consequences which the use of cigarettes and other tobacco products can have on people's health. To that extent, as I said, this Bill needs to be welcomed and supported. But I find one thing quite apparent in this Bill and that is the tendency of our drafters of our law today; they tend to make simple things complex. That is what I find in this Bill.

Without trying to take much time of this hon. House, I would only like to refer to some of those provisions which I feel would strengthen the spirit of the Bill and whether they should be there or should not be there and certain other provisions which could be simplified to ensure achievement of the results in much lesser time than what could otherwise be the case.

Firstly, I outrightly welcome the proposed ban on advertisements. But it is in this connection only that I would invite the hon. Minister's attention to clause 5 of the Bill which deals with prohibition of advertisements. Clause 5 (2) says:

"No person, for any direct or indirect pecuniary benefit, shall..."

Why do we have these words, "direct or indirect pecuniary benefit"? If we have an objective in mind, that is, if an advertisement is issued, if an advertisement is displayed it could entice people, it could, in a way, promote uses of these products, then why do we use these words? This will provide an escape route to someone who could otherwise be hauled up for being guilty under these provisions. Clause 5 (2) (b) says:

"No person, for any direct or indirect pecuniary benefit, shall sell or cause to sell, or permit or authorise to sell a film or video tape containing advertisement of cigarettes or any other tobacco product; or..."

Then, the proviso to this clause says:

"Provided that this sub-section shall not apply in relation to-

(a) an advertisement of cigarettes or any other tobacco product in or on a package containing cigarettes or any other tobacco product;..."

Why should we not ban the advertisement in a package? I understand that if there is a packet containing cigarettes or other tobacco products, you have got to obviously mention the contents of the packet. Why are you also promoting advertisements in the packages? What would this mean? For example, People could put calendars in those packages or some small brochures. We can say that a calendar cannot be hung on a wall, but this could be thrown around outside the shop. A person could simply say that he has taken out the packet of cigarettes, but he just did not bother to see what was there inside it and this small poster or pamphlet could be actually going around and could play some mischief.

So, if we really wish to see that the use of these products should be eliminated, not minimised, then we have to be strict and imaginative in our approach and it is in this connection that I wish to refer to what our Deputy Leader Shri Shivraj Patil referred to. We agree with the Bill, we agree with the desire to discourage smoking and, at the same time, with the passage of time, to eliminate it. If we are doing that, I would first like to ask a question. Why do we not strike at the root? Why do we say that persons do smoke? But we have to express our concern. The growth of tobacco can go on. I would like to ask: why should it go on? Why should we not ban the growth of tobacco itself? Before that, we should take care of the people who are engaged in the growth of tobacco, whether it is farmers or anyone else. We must first provide an alternative work for them, some avocation which they can carry on.

We are saying that we have to go for diversification of crops. Well, I do not really remember. I know of the thing. There was a time when opium was sold openly in the market. One day we decided to ban the sale of opium, so the production of poppy was also curtailed. Those people were given alternative jobs. Here, we must have a road map for ensuring alternative work for all the poor people across the country who are small farmers or small workers in the farms, who are engaged in this trade. We must see that they get some work. Then, simultaneously, try to see that slowly and slowly the fields are used for some other cultivation. That is what I want to say. It is absolutely essential, when I say so, that we have to discourage production. I always hasten to add that that has to be commensurate, simultaneous with the provision of some alternative work for those people, some source of income for them so that those people do not starve.

[Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal]

Having said that, I have another doubt. I appreciate and I must say again that the intention, the spirit for enacting this law is good. We are banning advertisements. But we have seen that in the case of liquor that surrogate advertisements flood the markets. All those companies who make liquor are now going in for mineral water and huge hoardings you find all across staring at you, using the same name, using the same terminology, using even those catchy slogans which they would use to lure people for the consumption of liquor. But ultimately, it is liquor promotion, though instead of liquor, it is water. So the brand goes on that way.

I do not find anything or any provision where such surrogate advertisements would be banned. Those people who are having Gutkha, Pan Masala, etc. could tomorrow talk of chewing gum produced by chewing tobacco companies, and the slogans that you will have will be suggestive in form. They will not refer to any cigarette or tobacco product. They will be suggestive in form, telling the people that "here is something for you. This is the product which you can have".

At the same time, I would like to say that you have put a condition that this specified warning has to be on the packet. You put the contents, that is nicotine and tar, on the packets, but content has to be given on each cigarette also. I understand and I think, that is required. If you do not have a warning on each cigarette—I know of many cases where people will buy one cigarette—people will not know of that. Why should that statutory warning not be provided on each piece also? When we are taking some steps, when we are concerned about something, then we have to go all out for it. There should be no half-way measures. Then you have to, with determination and commitment, take a decision which ultimately gives you some results. I do not think, this Bill will give you those results and it is in this connection that I began by saying that we have a tendency to make simple things complex. I find multiplicity of proceedings provided for under this Bill.

For a moment, kindly refer to clause 13 of this Bill. It talks of power of seizure given to any police officer not below the rank of Sub-Inspector. If he has reason to believe that somebody has advertised this or that tobacco product or for some contravention of the provisions, he can go and seize the packets or the advertisement. Now, please see clause 14 which relates to confiscation power. They say, if somebody contravenes this, his product is liable to be confiscated. I would like to be brief on these matters and I do not want to further read on that. If some product is confiscated, an option is given to the person to pay the amount equivalent to that cost and get back the goods. That is all right.

Thereafter, you say, 'if a person does not get notice for 90 days, the guilty person can get back his product'. Why

should this provision be there? This will again provide an escape route to somebody. I would say, any officer guilty of letting this matter remain in limbo for 90 days should be hauled up and there should have been a provision in this Bill that any person who directly or indirectly, connives with somebody who could be guilty of an offence under this Act, is liable to be punished, and that has to be provided under clause 18.

I will not buy the argument. Well, a person could be held guilty of abetment and, therefore, punishable under the relevant law. No, there has to be a specific provision under clause 18.

With this, I further go to this seizure clause 13. After the seizure, you have forfeiture. You are talking of trivial offences. In your way, I do not call it trivial. From the wording which you use, it sounds as if you are considering these offences to be trivial. You say, an offence can be compounded on payment of a fee of not more than Rs. 200. But, till the time it is compounded, what can be done? You have an authorised person. The person whom you authorise can detain the person and has to take him to the Magistrate. One day could pass. Ultimately, the result would be that he pays Rs.200 and the offence is compounded. Are your measures, are your responses commensurate with what you find has gone wrong? Either you say the Sub-Inspector or any person authorised by you - I will come to that argument a little later as to why you should authorise somebody to take cognisance of an offence. There could be the police and the normal course could follow. But even if you give him the right to detain the person, the person has to be taken to the Magistrate and the next day the compounding of the offence will take place. When you say that the offence is bailable, I have no objection to that. I say that is fine. But if an offence is bailable, we all know that on the first occasion immediately after arrest, the arresting officer has to release him on bail. Then how do these things get together? How do these things gel? How do these provisions sync with each other? That I have failed to make out. In this connection I would refer to the provisions contained in clauses 23, 24 and 25. I am conscious of the time. Therefore I am not wanting to dwell at length on those. But, this is the point that I want to make. At the same time, I feel that firstly, there should be no provision like authorising a person beyond your other officers in the chain who are in the police or otherwise, who are responsible or who are charged with the responsibility of taking cognisance of an offence being committed anywhere.

Then, there is provision in clause 25, sub-clause (2) and sub-clause (3) regarding the place of trial. I was reading this hurriedly. But I could not understand what this means. This is clause 25 (3) which says, 'any person committing an offence under clause 4 or clause 6 shall be triable' - but before that he has to be taken to a Magistrate. Just for the sake of

adding emphasis, I repeat. If he were to compound, the offence, if he were to pay Rs.200 immediately everything is off. But then any person detained under sub-clause (1) shall forthwith be taken before a Magistrate to be dealt with according to law. Any person committing an offence under clause 4, namely, smoking in public place, and clause 6, namely, selling in the vicinity of a school or to a child or to a person below 18 years of age, that is clause 6, if guilty of these two offences, "shall be triable for such offence in any place in which he may be or which the State Government may, by notification in this behalf, as well as any other place in which he is liable to be tried under any law for the time being in force." What does all this mean? The law should have been simple, simple for anyone to understand, simple even for a semi-literate person who was to run a small kiosk or small place where he sells pan, bidi, cigarette, masala, that he should understand what your law means. It should have been so simple. That is how you could achieve results. Here you are bringing in lawyers. You are bringing lawyers again here. Lawyers will benefit from each of these provisions. The fine or the compounding fees will be only Rs.200, but the moment a person is detained, his family members will run to a lawyer and say:

[Translation]

Sir my husband has been detained, kindly save him.

[English]

MADAM CHAIRMAN: They have to provide employment to the lawyers also.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: There are many provisions in this Bill which only lead to multiplicity of proceedings. This could have been avoided and a simple, straight law that you ban this, should have been there. In this connection, finally, I would only like to say, when I was referring to this, imports, I must demand, must also be banned. Import of any brand of cigarette or any tobacco product must be banned because that is where some of your provisions may seem to be falling on the ground.

You have made an elaborate provision and I welcome that. It is not only in English or Hindi that the warning has to be prescribed, the warning has to be given in any regional language also. How have you put it here? What you have said here is this. It is not that every warning should be in English, in Hindi and in one regional language. That could have been a simple provision for Clause 9. What you have done is, "Where the language used on the package containing cigarettes and any other tobacco product or on its label is in English, the specified warning shall be in English; where it is

in Hindi, it shall be in Hindi; where it is in English and Hindi, it shall be in both the languages; and where there is another regional language, that language has to be there." Say, a huge packet of cigarettes contains only a writing in English and then those cigarettes were to be taken out of it. As I said, they are sold in retail. Where is the question of what language is there on it? Who would see what language was there on the packet? So, that is what I say. You had to provide that the warning shall be in English, Hindi and in any one regional language. I think, something like that could have been provided. Anyway, Madam, having said that, I certainly still welcome this Bill

This was a long needed measure. Maybe the hon. Minister would take if there is any substance in the suggestions that I have made. There is a scope for amendment, for improvement on the Bill at any time. For this reason, this Bill has not to be delayed. This is a good provision but I only fear that this should not again give leverage to the so-called protectors of law who can take law in their hands and interpret law, use law, misuse law as they wish. There are certain defined people charged with the responsibility of protecting law, of administering law in this country. I fear, it would give another handle to those people to only harass and create problems for otherwise peace-loving people.

Finally, about the advertisements, there is an elaborate definition herein but there could be ways to - I find that word 'advertisement' also. They have tried to define the word 'advertisement', trying to cover all possible situations saying; which acts could be termed as an advertisement. If there were to be a feature film and the hero is flaunting his cigarette imported from abroad, now I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether that would also come under the definition of 'advertisement' or not. And if that were to come under definition, I think, it should come because I find the word 'smoke' also in the definition of 'advertisement'. It says: "any announcement made orally or by means of producing or transmitting light, sound, smoke or gas". I think, it should come under that but then that has to be very clear. Even smoking on the silver screen will be deemed to be advertising cigarettes and that also must be banned, but that must be made very clear. It should not be left to the interpretation of the person whom you authorise. And then those persons should also be non-smokers. As the hon. Members have said here, persons whom you charge with this responsibility should be people who are non-smokers. Having said that, Madam, I must again say, I welcome this Bill.

MADAM CHAIRMAN : Those who pass this Bill should also become non-smokers.

Now, Shri Kharbela Swain.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (BALASORE): Madam Chairman, I rise to support the Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products (Prohibition of Advertisement and Regulation of Trade and Commerce, Production, Supply and Distribution) Bill, 2003.

In the Human Development Index published by the WHO, we are placed at 116th. There are altogether around 191 countries in the world. India being such a huge country, such an ancient country, such a cultured country, we are placed at 116th. I think, health is one of the indicators for this Human Development Index. Why are we placed at 116th? Tobacco is one of the reasons.

This is a health hazard. I was listening with all the attention to the speech of the hon. ex-Prime Minister, Shri Deve Gowda when he was speaking. He raised mostly three major points. He asked whether this Bill is going to be implemented. He said there are 25 lakh farmers in Karnataka who produce the best quality of tobacco which is exported to countries like Russia. He also raised a point that there is police harassment. The first point that he raised was, would it be implementable. I have my objection to that point. In the past, there were so many rules prohibiting smoking. They have not been implemented. The point he raised was that 25 lakh farmers would lose their jobs. Here, I am having one point to make. I do not smoke. My point is, because somebody will live, will he kill me? Somebody will produce certain things, which I will inhale unintentionally, and thereby I will contract so many diseases. There are crores and crores of people in this country and in the world like me. What harm have I caused to them? Should they not understand the point that for their living, they are causing so much of injury to so many other people?

The hon. Member, Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal raised the point of opium. I am also raising the same point. Once upon a time and even now, opium was and is a very lucrative farming. In Pakistan, Afghanistan and in many countries, many people are producing this. It is a very lucrative profession. A country like Colombia is surviving because of the drugs only. The drug Mafia is running that country. What has been the result? The Government of the United States of America invaded Panama and arrested the President, tied him down just like a culprit, and flew him to the United States of America because Panama had become a transit point for all the drugs. It is causing harm to the youthful people of the United States of America. So, if something is really bad, why should it not be banned? The hon. Minister, who has brought the Bill, is not talking about banning it. She is only talking about preventive measures. Why should we not support it?

Here, I want to raise one or two points about tobacco. It

lowers the performance level of the shining career of a sportsmen. It can actually end in cancer. The longer a smoker smokes, the greater is the risk of irreversible damage to his health. Madam, 500 odd smokers die prematurely from tobacco related illness out of every 100 teenagers who pick up this habit. When such is the serious concern, how can the Government not address it? It has got to do it. If all those people, who were resorting to opium farming, have gradually diversified to other farming, just like that, the tobacco farmers can gradually shift their cultivating pattern. About exporting the high quality tobacco to other countries, it can continue. But can you say that if we produce it, we can only export it to other countries and we will not utilise it in our country? Will it be possible? It will not be possible.

It is very good that some preventive measures have been brought in because unrestrained promotion of this hazardous substance in any form is unreasonable and unsafe to public health. Some people say that it is an adult's choice. What is the meaning of this adult's choice? How can an adult consumer make an informed choice as long as advertisements mislead blatantly and hide the potential harms of this product? The hon. Minister said in the beginning that the promotions and advertisements glorify smoking and influence others to smoke. When this is being done, how can we say that it is an adult's choice? Many others also argue that it would reduce the revenue earning. It has never reduced revenue earning anywhere because people have shifted to alternative products, which has also raised revenues in various countries. The WHO has come out with a report that after the ban of the advertisements in several countries like Norway, Finland, New Zealand and Canada, the consumption of tobacco has been brought down by four to nine per cent within a period of fifteen years from 1977 to 1992. So, I fully support this Bill.

This Bill provides for bigger and cleaner health warnings. It also restricts the sale of tobacco products in most public places and attempts to end the legal discrimination between cigarettes and other tobacco products. In Western countries and in many other countries, tobacco use is synonymous with cigarette smoking but in India, about eighty per cent of the tobacco consumption is in the form of beedis, chewing tobacco, gutkha and things like that. Advertising of cigarettes constitutes Rs. 350 crore out of the total annual advertising business of Rs. 4,000 crore in the print media. This amounts to roughly nine per cent of the total business. But beedis, chewing tobacco and gutkha form about eighty per cent and if you put a lot of restrictions on cigarettes, it would mean that people would gradually shift to smoking beedis or chewing tobacco. So, if we really want to prevent hazardous diseases, some more restrictions should also be put on beedis and on the unorganised sector. The people involved in these

businesses would shift to other businesses once they know it is very hazardous.

I appeal to the hon. Minister to have a reconsideration of the 100-yard restriction. In the cities, it would be all right to have that restriction but in rural areas - here, I would support Shri Bal Krishna Chauhan - it should rather be increased to 500 yards. I fully agree with his contention. Do we really believe that the fine of Rs.200 is a deterrent? Probably, we develop some sort of a guilt conscience that we are going to deprive millions of people of their jobs and so we say that a fine of Rs.200 would be enough.

18.00 hrs.

I do not think that this fine of Rs. 200 is any deterrent. Many people will say that Rupees two hundred is a mere amount, let it go. It might happen.

Madam, last but not the least, I will come to one point. Many of the hon. Members raised the point about the intervention of the Police. Somebody in this country will have to intervene. If the law is not implemented, somebody will have to intervene. Who is that somebody? If you say that the Police is bad and that everything is bad, if you develop a doubt on everybody, then who will prevent it? We will make no prevention under this Bill. So, prevention is better than the cure and something is better than nothing.

With these words, I conclude.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much. Before I go further, I want to know the sense of the House. There are another ten speakers and then there is the hon. Minister's reply and then passing of the Bill. Should we sit longer or should we continue tomorrow? It is up to the House to decide.

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU: Madam, if we continue it tomorrow, it would be better.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Let us complete this discussion today itself. Let all Members speak briefly.

[English]

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Tomorrow is a holiday. But there are ten more speakers. What is the sense of the House?

SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB (CUTTACK): Madam, I feel that we should sit for a bit longer time and complete this.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: I would request the speakers to be a little brief though you have time. But the question is, we

have to otherwise sit till 9 p.m. Can we extend it by another hour now?

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Kindly extend time till its discussion is not over.

[English]

MADAM CHAIRMAN: So, you authorise me that we sit till this is passed. That is the sense of the House. Thank you Dr. V. Saroja to speak now.

DR. V. SAROJA (RASIPURAM): Hon. Chairperson, thank you very much for giving me this opportunity to speak and to make a few suggestions on this very important Bill - Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products (Prohibition, of Advertisement and Regulation of Trade and Commerce, Production, Supply and Distribution) Bill, 2003.

The World Health Organisation, in its meeting on 14th October, 2003 in Geneva, warned all the member-countries to increase the tax on the tobacco products because the cheaper tobacco products will only fuel the tobacco epidemic, further leading to more consumption, more disease and more deaths in future. According to the WHO estimation, there are 1.1 billion smokers in the world today and the number is expected to rise to 1.6 billion by 2025. About four million people die every year from tobacco use and if the current trend continues, it will escalate to the tune of ten million by early 2030 and 70 per cent of the deaths will be from the developing nations.

18.03 hrs.

(SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU in the Chair)

Sir, India is the third largest producer of tobacco in the world, next to China and the U.S. There are very important issues before us. One is the amount spent for the treatment of those patients who are suffering from consumption of tobacco and its products which is to the tune of Rs. 13,500 crore annually. The next is the deaths due to this disease which are eight lakh per year.

How are we going to contain this disease as well as what is the preventive aspect that we have? Many of our hon. Members have spoken much about the Bill before me. I would confine myself only to a few suggestions in regard to this Bill. India produces about 550 million kilograms of tobacco every year, out of which 200 million kilograms are used for cigarettes alone, and the rest is for cigarettes and tobacco-related substances.

Sir, you can appreciate the ill effects of tobacco and the

[Dr. V. Saroja]

tobacco-related products. The quantity of tar and also nicotine present in the cigarette is much less than that of other tobacco-released products. Hon. Madam, in the morning, we discussed the related diseases and also about the cardiac diseases. In most of the cases, the main causative factor is smoking only. Hon. Dr. Thakur, former Health Minister, is also here. He will appreciate the concern and our duties and responsibilities in this regard and as a policy matter, how we are going to go about containing this disease.

Sir, I am very happy to go on record that under the leadership of our dynamic leader, the hon. Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, we have passed a law imposing fine on smoking and spitting in public places. A similar legislation can be enacted by all the States and the State Governments can contribute in achieving our goal. In addition to smoking, spitting is the most dangerous habit. We have to have a law on spitting also. We have to contain spitting also. It is more dangerous than smoking is. By public places, we mean cinema, theatres, commercial offices, restaurants, bus-stand, railway station, airport and other such places.

Sir, I would like to concentrate a few seconds on the tobacco-producing agriculturists. We would like to know that after passing this piece of legislation, how we are going to go about the rehabilitation of those farmers. It is equally important to have a focussed attention on this aspect. Can I suggest one thing? In the Empowerment of Women Year 2001, we had concentrated on empowerment and allocated nearly Rs. 25,000 crore for empowerment of women. Hon. senior colleagues are here. Can I suggest that through empowerment of women and forming of self-help groups, most of the tobacco-producing agriculturists are now without any alternative crop? I fail to understand to what extent the Ministry of Agriculture has come forward to rescue these agricultural labourers. Have they suggested any alternative crop? To what extent, the tobacco-producing agricultural labourers have been rehabilitated. If we have already taken steps, I would like to know to what extent and what percentage of them has been rehabilitated.

I feel that self-help groups created as a result of empowerment of women can help in this regard. All these agriculturists' women can be grouped and we can help them through the banks, through the money we have already allocated. We can help them in having alternative crops in their own lands and for that, the local administration, the district administration, Agriculture Department of the State, the Centre and agricultural universities have to play a role of concentrating on rehabilitating these agricultural labourers through the self-help groups. We can utilise the ladies in the same self-help groups as a federation, as a movement, they will be able to take the message of ill effects of smoking and they will be

able to find a solution. A woman will be able to sensitise the smoker, be it her husband, father, brother or son. I think, women can sensitise people more than any law or any other method that we have enumerated.

I feel that this is the strongest weapon that we have before us, and without any extra expenditure to the Government we will be able to achieve the desired result. I would request the hon. Minister to kindly concentrate and kindly give her thought in this direction. I think we can have a high-powered Committee with the consent of the empowerment of women, the Agriculture Department, and also the Department of Tribal Development as to how we are to go about it. I am saying this because in our area - it is my practical experience - in one village where people used to drink and indulge in all other bad habits were stopped by the women movement.

Now, all of us know about AIDS, and we are educating, empowering these Self-Help Group ladies, and we are also sensitising them. We are giving them more inputs, and through these people we are able to achieve the desired results. We are encouraging community participation, and we are able to achieve better results. Kindly concentrate on this thing also.

I would like to draw the attention of this august House to a survey, which was conducted by the Dental Association a few years ago. I would like to present the Report. Smoking of 'hukka' has shown an alarming rise among substantial sections. It indicates that there are addicted school children and also the college students. A staggering 1/3rd of the world cancer patients are in India, out of which 90 per cent consume tobacco, and tobacco-related products. This is a serious concern. Kindly look into this. During 1990, the estimated expenditure for the tobacco-related diseases was about Rs. 13,500 crore. You can imagine that after 10-12 years, it would have increased, at least two-fold.

Last but not least, the Tobacco Industry is contributing Rs. 70 million as revenue to the exchequer, and Rs. 10,880 million as export earnings. It is providing employment to over four million people. This is also before us. We need to have a consensus. We need to have a humanitarian approach. We have to take into account the present scenario and the present economic situation. We have to curtail and ban cigarettes and also tobacco products on the one side, and rehabilitate the agricultural labours on the other side. We have to have not the law, but the right mindset. How can we achieve this? I will conclude in one minute, Sir. I would suggest that prevention is better than cure. I have no doubt in my mind that diseases like AIDS, SARS, and smoking are the reasons for the economic situation of this great nation coming down to this level.

I would suggest that health education should start from the schools. It should be included in the syllabus, at least, from the third standard. Children should be spoken to about the common diseases, and they should know it even before they become adolescent. You have to teach the children before they know what to face. They should know about tuberculosis; they should know about cigarettes, and what will be the effects of every disease so that before they could venture into experiencing them, they should, be made aware of the consequences. It will be a preventive step.

My hon. senior leaders are here. We are not discussing about the problems of adolescence. It is a very great concern that we are not forming any policy; we are not focusing our attention on the adolescents of this great country. We are totally forgetting about this group. We have to have a separate discussion, a full-fledged discussion so that the problems of the adolescents are redressed. We have to take measures, and we can find the solution for this.

Next, I would like to talk about the waste-land development. The Government of India has already formulated Self-Help Groups with waste-land development, and I think that we will be able to achieve the desired targets.

SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB (CUTTACK): Mr. Chairman, at the outset, I congratulate the hon. Minister for bringing this progressive-looking Bill to be enacted today. I hope, this House passes this Bill unanimously without any reservation. The Bill has been rightly captioned as, "Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products (Prohibition of Advertisement and Regulation of Trade and Commerce, Production, Supply and Distribution) Bill. It explains why this Bill is being placed today for the consideration of this House.

Before I deliberate on the provisions of the Bill, I would also like to mention that it becomes a bit difficult when I have to speak much later because most of the points, which I had made up my mind to speak on, would have been already dealt with by a number of Members of this House, that is, either by Shri Bansal, Shri Sahu or Shri Swain.

Initially, I would like to speak on two or three aspects. It is only a civil society which, becoming conscious about itself, does not approve the use of tobacco or does not approve of smoking. Being representatives of a civil society, it becomes our duty to have this enactment here. I would deal with advertisement and other deterrent provisions, which have been mentioned here, later on.

At the outset, I should also mention about the Supreme Court decision, which was published in The Times of India on 3rd November, 2001. We should remember that Shri Murlidhar

Deora, a Member of the Upper House of this Parliament, had engaged a very eminent Counsel, Mrs. Indira Jaisingh, in a Public Interest Litigation, which was before the Court. The Bench consisted of Justice M.B. Shah and Justice R.P. Sethi. They gave a landmark decision. Our Attorney General, Shri Soli Sorabjee, also supported the point, which was raised there. I think, through that decision, consciousness was created throughout the country. By that time, three States had already enacted laws prohibiting smoking in public places. One was Goa, another was Delhi and the third was Rajasthan. They had banned smoking in public places, when the Central Government was in the process of enacting a law.

I would like to draw the attention of this House to a Report of the Indian Society on Tobacco and Health placed in Kolkata, which had categorically stated that 5,500 Indians joined the tobacco consumers' family every day.

Twenty-five per cent of the country's population consumes tobacco. From this, one can infer the number of tobacco-users in the country. About 2200 people die of tobacco-related diseases everyday, 90 every hour, three every two minutes. We should believe in statistics because all our planning hinges on statistics. The statistics say that by 2020 - a very sought after date discussed by the planners and the lawmakers - tobacco would become the cause of 13.3 per cent deaths in India.

The Indian Council of Medical Research has stated that India has the highest incidence of oral cancer. That has been stated here also. The ICMR report further says that 20 per cent of the estimated 184 million - that is 18,40,00,000 - tobacco consumers in the country smoke cigarettes - that was mentioned by Shri Swain also a few minutes ago - forty per cent smoke beedies, and forty per cent consume chewable forms of tobacco.

I come from a State Where beedies are produced. Tendu leaf, as it is called in Orissa, provides employment to a large number of people. This was mentioned by the former Prime Minister Shri Deve Gowda. It provides employment to the tribals there. This Bill doesn't restrict the production but only regulates the trade and commerce of tobacco products, that too not to a great extent but to a certain extent.

I would come to my next point. As pointed out earlier, are we going to actually achieve what we intend to, by restricting trade and commerce through this Bill? Earlier I mentioned about three States; I would now come to Delhi. Ban on smoking in public places in Delhi has been in place for the last five or six years now. What has been achieved so far? As Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan mentioned some time ago, we see smokers all around when we go round the city. It

[Shri Bhartruhari Mahtab]

has been mentioned that there are eight squads that patrol the city to catch the people smoking in public places. Officials say that the number is absurdly puny. So, the ban remains un-enforced. The ban has not been backed by a sustained public awareness campaign.

Bans, such as these can become successful only when smoking becomes socially unacceptable. I come to this point of social unacceptability. Why has it been pointed out here that the symbol of 'a skull and two bones' should be printed on the cigarette cases? I have seen since my college days that people try to flaunt their affluence by displaying these cigarette cases. If they possess and display foreign brands, they think that people would think them to be big shots. Once the symbol of 'a skull and two bones' is printed on the cigarette cases, people would at least think twice before displaying them in public.

Shri Bansal was referring to the Statutory Warning. The Statutory Warning should be printed not only on the cigarette case but also on each cigarette.

I would also like to mention here that the Delhi State Government gave powers to officials to challan the violators. But, how many have been put to task?

Here, a mention has been made by the Chief Medical Officer, Planning, Dr. A.C. Tripathi that 'other than our eight squads, 120 officials have been given challaning powers, but they do not do much or they are not able to do much.' This is the position in Delhi! So, the question that would arise in our minds is that even if this Bill is enacted, how are you going to enforce it? How many officials are going to be deployed to enforce this Act?

I would like the hon. Minister to make a little concession in the provision which has been made, prohibiting smoking in public places. There is the provision made in foreign countries or in developed countries. At their airports a special cabin is there, where smokers can go in, enjoy their smoke and then come out without affecting other passengers. That provision is also made in this Bill. But a similar provision is there in the developed countries for railway stations also, which is not provided here in this Bill. Nobody is there to find out as to how many smokers are loitering around at the railways stations. I think, if such a provision is made and a severe penalty is also imposed, it would be of great benefit. In public places, such as the airports, railway station and even at bus terminals, a special cabin can be erected where whosoever wants to smoke can have his smoke, enjoy his smoke and come out without interfering in others' life.

Sir, a mention has also been made - which I had also

contemplated to mention - relating to advertisement. I would come to that part, Mr. Chairman, a bit later. But I would like to draw the attention of this House relating to a dichotomy that is being mentioned here. It is relating to the area within a radius of 100 yards of any educational institution. It was mentioned here. Distance is necessary from the educational institutions. Sir, whether it is in the metropolis or in the corporation area or in small urban towns or in villages, distance from educational institutions is a must. Hundred yards is not a very big area. Why I say so is this. Everybody is aware about the menace of tobacco. Now, with the WTO regime, it is the developed countries' major produce. I would call back upon a little bit of history. Tobacco was the major produce of the United States, which attracted the Europeans to go there and have it. Today also, the main export of the United States is tobacco. Well, they are restricting the consumption of tobacco in their own country, but they have found their way to export it in the developing nations including India, in Asia and in African countries. They want to capture the market everywhere. In different ways, they want to come here.

At the same time, bringing forward this Bill, is a very progressive step that we should restrict the consumption. Who are the targets? The targets are youngsters. That is why, it should be far away from the educational institutions. A provision is there under clause 5(2) proviso (b) which says about advertisement of cigarette or any other tobacco product which is displayed. Where is it to be displayed. Advertisement can only be displayed in the warehouse - inside or outside the warehouse - or a shop where cigarettes or any other tobacco produce are offered for distribution or sale.

If you want it nearer to the educational institution, that shop is entitled by this provision to put up a board saying that here this type of cigarette is being sold.

To restrict that, I think, 100 yard radius is necessary. There should not be any provision. If somebody wants to make a living by having a small shop, by having a kiosk, he can do that. There are other provisions which can be sold near an educational institution, not necessarily cigarette or tobacco-related products.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Bhartruhari, you have taken much time. Your Party has been allotted only three minutes. I have given more time to you. Please conclude.

SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB: Sir, I will conclude with one major point which has already been mentioned by Shri Bansal, regarding surrogate advertising. I think that is very much necessary. I will just mention about one advertisement which is coming nowadays. I need not mention surrogate liquor advertisement. Wills is a product that is being advertised.

Everybody knows that brand. That is a cigarette brand. They produce any product other than tobacco-related products, but that brand itself always attracts the youngsters. It always makes an imprint in the mind: "Yes here is the product which is available at such and such place, and can be made available for the youngsters." It is the young mind that is to be protected. It is the youngsters who are always attracted. In the United States, it is always said: "To catch them young." That is the slogan. To protect the young, I would like to thank the Government, specially the Minister that she has brought this progressive Bill. I also request all Members present in this House to approve, to pass this Bill unanimously.

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA (MAVELIKARA): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to wholeheartedly support this Bill. We are all aware that tobacco is a part of our culture. Whenever some guests come to our house, we give them *tambulam*, that is, *pan*. Even in villages, there is a system of giving tobacco to the people when they come to the houses. I remember, in my State, Kerala, when this Onam festival was being celebrated, we even go to the elders and give tobacco to them as a mark of respect. Even in Assam, if we visit a house, first they give us *tambulam*, that is, beetle leaves, arecanut, and tobacco. Why I am telling this because traditionally our people are in a habit to take tobacco. Even in the villages, we can see now that tobacco is being used on a large scale.

Sir, I was told that this *benaras pan* is one of the very, very sweet pan which is even exported to London and other places. Indians who are living abroad require this *benaras pan*. This is very famous. In Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and other parts of our country, especially in Northern areas, pan-eating is a way of life. Nobody thinks that this is a bad habit. So, traditionally, we have an inclination towards tobacco and tobacco allied products. How can we remove it? As the Minister has rightly pointed out, this is universally regarded as one of the major public health hazards. It is responsible directly or indirectly for eight lakh deaths in the country every year. So, the Government of India has to take up this matter very seriously.

How to prevent it? Mere passing a legislation in this House will not help. We have a lot of experience in our lives. In Kerala, three years back, we banned arrack. Due to this, illicit arrack is flowing like anything and the loss to the Government is to the tune of Rs. 800 crore, and illicit arrack is available everywhere. In Andhra Pradesh also, I think, same is the situation. We adopt populist measures, but at the same time, if people do not change their habits, mere passing of legislation will not help. So, my request so the Government would be that there should be a vigorous awareness campaign. Without a vigorous awareness campaign, the usage of tobacco and tobacco-allied products cannot be

checked or stopped. Anti-tobacco campaign should be vigorously taken up by the Government of India, the State Governments, NGOs and all other interested organisations. An atmosphere must be created so that people voluntarily give up consumption of tobacco.

Mere passing a legislation is not going to help; this is what our experience is. I welcome this Bill; this is going to be the first step in creating an awareness among the people. This will give more emphasis for people to withdraw from the habit of consuming tobacco. These measures, are to be implemented seriously.

There are certain other very important points which I would like to mention. First is regarding prohibition of cigarettes. When we prohibit cigarettes in public places, there is a danger of import of foreign cigarettes. WTO suggests that 150 per cent import duty can be levied; but so far, we have imposed only 35 per cent. Why? Why can we not increase this duty? On the one hand we are trying to curtail the usage of tobacco and allied products like cigarettes, on the other hand, the danger is that the import duty is less and so, cigarettes will be imported from other countries.

Secondly, smuggling of cheap cigarettes will also be there. As Shrimati Margaret Alva was telling, a new product has come now like 'click', from Singapore or from some other countries where it is written like 'enjoy tobacco'. It is available in almost all the metropolitan cities. So, these kinds of products would be coming in, as also smuggling of cheap cigarettes into our country.

We are banning our products, but at the same time, smuggled and imported goods are available in plenty. They will be available in the market. Slowly this market will be captured by those people. Dumping will also be there in our markets. This aspect has to be taken into account very seriously.

Punishment is given, under clause 15 of this Bill, to both producer and seller. There should be some discrimination in the punishment between the producer and the seller. The seller may be a poor *pan-shopwalla*. He has not produced it; he may just be an illiterate person. He may not have any kind of information on advertisements and other things. He cannot be equated to a person who is producing cigarettes. Cigarette producers are big companies, corporates or multinational companies. We cannot equate both of them or bring both of them on par, there should be some discrimination.

Smoking is prohibited in public places. But what about usage of other tobacco products in public places? It is not clear at all. So, there should be some clarification from the Government on this aspect.

[Shri Ramesh Chennithala]

At present, there is no system to monitor each and every channel to record violation of domestic laws and to instruct the cable operator to stop transmitting that particular channel which has violated the laws.

Though we are passing a law, yet there are other foreign channels which are widely covering it. How do you check this? Has the Government of India got any mechanism to check it? I have a suggestion to make in this regard. Both the Central Government and the State Governments should constitute a monitoring committee to monitor and prevent the cable operators to violate the domestic laws. Until and unless you do this, mere passing of this legislation is not going to help. Some mechanism should be there to prevent this kind of activity, otherwise, this law cannot be implemented properly.

As rightly pointed out by Shri Bansal, this Bill is not properly drafted. It is a very complicated Bill. All kinds of complications, which are not at all necessary, have been included. An ordinary person cannot follow it. We should stop this system of bringing unnecessary complications while drafting a Bill so that the people can easily understand and follow.

Another important point is, there should be one authority for seizure, confiscation and trial. At present there is a dual authority. It will be more difficult and complicated for the people, to understand. It is going to create confusion.

I welcome the provision regarding ban on the consumption of tobacco and cigarette in the premises within the hundred-meter radius of schools, colleges and other educational institutions. These institutions are the major cigarette and tobacco consuming centres. As rightly pointed out by Dr. Saroja, we should catch hold of the people at younger age. If this provision is implemented, at least we could save our younger generations from it.

Under section 12, all the power is given to a Sub-Inspector. Under this Act, a Sub-Inspector can go to any extent and harass the people. There is every chance of misusing it. So, it should be taken care of.

As rightly pointed out by your goodself, Sir, the farmers, the tobacco cultivators of Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh will suffer a lot due to this. The bidi workers in Kerala, especially in northern parts, will also suffer. Therefore, unless the Government does something for these traditional people who are engaged in this business, this Bill will not be implemented properly. Farmers should be rehabilitated. They may be given some incentive or some encouragement to shift from tobacco cultivation to some other occupation. The labourers also should be rehabilitated so that they could earn good remuneration to look after their families.

With these words, I wholeheartedly support this Bill.

[Translation]

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI (SITAMARHI): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I fully welcome the Cigarettes and other Tobacco Products (Prohibition of Advertisement and Regulation of trade and Commerce, Production, Supply and Distribution) Bill on my behalf and on behalf of my party. Definitely it is a high time that this Bill should be passed as it will be a good step in this direction.

Tobacco and its products are the root causes of many serious diseases. The demand to check it was being made for a long time. We welcome this Bill but at the same time some points we want to submit before the Minister. Many hon'ble Members have expressed their concerns over the interests of farmers while raising their points. Mr. Chairman, Sir, as you have stated that 35 thousand labourers are engaged in this sector. Our country is second largest producer of tobacco. You have expressed some concerns regarding this Bill. Former Prime Minister also expressed doubts about its implementation. I would like to give some suggestions while supporting this Bill and associating myself with these doubts. Today the number of tobacco chewers, smokers and Ganja users is very high. They have become addict to it. We may try to minimise its use by regulating its advertisement and distribution but unless it is fully curbed, it can not be stopped. We want to do a great work through this Bill and it will be possible only when it is fully banned. First and foremost thing is that this Bill must be passed. As about the implementation of the Bill, apprehensions have been raised that the sub-inspectors would misuse it. The House will have to seriously ponder over it. Even though we have made number of laws, be it curbing smuggling of goods via Nepal or other laws, these laws are being misused. They are being misused simply because our moral values are declining day by day. There is a need of administrative reforms. Decline of moral values must be stopped. Until and unless a strong machinery is formed, it can not be stopped. The persons who have been assigned the responsibility of implementing it or other laws must carry out their responsibility on the basis of moral values. The administrative reforms should be initiated in such a way that people who are vested with responsibility do not indulge in irregularities and harass the people. This is applicable to other laws as well. We should not express our concerns about this Bill only. Rather comprehensive discussion should take place on it. 35 millions people who are farmers are engaged in it. If it is regulated, now and then, it will definitely affect all of its constituents. It will affect all engaged in its industry, trade and cultivation. Two things must be kept in mind while implementing it first the government should makes separate arrangements for their rehabilitation. Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Commerce, Ministry of Industry, Ministry of Health

and Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment should make collective efforts to shift its cultivation to a cash crops. There should not be any efforts from person who run industries and their associations and unions to lift the ban. Ministry of Industry and Ministry of Commerce should held talks with them and find some alternative arrangements so that the problems of the affected population may be solved. It is good to shift it to a alternative cash crops. Such alternative arrangement should also be made for industry to make up the revenue loss. Each and every Ministry should make a collective efforts for formulating a long term plan to eradicate the tobacco and all other injurious products of tobacco so that the labourers, farmers, traders and industrialists do not suffer a loss.

This is a good Bill which should be welcomed and I welcome this Bill.

Secondly, we are free to reduce regulation and distribution as much as we can. In villages people using bidis, tobacco, khaini, surti and ganja have become addict to nicotine. Though we may make them to give up this habit in a social set up but just after 2 or 4 days they again follow their old habit. Therefore, there is a need for a movement. We discuss about it in this House but this movement should brought in hearts of the people of the country. Such programme was started by the Ministry of Health and Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment earlier also. In addition to this programme was initiated by the NGOs of the states but they could not eradicate it. I request the Minister to hold a discussion on it so that this can be given the shape of a movement. Number of people addicted to tobacco is very high. Once a person gets addicted to it he can not give it up. It requires a long term treatment and there is a need to hold seminars on it and to make people aware about it. It is seen that though these efforts are initiated at some point but come to an end very soon. There is need to initiate it in the form of movement. Ministry of Health should initiate a long term campaign to materialise it.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, with these suggestions I welcome this Bill.

[English]

SARDAR SIMRANJIT SINGH MANN (SANGRUR): Mr. Chairman, Sir, thank you very much for letting me speak on this Cigarette and other Tobacco Products Prohibition and Advertisement and Regulation of Trade and Commerce, Production, Supply and Distribution Bill, 2003.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, when Guru Gobind Singh founded the Order of the Khalsa he enjoined upon this followers to eschew the use of tobacco and its products. It is because he

had the vision and also he knew that while founding a martial race tobacco and its products would have a hazardous effect on the health of his followers and that they could not be made into a martial race. So, I would like to congratulate the NDA Government for bringing forward this Bill and I also appreciate the gesture of all sections of the House for supporting this Bill. I want to give some suggestions and I hope the Government will allow these suggestions to come within the fold of this statute that has been introduced.

There is a provision in the Bill that no tobacco shops or sale of tobacco will be allowed within a radius of 100 yards of educational institutes. I would be grateful if the Government extends this provision of the law to all Gurudwaras in the country.

Sir, secondly, we, the Sikh people have always supported the Hindus in their fight against ban on cow slaughter and I would appeal to this Government that we have been fighting a losing battle so far to convince the Government to turn Amritsar, the holy city, into a non-smoking zone, where tobacco products would not be used or sold.

That is our humble plea. Just as cow slaughter is banned in Hardwar, Kurukshetra and other holy cities, we would ask this Government to ban the sale and use of tobacco in Amritsar city.

The other point that I want to make is that a lot of our colleague Members of Parliament use the lobbies and the Central Hall of Parliament for smoking. We are a liberal people and in this modern society we will ask the Government to create a smoking room within the precincts of Parliament where Members of Parliament who want to smoke can use it.

I would seek the blessings of the Government to create de-addiction centres and rehabilitation centres for chain smokers and people who chew tobacco so that they can be de-addicted from this foul habit of smoking and the use of tobacco. I would urge upon the Government to give funds to the NGOs who want to create these de-addiction centres.

I would also pray to the Government on one more aspect. A great Sikh leader, Master Tara Singh had fought hand in hand and shoulder to shoulder with great freedom fighters like Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, M.K. Gandhi, Jawaharlal Nehru, and Vallabhbhai Patel. The statues of all these illustrious leaders are placed in the hallowed precincts of this Parliament. But that of poor Master Tara Singh, who was against smoking, who was against the use of tobacco, to whose religion use of tobacco was anathema and taboo, has been placed on a foot-path outside Parliament, near Gurudwara Rakab Ganj, where beetle-chewing and

[Sardar Simranjit Singh Mann]

tobacco-chewing pedestrians use his statue as a spittoon. If our leaders cannot find an honourable place to keep the statue of Master Tara Singh, then I would pray to the Government to let his statue rest with those of Queen Victoria, the British Governor-Generals and Viceroy, wherever those statues are placed, so that he can find a resting place away from the place where his statue is not used as a spittoon by tobacco-chewing pedestrians.

SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA (KOLAR): Mr. Chairman Sir, thank you for giving me this opportunity. We welcome the Bill brought forward by the Government. Our Deputy Leader, Shri Shivraj Patil has explained categorically what are the merits and demerits of this Bill and what will be the fate of the people who are depending upon this work, from farmer to trader, whose number all put together comes to 35 million.

19.00 hrs.

Of course, the Centre may accept that its total revenue loss is approximately Rs. 1000 crore and the loss to the States is more than Rs. 8000 crore, both direct and indirect losses put together. But that is not the subject before us. The only point is about the rehabilitation of people who are surviving doing this job. We have to find a way to rehabilitate them. We totally agree with the Bill and we are not against the Bill. But prior to that, we have to find a way out to rehabilitate and discipline all those who are depending on this work.

Coming to liberalisation policy, can the Government not stop import? If they do not stop import, then there is no meaning of bringing about a legislation on this particular issue. There is import. By this way, firstly, we are destroying our indigenous industry; secondly, the people who are depending on this industry are suffering; and thirdly, the total revenue loss is coming to thousands of crores of rupees. Apart from this, if you properly think from the health point of view, we are totally in support of this Bill. Lakhs of people are suffering due to this thing. This Bill brought about by the Government will not help us without stopping import. We may not be able to implement the programme through this enactment unless and until we stop the import.

There is an apprehension that multinational companies are creating this problem. It is not only with this industry but also with all other industries which are situated in India. In one way or the other our industry and our people will suffer due to liberalisation policy. Ultimately, the multinationals will gain and rule this country. This will be the situation which would arise after five or ten years.

Let the Government think of the East India Company. I am speaking about the situation in the coming days; I am not

speaking particularly of this Bill. We are clearly in agreement with this Bill. But there is only one technicality. Shri Shivraj Patil has mentioned about two things, namely, about the near vicinity and the skull and two cross-bones on the cigarette packets. We are stressing only on those two points and not more than that. This is what we are appealing to the Minister.

In my district, about 50,000 people are affected. Majority of the affected people belonging to the Scheduled Castes and other minority classes are beedi workers. You have to rehabilitate them by way of some programmes. You have to completely ban it, maybe after one or two years. We have to take care of it from the health point of view and this is the primary duty of the citizens, the Members of Parliament and the Government. But without taking all these points into consideration, passing this Bill will serve no purpose. The most important point is about import. If we impose a ban and at the same time, encourage imports also, what is the meaning?

I would urge upon the Minister who is very much concerned with the issue - we are also concerned with this issue - to look into how to solve this lacuna. I hope she will consider what Shri Patil has said, with whom we totally agree.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (PANDHARPUR): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I welcome Sushma Swaraj ji. There is a saying that 'Health is wealth'. If we have good health, every thing is right, if not everything goes wrong.

Sir, not only the health of her Government should be good but also that of whole of the country. It is a matter of happiness that not only the present Health Minister but also the former Health Minister, Shri C.P. Thakur, who ran the Health Ministry efficiently, earlier are also present in the House. Generally, only the Minister concerned with the Ministry related to Bill used to be present during the discussion in the House, but here we see that Shri C.P. Thakur is present here to support Sushmaji.

Sir, spirit of the Bill is good but I would like to say that ban on Cigarettes, bidi and other tobacco products will result in increasing unemployment and smuggling of the tobacco in country. If we impose ban on production on tobacco in the country, its supply may start taking place from outside and this may give rise to smuggling. Therefore, Minister should have considered it seriously before presenting the Bill in the House.

Sir, in this Bill there is provision to ban the selling of bidi, Cigarettes and tobacco and its products within a radius of 100 yards from school premises. It means that no shop of

bidi-cigarettes can be opened in any city because everywhere we find temples, computer education centres and schools. If the distance of a radius of 100 meter is adopted as a norm, no shop can be opened in any city. Therefore, I urge upon to reduce this distance of 100 yard to 25-30 meter. And there is a need to bring an amendment in the Bill for this purpose. Measures are required to be taken to ensure that the passing of the Bill does not result in more corruption.

Sir, large number of people in this country use bidi and cigarettes. What will be their fate if they fall ill? If the people smoking bidi-cigarettes and chewing tobacco and using other tobacco product fell ill due to not using them, what arrangement would be made for their treatment and who will be responsible for it? What will happened to the persons using tobacco as a medicine? There are persons who may not use tobacco but fell ill. So there is a need ponder over it seriously.

Sir, government gets Rupees eight thousand crore as a central excise on tobacco and its products. The imposition of ban on it will discontinue central excise. There are three and half crore people engaged in tobacco industry out of which six millions are farmers, 20 millions are farm labourers. 4.4 millions are bidi workers and 2.2 million are engaged in plucking of tendu leaves. All of them will be rendered unemployed. Alternative arrangement should be made for their employment. Legislation alone can not solve the problem. There is need to make amendments in it.

Sir, Health Minister intends to improve the health of whole of the country but she must keep this fact in mind that there are 60-70 per cent people in the country who smoke bidi cigarettes and chew tobacco. These people will not vote for your party. So you must keep this thing in mind.

Sir, this Bill has been brought with good intention. But the general election takes place after one and half year of its passing then your party will take our seats and our party may take your seats. I welcome you for bringing this Bill. Atalji have assigned you the responsibility of the department of Parliamentary Affairs and Department of Health, it is good, otherwise there are chances of unsound health of Minister of Parliamentary Affairs.

That is why the portfolio of Department of Health has been entrusted to you. You did good work by coordinating Health and Parliamentary Affairs. I support this Bill but there is need of bringing some amendments in it. ...*(Interruptions)*

I welcome you and my best wishes are with you. You are doing a good job by implementing this Bill. We want to see you in good health because if you are fine we will also be fine. With these words I conclude and thank you.

[English]

SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN (SIVAGANGA): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thank you very much for giving me the time to speak on the Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products (Prohibition of Advertisement and Regulation of Trade and Commerce, Production, Supply and Distribution) Bill, 2003.

Coming to the subject matter, I would like to say that after 13 years of debate in the WHO, this Bill has been brought forward before this House. It has gone through the scrutiny of the Standing Committee also. But we would like to say that this enactment is a new type of enactment where clandestine and surreptitious trading is going to be allowed. One can grow tobacco, produce the product, sell it and trade it, export it and import it. Everything can be done. But it has to be done secretly without the knowledge of others. That is the total effect of this particular enactment. Is it good for our nation? More or less, it is an enforcement of a character or conduct of a human being, of the people who are living in India. It can be a law at the Municipality level or the State level for prohibiting certain things. But when we bring forward an enactment at the national level, we are allowing the trade as it is, allowing the agriculture as it is but not giving any compensation to the agriculturists. We are not giving alternative jobs to the traders; we are not giving any opportunity for the alternative source of income for the labourers. How are we going to enforce this particular enactment? This question has to be answered. Simply by having an enactment, it may satisfy the international forum. Or, we can tell ourselves that we have prohibited selling of cigarettes within hundred yards from the educational institutions. Is it a satisfaction for us?

I had once told the Consultative Committee of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting when Shrimati Sushma Swaraj was the Minister. She was very intuitive to say about the surrogate advertisements. At that time, I just mentioned about our great actor in Tamil Nadu, Shri Rajini Kant. He was appreciated by a two-year-old child as well as by a 70-year-old person because he used to move the cigarette from one side of the lip to the other side of the lip. He will throw the cigarette 20 feet away and catch it by the mouth. He will release the smoke with so many spirals. These are the characteristics of a hero in the cinema. Are we going to prohibit it? Are we going to stop it? We can very easily see the hero and his young lover depicted in the television serials or in a story or even in the journals. They are depicted while making love. At that time, the girl would say that the hero's smoking style is very interesting; the release of the smoke with so many spirals is very interesting. Are we going to stop it? This type of heroism should, first of all, be stopped. Then only the character of a person can be established as it is by way of bringing forward such an enactment. Otherwise, it will

[Shri E.M. Sudarsana Natchiappan]

be a part of the Statute Book but it can never be acted upon.

I would like to draw your attention to another thing. Very often, we can find out a policeman getting a cigarette from other person. Now, he is going to get a cigarette from the other person with Rs.50. Otherwise, he has to pay Rs.200 as fine. He is going to benefit by one cigarette plus Rs.50 or one cigarette plus Rs.10. This is the thing which is going to happen. Therefore, I would like to suggest that we should have a total thinking over it. This Bill has been moved not by the Human Resource Development Ministry, it has been moved by the Health Ministry. Therefore, we have to create a Fund. Even if you want to implement this enactment, you have to create a Fund and the people, who are addicted to cigarette and tobacco, should be helped by having some counselling. Clinics should be opened for this purpose. There should be proper counselling through which we should make the people forget about cigarette and tobacco habits.

They should come forward with a better habit. In the same way, the agriculturists are living on the saline land in Tamil Nadu in Uttamapalayam in Dindigul District, where only tobacco can be cultivated. These people are in Andhra Pradesh, they are in Kerala, Karnataka and in many places in Tamil Nadu. Millions of people are living on this and raw tobacco is a part of the life of the villagers. That gives them a boost when they are tired. When a rickshaw puller gets very tired, he cannot drink wine or whisky. He can only take a small bit of tobacco. I am not saying that it should be allowed. But at the same time, how are we going to alter the small man? When the small man is taking tobacco, you are prohibiting it. But at the same time, under clause 4, you are providing for prohibition of smoking in public places. When you are having a thirty-room restaurant, you are allowing them to have a separate room for smoking. Should it be allowed? How ordinary people are not allowed to have their own instinct? They just want to take a small bit of beedi. That beedi is sufficient for them to forget about their lunch or dinner. They are working hard to improve the life of their children crying for food in the house. How are you going to answer these questions? These questions are staring at us. Therefore, I request you that when we are making this type of an enactment, it should be supported with more funds for the proper implementation and also proper counselling should be given to the people who are addicted to it. This is my first submission.

My second submission is that when the drafting is done, 'sale' is defined under clause 3. This 'sale' cannot be enforced. Even if it is enforced, it will not be good for anybody. 'Sale' as defined in Clause 3(m) says:

"Sale' with its grammatical variations and cognate expressions, means any transfer of property in goods by one person to another, whether for cash or on credit, or by way of exchange, and whether wholesale or retail, and includes an agreement for sale, and offer for sale" and exposure for sale.

What is this? How can it be? Even the wholesale is prohibited by this clause. We are allowing in other sections that everything can be done secretly; it should not be exposed outside; it should not be sold within hundred feet. It should not be in public. You can smoke privately; you can have tobacco privately; you can sell it privately and surreptitiously but at the same time, wholesale is prohibited. How is this prohibition misused by the enforcing authority? We have to find out that. In the same way, I would like to draw attention to the fact that just when this enactment is going to be enforced, there is the highest punishment for two to five years. How is this going to be done? As a lawyer, I can submit that there is a provision given that summary trial should be made for using cigarette and a fine of Rs.200 should be paid. What about the punishment of two to five years? How are they going to enforce it? Will it be a warrant procedure? How are they going to enforce it? Which is the forum which is going to do it? Is it to be done by the Sessions Court? Which court is going to do it?

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is already there in the Criminal Procedure Code.

SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: It can be done by the Criminal Procedure Code. But there are a lot of lacunae in the enactment.

I would like to sum up that there should be a clear vision in enforcing this enactment. This should not be for the purpose of enacting for international obligation alone. It should be for the welfare of the people, and welfare of the people can be done only by united efforts. The Agriculture Department, the Commerce Department, I&B and all other Departments should come together and see that smoking habit through cinema, television, songs, etc. should be curtailed. At the same time, children should be educated and the youngsters should also be educated. The people who are addicted should be protected by counselling with the funds of the Government. I thank you very much.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Mr. Chairman, Sir, 19 Members have participated in this discussion. I pay my gratitude towards all of them. But I would like to give special thanks to Shri Shivraj Patil who played a very constructive role in initiating the discussion. He adopted a very balanced approach about this Bill in the House. While speaking he was

sensitive to the people engaged in this business, he also showed his concern for the health of the public. He appreciated the introduction of this Bill and also supported it. The 18 Members who participated in this discussion, if I like to divide, I can divide them into four groups.

First group consists of those who supported the Bill but raised questions which I would like to reply. Shri Shivraj Patil himself, and you, Dr. V. Saroja, Smt. Renu Kumari Shri, Ramesh Chennithala, Shri Natchiappan and Shri Muniyappa, all these Members fall in the first group who along with supporting the Bill raised some doubt and questions.

But there is another group also which advocated to make it more stringent. They supported the Bill but found some flaws in it. I would like to tell their names, they are Shri Anadi Sahu, Shri P.K. Bansal, Shri Radha Krishnan and Sardar Simaranjit Singh Mann. They feel the necessity of making this Bill more stringent. There is another group also which fully opposed the Bill and the name of hon. former Prime Minister Shri Devegowda is in this group. There is another group which fully supported the Bill from that also comes a name and that is of Mr. Kharabela Swain.

In this way the 18 Members can be divided. But the first group in which 9 Members fall, their issues are almost same which was started by Shri Shivraj Patil and you reiterated that. These issues are mainly three. The first one related to employment, rehabilitation. You told that 35 million people are engaged in this profession. Their employment would be directly affected. They will be jobless, whether the Government is concerned about it? I would like to answer this because the Government could not even think of introducing this Bill without showing its concern for such a large class. I do not want to go into the facts and figure, Shri Shivrajji you have the figure of 35 million and I have that of 11 million. But the question is that 35 million or 11 million people are becoming jobless, it does not undermine this logic. This Government is equally concerned even if one lakh people become jobless. Firstly, we are not stopping the production of the products through this Bill. Tobacco related products whether it is cigarette or something else, restriction is not being imposed on their production, ban is being imposed on advertisements or their sale is being restricted. Therefore, to think that after passing the Bill they will be rendered jobless, is not to happen. Yes, it's true that ban on advertisement will affect the business. Reduced business may lessen the demand for production. The related question of job may occur there. Let me tell you about it that my Ministry is discussing with the Ministry of Agriculture over this issue that which alternate crop can be searched for these people which can be grown in the land in which tobacco is grown. I am pleased to inform that we are searching such alternate crop which can be more beneficial

than tobacco and that crop is of medicinal plant. Medicinal plant is our own field and today international market has been created for Medicinal plants. In international market, China is trading medicinal products on a very large scale. India can be the second largest trader of the same. Therefore, we are also searching that the land in which tobacco is grown, which medicinal plant can be grown there so that the people may earn more from it. So far as bidi workers and tobacco growers are concerned we are continuously discussing the issue with the Ministry of labour and the Ministry of Agriculture respectively. Therefore, we are trying to solve that all these may not affect their livelihood and you will be informed after some constructive solution is found out.

The second issue relates to pictorial warning, it has been said that there is Plan to show skull-bone on it, it's unnecessary. An amendment has been brought to end that. I was surprised when hon. Smt. Renu made a comparison. She told that it was like the veil of a bride because veil arouses a stronger curiosity to see the face behind it. Therefore, skull and bone will arouse greater curiosity. I don't think this comparison is logical. The pictorial warning of skull and bone is shown on those electric polls where person dies after touching the naked wire, I don't think that any boy or girl dares to touch that wire after seeing the skull and bone. Skull and bone is not the veil of the bride which can arouse curiosity to see the face. Skull and bone was not in the original Bill but the Bill was sent to the standing committee, standing committee suggested that we write that cigarette smoking is injurious to health, it is useless for illiterates because they don't know how to read. So, it does not matter for them whether you gave some warning or not. Therefore, such picture that can convey them also that it is dangerous should figure on it. Keeping in view the recommendation of the standing committee the Government has put it there.

The third issue raised relates to vicinity of 100 yards. Some Members told here that if it would be 100 yard then the betel shop owners would lose their shops because schools are on very few places. I would like to say that the Standing Committee had recommended for 500 yards. These shops should not be in 500 yards area from a school because for liquor shop the restriction is for 500 yards. They feel that this restriction should be equal to that. But when this matter was sent to cabinet, the way you showed your concern for the shopkeepers, it was felt in the same way in the Cabinet and was told that 500 yards would be very torturous. Therefore, we reduced it to 100 yards. But if you are not ready to keep 100 yards distance, should I get these shops opened at school gates. One suggestion was made here that in place of it write close vicinity. I would like to say to hon. Shivraj Patil that on

[Shrimati Sushma Swaraj]

the one hand we are saying that we should give minimum discretion to the officers. When we write close vicinity, some officer would say that the vicinity of 50 yards is enough and some other would say that the vicinity of 150 yards is not enough because it will depend on their discretion. Some one will consider the vicinity of 150 yards very close and some other will think that the vicinity of 50 yards very close. In place of that we should fix something so that the officers who are to implement it, through whom this Bill is to be brought into force, there should be no place to use their discretion, the disparity will be very little if they have to implement the parameters decided by the parliament's goodself. Therefore, it is better to put 100 yards instead of close vicinity. As I told earlier that we decided and reduced the recommendation of 500 yards to 100 yards. These three questions were raised by that group who supported us.

Now, I would like to take up the concern of that group which wants to make it more stringent. Hon. Anadi Sahu told that the punishment was lenient about which hon. P.K. Bansal also told that you were freeing the delinquent for Rs. 200. I would like to say to hon. P.K. Bansal that this much concern is being shown for whatever we have. When first step is taken, it is taken with great precaution. The Bill of this kind has been introduced for the first time and if it is getting this much support from you then it will not be difficult to take next step. But in the beginning it should not sound as a cruel Bill, therefore, we have initiated in this way. You told that production itself should be closed. Perhaps, this would be an ideal situation but you yourself qualified that until alternate crop came the production could not be stopped and which is supported by hon. Shivraj Patil. It may be possible that the alternate crops we searching for the people themselves may shift to that crop and production may stop per se instead of it should be legally stopped.

Similarly, Shri Radhakrishnan told that ashtray should be removed from Central Hall and Lobby. It's a very good suggestion and I am the first person to support you but it does not fall in my jurisdiction. Because this entire premise falls under the jurisdiction of the hon. Speaker. It does not fall in the jurisdiction of the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs. If all Members decide and speak to the hon. Speaker, it may be possible. I shall convey the feelings expressed by the House to the hon. Speaker. If we say him to make such Zone or decide some bench so that those who have to gulp smoke should be saved. Perhaps he may like to do it after this Bill is passed. But he took one step forward that no one should smoke even in the House because they smoke in front of children who can not forbid but they have to forcibly gulp smoke. Shri Radhakrishnanji if we bring such provisions in the Bill how can it be implemented? It means that an inspector should be sent in every house to ensure whether someone is

smoking before children or not. We have this much feeling of respect in our houses till date that we don't smoke before our elders and children. It's a fact, it generates bad habits. There are many things which are implemented through social pressure and not by law. Such things can not be brought under the purview of law.

Sir, similarly, demand has been made to delete section 32 that relates to export. I can get a law made in my own country, but if there is such law in other countries, then warning will be sent there in writing. If some country does not want that such warning should come, how can we write on those export products being produced. Certainly, he wishes to make this law more stringent but perhaps it is not possible.

One more point Shri Mahtab, Shri Bansal and other Members have raised that relates to surrogate advertisement. I would like to tell them that surrogate advertisement is already banned under Cable Act.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: What is being import from outside. I had stated regarding that.

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: That is a separate point. I am telling about export. I am answering to the issue that Mr. Sudarsana Natchiappan has raised. I want to answer about surrogate advertisement. Cable Act has this provision. You yourself read out section 5(1). The words directly and indirectly have been written in that about surrogate advertisement. He told about liquor that it covers kingfisher's beer, apple juice, Mcdonald's bags, WIG's T. Shirt etc. It is written there, neither it can be directly nor indirectly. So a provision has been made in this Bill to check surrogate advertisement.

Now I would like to answer the question raised by Mr. Devegowda. If he were present in the House. I would have been happier. He has raised such a question, which I wanted to answer in his presence. It would have been better, if he were present. First thing he raised was about its implementation. He has asked as to who would get it implemented. He has put up a big question mark. I want to say through you, Sir, that the government who has the will power to introduce the Bill, has the will power also to get it implemented. He also said that as I did not have the experience of State Administration, that's why I brought forward this type of Bill and that I did not know how the State is administered. Perhaps he has forgotten my background. I have started my political career with the State Assembly. First time in 1977, I was elected to Haryana State Assembly and was made a Cabinet level Minister. I was confined to State politics for full 13 years of my political career. I know how State machinery runs and how a state is administered. Most of the Central laws are implemented through states only. Those states who

have a good administration, they get it implemented very well. Those who do not have a good administration, they do not implement it. He said that who will decide the age bar of 18 years and would I call for horoscope and measure the size? I want to tell him that this is not the only Bill where the age bar of 18 years is being fixed. The age bar of 18 years decides in our country whether a person is major or minor, it decides the difference of major and minor. We give right of voting to an adult who has attained the age of 18 years. We have one more law, we show films in Cinema halls and brand a film as adult film and it is given 'A' certificate. Anyone is allowed to watch that movie after attaining the age of 18 years. The man who is selling the cinema ticket, does he ask for horoscope or measures the size of the individual? As he decides, we would also decide in the same way. To ask such type of question and to raise doubt about such an important Bill does not become former Prime Minister. He moved one step ahead and said that if this Bill is passed, we would have to sit on opposition benches. I do not know whether the people's mandate over this Bill will throw us to opposition benches. I am bringing this Bill for the health of public. Would the same public vote us to opposition benches?

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Seeing your other work, public will force you to sit on opposition benches.

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: He is connecting that issue with this Bill. Future will decide who will get mandate and for what reasons. He was very sentimental while saying so. He said that if any woman is widowed and her son wants to run a small shop. You are banning that. I would like to make it clear that we are not banning any shop by child. Second thing I would like to say if any 18 years old child of a widow wants to sell cigarettes, he can not confine himself up to selling only cigarettes. If he sells cigarette, he will be entrapped in the bad habit of smoking and consequently fell sick. Instead of supplementing her mother's income he will make the mother to spend on his treatment and thus he will aggrive his mother physically, mentally and economically. So it is better if he opts for any other business that selling cigarettes. Our former Prime Minister should not suggest to such child to start this business that is of selling cigarette if his mother is a widow and thus get into the bad habit of smoking afterwards. He has said that public will make us to sit on opposition benches. I would like to say to him that our future will be decided by people's mandate. I can not tell about mandate right now but this 'Bill will give me self satisfaction of getting it passed in the House. I understand that to get that self satisfaction we must pass this Bill unanimously.

[English]

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I have two questions to ask and one suggestion to make.

Tobacco is a medicinal plant also. When tobacco chewed by a person, it protects the teeth, gums and all those things. Anything done in excess is harmful. Even eating food in excess of requirement is harmful. So, it has to be done within the limits. My suggestion is, and not a question, that the production of tobacco as such need not go down. It can be used for some other purposes. But supposing we produce tobacco in large quantities, as to how the producer will get the remunerative price is a question. Now for this, my question is, will the Government spend enough amount of money to carry on research and development in this area and to find out as to how tobacco can be used not only for smoking purpose but also for using it in some medicine as such? What can be done? If the Government is thinking in this manner, will the Government also take some steps to see that those who are not involved in production of tobacco but who are carrying on trade and commerce, who are carrying on transport and others are not affected? Slightly they are going to be affected and it is not that immediately there will be an effect on their employment. Something has to be done for them also. Will the Government bear this in mind while doing it?

I am asking these questions because these questions are really important and not to embarrass the Government. Shrimati Sonia Gandhi had written two letters to the Prime Minister highlighting these issues because they were brought to her notice. I think, the Prime Minister had left to the Minister to reply to these questions because the Minister could have gone into all these details and would be in a better position to do it. So, I am expecting some response to these points from the Minister.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, Sardar Simranjit Singh Mann.

SARDAR SIMRANJIT SINGH MANN: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I just want to ask a simple question. Democracy is the cohabitation of all the people. We respect the wishes of the Hindus by supporting the ban on cow slaughter. The Minister has not replied to the two simple questions that we have asked to enlarge the scope of the Bill. We have asked to encompass the radius in all the Gurdwaras in the country as is done in the case of educational institutes, Haridwar, Kurukshetra and other Hindu holy cities where the cow slaughter is banned. Will the Minister agree to ban smoking and sale of tobacco products only in Amritsar city? We ask for cohabitation in the Indian democracy. That is all that we ask for.

SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB: I have one question about the tendu leaf which is used for beedi. Thousands and thousands of tribal people are engaged in collecting tendu leaves and it is treated as a minor forest work. A lot of people

{Shri Bhartruhari Mahtab}

are engaged there. The restriction that is being imposed through this Bill is laudable. It should be done. But it is quite different from cigarettes. Something is printed on the box, on a paper, whereas, the beedi, as in Andhra Pradesh, Orissa and other parts of the country, is a poor man's cigarette and it has a very small wrap of paper. It does not give that much of notice to a consumer. How do you deal with it? This is one aspect.

The other aspect is, some arrangement also has to be done with the respective State Governments for the tribal people who are engaged in collecting the tendu leaves. As provision may be made for the tobacco growers, some provision should also be made for collecting tendu leaves. The Government should consider some alternative arrangements.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Mr. Chairman, Sir, Mr. Shivraj Patil has admitted himself that he is not asking question but he is giving suggestions. These suggestions are welcomed. While formulating the policy we shall consider those suggestions definitely.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, so far as the question asked by Sardar Simranjit Singh Mann is concerned, that is about increasing the radius, I would like to tell him that there should be no question mark about cohabitation. The democracy of Hindustan is running on the basis of the same cohabitation. This is the reason why our democracy is so strong here. We would definitely examine the Gurudwaras of Haridwar and Amritsar while formulating the rules.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, Mr. Mahtab has raised the issue of Tendu leaf workers, who are engaged in this job. Let me tell him that we are not going to stop production. Those Tendu leaf workers will not be out of their job. Bidi production is not going to stop. So far as writing by manufacturers is concerned, workers do not get affected by that. If they wrap up Bidi with a white paper then it can be written nicely on that whether it is pictorial warning, or writing in any other language, workers and others are not getting affected by that. It is to be implemented by manufacturers. They will find out a way to carry on production and they will implement it.

[English]

SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA: Would the hon. Minister be able to delete this picture about which we have already mentioned? This seems to be very ugly. Could you think over this matter?

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA: We need some alternative to this.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: It is written in this that except 'warning' any other better alternative can be thought of.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That the Bill to prohibit the advertisement of, and to provide for the regulation of trade and commerce in, and production, supply and distribution of, cigarettes and other tobacco products and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto, as passed by Rajya Sabha, 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 adopted.

Clauses 2 to 5 were added to the Bill.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Mansoor Ali Khan - Not present.

Now, Shri K.H. Muniyappa.

SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA: I am not pressing my amendment. Since the Minister has agreed to make some changes, we are not pressing it.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Some other Members have also given notice for moving amendments. I think they are not interested.

The question is:

"That clause 6 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 6 was added to the Bill.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That clause 7 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 7 was added to the Bill.

Clauses 8 to 33 were added to the Bill.

*The Schedule, Clause 1, the Enacting Formula, the
Preamble and the long Title were added to the Bill.*

MR. CHAIRMAN: The hon. Minister may now move that
the Bill be passed.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I beg
to move:

"That the Bill be passed."

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That the Bill be passed."

The motion was adopted.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House now stands adjourned till
11.00 a.m. day after tomorrow.

19.47 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on
Friday, May 2, 2003/Vaisakha 12, 1925 (Saka).*

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