

LOK SABHA DEBATES

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Fourth Session
(Fourteenth Lok Sabha)



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LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Wednesday, March 23, 2005/Chaitra 02, 1927 (Saka)

(The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock)

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

HOMAGE TO MEMORY OF MARTYRS

[English]

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Prof. Malhotra, I will call you. I am thankful to you.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, on this day in 1931, three great sons of Mother India, Shaheed-e-Azam Bhagat Singh, Shaheed Rajguru and Shaheed Sukhdev became martyrs in the cause of our Freedom.

Their sacrifices strengthened our people's resolve to achieve the goal of Independence.

On this occasion, we recall the spirit of idealism and patriotism that characterized our Freedom struggle and pay our humble tributes to the memory of these heroes who paved the way to our Independence.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the entire House including you and me have mentioned about it. I would like to mention one more thing that today is the 75th martyrdom day of the persons who laid their lives at the age of 23-24. They had hurled a bomb in this very House. Here is the place somewhere in this very House where that bomb had landed. They had hurled that bomb to awake the colonial Britishers from their slumber.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, there should be a monument in their memory. There should be a plaque at the place from where the bomb was thrown and where it dropped. These martyrs are closely associated with this House. Therefore, we should consider installation of their portraits in premises of Lok Sabha or Rajya Sabha ... (Interruptions)

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE (Mumbai South Central): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would also like to speak on this issue ... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I will certainly consider it. You associate with him.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have a suggestion... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, this is a solemn occasion. I am thankful to Prof. Malhotra for pointing it out to me in the morning. I am really thankful to him. I think, on behalf of the House, I have said it. Prof. Malhotra had made his submission. You have associated with it. I will call a few hon. members to speak. Please cooperate. That would be paying proper respects to them. If all of us shout, nothing will be heard. I will call a few hon. Members.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: We all associate with it.

[Translation]

MD. SALIM (Calcutta-North East): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I thank you. Today it is a historic day as today is the 75th martyrdom day of Bhagat Singh, Sukhdev and Rajguru. The tribute offered by you from the chair is also a historical thing. They laid their lives for independence of the country. Shri Malhotraji has rightly said that their should be a plaque because it is our tradition. The way things are going on these days it becomes more imperative to recall our history. The people who forget their history cannot create history.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, in room no. 63 of Rajya Sabha portraits of Bhagat Singh and Batukeshwar Datt are installed. We go to that room every year. I went there today also. I want to say that there was no arrangement from the Secretariat for the Members to pay floral tribute to those martyrs. It should have been there.

MR. SPEAKER: All right you have given a very good suggestion. I will consider it.

MD. SALIM: Mr. Speaker, Sir, thank you.

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV (Jhanjharpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, today it is 75th martyrdom day of Saheed Bhagat Singh particularly. In think there should be a portrait of Saheed Bhagat Singh because history is legacy of our country. Therefore, a portrait of Saheed Bhagat Singh be installed at the place from where he hurled bomb in memory of that incident ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I am very happy to find unanimity on this matter rightly, as expected. This is the glory of this institution. I am sure, I appreciate it.

SHRI C. KUPPUSAMI (Madras North): Sir on behalf of our Party, the DMK, we want to associate with what the hon. Members have said about the martyrs.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I request you that it would be better if all the hon'ble members stand up for two minutes to pay tribute to those martyrs ...*(Interruptions)*

Mr. Speaker, Sir, India got independence because of revolutionaries. Portraits of a number of revolutionaries who laid down their lives for the country are installed in the lobby ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I shall call a meeting of the hon. Leaders and find out how best we could do it. We shall also consult all.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: When Lord Mountbatten left India he said that he found it difficult to rule over India because of these revolutionaries....*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Let us come to our business which, I am sure, Shaheed Bhagat Singhji would have liked us to do, and to utilise our time. They fought for our freedom. We have to maintain our freedom, and develop our country with cooperation from all sections.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

11.06 hrs.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Mansukhbhai D. Vasava—Q.N. 281.

[English]

Vacancies in CBI

*281. SHRI MANSUKHBHAI D. VASAVA:
SHRI KASHIRAM RANA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are a number of vacancies at different levels in the Central Bureau of Investigation which have adversely affected its efficient working;

(b) if so, the facts thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to increase the efficiency of CBI?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SURESH PACHAURI): (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) to (c) In the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) as on January 1, 2005 against a sanctioned strength of 5891, there were 4811 employees in position with 1080 vacant posts at various levels. With effective use and deployment of existing personnel, the vacancies have not affected the performance of the CBI adversely. To improve the efficiency of CBI government has taken various measures, which *inter alia* include modernization, improvement in training infrastructure, housing and improving conditions of work and employment of the staff of the CBI.

[Translation]

SHRI MANSUKHBHAI D. VASAVA: Hon. Mr. Speaker, Sir, we all know that corruption has been gradually eating into the vitals of the country. Stamp scams, cases of corruption in banks are increasing day-by-day and CBI is the main agency of the Government machinery to control them. Today, many doubts are being

raised about CBI that it is not working properly. On the one hand there is lack of staff in the CBI while on the other hand our country ranks 83rd in the world today in the matter of corruption due to lack of efficient staff. In this situation, I would like to know the steps taken by the Government to fill up the posts which are vacant till today including several important posts of Inspector, DSP, Additional SP, SSP?

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: You are putting the same question?

[Translation]

SHRI SURESH PACHAURI: The concern expressed by the hon. Member is legitimate and I would like to tell that the number of vacancies at different levels, as I have told in my reply, is 1080 and many steps are being taken to fill up them. As far as the vacancies from constable to Additional SP level are concerned, the Government has decided to give a special allowance to fill up them. A special allowance of Rs. 1000/- p.m. at the level of Additional SP and of Rs. 700/- p.m. at the level of Constable and Inspector level should be given to the personnel joining CBI. The reason behind this is that the police personnel posted in the States get more facilities whether it is housing facility or other facilities as compared to the facilities in CBI. This is the reason that these vacancies have increased a lot. If we look at the figures of last 5-7 years then these figures have remained relatively same between 900 to 1100. But, as far as the performance is concerned, then more or less, the performance is definitely affected when there are vacancies. Even then, if we look at the indicator among the registration of cases and investigation of cases, then the number of investigated cases remains higher in comparison to the total number of cases registered. This surely results in overburden but still efforts will be made from the Government's side to fill up these vacancies as soon as possible. The Government will make efforts to provide other facilities also to our officers at various levels.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: It is a very exhaustive answer.

[Translation]

SHRI MANSUKHBHAI D. VASAVA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am completely satisfied with the hon. Minister's reply but I would like to know that though the Government has

taken steps to improve the efficiency of the CBI but still people like those involved in the stamp scam and several corruption cases go scot free even today. So, I would like to know the remedial steps, if any, taken by the Government.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Is it due to vacancy?

[Translation]

SHRI SURESH PACHAURI: Hon. Mr. Speaker, Sir, you have rightly indicated that question is basically related to vacancies. Still, since they have mentioned these two scams, I would feel happy to give a reply. As far as Telgi Scam is concerned, it is still in the investigating process. And for this, we are going to appoint additional officers of the Senior level especially to look into this scam.

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon. Minister has rightly said and he has accepted that because of shortage of staff a large number of cases are pending and these cases are not being resolved. In order to increase efficiency and performance of CBI, it is necessary that CBI should have complete strength and its modernisation should be done. Hon'ble Minister had given a reply in August 2004, wherein he has told that there was shortage of 1001 personnel there whereas now he is stating that shortage is to the tune of 1080. But, in fact there is a shortage of 644 in executive cadre, 75 in legal cadre, 93 in technical cadre and 189 in ministerial cadre. Through you, I would like to ask that our CBI director has also said that many cases of last 5 years have not been solved because CBI do not have full staff strength. Therefore, on one side different kinds of crimes take place in the country be they cyber crimes, economic crimes or bank scams. The number of crimes is constantly increasing. Keeping in view the rising graph of crimes, the sanctioned posts must be filled up. I would also like to say that modernisation of the CBI should also be carried out and it should be provided latest equipments. On this account too, very little money is provided to the CBI and because of this also it is not able to reach the criminals. What steps are you going to take regarding the shortage of 1/4 of the staff, as mentioned by you? Secondly, you have said that the Government is taking steps for modernization.

[English]

What type of steps are being taken by the Government to resolve this problem?

[Translation]

Besides, misuse of CBI by the Government should also be checked.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: This is not a discussion on the entire functioning of the CBI. You should also put supplementary relating to the main question.

[Translation]

SHRI SURESH PACHAURI: Regarding the question asked by hon. Member I would like to say that if we look at the funds sanctioned, allocated and the expenditure incurred during the last 3-4 years, I think the position about the steps taken by the Government will be clear to some extent. In 2000-01 fund for the modernisation was to the tune of Rs. 75 lakh out of which Rs. 57 lakh were utilized. In 2001-02 fund to the tune of Rs. 40 lakh was granted but only Rs. 29 lakh were utilized. In 2002-03 allocation of fund was worth Rs. 32 lakh out of which Rs. 30 lakh were utilized. In 2003-04 fund to the tune of Rs. 100 lakh was granted for modernisation but only Rs. 59 lakh were utilized. In this regard other proposals have also been received which ask for providing Rs. 100 lakh for modernisation, Rs. 12 lakh should be provided for upgradation in 2004-05, we have taken decision in this regard. So far as other facilities are concerned, there are many, one of them is to provide accommodation. Sufficient accommodation have not been provided to the employees of CBI till now and so far we have 1444 residential houses whereas the number of staff is much more than that. For that if we take the example of Delhi, 33 flats are ready in Vasant Kunj at the cost of 46 lakh each and we have acquired 15 such flats. We have acquired land at different places so that accommodation may be provided to the officers of CBI and we are making efforts for this.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Very exhaustive answer. Any more questions? It is only with regard to vacancies.

DR. ARVIND SHARMA: Sir, I just want to ask how many cases CBI has registered during the last four years and what is the state of investigation of these cases.

MR. SPEAKER: How can it be? How can he tell you about all the cases? Hon. Minister, give only the number of cases.

[Translation]

SHRI SURESH PACHAURI: So far as the registration of cases is concerned 1,116 cases were registered in 2000, 1,105 in 2001, 1,159 in 2002, 1,068 in 2003 and 1,199 in 2004. Regarding the question raised by hon. Member about the investigation completed, I am happy to inform you that despite large number of vacancies, investigation is quite satisfactory in comparison to the number of cases registered. If we look at the ratio we find that in comparison to 1,105 cases registered in 2000, but investigation in respect of 1,129 cases were completed. Similarly, in comparison to the registration of 1,105 cases, 1,203 investigations were completed in 2001. Cutting my answer short, through you, I would like to inform that the number of cases investigated were more than the number of cases registered. That is why, I have said in my reply though there are vacancies, the performance of CBI is satisfactory. If the vacancies are filled up, it can even perform better...*(Interruptions)*.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I hope there will be no more crimes.

[Translation]

SHRI SURESH PACHAURI: If more facilities are provided, it would be better.

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon. Minister himself has accepted that there are many vacancies from the post of additional SP to constable and to fill up them he has offered some suggestions. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether he wants to give more facilities to these officers vis a vis police personnel, period of deputation for the officers up to the rank of SP and above is not fixed as a result of which others do not get opportunity to show their talent...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You please ask the question.

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Whether the Government wants to stipulate a time period for deputation because officers remain stuck at the same place of posting for five to seven years.

*... (Interruptions)**[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: It is a Question Hour not advice hour. Hon. Minister do not match the length of his question.

[Translation]

SHRI SURESH PACHAURI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, there are two parts of the question raised by hon. Member of Parliament first, what is the status of vacancies from level of Constable to Additional SP and the second from SP and onward. So far as the status of Constable to Additional SP level is concerned, I have said that to ensure that more and more people come in the CBI and to attract them, it has been decided to pay Rs. 1000/ per month to Additional SP and Rs. 100 per month to Inspectors as special allowance by the Government. Regarding the additional facilities which can be provided to them, discussions have been held with the Prime Minister and he had directed to submit proposals in this regard. So far as the question of SP and officers above the level of SP is concerned, through you, I would like to inform that the period of deputation for the SP and officers above the level of SP is four to seven years. You have expressed your concern as to whether the government will consider to reduce or change the period of deputation. We shall convey your feelings to the people concerned.

So far as the question of posting is concerned, CBI enjoys autonomy in this regard and the Government do not interfere in this. So far as the question of selection is concerned, the House has passed CVC Act in 2003. Under this act the responsibility of selection lies with the CVC Board or with an officer of the level of SP and above or with the UPSC. At the lower level the Departmental Selection Committee selects them...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: No question is left after this.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PARASNATH YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, please allow me to ask one question....*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: It has become a habit to always challenge the Speaker's decision. You have to give up this habit. Nothing is being recorded except Shri Chandra Mani Tripathi.

...*(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER: Anybody can question this.

[Translation]

I know this question has taken twenty minutes.

[English]

On a simple question of vacancies, and he has given exhaustive answers.

[Translation]

SHRI TUFANI SAROJ: I had given a notice to a question yesterday. Today also I have given a notice at 8.30.

MR. SPEAKER: No one gives notice at 8.30.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You ask the supplementaries but do not hear their replies.

...*(Interruptions)*

Report on MPLAD Scheme

*282. SHRI CHANDRA MANI TRIPATHI:
DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY:

Will the minister of STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Institute of Social Studies, New Delhi has released a report in regard to Members of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government is contemplating to bring about any change in the said scheme; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) and (b) The Institute of Social Sciences, New Delhi has published in February, 2005 a 174 page report titled "MPLADS-Concept, Confusion, Contradictions" by Shri Era Sezhiyan, a Senior Fellow of the Institute. A copy of the report has been placed in the Library of the Parliament. This report

* Not recorded.

examines: salary, allowances and facilities of MPs, concepts and implications of MPLADS Guidelines, fund allocations, expenditure patterns, Parliamentary Committees' reports, evaluation reports, constitutional issues, political aspects and shortcomings of the Scheme.

(c) and (d) The Government is considering to improve and bring out revised Guidelines. In order to bring about improvement in the implementation of the MPLAD Scheme, inter-active discussions were held with the Hon'ble Members of Parliament in five batches during August and December, 2004. More than 200 Members of Parliament attended and gave valuable suggestions which are being taken into account for revising the Guidelines on MPLADS.

For effective monitoring of the Scheme, Chief Secretaries/Administrators of the State Governments/UT Administrations have been requested to ensure that regular review meetings are held at the State/UT and district level. In addition, officers of the Ministry have conducted Scheme review meetings with the officials of the State and UT Governments at the State/UT as well as national capitals. Also on-line computerized monitoring system has been launched on 30th November, 2004, which will be fully operationalised shortly.

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRA MANI TRIPATHI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, on the one hand it is the demand of the Members of Parliament to increase the amount of Rs. 2 crore given under the Members of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme to Rs. 3 crore or 5 crore...*(Interruptions)* on the other hand the Institute of Social Studies has published in February 2005 a report ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Silence please. This unity for our own purpose is not very much appreciated.

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRA MANI TRIPATHI: Of which the Hon. Minister was just mentioning. An allegation has been levelled against the MPs therein that any MP...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: That is not related to this question is any way.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI CHANDRA MANI TRIPATHI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it does relate. In this report, placed in the library of Parliament, it has been stated that the Members of Parliament misuse the funds given to them under the MPLADS and therefore it should be scrapped. Whereas the MPs are demanding that funds should be increased but the report recommends otherwise because there has been violation of the prescribed guidelines in regard to utilization of the funds. I want to ask the Hon. Minister, through you...*(Interruptions)*

I would like to submit to the Hon. Minister that it is well within the right of the Government to take action against any member violate these guidelines. But the amount of Rs. 2 crore provided to the MPs for taking up developmental works in their areas should be enhanced to Rs. 5 crore and this is the sense of the House also. Mr. Speaker, Sir, I, think you will also agree to it. I want to know as to what action the Government is going to take on the said report...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I, think, we are spoiling the case by doing this and making it so obvious. Do it quietly. Go to the Prime Minister. Do not think I agree. I do not agree with this.

[Translation]

SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Hon. Member has suggested that...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: It will be a very sad day if the hon. Members feel that on this issue anybody should be pressurised. Let us not pressurise on our own matter.

Now, the hon. Minister. Nobody else's statements will be recorded.

...*(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Jha what has happened to you?

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: It is not being recorded. Nothing will go on record except what the hon. Minister says.

...*(Interruptions)**

* Not recorded.

[Translation]

SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES: Mr. Speaker, Sir, he has given two main suggestions in relation to the report...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: If the hon. Members cannot control themselves, I will go to the next question. Nothing will happen.

[Translation]

SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Member has given two suggestions in relation to the report. His one main suggestion is that whether or not MPs could do executive work. He has already mentioned it. His second suggestion relates to the utilisation of funds allocated to them, whether or not it is properly utilised. Now, I would like to say that we have made full arrangements to see that the money is properly utilized. We will place the new guidelines before the House in the next session and we will do our best for improvement. We have also put in place a computerised monitoring system in this regard....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI CHANDRA MANI TRIPATHI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister has said that he is going to take action. I want to know from the Government as to what facility it propose to provide to the MPs to monitor the progress of the work being undertaken on their recommendations. Because if the facility is not provided, then it would be difficult for a member to monitor the progress of the work. There are 8 legislative segments in my constituency. In some, there are 17 segments. So, it is for them to monitor the work. Therefore, I want to know from the Government as to whether it propose to provide a vehicle to the MPs so that they can monitor the works being undertaken in their respective areas on their recommendations.

MR. SPEAKER: No, not now.

SHRI CHANDRA MANI TRIPATHI: Mr. Speaker, it is part 'B' of that I intend to ask from hon'ble Minister...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: This 'B' will not do. From next session onwards that, too, will not do. What is your part 'B'? Please speak up.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI CHANDRA MANI TRIPATHI: Members of Parliament recommend work under the laid down guidelines. Mere recommendation by the Members of Parliament does not get the work sanctioned. When the collector sanctions the work then, it gets sanctioned and the collector sanctions the work under the guidelines of the Central Government. I would like to tell the hon'ble Minister that he should check the baseless and unfounded allegations levelled against the MPs and ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: No, what happened now?

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, you reply only to part (a) and partly to part (b) of his supplementary.

[Translation]

SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES: Hon'ble member has raised a question regarding giving suggestion for carrying out inspection of the works recommended by the MPs.

[English]

We are also taking up the matter with the State Governments. Various State Governments have provided certain facilities to the Members of Parliament for inspection.

[Translation]

This has been implemented in certain States.

[English]

We will take up the matter with the State Governments.

[Translation]

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you I would like to know from the Minister that the report mentioned by him in his reply contains this suggestion also that committees be setup and their meetings be organised at the district and State level at regular interval for implementation of this scheme and you have issued the guidelines also in that regard. I would like to know whether such committees have been setup in all the States in pursuance of those guidelines? Have such committees been setup in the districts of all those States and whether they have started functioning?

Sir, one important recommendation of the committee is that the IAS Officers engaged in the implementation of this scheme should also be trained and it should be incorporated in the syllabus of the National Training Institute at Mussoorie. What action has been taken on both the recommendations?

[English]

SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES: This report has just come and we are examining the report. We will be taking whatever action that is required to be taken to improve on the scheme. As far as the committees are concerned, there is no proposal to have any committee at the State level or at the district level. It is only the administration which is supposed to implement the scheme.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Ramkripal Yadav, do you want to raise any question?

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: You are not allowed.

[Translation]

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I had asked whether or not such committees had been constituted in the districts and States because vigilance and monitoring committee had been setup in certain States. If these committees have not been setup then by when the same will be constituted?

SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES: Sir, I have responded to this question and there is no proposal to constitute these committees.

[English]

It is the administration which is implementing the works to be undertaken under the scheme.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon'ble Minister had called the members of various States to discuss at length some months ago. I do not know as to what has been the outcome thereof and the views of the government after receiving the suggestions from the members. I have not been able to know about it so far. However, this is very true that allegations are levelled

against the MPs under the current system of utilisation of funds of MPLADS and we all find ourselves in the duck. I understand that several people level charges of various kind. Sir, kindly listen me in this regard, I am speaking out of my heart.

MR. SPEAKER: All the members speak out of their clear hearts and they ought to do so.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Sir, this amount of rupees two crore is too meager. One Parliamentary Constituency consists of several Assembly Constituencies for example, in Bihar there are six Assembly Constituencies in one Parliamentary Constituency. About Rs. 33-34 lakh are allocated for each Assembly segment. This amount is too meager. *...(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Silence please.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: In some States rupees one crore is provided to Legislators whereas in some States rupees two crore are provided to Legislators. People's demand is much more. Wherever we go to any village, people think that Chief Minister or any Government has come to their village and they start narrating their problems.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: If you do not come to your question, I would not allow you.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: I would like to tell the hon'ble Minister that this amount is too meager and sometime we are even alleged on this account. Why it should not be discontinued and some other method be adopted so that we may not have to face such situation, I demand that this should be discontinued. I want to know as to what is the view of the hon'ble Minister in this regard?

[English]

SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES: Sir, the hon'ble Member has raised the issue of increasing the amount or stopping it.

[Translation]

First of all I have called all the hon'ble Members and obtained their views besides a decision has been taken to improve the guidelines and I have already submitted in the House that new guidelines will be implemented....(*Interruptions*)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: He has said that only new guidelines have been issued. There is no proposal for stoppage.

Yes, Mr. Madan Lal Sharma, put your question. I will take up the next question immediately.

[Translation]

SHRI MADAN LAL SHARMA: Mr. Speaker Sir, through you I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister....(*Interruptions*)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Ramdas Athawale, I am warning you. I am requesting all the hon. Members to give up the habit of disturbing the Chair when another Member is speaking. You cannot dictate me.

[Translation]

SHRI MADAN LAL SHARMA: Mr. Speaker Sir, through you I would like to tell the entire House that the hon'ble Minister is replying to this and the hon'ble Prime Minister is also present here in the House. I request that before framing any policy we should consider the entire situation. There are 542 Parliamentary Constituencies in our country and equal amounts is allocated to all under the 'MPLADS'.

MR. SPEAKER: You please ask the question.

SHRI MADAN LAL SHARMA: I am asking the question. Jammu-Punch area is my Parliamentary Constituency. There are twenty Assembly segments in my constituency and it is stretched over three hundred kilometres from Jammu to Punch. My Constituency is spreading over three districts. My Constituency is vast and includes hilly areas as well as border areas. Rupees two crores are provided for my constituency and same amount is provided to the Members whose constituency consists of three Assembly segments.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: He has already said that there is no proposal.

[Translation]

SHRI MADAN LAL SHARMA: Providing rupees two crore to the constituencies comprising of twenty Assembly segments, I think is injustice with the Members like me.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: You are misusing the Question Hour by making a speech.

[Translation]

SHRI MADAN LAL SHARMA: I request the hon'ble Minister that amount to the constituency under 'MPLADS' should be provided as per Assembly segments within them so that the members could do justice to their respective constituencies....(*Interruptions*)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I go to the next hon'ble Member. I won't permit this type of misuse.

[Translation]

SHRI MADAN LAL SHARMA: Will you consider it, and whether any such scheme is under consideration of the Government....(*Interruptions*)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Do not misuse the opportunity given to you. It is because you are taking other Member's time.

His supplementary is, are you increasing or not increasing the MPLAD funds?

SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES: Sir, hon. Member has raised a question that on the basis of land extent and on the basis of population, we should decide. At the moment, we have no such proposal.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: I am requesting the hon'ble members again and again to but a question. No speech is

necessary. This is not a time for speeches. What is your question.

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, an M.P. gets the opportunity to fulfil the demands of poor people of his constituency. The hon'ble Prime Minister is sitting here in the House. The farmers belonging to scheduled castes and scheduled tribes have less hording and we are not permitted for laying of pipeline or digging of wells under this scheme to arrange water for irrigation for their land. Whether the Government intends to amend this scheme so that we could do away with their problem also.

MR. SPEAKER: You have asked your supplementary question, please sit down now.

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Sir, I demand that rupees one crore per assembly segment should be provided to the Members under the 'MPLADS'.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Are you thinking of that? Are you considering the proposal?

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Are you considering what he has said?

SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES: Sir, in the new Guidelines, we are trying to include as many schemes as possible for the hon. Members of Parliament to implement.

SHRI SURESH KURUP: Sir, the MPLAD Scheme is *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: Sir, the Prime Minister is sitting. He should tell whether they are willing to increase*

MR. SPEAKER: Not to be recorded. Do not record it.

Thank you for your advice.

Except Shri Suresh Kurup, nothing will be recorded.

*...(Interruptions)**

SHRI SURESH KURUP: Sir, the MPLAD Scheme is implemented...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing else will be recorded.

*...(Interruptions)**

SHRI SURESH KURUP: Sir, the MPLAD Scheme is implemented fully through the State Government machinery.

MR. SPEAKER: You put your question.

SHRI SURESH KURUP: If there is any problem with the implementation of the MPLAD Scheme, that means, the same problem is there for other Government schemes also.

The problem now, in our State of Kerala, is this. MLAs in Kerala are given Rs. 75 lakh per constituency per year. In seven assembly segments, it comes to more than Rs. 5 crore. Our amount is quite insufficient. When it is divided among seven assembly segments, it comes to Rs. 25 lakh.

MR. SPEAKER: He has already answered it. There is no proposal at present to increase.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI SURESH KURUP: Sir, even at the cost of repetition, I would like to get an answer from the Minister. I would like to know whether the Government will consider increasing the amount or otherwise stop this scheme completely...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Ganesh Singh.

Need not be answered. He has answered it.

SHRI SURESH KURUP: He has not given a direct answer to the question.

MR. SPEAKER: On his behalf, I am giving it.

[Translation]

SHRI GANESH SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister whether the Government intend to permit treatment of poor people particularly from the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and backward communities who are seriously ill and do not have any facility of treatment under the 'MPLADS'.

[English]

SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES: Sir, the schemes entail only having permanent and durable assets. So, I do not think, we would be able to spend money on treatment of patients.

[Translation]

WLL and BSNL Towers

*283. SHRIMATI KALPANA RAMESH NARHIRE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to set up the WLL and BSNL mobile towers in the interior areas of the country;

(b) if so, the funds sanctioned for the purpose; and

(c) the time by which the said work is likely to be completed?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN): (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) In order to meet the demand of fixed line connections in rural areas, BSNL has planned to provide WLL Towers in all the Short Distance Charging Areas (Tehsils) *i.e.* SDCAs of the country. Initially BSNL plans to provide at least one WLL Tower in each SDCA. There are 2642 SDCAs in the country out of which 1756 SDCAs have already been deployed with WLL Tower as on 28.2.2005 and the balance 886 SDCAs are planned to be provided with WLL Towers during the next financial year. There are 8543 Mobile BTS towers spread over 588 District Headquarters in the country in 3552 cities/towns including Tehsil Headquarters, National Highways, Important pilgrimage centres, tourist places etc. Additional 14001 mobile BTS towers would be installed by December, 2005.

(b) The allocation of funds for WLL and mobile towers is done on year to year basis. The funds allocated for WLL and mobile towers for the year 2004-05 is Rs. 116.01 crore & Rs. 457.5 crore respectively.

(c) As given in (a) above.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI KALPANA RAMESH NARHIRE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, we can easily reach to any part of the world through internet and e-mail within a second. But in our rural areas telephone and mobile service has not been provided so far. In his reply the hon. Minister has stated that 1756 short distance WLL Transmission Towers and 8543 BTS towers for mobile phones have already been installed upto 28.2.05. But as per my information a number of towers out of these have not been made operational so far. I want clarification from the hon. Minister in this regard. In my constituency Osmanabad, 30-35 villages have a population ranging from 10 to 15 thousand but have no towers. Therefore, I want to know whether any proposal is with the Government to introduce BSNL and WLL telephone service in these villages?

[English]

SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN: Hon. Speaker, Sir, I think, in the reply itself I have clearly stated that out of the 2,642 SDCAs in the country, 1,756 SDCAs have already been provided with WLL towers....(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SUBODH MOHITE: They have been provided but they are not functioning....(*Interruptions*)

SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN: I am answering....(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: You need not reply to answer that part.

... (Interruptions)

SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN: The remaining 886 SDCAs are planned in the next financial year. This is a continuous process and we are continuing with it. As I said earlier in this House, we would be rolling out 12 million lines by the end of this year. In the next six months, we would be able to achieve the targets and provide better mobile telephone services 'on demand' to all the consumers. Similarly, we are trying to give connections to all the villages by WLL but that would take time. I have said clearly in the answer, to the hon. Member, that by the next financial year, we would be able to provide infrastructure to each village.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI KALPANA RAMESH NARHIRE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, there are eight Tehsils under my

parliamentary constituency and BSNL towers are existing there but those towers are not operational due to shortage of equipments. I want to know as to when these equipments will be made available there and the time by which telephone service of BSNL will be started there?

[English]

SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN: Sir, in certain places, we are having problem with the fixed line telephones. Already equipment have been purchased but we had some legal problems. I think, in another three months' time, the equipment would be available in each circle.

MR SPEAKER: Very good.

[Translation]

DR. TUSHAR A. CHAUDHARY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, in my constituency also BSNL towers are installed but signal reception is very weak there due to shortage of equipments. If you are inside the home or one kilometer away from the tower then the signal is not received, connectivity is very poor. What does the government intend to do in this regard? I want to know from the hon. Minister as to by what time the entire country is likely to be connected by mobile telephone service?

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: When would you be able to cover the entire country?

...(Interruptions)

SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN: Hon. Speaker, Sir, as I said last week, in answer to a similar question, we are providing 12 million additional lines. This would take six months for us to implement. As I said, the BSNL is the most sought after service provider and everyone is demanding service from BSNL; especially, the mobile service has picked up very well. There is lot of appreciation for BSNL Services. The equipment has started rolling out. It would take time to install these equipments. The service would be available 'on demand' and there would be better services in the next six months.

MR. SPEAKER: This is a very good assurance.

SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to ask the hon. Minister what steps have been taken by the Government of India to provide better telephone facilities such as WLL and BSNL to rural areas in India,

especially for the Hadoti area of Rajasthan, which covers Baran and Jhalawar districts. The hon. Minister has assured us that he is providing us the equipment. He has mentioned in his main answer that he has provided the towers but none of these towers are functioning in the Hadoti area, especially in Baran and Jhalawar districts. I would urge the hon. Minister to take notice of especially NH-19, NH-76 and NH-12 passing through our district. I would urge the hon. Minister and the Government to provide us better facilities for the districts of Jhalawar and Baran and the entire Hadoti area.

MR. SPEAKER: Would you do that?

SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN: Yes, Sir, definitely.

MR. SPEAKER: He has accepted.

Shri Dushyant Singh is becoming a role model. He keeps quiet. He lets it quiet. He gives his name, sits quiet and gets his chances. Hon. Members should see him and learn. We should also learn from young hon. Members. I am very happy about this.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: May I know from the hon. Minister whether he is aware that the whole BSNL communication system has been disrupted following the continuation of the BSNL officers in different parts of the country? If he is aware, what steps has he taken to speak to the agitating officers to fulfil their demands regarding promotions, fixing of pay scales, etc.?

MR. SPEAKER: Does it arise out of the main Question?

SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN: Sir, the hon. Member has asked a question which pertains to the present scenario. I am happy to inform hon. Members of the House that the United Forum of the BSNL executives met me in a meeting today. I have made an appeal to them. I would also like to inform the House that hon. Member from Rajya Sabha Shri Nilotpal Basu was also present in that meeting. The BSNL executives have unilaterally withdrawn their agitation and wherever services are affected, the normalcy would be restored.

MR. SPEAKER: We should compliment him for that.

[Translation]

SHRI SUBODH MOHITE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, a very simple question has been asked about mobile towers and providing of mobile service and in the reply thereto

it has been stated that 'there are 2642 SDCA in the country and out of these SDCAs WLL towers have already been installed in 1756 SDCAs'.

[English]

The Government is planning to install 14,001 additional mobile lines by December 2005.

[Translation]

This simple question has not been answered in a simple manner.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: That is different. Here, you have to put a question. If you want to challenge, there is another method.

SHRI SUBODH MOHITE: No, Sir. I am not challenging it.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Subodh Mohite, you are an articulate Member. Please put a question.

SHRI SUBODH MOHITE: Sir, this question is directly related to national security.

There are two technologies. One of them is CDMA and the other one is GSM. The drawbacks of CDMA technology are two. The first is that the handsets provided under this technology are operator-specific. So, those handsets cannot be used with any other service provider. Secondly, I am specifically asking a question regarding national security....*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: This is about towers.

SHRI SUBODH MOHITE: Yes. This is very important. The synchronisation under CDMA technology is done through GPS satellite network. This is a fact.

MR. SPEAKER: He is an engineer.

SHRI SUBODH MOHITE: This GPS satellite network. defence system, our entire system will collapse the day America so wishes. There can not be two opinions if it is correct.

[Translation]

It is a system borrowed from the US.

[English]

Why do we not adopt the alternate service or technology which is GSM?

[Translation]

My question is that what is comparative utilization and perspective planning of CDMA and GSM in your utilized and installed stations considering the threat to the nation?

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Are you going to pursue CDMA or GSM?

SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN: All I can answer is that the Member's fears are not very serious. I would like to answer the Member. Right now, in India, we are using the technology of CDMA as well as GSM and we are technology neutral. I think, we are leaving to the service operators to decide what kind of technology they are going in for. This fear that this will happen or that will happen, I am not here to answer because, in fact, it is very hypothetical. I really cannot say that the member's fears are justified.

MR. SPEAKER: He is an engineer. You can call him and have a cup of tea with him. He will tell you.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: No, No. You should talk and give him what you feel.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: It does not arise.

[Translation]

SHRI CHEWANG THUPSTAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I represent the Laddakh constituency. This region remains cut off from the other areas of the country for seven months and only telephone remains the means of communication with other areas.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: That is why I have called you.

[*Translation*]

SHRI CHHEWANG THUPSTAN: But telephone facility in entire Laddakh is not satisfactory. So far BSNL tower is concerned, BSNL tower is intalled for Kargil town layout only. WLL tower has not been installed there so far. BSNL or WLL cable can be the means of communications in villages under my constituency. I want to know from the hon. Minister whether he will consider it as a special case and make efforts to connect rural areas? The time by which tower will be installed there?

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: About Laddakh, it is his request.

SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN: For this particular question, I will get back to the Member.

MR. SPEAKER: Okay. I am sure he will consider it favourably.

[*Translation*]

SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK: Mr. Speaker, Sir, corruption is rampant in BSNL in eastern Uttar Pradesh. The entire country and this august House is aware as to how much difficult it is to connect telephones during evening.

MR. SPEAKER: You please ask the question.

SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK: Mr. Speaker, Sir, with the outset of evening employees start filtering the calls and deliberately reduce the capacity of the mobile exchange say—a capacity of ten thousand mobiles per user is considerably reduced.

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: What is your question.

[*Translation*]

SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Mobiles do not work from 6 to 8 O'clock in the evening. The Employees of BSNL are at it in order to promote private cellular operators. Hon. Minister must answer this.

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: It does not arise out of that. If there are any improprieties, you should look into them.

SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN: Yes, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER: On your behalf, I have requested. It is a very good question.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri B. Mahtab.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: There are about 35 hon. Members. How can I call each one of you?

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI B. MAHTAB: Sir, I have a very simple question...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: You put a pointed question, without any preface.

SHRI B. MAHTAB: The Short Distance Charging Area (SDCA), as has been mentioned in the answer, is a *Tehsil*. This is not true. The SDCA covers a large area. But the WLL technology BTS is only operative in a radius of five kilometres and the WLL technology is only operational in the plain areas. It cannot function in a hilly terrain. So, when you have a policy to extend it to all SDCAs, don't you think, WLL will not function in many hilly terrain and hilly areas? Even in States like Orissa, there are a number of SDCAs which may not function if we have this technology in a proper way. This is my simple question.

MR. SPEAKER: What do you propose to do with regard to that?

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN: The hon. Member is right. But I would like to say and let the hon. Member also know that we are not depending only on WLL service alone. There are other fixed wire services too. It is the combination of different technologies which we are trying to implement.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAJNARAYAN BUDHOLIA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, whether the Government has prepared any scheme to connect the national highways, tehsil headquarters of Hamirpur-Mahoba Parliamentary constituency in Uttar

Pradesh to mobile towers/network, if so, by when? I have written several letters to the hon. Minister and in their reply I was informed that all areas will be connected by January 2005 but this work has not been completed till date. Apart from this a waiting list of consumers for BSNL (prepaid) still exists. Consumers were assured that Sim card will be made available to them by Dec. 2005. Through you, I would like to know from hon. Minister whether there is any time limit by which sim card will be made available to the consumers of my constituency and the entire area will be connected through mobile network?

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, you better look into his constituency situation and let him know.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You cannot ask for details of one or the other place. How can he answer that? But Mr. Minister, you please ask your Office to let him know.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon. Minister in his reply has said that the Government had decided to install a tower at tehsil level. I am asking the second part of the question of Shri Mahtabji. The equipments installed under WLL technology in hilly areas have a range of 25 km. and others have a range of 5 kms. But in hilly areas an equipment of 25 Km. covers not more than 10-12 km. and that of 5 kms. covers only 2 kms. When we enquire about this from General Manager we are told that this information is passed on to BSNL from the department of information of the Government of India and setting up of traditional exchange system through wire has been banned for the future. When this system does not work, whether the Government will issue any order to set up traditional exchanges in such regions?

[English]

SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN: The hon. Member is right that WLL covers about a range of five kilometres. That is for mobile handsets. Similarly, when you have a fixed wireless, the range goes up to 25 kilometres. Basically, WLL are now SDCA-based. But in certain areas or in hilly areas, they are trying to use repeaters to enhance the services and in certain areas it is not possible

because of the terrain conditions. So, we have no other choice but to use copper wires to do it. Again, these are all based on the demand of those areas. If the areas do not have demand or anything, then it is not possible for us to provide it on exchanges. It is basically on the demand and supply...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE: There is a demand.

[Translation]

Training to SSI Entrepreneurs

*284. SHRI RAKESH SINGH: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state: -

(a) whether the Government is providing training to the SSI entrepreneurs for international quality standards;

(b) if so, whether specialized testing lab facility is also being provided;

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

(d) whether training facility in regard to quality standards for I.S.O.-9000 is also available to the SSI entrepreneurs; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHAVIR PRASAD): (a) to (e) A statement is placed on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) With a view to encouraging small scale industries to export their products, Government of India has been regularly organizing awareness and training programmes on manufacture of products as per quality standards of various countries and also on the needs of certification as per internationally recognized quality standards on management and environment.

(b) and (c) Government of India has established 4 Regional Testing Centres (RTCs) at New Delhi, Kolkata, Mumbai & Chennai and 7 Field Testing Stations (FTSs) at Jaipur, Bhopal, Kolhapur, Hyderabad, Bangalore, Pondicherry & Changanacherry to assist small scale industries in carrying out testing and certification of their products as per quality standards of different countries.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) In order to create awareness among small scale entrepreneurs regarding ISO 9000 quality management system and to provide them information on such certification, Ministry of SSI, Government of India through Small Industries Service Institutes and Regional Testing Centres located in the States, is providing training SSI entrepreneurs. Besides, small scale units acquiring to ISO-9001/ISO-14001 certification are provided reimbursement of 75% of the cost incurred (upto Rs. 75000/-). Under this scheme, 7.226 SSI units have been benefited upto 15.2.2005.

[Translation]

SHRI RAKESH SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you I would like to know from the Government whether it has information about the training imparted to the entrepreneurs of small scale industries and the number of such entrepreneurs and industries who are making export braving international competition. If the number of such people is less then whether Government will consider making the training imparted to the entrepreneurs of small scale industry more export-oriented?

SHRI MAHAVIR PRASAD: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to inform hon. Members of Parliament that Government has taken into account various points to train entrepreneurs as exporter and to begin this work.

12.00 hrs.

First, for upgradation of technique sanction has been granted under credit linked capital subsidy. Second for testing the produce, these are being conducted by about 11 laboratories at nominal rates. Third, a grant of Rs. 75 thousand is being provided to acquire international standards. Fourth, training is being imparted for good packing of their products. Fifth, the facility of bar coding is being provided to facilitate their sales in international market. Sixth, there is a provision for providing marketing development assistance in the field of international trade to small-scale industries....(Interruptions). Thus by taking all the above measures we are imparting training to entrepreneurs in order to promote exports internationally.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Question Hour is over. I think, we have done better today than other days. Thank you hon. Members for your co-operation.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[Translation]

Anaemia Among Women

*285. SHRI BHUPENDRASINH SOLANKI:
SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN:

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

(a) whether more than 70 percent poor women and girls in rural areas of the country particularly pregnant women are suffering from anaemia;

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

(c) whether anaemia has emerged as a silent killer among the poor women particularly in rural India;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) to (e) According to National Family Health Survey (NFHS) - II, 51.8% of ever married women (15-49 years) were found to have anaemia. 35% had mild anaemia; 14.8% moderate anaemia and 1.9% severe anaemia. Among the anaemic women, 54% were in rural areas. The State-wise details showing prevalence of anaemia are given in the statement enclosed. The problem of anemia is more among pregnant women. According to the survey conducted by the National Nutrition Monitoring Bureau of ICMR in 2002, 4% pregnant women were found to have severe anaemia.

According to the estimates of Registrar General of India based on Sample Registration System, 1998 (SRS), nutritional anaemia contributes to 19% of maternal deaths. The requirements of iron and folic acid become 6 times greater among pregnant women than non-pregnant women. The major causes of nutritional anaemia are inadequate nutrition with deficient intake of iron and folic acid in diet, inadequate absorption of iron, frequent pregnancies, high prevalence of infections and infestations and faulty feeding practices.

Iron deficiency is a problem of inadequate nutrition. A National Nutritional Policy was formulated in 1993 and

the national plan of action on nutrition is being implemented through a number of Departments of Government of India including, among other, the Integrated Child Development Services Programme of Department of Women and Child Development and the Reproductive and Child Health Programme of the Department of Family Welfare for improving the nutritional status of pregnant women and children.

Apart from health related factors illiteracy, poverty, general economic and social development have a direct bearing on the incidence of anaemia among people, particularly among women. To tackle these problems, various departments of the Government are implementing programmes such as Nutrition education of the community in rural, urban and tribal areas by the Food and Nutrition Board of the Department of Women and Child Development with a view to create awareness about the consequences of anaemia, promote the locally available foods rich in iron and on folic acid and how to prevent and control anaemia.

The Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) scheme of the Department of WCD provides supplementary food to the pregnant women/nursing mothers to the extent of 500 calories and 15-20 g protein per day. Nutrition and health education of all women with special emphasis on pregnant and lactating women is also undertaken by the anganwadi worker.

Various food for work programmes, poverty alleviation programmes, targeted public distribution system contribute to improving food security for the rural population.

Research trials on double fortified salt have also been undertaken by the National Institute of Nutrition, Hyderabad, to address the problem of nutritional anaemia in the country. Jawahar Rojgar Yojana, Integrated Rural Development Programme, Indira Awas Yojana and Adult Literacy Programme are being launched by different agencies/departments of Government of India.

Statement

Anaemia Among Women by State

Percentage of ever-married women classified as having iron-deficiency anaemia by degree of anaemia, according to State, India, 1998-99

State	% of Women with any anaemia	Mild Anaemia	Moderate Anaemia	Severe Anaemia
1	2	3	4	5
India	51.8	35.0	14.8	1.9
Delhi	40.5	29.6	9.6	1.3
Haryana	47.0	30.9	14.5	1.6
Himachal Pradesh	40.5	31.4	8.4	0.7
Jammu and Kashmir	58.7	39.3	17.6	1.9
Punjab	41.4	28.4	12.3	0.7
Rajasthan	48.5	32.3	14.1	2.1
Madhya Pradesh	54.3	37.6	15.6	1.0
Uttar Pradesh	48.7	33.5	13.7	1.5
Bihar	63.4	42.9	19.0	1.5

1	2	3	4	5
Orissa	63.0	45.1	16.4	1.6
West Bengal	62.7	45.3	15.9	1.5
Arunachal Pradesh	62.5	50.6	11.3	0.6
Assam	69.7	43.2	25.6	0.9
Manipur	28.9	21.7	6.3	0.8
Meghalaya	63.3	33.4	27.5	2.4
Mizoram	48.0	35.2	12.1	0.7
Nagaland	38.4	27.8	9.6	1.0
Sikkim	61.1	37.3	21.4	2.4
Goa	36.4	27.3	8.1	1.0
Gujarat	46.3	29.5	14.4	2.5
Maharashtra	48.5	31.5	14.1	2.9
Andhra Pradesh	49.8	32.5	14.9	2.4
Karnataka	42.4	26.7	13.4	2.3
Kerala	22.7	19.5	2.7	0.5
Tamil Nadu	56.5	36.7	15.9	3.9

Note: The haemoglobin levels are adjusted for altitude of the enumeration area and for smoking when calculating the degree of anaemia.

[English]

Amendment of Food Adulteration Act

*286. SHRI TUKARAM GANPATRAO RENGE PATIL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that mineral water/package drinking water does not come within the purview of the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the action taken/proposed to be taken to amend the said Act?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) to (c)

'Food' has been defined under section 2 (v) of the PFA Act, 1954, and according to this definition 'water' has been excluded from the definition of 'food'.

Section 2(v) (c) of PFA Act, 1954, empowers the Central Government to declare by notification in the official Gazette any other article, having regard to its use, nature, substance or quality, as food for the purpose of PFA Act, 1954.

Accordingly, 'packaged drinking water' has been declared as 'food' for the purposes of PFA Act, 1954, vide notification GSR No. 202 (E) dated 21.3.2001.

Income From I.T. Industry

*287. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the income earned from software industry, which forms the largest segment of the IT industry, during the financial years 2003-04 and 2004-05;

(b) the income likely to be earned by this industry during 2005-06;

(c) the steps taken or being taken by the Government to promote IT industry and maximize the income; and

(d) the present share of India in the field of IT export and its rising or decreasing trend during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN): (a) The IT software and services sector earned revenue of Rs. 74,490 crore during the financial year 2003-04. This sector is expected to earn revenue of Rs. 97,860 crore during the financial year 2004-05.

(b) The IT software and services sector is expected to earn revenue of over Rs. 125,000 crore during the financial year 2005-06.

(c) The steps taken by the Government to promote IT industry and maximize the income are given in the enclosed Statement.

(d) India's share in world IT software and services industry has consistently increased during the last three years as per details below:

2001-02:	1.56%
2002-03:	2.00%
2003-04:	2.66%

Statement

1. National Common Minimum Programme (NCMP) of the Government emphasizes on energizing and sustaining the growth of manufacturing industry including IT Hardware.
2. Approvals for all foreign direct investment proposals relating to the Information Technology Sector, with the exception of Business-to-consumer (B2C) e-commerce are under the automatic route.
3. The Depreciation on Computers is allowed @ 60%.

4. Peak rate of customs duty has been reduced from 20% to 15%. Customs duty on project imports with investment of at least Rs. 5 crores in plants and machinery is @ 10%. Customs duty on ITA-1 items (217 items) has been abolished from 1.3.2005. Customs duty on Metals (Ferrous & Non-ferrous), chemicals and plastics has been reduced from 15% to 10%. All goods required in the manufacture of ITA-1 items have been exempted from customs duty subject to Actual user condition. Customs duty on specified electronic components has been exempted except Deflection parts, Air cored & ferrite cored transformers, RF/IF coils and Loudspeakers (cone type). An additional duty of 4% has been imposed on items bound by IT Agreement (except IT Software) and their inputs, raw materials, parts, capital goods covered under various customs notifications. Specified capital goods required in the manufacture of capacitors, electronic fuses, TDM, DC micromotors, PCBs, Relays, Switches have been exempted from customs duty. Customs Duty on specified raw materials/inputs used for manufacture of electronic components or optical fibers/cables is @ 0%. Customs duty on specified capital goods used for manufacture of electronic goods is @ 0%. Specified infrastructure equipment for basic/cellular/ internet, V-SAT, radio paging and public mobile radio trunked services and parts of such equipment are exempted from basic customs duty. Customs duty exemption to mobile switching centers presently available to cellular mobile telephone service providers has been extended to imports by universal access service providers. Customs duty on cellphones, parts of Set Top Box continues at 0%. Laptops brought as part of baggage are exempted from customs duty. Customs duty on passenger baggage has been reduced from 40% to 35%.

5. Excise duty on computers is @ 0%. Microprocessors, Hard Disc Drives, Floppy Disc Drives and CD ROM Drives continue to be exempt from excise duty. Pre-loaded software on PCs, Audio CDs, Recorded VCDs and DVDs, Cellular Phones, Radio trunking terminals, Portable receivers for calling, alerting or paging; parts, components and accessories of mobile handsets including cellular phones, Set Top Box remain exempted from excise duty.

6. Export Promotion Capital Goods scheme (EPCG) allows capital goods on payment of 5% customs duty. The Export Obligation under the scheme is linked to the duty saved and is 8 times the duty saved on capital goods imported, to be fulfilled over a period of 8 years. Import of second hand capital goods and import of capital goods for pre-production and post-production facilities are permitted under the scheme. Import of spares is also permitted to facilitate upgradation of existing plant and machinery. The export obligation under EPCG Scheme can also be fulfilled by the supply of Information Technology Agreement (ITA-1) items to the DTA provided the realization is in free foreign exchange. EPCG licence holders can opt for Technological Upgradation of the existing capital good imported under the EPCG licence.
7. Supplies of Information Technology Agreement (ITA-1) items and notified zero duty telecom/electronic items in the Domestic Tariff Area (DTA) by Electronics Hardware Technology Park (EHTP) Export Oriented Unit (EOU) units are counted for the purpose of fulfilment of positive NFE.
8. 100% depreciation is available to computers and computer peripherals over a period of 5 years for all units under EOU/EHTP/Software Technology Park (STP)/Special Economic Zones (SEZ) schemes.
9. EOU/STP/EHTP/Bio Technology Park (BTP) units have been exempted from Service Tax in proportion to their exported goods and services.
10. Special Economic Zones are being set up to enable hassle free manufacturing and trading for export purposes. Sales from Domestic Tariff Area (DTA) to SEZs are being treated as physical export. This entitles domestic suppliers to Drawback/DEPB benefits, CST exemption and Service Tax exemption.
11. Information Technology Software is exempted from Customs and Excise Duty.
12. Second hand capital goods are freely importable.
13. EOU/STP/EHTP units are eligible for Income Tax exemption on export profits, upto 2010, in terms of Sections 10A and 10B of the Income Tax Act.
14. 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.
15. The donation of computers, imported duty free by EOU/STP/EHTP units to Government schools, non-commercial educational institutions, registered charitable hospitals, public libraries, public funded research and development establishments, Community Information Centres, Adult Education Centres and Government organisations, two years after their use by the said units is permitted.
16. The second-hand computers and computer peripherals donated by an outside donor to government schools, non-commercial educational institutions, registered charitable hospitals, public libraries, public funded research and development establishments, Community Information Centres, Adult Education Centres and Government organisations are exempted from customs duties.
17. Income by way of dividends or long-term capital gains of a Venture Capital Fund (VCF) 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. 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.
18. Tax holiday under provisions of Section 80-IA of the Income Tax Act (Infrastructure Status) is available to Internet Service Providers (ISPs) and Broadband Network providers.

19. To induce more investment for Research and Development activities, a weighted deduction of 150% on the sums paid to any university, college or an institution or a scientific research association for the purposes of scientific, social or statistical research is available.
20. 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.
21. Effective negotiations in World Trade Organisation (WTO) to secure increased access to the foreign markets and ensure national treatment for the Indian IT/ITeS industry as per the provisions of General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS).

Growth of Biotechnology

*288. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the growth of biotechnology in our country is similar to that of other developed/developing countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken to encourage the students to opt for biotechnology course in the country and the career opportunities existing/proposed to be developed for them in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) and (b) India is emerging as a major player in the global biotechnology scenario. In 2003-2004 the Indian Biotechnology Industry witnessed accelerated growth of 39% and accounted for 1.5% of the global biotechnology sector of US\$ 45 billion. The turnover of Indian Biotechnology Industries during 2003-04 was US\$ 705 million of which 56% was from Exports. Indian Biotechnology companies have made significant inroads into overseas generic markets. 17 Indian Biotech products are already in the market.

In the area of Agriculture, India is one of the 14 Mega Countries growing more than 50,000 ha transgenics crop, though the area is very small 1% of global area (0.5 mha) as compared to US which occupies 59% global area (47.6 mha).

The strong science base existing in the country has enabled its success in biotechnology. India has the 12th most successful biotechnology industry in the world as measured by number of companies. A recent report in 2004 by US Patent Office ranks India the first among developing countries in terms of patents issued in health biotechnology and third in terms of scientific publications in this sector.

As per the report by GeneMedix 2002, India is considered as one of the top five Biologics manufacturing hot spots in the world with Bangalore being one of the world's hottest technology city.

(c) The Department of Biotechnology, Government of India has laid special emphasis on Human Resource Development and supports post graduates/diploma courses in different Universities across the country. In addition PhD and Postdoctoral fellowship programmes have also been supported to attract students/scientists for research in Biotechnology. For creating specialized human resource to meet the industrial needs, Industrial training programmes are supported for post graduate students. Mid carrier scientists are provided short term training courses. To encourage students to pursue their studies in Biotechnology, 25 biology scholarships are awarded each year to the top students of 10+2 CBSE. Overseas fellowships are provided for Post Doctoral research to scientists.

To promote human resource development further, it is proposed that scientific and technical human resource would be made available in adequate numbers and of adequate quality in all disciplines relevant to life sciences and biotechnology sector. Strengthening R & D in life sciences and biotechnology in the university system is being accorded high priority, in addition to improving science education in schools. The improvement in quality of the teaching programmes is being taken up through improved curriculum and teachers training course. It is proposed to further enhance the number of Ph.D. and Post doctoral research fellowship. Specialized technician training centres are proposed to be set up for niche areas as per industry requirement.

Biotechnology Information System Network

*289. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY:
SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:

Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has established the Biotechnology Information System Network in various parts of the country;

(b) if so, the details of the objectives of Biotechnology Network;

(c) whether the Government proposes to set up some new Bio-Informatics Centres during 2004-05 and 2005-06;

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

(e) the fund allocated for each of such centres?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The broad objectives of the Biotechnology Information System programme are:

- to provide a national bioinformation network designed to link the scientists in various organisations involved in Human Resource Development, R & D and manufacturing activities in biotechnology,
- to organize creation of necessary computing and communication infrastructure,
- to continuously assess information requirements, document India's bioresources, prepare databases in biotechnology and develop tools and techniques for handling the relevant information,
- to promote education and training in bioinformatics,
- to promote R & D in advanced methods of computer-based information processing for analyzing the structure and function of biologically important molecules, in-silico drug design and in addressing specific systems biology questions,

- to coordinate efforts to access biotechnology information world wide by establishing linkages with some of the international biotechnology information resources, and

- to promote exchange of scientific information in biotechnology through appropriate international collaboration.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. In 2004-05, funds have been sanctioned for four new distributed informatics sub centres at the following institutions:

- Engineering College, Raipur, Chattisgarh
- Central Agricultural Research Institute, Port Blair, Andaman & Nicobar Islands
- T. M. Bhagalpur University, Bhagalpur, Bihar
- Birla Institute of Technology, Mesra, Ranchi, Jharkhand

In the year 2005-06 one more distributed informatics sub centre has been proposed to be established at Institute of Bioresources and Sustainable Development (IBSD), Imphal, Manipur.

(e) For each of the new distributed informatics sub centres Rs. 28.70 Lakhs is allocated in the first year and Rs. 8.70 Lakhs during each of the succeeding years of the Tenth Plan.

Post Office Saving Banks

*290. SHRI HARIN PATHAK: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Post Office Saving Banks (POSBs) functioning in rural areas;

(b) the share of POSBs in rural savings; and

(c) the manner in which the Government proposes to encourage the rural saving through POSBs?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN): (a) to (c) 1,39,081 Post Offices are functioning in rural areas. Among the rural Post Offices, 1,38,529 Post Offices have Post Office Saving Banks (POSBs). Circle-wise details of POSBs are given at enclosed Statement-I.

The share of POSB in rural savings averages to 55% approximately. This figure is an average of percentage figures as reflected by 13 out of a total of 22 Postal Circles. Details are given at enclosed Statement II.

Rural savings is being provided by :

- (i) Allotting specific targets to Postal Circles to mobilize deposits, which are being monitored.
- (ii) Widespread publicity is being given to POSB schemes through small saving drives in rural areas/Media Post/local dailies/radio/TV/pamphlets/brochures/local Dak Mela/puppet shows/'Bal Bachal Yojana' for school children in rural areas/small savings agents etc.
- (iii) Motivational Savings Bank Training is being imparted to postal staff, Branch Postmaster, Gramin Dak Sevaks to educate the villagers about the different small savings schemes available in the Post Office and guiding them on investment.

Statement I

Circle Wise Details of Number of Post Office Saving Banks (As on 31.03.2003)

Sl.No.	Circles	Rural PO	No. of POs doing POSB work in rural areas
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	14857	14845
2.	Assam	3695	3695
3.	Bihar	8607	8607
4.	Chhattisgarh	5366	5366
5.	Delhi	80	80
6.	Gujarat	8234	8222
7.	Haryana	2327	2327
8.	Himachal Pradesh	2655	2655
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	1494	1483
10.	Jharkhand	2776	2772

1	2	3	4
11.	Kerala	4195	4195
12.	Karnataka	8569	8569
13.	Madhya Pradesh	5029	4995
14.	Maharashtra	11472	11472
15.	North East	2756	2756
16.	Orissa	7566	7566
17.	Punjab	3437	3407
18.	Rajasthan	9648	9648
19.	Tamil Nadu	10205	10192
20.	Uttar Pradesh	15707	15191
21.	Uttaranchal	2491	2479
22.	West Bengal	7917	7917
Total		139081	138529

Statement II

Percentage Wise Figure of Share of POSB in Rural Savings (For 13 Circles as on December, 2004)

Sl. No.	Circles	Percentage of Postal (POSB) rural savings in total State rural savings
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	28.6%
2.	Assam	68%
3.	Bihar	—
4.	Chhattisgarh	30%
5.	Delhi	—
6.	Gujarat	66.80%
7.	Haryana	—
8.	Himachal Pradesh	95.54%
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	34.99%
10.	Jharkhand	—

1	2	3
11.	Kerala	—
12.	Karnataka	65%
13.	Madhya Pradesh	—
14.	Maharashtra	—
15.	North East	91.51%
16.	Orissa	60%
17.	Punjab	40.60%
18.	Rajasthan	—
19.	Tamil Nadu	33.83%
20.	Uttar Pradesh	60%
21.	Uttaranchal	40%
22.	West Bengal	—
Average Percentage		55% approx.

National Population Policy, 2000

*291. SHRIMATI BHAVANA PUNDLIKRAO GAWALI:
Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the objectives of the National Population Policy, 2000;

(b) the States having high fertility rate;

(c) the measures taken by the Government for population stabilization and the achievements made so far;

(d) the role of non-Government organizations in population stabilization and awareness programme;

(e) the number of NGOs attached with the Government for grant-in-aid in this regard; and

(f) the amount of fund allocated to these NGOs during the last two years?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) The National Population Policy, 2000, affirms the commitment of government towards voluntary and informed choice and

consent of citizens while availing of reproductive health care services. The main objective of the Policy is to address the unmet needs for contraception, health care infrastructure and health personnel, and to provide integrated service delivery for basic reproductive and child health care so as to bring the Total Fertility Rate (TFR) to replacement level by 2010 to achieve a stable population by 2045. Additionally, it also seeks to reduce Infant Mortality Rate to below 30 per 1000 live births; Maternal Mortality Ratio to below 100 per 1,00,000 live births; achieve universal immunization of children against all vaccine preventable diseases; achieve 80 percent institutional deliveries and 100 percent Safe deliveries by 2010.

(b) 9 States/Union Territories (Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Goa, Nagaland, Delhi, Pondicherry, A & N Islands, Chandigarh and Mizoram) have already achieved desired Total Fertility Rate of 2.1 or less. 11 States and Union Territories *viz* (Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, West Bengal, Maharashtra, Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, Manipur, Arunachal Pradesh, Lakshadweep, Daman and Diu and Sikkim) have achieved Total Fertility Rate of less than 3.0. The remaining 15 States and Union Territories have total fertility rate (TFR) of over 3. These are: Assam, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Dadar & Nagar Haveli, Jharkhand, Gujarat, Haryana, J & K, Tripura, Madhya Pradesh, Meghalaya, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Uttaranchal and Orissa.

(c) Government have been implementing a number of programmes and schemes aimed at containing the population growth by providing quality services for maternal and child health and contraception under the Reproductive and Child Health Programme. Government is also addressing the unmet needs of the demographically weaker States through the Empowered Action Group (EAG).

The Government have recently decided to launch a National Rural Health Mission throughout the country, with special emphasis on 18 States *i.e.* Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Sikkim, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram, Orissa, Meghalaya, Tripura, Bihar, Jharkhand, Uttaranchal, U.P., Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh, Himachal Pradesh and Jammu and Kashmir for provision of comprehensive integrated primary healthcare services.

The demographic indicators of the country have improved considerably. The Total Fertility Rate has declined from 6 in 1951 to 3.2 in 1999. The Infant Mortality Rate has declined from 146 in 1951 to 64 per

thousand population in 2002. The Maternal Mortality Ratio has declined from 437 in 1992 to 407 per lakh live births in 1998. The decadal growth rate of population has declined from 24.66% (1981-91) to 1.93% (1991-2001).

(d) The Non Government Organisations play a vital role in carrying out the population stabilisation programmes especially for awareness generation amongst the people to make the programme a success. Under the revised Guidelines, NGOs are being involved in provision of service delivery, especially in undeserved areas, to complement and supplement the Government infrastructure and outreach programmes.

(e) and (f) Funds amounting to about Rs. 16.37 Crores were released to 94 NGOs during the year 2002-03 and about Rs. 14.60 Crores to 76 NGOs during 2003-04 under the Mother NGO Scheme, Gender Issue Projects, Innovative Schemes and Regional Resource Centres.

Prevalence Rate of Leprosy

*292. DR. M. JAGANNATH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that the prevalence rate of leprosy in India is worse than the global prevalence rate as appeared in *the Asian Age* dated January 31, 2005;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to spread awareness among the Indian masses in order to dispel their wrong notion about this disease?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) to (c) The Global Leprosy prevalence rate is now 0.8 cases per 10,000 population. In India, the prevalence rate in January, 2005 was 1.86 per 10,000 population. The provisional prevalence rate in March, 2005, is 1.76 per 10,000 population.

Currently, nine countries including India are yet to achieve leprosy elimination (*i.e.* prevalence rate of less than 1 per 10,000 population). These countries are Angola, Brazil, Central African Republic, D.R. Congo, India, Madagascar, Mozambique, Nepal and Tanzania. India is making satisfactory progress towards achieving leprosy elimination by December, 2005. 20 States/UTs have already achieved elimination and 6 States with

Prevalence Rate between 1-2 per 10,000 population are close to achieving elimination. Leprosy is now mainly endemic in States of Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Orissa, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal.

Information, Education and Communication (IEC) is a strong component of the National Leprosy Eradication Programme. For creating awareness about facts of leprosy, appropriate messages are projected on Mass Media (including Kalyani Programme). At peripheral level, emphasis is laid on Inter-personal communication for IFC on leprosy.

[Translation]

Irregularities in Dental Colleges

*293. PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA:
SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR:

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

(a) whether irregularities have come to the notice of the Government during the surprise check of 11 dental colleges in the country;

(b) if so, whether the Dental Council of India (DCI) has urged the Government to put a ban on setting up of new dental colleges for the next five years;

(c) If so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Justice Anil Dev Singh Commission has been set up to enquire into the irregularities of the DCI;

(e) if so, the details of the recommendations of the Commission; and

(f) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) to (f) As per information provided by the Dental Council of India (DCI), it had conducted inspections in 11 Dental Colleges across the Country in December, 2004. Certain deficiencies in terms of teaching staff and other infrastructural facilities have been found during the inspection. DCI has initiated further necessary action in respect of these cases. The matter is under consideration of the Executive Committee of DCI.

In the year 2002, the Dental Council had separately recommended to the Central Government to put a moratorium on setting up of new Dental Colleges and increase of admission capacity in the existing colleges for the next five years due to acute shortage of teaching manpower. After due examination of the recommendation, the Government was of the view that it might not be feasible to impose complete ban, as proposed by the DCI, while strict adherence to standards should be made before permitting any new Dental seats.

The Central Government in the year, 1998, also had constituted Justice Anil Dev Singh Commission under Section 54 of the Dentists Act, 1948, to enquire into the alleged irregularities of the Dental Council of India. The Commission has submitted its report. The Commission, *inter alia*, recommended that a person, authority or an institution should have the entire set up in place including the infrastructure and full strength of teachers required upto 4th year of the BDS course before it was granted permission by the Central Government to establish a new dental college. One of the members of the Commission has submitted a dissenting view. The report is under examination in the Ministry.

A comprehensive view on the two issues will be taken by this Ministry after detailed examination.

Speed Post Service

*294. SHRI SUNIL KUMAR MAHATO:
SHRI V.K. THUMMAR:

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

(a) whether the Speed Post has not become popular among the public;

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

(c) whether the Government has conducted any review or study in this regard;

(d) the steps taken by the Government to make the Speed Post Service more effective and efficient; and

(e) the extent of success achieved by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN): (a) Speed Post has been growing in popularity

as is evident from increase in traffic and revenue of Speed Post. Figures for last three years are given below:

Year	Traffic (in lakhs)	Revenue (in crores of Rs.)
2001-02	527.97	196.53
2002-03	634.07	243.01
2003-04	826	298.35

(b) In view of (a) above does not arise.

(c) Department reviews performance of Speed Post on a monthly basis. Trends are analysed and remedial action is taken to make the product more popular.

(d) Number of value additions, like free pick up facility, door to door delivery, internet based track and trace, volume based discount and credit facility have been provided over the year. Number of booking counters and offices with late hours of booking has been increased. Further, special attention is paid to the marketing and promotion of Speed Post.

(e) Department has been successful in increasing revenue and traffic from Speed Post. Figures for last three years are given above in (a).

Launching of G.S.L.V.

*295. SHRI HARIBHAU RATHOD:
SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is making preparation to launch third test flight of the G.S.L.V.;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government proposes to launch a satellite from the country itself during the 2005-06;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether it is also true that NASA is in talks with ISRO to place its scientific instruments on India's spacecraft; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The launch of the third test flight of GSLV is planned during 2006. This will be a development launch (D-3) with an indigenously developed cryogenic upper stage.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) A remote sensing satellite Cartosat-1 for cartographic applications along with HAMSAT, an amateur radio communication micro satellite, is planned to be launched using PSLV (C6) from Sriharikota, in April/May 2005. In addition, the Cartosat-2 satellite along with Space Capsule Recovery Experiment (SRE) is also planned to be launched by PSLV during this year.

(e) Yes, Sir.

(f) The talks relate to the feasibility of accommodating two scientific experiments from USA, supported by NASA, in Indian moon mission Chandrayaan-1.

Increase in Foreign Direct Investment

*296. SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received memoranda/requests from various organisations and political parties opposing the increase in the limit of foreign direct investment in telecom sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Some of the Members of Parliament, political parties and other organizations had raised certain concerns against the proposal of the Government for increasing Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) from 49 percent to 74 percent in telecom sector. Main issues raised by the above are placed at enclosed Statement.

(c) The National Common Minimum Programme (NCMP) declares that Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) will continue to be encouraged and actively sought, particularly in areas of infrastructure, high technology and exports. Telecommunications sector meets this description and accordingly a decision has been taken to enhance the FDI ceiling from 49 percent to 74 percent after adequately addressing the concerns.

Statement

Salient Concerns Raised Against The Proposal for Increase in FDI Ceiling From 49 Percent to 74 Percent in Telecom Sector

- (a) As almost all Government communications take place through the public telecom network, opening a part of the public telecom network to foreign ownership will carry unacceptable risk.
- (b) Many countries including USA do not allow majority share holding in foreign companies. In USA, the limit of direct ownership for all radio licenses (including cellular) is still capped at 20%.
- (c) Security agencies had opposed the proposal for increase in Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) ceiling in the past. These objections are in tune with the security concerns that most countries have and that is why almost all countries in region with security concerns have similar FDI caps.
- (d) FDI and telecom growth are not inter-related and reserve and surplus available with leading Indian operators including Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) could be utilized for expanding the network.
- (e) The companies like Hutch and SingTel in India have invested directly and indirectly more than 49% in companies providing cellular services and thereby acquiring backdoor control. The Government cannot legitimise subversion of policies by the foreign companies, and reward them by lifting all such restrictions.
- (f) China has agreed to raise FDI cap upto 49% by 2007. They are following Public Issue route in the stock markets abroad, thus ensuring that the foreign equity is thinly distributed to offer any serious problem of control.

*[English]***Abandoning of NRI Brides**

*297. SHRI SUBRATA BOSE:
SHRI HITEN BARMAN:

Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that a lot of NRI husbands are abandoning their wives in India;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government is proposing to take concrete steps in the matter;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the progress made in this regard so far;

(e) the details of the number of cases reported in this regard during the last one year, State-wise;

(f) the action taken against each of these reported cases;

(g) whether an alleged marriage racket functioning to allow entry into Britain has been unearthed recently; and

(h) if so, the details thereof and the effective measures contemplated to provide necessary assistance to these hapless girls?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER):
(a) and (b) Some cases have been brought to the notice of Government.

(c) and (d) The action taken so far has been to request the State Governments to take remedial measures including creation of separate cells to provide free legal counselling for the prospective brides. Indian diplomatic Missions render all possible assistance to such cases.

(e) and (f) One case each from West Bengal, Haryana, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh and Punjab, and three cases from Delhi have been brought to the notice of the Ministry. Of these, the cases of Andhra Pradesh, West Bengal and one of Delhi are sub-judice. Two cases of Delhi and one of Haryana are of Consular nature. In one case of Punjab, relevant details have been sought.

(g) and (h) Yes, Sir as per a media report, twenty bogus Indian brides, three husbands and a genuinely married couple of fake wedding fixers have been convicted and sentenced to total of 35 years of running a lucrative marriage business between Indians seeking entry into the UK and British passport holders of Indian origin. The report also mentioned that some of the fake weddings took place in Britain, while others occurred in India over a three-year period starting in 2000.

*[Translation]***MFN Status to India**

*298. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN':
SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has requested Pakistan to accord it the status of Most Favoured Nation in order to promote trade;

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

(c) the decision of Pakistan in this regard; and

(d) the reaction of the Union Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) to (d) The matter of grant of Most Favoured Nation status by Pakistan to India has been raised repeatedly with Pakistan.

Pakistan has so far not granted (MFN) status to India despite its obligations, including under the WTO, and has cited extraneous political and other reasons for this.

Government have drawn attention to Pakistan's obligation to grant MFN Status to India, and that this step would serve as an indicator of Pakistan's intention to improve bilateral and regional economic cooperation, and to have normal trade and economic relations.

20-Year Road Development Scheme

*299. SHRI GIRIDHARI YADAV:
SHRI ANJAN KUMAR M. YADAV:

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

- (a) whether the Government has formulated a 20-year road development scheme;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the provision of funds made for completion of the above scheme including the foreign assistance sought for this purpose;
- (d) the details thereof; and
- (e) the works likely to be executed thereunder?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) The Ministry in 2001 had prepared through Indian Roads Congress (IRC) "Road Development Plan VISION: 2021" for a period of 20 years (2001-2021). This document provides the vision for the next 20 years for development and maintenance of all categories of roads *i.e.* National Highways, State Highways, Major District Roads and Rural Roads. The urban roads as well as the roads for specific need *e.g.* tourism, forestry, mining and industrial areas

etc. have also been considered. The research and development, mobilisation of resources, capacity building and human resources development, quality system, environment and energy considerations for the highway sector and highway safety are also included in this document which serves as only a valuable guide to the Centre and the State Governments for planning purpose.

(c) and (d) The Government of India takes up the development works of National Highways and allocates fund only through Five Year Plans. The approved 10th Five Year (2002-07) Plan outlay for the Central Sector Roads is Rs. 59,490 Crore, which includes Rs. 13990.50 Crore from External Assistance. The details are at enclosed Statement I.

(e) The priority during the Tenth Plan was the completion of National Highways Development Project (NHDP) of 4/6-laning of National Highways of about 14279 km length at an estimated cost of Rs. 64,639 Crore, which is targeted for completion by December 2007. The physical targets have been set up for stretches other than NHDP and are at enclosed Statement-II.

Statement-I

Scheme-Wise Breakup of Tenth Plan Outlay of Department of Road Transport & Highways for Central Sector Roads (2002-07)

S. No.	Name of the Scheme/Project/Programme	Tenth Plan (2002-07) Approved outlay
1	2	3
1.	National Highways Authority of India (Externally Aided Project)	10790.50
2.	Road Wing (Externally Aided)	3200.00
3.	National Highways (O)	8664.00
4.	Border Road Development Board	950.00
5.	Other Charges (Domestic Travel & Publicity etc.)	20.00
6.	Development of IT	20.00
7.	Strategic Roads under RW/BRDB	50.00
8.	R & D and Planning studies	20.00
9.	Training under World Bank and other Training	10.50

1	2	3
10.	Machinery	15.00
11.	Charged Expenditure	50.00
12.	NHAI Investment from Central Road Fund (CRF)	10500.00
13.	Roads of Inter-State & economic importance for States/UTs from CRF	500.00
Sub-Total (From 1 to 13)		34790.00
14.	NHAI [Internal & Extra Budgetary Resource (IEBR)]	24700.00
Total		59490.00

Statement-II*Approved Physical Targets for The Tenth Five Year Plan (2002-2007) for Development of National Highways Other Than NHDP*

S. No.	Item	Physical Targets (km/nos)
1.	4/6 laning (km)	800
2.	Widening to 2-lane (km)	4000
3.	Strengthening (km)	2000
4.	IRQP (km)	10000
5.	Bypass (nos)	25
6.	Bridges (nos)	100
7.	Rehabilitation of Bridges (nos)	200
8.	ROBs/RUBs	LS
9.	Wayside amenities	LS
10.	Expressway Land Acquisition (km)	1000
11.	Expansion of NH Network (km)	2000

*[English]***UN Report on Population**

*300. SHRI UDAY SINGH:
SHRI MADHU GOUD YASKHI:

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

(a) whether the United Nations Population Division has recently predicted that India's population may cross China's population by 2050;

(b) if so, whether the Union Government in consultation with State Governments proposes to evolve a fresh strategy to put a check on population explosion; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) Yes Sir, as per United Nations Publication titled "World Population Prospects The 2004 Revision Highlights", the projected population of India and China in 2050 is expected to be 159.3 crores and 139.2 crores respectively.

(b) and (c) The Government is pursuing the goal of population stabilisation by simultaneously addressing issues related to maternal & child health and contraception under the Reproductive & Child Health Programme. It is committed to promoting voluntary approach to family planning as adopted in the National Population Policy, 2000, with special focus on demographically weaker States.

• The Government have recently decided to launch a National Rural Health Mission (2005-12) for the whole country, with special focus on 18 States, which have either weak socio-demographic indicators or inadequate primary health infrastructure, or both. These include the 8 EAG States (U.P., M.P., Bihar, Rajasthan, Orissa, Jharkhand, Uttaranchal, Chhattisgarh), 8 North East States (Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Nagaland, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Sikkim, Tripura), Himachal Pradesh and Jammu & Kashmir. The Mission aims at providing integrated comprehensive primary healthcare services, especially to the poor and undeserved sections of society. The strategy of the Mission has been drawn up in consultation with the States. It aims at strengthening public health infrastructure and improving its accountability and quality of service through increased role of Panchayati Raj Institution and community; decentralization to district levels; inter & intra sectoral convergence at village level through a cadre of female Accredited Social Health Activists (ASHA); upgrading CHCs to Indian Public Health Standards; and promotion of multiple Health Insurance models. The Mission seeks to integrate vertical programmes of RCH-II and National Disease Control Programme. Under the Phase II of Reproductive & Child Health Programme (2005-10), States have drawn up State Action Plans addressing their specific unmet needs, with a focus on improved services for institutional delivery, universal immunization, quality contraceptive and integrated referral care.

[Translation]

Setting up of SICL Representative Offices Abroad

3051. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Small Industries Corporation Limited had set up representative offices abroad without proper assessment of the business it was expected to generate resulting into infructuous expenditure running into crores of rupees;

(b) if so, whether the matter was inquired into to fix responsibility in this regard;

(c) if so, the details of action taken thereon; and

(d) the details of the business generated from the efforts of the representative offices?

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHAVIR PRASAD): (a) The National Small Industries Corporation Limited (NSIC), a public sector enterprise under the administrative control of this Ministry, had set up small foreign offices at Johannesburg, South Africa and Dubai, United Arab Emirates (UAE), in December, 1995 and September, 1996 respectively, with the approval of the Reserve Bank of India and the Board of Directors of NSIC. Both these offices have been set up to disseminate information, on technologies of small industrial projects used by the Indian Small enterprises, in these countries/regions, to exhibit the machinery and equipment produced in the small scale sector in India and to promote enterprise-to-enterprise and institution-to-institution level cooperation, between India and South Africa/UAE, as the case may be. The office at Johannesburg has been operating as a non-trading office, with the aforesaid objectives, to help generate business for both products and projects from India. The Dubai office has commercial activities of its own also, besides the promotional activities stated above. Though these offices have not yet become self-sustaining, they have largely met the promotional objectives, for which they were established. The performance of the two offices is regularly reviewed by the NSIC. The High Commissioner of India in South Africa and the Ambassador of India in the UAE have strongly recommended continuation of these offices.

(b) In view of the reply to part (a) above, the question does not arise.

(c) Does not arise, in view of reply to part (b).

(d) The business generated by these two foreign offices is as under:

Year	Johannesburg Office Business generated (US \$)	Dubai Office Business generated (US \$)
2002-03	5,487	78,260
2003-04	2,48,207	98,956
2004-05 (upto Feb., 2005)	82,409	7,62,895

Prevention of Corruption Treaty

3052. SHRI RAGHUVVEER SINGH KOSHAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that the international organisation 'Transparency International' (TI) keeps an eye on the rampant corruption prevailing in various countries and it brings out a list of corrupt countries every year alongwith a corruption Index;

(b) if so, the status of the corruption prevailing in the Asian countries including India during the last three years;

(c) whether the United Nations General Assembly has passed any Prevention of Corruption Treaty and the provisions of the said Treaty are binding on the member countries;

(d) if so, whether India has signed the said Treaty and has implemented its binding provisions; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SURESH PACHAURI): (a) and (b) Transparency International, a Berlin-based organization has brought out a list of corrupt countries along with Corruption Perception Index (CPI). It has ranked India at 71 in the list of 102 countries, 83 in the list of 133 countries and 90 in the list of 145 countries during the years 2002, 2003 and 2004, respectively.

(c) The UN Convention against Corruption was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on 31st October, 2003. The Convention shall enter force on the ninetieth day after the date of deposit of the 30th instrument of ratification. As on date, the convention has received 19 ratifications and therefore, has not entered

into force. The UN Convention against Corruption will be binding on States Parties to the Convention.

(d) and (e) No, Sir.

[English]

Research Facility in Bangalore

3053. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Microsoft research centre in India launched its research facility in Bangalore which is the third research centre of the company outside United States;

(b) whether the Government and MSRI director of the centre have signed a memorandum of understanding for partnership in science and technology;

(c) if so, whether Bangalore Lab will conduct a long-term basic and applied research; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) The Department of Science & Technology have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with M/s. Microsoft Research Lab India Pvt. Ltd., on 12th January, 2005 for a partnership in science & technology research projects.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) This is only a Memorandum of Understanding and no such details have been framed so far.

Funds for Autonomous Councils

3054. SHRI CHHEWANG THUPSTAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of funds allocated to Darjeeling Hill Development Council and other Autonomous Councils in the North-East Region during the Tenth Five Year Plan;

(b) the details of funds allocated to Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council of Leh and Kargil;

(c) whether the Government proposes to give special financial assistance to the above Councils in the State of Jammu and Kashmir for basic infrastructure development; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) Central Assistance is not allocated specifically to the Darjeeling Hill Development Council and other Autonomous Councils in the North-East Region during the Tenth Five Year Plan.

(b) to (d) Reconstruction Plan for Jammu & Kashmir includes provision for allocation of Central Assistance of Rs. 20 crores and Rs. 40 crores as grants to Autonomous Hill Development Council for Leh and that of Kargil respectively. Of these, Rs. 10 crore Central Assistance has been allocated to Ladakh Hill Development Council of Kargil during the Annual Plan 2004-05 for construction of infrastructure facilities.

ICMR Report on Carbide Plant in Bhopal

3055. SHRI T.K. HAMZA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the first technical report of Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) on the gas leak from the Union Carbide Plant in Bhopal has been submitted recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken or proposed to be taken on the above report?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) Indian Council of

Medical Research (ICMR) has brought out a technical report on Population based long-term, Epidemiological Studies "Health effects of the Toxic Gas Leak from the Union Carbide Methyl Isocyanate plant in Bhopal". The report facilitates local scientists to devise strategy for need of further research on health hazards of the victims of Bhopal Gas Tragedy. This report has been examined by the Department of Chemicals and Petro-chemicals in the Government of India which is the nodal Department dealing with the relief aspects of these victims. That Department has, *inter-alia*, taken steps by forwarding a copy of the ICMR Report to the State Government of Madhya Pradesh which is directly responsible for providing medical relief to the Bhopal Gas victims, for taking appropriate action.

Recognition of Foreign Medical Degrees

3056. SHRI JUAL ORAM: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some foreign medical degrees are not recognised by the Medical Council of India (MCI).

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reason therefor; and

(d) the steps taken to protect the interest of the Indian students who received medical education in Russia?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (d) With the coming into force of the Indian Medical Council (Amendment) Act, 2001 and the Screening Test Regulations 2002 framed thereunder, any Indian national possessing a primary medical qualification awarded by any medical institution outside India and desirous of getting provisional or permanent registration to practice medicine in India shall have to qualify a Screening test prescribed for that purpose. The foreign primary medical degree possessed by the person concerned should be a qualification recognized for enrolment as a medical practitioner in the country in which the medical institute is situated. In accordance with the above Regulations, the Indian students who have received medical degrees from Russia shall also be eligible to get registration to practice medicine in India provided they have qualified the Screening test.

Common Telecom Infrastructure

3057. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has formulated a plan to create a common telecom infrastructure to be shared by all departments of Union Government and State Governments;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the measures proposed to be taken for promotion of e-governance by State Governments?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Government has issued guidelines for establishment of State Wide Area Networks (SWANs) upto the block level in each of the State/UTs. These SWANs alongwith NICNET will serve as core common infrastructure for use by various Central Ministries/Departments and State Governments.

(b) (i) The guidelines aim at providing support to State Government to establish SWANs from the State Headquarters upto the Block level with a minimum bandwidth capacity of 2 Mbps. These networks would be connected to NICNET through appropriate interfaces.

(ii) For a State to be eligible for funding under the policy, it should have undertaken implementation of three major state wide e-governance projects that require such connectivity. At least one of these projects should have been completely rolled out over the entire state.

(iii) As per the policy, Department of Information Technology will meet the capital and operational costs of the network over a period of 5 years. The respective States will have to bear Bandwidth/Transponder access cost required for the network, physical site and all other related recurring costs.

(iv) State may opt to implement the SWAN either through the National Informatics Centre or through any other agency selected by the State.

(v) State Government should adhere to the guidelines for Security, Standardization, Interoperability and Interconnect requirements between NICNET and the SWAN.

(c) (i) Department of Information Technology through the National Informatics Centre is providing backbone e-governance network and technical support to various Central Government Departments, States, UTs and District Administrations in the country for Internet, e-mail, file transfer, database development, e-governance applications development, web-hosting and access.

(ii) States are being encouraged to build their internal capacity for managing e-governance projects and to establish Common Core Infrastructure namely SWANs, State Data Centres and Common Services Centres to serve various e-governance applications.

Fraud in Purchase of Medicines

3058. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 4178 dated 25.8.2004 regarding fraud in purchase of medicines and state:

(a) whether the CBI investigation report has been received;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Teaching Language in Morarji Desai Rashtriya Yoga Sansthan

3059. SHRI BALESHWAR YADAV: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the medium of instruction in all the classes being held in the "Morarji Desai Rashtriya Yoga Sansthan" is Hindi;

(b) whether only English language is used for correspondence, information being put up on the Notice Board, inviting suggestions etc. in this institution;

(c) if so, whether the Government proposes to provide yoga training in English language as well; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) Instructions in yoga classes being conducted by the Morarji Desai National Institute of Yoga, are given in Hindi. Instructions are given in English for the convenience of Students/Sadhaks wherever required.

(b) No. Sir.

(c) and (d) There is no proposal to change the existing medium for Yoga training at present. The arrangement appears to be satisfactory.

[English]

Special Development Package for Sabarimala

3060. SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to grant special development package for Sabarimala in Kerala;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

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

(d) whether any meetings were held in the PMO on the issue recently; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. Issues relating to the Pampa Action Plan between the Ministry of Environment & Forests and the Government of Kerala were discussed at this meeting. The Ministry of Environment & Forests and the Government of Kerala were requested to follow up on these issues relating *inter alia* to forest clearance and the action Plan for the Sabarimala pilgrimage site.

Disconnecting Telephones

3061. SHRI CHANDRA DEV PRASAD RAJBHAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the time taken to disconnect the landline telephone if applied properly and with requisite papers;

(b) whether on surrender of landline telephone, MTNL makes the payment of security deposit between 50th and 60th days of disconnection positively;

(c) if so, the number of cases pending or payment made beyond stipulated period where disconnection was done in December, 2004 in Delhi, exchange-wise;

(d) whether the penal interest is paid in case of payment made after 60th day of disconnection; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Disconnections are normally done on the same day on receipt of request with requisite documents.

(b) Refund is made as per norms except in cases where the outstanding bills are more than security deposit itself and/or the applicant gives incorrect address/details for receiving the refund etc.

(c) Nil.

(d) As per Telecom Regulatory Authority of India's (TRAI's) directives, the penal interest is payable in case refund is made after 60 days.

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

Vacant Land with Department of Posts

3062. SHRI RANEN BARMAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that land is lying vacant for the last so many years under the jurisdiction of Department of Posts at Chakvrigu, P.O. Balurghat, District Dakshin Dinajpur, West Bengal;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the purpose for which the land was earmarked; and

(d) the time by when the construction work is likely to be started and completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A plot of land measuring 0.72 acres in Mouza Balurghat, Chakvrigu J.D No. 90, Khaitan No. 422, 586, 587, Plot No. 376, 378 was purchased at the cost of Rs. 90,000/- on 31.8.83.

(c) The land was earmarked for construction of Post Office and Staff Quarters.

(d) It has not been possible to take up construction on the plot due to resource crunch even during 10th Five Year plan. Government may consider inclusion of this project in next Five year plan.

Over Billing in Gujarat

3063. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of complaints of over billing of landline telephones have been received in Gujarat;

(b) if so, the details thereof during the last three years;

(c) whether thousands of subscribers in Gujarat have surrendered their landline telephones due to continuous over billing;

(d) if so, the details thereof during the last three years and the action taken by the Government in this regard; and

(e) the details of new connections provided by the Government during the said period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) Sir, excess billing complaints received from the landline telephone customers are given below:

Year	No. of Bills issued	No. of excess billing complaints received	% of excess billing complaints to bills issued
2002-03	17176708	12180	0.07%
2003-04	18360151	19162	0.10%
2004-05 (Up to Jan. 05)	14053527	10188	0.07%

The number of excess billing complaints received in Gujarat Telecom. Circle is within the norms fixed by TRAI i.e. 0.10%.

(c) No, Sir. Most of the disconnections are due to reasons other than excess billing complaints.

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

(e) The details of new connections provided during the last three years in Gujarat Telecom. Circle of BSNL are given below:

Year	Gross Telephone connections provided (Landline + WLL)	GSM	Grand Total
2002-03	307988	275691	583679
2003-04	192425	206422	398847
2004-05 (Up to Feb, 05)	263688	39392	303080

Tracing of Roots by NRIs

3064. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any of the Pravasis, particularly those whose ancestors left India as indentured labourers centuries ago, have evinced a great yearning to trace their roots; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A sectoral session was held on "Tracing the Roots" during the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas 2005. Certain suggestions emanating from the session are under examination of the Government of India.

Agreement Between India and Austria in Health Sector

3065. SHRI BAPU HARI CHAURE: Will the minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any agreement has been signed between India and Austria in the Health Sector; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) An Agreement has been signed between the Government of India and the Republic of Austria on Infrastructure cooperation in the Health Sector on 17th February, 2005 initially for a period of five years with the main objective of upgrading and expansion of health related facilities in India. The general areas of infrastructure cooperation are, *inter-alia*, in the field of regional planning for development of health sector studies and hospital development plans and for selective services in the health sector, technical planning

(architectural engineering services and technical equipment of building, medical technology), project management, construction supervision, waste and sewage management, technical support by providing experts, specialists and highly qualified technicians.

[Translation]

Cancer Hospitals

3066. SHRI RAJNARAYAN BUDHOLIA: Will the minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the State-wise details of the main hospitals treating Cancer at present;

(b) whether any proposal regarding opening up of a Cancer Hospital in the Bundelkhand area of Uttar Pradesh is under the consideration of the Government;

(c) if so, the time by when the Government is likely to accord its approval;

(d) the details of the amount likely to be spent in this regard; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (e) The treatment of cancer is done by surgery, radiotherapy and chemotherapy. The supportive and palliative care is provided by medical doctors for alleviation of pain, swelling, bleeding etc. These facilities are available in Government hospitals including medical colleges and district hospitals across the country. The palliative care is also being provided by the Regional Cancer Centres, recognized by this ministry besides secondary and tertiary health care institutions. List of the Regional Cancer Centres is in enclosed as Statement. No proposal regarding opening a Cancer Hospital in the Bundelkhand area of Uttar Pradesh is under the consideration of the Government.

Statement

List of RCCs

Kamala Nehru Memorial Hospital,
Allahabad, Uttar Pradesh

Chittaranjan National Cancer Institute,
Kolkata, West Bengal

Kidwai Memorial Institute of Oncology,
Bangalore, Karnataka

Regional Cancer Centre,
Thiruvananthapuram

Gujarat Cancer Research Institute,
Ahmedabad, Gujarat

MNJ Institute of Oncology,
Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh

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

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

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

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

Post Graduate Institute of Medical
Education and Research (PGIMER),
Chandigarh

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

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

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

Civil Hospital,
Aizawl, Mizoram

Sanjay Gandhi Post Graduate Institute of
Medical Sciences, Lucknow

[English]

Representations Received by Kandla Port Trust

3067. SHRI PARSURAM MAJHI: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of representations received from "All India Association for SC/ST and Physically Handicapped Peoples Upliftment" between April 9, 2004 till date by Kandla Port Trust;

(b) whether any action has been taken on these representations;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the time by when action is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (e) The

General Secretary, All India Association for SC/ST and Physically Handicapped Peoples Upliftment has submitted two representations dated 09.04.2004 and 19.10.2004 to the Kandla Port Trust raising the issue of promotion of Shri Ajmal H. Vankar who is working as a messenger in Kandla Port Trust and is physically handicapped, to the post of Junior Clerk. The Port Trust has examined the representations and communicated the factual position to the Association in their letter dated 24.11.2004. According to the existing recruitment rule, 90% of the post of Junior Clerk are filled up by direct recruitment and 10% by promotion from Class-IV ministerial employees. As per the Government guidelines, the benefit in case of promotion is required to be extended to persons with disability, in cases in which the element of direct recruitment, if any, does not exceed 75%. Hence the question of extending the benefit of handicapped quota to the above employee as requested by the Union does not arise. Shri Vankar will be considered for promotion to the post of Junior Clerk under the provision of the recruitment rule alongwith other candidates on the basis of the merit of the case as and when vacancy of Junior Clerk arises in 10% quota of promotion for departmental Class-IV ministerial employees.

Delhi-Gurgaon Expressway Project

3068. SHRI KULDEEP BISHNOI: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of work on Delhi Gurgaon Expressway Project along NH-8 and also its target date for completion;

(b) the reasons for which the works on certain stretches of this Expressway have been suspended; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government for early completion of the project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K. H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) The physical progress of the project is 40%. The likely date of completion of project is June, 2006 subject to availability of land required for the project from Defence Authorities, Airports Authority of India and Government of Haryana.

(b) At present work is not suspended in any stretch of Expressway and the work is in progress. However, during November, 2003 the work was temporarily suspended for making improvements with regard to Safety and Traffic management.

(c) The matter regarding transfer of land required for this project from the Defence, Airports Authority of India and Government of Haryana being pursued with the concerned authorities for expediting the case.

'B' Level Curriculum of DOEACC Society

3069. SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether 'B' level curriculum of DOEACC Society has been given an equivalent status to MCA degree of any recognised University of the country by AICTE, DIT and Ministry of HRD;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the NIC does not honour the above mentioned curriculum at par with MCA as it declined to provide stipend to 'B' level students/project trainers who had got training from NIC during the period from January

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. 'B' Level course is being offered by DOEACC under a joint Scheme of AICTE and DIT. 'B' Level course curricula of DOEACC Society has been given an equivalent status to MCA degree by MHRD, for the purpose of employment under Central Government where MCA is the desired qualification. Also West Bengal University of Technology, Kolkata has recognized DOEACC 'B' Level qualification for admission to M. Tech Programme in Computer Science.

(c) NIC (National Informatics Centre) does honour the 'B' Level, curriculum of DOEACC Society at par with MCA degree. Stipend is given to fixed number of students in a semester. However, students who approach subsequently, are offered training without stipend. Same is the case for the period January-December, 2004.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

Regulation of Sand Mining in Coastal Areas

3070. SHRIMATI C.S. SUJATHA: Will the Minister of OCEAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the impact of Tsunami was on a bigger scale in the coastal areas of Alleppey district in Kerala where sand mining is permitted;

(b) if so, whether the Government is considering appropriate measures for the regulation of sand mining in the coastal areas; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) No, Sir. There was no sand mine site in Tsunami affected coastal areas in Alleppey district in Kerala.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Sub-Plan for Telecom Services in Orissa

3071. SHRI GIRIDHAR GAMANG: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has got separate sub-plan for development of telecommunications and postal services in Tribal-Sub-Plan areas of Orissa;

(b) if so, the criteria, policy and norms adopted for extending the telecommunications and postal network;

(c) the funds provided and equipments earmarked for Tribal-Sub-Plan areas of Orissa Circle for expediting the progress of work; and

(d) the total villages and blocks in Tribal-Sub-Plan areas covered so far and proposed to be covered during the current financial year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD) :

Reply pertaining to Department of Telecommunications

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Separate funds are earmarked for providing telecommunication facility in Tribal areas.

(c) During the current financial year 2004-05, Rs. 85.03 crore has been provided for Tribal Sub-Plan areas of Orissa Telecom. Circle for installation of 9 New Exchanges, 3K Cordect Wireless in Local Loop (WLL) System, 11.5K Mobile Switching Centre (MSC) based WLL System and 1,44,300 Global Switching Module (GSM) Mobile capacity along with laying of 75 Kms. Optical Fibre Cable.

(d) Out of 18,477 Tribal villages, 12,844 Tribal villages are already covered and 5,633 Tribal villages are still to be covered. Out of 5,633 remaining villages, 3,376 villages are planned to be covered on Digital Satellite Phone Terminal (DSPT) by November, 2007 in a phased manner. The balance left out villages are not possible to be covered due to reasons such as, non availability of custodian, depopulated villages and villages having population of less than 100 etc. In Tribal areas, there are 120 Blocks and all the Blocks have been covered.

Reply pertaining to Department of Posts

(a) and (b) The Department of Posts does not have a separate Tribal Sub Plan, since it has provided liberal norms for expanding the network in Tribal, hilly, desert and remote areas in the country including Orissa. The norms include subsidy to the extent of 85% on the recurring cost of each Extra Departmental Post Office. Details of the norms are given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) and (d) No separate funds have been earmarked for the Tribal Sub Plan for reasons cited in para (a) and (b) above. During the current year, 2 Post Offices have been opened in the tribal areas of Orissa. A total number of 2,713 Post Offices are serving tribal villages of Orissa.

Statement*Norms for Opening Post Offices*1. *Norms for opening Extra Departmental Branch Post Offices:*1.1 *Population:*(a) *In Normal Areas:*

3000 population in a group of villages (including the PPO village).

(b) *In Hilly, Tribal, Desert and Inaccessible Areas:*

500 population in an individual village or 1000 population in a group of villages.

1.2. *Distance:*(a) *In Normal Areas:*

The minimum distance from the nearest existing post office will be 3 Kms.

(b) *In Hilly, Tribal, Desert and Inaccessible Areas:*

The distance limit will be the same as above except that in Hilly Areas, the minimum distance limit can be relaxed by the Directorate in cases where such relaxation is warranted by special circumstances which should be clearly explained while submitting a proposal.

1.3. *Anticipated income:*(a) *In Normal Areas:*

The minimum anticipated revenue will be 33 $\frac{1}{3}$ % of the cost.

(b) *In Hilly, Tribal, Desert and Inaccessible Areas:*

The minimum anticipated income will be 15% of the cost.

It is further to be ensured that as a result of opening of new post office, the loss in respect of parent post office does not increase beyond the permissible limit nor is its income reduced below the minimum prescribed.

2. *Criteria for upgrading/opening Departmental Sub Post Offices :*(a) *In Rural Areas:*

The Minimum work load of the Extra Departmental Branch Post Office, proposed to be upgraded, should be five hours per day. The permissible limit of annual loss is Rs. 2400/- in Normal Rural areas and Rs. 4800/- in Tribal and Hilly areas.

It is further to be ensured that as a result of the opening of a new post office, the loss in respect of the parent post office does not increase beyond the permissible limit nor is its income reduced below the minimum prescribed.

(b) *In Urban Areas:*

In Urban areas, the post office should initially be self-supporting, and, at the time of the first annual review, it should show a 5% profit to be eligible for further retention.

The minimum distance between two post offices should be 1.5 Kms. in cities with a population of 20 lakhs and above, and 2 Kms., in other Urban Areas. No two delivery offices, however, should be closer than 5 Kms. from each other.

Heads of Circles have powers to relax the distance condition in 10% of the cases.

A Delivery Post Office in Urban Area should have a minimum of 7 Postmen's beats.

**Government Officers in World Bank/
Affiliated Organisations**

3072. SHRIMATI KARUNA SHUKLA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of officers presently working in the Government of India who were previously employed in World Bank or its affiliated organisations e.g. FAO, WHO, UNICEF etc.;

(b) the policy of the Government in appointing such officers;

(c) the number of officers of Government of India who joined the above organisations during the last one year; and

(d) the details of their status and position in the said organisations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SURESH PACHAURI):

(a) and (b) Appointments to certain posts in the international organizations like World Bank, ADB, UNICEF etc. is made on the basis of country quota. These posts are classified as Captive posts of Government of India and are filled by appointment of Indian officials only. Appointment to these posts is made by Central Government in accordance with the prescribed policy for a fixed tenure of 3 years. At times short extensions are given to the officers in public interest. On completion of their tenure, the officers revert back to their cadres.

(c) and (d) So far during the year 2004-2005 5 officers were appointed to the aforesaid Captive posts of Government of India. During their postings/appointments in the international organizations, the officers retained their status and position in the service to which they belonged. However, while posted in the international organizations these officers are designated as per title of the post like Technical Assistant/Senior Adviser/Adviser to the Executive Director, World Bank, Permanent Representative of India, UNICEF etc.

HIV Spreading Through Dental Clinics

3073. DR. COL. (RETD.) DHANI RAM SHANDIL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether dental clinics are causing transmission of HIV and some dental clinics do not adhere to strict hygienic practices;

(b) if so, whether the Government proposes to take any action in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) No, Sir, There is no

data indicating transmission of HIV by dental clinics. However, transmission of HIV/AIDS through dental clinics is not ruled out. All dental clinics, hospitals & other health care facilities are given guidelines on Prevention of Hospital acquired Infection Control (HIC). In addition HIC practices in hospitals are being monitored by "Hospital Infection Control Committees".

All dental clinics in Govt. hospital are required to adhere to highest level of hygiene/sterilization, hospital infection control & safe waste disposal practices. National AIDS Control Organisation had developed a module on Standard Operating Procedure & Hospital Infection Control that is used in various training workshops.

Coastal Health Programme

3074. DR. K.S. MANOJ: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any coastal Health Programme is under the consideration of the Government;

(b) if so, whether the Government of Kerala has submitted any such proposal for approval to the Union Government;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the time by which the proposal is likely to be approved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (d) A project entitled Integrated Coastal Health Project has been received from Government of Kerala, which is under examination.

Benefits From Spices

3075. MOHD. MUKEEM: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention has been drawn to the article in the *Dream* 2047 (November, 2004) brought out by Vigyan Prasar of DST on the Spices in our Diet which highlights several beneficial effects of spices;

(b) whether any controlled trial has been conducted in the field;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether these results will be made public through media;

(e) if so, whether such spices will be available in standard preparation form with certification by BIS/ICMR; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. As reported in scientific literature, controlled trials for beneficial effects of spices on animals and in some cases on human beings have been conducted by research institutions in India and other countries.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) and (f) The matter could be taken up through appropriate regulatory mechanisms only after consistent results are obtained and corroborated by various research laboratories/institutions.

Non-Payment of Dues to Indian Farmers by Nepal

3076. SHRI KAILASH BAITHA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that the Khandsari Sugar Mills of Nepal have procured the sugarcane from the farmers in the bordering areas of Bihar but are reluctant in making payments;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has taken up/proposes to take up the issue with the Nepalese Government; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) Government has not received any complaints of non-payment regarding transactions between sugar mills in Nepal and sugarcane farmers in India.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Condition of N.H. No. 78

3077. SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the amount spent so far by the Government on the construction of National Highway No. 78;

(b) the time by which the said construction work will be completed;

(c) whether the Government is taking any immediate steps to improve the condition of the road which is in a very bad shape; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) This Ministry has sanctioned improvement works costing Rs. 77.34 crore for Katni-Gumla Road since its declaration as NH-78 on 6th Jan. 1999 out of which an amount of Rs. 34.02 crore has already been spent.

(b) to (d) The development and maintenance of National Highway is a continuous process. The improvement works are being taken up in phases depending upon the availability of funds and inter-se-priority.

Apart from the above Plan provision, this Ministry is also providing funds for repair of National Highways under Non-Plan Head against Periodical Renewal, Special Repair and Flood Damage Repair to cover the immediate requirements of the roads. An amount of Rs. 24.42 crore has been sanctioned so far on this National Highway in this regard, in addition to the funds placed at the disposal of the State Governments under Ordinary Repairs for routine maintenance.

[English]

Development of Telecom Services in Uttaranchal

3078. SHRI RAJENDER KUMAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

Parameters	2002-03		2003-04		2004-05 (up to Feb. 2005)	
	Target	Achievement	Target	Achievement	Target	Achievement
Capacity added (Lines)	27000	65972	21000	40304	Nil	Nil
DEls (Lines) Gross Ach.	28500	36082	33000	23044	139900	150284
OFC (RKM)s	1100	917.8	500	518.9	300	128.02
TAX (Lines)	16000	13500	11000	17000	12500	12500

The targets have been achieved for most of the parameters.

(a) the amount allocated and spent for the development of telecommunication and internet services in Uttaranchal particularly in Haridwar during each of the last three years;

(b) whether the target of development work has been achieved as fixed by Uttaranchal telecom circle; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) The amount allocated and spent for the development of telecommunication and internet services in Uttaranchal circle and Haridwar SSA during each of the last three years are as given below:

Uttaranchal		
(Rs. in Crores)		
Year	Amount Allocated	Amount Spent
2001-02	206.44	149.68
2002-03	119	203.59
2003-04	64.72	72.08
Haridwar		
(Rs. in Crores)		
Year	Amount Allocated	Amount Spent
2001-02	9.38	17.21
2002-03	36.67	36.67
2003-04	5.53	9.98

(b) The targets and achievement for the development of telecommunication in Uttaranchal Telecom Circle are as given below:

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

Fake Purchases by National Physical Laboratory

3079. SHRI KUNWAR MANVENDRA SINGH: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether some cases of fake purchases by the official of National Physical Laboratory have come to the notice of the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the action taken against the guilty officials; and

(d) the measures taken or proposed to be taken to check recurrence of such cases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) and (b) A case of fraud committed by an employee of the National Physical Laboratory (NPL), New Delhi in procurement of various items from the Kendriya Bhandar, R.K. Puram, New Delhi came to light in September 2004. It was found that an employee of NPL had been placing fake purchase order with Kendriya Bhandar. The supplies against such orders never reached the Central Stores at NPL. This came to notice when Kendriya Bhandar raised a bill of approximately Rs. 31.90 lakhs against supplies, of which no entry was found made either in the daily receipt register or the corresponding stock ledgers.

(c) Since the employee concerned appeared to be prima facie involved, the case was handed over to CBI for investigation. Concerned employee of NPL has been placed under suspension w.e.f. 22.9.2004. The office has also written to the CBI seeking its advice on whether simultaneous disciplinary action can be initiated against the concerned employee or to await the outcome of CBI's investigation.

(d) A Stores & Purchase Officer has been posted to exclusively look after the work of the Central Stores and he has been instructed to carry out periodical Stores verification on a regular basis so that such irregularities do not recur in future.

Accommodation in LNJP Hospital

3080. SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that Resident Doctors of Lok Nayak Jaiprakash Narain Hospital are dissatisfied with the policy of the Government on the issue of accommodation as reported in the *Times of India* dated February 28, 2005;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government is also aware that irrespective of whether they stay in the accommodation provided by the hospital or not, the management has decided to deduct house rent allowance (HRA) for residents who have joined after December, 2004;

(d) if so, the details therefor;

(e) whether the hospital has enough rooms for all the residents;

(f) if so, the details thereof;

(g) if not, the amount of HRA given to each resident;

(h) the steps taken to provide accommodation to all residents;

(i) whether hospital authorities have assessed the difficulties being faced by the residents in this regard; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (j) The Resident Doctors are appointed with the purpose of stay/residence within the hospital premises for round-the-clock patient care and timely medical attention in emergencies to save human life. Presently, because of paucity of enough rooms for all the Residents, some of them are not being provided accommodation readily. All such residents are being kept on waiting list and provided accommodation immediately upon availability. The Residents are being given HRA/TA for the period they apply for Hostel accommodation to the date of allotment, the rates of HRA being Rs. 4230/- p.m. and Rs. 4923/- p.m. for Junior Residents and Senior

Residents respectively. However, Residents belong to Delhi and having their residences in Delhi but are not interested in staying and also not applying are not paid any HRA/TA.

The expansion of the Hospital is also in progress to accommodate all the residents.

[*Translation*]

Telephone Connections Under MPs Quota

3081. MOHD. SHAHID: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether all the telephone connections allotted under the Members of Parliament's quota have since been provided to the customers by the Government in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof, district-wise along with the steps taken in this regard;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Government is contemplating to introduce a scheme of providing W.L.L. connections in the areas where telephone lines are not available;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) No, Sir. 3798 telephone connections sanctioned under the quota for Hon'ble Members of Parliament are pending for provision in Uttar Pradesh. District-wise details are given in the enclosed Statement. Following steps are taken to clear pending cases;

- (i) Scope of providing new connections on landline enhanced to 5 kms distance from the exchange and laying of underground cable in non-feasible areas.
- (ii) Installation of WLL system for areas beyond 5 kms.
- (iii) Installation of additional towers and associated equipment (BTS) to counter weak signals in areas under existing WLL systems.

(c) The telephone connections are pending for provision due to the following reasons :

- (i) Areas being technically non-feasible.
- (ii) Scattered demand in far flung areas not covered by the existing system.
- (iii) Weak signal in certain pockets under WLL system.
- (iv) Non-acceptance of the connection by subscribers on Fixed WLL.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) Fixed WLL connections are offered in areas which are technically non-feasible on wired line subject to the availability of Fixed Wireless Terminals (FWTs) and WLL signal in that area and acceptance by the subscribers.

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

Statement

District-wise Number of Pending Telephone Connections Sanctioned Under Quota of Hon'ble Members of Parliament in Uttar Pradesh

Sl. No.	Telecom District	No. of pending connections
1	2	3
1.	Allahabad	88
2.	Azamgarh	352
3.	Bahraich	8
4.	Ballia	279
5.	Barabanki	102
6.	Basti	34
7.	Deoria	531
8.	Etawah	57
9.	Faizabad	7
10.	Farukhabad	10
11.	Fatehpur	4
12.	Ghazipur	140

1	2	3
13.	Gonda	38
14.	Gorakhpur	29
15.	Hardoi	3
16.	Jaunpur	656
17.	Jhansi	1
18.	Kanpur	2
19.	Lakhimpur	18
20.	Lucknow	55
21.	Mainpuri	22
22.	Mau	4
23.	Mirzapur	35
24.	Orai	5
25.	Pratapgarh	521
26.	Shahjahanpur	6
27.	Sitapur	8
28.	Sultanpur	220
29.	Varanasi	24
30.	Agra	90
31.	Bulandshahar	41
32.	Ghaziabad	38
33.	Mathura	2
34.	Meerut	47
35.	Moradabad	10
36.	Muzaffarnagar	134
37.	Saharanpur	69
38.	Etah	106
39.	Pilibhit	2
Total		3798

*[English]***Prosecution of Accused in Stamp Scam**

3082. SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the CBI has made several requests to the State Government of Maharashtra and Karnataka for according sanctions with a view to prosecute top Government and police officials accused in the stamp scam;

(b) if so, whether both the State Governments have not taken any decision till date on the requests of the CBI;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Union Government would direct the State Governments to take immediate decision on the matter; and

(e) if so, the time by when this is likely to be done?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SURESH PACHAURI): (a) Yes, the CBI has sought sanction for prosecution in respect of 5 public servants from the Government of Karnataka and in respect of 9 public servants from the Government of Maharashtra.

(b) and (c) The State Governments of Karnataka and Maharashtra have accorded sanction for prosecution in respect of 3 public servants and 7 public servants respectively.

(d) and (e) All such matters are pursued with the State Governments for expeditious disposal.

Relief Measures for BSNL

3083. SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has announced a series of relief measures for the Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd. (BSNL);

(b) if so, since when;

(c) whether the Government propose to announce such relief measures for MTNL also; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government has provided relief measures to BSNL since its inception on 1st October, 2000 to compensate for its losses incurred on account of rural telephony and other socially desirably projects.

(c) No, Sir.

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

Seamen's Provident Fund Scam

3084. SHRI JOACHIM BAXLA:
SHRI HITEN BARMAN:
SHRI SUBRATA BOSE:

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

(a) whether Seamen's Provident Fund (SPF) has incurred a financial loss of almost Rs. 95 crore;

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

(c) whether any inquiry has been conducted in this regard;

(d) if so, the details of the findings;

(e) whether any action has been initiated against those found guilty; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (f) Yes, Sir. The loss of Seamen's Provident Fund (SPF) to the tune of Rs. 92.78 crores was noticed in May, 2002 due to non-delivery of physical securities by Home Trade as happened in cooperative banks securities scam. Immediately after this fraud came to notice on 4.5.2002, it was quickly looked into. On 10.5.2002, a complaint was lodged with the CBI. The CBI has completed its inquiry on 10.11.2003 and charge sheet has been filed in the Court against 15 persons involved.

Autonomy of Regulatory Bodies

3085. SHRI SURESH PRABHAKAR PRABHU: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government is considering making rules which will ensure functional autonomy for the regulatory bodies;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to ensure that appointments in such regulatory bodies are done through transparent and fair procedure?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SURESH PACHAURI): (a) to (c) Central Government generally constitutes Regulatory Authorities for different sectors as may be needed, under the relevant Acts. These Acts, *inter alia*, provide for the composition of the Regulatory Authorities, qualification for appointment of Chairperson and Members, their terms of office and conditions of service, powers and functions conferred on them etc. Transparency and fairness in the appointments to such regulatory bodies are ensured by appropriate provisions in those Acts.

Retired Officials on Personal Staff of Ministers

3086. SHRI BADIGA RAMAKRISHNA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that a number of retired Government officials are being appointed on the personal staff of Union Ministers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government proposes to ban appointment of retired officials in order to create more job avenues for unemployed youth; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SURESH PACHAURI): (a) and (b) Members of the Union Council of Ministers have discretion in the matter of selection of persons, serving officers or outsiders, for appointment in their personal staff. The upper age limit for such appointments has been prescribed as 60 years. However, such appointments may also be made in relaxation of prescribed upper age limit of 60 years, in accordance with the extant instructions.

(c) and (d) The appointments in the personal staff of Ministers are made co-terminus with that of the Minister. There is no proposal under consideration of the Government to ban appointment of retired officials in the personal staff of Union Council of Ministers.

CBI Probe Into Assets of DCGI

3087. SHRI ALOK KUMAR MEHTA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has ordered a CBI probe into the assets of DCGI; and

(b) if so, the results and action taken against the DCGI?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Pending Cases With CAT

3088. SHRI RUPCHAND MURMU: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases pending before the Central Administrative Tribunal till date, State-wise;

(b) whether the Government has taken initiative to render speedy justice to Government employees; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SURESH PACHAURI): (a) 23,721 cases are pending in Central Administrative Tribunal as on 28.02.2005 as against a total institution of 4,49,023 cases since its inception. The Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT) which was set up to adjudicate the service related matters of the Central Government employees, has seventeen Benches. The pendency of cases is being maintained Bench-wise. A statement showing Bench-wise pendency of cases in the Central Administrative Tribunal as on 28.02.2005 is enclosed as Statement.

(b) and (c) The Government does not interfere in the judicial functioning of the CAT. However, efforts are made by the Government to fill up the vacant posts of Chairman, Vice-Chairmen and Members as expeditiously as possible. On account of this and steps taken by the Central Administrative Tribunal itself for expeditious disposal of cases, the pendency has been reduced from 49521 as on 01.01.1999 to 23721 cases as on 28.02.2005.

Statement

Sl. No.	Name of Bench	Total number of cases pending as on 28.02.2005
1.	Principal	2185
2.	Ahmedabad	679
3.	Allahabad	3267
4.	Lucknow	1427
5.	Bangalore	329
6.	Mumbai	1395
7.	Kolkata	3900
8.	Chandigarh	1349
9.	Cuttack	1720
10.	Guwahati	274
11.	Hyderabad	1248
12.	Jabalpur	975
13.	Jodhpur	359
14.	Jaipur	607
15.	Chennai	634
16.	Patna	2300
17.	Ernakulam	1073
Total		23721

[Translation]

Guidelines for Deputation

3089. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the guidelines for sending Central Government Officers on foreign service/deputation;

(b) the terms and conditions under which Central Government Officers can be sent on foreign service/deputation from Central Government to Central Public Sector Undertakings;

(c) whether the status and level of Central Government Officers is protected in the CPSUs;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the guidelines include parity in pay scales and level of posts in CPSUs; and

(f) if so, the details of pay scales in Central Public Sector Undertakings equivalent to the Central Government pay scales?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SURESH PACHAURI): (a) and (b) The guidelines for sending Central Government Officers on foreign service/deputation to Central Public Sector Undertakings lay down that Central Government officers can join posts in Central Public Sector Enterprises only on immediate absorption basis. However, deputation/foreign service is permitted for a maximum period of 5 years in case of Chief Executives, Regional/Zonal Chiefs and Chief Vigilance Officers in such Organizations.

(c) As per extant guidelines of the Central Government, deputation/foreign service of Central Government employees to Central Public Sector Undertakings is not permitted to lower grades.

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

(e) Following the implementation of the recommendations of the V Central Pay Commission, at present there are no guidelines regarding parity in pay scales and level of posts between Central Government and the CPSUs.

(f) Does not arise in view of the reply to (e) above.

National Institute of Oceanography

3090. SHRI HARISHCHANDRA CHAVAN:
SHRI Y.G. MAHAJAN:

Will the Minister of OCEAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Institute of Oceanography is working on ocean research;

(b) if so details thereof;

(c) the progress made in this regard so far; and

(d) the amount allocated to the National Institute of Oceanography during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) National Institute of Oceanography (NIO), Goa, a constituent laboratory under the CSIR, is carrying out Research & Development work on various aspects of Ocean Sciences. Its main objective is to develop a knowledge-base relating to Physical Oceanography, Chemical Oceanography, Geological Oceanography, Biological Oceanography, Ocean Engineering, Marine Instrumentation, Marine Corrosion & Material Research, Marine Archaeology and Coastal zone management. Presently 24 projects in above fields are handled.

(c) Some salient achievements of NIO's research are in the Polymetallic nodule research, Ilmenite (offshore placer deposits), identification of methane rich-gas charged sediment regions from west coast of India, multidisciplinary research in the EEZ of India, development of processes from bio-active materials from the sea. NIO has also successfully developed and deployed marine instruments like Direct reading current meter, Tide Gauges and Automatic Weather Stations etc.

(d) The amount allocated to NIO by CSIR during the 2002-03, 2003-04 and 2004-05 (till 15 March 2005) is Rs. 19.368 crore, Rs. 23.265 crore and Rs. 23.267 crore respectively.

[English]

Abolition of Immigration Check Clearance

3091. DR. RAJESH MISHRA:
SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE:

Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Passport holders are still requiring Immigration Check Clearance from Proctor of Emigration (PoE) for some countries;

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

(c) whether the Government is considering to completely abolish the clearance in the near future;

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

(e) whether the Government had signed any agreement with certain countries to send labourers there;

(f) if so, the number of labourers so sent during the last three years and till date, country-wise;

(g) whether some provision has been made in these agreements for providing wages and other facilities to the labourers; and

(h) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER):

(a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Only persons with ECR (Emigration Clearance Required) endorsed passports are required to obtain emigration clearance from the Protectors of Emigrants before going abroad for employment. The objective is to ensure that vulnerable categories of unskilled/semi-skilled workers and women seeking employment as housemaids and domestic workers have proper employment documents and do not face difficulties on arrival in the foreign countries. However, persons going to any of the 54 countries (list annexed) as Statement are exempted from obtaining emigration clearance as these countries have adequate immigration controls and provide access to grievance redressal fora to foreign migrant workers.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) to (h) Does not arise.

Statement

List of Countries for Which Emigration Check is not Required

1. Albania
2. Australia
3. Austria
4. Bahamas
5. Bangladesh
6. Bhutan
7. Bulgaria
8. Canada
9. Cyprus
10. Czech Republic
11. Denmark
12. Estonia
13. Finland
14. France
15. Germany
16. Gibraltar
17. Greece
18. Greenland
19. Hungary
20. Ireland
21. Iceland
22. Italy
23. Japan
24. Latvia
25. Liechtenstein
26. Vatican City
27. United Kingdom
28. Lithuania
29. Luxemburg
30. Malta

31. Mexico
32. Monaco
33. Nepal
34. Netherlands
35. New Zealand
36. Norway
37. Pakistan
38. Poland
39. Portugal
40. Romania
41. San Marino
42. Slovak Republic
43. Spain
44. Sweden
45. Switzerland
46. The Holy sea
47. Turkey
48. United States of America
49. Yugoslavia
50. Belgium
51. South Korea
52. South Africa
53. Singapore
54. Thailand

[Translation]

Items of SSI Included in Export List

3092. SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN:
SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN:

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

(a) whether the Government proposes to formulate any policy for increasing exports by small scale industries;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of such items produced by small industries which are likely to be included in export list under the policy?

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHAVIR PRASAD): (a) and (b) The Central Government formulates the Foreign Trade Policy which, among other things, seeks to promote exports from India, including those by the small scale industries. To assist the small scale industries in increasing their exports, the Government in the Ministry of Small Scale Industries implements several schemes which include (i) participation in international trade fairs, (ii) holding catalogue exhibitions (iii) dissemination of information on international tenders, (iv) exchange of business delegations, etc.

(c) In respect of exports, the Foreign Trade Policy of the Government does not distinguish between the products manufactured by large and small scale industries. The Policy allows export of all products produced by the small scale industries, except for a few items in the restricted and prohibited categories under the said Policy.

[English]

Crisis in Coir Industry

3093. SHRI M. P. VEERENDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that coir industry in the country especially in Kerala is facing a crisis due to fall in prices and stiff competition;

(b) if so, the details of the growth/loss in the coir industry in Kerala during each of the last three years;

(c) the action taken/proposed to be taken for protection of coir workers;

(d) whether the Union Government is providing any relief to the coir workers; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHAVIR PRASAD): (a) while there is no crisis, the coir industry in Kerala has experienced some shortages of raw material for manufacturing coir products

as a consequence of drought and mite disease that affected the production of coconuts over the past two years. Coir products also face competition from substitute products from natural and synthetic materials.

(b) The details of production of coir fibre in Kerala during the last three years are as under:

Year	Production of coir fibre (metric tones)
2001-2002	1,64,000
2002-2003	1,66,500
2003-2004	1,30,000

(c) to (e) The shortage of raw material in Kerala in the last two years was met by sourcing from the neighbouring coir producing States. At the request of the Government of Kerala, the Government of India has also permitted duty free import of coir fibre from the neighbouring countries for one year starting September 2004. The fibre shortage due to drought and mite attack has not, however, affected employment in the coir sector which has been registering growth over the past three years.

Programme for Distance on Web Based Learning

3094. SHRI VIJOY KRISHNA:
SHRI SUGRIB SINGH:
SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH:

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

(a) whether the Government has launched a new programme for Distance on Web based Learning;

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

(c) the details of the steps taken to integrate information technology in the technical education system in order to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of technical education?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) (i) Department of Information Technology (DIT) has provided grant in aid for a few pilot R & D projects to educational institutes such as IIT Delhi, Jadavpur University, Kolkata, C-DAC Mumbai, IGNOU Delhi, BITS Pilani, IIT Kanpur in the area of E-Learning/Distance Education Programme on Web Based Learning.

(ii) ERNET India, an autonomous Society of DIT has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) in the year 2001 to establish Internet facilities at AICTE approved technical institutions. Under the MOU, an amount of Rs. 10.00 lakhs as one time grant is provided to the government technical institutions and Rs. 5.00 lakhs to the private technical institutions for establishing the connectivity through ERNET India.

(iii) DOEACC Society, an autonomous body of DIT has provided Web Based Learning Material for 5 modules of DOEACC 'O' Level Computer Course, as a complement to the classroom delivery.

[Translation]

Aid to Tsunami Disaster Victims

3095. SHRI MOHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of people of Indian origin who died in the recent Tsunami in countries like Thailand, Indonesia, Sri Lanka, Maldives and others;

(b) whether the Governments of these countries have made arrangements for the subsistence of these families;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Union Government has also sent some aid to these countries for the help of the Tsunami affected people of Indian origin settled in these countries; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) to (e) The details are given in the Statement attached.

Statement***Aid to Tsunami Disaster Victims***

S.No.	Name of Country	Details
01.	Indonesia	<p>(a) Indian nationals working in Indonesia have not been affected in the Tsunami during Dec. 26, 2004. However, one Mr. AK Padmanabhan, who was working with Indian company, M/s Enercon, Enerco Systems Pvt Ltd., 440 Electronic city, Phase II (East), Hosur Road, Bangalore (Tel: 91-80-51189700/Fax 91-80-5118-9729) had come on a temporary visit to an Indonesian company M/s Lafarge Semen Andalas, Pt Semen Andalas Indonesia, Plaza Great River Lt. 16 JL H.H. Rasuna Said X2 No. 1, Jakarta. When he was visiting their factory located at PT Semen Andalas, Bander Aceh, Indonesia, he became victim of Tsunami and is reported dead.</p> <p>(b) to (e) Nil.</p>
02.	Sri Lanka	<p>(a) According to available records, 13 Indian nationals who were in Sri Lanka as tourist had died in the disaster. However, no person of Indian origin based in Sri Lanka had lost his life in the disaster.</p> <p>(b) to (e) Not applicable.</p>
03.	Maldives	<p>(a) Only one Indian national, viz. Mr Badery Alam, working as labourer and belonging to West Bengal was reported dead in the Tsunami disaster.</p> <p>(b) No.</p> <p>(c) N/A.</p> <p>(d) No.</p> <p>(e) N/A.</p>
04.	Thailand	<p>(a) Four Indians died in the Tsunami Disaster in Thailand.</p> <p>(b) Nil.</p> <p>(c) N/A.</p> <p>(d) India has offered emergency assistance to Thailand in the wake of the Tsunami disaster.</p> <p>(e) The assistance is in kind, equivalent to US\$ 500,000/-</p>
05.	Malaysia	<p>(a) Malaysia has not given official breakup of those Malaysian citizens who died due to tsunami by ethnic background. However, unofficially, the Mission understands that no person of Indian origin (Malaysian Indians) died in Malaysia due to tsunami.</p> <p>(b) & (c) Does not arise.</p> <p>(d) No. Malaysia did not avail of any international assistance in the aid of tsunami victims in Malaysia.</p> <p>(e) Does not arise.</p>

Import of Telecom Instruments

3096. SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA:
SHRIMATI KIRAN MAHESHWARI:

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

(a) the details of the telecom instruments imported in the country during each of the last three years;

(b) the amount of payment made in foreign exchange on account of importing telecom instruments during the above said period;

(c) whether the Government has also granted permission to import telephone instruments during the current year; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) Telecom equipment including telephone instruments are broadly covered under ITC (HS) Code 8517 and 8525.20 and imports under these heads, during the last three years, are as under:

Year	Imports (Rs. in Crore)
2001-2002	2,603.51
2002-2003	7,664.70
2003-2004	11,629.45

(c) and (d) Import of telecom equipment including telephone instruments is allowed freely and, therefore, no permission is required from the Government.

[English]

Justice to CAT Employees

3097. SHRI SANTASRI CHATTERJEE:
SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Administrative Tribunal set up to provide speedy justice to the Central Government employees is not able to render justice to its own employees resulting in inviting adverse comments from the Madras High Court;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether promotions in the Central Administrative Tribunal have been effected by the Department of Personnel and Training without preparation of seniority lists/year-wise panels;

(d) if so, the reasons for delay in preparation of seniority lists;

(e) the loss to the Government exchequer on account of wrong promotions; and

(f) the punitive action taken/contemplated against those found guilty in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SURESH PACHAURI): (a) and (b) The High Court of Judicature at Madras in their judgement dated 06.01.2005/20.01.2005 had commented on the absence of appropriate seniority lists and had observed that this resulted in promotion of juniors in violation of the service rules. The Court had also observed that the amendments that came into existence subsequently, can not be applied to cases of promotion pertaining to previous years. Union of India and the Principal Bench of Central Administrative Tribunal were directed to prepare the panel for promotion to the posts of Joint Registrar in Central Administrative Tribunal year-wise from 1997-2000 by applying the rules that were in force at the relevant time. The directions of the Hon'ble High Court have since been complied with.

(c) and (d) The appointments to Group 'A' posts are made by the Government of India on the basis of recommendations made by the Departmental Promotion Committee/Selection Committee constituted by the Chairman, Central Administrative Tribunal as per the provisions of the notified recruitment rules. Appointments to Group 'B', 'C' & 'D' posts are, however, made by the Central Administrative Tribunal itself as per the provisions of the notified recruitment rules. The seniority lists and panels for all the posts/grades in Central Administrative Tribunal are prepared and maintained by the CAT as per the provisions of the rules and regulations.

The officers and staff were appointed at the time of setting up of the Central Administrative Tribunal from Central/State Governments/High Courts/Subordinate Courts and from various Government organizations on deputation

basis or otherwise having different sets of Rules and Conditions of Service in their respective parent departments which resulted in delay in finalization of the seniority lists in various grades by the Central Administrative Tribunal. Due to several court cases regarding seniority, the seniority lists in various grades/groups could not be finalized. In the aftermath of judgment by the Supreme Court in the case of M. Ramchandran Vs. Union of India, in 1999, the seniority lists in various grades/groups were finalized by the Central Administrative Tribunal and promotions were made as per the provisions of the recruitment rules.

(e) There is no pecuniary loss to the Government exchequer.

(f) In view of the (e) above, question does not arise.

Development of Cancer Centres

3098. SHRI S. AJAYA KUMAR:
SHRIMATI C.S. SUJATHA:

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

(a) whether the Government has received proposals for the development of Cancer Centres particularly at various medical colleges:

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) Government has sanctioned grants for the Development of Oncology Wings to 10 medical colleges over the past 3 years @ Rs. 2 crores each. As per revised guidelines under the National Cancer Control Programme, the quantum of assistance for this purpose has been increased to a one time grant of Rs. 3.00 crore. Proposals from 12 government medical colleges have been received during the current year and grant has been sanctioned to 4 medical colleges so far. The financial assistance to various medical colleges under this scheme is subject to technical evaluation and availability of funds.

National Coastal Protection Project

3099. SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD: Will the Minister of OCEAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has included Maharashtra Government's project in the first phase of National Coastal Protection Project;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of projects cleared so far;

(d) the number of projects remaining pending along with the reasons therefor; and

(e) the time by which the remaining projects will be included?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) and (b) Planning and Implementation of anti-erosion works primarily rests with the concerned State Governments. Government of Maharashtra submitted a proposal with an estimated cost of Rs. 193.80 crores for inclusion in the proposed National Coastal Protection Project (NCP). The proposal of Government of Maharashtra includes 72.36 Km of anti sea erosion works in Mumbai, Mumbai Suburban, Thane, Raigad, Ratnagiri and Sindhudurg districts. As the National Coastal Protection Project has been planned for seeking external funding, an approach paper on coastal protection has been prepared and is under examination by the Department of Economic Affairs for getting the external funding for the sector.

(c) to (e) Do not arise.

AIIMS-Type Institute In Gujarat

3100. SHRIMATI MANORAMA MADHAVARAJ:
SHRI JASHUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD:

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

(a) whether the Government is planning to set up public health institute of international standards;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government has received any proposal from Gujarat for establishing an AIIMS-type Institute in Gujarat;

(d) if so, the decision taken by the Union Government thereon; and

(e) the total expenditure to be involved in setting up AIIMS-type Institutes in different States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) With a view to strengthen the professional public health education in the country, possibilities are being explored for establishment of new institutes of public health of excellence of the level of IITs and IIMs and upscaling the existing institutions. For this purpose, the Planning Commission has already accorded in-principle approval for setting up of Public Health Schools in India during the Tenth Five Year Plan.

(c) and (d) There is no proposal from Gujarat for establishing an AIIMS like institution.

(e) Under Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana, there is a proposal to set up six AIIMS like Institutions in underserved States at an estimated cost of Rs. 284.50 crores (approx) each.

. STD Facility in Taluka/Tehsil Headquarters

3101. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL:
SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO:
SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY:

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

(a) the total number of Taluka/Tehsil Headquarters having telephone exchanges with STD facility in the country particularly in Karnataka and West Bengal;

(b) the number of Talukas/Tehsils in the States where this facility is not available, State-wise;

(c) the main reasons for the same;

(d) the time by when STD facility is likely to be made available to the remaining Talukas/Tehsil Headquarters; and

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

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

(DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) to (c) All Talukas/Tehsil Headquarters (THQ) in the country including Karnataka have been provided with STD facility. Further in the States of Bihar, Jharkhand, West Bengal, Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland and Manipur where there is no concept of Taluka/Tehsil but sub-divisional headquarters, STD facility has been provided to all Sub-Divisional headquarters. However, exceptions are one THQ in the State of Tripura, one in Orissa and 9 in Tamilnadu, where telephone exchanges are not there, but STD facility has been provided from nearby exchanges.

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

CT Scan Machines in Government Hospitals

3102. SHRI M. APPADURAI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that the CT Scan Machines in Government hospitals are dysfunctional or in inoperative conditions pushing thousands of poor patients into critical condition;

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

(c) the names of Government hospitals having CT Scan Machines, State-wise alongwith their working condition;

(d) whether the Government is also aware that Government hospitals authorities are having nexus with the private clinics and diagnostic centres;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) the action taken/proposed to be taken in this regard;

(g) whether the Government has taken appropriate action to control and reduce the CT Scan charges;

(h) if so, the details thereof; and

(i) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) In so far as Central

Govt. run hospitals in Delhi, namely, Dr. RML Hospital, Safdarjung Hospital and LHMC & its associated hospitals are concerned, it is not true that CT scan Machines are dysfunctional or in inoperative condition. However, due to regular wear and tear the machines sometime become non-functional for which tie-up arrangements have been made for investigations among the Central Government Hospitals.

(d) to (f) No such information has been reported regarding the nexus between the above mentioned hospitals with the private clinics and diagnostic centres.

(g) to (i) In the Central Govt. Hospitals, the charges levied for CT scan is subsidized in comparison to the market charges. However, CT Scan for poor patients and CGHS beneficiaries is undertaken free of cost.

[*Translation*]

Funds for Ayurvedic System of Treatment

3103. SHRI MAHAVIR BHAGORA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has allotted less funds for Ayurvedic system of Treatment in Rajasthan this year in comparison to the last year;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether a number of organisations associated with the Government have requested for increasing the funds; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) The Central Government has provided more funds this year for promotion of Ayurveda to Rajasthan under the various Centrally Sponsored Schemes, namely, Development of Health Care Facilities of Indian Systems of Medicine & Homoeopathy (ISM & H); Development of Educational Institutions and Strengthening of Quality control, compared to last year. The financial assistance given in 2004-05 to Rajasthan for promotion of Ayurveda is to the tune of Rs. 564.43 lakh against Rs. 40.07 lakh in 2003-04.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Vacant Posts

3104. SHRI RAGHURAJ SHAKYA:
SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR CHOUDHARY:

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

(a) whether the Hon'ble Supreme Court has ordered to fill up the various posts lying vacant in different Central Government Hospitals and dispensaries located in Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the post-wise details of various posts lying vacant and filled up in various Central Government Hospitals located in Delhi as on date; and

(d) the time by which vacant posts are likely to be filled up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) As far as the Central Government hospitals located in Delhi viz., Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital, Safdarjung Hospital, Lady Harding Medical College and Associated Hospitals and Central Government Health Scheme Dispensaries are concerned, the Government has not come across any order recently passed by the Hon'ble Supreme Court directing it to fill up the various posts lying vacant.

(c) and (d) The group wise details of the posts lying vacant and filled up in the above Central Government Hospitals are as per in enclosed Statement -I, II & III. Due to the restrictions imposed by the Department of Personnel and Training, Government of India vide their O.M. no. 2/8/2001-PIC dated 16.5.2001, prescribing a limit that direct recruitment can be resorted only against 1/3rd of the vacancies arising in a year, subject to further ceiling of 1% of the total sanctioned strength, this ministry was finding it difficult to fill up all the vacant posts. Now, that the Government has decided to exempt the posts of specialists, doctors and other technical personnel from the purview of the said instructions, action has been initiated for filling up the vacant posts of specialists, doctors and other technical posts.

Statement I*Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital, New Delhi*

S. No.	Name of the Posts	No. of Sanctioned Post	No. of Post filled	No. of Posts vacant.
1.	Group A CHS Posts	177	143	34
2.	Group A Non CHS Posts	25	8	17
3.	Group B Gazetted	20	11	9
4.	Group B Non Gazetted	36	19	17
5.	Group C Other than Nursing	877	794	83
6.	Group C (Nursing)	810	735	75
7.	Group D	891	745	146

Statement II*Safdarjang Hospital, New Delhi*

S. No.	Name of the Posts	No. of Sanctioned Post	No. of Post filled	No. of Posts vacant
1.	Group A Medical	285	245	40
2.	Group A Non Medical	42	12	30
3.	Group B Gazetted	54	29	25
4.	Group B Non Gazetted	448	393	55
5.	Group C Nursing	868	677	191
6.	Group C Para Medical	974	798	176
7.	Group D	1436	1216	220

Statement III*Lady Harding Medical College & Associated Hospitals*

S. No.	Name of the Post	No. of sanctioned posts	No. of posts filled	No. of Vacant posts
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Group "A" Teaching posts	118	86	32
2.	Group "A" Non-Teaching & non-medical posts	20	02	18

1.	2	3	4	5
3.	Group "B" Gazetted	04	00	04
4.	Group "B" Non-Gazetted	226	203	23
5.	Group "C" posts (Nursing & paramedical)	607	478	129
6.	Group "D" posts	574	533	41

Kalawati Saran Children's Hospital

S. No.	Name of the Post	No. of sanctioned posts	No. of posts filled	No. of Vacant posts
1.	Group "A" posts	28	10	18
2.	Group "B" posts	137	115	22
3.	Group "C" posts	140	113	27
4.	Group "D" posts	88	73	15

Telecom Services on National Highways/Rail Routes

3105. SHRIMATI NEETA PATERIYA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether private companies are providing better services to the customers as compared to the Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd.;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) whether telecom facilities are available on the national highways and rail routes in Madhya Pradesh;

(d) if not, the reasons for non-availability of BSNL network at Nagpur road Kurai to Khawasa and Jabalpur to Bhopal Highways and Katni-Bina and Jabalpur-Itarsi rail routes; and

(e) the time by which it is likely to be made available?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) As per the quality of service performance reports for the quarter ended December 2004, like other private operators, BSNL is also meeting most of the benchmarks in large number of circles. However, in case of Basic Service, it is lagging behind the private operators in respect of a number of parameters like 'Fault incidents per 100 subscribers per month', 'Fault repaired by next working day', 'Mean Time to repair' and 'Call completion rate'. BSNL is providing

the basic service through wire line network as opposed to predominantly wireless in case of private operators.

(c) to (e) Telecom facilities are available on national highways and rail routes in Madhya Pradesh. However, seamless coverage of Cellular Services is not available along the national highways and rail routes. As per the terms and conditions of the license agreement a service provider is to cover 50% of District Headquarters and coverage of a DHQ/town would mean that at least 90% of the area bounded by the Municipal limits should get the required street as well as in-building coverage. License Agreement does not envisage seamless coverage along national highways and rail routes.

Telecommunication Facilities in North Eastern States and Jharkhand

3106. SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN:
SHRI HEMMAL MURMU:

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

(a) whether the Government proposes to set up new post offices, telegraph offices and telephone exchanges with STD facilities in the North-Eastern States and Jharkhand during the current financial year; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) Opening of post office is subject to fulfilment of norms and availability of resources under plan. Details of the total number of proposals received for opening post offices, the number of proposals found to be justified, and those opened during the current financial year in North Eastern States and Jharkhand are given in enclosed Statement I. Under the 10th Plan, post offices are opened through redeployment of existing manpower and by rationalising the existing single or double handed post offices which

do not fulfil the distance norms. This is an ongoing process.

Government proposes to set up new telephone exchanges with STD facility in the North Eastern States and Jharkhand during the current financial year 2004-05. However, there is no proposal for opening new telegraph offices in these States during the current financial year.

The details in respect of opening of new telephone exchanges with STD facility in the North Eastern States and Jharkhand during the current financial year 2004-05 is given in enclosed Statement II.

Statement I

Name of State	No. of proposals received for opening of post offices EDBOs No. of proposals for opening of post offices found to be justified			No. of post offices opened during the current financial year			Remarks
	EDBOs	EDBOs	DSOs	EDEOs	EDBOs	DSOs	
Arunachal Pradesh	—	—	—	—	—	—	Proposal found
Assam	2	4	2	4	—	—	justified
Jharkhand	28	—	—	—	—	1	are
Manipur	3	—	—	—	—	—	under
Meghalaya	—	—	—	—	—	—	process
Mizoram	—	—	—	—	—	1	
Nagaland	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Sikkim	1	—	—	—	—	—	
Tripura	—	—	—	—	—	2	

EDBO: Extra Departmental Branch Post Office.

DSO: Departmental Sub Post Office.

Statement II

Sl. No.	Name of Telecom Circle	Name of State	No. of new exchanges proposed to be opened during the current financial year	Remarks (Name of places where exchanges to be opened)
1.	North-East-I	Meghalaya	5	Karkutta, Mendel, Nontalang, Lawbah and Umden
2.	North-East-I	Tripura	2	Salagarh, Gholagati
3.	North-East-II	Manipur	2	Chakpikarong, Sugnu
4.	North-East-II	Nagaland	1	Piphema
5.	Jharkhand	Jharkhand	4	Dumka (Dande & Deodar) Hazaribagh (Chatro & Riverside)

Commission on Small Saving Schemes

3107. SHRI Y.G. MAHAJAN:
SHRI RAJNARAYAN BUDHOLIA:

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

(a) whether the Department of Posts gets commission on small saving schemes;

(b) if so, the amount collected by the Department of posts under small saving schemes during the last three years;

(c) the total commission received by the Department of Posts from the collection of small savings during the said period;

(d) whether the commission of small savings is not being given to the Department of Posts by the Ministry of Finance as per the agreement;

(e) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the time by when an appropriate decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b)	2001-2002	Rs. 79645.35 crores
	2002-2003	Rs. 103323.04 crores
	2003-2004	Rs. 133439.06 crores
(c)	2001-2002	Rs. 1496.75 crores
	2002-2003	Rs. 1577.00 crores
	2003-2004	Rs. 1762.50 crores

(d) to (f) The Department of Posts gets remuneration from Ministry of Finance based on the rates fixed by them. Until the Financial year 2001-02 there was an annual escalation of 10% for successive years over 1993-94 level. From the Financial year 2002-03 this escalation has been reduced to below 5%.

Assistance for construction of Buildings

3108. SHRI CHANDRABHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received any proposal from the Madhya Pradesh Government regarding financial assistance for construction of buildings for Health Centres;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the action is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) The Government of Madhya Pradesh has sent a proposal seeking approval of the Government of India for transfer of a sum of Rs. 3.20 crores (Rupees Three Crores and Twenty lakhs only), from direct funding to indirect funding component under Danida Assisted Basic Health Service Programme, Madhya Pradesh, for meeting the cost of construction of 80 sub-health centres. Later on, in response to a query from the GOI, Government of Madhya Pradesh clarified that the aforesaid amount of Rs. 3.20 Crores will be utilized for meeting the cost of 80 sub-health centres, which have already been constructed by the State Government. Subsequently, that is, on 31.1.2005, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India, requested the State Government to submit a list of the 80 sub-health centres already constructed alongwith all relevant details, for taking further necessary action in the matter. The said details are yet to be received from the Government of Madhya Pradesh. Further action in the matter will be taken after the receipt of the requisite information from the Govt. of Madhya Pradesh.

Illegal Acquisition of Properties

3109. SHRI KISHAN SINGH SANGWAN:
SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR:
SHRI RAGHUVVEER SINGH KOSHAL:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that the CBI and Income Tax department have detected and seized a number of cases of property acquired through corrupt practices;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of properties seized by the CBI and the number of persons against whom punitive action has been taken during the last three years; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to check corruption and illegal acquisition of properties?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SURESH PACHAURI):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Income Tax Department investigates cases of undisclosed incomes and assets and makes seizure of such assets regardless of the fact whether such assets are acquired through corrupt practices or otherwise and no separate data of seizure of assets acquired through corrupt practices is maintained. During 2002, 2003, 2004 and 2005 (upto 28.2.2005) CBI has registered 113, 82, 82, & 34 number of cases respectively relating to acquisition of properties/assets through corrupt practices by public servants which are disproportionate to their known sources of income. Out of the 311 cases, investigation has been completed in 144 number of cases and action as per law depending on the outcome of the investigation has been taken. Chargesheet has been filed in 69 cases. 35 cases recommended for regular departmental action and in 18 cases sanction of prosecution has been sought 20 cases have been recommended for closure and 2 cases referred to the concerned departments for taking such action as deemed fit.

(d) Several steps have been taken to check corruption in Government offices, such as formulation, monitoring and effective implementation of anti-corruption policy consisting of a three-pronged strategy of preventive vigilance, surveillance and detection, and deterrent punitive action.

[English]

Speed Post Centres

3110. SHRI HEMMAL MURMU:
SHRI RAJNARAYAN BUDHOLIA:

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

(a) the criteria adopted for opening of speed post centres in the country;

(b) the number of speed post centres functioning in the country at present, State-wise and district-wise;

(c) whether there is any proposal to open new speed post centres; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) There are two kinds of Speed Post Centres namely National Speed Post Centres and State Speed Post Centres. While State Speed Post Centres are opened afresh, National Speed Post Centres are upgraded from State Speed Post Centres. The criteria for opening of a new State Speed Post Centre and its upgradation to National Speed Post Centre is given in enclosed Statement I.

(b) Information is given in enclosed Statement II.

(c) No, Sir.

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

Statement I

(A) Criteria for opening of State Speed Post Centres

1. Heads of Circles are authorized to permit introduction of State Speed Post Centres within their Circle at the stations which can generate traffic of more than 20 Speed Post articles per day.
2. Speed Post bag from proposed State Speed Post Centre must reach to its gateway (identified National Speed Post Centre) either on the same day or latest by the next day morning (D+ 1 F/N).

(B) Criteria for upgradation of State Speed Post Centre to National Speed Post Centre

1. Monthly average revenue should be Rs. 1 lakh or above.
2. Maximum delivery norms from the proposed centre to all other National Centres should not exceed two days *i.e.* D+ 2 except in the case of North East and Port Blair, where maximum transit should not exceed D+ 3.
3. Staff for proposed National Speed Post Centre should be provided by redeployment.

Statement II**List of National and State Speed Post Centres, State and District-wise**

Sl. No.	Name of the District	No. of National Speed Post Centre	No. of State Speed Post Centre
1	2	3	4
(i) Assam			
1.	Kamrup	1	0
2.	Nalbari	0	1
3.	Barpeta	0	1
4.	Bongaigaon	0	1
5.	Kokrajhar	0	1
6.	Dhubri	0	1
7.	Goalpara	0	1
8.	Darrang	0	1
9.	Sonitpur	0	1
10.	North Lakhimpur	0	1
11.	Dhemaji	0	0
12.	Nagaon	0	1
13.	Morigaon	0	1
14.	Jorhat	1	0
15.	Golaghat	0	1
16.	Sibsagar	0	1
17.	Tinsukia	0	1
18.	Dibrugarh	1	0
19.	Karbi Anglang	0	1
20.	N.C. Hills	0	1
21.	Cachar	1	0
22.	Hailakandi	0	1
23.	Karimganj	0	1

1	2	3	4
(ii) Arunachal Pradesh			
1.	Papumpare	1	5
2.	Along	0	0
3.	Pasighat	0	0
4.	Bomdila	0	0
5.	Tezu	0	0
6.	Khonsa	0	0
7.	Yinkiyong	0	0
8.	Seppa	0	0
9.	Anini	0	0
10.	Changlang	0	0
11.	Tawang	0	0
12.	Zero	0	0
13.	Daporijo	0	0
14.	Yangte	0	0
(iii) Andhra Pradesh			
1.	Hyderabad	1	0
2.	Adilabad	0	4
3.	Ananthapur	0	5
4.	Chittoor	1	5
5.	Cuddapah	0	4
6.	East Godavari	0	2
7.	Guntur	1	2
8.	Karimnagar	0	4
9.	Khammam	1	2
10.	Krishna	1	1
11.	Kumool	1	3
12.	Mahbubnagar	0	4
13.	Medak	0	5
14.	Nalgonda	0	5

1	2	3	4
15.	Nellore	0	1
16.	Nizamabad	0	4
17.	Prakasham	0	2
18.	Srikakulam	0	1
19.	Visakhapatnam	1	0
20.	Vizianagaram	0	1
21.	Warangal	0	4
22.	West Godavari	1	3
23.	Rangareddi*	0	0
(iv)	Bihar		
1.	Aurangabad	0	4
2.	Arwal	0	1
3.	Araria	0	1
4.	Bhojpur (Ara)	1	0
5.	Buxar	0	1
6.	Bhagalpur	0	1
7.	Banka	0	1
8.	Begusarai	0	1
9.	Darbhanga	1	0
10.	East Champaran	0	2
11.	Gaya	1	0
12.	Gopalganj	0	1
13.	Jahanabad	0	1
14.	Jamui	0	1
15.	Kaimur	0	1
16.	Khagaria	0	1
17.	Katihar	0	1
18.	Kishanganj	0	1
19.	Lakhisarai	0	1
20.	Madhubani	0	7

1	2	3	4
21.	Muzaffarpur	1	0
22.	Madhepura	0	1
23.	Munger	0	4
24.	Nalanda	0	4
25.	Nawada	0	1
26.	Patna	1	0
27.	Purnea	0	1
28.	Rohtas (Sasaram)	0	2
29.	Saran (Champaran)	1	0
30.	Siwan	0	1
31.	Samastipur	0	1
32.	Sitamarhi	0	1
33.	Sheohar	0	1
34.	Saharsa	0	1
35.	Supaul	0	1
36.	Sheikhpura	0	1
37.	Vaishali (Hajipur)	0	1
38.	West Champaran	0	1
(v)	Chhattisgarh		
1.	Raipur	1	4
2.	Mahasmond	0	1
3.	Dhamatri	0	1
4.	Durg	1	2
5.	Rajnandgaon	0	1
6.	Kawardha	0	1
7.	Bilaspur	1	1
8.	Korba	0	1
9.	Janjgir	0	2
10.	Raigarh	0	2
11.	Jashpur Nagar	0	2

1	2	3	4
12.	Ambikapur	0	2
13.	Jagdapur	0	3
14.	Dentewada	0	4
15.	Kanker	0	3
(vi)	Delhi		
1.	Delhi	1	0
(vii)	Gujarat		
1.	Ahemdabad	1	0
2.	Gandhinagar	0	2
3.	Mahesana	0	4
4.	Patan	0	4
5.	Banaskantha	0	4
6.	Sabarkantha	0	4
7.	Bharuch	0	1
8.	Narmada	0	2
9.	Surat	1	5
10.	Dang	0	1
11.	Navsari	0	2
12.	Valsad	0	2
13.	Surendranagar	0	2
14.	Rajkot	1	1
15.	Jamnagar	0	1
16.	Junagadh	0	2
17.	Bhavnagar	0	1
18.	Amreli	0	1
19.	Porbandar	0	1
20.	Kutch	0	4
21.	Anand	0	8
22.	Kheda	0	2
23.	Vadodara	1	1
24.	Dahod	0	1
25.	Panchmahal	0	3

1	2	3	4
(viii)	Goa		
1.	North District Goa	1	0
2.	South District Goa	1	0
(ix)	Haryana		
1.	Ambala	1	0
2.	Yamunanagar	1	0
3.	Panchkula	1	0
4.	Kurukshetra	1	0
5.	Kaithal	0	1
6.	Karnal	1	0
7.	Panipat	1	0
8.	Jind	0	1
9.	Sonepat	0	1
10.	Gurgaon	1	0
11.	Rewari	0	1
12.	Mohindergarh*	0	0
13.	Faridabad	1	0
14.	Bhiwani	0	1
15.	Hissar	1	0
16.	Sirsa	0	1
17.	Fathehabad*	0	0
18.	Rohtak	1	0
19.	Jhajjar	0	2
(x)	Himachal Pradesh		
1.	Bilaspur	0	1
2.	Chamba	0	2
3.	Hamirpur	1	0
4.	Kinnaur	0	1
5.	Kullu	0	2
6.	Kangra	1	3

1	2	3	4
7.	Mandi	1	1
8.	Shimla	1	2
9.	Solan	1	3
10.	Simour	0	1
11.	Una	0	1
12.	Lahaul & Spiti	0	0
(xi)	Jammu & Kashmir		
1.	Jammu	1	2
2.	Udhampur	0	5
3.	Poonch	0	0
4.	Rajouri	0	0
5.	Doda	0	0
6.	Kathua	0	1
7.	Kupwara	0	0
8.	Baramula	0	3
9.	Srinagar	1	1
10.	Badgam	0	1
11.	Pulwama	0	1
12.	Anantnag	0	2
13.	Leh	0	1
14.	Kargil	0	0
(xii)	Jharkhand		
1.	Ranchi	1	3
2.	Gumla	0	1
3.	Lohardaga	0	1
4.	Simdega	0	2
5.	East Singhbhum	1	1
6.	West Singhbhum	0	5
7.	Saraikela	0	2
8.	Bokaro	0	8

1	2	3	4
9.	Dhanbad	1	7
10.	Hazaribagh	0	17
11.	Kodarma	0	4
12.	Chatra	0	2
13.	Giridih	0	1
14.	Jamtara	0	2
15.	Palamau	0	4
16.	Garhwa	0	2
17.	Latehar	0	2
18.	Dumka	0	1
19.	Godda	0	2
20.	Deoghar	0	4
21.	Sahebganj	0	2
22.	Pakur	0	1
(xiii)	Karnataka		
1.	Bangalore Urban	1	0
2.	Bangalore Rural*	0	0
3.	Chikmangalur	1	0
4.	Chitradurga	0	1
5.	Davangere	1	0
6.	Hassan	0	1
7.	Kodagu	0	1
8.	Kolar	0	1
9.	Mandya	0	1
10.	Dakshin Kannada	1	1
11.	Mysore	1	0
12.	Chamarajnagar	0	1
13.	Shimoga	0	2
14.	Tumkur	0	1
15.	Udupi	1	0

1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
16.	Bagalkot	1	0	3.	Raigad	0	11
17.	Bellary	1	1	4.	Pune	1	11
18.	Belgaum	1	2	5.	Ahmednagar	0	5
19.	Bidar	1	0	6.	Solapur	0	2
20.	Bijapur	1	0	7.	Satara	0	4
21.	Uttar Kannada	1	2	8.	Aurangabad	1	0
22.	Dharwar	1	0	9.	Nasik	1	2
23.	Gadag	1	0	10.	Jaina	0	1
24.	Gulbarga	1	1	11.	Jaigaon	0	4
25.	Haveri	1	1	12.	Dhule	0	1
26.	Raichur	1	0	13.	Beed	0	1
27.	Koppal	0	1	14.	Nanded	0	1
(xiv)	Kerala			15.	Parbhani	0	1
1.	Trivendrum	1	1	16.	Latur	0	1
2.	Kollam	1	2	17.	Osmanabad	0	3
3.	Pathanamthitta	1	3	18.	Hingoli	0	1
4.	Atappuza	0	4	19.	Nandubar	0	1
5.	Kottayam	1	2	20.	Nagpur	1	1
6.	Idukki	0	5	21.	Bhandara	0	1
7.	Ernakulam	2	0	22.	Gondia	0	1
8.	Thrissur	1	4	23.	Akola	0	1
9.	Palakkad	1	2	24.	Amravati	0	1
10.	Malappuram	0	6	25.	Buldhana	0	1
11.	Kozhikode	1	2	26.	Chandrapur	0	1
12.	Wayanad	0	1	27.	Gadchiroli	0	1
13.	Kasargode	0	1	28.	Wardha	0	1
14.	Kannur	0	2	29.	Washim	0	1
(xv)	Maharashtra			30.	Yeotmal	0	1
1.	Mumbai	1	0	31.	Sangli	0	2
2.	Thane	1	6	32.	Kolhapur	0	2

1	2	3	4
33.	Ratnagiri	0	4
34.	Sindhurg	0	4
(xvi)	Madhya Pradesh		
1.	Bhopal	1	1
2.	Hoshangabad	0	4
3.	Harda	0	1
4.	Narsingpur	0	2
5.	Sagar	0	3
6.	Damoh	0	2
7.	Vidisha	0	5
8.	Raisen	0	3
9.	Chhatarpur	0	3
10.	Tikamgarh	0	1
11.	Panna	0	1
12.	Chhindwara	1	0
13.	Betul	0	1
14.	Balaghat	0	1
15.	Mandla	0	2
16.	Seoni	0	2
17.	Dindori	0	1
18.	Rewa	0	1
19.	Satna	0	3
20.	Shahdol	0	4
21.	Sidhi	0	3
22.	Umaria	0	1
23.	Anuppur	0	2
24.	Jabalpur	1	0
25.	Katni	0	1
26.	Gwalior	1	2
27.	Datla	0	1

1	2	3	4
28.	Morena	0	1
29.	Bhind	0	2
30.	Sheepur	0	1
31.	Guna	0	3
32.	Shivpuri	0	1
33.	Ashoknagar	0	1
34.	Indore	1	4
35.	Dewas	0	3
36.	Dhar	0	4
37.	Mandsour	0	1
38.	Neemuch	0	1
39.	Rattlam	0	2
40.	Jhabua	0	1
41.	Khandwa	0	1
42.	Khargone	0	2
43.	Barwani	0	1
44.	Burhanpur	0	2
45.	Sehore	0	5
46.	Rajgarh	0	9
47.	Ujjain	1	1
48.	Shajapur	0	1
(xvii)	Manipur		
1.	Imphal East	1	2
2.	Bishenpur	0	1
3.	Chandel	0	1
4.	Churachandpur	0	1
5.	Senapati	0	1
6.	Thoubal	0	1
7.	Ukhrul	0	1
8.	Tamenglang	0	0

1	2	3	4
9.	Imphal West	0	1
(xviii)	Meghalaya		
1.	East Khasi Hill	1	4
2.	Jaintia Hill	0	1
3.	West Garo Hills	0	1
4.	West Khasi Hill	0	0
5.	East Garo Hills	0	0
6.	Ribhoi	0	0
7.	South Garo Hills	0	0
(xix)	Mizoram		
1.	Aizwal East	1	2
2.	Serchip	0	2
3.	Lunglei	0	3
4.	Champhai	0	2
5.	Kolasib	0	2
6.	Lawngtlai	0	2
7.	Mamit	0	1
8.	Saiha	0	1
9.	Hnahthial	0	1
10.	Thingsultiah	0	1
11.	Thingdawl	0	1
(xx)	Nagaland		
1.	Kohima	1	3
2.	Dimapur	1	1
3.	Mokokchung	0	1
4.	Phek	0	1
5.	Wokha	0	1
6.	Tuensang	0	1
7.	Mon	0	1
8.	Zunheboto	0	1

1	2	3	4
9.	Peran	0	0
10.	Kiphire	0	0
11.	Longleng	0	0
(xxi)	Orissa		
1.	Angul	0	2
2.	Bolangir	0	2
3.	Bargarh	0	1
4.	Balasore	0	1
5.	Bhadrak	0	1
6.	Boudh*	0	0
7.	Cuttack	1	1
8.	Dhenkanal	0	1
9.	Deogarh*	0	0
10.	Ganjam	1	3
11.	Gajapati	0	1
12.	Jajpur	0	2
13.	Jagatsingpur	0	2
14.	Jharsuguda	0	1
15.	Kendrapara	0	1
16.	Keonjhar	0	2
17.	Kalahandi	0	1
18.	Koraput	0	2
19.	Nuapada*	0	0
20.	Puri	0	1
21.	Kandhamal	0	1
22.	Rayagada	0	1
23.	Sambalpur	1	0
24.	Sonepur*	0	0
25.	Sundergarh	1	1
26.	Khordha	1	0

1	2	3	4
27.	Mayurbhanj	0	1
28.	Malkangiri	0	1
29.	Nabrangpur	0	1
30.	Nayagarh	0	1
(xxii)	Punjab		
1.	Amritsar	1	2
2.	Bhatinda	1	0
3.	Ferozpur	0	1
4.	Faridkot	0	1
5.	Fatehgarh Sahib	0	1
6.	Gurdaspur	3	0
7.	Hoshiarpur	0	2
8.	Jalandhar	1	0
9.	Kapurthala	1	1
10.	Ludhiana	2	1
11.	Mansa	0	1
12.	Moga	0	1
13.	Mukatsar	0	1
14.	Nawasahar	0	1
15.	Patiala	1	1
16.	Roper	0	1
17.	Sangrur	0	1
(xxiii)	Rajasthan		
1.	Ajmer	1	4
2.	Alwar	0	1
3.	Banswara	0	1
4.	Barmer	0	1
5.	Bharatpur	0	1
6.	Bhilwara	0	1
7.	Bikaner	0	1

1	2	3	4
8.	Bundi	0	1
9.	Chittorgarh	0	1
10.	Churu	0	1
11.	Dausa	0	1
12.	Dholpur	0	1
13.	Dungarpur	0	1
14.	Hanumangarh	0	1
15.	Jaipur	1	2
16.	Jaisalmer	0	1
17.	Jalore	0	1
18.	Jhunjhunu	0	2
19.	Kota	0	1
20.	Nagaur	0	1
21.	Pali	0	1
22.	Rajasamand	0	1
23.	Sawai Madhopur	0	1
24.	Sikar	0	1
25.	Sirohi	0	2
26.	Sriganga Nagar	0	2
27.	Tonk	0	1
28.	Udaipur	1	1
29.	Jodhpur	1	0
(xxiv)	Sikkim		
1.	East Sikkim	1	6
2.	West Sikkim	0	1
3.	South Sikkim	0	1
4.	North Sikkim	0	0
(xxv)	Tamil Nadu		
1.	Chennai	1	0
2.	Coimbatore	3	0

1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
3.	Cuddalore	1	2	3.	Dhalai	0	1
4.	Dharampuri	1	1	4.	Tripura North	0	2
5.	Dindigul	0	1	(xxvii)	Uttaranchal		
6.	Erode	1	0	1.	Dehradun	1	4
7.	Kanchipuram	1	0	2.	Nainital	1	3
8.	Karur	1	0	3.	Pauri	1	3
9.	Kanyakumari	1	0	4.	Tehri	0	1
10.	Madurai	1	0	5.	Almora	0	2
11.	Nagapattinam	0	1	6.	Pithoragarh	0	1
12.	Namakkal*	0	0	7.	Chamoli	0	1
13.	The Nigris*	0	0	8.	Hardwar	1	3
14.	Perambalur*	0	0	9.	Rudraprayag	0	1
15.	Pudukottai	0	1	10.	Udhamsingh Nagar	0	5
16.	Ramanathapuram	0	2	11.	Bageshwar	0	1
17.	Salem	1	0	12.	Champawat*	0	0
18.	Sivaganga	0	2	13.	Uttarkashi*	0	0
19.	Thanjavur	0	3	(xxviii)	Uttar Pradesh		
20.	Theni	0	2	1.	Agra	1	0
21.	Tiruchirapalli	1	0	2.	Allahabad	1	0
22.	Tirunelveli	1	1	3.	Aligarh	1	0
23.	Tuticorin	1	0	4.	Azamgarh	0	1
24.	Tiruvallur*	0	0	5.	Auraiya*	0	0
25.	Tiruvannamalai	0	1	6.	Ambedkarnagar*	0	0
26.	Tiruvarur	0	1	7.	Barabanki	0	1
27.	Vellore	1	0	8.	Basti	0	1
28.	Villupuram	0	1	9.	Baraut*	0	0
29.	Virdhunagar	0	3	10.	Ballia	0	1
(xxvi)	Tripura			11.	Bahraich	0	1
1.	West Tripura	1	8	12.	Balrampur	0	1
2.	South Tripura	0	1	13.	Bareilly	1	0

1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
14.	Bagpat*	0	0	44.	Lucknow	1	0
15.	Bijnor	0	1	45.	Lalitpur*	0	0
16.	Badaun	0	1	46.	Maharajanj	0	1
17.	Banda	0	1	47.	Mau	0	1
18.	Bulandshahar*	0	0	48.	Mirzapur	0	1
19.	Chitrakoot*	0	0	49.	Moradabad	1	0
20.	Chandauli*	0	0	50.	Muzaffamagar	0	1
21.	Deoria	0	1	51.	Mahoba	0	1
22.	Etawah	0	1	52.	Mathura	1	0
23.	Etah	0	1	53.	Mainpuri	0	1
24.	Faizabad	0	1	54.	Meerut	1	0
25.	Farrukhabad	0	1	55.	Noida	1	0
26.	Fatehpur	0	1	56.	Pratapgarh	0	1
27.	Firozabad	0	1	57.	Pilibhit	0	1
28.	Gorakhpur	1	0	58.	Raebareli	0	1
29.	Gonda	0	1	59.	Rampur	0	1
30.	Ghazipur	0	1	60.	Sonbhadra*	0	0
31.	Ghaziabad	1	0	61.	Sitapur	0	1
32.	Hardoi	0	1	62.	Kabimagar	0	1
33.	Hathras*	0	0	63.	Sultanpur	0	1
34.	Hamirpur	0	1	64.	Sidharthnagar	0	1
35.	Jaunpur	0	1	65.	Saharanpur	1	0
36.	Jalaun*	0	0	66.	Sant Ravidasnagar*	0	1
37.	Jhansi	1	0	67.	Shahjahanpur	0	1
38.	Kushinagar*	0	0	68.	Shraswati*	0	0
39.	Lakhimpur Khiri	0	1	69.	Unnao	0	1
40.	Kanpur City	1	0	70.	Varanasi	1	0
41.	Kanpur Dehat*	0	0	(xxix)	West Bengal		
42.	Kannauj	0	1	1.	Kolkata	1	0
43.	Kaushambi*	0	0	2.	24 Pargana North	0	14

1	2	3	4
3.	24 Pargana South	0	2
4.	Nadia	0	11
5.	Murshidabad	0	19
6.	Birbhum	0	6
7.	Howrah	1	8
8.	Hooghly	0	14
9.	Purba Midnapur	0	7
10.	Paschim Midnapur	1	5
11.	Burdwan	0	14
12.	Bankura	0	3
13.	Puruk	0	3
14.	Darjeeling	1	8
15.	Jalpaiguri	0	8
16.	Coochbehar	0	5
17.	Uttar Dinajpur	0	2
18.	Dakshin Dinajpur	0	3
19.	Malda	0	4
(xxx)	Andaman & Nicobar Island (UT)		
1.	Andman	1	13
2.	Nikobar	0	3
(xxxi)	Lakshadweep (UT)		
1.	Lakshdweep	0	1
2.	Mahe	0	1
(xxxii)	Pondicherry (UT)		
1.	Pondicherry	1	0
(xxxiii)	Chandigarh (UT)		
1.	Chandigarh	1	2
(xxxiv)	Daman & Diu (UT)		
1.	Diu	0	1
2.	Daman	0	1

1	2	3	4
(xxv)	Dadra & Nager Haveli (UT)		
1.	Dadar Nager Haveli	0	1
Total		**155	951

* In these districts Speed Post service is provided through extension Counter of National/State Speed Post Centre.

** In addition, two National Speed Post Centres are working in Kolkata & Delhi for Army Postal Service.

[*Translation*]

Complaints against public servants

3111. SHRI SURAJ SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of complaints received in respect of public servants during the last three years, department-wise;

(b) the details of action taken in view of the above complaints;

(c) the number of cases referred to CBI for investigation and the results thereof; and

(d) the prospective plans of the Government for speedy redressal of grievances against public servants and to make the whole process transparent?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SURESH PACHAURI): (a) to (c) Complaints are received in various Ministries/Departments in respect of public servants working under them. The Ministries/Departments refer the matter to the CBI depending upon the merits of the case. The figure related to number of complaints received in various Ministries/Departments is not centrally maintained.

(d) The Government is fully alive to the need for speedy redressal of grievances against public servants. The Government has issued Whistle Blower Resolution making CVC as the Designated Agency to receive complaints from Whistle Blowers. The CVC provides

protection to the complainant if required and keeps their identity secret.

Government has introduced checks and balances for bringing accountability and ensuring efficiency in the administration. The Secretary of each Department, assisted by the Chief Vigilance Officer, has been made responsible for ensuring probity and integrity in each Department.

Government has also taken several measures to ensure transparency, such as setting up of information facilitation centres in various Ministries/Departments/Organizations to provide information and assistance to the public regarding schemes and procedures of the organization concerned. Also several Central Government Organizations have published Citizen's charters reflecting the commitment of the concerned Ministries, Departments or Agencies to provide services within the time frame specified. Some Ministries and Departments have also developed their own websites for promotion of e-governance. The Freedom of Information Act, 2002 has also been enacted for ensuring greater transparency, openness and accountability in the functioning of the public authorities.

[English]

**Maintenance of roster of reservation
Policy for SCs/STs**

3112. SHRI MUNSHI RAM:
SHRI VIRCHANDRA PASWAN:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that maintenance of roster of reservation policy for SCs/STs is mandatory in promotion in Government services including the Central Secretariat Services;

(b) if so, whether the Government has maintained reservation rosters in respect of promotion from Section Officers to Under Secretaries in Central Secretariat Services from 1980 to 1990;

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether representations from Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes Welfare Associations seeking information about the details of promotion of Under Secretaries belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled tribes as

against reserved vacancies as on 1.7.1987 are pending with the Government since long;

(e) if so, the details thereof and the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard; and

(f) the number of Under Secretaries belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes as on July, 1, 1986 and 1987?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SURESH PACHAURI):
(a) In the Central Government Services including the Central Secretariat Service (CSS)), in promotion by selection, reservation for SCs/STs is to be provided upto the lowest rung of Group 'A'.

(b) and (c) Reservation rosters for SC/ST Officers in promotion to Grade 1 (Under Secretary) of Central Secretariat Service (CSS) have been maintained as per the extant Government's instructions.

(d) and (e) The CSS SC/ST Officers' Associations have raised the issue of reservation in promotion to Grade I (Under Secretary) of CSS in the Select Lists of 1987 and onwards. Such representations have been examined from time to time in the light of Department of Personnel and Training's OM dated 02-07-1997, issued with a view to bring the policy of reservation in line with the law laid down by the Supreme Court in the case of R.K. Sabharwal vs. State of Punjab. Reservation to SC/ST officers in promotion to Grade I of CSS has been provided as per the extant Government's instructions.

(f) Upto the Select List of Grade I (Under Secretary) of CSS for the year 1986, reservation for SC/ST Officers was provided on the basis of vacancy based roster. For the Select List of Grade I for the year 1987 and onwards, reservation for SC/ST officers has been provided on the basis of post based roster introduced in pursuance of Supreme Court's judgment in the case of R.K. Sabharwal vs. State of Punjab. As on 01-07.1987, number of SC Officers in Grade I (Under Secretary) of CSS was in excess of their prescribed quota. However, there was a shortfall in the representation of ST Officers as adequate number of ST Officers in the feeder grade was not available for promotion even in the extended zone of consideration.

N.H. Patrolling Scheme

3113. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government is providing financial assistance for project of crane and ambulance under the National Highway Patrolling Scheme;

(b) if so, the total financial assistance provided to different States including Karnataka during the last three years, State-wise;

(c) whether the Government is providing ambulance to various NGOs;

(d) if so, the details of such NGOs provided with ambulances in Karnataka so far; and

(e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Union Government to ensure proper medical facilities on National Highways in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI

K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) No financial assistance is provided under the National Highways Accident Relief Service Scheme (NHARSS). However, under the scheme this Ministry provides Cranes and Ambulances to State Government/Non-Governmental Organisations for clearing accident sites and evacuating accidents victims to the nearest medical aid centre.

(b) The State-wise details of Crane & Ambulances provided/sanctioned is in enclosed Statement.

(c) Yes Sir.

(d) So far, only one NGO in Karnataka namely-M/s Divyajyothi Vidya Kendra, Bangalore has been sanctioned a crane and an ambulance in the year 2004-05.

(e) In addition to provision of Cranes and Ambulances by this Ministry, the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare also provides assistance to the States/UTs under the scheme of 'Assistance for Capacity Building' for upgradation of emergency services/trauma care facilities in Hospitals including those located near the National Highways for the purpose of treatment of accident victims.

Statement*The Number of Cranes & Ambulances Provided/Sanctioned to various States/UTs.*

States/UTs.	2002-2003		2003-2004		2004-2005	
	Crane	Ambulance	Crane	Ambulance	Crane	Ambulance
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Andhra Pradesh	1	1	—	—	1	1
Assam	3	3	3	3	—	1
Bihar	1	—	—	—	—	—
Chhattisgarh	2	2	—	—	3	3
Goa	1	1	1	1	—	—
Gujarat	4	3	2	2	—	1
Haryana	10	10	6	6	5	5
Himachal Pradesh	1	1	2	2	4	8
Jammu & Kashmir	1	1	1	1	7	7

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Jharkhand	2	1	4	4	4	4
Karnataka	2	2	4	4	7	13
Kerala	—	—	—	—	6	6
Madhya Pradesh	1	1	—	3	4	4
Maharashtra	3	2	6	6	2	4
Manipur	1	1	1	1	—	1
Meghalaya	2	2	—	—	—	2
Mizoram	—	—	4	4	—	3
Nagaland	—	—	1	1	—	—
Orissa	3	3	2	2	2	2
Punjab	1	—	—	—	—	—
Sikkim	1	1	—	—	—	2
Tamil Nadu	1	1	5	5	—	—
Tripura	1	1	3	3	6	8
Uttaranchal	2	2	8	9	2	2
Uttar Pradesh	2	2	6	6	8	12
West Bengal	1	1	—	—	—	1
Delhi	1	1	1	1	—	—
Total	48	43	60	64	61	90

Note: These include cranes/ambulances supplied/sanctioned to NGOs in different States.

Financial assistance for medical purposes

3114. SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether financial assistance is being given to the poor for treatment, surgery and other medical needs by the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the criteria for giving the financial assistance;

(d) the number of applications sanctioned and the amount disbursed year-wise during the last five years;

(e) whether the number of sanctioned applications has come down substantially.

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

(g) the details of such applications sanctioned from Kerala and the amount sanctioned year-wise for the last five years; and

(h) the reasons for reduction of sanctioned amount?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The details and the criteria of such schemes are at Statement I and Statement II.

(d) The information is given at Statement III.

(e) and (f) There is a substantial increase in the number of applications for financial assistance sanctioned to patients living below poverty line under Rashtriya Arogya Nidhi. However, there has been decline in the number of applications sanctioned under Health Minister's Discretionary Grant due to the reasons detailed in Statement IV.

(g) The details are given at Statement V.

(h) The amount sanctioned in individual cases may be *inter alia* reduced—

- (i) to the extent of final expenditure (which the patient is yet to incur) intimated by the treating Govt. hospital in response to the commitment letter.
- (ii) by the amount of assistance obtained from other sources such as Prime Minister's Relief Fund and any other Government/Private Charitable Institution particularly in cases considered under the scheme of Rashtriya Arogya Nidhi.

Statement I

Details and criteria for Health Minister's Discretionary Grant

Under this scheme financial assistance is granted to the poor and needy patients to defray a part of expenditure on hospitalization for undergoing major surgical interventions and treatment of major diseases. The diseases for which grants are sanctioned include Heart ailments, Kidney transplant, Hip & Knee replacement, Cancer, AIDS, Hepatitis, Tumour etc. The details and criteria for sanctioning the financial assistance under the scheme is:

- (i) The applicant is expected to apply in the prescribed proforma for the purpose.
- (ii) Government servants (Central as well as State Government Employees) are not eligible to receive financial assistance out of the Health Minister's Discretionary Grant.
- (iii) The amount of the grant in any one case does not ordinarily exceed Rs. 20,000/-. The grant is

sanctioned as 'one time' grant and is released to the Medical Supdt. of the hospital where patient is taking treatment.

- (iv) All grants are of non-recurring nature and no recurring liability is undertaken.
- (v) Re-imbursement of expenditure already incurred is not admissible.
- (vi) The sanction of grant is restricted to patients taking treatment in Govt. hospitals. No assistance is provided for treatment in private hospital.
- (vii) Financial assistance is not admissible for diseases of common nature where treatment is not expensive. Also a disease like T.B. is not eligible for assistance for which free treatment is available under National T.B. Control Programme.
- (viii) For the purpose of sanctioning of financial assistance, an annual family income of upto Rs. 50,000/- (Rupees fifty thousand) only is taken as the upper limit for being eligible for assistance.
- (ix) After getting approval of Minister of Health & Family Welfare, a commitment letter is issued to the concerned hospital intimating sanction of financial assistance. On receipt of a reply from the hospital about admittance/date of operation of the patient, the amount of financial assistance is released to the hospital.

Statement II

Details and criteria for assistance under Rashtriya Arogya Nidhi

Under this scheme financial assistance is provided to poor patients, living below poverty line, suffering from major life-threatening diseases receiving medical treatment at any Govt. Hospital. The details and criteria for sanctioning the financial assistance under the scheme is:

- (i) The applicant is required to apply in the proforma prescribed for the purpose alongwith income certificate issued by a competent revenue authority and an attested copy of ration card.
- (ii) A Technical Committee of Rashtriya Arogya Nidhi examines the medical reports and recommends quantum of financial assistance required and finally the Managing Committee of Rashtriya

Arogya Nidhi approves the recommendation of the Technical Committee.

- (iii) An illustrative list of diseases for which assistance under Rashtriya Arogya Nidhi can be given, is as under:—

1. Cardiology & Cardiac Surgery

Pacemakers disposable for interventional procedure including TMT, Echocardiography Coronary Angiography, Angioplasty Aheretomy, 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 & Hepatic transplantation.

4. Orthopaedics

Artificial prosthesis for limbs, implants and total hip and knee replacement external fixators, AO implants used in the treatment of bone disease and fractures.

5. Miscellaneous

Intra-ocular lens implants, Vitro-retinal surgery including Silicon Oil and Perfluro carbon liquid, hearing aids and shunts for hydrocephalus.

6. Investigations

Ultra-sound, Doppler shidres, Radiooneulcolide seans, CT scan, Mammography, Angiography for all organs, M.R.I., E.E.G., EM.G., Urodynamic studies.

7. Drugs

Immuno-suppressive drug, Anti TB drugs, Anti D, Anti Haemophilie globulin, Erythropoiten,

Blood & Blood products/Plasma for patients of burn, Drugs for Glaucoma like Latanoprost & Brimonodine.

8. Other major illness considered appropriate for assistance by Medical Superintendent/Committee of Doctors could be added to the List.

- (iv) The financial assistance is released in the form of 'one-time grant' to the Medical Supdt. of the Hospital.

- (v) After getting approval of Managing Committee of Rashtriya Arogya Nidhi, a commitment letter is issued to the concerned hospital intimating sanction of financial assistance. On receipt of a reply from the hospital about admittance/date of operation of the patient, the amount of financial assistance is released to the hospital.

Statement III

Health Minister's Discretionary Grant

(Rupees in lakhs)

Years	No. of applications sanctioned	Amount Disbursed
2000-2001	406	65.39
2001-2002	631	105.00
2002-2003	595	102.93
2003-2004	303	52.93
2004-till date	207	39.64

Rashtriya Arogya Nidhi

(Rupees in lakhs)

Years	No. of applications sanctioned	Amount Disbursed
2000-2001	12	25.50
2001-2002	81	144.98
2002-2003	27	39.05
2003-2004	73	78.54
2004-till date	163	164.27

Statement IV

Applications rejected in the past on account of the following reasons

- (i) Non-receipt of applications complete in all respects.
- (ii) Annual family income more than Rs. 50,000/-.
- (iii) Request for assistance for re-imbusement of expenditure already incurred.
- (iv) Assistance for treatment of TB or diseases of common nature.
- (v) Treatment in private hospital.
- (vi) The patient is a Central Govt./State Govt./PSU employee.

Statement V

Health Minister's Discretionary Grant

(Rupees in lakhs)		
Years	No. of applications sanctioned	Amount sanctioned
1999-2000	5	00.90
2000-2001	7	00.78
2001-2002	4	00.80
2002-2003	32	05.94
2003-2004	1	00.20

Rashtriya Arogya Nidhi

No case from the State of Kerala has been sanctioned under the scheme of Rashtriya Arogya Nidhi.

Use of fly ash

3115. SHRI MAGUNTA SREENIVASULU REDDY: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether tonnes of fly ash produced as a by-product of various thermal power plants in our country remain unutilized;

(b) if so, whether any initiatives have been taken by the Government to use this fly ash for building roads instead of Tar and Cement; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K. H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Government has made use of fly ash mandatory in construction of road/fly over embankments of National Highways and other centrally sponsored works in the areas where fly ash is available within a radius of 100 kms from a thermal power plant.

Handset manufacturing companies

3116. SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA:
SHRI RAJNARAYAN BUDHOLIA:
SHRI CHENGARA SURENDRAN:
SHRI HARISHCHANDRA CHAVAN:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that several leading mobile handset manufacturing companies have plans to set up manufacturing facilities in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the quantum of amount proposed to be spent in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Leading multinational companies *viz.* Elcoteq, Nokia, LG, Ericsson etc. have made certain announcements in the media for setting up of manufacturing facilities for the manufacture of mobile telephones.

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

NOC for export of drugs

3117. SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the standard prescribed time limit to issue NOC for export of drugs;

(b) whether it takes more than a month for the applications to be cleared;

(c) if so, the number of such applications pending for more than 15 days in the Drug Controller General Office;

(d) the reasons for delay in their clearance; and

(e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to clear these applications on priority?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) There is no standard prescribed time limit to issue No Objection Certificate (NOC) to manufacturer of unapproved new drugs for export purposes only.

Applications for grant of NOC, complete in all respect, are processed within 15 to 30 days time. Presently there is no backlog of applications for grant of NOC for export only.

(d) and (e) Question does not arise.

Telephone connections in Uttar Pradesh

3118. SHRI RAJESH VERMA:
SHRI RAJNARAYAN BUDHOLIA:

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

(a) the details of waiting list of telephone connections in all the major cities, district headquarters and rural areas of Uttar Pradesh as on date;

(b) the details in regard to telephone connections provided during the last three years and the amount spent thereon;

(c) whether there is any new telecom scheme under consideration of the Government to provide better telecom service; and

(d) if so, the amount allocated for providing telephone connections in rural areas in Uttar Pradesh particularly Bundelkhand?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) The total waiting list of telephone connections in all the major cities, district headquarters and rural areas of Uttar Pradesh is 1.63 lakhs as on 28.02.2005 including 60535 in urban areas and 102970 in rural areas. The details are given in enclosed Statement I and II respectively.

(b) The details in regard to telephone connections provided during the last three years and amount spent thereon is as under:

Sl. No.	Year	DELs Provided	Amount Spent
1.	2001-02	4.68 Lakh	Rs. 1954.71 crores
2.	2002-03	4.36 Lakh	Rs. 1237.20 crores
3.	2003-04	3.84 Lakh	Rs. 663.90 crores

(c) To provide better telecom service in Uttar Pradesh the following initiatives have been taken by BSNL:

(i) Enhancing of customers base for Mobile as well as WLL by increasing capacity as well as coverage.

(ii) Provision of new services like Intelligent Network (IN). Broadband Services.

(iii) Computerization of fault repair service & customer care service.

(d) The amount allocated for providing telephone connection in rural areas in Uttar Pradesh is Rs. 155.49 crore during 2004-05.

Rs. 3.29 crore has been allocated for provisioning of telephone connections in Bundelkhand during the year 2004-05.

Statement I*District-wise Waiting List in UP (East) as on 28.02.2005*

Sl. No.	District	Urban	Rural	Total
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Allahabad	128	4314	4442
2.	Ambedkar Nagar	2789	914	3703
3.	Auraiya	43	10	53
4.	Azamgarh	3388	5966	9354
5.	Bahraich	238	1060	1298
6.	Ballia	1780	1323	3103
7.	Balrampur	206	555	761
8.	Banda	128	240	368
9.	Barabanki	248	3068	3316
10.	Basti	142	1373	1515
11.	Chandauli	400	1378	1778
12.	Chitrakoot	128	240	368
13.	Deoria	2343	3489	5832
14.	Etawah	13	10	23
15.	Faizabad	2352	1015	3367
16.	Farrukhabad	966	994	1960
17.	Fatehpur	504	1648	2152
18.	Ghazipur	2042	4036	6078
19.	Gonda	574	1354	1928
20.	Gorakhpur	1654	1869	3523
21.	Hamirpur	187	112	299
22.	Hardoi	1257	1105	2362
23.	Jalaun	1525	0	1525
24.	Jaunpur	2215	818	3033
25.	Jhansi	530	127	657
26.	Kannauj	527	981	1508
27.	Kanpur	574	927	1501

1	2	3	4	5
28.	Kanpur Dehat	1120	253	1373
29.	Kaushambi	14	559	573
30.	Kushi Nagar	1922	3875	5797
31.	Lakhimpur	300	1222	1522
32.	Lalitpur	21	18	39
33.	Lucknow	1413	2175	3588
34.	Maharajganj	347	474	821
35.	Mhoba	452	112	564
36.	Mainpuri	1760	796	2556
37.	Mau	668	912	1580
38.	Mirzapur	1194	322	1516
39.	Pratapgarh	842	2019	2861
40.	Raibareli	109	1468	1577
41.	Sant Kabir Nagar	120	338	458
42.	Sant Ravidas Nagar	179	1903	2082
43.	Shajahanpur	1148	919	2067
44.	Shrawasti	37	125	162
45.	Siddharth Nagar	91	631	722
46.	Sitapur	552	1760	2312
47.	Sonebhadra	1351	354	1705
48.	Sultanpur	669	3908	4577
49.	Unnao	884	1027	1911
50.	Varanasi	242	2879	3121
Total for UP (East)		42316	66975	109291

Statement II*District-wise Waiting List in UP (West) as on 20.02.2005*

Sl. No.	District	Urban	Rural	Total
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Agra	0	3675	3675
2.	Aligarh	2108	1777	3883

1	2	3	4	5
3.	Badaun	127	21	148
4.	Baghpat	86	0	86
5.	Bareilly	157	20	177
6.	Bijnore	186	3201	3387
7.	Bulandshahar	8072	4013	12085
8.	Etah	2178	1833	4011
9.	Firozabad	205	921	1126
10.	G.B. Nagar (Noida)	172	40	212
11.	Ghaziabad	455	3880	4335
12.	Hathras	94	0	94
13.	J.P. Nagar	88	0	88
14.	Mathura	141	1837	1978
15.	Meerut	610	6351	6961
16.	Moradabad	469	1637	2106
17.	Muzzafarnagar	1511	2350	3861
18.	Pilibhit	85	885	970
19.	Rampur	0	0	0
20.	Saharanpur	1477	3554	5031
Total for UP (West)		18219	35995	54214

Utilization of Indian assistance by Bangladesh

3119. SHRI SURESH KURUP: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has signed any Memorandum of Understanding with Bangladesh for governing the utilisation of Indian assistance to that nation;

(b) If so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of areas in which the amount is likely to be utilised?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) and

(b) Yes Sir. A Memorandum of Understanding governing the utilisation of Rs. 100 crores assistance given by India for flood relief was signed between the Government of India and the Government of Bangladesh at New Delhi on 11th February 2005.

(c) The amount is meant to be used by Bangladesh for the procurement of foodgrains, medicines and building materials from India for the victims of the floods that hit Bangladesh in July/August 2004.

By-Pass road At NH-209

3120. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of the heavy traffic at Oddanchatram, Dindigul district, Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, whether the Government proposes to construct by-pass road at Oddanchatram (NH-209—Dindigul—Palani—Coimbatore—Bangalore Road);

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reason therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (c) The State Government has proposed for inclusion in the annual Plan 2005-06 for provision of land acquisition for construction of by-pass road to Oddanchatram town. Inclusion of the proposal is subject to the availability of funds and *inter-se-priority* of works.

(d) Does not arise.

EU scholarships to indian students

3121. SHRI P. RAJENDRAN:
SHRI TUFANI SAROJ:
SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the number of Indian students studying in European countries including Russia is increasing constantly;

(b) if so, the total number of Indian students who went to the European as well as other countries during the academic years 2003-2004 and 2004-2005, State-wise and country-wise;

(c) whether the European Union has set a budget of 33 million Euros for 900 post graduate Indian students to study in Europe;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government shall have any say in the selection of these students;

(f) if not, the criteria laid down for the selection of students for EU scholarships; and

(g) the names of those countries which provide visa to Indian students for their studies there?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) and (b) As students studying abroad on self-finance programmes are not required to register with Government of India, the data with regard to the total number of Indian students studying in European countries, including in Russia, is not available.

(c) to (f) The European Union has earmarked a budget of Euro 33 million under the India Window of the Erasmus Mundus Scholarship Programme for the period 2005-2009. It is projected that 920 students would be able to avail of this facility for undertaking higher studies at selected European institutions/universities of repute. Government of India and the European Commission are expected to negotiate the Financing Agreement for this Programme, which would, *inter-alia*, set out modalities for selection of students.

(g) All countries which offer and award scholarships under bilateral programmes facilitate grant of visa to the selected students.

[*Translation*]

Accelerated Malaria Control Scheme

3122. SHRI PRADEEP GANDHI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of development blocks in Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh for which proposals have been received under the Accelerated Malaria Control Scheme;

(b) the number of development blocks out of them included in the scheme; and

(c) the time by which the remaining development blocks are likely to be included in the said scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) The Enhanced Malaria Control Project (EMCP) with World Bank support was launched in September, 1997 for a period of five years for intensified malaria control in 1045 tribal Public Health Centres (PHCs) in 100 districts of eight States namely Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Jharkhand,

Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa and Rajasthan. 91 PHCs of Chhattisgarh and 90 PHCs of Madhya Pradesh have been included in the Project.

Proposal for inclusion of 30 PHCs of Chhattisgarh and 24 PHCs of Madhya Pradesh was received by the Govt. of India. During the extended period of the project (2003-05) 200 additional high risk PHCs have been selected on the basis of malaria endemicity and 14 additional PHCs of Chhattisgarh and 5 PHCs of Madhya Pradesh included in the project.

The said EMCP will come to a close on 31.3.05. However, support of Govt. of India in the form of drugs, insecticides, monitoring and supervision, training and IEC activities covering the entire country including the PHCs of Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh would continue.

Expansion of Post Offices in rural areas

3123. PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR:
SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR KUSHAWAHA:
SHRI MUNSHI RAM:
SHRI MOHD. TAHIR:
SHRIMATI ANURADHA CHOUDHARY:

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

(a) the total number of Post Offices in the country at present;

(b) whether the Government contemplates to expand Post Offices in the rural areas on the basis of population;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the total amount deposited in the Savings Accounts of Post Offices during the current year, State-wise;

(e) the details of reasons for the difference in the said savings in urban and rural areas;

(f) whether the Government has reduced the number of Postmen in some Post Offices during the current year; and

(g) if so, the details and reasons therefor?

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

(DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) There were 1,55,669 Post Offices in the country as on 31.3.2004.

(b) and (c) Post Offices are opened on the basis of distance, population and income norms and subject to availability of resources. Details are given in enclosed Statement I.

(d) An amount of Rs. 323395.28 crores has been deposited in various types of the Savings Schemes of Post Office Savings Bank during the year 2003-04. Circle-wise details are given in enclosed Statement II. Data for the year 2004-05 is not yet available.

(e) The Department does not maintain data of Postal Savings Bank for urban and rural areas separately.

(f) and (g) Yes Sir. 1356 posts of Postmen have been ordered to be abolished based on the recommendations of the Screening Committee in compliance with Government's directive to abolish 2% posts under direct recruitment quota.

Statement I

Norms for Opening Post Offices

1. *Norms for opening Extra Departmental Branch Post Offices:*

1.1. *Population:*

(a) *In Normal Areas:*

3000 population in a group of villages (including the PPO village).

(b) *In Hilly, Tribal, Desert and Inaccessible Areas:*

500 population in an individual village or 1000 population in a group of villages.

1.2. *Distance:*

(a) *In Normal Areas:*

The minimum distance from the nearest existing post office will be 3 Kms.

(b) *In Hilly, Tribal, Desert and Inaccessible Areas:*

The distance limit will be the same as above except that in Hilly Areas, the minimum distance limit can be

relaxed by the Directorate in cases where such relaxation is warranted by special circumstances which should be clearly explained while submitting a proposal.

1.3. Anticipated income:

(a) *In Normal Areas:*

The minimum anticipated revenue will be 33 $\frac{1}{3}$ % of the cost.

(b) *In Hilly, Tribal, Desert and Inaccessible Areas:*

The minimum anticipated income will be 15% of the cost.

It is further to be ensured that as a result of opening of new post office, the loss in respect of parent post office does not increase beyond the permissible limit nor is its income reduced below the minimum prescribed.

2. *Criteria for upgrading/opening Departmental Sub-Post Offices:*

(a) *In Rural Areas:*

The Minimum work load of the Extra Departmental Branch Post Office, proposed to be upgraded, should be

five hours per day. The permissible limit of annual loss is Rs. 2400/- in Normal Rural areas and Rs. 4800/- in Tribal and Hilly areas.

It is further to be ensured that as a result of the opening of a new post office, the loss in respect of the parent post office does not increase beyond the permissible limit nor is its income reduced below the minimum prescribed.

(b) *In Urban Areas:*

In Urban areas, the post office should initially be self-supporting and, at the time of the first annual review, it should show a 5% profit to be eligible for further retention.

The Minimum distance between two post offices should be 1.5 Kms. in cities with a population of 20 lakhs and above, and 2 Kms, in other Urban Areas. No two delivery offices, however, should be closer than 5 Kms. from each other.

Heads of Circles have powers to relax the distance condition in 10% of the cases.

A Delivery Post Office in Urban Area should have a minimum of 7 Postmen's beats.

Statement II

Outstanding Balance of Savings Schemes (Circle-Wise)

(Rs. in crores)

Circle	S.B.	R.D.	T.D.	F.D.	C.T.D.	P.P.F.	M.I.S.	N.S.S. 87	N.S.S. 92	K.V.P
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Andhra Pradesh	624.13	2781.32	592.80	-0.03	0.29	340.15	6857.54	160.58	29.23	5444.26
Assam	360.72	457.03	1900.98	0.00	-14.02	174.01	793.50	15.42	0.48	1866.26
Bihar	1027.38	751.52	1614.49	-0.06	-43.18	313.43	2472.48	-8.76	85.32	9250.73
Chhattisgarh	122.40	446.42	242.86	0.00	-0.81	99.65	1153.32	-8.34	-1.48	830.25
Delhi	449.10	999.62	933.68	-1.23	-1.39	1806.90	6675.01	184.80	62.93	4485.65
Gujarat	860.31	2114.88	1770.71	-0.12	4.31	1793.05	11552.86	700.44	-64.98	12272.21
Haryana	362.46	1283.85	1052.57	0.00	0.48	376.44	2591.06	10.85	-0.56	3525.70
Himachal Pradesh	248.41	712.95	411.47	0.00	0.52	68.39	583.04	11.35	0.90	1452.15
Jammu & Kashmir	153.99	204.13	360.79	0.00	0.49	38.38	332.39	3.92	15.71	1851.40

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Jharkhand	63.42	84.14	193.09	0.00	1.58	113.87	1574.98	-4.37	-0.86	1136.02
Karnataka	539.52	1809.22	309.82	0.03	1.29	474.42	5911.84	126.82	146.97	3393.75
Kerala	301.47	2016.11	926.70	0.01	-0.49	105.49	2665.12	61.24	10.57	1435.37
Madhya Pradesh	571.64	1386.72	402.10	-0.02	5.71	278.21	2688.28	-25.68	-1.14	3898.65
Maharashtra	1001.79	4215.32	917.64	0.01	0.63	1788.00	15455.47	1477.80	64.71	8939.59
North-East	208.41	329.85	113.79	0.01	14.36	31.51	432.78	6.69	4.43	838.54
Orissa	429.44	567.44	181.23	0.09	0.00	59.67	1492.29	26.71	-0.82	2677.38
Punjab	749.37	1627.62	2565.13	0.00	-0.27	980.56	4443.46	127.82	80.83	7201.19
Rajasthan	471.55	3975.97	3299.75	0.01	1.14	1237.78	5418.99	150.75	34.81	4942.07
Tamil Nadu	851.93	2074.72	730.73	-0.01	-0.83	691.13	6982.68	260.73	69.17	4150.23
Uttar Pradesh	2291.81	3933.90	2109.96	-1.87	-4.43	846.54	7114.38	92.55	188.44	22792.28
Uttaranchal	97.66	267.55	277.64	0.00	-0.02	42.74	710.29	5.25	-1.25	368.60
West Bengal	1540.21	1802.41	1938.92	22.78	5.79	590.73	25433.55	31.57	-0.50	19426.61
Base	40.21	121.01	1219.26	0.00	0.04	14.67	50.93	2.39	2.34	12.31
Total	13367.33	33963.50	24066.11	19.60	-28.81	12265.72	113386.04	3410.53	725.25	122191.20

Curtailment of rural projects

3124. SHRI J.M. AARON RASHID:
DR. RAJESH MISHRA:
SHRI SAJJAN KUMAR:

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

(a) whether the Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd. is contemplating to curtail some rural projects;

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

(c) the extent to which budgetary deficit is likely to be reduced as a result of curtailment of the projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) No Sir.

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

Access Deficit Charge

3125. SHRI SITA RAM YADAV: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Telecommunication Dispute Settlement Authority (TDSET) has turned down the request of MTNL to stay the implementation of new provisions of the Access Deficit Charge (ADC) to be effective from the February 1, 2005;

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

(c) the steps taken by the Government to compensate the MTNL for reduction in ADC?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) According to Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI), the overall ADC amount specified for the

fixed line operators has not been reduced. There has been reduction in ADC per minute rates. This has become possible as a result of subscriber growth especially in Mobile segment and resultant increases in the minutes that fund the ADC. Further, it has been stated by TRAI that all the fixed line operators, including MTNL, have been provided ADC funds of the same order as specified under the earlier regime of 29th October, 2003 which was applicable from 1.2.2004 to 31.1.2005.

[English]

Proposal to reunite divided families of India and Pakistan

3126. SHRI SARVEY SATHYANARAYANA:
SHRI BADIGA RAMAKRISHNA:
SHRI KISANBHAI V. PATEL:
SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY:
SHRI D. VITTAL RAO:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a proposal by India for demarcation of five points along LoC to facilitate the reunion of divided families has been rejected by Pakistan as reported in the *Hindu* dated January 25, 2005.

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

(c) whether talks have been held with Pakistan in this regard; and

(d) if so, the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) to (d) During the Foreign Secretary level talks held in Islamabad in December 27-28-2004, India had proposed to designate a few places along the International Border and the LoC where the relatives on both sides could come and meet. The places suggested were Poonch, Mendhar, Suchetgarh, Uri and Tangdhar in Neelam Valley.

Response of Pakistan is awaited.

Construction of NH-6

3127. SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of several complaints in regard to construction of NH-6 in the Howrah section between Kollaghat bridges to Dankuni;

(b) if so, whether the Government is aware that the NH authority did not construct any sub-way or over-bridge crossing in this stretch (Kollaghat-Dankuni);

(c) Whether the Government is aware of the increasing number of accidents at this crossing due to its thickly populated areas;

(d) whether the Government is also aware that no efforts for planting of trees have been made in that area; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) National Highways Authority of India have taken the following steps to minimise accidents and improve safety:

(i) ROBs/Interchanges and flyovers have been provided at some locations on Kollaghat-Dankuni Section of NH-6.

(ii) Junction improvements are also made to facilitate safe crossing at junctions.

(d) Planting of trees is being taken up during next plantation season.

(e) Necessary steps have been taken to ensure smooth implementation of project as per contract under supervision of international consultant and officials of National Highways Authority of India.

Re-Opening of Hussainiwala Border

3128. SHRI ZORA SINGH MAAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under the consideration of the Government to re-open the Hussainiwala Indo-Pak Border in district Ferozepur, Punjab that was closed in the aftermath of 1971 Indo-Pak war;

(b) if not, the steps likely to be initiated by the Government in this regard; and

(c) the time by when the said border is likely to be re-opened?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) to (c) it is the policy of the Government of India to promote trade and economic relations with Pakistan and encourage people to people contacts between the two countries. In keeping with this policy, during EAM Shri K. Natwar Singh's recent visit to Pakistan from February 15-17, 2005, agreements were reached with Pakistan to start bus services between Srinagar and Muzaffarabad, and between Lahore and Amritsar, including to religious places such as Nankana Sahib.

The Government would examine other routes after the implementation of the routes currently in pipeline.

[Translation]

Wrongful Depiction of Indian Areas

3129. SHRI TUFANI SAROJ: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a film called "The Commando" has been produced in Nepal wherein some geographical parts of India have been allegedly shown as parts of Nepal;

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

(c) whether the Union Government has taken up the matter with Nepal; and

(d) if so, the reaction of the Nepalese Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) to (d) Government of India has brought this to the attention of His Majesty's Government of Nepal and has requested it to take corrective action. Response of His Majesty's Government of Nepal is awaited.

[English]

Law on Organ Transplantation

3130. SHRI PRABODH PANDA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is considering to make law on organ transplantation;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the name of countries where organ transplantation is legal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH ANF FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) Government have already enacted the Transplantation of Human Organs Act, 1994 to provide for the regulation of removal, storage and transplantation of human organs for therapeutic purposes and for the prevention of commercial dealings in human organs and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto. Recently, a Committee has been constituted by the Hon'ble High Court of Delhi (as per the judgement dated 6.9.2004 in W.P. No. 813, 2004) to review the provisions of the Transplantation of Human Organs Act, 1994 and the Transplantation of Human Organs Rules, 1995. The composition of the Committee and terms of reference are in enclosed Statement. The recommendations of the said Committee are awaited.

(c) As per information available with the Government some of the countries where specific legal provision has been defined for organ Transplantation are:

1. Latin America—Brazil, Chile, Columbia, Argentina, Cuba, etc.
2. Asia Pacific Region—China, Singapore, India etc.
3. Middle East & Afro Arab Region—Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Algeria, Bahrain, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, United Arab Emirates, Yemen, etc.
4. Africa & Indian Ocean Ireland—South Africa
5. Central & Eastern Europe—Russia, Romania, Poland, Hungary, etc.
6. Developed countries—United States of America, United Kingdom, Canada, France, Germany & Spain, Australia, etc.

Statement

Composition of the Committee:

The Composition of the Committee is as follows:

1. Dr. S.Y. Quaraishi, Addl. Secretary & DG. National AIDS Control Organisation [Nominee of Secretary (Health) and Convenor]
2. Prof. S.N. Mehta, Head of Department, Surgery Department, AIIMS—(Member)
3. Dr. Harsh Johri, Renal Surgeon, Sir Ganga Ram Hospital, Delhi—(Member)
4. Secretary, Indian Medical Association, I.P. Estate, New Delhi—(Member)
5. Mr. Sanjay Jain, Advocate, Chamber No. 488, New Chambers Block, Delhi High Court, New Delhi—(Member)
6. Dr. V.K. Arora, Addl. DG—(Member Secretary)

Terms of Reference of The Committee Constituted As Per The Judgement Dated September 6th, 2004 In W.P. No. 813/2004 of High Court of Delhi to Review The Provisions of The Transplantation of Human Organs Act, 1994 And The Transplantation of Human Organs Rules, 1995

1. Based on the data available on the transplantation of organs and the working of the Authorisation Committees, the Committee to examine and make its recommendations on the composition of Authorisation Committees and changes, if any, required to ensure timely permissions.
2. Whether the jurisdiction of the Authorisation Committees should be enlarged by bringing within its ambit the process of certifying a "near relative" on the task be assigned to another designated authority?
3. Review the Provisions of the Act and Rules based on the experience of transplantation of organs as carried out and the difficulties arising due to the bottlenecks faced in the said process. The Committee to examine in particular provisions of Section 9 and requirement of carrying out the tests prescribed in Rule 4, certification in Form-3 to review the definition of

"near relative" and make its recommendations in the light of the observations made.

4. Examine and specify the organs for transplantation of which the tests prescribed in Rule 4(1)(c) to establish the factum of being "near relative" need not be carried out when other evidence is available.
5. Examine the feasibility of establishing and setting up Organ Procurement Organizations with data bank to facilitate the dissemination of information on availability of organs for transplantation to encourage organ donation especially from cadavers, cases of brain stem deaths and other deceased persons, who had authorized removal of organs upon demise.
6. Examine the feasibility of creation of a fund, the corpus to be provided partly come from the Union of India and partly by levying a fixed charge on the total bill of the hospital for transplantation and/or public donations, for providing social incentives to a donor.
7. Examine and recommend ways and means to give such incentives, including but not limited to help and aid any preferred health care, recognition and honour to a donor in the community.
8. Examine the causes that lead to exploitation of poor and unaware persons in the process of organ donation and suggest method to reduce, control and ultimately eradicate such malpractices. Recommend programmes for dissemination of correct information of ethical, legal and devising procedure concerning organ donation so that a conducive atmosphere is generated and disinformation in and misgivings are dispelled.
9. Any other matter relevant to the subject.

Upgradation of roads near Ports in Gujarat

3131. SHRI BHARATSINH MADHAVSINH SOLANKI:
Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Coast line in Gujarat has a number of ports which are strategically located near the Oil producing countries; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Union Government to upgrade and strengthen the Road infrastructure leading to all the important ports of Gujarat?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Union Government has up-graded State Highways Mandvi Narayan Sarovar road (Km. 143) and Somanath-Dwarka road (Km. 206) into National Highways in February, 2004. The following works are approved for strengthening the road infrastructure leading to ports in Gujarat:

Sr. No.	NH No.	Name of the Ports (leading to)	Work approved	Estimated Amount in Rupees
1.	8 A Extn. New	Between Mandvi and Jakhau	Widening to two lane (60 km) and Improvement to riding surface (5 km.)	16.00 Cr.
2.	8 A Extn.	Mundra Port	Strengthening (25 km) and Cross Drainage works widening and repairing.	12.00 Cr.
3.	8 A	Kandla Port	Improvement to riding surface (10 km.)	3.00 Cr.
4.	8 E	Gogha, Mahuva, Alang, Pipavav, Victor, Jafarabad and Diu Port	Paved Side Shoulders (PSS) and Cross Drainage Works repairing (40 km)	20.00 Cr.
5.	8 D	Veraval and Mangrol Port	Paved Side Shoulders/Renewal (50 km) and Cross repairing	10.00 Cr. Darinage works
6.	8 E Extn.	Porbandar and Dwarka	Improvement to riding Surface (25 km)	3.00 Cr.

Proliferation of Private Medical Colleges

3132. SHRI D. VITTAL RAO: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of the proliferation of private medical colleges and the falling standard of medical syllabus in the country as appeared in the 'Hindu' dated January 29, 2005;

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

(c) whether a Committee has been constituted by the Supreme Court to examine the facilities as per MCI norms in medical colleges;

(d) if so, the details of the recommendations of the Committee; and

(e) the steps taken/being taken by the Government for implementation of these recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI

PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) To check the uncontrolled growth of private medical colleges, the Indian Medical Council Act, 1956 was amended in 1993 to provide for prior permission of the Central Government to start a new medical college. As per the provision of amended Act and Regulations made thereunder any person, who is desirous of opening a new medical college in the private sector, is required to submit an application alongwith Essentiality Certificate issued by the concerned State Government. While giving such an Essentiality Certificate, the State Government is required to indicate the availability of doctors in the State and the need for improving the availability of medical manpower in the State. It is also required to certify that the State Government has no objection to the establishment of the proposed medical college and that adequate clinical material for the purpose is available as per the Councils norms. The Council conducts and inspection for verification of the availability of the requisite facilities as per the Councils norms before making the recommendation to the Central Government for grant of permission for the establishment of a new medical college. The Council also conducts periodic inspection of the already established

medical colleges to ensure that the minimum facilities in terms of the Councils norms are available in such colleges. Necessary provisions are thus available in the Regulations of the Council to regulate the establishment of the medical colleges in the country and to prevent lowering of the standards of medical education.

(c) to (e) The Hon'ble Supreme Court of India has appointed Ad-hoc Committee, presently consisting of three members, to monitor the functioning of Medical Council of India. The Committee has submitted its report to the Hon'ble Court. Copies of the report have also been submitted to the Central Government. The recommendations made therein pertain to various aspects concerning the medical education sector including with regard to the functioning of Medical Council of India with a view to improve the system as a whole. The report is presently under consideration of the Government.

TB Control Programme

3133. SHRI D.V. SADANANDA GOWDA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the amount spent on National TB Control Programme during each of the last three years, State-wise;

(b) whether the Government of Karnataka has requested for financial assistance to strengthen the existing TB centres;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) The detail of amount spent under National TB Control Programme during last three years, State-wise is placed at enclosed Statement I.

(b) to (d) Under the Revised National TB Control Programme (RNTCP) widely known as DOTS, which is a WHO recommended strategy, funds are not directly released to State Governments but to the State TB Societies for onward transmission to districts. The State of Karnataka is already covered under the RNTCP. No requests from the State of Karnataka for additional financial assistance under the Programme has been received.

Statement I

State-wise expenditure under the National TB Control Programme during the last three years

S. No.	Name of the State/UT	2001-2002 Expenditure	2002-2003 Expenditure	2003-2004 Expenditure
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1509.35	952.66	635.47
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	89.59	40.09	114.13
3.	Assam	195.06	256.81	448.95
4.	Bihar	409.47	285.01	393.29
5.	Goa	9.88	11.37	22.50
6.	Gujarat	466.60	239.74	301.97
7.	Haryana	158.13	137.13	148.91
8.	Himachal Pradesh	144.91	91.20	133.65
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	77.76	31.95	125.21

1	2	3	4	5
10.	Karnataka	529.45	455.28	636.25
11.	Kerala	450.38	156.31	252.85
12.	Madhya Pradesh	420.38	156.31	252.85
13.	Maharashtra	1167.23	627.18	1399.29
14.	Manipur	87.88	77.14	126.83
15.	Meghalaya	12.93	70.19	58.39
16.	Mizoram	15.81	84.09	97.94
17.	Nagaland	97.31	28.46	68.72
18.	Orissa	528.04	785.45	364.13
19.	Punjab	239.47	202.79	267.01
20.	Rajasthan	744.87	497.23	502.29
21.	Sikkim	31.32	34.28	42.25
22.	Tamil Nadu	679.31	350.10	982.42
23.	Tripura	36.80	44.61	30.80
24.	Uttar Pradesh	1246.37	1142.25	1275.78
25.	West Bengal	656.90	677.95	889.30
26.	Delhi	162.63	393.55	384.15
27.	Pondicherry	3.97	0.00	0.39
28.	Andaman and Nicobar	0.60	13.00	0.21
29.	Chandigarh	8.55	16.00	30.17
30.	Dadar and Nagar Haveli	0.31	0.00	0.00
31.	Daman and Diu	0.31	0.00	0.00
32.	Lakshadweep	0.00	9.34	3.27
33.	Jharkhand	54.76	78.32	373.60
34.	Uttaranchal	15.53	97.16	273.39
35.	Chhattisgarh	36.30	196.55	513.91
Total		10288.13	8746.22	11309.98

Acquired Immuno Deficiency Syndrome Vaccine

3134. SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Institute of Cytology and Preventive Oncology (ICPO) at Noida has developed an Acquired Immuno Deficiency Syndrome Vaccine;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the ingredients used for the development of vaccine; and

(c) the time by when it is likely to be available in the Indian Market?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) No Sir, Institute of Cytology and Preventive Oncology of ICMR at Noida has not developed any vaccine against HIV/AIDS.

(c) Question does not arise.

Punishment to Officials

3135. SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of officers/employees punished by the Union Government under the CSS rules 14;

(b) whether punished officers/employees have been appointed on the sensitive posts despite their punishment; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SURESH PACHAURI):

(a) Since disciplinary action against officers/employees under rule 14 of the CCS (CCA) Rules, 1965 is taken by various disciplinary authorities spread over the various Ministries/Departments/Offices of the Government of India, such information is not centrally monitored/available.

(b) and (c) Posting of punished officers/employees on the sensitive posts is decided on each occasion by

the controlling authority keeping in view the gravity and nature of misconduct. Information in this regard is not centrally monitored/available.

Health Schemes Programmes

3136. SHRI KIREN RIJJU: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether WHO is financing various health schemes and programmes in the country particularly in Arunachal Pradesh;

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

(c) the details of funds earmarked for the acceleration of health programmes in the States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) WHO provides technical and financial assistance to projects and programmes which are implemented in collaboration with the Government of India as per country work plan prepared jointly. The Plan of Action for various health programmes drawn for 2004-2005 biennium in enclosed Statement I.

The health schemes and programmes particularly implemented in Arunachal Pradesh with WHO assistance are as follows:

- I. A multicentric study on oral health is being carried out in north-eastern States including Arunachal Pradesh for which an Agreement of Performance of Work has been signed with Directorate of Health Services; Government of Arunachal Pradesh for the study of Oral Health Problems in the community through a standardized instrument.
- II. Technical and financial support was provided to north-eastern States including Arunachal Pradesh under Government of India and WHO collaborative project on "Primitive Tribes" during the last three biennia.

A Regional Iodine Deficiency survey was undertaken through WHO support in north-eastern States including Arunachal Pradesh in 2000-2001.

Statement*WHO Country Budget 2004-2005*

Sl. No.	Name of Programme	Allocation 2004-2005 (in US\$)
1	2	3
I.	Communicable Diseases	
1.	Malaria Control & Kala-azar	100,000
2.	Tuberculosis	75,000
3.	Other Communicable Diseases	50,000
4.	Communicable Disease Surveillance	100,000
II.	Non-Communicable Diseases and Mental Health	
5.	Cancer Control	300,000
6.	Cardiovascular Diseases	350,000
7.	Other Non-Communicable Diseases	50,000
8.	Non-Communicable Diseases Surveillance	50,000
9.	Tobacco	600,000
10.	Mental Health and Substance Abuse	300,000
11.	Health Promotion	100,000
12.	Disability, Injury Prevention & Rehabilitation and Occupational Health	75,000
III.	Family and Community Health	
13.	Maternal Health (making pregnancy safer)	250,000
14.	HIV/AIDS	100,000
15.	Reproductive and Child Health & Adolescent Health	250,000
16.	Women's Health	50,000
17.	Nursing	400,000
IV.	Sustainable Development and Healthy Environment	
18.	Food Safety	200,000
19.	Nutrition	100,000
20.	Health and Environment	50,000
21.	Emergency Preparedness and Response	50,000
V.	Health Technology and Pharmaceuticals	
22.	Blood Safety	50,000

1	2	3
23.	Essential Medicine	425,000
24.	Traditional Medicine	300,000
VI. Evidence and Information for Policy		
25.	Health Information and Management	50,000
26.	Health Sector Reforms	200,000
27.	Health Financing and National Health Accounts	200,000
28.	Research Policy and Promotion	100,000
VII. Miscellaneous		
29.	Leprosy	25,000
30.	Blindness	150,000
31.	Deafness	75,000
32.	Oral Health	100,000
33.	Health Care for Elderly	75,000
34.	Safety norms for drinking water	100,000
35.	Immunization and Vaccine development	0
36.	Organization of Health Services and Tribal Health	0
37.	Water Supply and Sanitation (Rural)	0
38.	Water Supply and Sanitation (Urban)	0
39.	Health City	0
40.	Health Policy and Enhancing Health System Performance	0
VIII. Other Important area		
41.	Sustainable development	800,000
42.	WHO Fellowship	2,500,000
Total		8,750,000

Triumvirate of Delhi, Moscow and Beijing

3137. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO:
SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has received a proposal for the creation of a triumvirate of Delhi, Moscow

and Beijing for economic development and peace in the region;

(b) if so, whether all the three countries have discussed the various issues that are likely to be taken up jointly by them;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the outcome in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) No Sir, the Union Government has not received any proposal for the creation of a triumvirate of Delhi, Moscow and Beijing for economic development and peace in the region. However, the Foreign Ministers of India, Russia and China have been meeting informally to exchange views on various issues of mutual interest including international issues.

(b) During the third trilateral meeting of the Foreign Ministers held in Almaty, Kazakhstan on 21 October, 2004, the prospect of economic cooperation at the trilateral level was also discussed.

(c) The Foreign Minister of Russia and China welcomed the proposal made by EAM that India could host the first meeting of businessmen of the three countries.

(d) Not Applicable.

Levy on Maritime Development

3138. SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government had fixed levy on maritime development amounting to Rs. 50 per M.T.;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government proposes to review the rate of levy; and

(d) is so, by when it is likely to be done?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (d) The draft policy for the Maritime Sector (Ports, Merchant Shipping and Inland Water Transport) envisages that part of the finances for implementation of this policy will also be raised through the levy of a nominal maritime development cess for a period of 10 years, say at a modest rate of 5 paise per kilogram of foreign going cargo passing through the Indian ports and two paise per kilogram for coastal and low value cargo. The policy is at draft stage.

Concessions to SSI Sector

3139. SHRI JASHUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government is aware that the small scale industries are facing serious crisis consequent to the removal or quantitative restrictions;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government is intending to give concessions to the border districts of Gujarat for promotion of this industry;

(d) if so, the time by when the concessions are likely to be given; and

(e) the details of other concessions likely to be given to these small scale industries by the Union Government?

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHAVIR PRASAD): (a) and (b) The Government has been following a continuous policy of removal of restrictions on imports since 1991 and is aware of the implications of the removal/phasing out of quantitative restrictions. In the liberalized regime of international trade, the domestic industry, including the small scale industries, have to face competition from imports, subject to applicable rates of customs duty and all other permissible safeguard measures.

(c) and (d) The development and promotion of small scale industries in the State of Gujarat, including those in the border districts of the State, are primarily the responsibility of the State Government. The Central Government does not treat small scale industries located in border districts differently from those located elsewhere.

(e) The small scale industries located in the border districts, like small scale industries located elsewhere, are encouraged to avail of various schemes and programmes implemented by the Government to assist the small scale industries in respect of availability of credit, infrastructural development, technology upgradation, marketing, etc.

National Innovation Foundation

3140. SHRI B. VINOD KUMAR: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of projects/proposals received and approved by the National Innovation Foundation for encouraging grass root innovations; and

(b) the total amount of grant/financial assistance given to individuals for grass root innovations as on December 31, 2004?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) The National Innovation Foundation (NIF) identified 51,922 traditional practices and grass root innovations from over 300 districts in the country. The NIF, through the help of experts, short-list innovations and practices for awards, support for technical or business development, participating in exhibitions and agriculture affairs and R&D assistance. About 675 innovators have been helped for these activities.

(b) The National Innovation Foundation (NIF) has provided grant/financial assistance of Rs. 88.13 lakhs to individual innovations by way of awards, support for technical or business development, participating in grants for participation in exhibitions and obtaining patents.

[Translation]

Monthly Rent of Basic Phones

3141. SHRI RAJARAM PAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) Whether the monthly rent of basic phones in all districts and rural areas in the States particularly Uttar Pradesh is being charged at a part with the urban areas;

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

(c) whether there is shortage of staff to ensure smooth telephone services in rural areas in comparison to urban areas;

(d) if so, whether the Government proposes to increase the strength of regular employees in rural areas;

(e) whether the Government is contemplating to reduce the monthly rent of basic phones in rural areas;

(f) if so, the time by when it is likely to be implemented; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) No, Sir.

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

(c) Sir, there is unwillingness of staff to move to rural areas due to shortage of required amenities there. However, telephone services are run smoothly in rural areas by computerization of fault reporting system, conversion of SBM and 256 P RAX exchanges to RSUs and AN RAXs. introduction of WLL services and grouping of rural exchanges.

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

(e) to (g) There is no proposal to reduce rental in rural areas since BSNL's present telecom tariff for subscribers in rural areas is highly subsidized and is lower than urban areas.

Revenue Earned from Postal Circles

3142. SHRI RAM SINGH KASWAN:
SHRI JUAL ORAM:

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

(a) the total amount of revenue earned by the Government from various postal circles during the last three years;

(b) the year-wise and circle-wise details thereof;

(c) whether the revenue earning has been decreasing year by year;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the effective steps taken/proposed to be taken to improve the revenue earning from various postal services?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) The total revenue earned during the last three years is as follows:

2001-02	Rs. 3697.11 crores
2002-03	Rs. 4009.65 crores
2003-04	Rs. 4256.93 crores

(b) Circle-wise details are given in enclosed Statement.

(c) No, it is not decreasing.

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

Statement*Revenue Receipts*

(Rs. in crores)

Sl. No.	Name of Circle	2001-2002	2002-2003	2003-2004
1.	Andhra Pradesh	161.05	187.01	190.34
2.	Assam	21.13	23.00	22.18
3.	Bihar	36.39	33.78	40.30
4.	Base	24.72	26.26	28.37
5.	Delhi	225.13	204.92	206.98
6.	Gujarat	118.60	128.97	137.31
7.	Haryana	38.20	44.89	52.84
8.	Himachal	21.80	25.54	26.28
9.	Jammu-Kashmir	13.74	13.97	15.56
10.	Karnataka	151.59	179.67	175.23
11.	Kerala	160.2	179.15	176.45
12.	Maharashtra	418.37	465.56	502.31
13.	Madhya Pradesh	39.05	42.68	44.78
14.	North East	15.02	19.51	18.19
15.	Orissa	33.01	36.39	35.43
16.	Punjab	75.89	86.11	88.67
17.	Rajasthan	72.62	85.8	84.63
18.	Tamil Nadu	266.2	301.77	313.37
19.	Uttar Pradesh	129.76	138.63	147.41
20.	West Bengal	103.77	114.06	111.32
21.	Chhattisgarh	30.02	36.16	34.79
22.	Jharkhand	18.47	18.21	19.61
23.	Uttaranchal	20.46	24.67	23.83
24.	Head Quarter*	1501.92	1592.94	1760.75
Total		3697.11	4009.65	4256.93

* Annual Adjustments outside the Book of RBI is classified against Headquarter.

*[English]***Increasing Accidents on N.H.-52**

3143. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of frequent skidding and toppling of vehicles due to very low level of dilapidated shoulder along the single lane portion of N.H.-52;

(b) if so, the action taken to ensure strengthening of shoulder as well as the road; and

(c) the year-wise proposed and results achieved on strengthening and double laning of N.H.-52 during the 10th Plan Period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) As per reports from the Border Roads Organisations (BRO), who are developing and maintaining N.H.-52, there is moderate level difference between carriage way and the shoulders on N.H.-52 in Sector North Lakhimpur (Km 345) to Jonai (Km 510). However, no case of frequent skidding and toppling of vehicles due to very low level of dilapidated shoulders along single lane portion of N.H.-52 has been reported.

(b) Action for rectification of the shoulders has been initiated and work in priority stretches has already been taken up. This is a continuous process, being part of the maintenance and repair work of the National Highway. Such works are taken up subject to availability of funds and *inter se* priority.

(c) Double laning of the single lane sections of N.H.-52 is provided for in the 'Special Accelerated Road Development Programme' which is under finalization. This work is expected to commence in km 345 to km 360 during 2005-06, subject to the availability of funds.

*[Translation]***Marketing of Items Manufactured by SSI Sector**

3144. SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES: be pleased to state:

(a) whether the small scale industry sector has been facing stiff competition in the international market;

(b) if so, the nature of assistance being provided by the Government to this sector;

(c) whether the Government has signed any commercial pacts with various countries/international trade organizations in regard to marketing of the items manufactured by the small scale industries; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHAVIR PRASAD): (a) As a result of the world-wide process of liberalisation and globalisation, including phasing out or removal of quantitative restrictions on international trade, there is greater competition in the international market for most exports, including those from the small scale sector.

(b) With a view to enhancing their competitiveness, the Government implements several schemes to assist the small scale units in upgradation of technology, obtaining quality certification and testing of products, export promotion by way of participation in international trade fairs and holding catalogue exhibitions, dissemination of information on international tenders, exchange of business delegations, etc.

(c) and (d) No commercial pact has been signed by the Government with any other country/international trade organizations for marketing of items manufactured by the small scale industries.

*[English]***Works Undertaken in Punjab by NHAI**

3145. SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH DHINDSA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of works undertaken by the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) in Punjab at present;

(b) the status of each of the work in progress; and

(c) by when the works are likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS

(SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (c) A list of works undertaken by the National Highways Authority of India

(NHA) in Punjab at present, indicating their status and likely dates of completion is enclosed Statement.

Statement

S. No.	Stretch	NH No.	Present status	Likely date of completion
1.	Haryana/Punjab Border Jalandhar (km 212.00 to 372)	1	Maintenance and operation contract for the completed four lane section in progress	30.4.2005 (for the maintenance contract)
2.	Bhogpur to Punjab/J&K Border	1A	Preparation of Detailed Project Report (DPR) in progress	May, 2005 (for DPR)
3.	Jalandhar-Amritsar Section (km 387.1 to 407.1)	1	Tenders invited and award of work is subjudice	—
4.	Jalandhar-Amritsar Section (km 407.1 to 456.1)	1	Detailed Project Report (DPR) completed. Bids have been invited for four laning of this stretch on BOT basis under NHDP Phase-III	July, 2008 (for 4 laning)
5.	Pathankot-Amritsar (km 0.00 to 101.00)	15	Preparation of Detailed Project Report (DPR) in progress.	March, 2005 (for DPR)
6.	Chandigarh-Kiratpur Section	21	Detailed Project Report (DPR) completed.	—
7.	Ambala-Chandigarh Section (Punjab Portion)	22	Detailed Project Report (DPR) completed. Bids have been invited on BOT basis for four laning of this stretch under NHDP Phase-III.	August, 2008 (for 4 laning)

[*Translation*]

Lowering of Postal Rates

3146. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that Book Fairs have become highly expensive affairs due to higher postal rates;

(b) if so, whether the Government proposes to take action in the direction of making postal rates reasonable for the promotion/expansion of literacy and books;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) No, Sir.

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

(d) As the service "Book Post, containing Printed Books" is highly subsidized to the tune of Rs. 20.54 crores as per estimated for Financial Year 2004-05. The tariff of the service was last revised w.e.f. 01.06.2001, after 11 years. The present tariff of the service is as under:

For the first 100 gm or fraction thereof Re. 1/-
 For every additional 100 gm or fraction thereof in excess of 100 gm Re. 1/-

Grant in Aid to Chhattisgarh

3147. SHRI AJIT JOGI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the grant in aid sought by Government of Chhattisgarh under centrally sponsored scheme for providing necessary medicines to Ayurvedic/Homoeopathic/Unani Dispensaries;

(b) the amount allocated to the State;

(c) whether the amount allocated has been sanctioned;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) The grant-in-aid sought by Government of Chhattisgarh is Rs. 172.50 lakh for 690 Dispensaries (Ayurveda-635, Homoeopathy-50 and Unani-5).

(b) The amount allocated is Rs. 72.50 lakh.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Rs. 72.50 lakh has been sanctioned for 290 dispensaries (Ayurveda-235, Homoeopathy-50 and Unani-5) at the rate of Rs. 25,000/- per dispensary.

(e) Not applicable.

[English]

Visit of Pak President to Witness Cricket Match

3148. SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY:
 SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the President of Pakistan has expressed his desire to witness a cricket match in India, if invited, in the on-going cricket series between India and Pakistan;

(b) if so, whether the Union Government proposes to extend a formal invitation to him to watch a match; and

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

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

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir, Government has extended an invitation and President Musharraf has accepted to come to India to watch the One Day International to be played in Delhi on April 17, 2005.

Seminar Conducted by National Entrepreneurship Development Board

3149. SHRI KIRIP CHALIHA: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Entrepreneurship Development Board recently organized a seminar at Gujarat to discuss the importance of entrepreneurship education at the college level;

(b) if so, the recommendations of the seminar and the extent to which these have been accepted by the Government; and

(c) the details of the manner in which the introduction of the subject at college/university levels would help in economic development of backward States like Assam?

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHAVIR PRASAD): No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Introduction of entrepreneurial education in colleges and universities can train and motivate students to adopt entrepreneurship as a career option. This, in turn, can encourage the educated new entrants to the job market to avail of the benefits of the self-employment schemes of the Government and thus generate more such employment in States like Assam. Pending the introduction of such courses in colleges and universities and as part of the on-going activities in this regard, Small Industries Service Institute (SISI), Tejpur organized an Intensive Motivation Campaign at the Commerce College, North Lakhimpur, Assam to apprise the youth of such self-employment opportunities. In addition, financial assistance

has been provided to the Indian Institute of Entrepreneurship, Guwahati under the National Entrepreneurship Development Board Scheme to organize a national seminar on entrepreneurship education.

Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme

3150. SHRI SUGRIB SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether WHO is closing working with Government of India in providing technical assistance to its integrated disease surveillance programme;

(b) if so, the names of States getting assistance from WHO in this regard;

(c) the details of the assistance received by such States so far; and

(d) the number of persons benefited by such assistance in those States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) WHO has been extending technical assistance to Integrated Diseases Surveillance Programme for research projects/training activities in the following areas:

- I. Involvement of medical colleges and private sector in disease surveillance.
- II. Development of operations, training modules, monitoring and evaluation tools for disease surveillance.
- III. Training in Post disaster disease surveillance, laboratory techniques and epidemic preparedness and response.
- IV. Monitoring of outbreak prone disease in Tsunami affected districts.

(b) to (d) Technical assistance has been provided in the nine States in the first phase of integrated disease surveillance programme (Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, Himachal Pradesh, Mizoram, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Uttaranchal, Madhya Pradesh and Kerala) and other States/UTs like Orissa, Rajasthan, other North Eastern States, Bihar and Pondicherry in phase two and three.

Cases of Infectious diseases

3151. SHRI B MAHTAB: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that intestinal, infectious and parasitic diseases account for 20 per cent mortality in the country, particularly in Orissa;

(b) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken to contain Malaria and parasitic incidence in the country;

(c) whether the Government is aware of the Population Foundation of India's report which states that 28 per cent of the children who are less than five years fall prey to Diarrhoea; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (d) While the infectious and parasitic diseases account for certain mortality in the country including the State of Orissa there is, however, no specific data to indicate its ratio to the total mortality caused due to all diseases.

As per the report of National Family Health Survey (NFHS-II) 1998-99, 19.2% of children under the age of three years suffered from diarrhoea. The Government is, however, not aware of Population Foundation of India's report in this matter.

Malaria and parasitic diseases are linked to maintenance of environmental hygiene, sanitation, consumption of safe food and drinking water. Health is a primarily a State subject and provision of medical relief for these diseases through primary and community health centres is looked after by the State Governments. The preventive measures taken by the local health authorities include provision of safe drinking water, improvement of personal and community hygiene, safe disposal of human excreta, undertaking appropriate health education, surveillance and monitoring, distribution of chlorine tablets and ORS packets etc.

The National Vector Borne Disease Control Programme is implemented by the Central Government which provides technical guidance and commodity

assistance to the State Governments for prevention and control of major vector borne diseases including Malaria. Under this programme, 100% Central assistance is provided to the North Eastern States including Sikkim. The assistance is provided in the form of commodity and cash. In addition, 100% central assistance is also provided under Enhanced Malaria Control Project with World Bank assistance which was launched in the eight problematic States of Andhra Pradesh, Jharkhand, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan and Orissa. The strategies for control of Malaria include providing anti-malaria drugs for early treatment through health facilities and community volunteers and integrated vector control which includes indoor residual spray in high risk pockets of the rural areas and larvicides in urban areas, use of bednets, environmental measures, capacity building, information, education and communication.

The Government of India supplements the efforts of the State Governments/Union Territories through various National Health Programmes and by providing funds under the Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme, Accelerated Urban Water Supply Programme, Total Sanitation Campaign, School Sanitation and Hygiene Education and low cost sanitation scheme for tackling quality related problems in respect of rural and urban drinking water supply. National Institutes of Communicable Diseases, Delhi provides technical support to the State Governments and undertakes surveillance, early detection and prevention and control of outbreaks of communicable diseases. Technical support to improve the quality of drinking water is also envisaged to be provided by NICD, Delhi. The Government has launched an Integrated Disease Surveillance Project to further strengthen the disease surveillance system in order to ensure early detection and rapid response to arrest spread of diseases.

Early Tsunami Warning by Fishermen

3152. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of OCEAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether early warning regarding an impending natural calamity by some fishermen was ignored by the marine research officials as reported in the 'Hindustan Times' dated January 15, 2005;

(b) if so, the facts thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to ensure that such warning may not be altogether ignored in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) There was no prediction by the fishermen about the Tsunami. The report regarding impending natural warning has no scientific basis.

(c) Does not arise.

OFC in Jammu and Kashmir

3153. SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Optical Fibre cable has been laid from Jammu onwards up to URI in Kashmir;

(b) whether some C-Dot Exchanges of Higher Capacity have also been installed at various places in the valley; and

(c) if so, the reasons for unsatisfactory Telephone Services in the Valley, especially the Border Areas of Jammu & Kashmir?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) OFC has been commissioned between Jammu to Srinagar, Srinagar to Baramulla, Baramulla to Boniyar. OFC work between Boniyar to Uri is under process.

(b) Yes Sir, the C-DOT exchange of higher capacity have been installed at Anantnag, Baramulla, Sopore and Kupwara.

(c) It is not true that the telephone services in the valley specially in the border areas of J&K is dissatisfactory. The telephone services were recently disrupted due to heavy snow fall. However, all efforts are being made to restore the faulty services.

*[Translation]***Scholarship for DNB Course**

3154. SHRI BHUBNESWAR PRASAD MEHTA:
DR. K.S. MANOJ:

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

(a) whether the Government is aware that the doctors pursuing DNB (Diplomat National Board) from Government recognised private institutes are getting less than that of the monthly scholarship provided to the doctors pursuing the same course from the Government run Institutions;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to ensure the payment of same amount of scholarship to the doctors pursuing the same course from different institutions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) The National Board of Examinations (NBE) recognized Hospitals/institutions pay monthly stipend to their DNB trainees and not scholarship. There had been variation in the rate of monthly stipend paid by the different hospitals/institutions according to their stature, affordability and location. In order to avoid discrimination, all NBE accredited hospitals/institutions (both Government and private) have been directed on 20th December 2004 to pay DNB trainees monthly stipend uniformly at the following rates:

Programme	First Year	Second Year	Third Year
Broad Specialties	Rs. 8,000	Rs. 9,000	Rs. 10,000
Super Specialties	Rs. 10,000	Rs. 11,000	Rs. 12,000

World Bank Funds for Hospitals and Dispensaries

3155. SHRI V.K. THUMMAR:
SHRI KASHIRAM RANA:

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

(a) whether the World Bank is providing funds to set up hospitals and dispensaries in Gujarat and other States in the country;

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

(c) the amount of grant/aid received from the World Bank, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) World Bank is not providing funds to set up hospitals and dispensaries in Gujarat. The details of World Bank assisted Health System Development Projects in other States for setting up hospitals and dispensaries are given in enclosed Statement.

Statement*The details of on-going World Bank Assisted State Health System Development Projects*

S. No.	Name of the Project	Date of signing/closing	Area of implementation	Credit amount in US\$ million	Disbursement upto 31.1.05 in US\$ million
1.	Uttar Pradesh Health System Development Project	19.6.2000/31.12.05	UP & Uttaranchal	110.00	36.01
2.	Maharashtra Health System Development Project	14.1.99/31.3.05	Maharashtra	134.00	75.32
3.	Orissa Health System Development Project	13.8.98/31.3.2005	Orissa	76.40	33.24
4.	Rajasthan Health System Development Project	3.6.04/30.9.09	Rajasthan	89.00	4.05
5.	Tamil Nadu Health System Development Project	5.1.05/31.3.2010	Tamil Nadu	110.83	nil

**STD in Taluka/Tehsil Headquarters
in Jharkhand**

3156. SHRI SUNIL KUMAR MAHATO:
DR. DHIRENDRA AGARWAL:

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

(a) the number of Taluka and Tehsil headquarters in Jharkhand having telephone exchanges with STD facility as on date;

(b) the number of the Taluka/Tehsil headquarters in the above State which have not been provided with this facility so far and the details thereof;

(c) the time by which these Talukas/Tehsil headquarters are likely to be provided with the STD facility; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) Concept of Taluka and Tehsil does not exist in Jharkhand. However, in Jharkhand, the entire State is divided in terms of Districts, Subdivisions and Blocks. Following is the status:

Sl. No.	Item	Total number	Total number with Exchanges and STD facility	Total number with telephone & STD facility
1.	Districts	22	22	22
2.	Sub-divisions	35	35	35
3.	Blocks	211	193	211

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

Facilities to Mentally Retarded People

3157. SHRI RAGHUVVEER SINGH KOSHAL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that the mentally retarded people are neither provided with any financial protection nor any support for their livelihood;

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

(c) the details of the various facilities being provided to such people by the Government at present;

(d) whether the Government proposes to launch various schemes to provide financial protection, proper livelihood and free medical aid to such people;

(e) whether the Government also proposes to set up mental health care centres on the lines of the National Institute of Mental Health and Neurological Science (NIMHANS), Bellari, Karnataka in other States also; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (d) As per information provided by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment in the Government of India, free treatment is provided to all persons including the children with disabilities in Government Hospitals. The National Trust for Persons with Autism, Carebral Palsy, Mental Retardation and Multiple Disabilities is providing financial support to families who are willing to look after the health and livelihood needs of destitute and abandoned children with severe mental and multiple disabilities. The details of the scheme are available on the website of the National Trust (www.nationaltrust.org.in).

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

Costly Medicines and Instruments in Hospitals

3158. SHRIMATI KALPANA RAMESH NARHIRE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government provides costly medicines and instruments in all the Government hospitals;

(b) if so, the minimum and maximum prices of these medicines and instruments;

(c) whether these medicines and instruments are properly utilised by the hospitals;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) In all the Central Government hospitals, the medicines, instruments and equipments are procured as per the need and availability of resources.

(b) The cost of medicines may vary from a tablet of five paise to an injection of ampule of more than Rs. 5000/- likewise cost of the instruments and equipments may vary from a few thousand to few crores for a state of the art equipment.

(c) to (e) The medicines, instruments and equipments are utilized for the purpose for which they are procured.

[*English*]

Shortage of Psychotropic Drugs

3159. SHRI JUAL ORAM: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a shortage of psychotropic drugs in the country;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the step taken to ensure the availability of these drugs in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) In view of the insistence of certain requirements under the Narcotics Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Rules by Ministry of Finance there was a temporary dislocation in the supply of Psychotropic Drugs. However, the Ministry of Finance has issued necessary amendment to the NDPS Rules *vide* notification GSR 104 (E) dated 25.2.2005. Thereafter there has been no shortage of these drugs.

Rural Community Phones

3160. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the BSNL has formulated a plan to clear waiting list in rural areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the State-wise details of the rural community phones provided by BSNL during the last one year particularly in Maharashtra;

(d) the areas where setting up of Rural community phones are still awaited; and

(e) the reasons for delay in setting up of these phones?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Base Terminal Stations (BTSs) have been planned to cover all the Short Distance Charging Areas (SDCAs) for clearing the waiting list. Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) has already placed order for procurement of 10.25 Lakh lines of Wireless in Local Loop (WLL) equipment. The supply of equipment has already commenced and the equipment is under installation at various places. In addition supply of 15 Lakh lines of Mobile Switching Centre (MSC) based WLL equipment is also likely to commence from July, 2005 onward Further a purchase order for procurement of 15 Lakh of Fixed Wireless Terminals (FWTs) has also been issued.

(c) to (e) BSNL has entered into an agreement on 30th September, 2004 with the office of Administrator Universal Service (USO) Fund for providing 24794 Rural Community Phones (RCPs) in the country progressively by September, 2007. According to the agreement 4959 RCPs are to be provided by September, 2005. BSNL has provided 4000 RCPs including 147 in Maharashtra State; upto February, 2005. The Telecom circle-wise details regarding RCPs targeted to be provided and provided upto 28-02-2005 are given in the enclosed Statement.

Statement

Circle-wise Details of RCPs Provided by B.S.N.L.

Sl. No.	Name of the Circle	Total No. of RCPs to be provided by September, 2004	RCPs Provided upto 28-02-2005
1	2	3	4
1.	Andaman and Nicobar	0	0
2.	Andhra Pradesh	3677	123
3.	Assam	1913	0
4.	Bihar	1302	05
5.	Jharkhand	451	65

1	2	3	4
6.	Gujarat	1801	933
7.	Haryana	145	20
8.	Himachal Pradesh	95	23
9.	Jammu-Kashmir	122	03
10.	Karnataka	1528	435
11.	Kerala	01	0
12.	Madhya Pradesh	1810	975
13.	Chhattisgarh	576	172
14.	Maharashtra	3140	147
15.	North East-I	505	06
16.	North East-II	193	0
17.	Orissa	936	129
18.	Punjab	43	43
19.	Rajasthan	1416	170
20.	Tamil Nadu	1424	618
21.	Uttar Pradesh (East)	2210	13
22.	Uttar Pradesh (West)	429	60
23.	Uttaranchal	05	02
24.	West Bengal	1072	58
Total		24794	4000

Integrated Infrastructure Development Works

3161. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received proposals from various States for Integrated Infrastructure Development works for small industries in the country;

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

(c) the action taken or proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHAVIR PRASAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) One proposal for setting up an Integrated Infrastructure Development (IID) Centre in district Nalabari of Assam and eight proposals for upgradation of infrastructure in the existing industrial estates at Sonapat, Rohtak, Bhadurgarh, Ambala, Yamunanagar, Hissar, Panipat and Gurgaon in Haryana have been received for consideration of the Central Government. Under the IID Scheme 86 new IID Centres and upgradation of 13 existing industrial estates have been sanctioned so far.

[Translation]

Telephone Adalats in Andhra Pradesh

3162. SHRI M. ANJAN KUMAR YADAV: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the dates on which telephone adalats were held in each district of Andhra Pradesh during the last two years;

(b) the number of cases received in these adalats during the last two years, district-wise;

(c) the number of cases disposed of in these adalats, district-wise; and

(d) the details of relief measures provided to the telephone subscribers and the rules for conducting telephone adalats?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) to (c) Details are given in enclosed Statement I.

(d) Details are available at enclosed Statement I and II.

Statement I*Holding of Telephone Adalats-SSA Level*

Sl. No.	Name of the SSA District	Date	01-01-2003 to 31-12-2003			Date	01-01-2003 to 31-12-2004		
			No. of cases Received	No. of cases Disposed	Details of relief given in Rs.		No. of cases Received	No. of cases Disposed	Details of relief given in Rs.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1.	Adilabad	28/02/03	Nil	Nil	Nil	26/02/04	Nil	Nil	Nil
		25/04/03	Nil	Nil	Nil	22/04/04	Nil	Nil	Nil
		27/06/03	1	1	Nil	24/06/04	2	2	Nil
		22/08/03	Nil	Nil	Nil	26/08/04	Nil	Nil	Nil
		24/10/03	Nil	Nil	Nil	28/10/04	Nil	Nil	Nil
		26/12/03	Nil	Nil	Nil	23/12/04	Nil	Nil	Nil
	Total		1	1		2	2		
2.	Anantapur	28/02/03	Nil	Nil	Nil	26/02/04	Nil	Nil	Nil
		25/04/03	3	3	Nil	22/04/04	1	1	Nil
		27/06/03	Nil	Nil	Nil	24/06/04	4	4	33
		22/08/03	Nil	Nil	Nil	26/08/04	1	1	284
		24/10/03	Nil	Nil	Nil	28/10/04	Nil	Nil	Nil
		26/12/03	Nil	Nil	Nil	23/12/04	Nil	Nil	Nil
	Total		3	3		6	6	317	
3.	Cuddpah	28/02/03	Nil	Nil	Nil	26/02/04	Nil	Nil	Nil
		25/04/03	Nil	Nil	Nil	22/04/04	3	3	Nil
		27/06/03	Nil	Nil	Nil	24/06/04	6	6	Nil
		22/08/03	1	1	Nil	26/08/04	Nil	Nil	Nil
		24/10/03	Nil	Nil	Nil	28/10/04	Nil	Nil	Nil
		26/12/03	5	5	Nil	23/12/04	Nil	Nil	Nil
	Total		6	6		9	9		
4.	Eluru	28/02/03	1	1	Nil	26/02/04	Nil	Nil	Nil
		25/04/03	Nil	Nil	Nil	22/04/04	Nil	Nil	Nil
		27/06/03	1	1	Nil	24/06/04	Nil	Nil	Nil

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
		22/08/03	Nil	Nil	Nil	26/08/04	1	1	241
		24/10/03	Nil	Nil	Nil	28/10/04	Nil	Nil	Nil
		26/12/03	1	1	329	23/12/04	Nil	Nil	Nil
	Total		3	3	329		1	1	241
5.	Guntur	28/02/03	5	5	Nil	26/02/04	Nil	Nil	Nil
		25/04/03	3	3	685	22/04/04	1	1	Nil
		27/06/03	1	1	Nil	24/06/04	Nil	Nil	Nil
		22/08/03	6	6	Nil	26/08/04	4	4	Nil
		24/10/03	10	10	Nil	28/10/04	6	6	Nil
		26/12/03	1	1	Nil	23/12/04	4	4	Nil
	Total		26	26	685		15	15	
6.	Hyderabad	28/02/03	3	3	Nil	26/02/04	Nil	Nil	Nil
		25/04/03	1	1	Nil	22/04/04	Nil	Nil	Nil
		27/06/03	1	1	Nil	24/06/04	3	3	Nil
		22/08/03	1	1	Nil	26/08/04	Nil	Nil	Nil
		24/10/03	Nil	Nil	Nil	28/10/04	Nil	Nil	Nil
		26/12/03	Nil	Nil	Nil	23/12/04	Nil	Nil	Nil
	Total		6	6			3	3	
7.	Karimnagar	28/02/03	2	2	1,805	26/02/04	Nil	Nil	Nil
		25/04/03	Nil	Nil	Nil	22/04/04	2	2	Nil
		27/06/03	Nil	Nil	Nil	24/06/04	3	3	3,898
		22/08/03	1	1	Nil	26/08/04	1	1	Nil
		24/10/03	Nil	Nil	Nil	28/10/04	Nil	Nil	Nil
		26/12/03	Nil	Nil	Nil	23/12/04	Nil	Nil	Nil
	Total		3	3	1,805		6	6	3,898
8.	Khammam	28/02/03	Nil	Nil	Nil	26/02/04	Nil	Nil	Nil
		25/04/03	Nil	Nil	Nil	22/04/04	1	1	Nil
		27/06/03	Nil	Nil	Nil	24/06/04	3	3	Nil
		22/08/03	Nil	Nil	Nil	26/08/04	2	2	Nil
		24/10/03	Nil	Nil	Nil	28/10/04	1	1	Nil

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
		26/12/03	Nil	Nil	Nil	23/12/04	1	1	Nil
Total						8	8		
9.	Kurmool	28/02/03	Nil	Nil	Nil	26/02/04	7	7	Nil
		25/04/03	Nil	Nil	Nil	22/04/04	Nil	Nil	Nil
		27/06/03	Nil	Nil	Nil	24/06/04	1	1	Nil
		22/08/03	5	5	Nil	26/08/04	4	4	Nil
		24/10/03	Nil	Nil	Nil	28/10/04	4	4	Nil
		26/12/03	Nil	Nil	Nil	23/12/04	3	3	Nil
Total			5	5			19	19	
10.	Mahaboobnagar	28/02/03	Nil	Nil	Nil	26/02/04	1	1	Nil
		25/04/03	1	1	2,000	22/04/04	Nil	Nil	Nil
		27/08/03	Nil	Nil	Nil	24/06/04	1	1	Nil
		22/08/03	1	1	Nil	26/08/04	Nil	Nil	Nil
		24/10/03	3	3	Nil	28/10/04	Nil	Nil	Nil
		26/12/03	4	4	Nil	23/12/04	Nil	Nil	Nil
Total			9	9	2,000		2	2	
11.	Nalgonda	28/02/03	Nil	Nil	Nil	26/02/04	Nil	Nil	Nil
		25/04/03	Nil	Nil	Nil	22/04/04	Nil	Nil	Nil
		27/06/03	Nil	Nil	Nil	24/06/04	Nil	Nil	Nil
		22/08/03	Nil	Nil	Nil	26/08/04	Nil	Nil	Nil
		24/10/03	Nil	Nil	Nil	28/10/04	Nil	Nil	Nil
		26/12/03	Nil	Nil	Nil	23/12/04	Nil	Nil	Nil
Total							Nil	Nil	Nil
12.	Nellore	28/02/03	1	1	Nil	26/02/04	Nil	Nil	Nil
		25/04/03	Nil	Nil	Nil	22/04/04	6	6	Nil
		27/06/03	Nil	Nil	Nil	24/06/04	Nil	Nil	Nil
		22/08/03	2	2	940	26/08/04	Nil	Nil	Nil
		24/10/03	Nil	Nil	Nil	28/10/04	3	3	Nil
		26/12/03	Nil	Nil	Nil	13/12/04	Nil	Nil	Nil
Total			3	3	940		9	9	

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10		
13.	Nizamabad	28/02/03	Nil	Nil	Nil	26/02/04	Nil	Nil	Nil		
		25/04/03	Nil	Nil	Nil	22/04/04	Nil	Nil	Nil		
		27/06/03	Nil	Nil	Nil	24/06/04	Nil	Nil	Nil		
		22/08/03	Nil	Nil	Nil	26/08/04	Nil	Nil	Nil		
		24/10/03	Nil	Nil	Nil	28/10/04	Nil	Nil	Nil		
		26/12/03	Nil	Nil	Nil	23/12/04	Nil	Nil	Nil		
Total											
14.	Ongole	28/02/03	Nil	Nil	Nil	26/02/04	Nil	Nil	Nil		
		25/04/03	Nil	Nil	Nil	22/04/04	Nil	Nil	Nil		
		27/06/03	Nil	Nil	Nil	24/06/04	Nil	Nil	Nil		
		22/08/03	Nil	Nil	Nil	26/08/04	Nil	Nil	Nil		
		24/10/03	Nil	Nil	Nil	28/10/04	Nil	Nil	Nil		
		26/12/03	Nil	Nil	Nil	23/12/04	Nil	Nil	Nil		
Total											
15.	Rajahmundry	28/02/03	5	5	2,263	26/02/04	Nil	Nil	Nil		
		25/04/03	Nil	Nil	Nil	22/04/04	1	1	Nil		
		27/06/03	2	2	Nil	24/06/04	2	2	Nil		
		22/08/03	Nil	Nil	Nil	26/08/04	3	3	Nil		
		24/10/03	Nil	Nil	Nil	28/10/04	Nil	Nil	Nil		
		26/12/03	1	1	532	23/12/04	3	3	Nil		
		Total		8	8	2,795		9	9		
		16.	Sangareddy	28/02/03	Nil	Nil	Nil	26/02/04	Nil	Nil	Nil
				25/04/03	Nil	Nil	Nil	22/04/04	2	2	Nil
				27/06/03	Nil	Nil	Nil	24/06/04	Nil	Nil	Nil
22/08/03	Nil			Nil	Nil	26/08/04	Nil	Nil	Nil		
24/10/03	Nil			Nil	Nil	28/10/04	Nil	Nil	Nil		

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
		27/06/03	1	1	Nil	24/06/04	Nil	Nil	Nil
		22/08/03	Nil	Nil	Nil	26/08/04	Nil	Nil	Nil
		24/10/03	Nil	Nil	Nil	28/10/04	Nil	Nil	Nil
		26/12/03	Nil	Nil	Nil	23/12/04	3	3	Nil
	Total		1	1			3	3	
18.	Tirupati	28/02/03	Nil	Nil	Nil	26/02/04	Nil	Nil	Nil
		25/04/03	Nil	Nil	Nil	22/04/04	Nil	Nil	Nil
		27/06/03	Nil	Nil	Nil	24/06/04	1	1	Nil
		22/08/03	Nil	Nil	Nil	26/08/04	Nil	Nil	Nil
		24/10/03	Nil	Nil	Nil	28/10/04	1	1	Nil
		26/12/03	1	1	Nil	23/12/04	Nil	Nil	Nil
	Total		1	1			2	2	
19.	Vijayawada	28/02/03	Nil	Nil	Nil	26/02/04	1	1	Nil
		25/04/03	Nil	Nil	Nil	22/04/04	Nil	Nil	Nil
		27/06/03	Nil	Nil	Nil	24/06/04	8	8	1,200
		22/08/03	5	5	10,584	26/08/04	2	2	Nil
		24/10/03	Nil	Nil	Nil	28/10/04	1	1	811
		26/12/03	Nil	Nil	Nil	23/12/04	Nil	Nil	Nil
	Total		5	5	10584		12	12	2011
20.	Visakhapatnam	28/02/03	2	2	Nil	26/02/04	1	1	Nil
		25/04/03	2	2	50	22/04/04	2	2	Nil
		27/06/03	2	2	Nil	24/06/04	1	1	Nil
		22/08/03	Nil	Nil	Nil	26/08/04	Nil	Nil	Nil
		24/10/03	Nil	Nil	Nil	28/10/04	Nil	Nil	Nil
		26/12/03	Nil	Nil	Nil	23/12/04	Nil	Nil	Nil
	Total		6	6	50		4	4	
21.	Vizianagaram	28/02/03	Nil	Nil	Nil	26/02/04	Nil	Nil	Nil
		25/04/03	Nil	Nil	Nil	22/04/04	Nil	Nil	Nil
		27/06/03	Nil	Nil	Nil	24/06/04	Nil	Nil	Nil
		22/08/03	Nil	Nil	Nil	26/08/04	Nil	Nil	Nil

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
		24/10/03	Nil	Nil	Nil	28/10/04	Nil	Nil	Nil
		26/12/03	1	1	1500	23/12/04	Nil	Nil	Nil
	Total		1	1	1500				
22.	Warangal	28/02/03	Nil	Nil	Nil	26/02/04	Nil	Nil	Nil
		25/04/03	Nil	Nil	Nil	22/04/04	Nil	Nil	Nil
		27/06/03	Nil	Nil	Nil	24/06/04	Nil	Nil	Nil
		22/08/03	Nil	Nil	Nil	26/08/04	Nil	Nil	Nil
		24/10/03	Nil	Nil	Nil	28/10/04	Nil	Nil	Nil
		26/12/03	Nil	Nil	Nil	23/12/04	Nil	Nil	Nil
Total									

Statement II*No. 12-1/2001-(PG) Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited**(A Government of India Enterprise 10th floor, Chandralok Building Janpath, New Delhi-110001*

Dated: 22.06.2001

To

All Heads of Telecom Circles and Districts

Sub: Holding of Telephone Adalats.

References: 18-1/87-PG&I dated 11-6-87, 18-1/87-PG&I dated 8-2-88,
 18-1/87-PG&I dated 17-9-89, 18-1/87-PG&I dated 22-5-92,
 18-1/87-PG&I dated Oct, 96, 2-2/2000 PEG (PG) dated 16-12-2001,
 2-2/2000-PG dated 9-2-2001 12-1/2001-PG) dated 20-3-2001

In order to bring Department and aggrieved customer face to face and settle the customer's problem on an appointed date, it was decided to form Telephone Adalats in Telecom Circles and Districts as an internal arrangement of the departments.

Scope

The scope of Telephone Adalat as per the earlier orders was to cover all problems relating to telephone services such as excess billing complaints, service complaints, non provision/delayed provision of telephone connections etc. Now the scope of Telephone Adalats shall cover all Telecom Services provided and billed by the respective Telecom Circles/ Districts. Adalat headed by CGMs can also consider the cases of appeals against the decisions of the Adalat chaired by SSA head and the cases which are not individual and/or having a repercussion in whole of the Circle. The appeal shall be based on the facts presented before the SSA Adalat. Adalat headed by SSA heads can also consider cases of excess billing which have been rejected by them as Administrative heads. Cases more than three months old only be considered by Adalats.

Jurisdiction and Venue:

The Jurisdiction of Telephone Adalats conducted by CGM shall be his Telecom Circle/District. The jurisdiction of the Telephone Adalat conducted by SSA head shall be his SSA.

Committee

Following will be the Constitution of the Committee.

- (i) Adalat headed by CGM
- | | | |
|--|---|----------|
| (a) CGM of Telecom Circle/Districts | — | Chairman |
| (b) Financial Advisor of Circle/District | — | Member |
| (c) Engineering Officer next to CGM in Circle Office | — | Member |
| (d) Sr. DDG/DDGs nominated by BSNL headquarter | — | Member |

Sr. DDs/DDsG can depute their joint DDsG when ever required.

- (ii) Adalat headed by SSA
- | | | |
|--|---|----------|
| (a) SSA Head | — | Chairman |
| (b) Financial Advisor of SSA head | — | Member |
| (c) Engineering Officer one level below the SSA head | — | Member |
| (d) Nominee of CGM | — | Member |

List of nominee from BSNL headquarter is mentioned in Annexure-I.

Frequency Date and Time:

CGMs are to hold Adalats once in three months and SSA heads are to hold Adalats once in two months. The Adalats should be conducted at regular interval. The date and time can be decided by the Chairman of the Adalats. In case of Metro Districts CGM can hold Adalat once in three months and Area GMs may hold the Adalat once in two months. In case of SSAs where more than one CGM is holding independent charge, then all such independent GMs will hold independent Adalats for their area once in two months.

Publicity:

The information of holding Adalats by CGM and SSA head may be given wide publicity through local News Paper and Electronic Media. Concerned MP and MLAs may be intimated in advance. A gap of atleast 30 days should be provided between the date of publication and date of Adalat. Last date to receipt of applications may be 15 days before the date of Adalat.

Decision Making:

The decision of the Adalat should be in speaking order. The Adalat conducted by CGM shall evaluate the quality of Adalat conducted by his subordinates.

Record Keeping:

The consolidated information about number of cases settled, amount of rebate given and other relevant information pertaining to whole Circle may be maintained in the Circle Office. This information may be kept in the Circle web site so that customers of BSNL headquarter can have access and the credibility of Telecom Circle/District is improved. After each Circle level Adalat, the representative from BSNL HQ attending the Adalat shall give a brief (one paragraph) report through his Sr. DDG/DDG to Sr. DDG (PG) who shall maintain a record in his unit.

Sd/-
Sr. DDG (PG)
22.6.2001

Monitoring of Systems in Earthquake Prone Areas

3163. SHRI RAKESH SINGH: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether inspection and monitoring of working of equipments and disaster management systems in earthquake prone areas is done regularly;

(b) whether any time-limit has been fixed for the purpose; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. For inspection and monitoring of working of earthquake recording equipments, trained persons are posted at the seismological observatories of the national network to check the performance of the equipments regularly. In case of any malfunctioning officers from the Head Quarters of India Meteorological Department (IMD) are deputed immediately for rectification of faults.

[English]

Blacklisted Suppliers

3164. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 227 on 1.12.2004 and state:

(a) whether the information has since been collected;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon;

(c) the reasons for not terminating the supplies of the suppliers from whom recoveries were made as has been done in the case of other suppliers and whose rates were found higher than the market/NCCF;

(d) whether responsibility of Purchase Committee/employees has since been investigated;

(e) if so, the outcome thereof alongwith the action taken in this regard;

(f) whether the vigilance department has since investigated the selling of Gateway brand typing and duplicating paper at higher than the market/NCCF prices;

(g) if so, the outcome thereof;

(h) the action taken to terminate dealing with the supplier;

(i) whether it is also a fact that recoveries have been made from DD enterprises for selling HP cartridges/tonners at higher than market/NCCF rates; and

(j) if so, the reasons for not terminating the supplies thereof as has been done in the case of other suppliers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SURESH PACHAURI): (a) to (j): The information will be laid on the Table of the House.

Guideline for Proper Disposal of Hospital Waste

3165. KUNWAR MANVENDRA SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that recently a team from the Central Pollution Control Board found that in Ludhiana (Punjab), Cotton waste from hospitals, dumped at the city's solid waste disposal plant was being silted, dried in the open there and sent to pack mattresses and quilts;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government proposes to issue fresh guidelines regarding disposal of bio-medical waste by the hospitals;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the measures taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to check recurrence of such cases in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

*[Translation]***Development assistance to Uttaranchal**

3166. SHRI RAJENDER KUMAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Uttaranchal has demanded a lump-sum amount as assistance for development of the State particularly of Haridwar and Nainital;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government has taken any comprehensive steps in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) to (e) The Government of Uttaranchal is proposing Annual Plans for the development of the State including of Haridwar and Nainital. The size of Annual Plan is decided on the basis of availability of resources for various projects/programmes and state specific needs. The size of Annual Plans 2004-05 and 2005-06 were finalized at Rs. 1810.40 crore and Rs. 2700 crore respectively. Besides, additionality of Rs. 20.47 crore were provided during Annual Plan 2004-05. It is also mentioned that for Haridwar Ardh Kumbh Mela, an amount of Rs. 135 crore was provided for creation of infrastructure.

Works in Departmental Colonies

3167. MOHD. MUKEEM: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of letters from the Members of the Parliament received by the Minister of Communications and Information Technology, his deputy, the Chief General Manager (Maintenance) Northern Telecom circle, New Delhi regarding completing the works in departmental colonies *viz.* Kalibari Marg/Udyan Marg, New Delhi from January 1, 2004 to February 15, 2005;

(b) the details of the action taken on each letter separately during the said period;

(c) whether he is aware that the departmental officers neither take any action nor reply to the letters written by the Members of the Parliament;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the time by which appropriate action is proposed to be taken on the said letters and replies accordingly sent to the Members concerned?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Four.

(b) Action taken on each letter is given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) No, Sir. The concerned officers are taking appropriate necessary action and replies have already been sent to the Members of Parliament.

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

Statement*Details of action taken on MPs letters*

Sl. No.	Name of the M.P. with letter No. & Date	Subject	Remarks
1	2	3	4
1.	Sh. Ajay Maken, MP No. 844/04 dated 4.7.04	Representation from P&T Resident Welfare Association about facilities available in P&T Quarters Kali Bari Marg.	Reply sent <i>vide</i> DO No. BSNL/12-20/SR/2004 dated 9.11.04
2.	Sh. Mitrasen Yadav, MP date 23.11.04	Problems in P&T Colony, Kali Bari Marg, New Delhi.	Reply sent <i>vide</i> letter No. 4-682/2004/Bldg./dated 14.12.04

1	2	3	4
3.	Sh. Ajay Maken, MP No. 1940/04 dated 3.12.04	Regarding various works in P&T Quarters Kali Bari/Udyan Marg.	Reply sent vide letter No. 1-Bldg/Area. M.P./2004 dated 7.1.05
4.	Ajay Maken, MP No. 2019/04 dated 17.12.04	Regarding renovation of P&T Quarters Kali Bari Marg, New Delhi.	Reply sent vide D.P. No. BSNL/12-4/SR/2005 dated 8.3.05

Irregularities in IT Purchases

3168. SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of the irregularities reportedly made in the purchase of X-224 server of I.B.M for integrated package specially at exorbitant prices, illegal purchase of sub-standard quality of software for crores of rupees in the name of computerization, sub-standard underground cabling work, security works carried out by a private company at very high rates and laying of OFC Cable by the Uttar Pradesh Telecom Circles (east);

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) whether the Government is also aware of the fact that telephone equipment specially WLL is not being used in U. P. telecom circle (east) since the last few years;

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

(e) whether the Government has carried out any investigation or is contemplating to do so by constituting a high-level Central committee in this regard; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) This has come to the notice of BSNL through a letter of Shri Brajesh Pathak., Hon'ble MP. The letter was regarding X-225 Server and other issues. UP (East) Telecom Circle has purchased X-225 Server and not X-224 server for implementation of integrated packages. The softwares purchased for implementation of integrated packages were approved by BSNL Corporate Office. Regarding the laying

of underground cable and optical fiber cable, specific route details are required for further detailed action.

(c) WLL Equipments is being used as per available resources.

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

(e) and (f) Regarding purchase of X-225 Server and the award of security works, the circle vigilance wing has been asked to investigate the matter.

[English]

Village Public Telephone System

3169. SHRI KASHIRAM RANA:
SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that private operators have been given undue benefit to the tune of crores of rupees with regard to the Village Public Telephone System;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has spent more than 90 crore rupees to provide VPTs on behalf of private operators; and

(d) if so, the facts thereof and the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) to (d) Licences granted for operation of Basic Service in 1997-98 to six private companies stipulated provision of Village Public Telephones (VPTs) in 97,806 villages as a part of roll out obligation. All of them were not able to fulfil their

obligations in the stipulated time frame. Liquidated Damages amounting to Rs. 53.75 crores were recovered from private Basic Service Operators for delay in commencement of service and delay in provisioning of VPTs and Director Exchange Lines (DELs). The licence also stipulated that in case a VPT is provided by Department of Telecommunications (Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd. as successor organization), the said roll out shall be treated as fulfilled. Accordingly, in the absence of commencement of service by the private Basic Service Operators or non availability of the network of private Basic Service Operator in that area, the Department of Telecommunications had provided VPTs. It may not be correct to draw a conclusion that Department spent more than Rs. 90 crores on behalf of private operators or private operators were given undue benefit to the tune of crores of rupees.

Trends of Population Growth

3170. SHRI SURESH PRABHAKAR PRABHU: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the trends of population growth in various States and at the All India level during the last ten years till date;

(b) the States where the proportion of female population especially below 14 age groups has fallen sharply in recent years; and

(c) the step taken to rectify the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) A Statement showing State-wise and All India decadal growth rate of population between 1991 and 2001 based on Census of 1991 and 2001 is as enclosed.

(b) In all the States/Union Territories except, Uttar Pradesh and Bihar, proportion of female population to total population in the age group 0-14 years has declined. State-wise details on the basis of the Population Censuses 1991 and 2001 is at Statement II.

(c) The steps taken by the Government of India are as below:

(i) The Pre-natal Diagnostic Techniques (Regulation and Prevention of Misuse) Act, 1994 has been

amended to make it more comprehensive and renamed as Pre-conception and Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (Prohibition of Sex Selection) Act, 1994 and has come into force with effect from 14.2.2003.

(ii) Use of Mass Communication Medium such as Newspaper, Radio and T.V. for disseminating the message condemning female foeticide.

(iii) The Government of India has launched 'Save the Girl Child Campaign' with a view to lessen son preference by highlighting the achievements of young girls.

(iv) Seeking cooperation of religious and spiritual leaders for highlighting the importance of girl child and after effects of elimination of female foetus.

Statement I

Decadal growth rate of population-States/Union territories: 2001

India and State/Union Territory 1991-2001 (in per cent)

	1	2
INDIA		21.54
Andaman and Nicobar Islands		26.90
Andhra Pradesh		14.59
Arunachal Pradesh		27.00
Assam		18.92
Bihar		28.62
Chandigarh		40.28
Chhattisgarh		18.27
Dadra and Nagar Haveli		59.22
Daman and Diu		55.73
Delhi		47.02
Goa		15.21
Gujarat		22.66
Haryana		28.43
Himachal Pradesh		17.54
Jammu and Kashmir ¹		29.43

1	2
Jharkhand	23.36
Karnataka	17.51
Kerala	9.43
Lakshadweep	17.30
Madhya Pradesh	24.26
Maharashtra	22.73
Manipur ²	24.86
Meghalaya	30.65
Mizoram	28.82
Nagaland	64.53
Orissa	16.25
Pondicherry	20.62
Punjab	20.10
Rajasthan	28.41
Sikkim	33.06
Tamil Nadu	11.72
Tripura	16.03
Uttar Pradesh	25.85
Uttaranchal	20.41
West Bengal	17.77

1. J & K was not included in 1991 census, Interpolated figure for population used.

2. Includes estimated population of Paomata, Mao Maram and Purul sub-divisions of Senapti District of Manipur for 2001

Source: Primary Census Abstract, Census of India 2001

Statement II

Proportion of female population to total population (in percentage) in age group 0-14 years

India and State/ Union Territory	2001	1991
1	2	3
INDIA	35.1	37.3
Andaman & Nicobar Islands	31.2	39.4
Andhra Pradesh	31.6	35.7

1	2
Arunachal Pradesh	41.9 42.3
Assam	37.9 41.2
Bihar	41.7 40.9
Chandigarh	30.3 33.6
Chhattisgarh	36.6 37.5
Dadra and Nagar Haveli	38.5 39.4
Daman and Diu	31.5 34.9
Delhi	33.5 36.3
Goa	24.4 28.5
Gujarat	32.2 35.5
Haryana	35.4 39.4
Himachal Pradesh	30.2 35.2
Jammu and Kashmir*	35.6 —
Jharkhand	39.8 40.6
Karnataka	31.7 36.3
Kerala	24.8 28.8
Lakshadweep	34.0 37.8
Madhya Pradesh	38.5 39.7
Maharashtra	32.0 35.7
Manipur	32.3 35.6
Meghalaya	42.4 43.0
Mizoram	35.9 39.9
Nagaland	37.4 39.1
Orissa	32.9 35.9
Pondicherry	26.5 31.1
Punjab	30.3 34.7
Rajasthan	39.4 40.7
Sikkim	36.8 41.3
Tamil Nadu	26.2 30.5
Tripura	33.8 38.7
Uttar Pradesh	40.8 40.8
Uttaranchal	35.5 38.4
West Bengal	33.6 37.5

*J&K was not included in 1991 Census.

Source: Primary Census Abstract, Census of India 2001

Synthetic Dyes in Food Items

3171. SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether food items prepared in India and exported have been found to be contaminated due to use of synthetic dyes;

(b) if so, whether Indian food-items have received a setback in European countries; and

(c) if so, the number of consignments held due to contamination;

(d) whether trade experts have demanded enforcing a nationwide ban on manufacture and sale of unregistered pesticides which are being used in Indian food-items; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) The Rapid Alert Notifications issued by the European Union in May/June 2003 reported presence of Sudan dye in chilli powder exported from India. Recently in February 2005, Food Standards Authority (FSA), UK had claimed that it had detected presence of Sudan 1, a carcinogenic dye in the chilli powder reportedly exported from India in the year 2002. Consequently, the FSA had recalled the total of 575 products contaminated with Sudan 1 dye.

Rapid Alert, however, does not necessarily mean that a consignment is held up at the point of entry into the country. Since 10th March 2005, exporters are to present a certificate from species Board to the effect that the consignment is free from Sudan I-IV to clear exports.

The Sudan 1 controversy did not have any impact on Indian chilli exports to EU countries or elsewhere as is evident from the consistent increase in exports of chilli from India. The data for exports of chilli is as under:

Year	Indian Exports to EU Quantity (Tones)	Total Indian Exports Quantity (Tones)
2001-02	4456	69998
2002-03	4738	81022
2003-04	5240	81500
2004-05 (April-Jan)	5177	114000

(d) and (e) Manufacture and sale of pesticides without registration and relevant licence is a punishable offence under the Insecticides Act, 1968 and as such use of unregistered pesticides in agriculture is already banned.

Change in Earth Shape

3172. SHRIMATI BHAVANA PUNDLIKRAO GAWALI: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether by using 30 years data of NASA Satellite Laser Ranging (SLR), scientists have revealed that earth shape has changed and the earth has flattened at the poles and widened at the equator;

(b) if so, the way it is linked to the climatic events such as El-Nino and other weather patterns; and

(c) the effect of such developments on human beings and living organisms on the earth?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) to (c) As per reports received, using NASA Satellite data, USA scientists have observed extremely small changes in the shape of the earth (one part in a billion in Earth's oblateness). The study partially linked to climatic events, highlights the possible influence of El-Nino and Pacific Decadal Oscillation on the earth's shape and not *vice versa*. The effect is expected to be insignificant and scientific studies are underway in understanding the intricate processes that support life.

[*Translation*]

Cellular Companies in Maharashtra Districts

3173. SHRI BAPU HARI CHAURE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the private cellular companies providing their services in Dhule, Nandurbar and Jalgaon districts of Maharashtra;

(b) the number of SIM Cards provided in these districts; and

(c) the details of the criteria prescribed by these cellular companies for providing SIM Cards?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) Three private cellular companies, namely, M/s. Idea Cellular Ltd., M/s. BPL Mobile Cellular Ltd. and M/s. Bharti Cellular Ltd. are providing Cellular Mobile Telephone Service (CMTS) in Maharashtra telecom Circle Service Area on GSM based technology. These companies are providing mobile service in Dhule, Nandurbar and Jalgaon districts. The number of SIM cards (subscribers) of these companies in Dhule, Nandurbar and Jalgaon districts of Maharashtra is as below:

Sl. No.	Name of private Company	No. of SIM cards (subscribers) as on 28.02.2005
1.	M/s Idea Cellular Ltd.	34,850
2.	M/s BPL Mobile Cellular Ltd.	33,985
3.	M/s Bharti Cellular Ltd.	17, 025

In addition to the above, two private companies, namely, M/s Reliance Infocomm Ltd. and M/s Tata Teleservices (Maharashtra) Ltd. are also providing mobile service in Maharashtra Telecom Circle Service Area on CDMA based technology which does not have SIM card. M/s Reliance Infocomm Ltd. are providing mobile service in Dhule and Jalgaon districts and M/s. Tata Teleservices (Maharashtra) Ltd. are providing mobile service in Dhule, Jalgaon and Nandurbar districts.

(c) The SIM cards are provided based on network capacity and market demand after proper verification of prescribed documents submitted by customers.

Permission for Treatment in Referral Hospitals

3174. SHRI CHANDRA MANI TRIPATHI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether CGHS beneficiaries are required to obtain permission of the concerned CGHS dispensary every time for continuing treatment of chronic diseases in the referral hospitals by specialists;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the letter No C-131019/2/2004-CGHS Desk-II dated 03-06.2004 issued by the Directorate of Health Services is in conformity with the Government policy;

(d) if so, the effective action taken in compliance of the relevant rules referred to in the reply given to the Unstarred Question No. 3004 dated 18.8.2004 in the Lok Sabha;

(e) whether the OPDs of the Government referral hospitals/CGHS dispensaries are kept closed during the tea break by doctors; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) CGHS beneficiaries who are already taking specialised treatment in a referral Govt. Hospital are not required to take permission of the CGHS dispensary for continuing their treatment in the Govt. hospital. As medicines are issued to the beneficiaries only on the basis of valid prescription, the CGHS beneficiaries are advised to obtain fresh opinion/renewal of their prescription from the treating Govt. specialist after completion of the duration for which the earlier treatment had been advised by the Govt. doctor.

The CGHS beneficiaries can avail of In -patient (IPD) treatment and OPD tests/investigations like X-Ray, Ultrasound, etc. in the private hospitals/diagnostic centres recognised under CGHS by getting due permission from the Government for specific medical procedure/tests/investigations that have been advised by the CGHS/ Government specialist or CMO in-charge of the CGHS dispensary. Permission is granted to the beneficiaries for follow-up treatment in CGHS recognised private hospitals up to a period of six months in certain specified conditions.

(c) and (d) In response to a letter received from a CGHS beneficiary, the CGHS Dte. had clarified the position to the beneficiary *vide* its letter dated 3.6.2004 which was of a general nature. The provisions of Govt. rules relating to CGHS are circulated from time to time for providing services under CGHS to the beneficiaries.

(e) and (f) CGHS dispensaries and OPDs of referral Govt. hospitals like Safdarjung Hospital, RML Hospital and Lady Hardinge Medical College & SSK Hospital are not closed for any tea-break. As per the CGHS Compendium, Medical Officers and staff can take tea on their own table after 10.00 a.m. without hampering the normal functioning of the dispensary. These orders have been reiterated from time to time.

Appointment of Public Health Workers

3175. SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA:
SHRI HARIBHAU RATHOD:

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

(a) whether Government is contemplating to reinstate Public Health Workers of the National Rural Health Mission;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of Public Health Workers appointment in rural areas in 1977 under the said scheme;

(d) the details of funds spent thereon at that time; and

(e) the details of funds allocated to each State under the said scheme for 2005-2006?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) Under recently announced National Rural Health Mission (NRHM), it is proposed to have a new band of community based functionaries/link workers at village level, called Accredited Social Health Activist (ASHA) for any health related demands of deprived section, especially women and children, who find it difficult to access health services.

(c) At the time of inception of Village Health Guide (VHG) Scheme, 4.12 lakh VHGs were selected. They were given an honorarium of Rs. 50/- per month for their voluntary community service. The scheme was accepted by all States except Tamil Nadu, Kerala, J & K and Arunachal Pradesh.

(d) A provision of Rs. 20 crores was being made every year for this Scheme.

(e) The details of the allocation to States under NRHM are yet to be finalised.

[English]

Highway from Ahmedabad to Bharuch

3176. SHRI VIKRAMBHAI ARJANBHAI MADAM: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is planning to construct new highway in Gujarat from Ahmedabad to Bharuch *via* Pettad under bolt scheme (not *via* Borada);

(b) if so, the details thereof including the present status thereof;

(c) the time by which the work is likely to be started; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

(d) At present, Ahmedabad and Bharuch are connected with the following two routes:

- | | | |
|-----------------------|---|-----------------------|
| 1. Ahmedabad - Baroda | — | National Expressway-1 |
| Baroda - Bharuch | — | National Highway-8 |
| 2. Ahmedabad - Nadiad | — | National Highway-8 |
| Anand-Baroda-Bharuch | | |

Both the routes are in good condition and traffic worthy.

[Translation]

Negligence of CGHS Doctors

3177. SHRI TUKARAM GANPATRAO RENG PATIL:
SHRI M. ANJAN KUMAR YADAV:

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

(a) whether the Government is aware that the medical officers and other doctors under CGHS are not punctual and do not treat the patients properly;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government proposes to conduct any enquiry in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the total expenditure incurred on CGHS during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) The Medical Officers under CGHS are generally punctual and provide treatment to the beneficiaries to the best of their ability. The doctors provide primary healthcare at the dispensary level and provide referral services/follow-up services at the secondary and tertiary level.

(c) to (e) As and when complaints regarding punctuality or misbehaviour against the CGHS doctors

are received, these are examined and necessary corrective/follow-up action taken immediately. When required, inquiries are also conducted at various levels in the CGHS Dte. There is an inbuilt mechanism to improve the functioning of CGHS dispensaries by way of inspections, supervision and guidance by Senior Officers of CGHS/Dte. GHS. Necessary instructions are issued from time to time to maintain punctuality and behaviour of the officials in the CGHS dispensaries. Inspection Teams of Senior Officers have been constituted to monitor the functioning of CGHS in all the cities where CGHS is in operation.

(f) The information is given at enclosed Statement.

Statement

Expenditure in Respect of Central Government Health Scheme

(Rs. in thousands)

description	B.E Year 2001-2002			R.E Year 2001-2002			Actuals Year 2001-2002		
	Plan	Non-Plan	Total	Plan	Non-Plan	Total	Plan	Non-Plan	Total
Others	75600	1457525	1533125	59475	1320988	1380461	56741	1198843	1253384
Supplies & Materials	28500	1175000	1203500	23500	1489470	1512970	44962	1808896	1853858
Professional Services	15900	487475	503375	7025	642644	649669	13580	644119	657699
Total CGHS	120000	3120000	3240000	90000	3453100	3543100	115283	3449658	3564941

Description	B.E Year 2002-2003			R.E Year 2002-2003			Actuals Year 2002-2003		
	Plan	Non-Plan	Total	Plan	Non-Plan	Total	Plan	Non-Plan	Total
Others	58950	1475000	1533950	68400	1346400	1414800	89585	1241488	1331083
Supplies & Materials	48250	1185000	1233250	54400	1565000	1619400	68705	1782537	1851242
Professional Services	12800	490000	502800	18500	738600	757100	25903	793300	819203
Total CGHS	120000	3150000	3270000	141300	3650000	3791300	184203	3817325	4001528

Description	B.E Year 2003-2004			R.E Year 2003-2004			Actuals Year 2003-2004		
	Plan	Non-Plan	Total	Plan	Non-Plan	Total	Plan	Non-plan	Total
Others	60300	1376400	1436700	70300	1377800	1448100	70669	1314978	1385647
Supplies & Materials	60000	1265000	1325000	60000	1765000	1825000	100257	2108035	2208292
Professional Services	19700	618600	638300	19700	1278600	1298300	54275	1323593	1377808
Total CGHS	140000	3260000	3400000	150000	4421400	4571400	225201	4748546	4971747

Description	B.E Year 2001-2002			R.E Year 2001-2002			Actuals Year 2001-2002		
	Plan	Non-Plan	Total	Plan	Non-Plan	Total	Plan	Non-Plan	Total
Others	79860	1401400	1481260	154860	1481400	1636260	86037	1402127	1488164
Supplies & Materials	67440	1000000	1067440	47440	1500000	1567440	56169	1239250	1295419
Professional Services	17700	2518600	2536300	17700	2500000	2517700	14477	2123850	2138327
Total	165000	4920000	5085000	240000	5481400	4085140	156683	4765227	4921910

[English]

Promotion of Bio-Tech Market

3178. SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD:
SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:
SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH:
SHRI SUGRIB SINGH:

Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to promote the bio-tech market;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of assistance provided by the Government during each of the last three years for promotion of bio-tech in the country;

(d) the criteria for allocation of such assistance; and

(e) the system evolved to regulate the bio-tech protocol regimes in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) Yes Sir,

(b) Government of India (GOI) has given enough attention to the innovative biotech sector with an impetus for the development and promotion by providing incentives like: rationalization of custom duty on specified machinery; 150 per cent weighted deduction on in-house R&D expenditure; equity support to small and medium enterprises through Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI); 100% foreign equity investments in all

biotech sectors; fast track clearance route for FDI in biotech industry; incentives under Export Promotion Capital Goods (EPCG) scheme; customs and excise duty exemption to Department of Scientific and Industrial Research (DSIR) recognized Scientific and Industrial Research Organizations (SIROs). Government has also taken several steps for boosting exports. There are special incentives for units, which export 100% of their production.

(c) Department of Bio-technology, Ministry of Science and Technology has been given the mandate for promotion of bio-tech in the country. The assistance provided by Department of Bio-technology during the last three years is Rs. 186 Crores, 221 Crores and 263 Crores respectively.

There are few other departments like Department of Science and Technology (DST), Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources (MNES), Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), Ministry of Environmental and Forests, which also provide assistance to bio-tech sector.

(d) The criteria for providing assistance for most of the schemes are on the merit of the investigation and infrastructure facilities available with the implementing agency. For setting up infrastructure facilities and centres of excellence, location is also given consideration so that these may be optimally utilized and cater to the maximum number of scientists.

(e) The Government of India has established a well-conceived regulatory framework for approval of biotech products with independent appraisal and approval bodies for compliance of different Acts and Rules to ensure the high levels of environmental safety including human and animal health. The expertise and authority for different components of the regulatory framework for biotech products are, however, with the different departments of the Government.

**Submission of GAD by National Highways
Authority of India**

3179. DR. K.S. MANOJ:
SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN:

With the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has submitted the GAD (General Arrangement Design) for the two ROB's (Road Over Bridge) over Ernakulam-Kayamkulam railway line along Alappuzha by-pass for N.H.-47;

(b) the expected date of completion of the same including the budgetary provision therefor;

(c) the current status of four laning of NH-47 from Cherthala to Thiruvananthapuram;

(d) whether the survey, land acquisition etc. in this regard has been completed; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K. H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) The GADs and estimate for the two ROB's on Alappuzha by-pass on NH-47 in Kerala are under preparation by the Railways in consultation with the State PWD. The estimate would be sanctioned after finalization of the GADs. Date of completion and budget provision would be known at the time of sanction of the estimate.

(c) to (e) Four laning from Cherthala to Thiruvananthapuram on NH-47 in Kerala has been identified for inclusion in the NHDP (Phase-III) to be taken up on Build, Operate and Transfer (BOT) basis. Bids for carrying out feasibility study and preparation of Detailed Project Report (DPR) have been invited. Land acquisition would be done after finalisation of the DPR.

[Translation]

**Identification of Poorest in Adivasis
Dominated Areas**

3180. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to conduct a survey with the help of community based organizations/ Non-Governmental. Organizations to identify the poorest particularly in the Adivasis dominated areas in the States including Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard; and

(c) the time by which such surveys are likely to be conducted, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) to (c) There is no proposal to conduct a survey with the help of community based Organizations/Non-Governmental Organizations to identify the poorest particularly in the Adivasis dominated areas in the States including Maharashtra. However, the Ministry of Rural Development (MORD) conducts a Below Poverty Line (BPL) Census for identifying the poor after every five years coinciding with the Five Year Plans. For the Tenth Five Year Plan the field survey work has already been completed by almost by the States. However, the results have not been finalised because of the order passed by the Hon'ble Supreme Court Civil Writ Petition No. 196 of 2001 in the matter of PUCL vs Union of India.

[English]

Research on Cancer

3181. SHRI SUBRATA BOSE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the WHO representative in India has received any letter from Prof. Shivsankar Trivedi of D.S. Research Centre claiming that cancer is curable;

(b) is so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has gone through the findings of the Prof. Trivedi published in the form of a book; and

(d) if so, the reaction of the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) The World Health Organization (WHO) being a specialized agency of United

Nations collaborates with the Health Ministries of Members States and advises the concerned individuals who approach WHO directly to contact the statutory national authorities in the country including ICMR, Research Councils of Deptt. of AYUSH and Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. The agency (WHO) frequently receives communications claiming cure for various diseases which are persued by the organization based on their scientific merit.

(c) and (d) The D.S. Research Centre, Varanasi run by one Prof. Shivsankar Trivedi has published a book on cancer. He claims to have developed a drug called 'Sarvapisti' without revealing its combination. The drug is not manufactured by any licensed drug manufacturing unit. Prof. Shivsankar Trivedi is also not a qualified registered medical practitioner.

[Translation]

Satellite for Surveillance of Indian Borders

3182. SHRI HARISHCHANDRA CHAVAN:
SHRI Y.G. MAHAJAN:
SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH:
SHRI L. RAJAGOPAL:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) is contemplating to develop a satellite for the surveillance of Indian borders and also planning to launch multi featured satellite;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether proposal to launch a new high-powered satellite with 24 C-band transponders has been cleared by the Government;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the time by which these satellites are likely to be developed;

(f) the amount likely to be incurred on the development of these satellites;

(g) whether the ISRO would launch a 350kg. Italian scientific satellite, AGILE, on its PSLV rocket this year;

(h) if so, whether the ISRO had made an agreement with a German company in this regard; and

(i) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, ISRO's earth observation satellites are capable of imaging entire globe in multi spectral as well as in different spatial resolution modes. During Tenth Five Year Plan, ISRO is planning to launch multi featured application satellites namely, Cartosat and Oceansat.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) GSAT-5/INSAT-4D with 24 C-band transponders will be launched by the 5th flight of GSLV with indigenous cryogenic stage. The lift-off mass of the satellite will be 2200 kg. The transponders will act as orbital spare for all C-band services carried out by the INSAT/GSAT system.

(e) GSAT-5/INSAT-4D will be launched by the 3rd/4th quarter of 2006.

(f) Government has approved Rs. 123.75 crores for the GSAT-5/INSAT-4D satellite.

(g) Yes, Sir.

(h) Yes, Sir.

(i) Antrix Corporation, which is the commercial arm of Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)/Department of Space, has entered into a contract with COSMOS International Satellitenstart GmbH, Germany in January 2004, to launch a scientific satellite "AGILE" belonging to the Italian Space Agency. The satellite weighs about 350 Kgs. and will be required to be placed in a near equatorial orbit at a height of about 550 kilometres with a specified accuracy, using Indian Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle from Sriharikota launch site.

[English]

Postal Facilities

3183. SHRI M. SHIVANNA:
SHRI MAHENDRA PRASAD NISHAD:
SHRI RAJARAM PAL:

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

(a) whether the postal facilities in Dwarka subcity of New Delhi are not upto the mark;

(b) the number of post offices functioning at present in various sectors of Dwarka;

(c) the steps being taken to enhance these facilities in the area;

(d) whether the Government has conducted any study regarding the ratio of Post Offices and Postal staff *vis-a-vis* the population of our country;

(e) if so, the number of Postal staff required for per thousand population and by what time the Government proposes to implement it alongwith its ratio at present;

(f) whether the Government is contemplating to increase the number of Post Offices and postal staff *vis-a-vis* the population of the country;

(g) if so, the details thereof; and

(h) the time by which the number of Post Offices and Postal employees are likely to be increased as per requirement?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Postal facilities in Dwarka are being upgraded in a phased manner keeping in view the growth and expense of the area subject to availability of resources. Two Post Offices were opened, one in Dwarka Sector-6 and another in Netaji Subash Institute of Technology in March, 2002 and February, 2000 respectively.

(b) Three Post Offices, namely Dwarka Sector-6 Delivery Post Office, Netaji Subash Institute of Technology Dwarka non-delivery Post Office, and Raj Nagar Part-II non-delivery Post Office (near Dwarka Sector-8) are serving the various sectors.

(c) Efforts are underway to cater to the growing needs of these area in a planned manner. For this, a perspective plan is being formulated to provide the required facilities, in phases, subject to availability of resources.

(d) to (h) Post offices are provided subject to fulfilment of distance, population and income norms. A post office serves on an average 21.11 Sq. Kms. However, manpower is provided only on the basis of workload, not population. As on 31.3.2004 there were 2.5 lakh

departmental employees and 2.99 lakh extra departmental employees in the Department working in 155669 post offices. The ratio of departmental employees to departmental post offices is 9.63:1. Periodical review of the establishment are conducted based on existing work load norms, and where justified, manpower is being provided by redeployment, after simultaneously complying with Government guidelines regarding reduction of manpower.

[Translation]

Alleged Sale of Indian Cultural Heritage on Internet

3184. SHRI HEMMAL MURMU: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether a racket involved, in the alleged sale of Indian ancient cultural heritage on the internet has been unearthed as reported in the Hindi daily 'Dainik Jagran' dated February 5, 2005;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government in this regard so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) EOU-VIII branch of CBI which deals with the cases relating to Antiquities has registered RC SID 2005 E 002 on 2.2.2005 on the allegation of selling of antiquities on the web site www. konark collectable Co. without any valid license. However, the details of cases registered by other agencies may be obtained from NCRB.

(b) RC SID 2005 E 002 has been registered on 2.2.2005 against Vikram Bachhawat, Prop. M/s Konark Collectables, 20 Lindsay Street, Kolkatta, West Bengal, u/s. 411 IPC sect. 5 & sec. 25 (2) r/w 14 (3) of AAT Act, 1972, on the allegation that he was in illegal possession of antiquities suspected to be stolen and was offering to sell them on the its web site www. konark collectables. Co. without license.

Joint Surprise Check led to the recovery/seizure of 22 objects suspected to be Antiquities.

(c) This case is presently under investigation.

Leprosy

3185. SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY:
SHRI JAI PRAKASH [MOHANLAL GANJ]:

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

- (a) the number of leprosy patients in India;
- (b) whether any survey has been conducted in this regard by the World Health Organisation;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether a Board is proposed to be constituted to solve the problem of the lepers; and
- (e) if so, the time by which leprosy is likely to be eradicated from the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) The provisional number of leprosy cases in India at the end of January, 2005 is 2.07 lakh.

- (b) No, Sir.
- (c) Does not arise.
- (d) No such proposal is under consideration.
- (e) The WHO strategy is for elimination of leprosy to bring down the prevalence rate of leprosy below 1 case per 10,000 population and not of total eradication. India aims to achieve elimination at the National level by December, 2005.

[English]

Unutilized Funds Under MPLAD Scheme

3186. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY:
SHRI S. AJAYA KUMAR:

Will the Minister of STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

- (a) the funds allocated under the Members of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS) that have not been fully utilized during the last three years, year-wise and State-wise;

(b) the total funds allocated and the percentage of the funds utilized under the said scheme during the last three year, year-wise, State-wise;

(c) the main reasons for delay in implementation of the schemes sanctioned by the Union Government;

(d) the steps being taken by the Union Government in this regard;

(e) the details of the amount paid as interest for the amount borrowed by the Government during the last three years, year-wise; and

(f) the action being taken by the Government to ensure maximum utilization of the funds under MPLAD Scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) and (b) The State-wise and year-wise position of funds released, expenditure incurred and percentage of utilization from the inception of the Scheme till 31.3.2002, 31.3.2003 and 31.3.2004 under Members of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS) is given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) The works under the Scheme are sanctioned and got executed by the District Administration on the basis of recommendation of the concerned Hon'ble Member of Parliament. The following are main reasons for delay in the implementation of works under Scheme:

- (i) Delay in processing of recommendations received from the Members of Parliament by District Administration;
- (ii) Delay in preparation of technical scrutiny and estimates by the concerned implementing agencies;
- (iii) Delay in issue of financial and administrative sanction by the District Administration;
- (iv) Delay in transfer of funds from the nodal district to the implementing district; and
- (v) Delay in acquisition of land.

(d) The Government of India has been advising the State Governments and District Administration to follow the provisions of the Guidelines including those relating to monitoring of works and implement works recommended by Members of Parliament expeditiously. The District

Administrations have been advised to sanction the eligible works without waiting for actual release of funds. MPLADS works monitoring software has been launched by Government of India to have proper monitoring of the Scheme implementation at different levels. Special review meetings were held with the State Governments and District Administration to ensure expeditious implementation of the recommended works.

(e) As per the information furnished by the Department of Economic Affairs, Government of India has paid total interest on the total outstanding borrowing of the Government during the last three years as follows:

- (i) 2001-02 — Rs. 114173 crore
(ii) 2002-03 — Rs. 124573 crore

(iii) 2003-04 (Provisional) — Rs. 128114 crore

(f) In order to ensure maximum utilization of the fund of MPLAD Scheme, the Government receives the status Report furnished by the District Administration every month. District Administrations have been requested to review the implementation with their executive agencies and are requested to take immediate necessary action to utilize the money already released for completion of the pending works. During current financial year 2004-05 senior official of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation held review meetings with the District Collectors and Senior Officers of State Governments of J&K, Punjab, Maharashtra (Nagpur Division), West Bengal, Delhi, Union Territory of Chandigarh and Tripura for expediting utilisation of the fund.

Statement

State-wise MPLADS funds released, expenditure incurred, percentage utilisation over released for both Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha Members of Parliament from the inception of the scheme till 31.03.2002, 31.03.2003 and 31.03.2004

(Rs. in Lakh)

State	Released by Govt. of India Since 1993-94 till			Expenditure Incurred			% Utilization over released		
	31.03.2002	31.03.2003	31.03.2004	31.03.2002	31.03.2003	31.03.2004	31.03.2002	31.03.2003	31.03.2004
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1. Nominated	10710	13600	16050	7727.1	10619.5	12322	72.1	78.1	76.77
2. Andhra Pradesh	70685	82695	94895	56802.5	66700	78581	79.1	80.7	82.81
3. Arunachal Pradesh	3515	4215	4815	2958.9	3818.9	4593	84.2	90.6	95.40
4. Assam	23235	28555	33255	18201.3	23217.7	28581	78.3	81.3	85.95
5. Bihar	66205	77235	88885	47538.6	60151.1	71916	71.8	77.9	80.91
6. Goa	3015	3615	4415	2173.8	2912.4	3301	72.1	80.6	74.76
7. Gujarat	41625	49335	57085	29395.2	37126.9	44677	70.6	75.3	78.26
8. Haryana	17315	20525	23575	14666	18103.9	21143	84.7	88.2	89.68
9. Himachal Pradesh	7935	9335	10735	5970.2	7557.4	9344	75.2	81.0	87.05
10. Jammu and Kashmir	8250	10650	12850	4924.5	6669.5	8671	59.7	62.6	67.48
11. Karnataka	46090	54000	62600	36264.3	43870.9	56003	78.7	81.2	89.46
12. Kerala	32875	38995	45345	20347.6	26762.4	33010	61.9	68.6	72.80

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
13. Madhya Pradesh	47740	55860	64460	38119.1	46757.9	56119	79.8	83.7	87.06
14. Maharashtra	76265	89875	103225	52793.8	67018	81872	69.2	74.6	79.31
15. Manipur	3415	4215	4815	2878.7	3628.7	4449	84.3	86.1	92.39
16. Meghalaya	3015	3915	4615	2764.1	3526.5	4076	91.7	90.1	88.32
17. Mizoram	2410	2810	3210	2484.8	2778.7	3172	103.1	98.9	98.83
18. Nagaland	2410	2710	3210	2310	2610	2965	95.9	96.3	92.37
19. Orissa	35670	41700	48650	22202	28186.6	34568	62.2	67.6	71.05
20. Punjab	22095	25605	30955	14891.1	19759.2	23714	67.4	77.2	76.61
21. Rajasthan	41295	48125	55075	33273.5	41053.9	48570	80.6	85.3	88.19
22. Sikkim	2400	2810	3110	1937.7	2512.6	2688	80.7	89.4	86.44
23. Tamil Nadu	67535	78535	89785	57495.2	70110.8	84839	85.1	89.3	94.49
24. Tripura	3515	4115	4715	1725.3	2915.6	3955	49.1	70.9	83.89
25. Uttar Pradesh	130040	152670	176070	99275.8	123325.4	148918	76.3	80.8	84.58
26. West Bengal	60405	71685	85485	38921.8	49369.8	60569	64.4	68.9	70.85
27. Andaman And Nicobar Islands	705	1205	1605	615.4	872.7	1552	87.3	72.4	96.70
28. Chandigarh	1005	1205	1405	574.7	773.6	1378	57.2	64.2	98.09
29. Daman and Nagar Haveli	1105	1405	1605	776.9	1132.1	1503	70.3	80.6	93.87
30. Daman and Diu	1205	1405	1605	1058.3	1407.3	1490	87.8	100.2	92.87
31. Delhi	10295	11995	14095	7288.1	8656.2	10966	70.8	72.2	77.80
32. Lakshadweep	805	1205	1405	802.9	877.7	938	99.7	72.8	66.77
33. Pondicherry	2410	2810	3210	1757.8	2255.9	2511	72.9	80.3	78.24
34. Chhattisgarh	17145	20165	23765	13533.1	17490.7	19591	78.9	86.7	82.44
35. Uttaranchal	7725	9425	10875	5464	7109.3	8583	70.7	75.4	78.92
36. Jharkhand	17375	21575	26525	12004	15630.3	19808	69.1	72.4	74.68
	889440	1049780	1217980	661018.3	827270.2	1000938	74.3	78.8	82.18

Implementation of PNDT Act

(b) if so, the steps taken to implement the Act to check female foeticide effectively;

3187. SHRI MAGUNTA SREENIVASULU REDDY:
Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(c) whether there is any proposal to set up "Cradle Babies Centres" in Andhra Pradesh where unwanted children mostly female could be left; and

(a) whether there is a Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques Regulations and Prevention of Misuses Act;

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The implementation of the Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques Act rests with the States and Union Territories through the Appropriate Authorities appointed under the Act at State, District as well as at Sub-district levels. The violators of the Act are punishable with imprisonment upto 5 years and fine up to Rs. 5 lakhs, along with cancellation of registration of the license. By the end of February 2005, 25770 Units have been registered in the Country. There are 300 ongoing Court/Police Cases and 33 machines seized/sealed. Out of the total of 300 violations, 214 relate to non-registration, 10 relate to non-maintenance of records, 24 against communication of the sex of the foetus and the remaining are for other violations of the Act. National Monitoring and Inspection Committee has been constituted at the Central level to take stock of the ground realities by field visits to the problem areas. The sale of ultrasound machine by the manufactures can only be made to the units registered under the Act. For better implementation of Act at prosecution level, National Judicial Academy, Bhopal has been involved in the training of Judiciary. To enhance awareness about the Act, a number of activities through print and other media units are undertaken.

It is, nevertheless, recognized that mere legislation is not enough to deal with this problem that has roots in social behaviour and prejudices. Various activities have been undertaken to create awareness against the practice of pre-natal determination of sex and female foeticide through Radio, Television, and print media units. Workshops and seminars are also organized through Voluntary Organizations at State/regional/district/block levels to create awareness against this social evil. Cooperation has also been sought from religious leaders, as well as medical fraternity to curb this practice. The Government of India has launched 'Save the Girl Child Campaign' with a view to lesson son preference by highlighting achievements of young girls. For 2003-04, Ms. Sania Mirza, Tennis player, and for 2004-05, Ms. Aruna Kesvan, CBSE topper, were appointed as Brand Ambassador for the Campaign.

(c) and (d) The state Government of Andhra Pradesh has informed that they are discussing the proposal to place cradles at all Government Hospitals with the Women Development and Child Welfare Department.

Polio Camps

3188. SHRI RAJESH VERMA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of polio camps held during the last three years in the country; State-wise;

(b) the number of polio cases reported after holding the camps in the country, State-wise;

(c) whether there is any reduction in the number of cases of polio in the country during the last three years in comparison to the period when there were no such camps held;

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

(e) the step taken to create more awareness among the public about the polio?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) The number of supplementary immunization activities held during last three years is enclosed Statement I

(b) The number of polio cases detected during last three years is enclosed Statement II.

(c) and (d) 1600 polio cases were reported during 2002 which was reduced to 225 during 2003 and further reduced to 136 during 2004. Thus, there has been gradual reduction in number of polio cases during last three years in the country. Before initiation of polio campaign in 1995 number of polio cases reported during 1992, 1993, and 1994 were 9390, 7576 and 6041 respectively.

(e) To create more awareness among the public about polio every opportunity is utilized for mass media, (electronic & print media), inter personal communication. The electronic media covers Information, Education, Communication material on the network of radio and television. The print media includes publication of advertisement in newspapers across the country (local and national). In addition to above, pamphlets, posters, banners and hoardings are displayed at the important locations of public gathering throughout the country. Moreover, to create awareness in the villages, milking activities are undertaken during the polio rounds.

Statement 1*Statement showing Number of Polio Camps held in the country Statewise in the last 3 years*

Sl. No.	STATE/UTs	2002				2003				2004									
		NID		SNID		NID		SNID		NID			SNID						
		20th Jan	3rd Mar	29th Sep	17th Nov	5th Jan	9th Feb	6th Apr	1st June	14th Sep	9th Nov	4th Jan	22nd Feb	4th April	10th Oct	21st Nov	9th May	4th July	22nd Aug
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
1.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	Y				Y	Y						Y	Y	Y	Y	Y		
2.	Andhra Pradesh*	Y				Y	Y						Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	Y				Y	Y						Y	Y	Y	Y	Y		
4.	Assam	Y	Y			Y	Y						Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	
5.	Bihar	Y		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
6.	Chandigarh	Y				Y	Y						Y	Y	Y	Y	Y		
7.	Chhattisgarh	Y				Y	Y						Y	Y	Y	Y	Y		
8.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	Y				Y	Y						Y	Y	Y	Y	Y		
9.	Daman and Diu	Y				Y	Y						Y	Y	Y	Y	Y		
10.	Delhi*	Y		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
11.	Goa	Y				Y	Y						Y	Y	Y	Y	Y		
12.	Gujarat	Y				Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	
13.	Haryana*	Y		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
14.	Himachal Pradesh	Y				Y	Y						Y	Y	Y	Y	Y		
15.	Jammu-Kashmir	Y				Y	Y						Y	Y	Y	Y	Y		
16.	Jharkhand	Y		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
17.	Karnataka*	Y				Y	Y						Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
18.	Kerala	Y				Y	Y						Y	Y	Y	Y	Y		
19.	Lakshadweep	Y				Y	Y						Y	Y	Y	Y	Y		
20.	Madhya Pradesh	Y				Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
21.	Maharashtra*	Y		Y	Y	Y	Y						Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
22.	Manipur	Y				Y	Y						Y	Y	Y	Y	Y		
23.	Meghalaya	Y				Y	Y						Y	Y	Y	Y	Y		
24.	Mizoram	Y				Y	Y						Y	Y	Y	Y	Y		
25.	Nagaland	Y				Y	Y						Y	Y	Y	Y	Y		

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
26.	Orissa*	Y				Y	Y				Y	Y	Y	Y	Y		Y	Y	
27.	Pondicherry	Y				Y	Y					Y	Y	Y	Y	Y			
28.	Punjab	Y				Y	Y					Y	Y	Y	Y	Y			
29.	Rajasthan	Y				Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y		
30.	Sikkim	Y				Y	Y					Y	Y	Y	Y	Y			
31.	Tamil Nadu	Y				Y	Y					Y	Y	Y	Y	Y			
32.	Tripura	Y				Y	Y				Y	Y	Y	Y	Y				
33.	Uttar Pradesh	Y		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
34.	Uttaranchal*	Y				Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
35.	West Bengal	Y		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y

Y means camp held. Blank means no camp held

Statement II

Polio Cases for 2002 To 2004 (Upto 5th March, 2005)

S. No.	Name of the State/UT	Wild Polio virus		
		02	03	04
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	0	21	1
2.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0	0	0
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	0	0	0
4.	Assam.	0	1	0
5.	Bihar	121	18	41
6.	Chandigarh	1	0	0
7.	Chhattisgarh	1	0	0
8.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0	0	0
9.	Daman and Diu	0	0	0
10.	Delhi	24	3	2
11.	Goa	0	0	0
12.	Gujarat	24	3	0

1	2	3	4	5
13.	Haryana	37	3	2
14.	Himachal Pradesh	0	0	0
15.	Jammu & Kashmir	1	0	0
16.	Jharkhand	12	1	0
17.	Karnataka	0	36	1
18.	Kerala	0	0	0
19.	Lakshadweep	0	0	0
20.	Madhya Pradesh	21	11	0
21.	Maharashtra	6	3	3
22.	Manipur	0	0	0
23.	Meghalaya	0	0	0
24.	Mizoram	0	0	0
25.	Nagaland	0	0	0
26.	Orissa	4	2	0
27.	Pondicherry	0	0	0
28.	Punjab	2	1	0
29.	Rajasthan	41	4	0
30.	Sikkim	0	0	0
31.	Tamil Nadu	0	2	1
32.	Tripura	0	0	0
33.	Uttaranchal	14	0	1
34.	Uttar Pradesh	1242	88	82
35.	West Bengal	49	28	2
Total		1600	225	136

[*Translation*]

Increasing Level of Production in Core Sector

3189. SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN:
DR. CHINTA MOHAN:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether enterprises in core sector need to raise the level of production in order to increase the rate of Gross Domestic Product (GDP);

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

(c) the enterprises included in the core sector so far;

(d) the reasons for non-inclusion of Irrigation sector in the core sector;

(e) whether improvement and expansion of irrigation system is imperative for the development of agriculture; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M. V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) Yes, Sir. In order that the economy grows at the rate of at least 7 to 8 per cent per year in a sustained manner, it is essential that core sector enterprises are enabled to realize their intrinsic growth and employment potential.

(b) The Government is committed to take all necessary steps to put the core sector on a robust footing through a wide range of policies, programmes and projects.

(c) NTPC, ONGC, IOC, BPCL, HPCL, GAIL, CIL, SAIL, RINL are some identified Central Public Sector Enterprises in the core sector. This is not exhaustive listing as others are free to invest in core sector subject to sectoral guidelines.

(d) to (f) Irrigation is an extremely important component of rural infrastructure, and improvement and expansion of irrigation system is imperative for development of agriculture. In order to give this sector appropriate focus, a Committee on Rural Infrastructure has been set up. The National Common Minimum Programme has identified irrigation as one of the areas of highest priority. The Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme has been assisting the State Governments in completing 'last mile' irrigation projects. The budget for this programme has been substantially increased from Rs. 2800 crore in 2004-05 to Rs. 4800 crore in 2005-06. A Pilot Scheme for repair, renovation and restoration of water bodies has been approved and Rs. 100 crore has been provided in 2005-06. To improve water use efficiency in agriculture, micro irrigation is being promoted and Rs. 400 crore has been provided for this in 2005-06.

Construction of Wider Bridge Across Nanganji River

3190. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received representations for construction of a new wider bridge across Nanganji River of National Highway (NH 209-

Dindigul-Palani-Coimbatore-Bangalore Road) so as to ease the traffic;

(b) whether the Government proposes to construct a new bridge across the said river;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reason therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The State Government has proposed for inclusion of the provision for construction of new wider bridge across river Nanganji at km 33/2 of NH 209 in the Annual Plan 2005-06. Inclusion of the proposal is subject to the availability of funds and *inter-se-priority* of works.

(d) Does not arise;

Health Facilities in Naxal Affected Areas

3191. SHRIMATI KARUNA SHUKLA:
DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY:

Will the MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that the health facilities are almost nil in the naxal affected areas;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government is formulating any scheme at the national level to provide better health facilities in the naxal affected areas;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time by which the scheme is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) Health facilities in the country, including naxal affected areas, are being provided through a three tier network of Sub-centre, Primary Health Centre and Community Health Centre on the following population norms:

Centre	Population Norms	
	Plain Area	Hilly/Tribal Difficult Area
Sub-Centre	5000	3000
Primary Health Centre	30,000	20,000
Community Health Centre	1,20,000	80,000

Government is aware of certain gaps in health infrastructure in certain areas and has been advising the concerned State Governments to fill up the existing gaps on priority basis.

(c) to (e) Government has recently approved launching of National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) from April, 2005, throughout the country with special focus on 18 States which includes 8 Empowered Action Group States (Bihar, Jharkhand, M.P., Chhattisgarh, U.P., Uttaranchal, Orissa and Rajasthan), 8 North East States (Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim and Tripura) Himachal Pradesh and Jammu and Kashmir. The main objective of NRHM is to provide accessible, affordable, accountable, effective and reliable primary health care, especially to poor and vulnerable sections of the population.

[English]

Empanelment of IPAS 1982 Batch

3192. SHRI J.M. AARON RASHID:
DR. RAJESH MISHRA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that Prime Minister Office has issued instructions to DOPT for empanelment of 1982 batch of India Postal Accounts Service for the post of Joint Secretary under the Central Staffing Scheme;

(b) if so, the reasons for not considering Indian Postal Services (IPS), Indian Forest Service and other Group A Services for empanelment alongwith the Indian Postal Accounts Service;

(c) whether the IPS and other Group A Services have been empanelled only upto 1978;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the Government proposes to consider empanelment of IPS and other Group A Services alongwith the Indian Postal Accounts Service;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SURESH PACHAURI):
(a) No Sir.

(b) in view of (a) above, the question does not arise.

(c) to (g) The empanelment of officers of All India Services and other Group 'A' Services for holding the posts of Joint Secretary/equivalent under the Central Staffing Scheme is done considering officers of the same year of allotment together as one group. No distinction is made between the services in the matters of empanelment. The proposals are processed as per the extant instructions as and when they are received from the cadre controlling authorities.

Outsourcing and Privatising of Passport work

3193. SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR:
SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has decided to out source and privatise passport work in the country;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government has received any representation from the all India Passport Employees Association in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether there is unrest among staff working in various Passport Offices in the country and they have resorted to strike etc. on this issue; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) The All India Passport Employees Association has been submitting representations from time to time on various issues pertaining to service matters.

(e) Any unrest among staff members on this issue is uncalled for since Government has taken no decision to outsource or privatize passport issuance work. The All India Passport Employees Association resorted to strike in December, 2004 on this issue which was hence unjustified and the strike was also called off by them after about a week.

(f) Some of the legitimate issues pertaining to the service matters have already been resolved. Some other issues require the approval of other authorities in the Government of India. These issues are regularly followed up with the concerned authorities.

Proposals for Ocean Development

3194. SHRI RUPCHAND MURMU: Will the Minister of OCEAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has received any proposals relating to ocean Development during each of the last three years;

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

(c) Since when these proposals have been lying with the Union Government and the latest position thereof;

(d) the reasons for delay in giving clearance to these proposals; and

(e) the time by which these proposals are likely to be approved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) and (b) No Sir. The Department doesn't have any provision to support the proposals submitted by the State Government, relating to Ocean Development.

(c) to (e) Doesn't arise.

Elections in Central Council of Homoeopathy

3195. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY: Will the MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether conducting elections in the States/Union Territories for Central Council of Homoeopathy is the responsibility of the Union Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) when these elections were last held in all States/ Union Territories;

(d) whether these elections were held within the specified time period;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the action taken against the concerned officers in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (b) The Central Council of Homoeopathy (CCH) is constituted in accordance with the provisions under Section 3 (l) of the Homoeopathic Central Council Act. According to the procedure laid down in the Homoeopathic Central Council (Election Rules) 1975, the elections are conducted in respect of the registered Homoeopathic practitioners by the Returning Officer appointed by the Central Govt. on the recommendations of the State Govt. concerned and Registrar of the Faculty of Homoeopathy of the University concerned.

(c) to (e) The last election of the CCH were held in 1997-98 in all the States-except Maharashtra and Bihar. As per provisions under Section 7(1) of HCC. Act, 1973 the President, Vice President or members of the Central Councils hold office for a term of five years from the date of the election or nomination, as the case may be, or until their successors are duly elected or nominated, whichever is longer.

The State Governments have requested to get the CCH election conducted expeditiously.

SIM Card Cloning

3196. SHRI D. VITTAL RAO:
SHRI SURESH KALMADI:

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

(a) whether SIM card cloning has become a fast growing business in all parts of the country as reported in the Hindu dated February 4, 2005; and

(b) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to prevent SIM card cloning?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) As far as Global System for Mobile (GSM) networks in the country are concerned, in which Subscriber Identification Module (SIM) cards are used in mobile phones, no instance of cloning of SIM cards has been reported in the country so far. Moreover, no complaint of cloning of SIM cards in GSM network has been referred by any Service Provider either with the Department of Telecommunications or with Telecom Regulatory Authority of India.

However, cloning of Code Division Multiplex Access (CDMA) mobile phones have come to the notice. The CDMA phones do not have a SIM card.

The cloning of SIM cards may cause concerns to security of the country. However, the same can be avoided by making chances of cloning extremely rare by having latest authentication algorithms and timely detecting cases in por-active manner using Fraud Management System.

In this regard, GSM Association has already circulated security algorithms to its members. The network operators are requirement to deploy and activate the same in all SIM cards and their network. Some of the Operators have already deployed such algorithms in their network.

Easing of Visa Norms by US

3197. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether in a significant easing of visa rigours the U.S. has extended the validity of visa clearances for certain key categories including students, exchange visitors, temporary worker, intra-company transferees, and tourist and business travelers;

(b) if so, the extent to which India will be benefited by this relaxation of U.S. visa norms;

(c) whether new visa holders in these categories will not require a new visa when the original one expires; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) Visa applications for persons to study or work in certain sensitive scientific and technical fields in U.S. are subject to an interagency clearance in Washington, DC, called Visas Mantis. Visas Mantis clearance process has been used to screen against the illegal transfer of technology. Once the clearance process is complete and a visa is issued, the individual may apply for admission at a U.S. port of entry. The U.S. Department of State, in consultation with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, has extended the validity of Visas Mantis clearances for the F (student), J(exchange visitors), H(temporary workers), L(intracompany transferees) and B(tourist and business) categories of visas.

(b) Indian visitors to U.S. covered under Visa Mantis programme would benefit from this relaxation.

(c) and (d) This relaxation would mean that if the original visa has expired and a new visa application is filed to return to the previous study or work program in the United States, another Visas Mantis clearance may not be required. However, the U.S. consular officers would have the discretion, if warranted, to request a Visas Mantis clearance during any visa adjudication. International students (F visas) who have received a Visas Mantis clearance and been issued a visa will benefit from having that clearance be valid for up to the length of the approved academic program, to a maximum of four years. If a student changes academic programs, the clearance will no longer be valid and a Visas Mantis review would be required should the applicant reapply for a new visa. Temporary workers (H visas), exchange visitors (J visas) and intracompany transferees (L visas) can receive a Visas Mantis clearance valid for the duration of their approved activity to a maximum of two years. If the nature of the visa holder's activity in the United States changes, the clearance will cease to be valid and a new Visas Mantis review would be required should the applicant reapply for a new visa. Business visitors (B-1 visas) and visitors for pleasure (B-2 visas) can receive a Visas Mantis clearance valid for one year, provided that the original

purpose for travel, as stated in the visa application, has not changed on subsequent trips.

[Translation]

Improvement of Telecom Services in States

3198. SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the existing communication system in Uttaranchal, Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh is inferior in comparison to other States;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the steps taken by the Government to improve the communication system in these States; and

(d) the amount spent on the development of communication system in these States during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) No, Sir.

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

(c) In order to further improve the communication system, following steps are taken in phased manner to improve the services;

- (i) Connecting all exchanges on reliable digital media.
- (ii) Replacement of under ground paper core cables by other systems in phased manner;
- (iii) Creation of pole less network to reduce drop wire;

(iv) Opening of more telephone exchange (Remote Switching Units/Remote Line Units (RSUs/RLUs) thereby reducing exchange area size.

(v) Introduction of Wireless in Local Loop (WLL), Digital Line Concentrators to reduce Under Ground Cable.

(vi) Conversion of Single Base Module (SBM) into (RSUs).

(vii) Conversion of C-DOT 256 Port exchanges into AN-RAXs (Access Network-Rural Automatic Exchanges).

(viii) Centralized fault booking at SDCC (Short Distance Charging Centre)/LDCC (Long Distance Charging Centre).

(ix) Provision of maintenance free battery sets and Engine Alternators for back-up power supplies.

(x) Annual Maintenance Contract (AMC) entered for WLL equipments working in rural area including Fixed Wireless Towers (FWTs) and provision of AMC in new supplies.

(xi) Provision of extended maintenance free battery with WLL-FWT for providing longer talk time and standby time.

(xii) Battery charger of FWT to operate in the voltage range of 90-300 V.

(xiii) Augmentation of GSM network capacity progressively.

(d) Amount spent on the development of communication system in Uttaranchal, Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh States during last three years is given below:

Sl. No.	Name of State	Amount spent (in Crores of Rupees)		
		2001-02	2002-03	2003-04
1.	Uttaranchal	149.68	174.01	83.26
2.	Madhya Pradesh	635.00	466.69	222.39
3.	Chhattisgarh	93.30	126.12	78.90

Bilingual Entries in Passports

3199. SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the language in which entries are being made in the passports issued in the country;

(b) whether during the course of inspection on January 07, 2002 of Regional Passport Office, Delhi by the Parliamentary Committee on Official language it was informed that these entries will be done bilingually;

(c) if so, the reasons for its non-compliance; and

(d) the time by when it is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) English.

(b) to (d) The matter has been examined in detail and for the time being, due to technical reasons it is not possible to make bilingual entries in the passports.

[English]

Partnership with Intel Corporation

3200. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI:
SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO:
SHRI ALOK KUMAR MEHTA:

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

(a) whether the Intel Corporation has announced a partnership with the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology to provide inexpensive and effective communication and IT facilities to remote villages;

(b) if so, the main points thereof; and

(c) the extent to which it is likely to be helpful of the rural areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Joint Statement of partnership signed on 18th November, 2004 outlines collaboration in the broad areas of:

- (i) Reaching IT to the masses;
- (ii) Enabling Technology Competitiveness; and
- (iii) Education.

(c) It will help in enabling rural citizens to avail benefits of information revolution, enhance IT literacy & PC proliferation, and narrowing the digital divide.

Indo-Pak Exchange of Information on Nuclear Installations

3201. RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and Pakistan have exchanged letters of nuclear installations and facilities;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether this exchange is likely to continue every year; and

(d) if so, the extent to which is likely to be helpful for both the countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) to (d) Pakistan and India have been, since 1992, under Article II of the Agreement on the Prohibition of Attack against Nuclear Installations and Facilities between India and Pakistan, exchanging information on 1st January of each calendar year about the location of each other's nuclear installations and facilities. This agreement was signed on 31.12.1998 and entered into force on 27th January 1991. The agreement is an important confidence building measure between India and Pakistan.

Infrastructural Facilities in Medical Colleges

3202. SHRI JASHUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD: Will the MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has received any project proposal for improvement of infrastructural facilities in the Government of medical colleges and attached hospitals in Gujarat;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the present status thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) A project proposal was received from Government of Gujarat at an estimated cost of Rs. 19.97 crores for strengthening the quality of medical education and improving the physical infrastructure of Government medical colleges and attached hospitals for World Bank funding. It was examined by the Ministry in consultation with the Department of Economic Affairs, Planning Commission and World Bank. Department of Economic Affairs had communicated that the present focus of World Bank funding for health sector is limited to the areas of disease control, primary health, family welfare and immunization. The proposal of Government of Gujarat for strengthening medical education in the state being not in line with present priorities of World Bank funding for the health sector in India, could not, therefore, be taken up for consideration.

Finalisation of Common Charter of Telecom Services

3203. SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India had finalised a common charter of telecom services to provide self regulation by phone companies;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government proposes to review and upgrade the charter at regular intervals;

(d) if so, the facts thereof;

(e) whether the phone companies had given their consent to the charter; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The text of the Common Charter containing details thereof is given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The common Charter will be reviewed and modified as per requirements by TRAI.

(e) Yes, Sir. It was finalized in consultation with operators and consumer groups by TRAI.

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

Annexure

Common Charter of Telecom Services, 2005

1. All Service Providers acknowledge the rights of citizens to have a free choice in selecting their Service Providers and agree to promote their services in the best spirit of competition and traditions of service to consumers.
2. All Service Providers agree to promote the consumers' right to education, choice, representation and redress;
3. All Service Providers assure that the privacy of their subscribers (not affecting the national security) shall be scrupulously guarded;
4. All Service Providers assure that their subscribers shall be entitled to interact with them, either personally or through their authorised representatives;
5. For information and education of subscribers, all Service Providers agree to inform their subscribers of the broad range of services offered, the individual plans available to them at any given point of time, the tariff rates applicable to each of these, their validity, terms and conditions, payment policies, the billing processes and procedures and the structure within the organization where information and clarification on consumer redress systems for complaints and billing disputes will be available with all their relevant contact numbers;
6. All Service Providers agree to arrange human interface with responsible company executives whose name and identity are made known during the process of disputes resolution in addition to arrangements like Customer Care Service through Call Centres;
7. All Service Providers agree to periodically inform their subscribers on the reverse of their bills, their consumer grievance redress process with respect to fault complaints and billing disputes. They also agree to resolve the disputes as per the guidelines of TRAI issued from time to time;
8. All Service Providers agree to provide an applicant basic telephone connection within 7 days of registration, subject to technical feasibility

- and the mobile connection immediately subject to compliance of all required formalities by the subscriber;
9. All Service Providers agree to repair the faults within 24 hours of receipt of complaint from a subscriber wherever technically feasible.
 10. All Service Providers agree to ensure shifting of telephone connection within 3 working days within the same exchange, 5 working days for intra city and 30 working days for inter city exchanges and closure (disconnection) of telephone connection within 3 days on receipt of a letter of request from the subscriber. An authenticated copy of the last telephone bill shall accompany the letter of request.
 11. All Service Providers agree to provide in their bills related call and tariff details, payment procedures and list of points at which payments can be made by subscribers.
 12. All Services Providers agree to register complaints in all areas of their service immediately, if delivered in person or by e-mail and within 24 hours on receipt of the complaint by post;
 13. All Service Providers shall render service without discrimination to every citizen as per his eligibility defined below and who undertakes to pay all charges and deposits;
 14. "For the purpose of this clause, a citizen shall be defined as an individual above the age of 18 or an institution NGO or business/service organization engaged in any activity which is permissible under the laws of the land".
 14. All Service Providers agree to provide information on Directory Services and book complaints on toll free number for registering complaints;
 15. All Service Providers agree to provide their subscribers satisfactory connectivity to their services and interconnectivity to the extent of their respective legal obligation under the relevant interconnection agreement and to ensure the subscribers do not suffer on account of poor service;
 16. All Service Providers agree to levy reconnection charges as per the TTO or waive the same on their own discretion;
 17. All Service providers agree to allow emergency services like police, fire and ambulance for a period of 15 days during which incoming facility is allowed, if technically feasible, even after the telephone connection is suspended.
 18. The subscribers agree to clear all dues within the specified time;
 19. All Service Providers agree to achieve the minimum benchmarks prescribed by TRAI with respect to the quality of service and also commit themselves to improve upon the standards of service at different points of time;
 20. Mutual courtesy and respect are the hallmarks of any durable relationship between the Service Providers and subscribers and both agree to abide by these principles.
- Though this charter is non-justiceable, service providers agree to strive to adhere all the points contained in this charter and to make every effort to abide by the charter.

Promotion of Indian Cultural Heritage by ICCR

3204. SHRI BADIGA RAMAKRISHNA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) Whether the ICCR has failed to promote and strengthen our rich cultural heritage across the globe;

(b) If so, the facts thereof;

(c) The details of effective steps taken/proposed to be taken to boost India's culture in other countries; and

(d) The funds earmarked in the Tenth Five Year Plan for the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) to (c) ICCR has successfully projected and promoted India's rich cultural heritage abroad through its multifaceted programmes which include sponsorship of cultural troupes, scholarship programme, exchange of distinguished visitors, gifting of musical instruments and books, exhibitions, publication of journals, India's Chairs abroad, deputation of teachers, civil society dialogue etc. Role played by ICCR in realising these objectives has also been acknowledged and appreciated by the Standing Committee of Parliament on External Affairs in the 13th Report (13th Lok Sabha) on the "Working of ICCR with special reference to Cultural Centres abroad".

ICCR continues to innovate and undertake new initiatives within its budgetary outlay.

(d) It is not possible to indicate the funds earmarked to ICCR in the Tenth Five Year Plan because ICCR gets its budget as grant-in-aid from the Revenue Head of the Ministry of External Affairs.

Functioning of Post Offices/Telephone Exchanges in Rented Houses

3205. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Post Offices and Telephone Exchanges functioning at present in rented houses in Assam against those operating from Departmental buildings;

(b) the details of proposals received and action plan finalised to construct departmental buildings and post offices, location-wise, indicating target fixed, amount allocated and implementation status of such ongoing projects; and

(c) the details of modernisation plan, if any, under implementation in the State of Assam for Telecom, IT and Postal sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Sir, 455 Post Offices are functioning in rented houses against 158 Post Offices operating from departmental buildings.

Information in respect of Telephone Exchanges is under collection and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(b) 5 proposals for Post Office building projects namely Bharalumukh, Nalbari, Dhubri, Dharmaji and Goalpara Post Offices are tentatively included in the 10th Five Year Plan. These building projects are likely to be commenced and completed with in the 10th Plan period.

Information in respect of Telephone Exchanges building projects is under collection and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(c) Details of modernization plan under implementation in the State of Assam in postal sector during the current financial year is given in the enclosed Statement.

Information in respect of Telecom sector and Information Technology sector is under collection and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

Details of modernisation Plan Under Implementation in the State of Assam During the Current Financial year

Sl. No.	Name of the Scheme/Activity	Outlay (Rs. in crore)
1.	Computerisation of post offices (installation of MPCMs), Accounts & Administrative Offices and software development	1.63
2.	Modernisation of operative/working system (improving ergonomics).	0.26
3.	Modernisation/upgradation of premium products	0.12
4.	Upgradation & promotion of philately	0.06
5.	Modernisation of Circle Stamp Depot	0.04
6.	Training equipment	0.20
7.	New product & services-development of financial products and services.	0.04
	Total	2.35

Condition of Mortuaries in Government Hospitals

3206. SHRI MANSUKHBHAI D. VASAVA: Will the MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that as per report by a forensic science expert, most of the mortuaries in the capital's Government hospitals are ill equipped to conduct an autopsy;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reasons therefor; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (d) In the Central Government hospitals in Delhi, viz., Safdarjung Hospital and Lady Hardinge Medical College and Associated Hospitals, the mortuaries are well equipped to conduct autopsies. However, autopsy facility is not available in Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital.

Non-Utilization of Budgetary Amount

3207. SHRI S. AJAY KUMAR: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry is unable to utilise the full amount of budget allocated;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the amount surrendered in the last three years, year-wise; and

(d) the action being contemplated in this context?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (d) The Ministry has not been able to utilize the full budget allocations due to various reasons like delay in getting environmental clearances, clearances from the appraisal agencies, failure of contractors to implement the projects as per milestones, delay in shifting of utilities, procedural delay in reimbursement to the State Governments and other specific reasons pertaining to individual projects. The quantum of funds which remained un-utilized is as given below:

Department	Amount unutilized (Rs. in crore) with respect to BE Provision		
	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04
Shipping	183.97	277.76	298.53
Road Transport & Highways	896.74	793.24	1011.47

For National Highway work by the State PWDs, the Direct Payment Procedure has been introduced in place of reimbursement procedure. Reconstruction activities are taken up before start of the work, Periodical expenditure review of monitoring meetings are taking place regularly.

Genes Data Bank

3208. SHRI B. VINOD KUMAR: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has set up a Data Bank to identify genes and thereby facilitate their patenting;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the total number of genes identified and patented as on December 31, 2004?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) and (b) Sir, no Genes data bank has been set up to identify genes and to facilitate their patenting. At present, genes are not patentable in India. However, the novel genes/DNA fragments with utility are patentable in some other countries.

(c) So far Indian scientists have identified around 120 genes of known function through projects supported by Department of Biotechnology.

Report on Registration of Private Hospitals

3209. SHRI SITA RAM YADAV: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received the Review Committee Report on the registration of private hospitals;

(b) if so, the findings thereof and the action taken by the Government thereon; and

(c) the reasons for setting up the Review Committee by the Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) The Central Government have not constituted any Review Committee on the registration of private hospitals.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Appointment of Heads of Departments of CSIR

3210. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether only the persons having higher qualification in science subjects are appointed as heads of Department/Cells under CSIR;

(b) if so, whether the persons without post-graduate qualification in science subjects have been appointed as heads of some departments; and

(c) if so, the action taken by the Government to rectify the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) Directors in CSIR Laboratories and Director-General at CSIR Hqrs, organise the scientific work into divisions/cells depending upon the requirement and there are no fixed guidelines for educational qualifications for appointments as divisional heads.

(b) No sir, the heads of scientific divisions at CSIR headquarters have post graduate or higher qualifications.

(c) Question does not arise.

[English]

Treatment of Cancer Patients

3211. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that cancer patients are not getting proper and satisfactory treatment in Safdarjung Hospital, New Delhi due to shortage of trained staff and machines; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) Cancer patients attending Safdarjung Hospital are provided with required treatment through trained manpower and the available machines. However, strengthening and Upgradation is a continuous process, the Radiotherapy Department is acquiring two rotational cobalt machines and Brachy therapy system. Further the vaccines in trained staff which could not be filled due to applicability of DOPT OM dt. 16.5.2001 are now being filled up.

[Translation]

BSNL Mobile Connection in Chhattisgarh

3212. SHRI AJIT JOGI:
SHRI VISHNU DEO SAI:

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

(a) the number of mobile connections of BSNL in Chhattisgarh as on December 31, 2004;

(b) whether the service has been started in all district and Tehsil headquarters in Chhattisgarh;

(c) if not, the number thereof;

(d) the schemes formulated for extension of the mobile service in Chhattisgarh;

(e) whether BSNL mobile connections is available on demand in Chhattisgarh; and

(f) if not, the time by which the BSNL mobile connection is likely to be made available on demand?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) The number of mobile connections of Bharat Sanchal Nigam Limited (BSNL) as on 31.12.2004 were 32815 lines.

(b) and (c) Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) has so far provided cellular service covering all the 16 District Headquarters and 81 Tehsil Headquarters (out of 97) are yet to be provided cellular coverage in Chhattisgarh.

(d) Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) has recently expanded the capacity of the network in Chhattisgarh by additional 50,000 lines which is being progressively loaded and plans to expand the network further by additional 1,50,000 lines during the year 2005-06.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) The mobile connections are expected to be available on demand within six months.

[English]

Tarapur Atomic Power Project

3213 SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:
SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the fourth reactor of 540 MWe capacity of the Tarapur Atomic Power Project has been commissioned recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the quantum of power generated by TAPP-1, 2 and 3;

(d) whether the Government plans to build nuclear power reactor with a capacity of 700 MWe;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the expenditure likely to be incurred thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The first criticality of Unit-4 (first Unit of the twin unit of Tarapur Atomic Power Project-3 & 4), signifying commissioning of all systems, was achieved on 6.3.2005. This will be followed by physics experiments and synchronization with the grid. The commencement of commercial operation is expected from August 2005.

(c) The electricity generated by TAPS-1 & 2 (2×160 MWe) in 2003-04 was 2496 million units (MUs). In the years 2004-05, upto February 2005, the generation has been 2350 MUs. The completion of the Unit-3 (second unit of TAPP-3&4) is planned during the year 2006-07.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) The Pressurised Heavy Water Reactors to be set up in the country in future will be of 700 MWe unit size. The basic design work has been completed. Detailed design has been initiated and the construction is planned towards end of X Plan.

(f) The cost estimates would be finalised after the detailed design work is completed.

Land Policies

3214. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY:
SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission has expressed concern over the irrational and indefensible land policies which have frozen the growth and development of cities in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has drawn any plan in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) to (e) While addressing the State Tourism Minister Conference on 4th March, 2005, Deputy Chairman, Planning

Commission had voiced the concern about the land policies of the State as a major contributory factor for lower investment in the real estate and construction sector. Land policy is a State subject which needs to be taken care of by the State Government concerned.

Infrastructure Development in North Eastern States

3215. SHRI KIRIP CHALIHA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of poor infrastructure in the North Eastern States;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether mid-term appraisal of the Tenth Plan has revealed that inadequate resources is largely responsible for this kind of situation;

(d) if so, whether the Government would consider allocation of additional funds to the North Eastern States for development of roads, railways, power and telecommunication sectors to speed up pace of development in the region during the plan period; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) and (b) Government is aware of the need for improving infrastructure in the key sectors in the North Eastern States viz. Power, Road, Rail, etc.

(c) to (e) Mid-term appraisal of the Tenth Five Year Plan has not been completed so far.

Misuse of Facilities to Agro, Rural Industries and Khadi Sector

3216. SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the facilities and concessions to the Agro and Rural Industries and Khadi sector is being misused by some organizations;

(b) whether the Government is aware that Agro, Rural and Tiny Sector units purchase the product of mills and market them in the name of Khadi and Rural Industries Sector and no considerable increase in employment takes place as a result thereof;

(c) whether Government will consider to place some supervisory mechanism in place and give preference to market the goods to Tiny Sector; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND MINISTRY OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHAVIR PRASAD): (a) Some cases of misutilisation of facilities and concessions extended by the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) directly to some institutions as well as through the State Khadi and Village Industries Boards (KVIBS) have been reported to the Government.

(b) The khadi institutions do not deal in mill cloth. All transactions involving sale and purchase of khadi are limited institutions certified by the Central Certification Committee of the KVIC. There has been steady increase in employment generated in the village industries and khadi, taken together, over the years, as detailed below;

Year	Employment (lakh persons)
2001-2002	62.64
2002-2003	66.64
2003-2004	71.19

(c) and (d) The Khadi products supplied to the Government Departments are checked for quality control by the Inspection wing of Directorate General of Supplies and Disposal (DGS&D). All the khadi institutions in the country regularly send their khadi cloth samples for inspection to the Textiles Committee, a statutory autonomous body set up by the Ministry of Textiles under the Textiles Committee Act, 1963. Further, for khadi an internal supervisory mechanism of the KVIC is already in place in the form of Central Certification Committee and system of Integrated Audit. The certified sales outlets in the khadi and village industries (KVI) sector do not deal in any goods except khadi and polyvastra, produced within the KVI Sector. They also sell village industry products procured from individual entrepreneurs/institutions registered with KVIC/KVIBs.

Four Laning of Agra-Jaipur Section

3217. SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has a proposal for the four laning of Agra-Jaipur section of National Highway No. 11;

(b) if so, the estimated cost of the four laning project;

(c) the amount released for the four laning of the project so far; and

(d) the target date set for the completion of the four laning work

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K. H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) Yes, Sir. There is a proposal for upgradation of Agra-Jaipur Section of National Highway No. 11 to four lane on Build Operate & Transfer (BOT) basis under NHDP Phase III.

(b) The estimated cost of project is Rs. 928 crore.

(c) The 4-lanning work on Agra-Jaipur stretch of National Highway No. 11 has not yet started. No amount has been released on this project so far.

(d) The stretch is likely to be 4-laned by March 2009.

[Translation]

National Biotechnology Institute in Jharkhand

3218. SHRI BHUBANESHWAR PRASAD MEHTA: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to set up a National Biotechnology Institute in Jharkhand;

(b) if so, whether any proposal has been received from the Government of Jharkhand in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the time by when such an Institute is likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) to (d) No Sir, no such proposal has been received regarding setting up a National Biotechnology Institute in Jharkhand. However,

the Department of Biotechnology has been referred by Planning Commission regarding comments on the proposal on "Release of One Time Additional Central Assistance (ACA) to Jharkhand for special priority schemes identified by the State Government", which included Biotechnology Park. The comments/views were provided to Planning Commission, which have been communicated to the State Government for revision of the proposal.

Posts and Telegraph Facilities in Gujarat

3219. SHRI V. K. THUMMAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Gram-Panchayats in Gujarat not having post and telegraph facilities district-wise;

(b) the number of 'Panchayat Sanchar-Seva' and Telegraph offices set up in Gujarat during the last two years; and

(c) the time by when all the districts of Gujarat are likely to be covered by these facilities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Postal facilities for delivery of Dak, collection of mails and sale of postal stamps and stationery through postmen are available in all villages.

However, the District-wise number of Gram-Panchayats in Gujarat not having post offices is given in the enclosed Statement. The opening of post offices is an on going process. Post offices are opened subject to fulfillment of population, distance and income norms by relocation of post offices lying in close proximity to one another.

The information regarding the district-wise number of Gram-Panchayats in Gujarat not having telegraph facilities is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(b) and (c) The information regarding the number of 'Panchayat Sanchar-Seva' and Telegraph offices set up in Gujarat during the last two years and the time by when all the districts of Gujarat are likely to be covered by these facilities is being collected and will be laid down on the Table of the House.

Statement

District-wise number of Gram-Panchayats not having post offices in Gujarat

Sl. No.	Name of District	Number of Gram-Panchayats without post offices
1.	Ahmedabad	195
2.	Banaskantha	325
3.	Gandhinagar	60
4.	Mahesana	294
5.	Patan	269
6.	Sabarkantha	102
7.	Amreli	276
8.	Bhavnagar	420
9.	Jamnagar	343
10.	Junagadh	404
11.	Kutch	0
12.	Porbandar	72
13.	Rajkot	422
14.	Surendranagar	346
15.	Anand	130
16.	Bharuch	173
17.	Dahod	231
18.	Dang	0
19.	Kheda	213
20.	Narmada	61
21.	Navsari	93
22.	Panchmahal	255
23.	Surat	265
24.	Vadodara	128
25.	Valsad	92
Total		5169

Natural Resources Statistical Management System

3220. SHRIMATI KALPANA RAMESH NARHIRE: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether all the districts having abundant natural resources have been included in the Natural Resources Statistical Management System;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) If not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the time by when these districts are likely to be included in the said system?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Details of the on going programmes are as follows.

The programme of Natural Resource Data Management System (NRDMS), spatial databases were created by Department of Science and Technology in 52 districts in the country. NRDMS programme provides research inputs for decision support using spatial databases and the modern tools such as Geographic Information System (GIS), Global Positioning System and Remote Sensing. The National Informatics Centre Under Ministry of Information Technology have built up a programmes called DISNIC (District Information System) in most of the districts and Department of Space is also supporting Natural Information Resources System (NIRS) at district level in about 200 districts.

[English]

Shortage of Employees in Telephone Circles

3221. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of telephone circles in Andhra Pradesh as on February, 2005;

(b) whether it is a fact that every circle is facing acute shortage of employees;

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

(d) the steps taken or being taken by the Government to fill up the vacant posts immediately?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) One

(b) No, Sir.

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

Upgradation of Pay Scales of Inspector

3222. SHRI SURESH PRABHAKAR PRABHU: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 3070 on 18.08.2004 and state:

(a) whether the Government had sought the mandatory advice of DOP&T before upgrading pay-scales of the Inspector grades of CDBT/CBEC as per the GOI (Transaction of Business) Rules, 1961;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) the sanctioned strength of the Inspectors grades of CDBT/CBEC at the time of upgradation of the pay scales, post, wise of CDBT and CBEC separately; and

(e) the financial implication of their pay scales upgradation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SURESH PACHAURI): (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

Leprosy Training Institutes

3223. SHRI BAPU HARI CHAURE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Leprosy Training Institutes in Maharashtra;

(b) the names of the cities in which these Institutes have been established alongwith the number of leprosy patients treated therein;

(c) whether the Government proposes to establish such Institutes at some other places also;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) There is no Central Government run Leprosy Training Institute in the State of Maharashtra. However, there are five State Government run Leprosy Training Institutes and two non-Government Leprosy Training Institutes in Maharashtra.

(b) Five Government Leprosy Training Institutes are established in the cities of Pune, Solapur, Nagpur, Nanded and Jalgaon and two Non-Government Leprosy Training Institutes are in Wardha and Miraj. These Institutes do not provide treatment to Leprosy patients but provide training, Treatment for leprosy is provided in all health facilities like Primary Health Centres (PHCs), Rural Hospitals Centres (RH) and Community Health Centres (CH) and Municipal Department etc.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Question does not arise.

(e) National Leprosy Eradication Programme has been integrated with General Health Care Services. The prevalence rate of leprosy in Maharashtra has declined significantly from 62 per 10,000 population in 1981 to 1.94 per 10,000 population in February, 2005.

[English]

Science Centre at Jamnagar

3224. SHRI VIKRAMBHAI ARJANBHAI MADAM: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to set up a science centre at Jamnagar in Gujarat on the line of Vikaram Sarabhai Community Science Centre at Ahmedabad;

(b) if so, the time by when it is likely to be set up; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) There is no proposal to set up a Science Centre at Jamnagar.

[Translation]

No-objection Certificates for SSI Units

3225. SHRI RAKESH SINGH:
SHRI SUBHASH SURESHCHANDRA
DESHMUKH:

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

(a) whether entrepreneurs have to obtain no-objection certificates from various administrative departments before setting up small scale industries;

(b) if so, the number of such departments;

(c) whether the Government is contemplating to simplify the procedures for setting up of small-scale industries; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHAVIR PRASAD): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Though registration of small scale industries is voluntary, entrepreneurs who, with a view to setting up of small scale industries, want to obtain permanent registration, have to get the necessary locational clearances from the competent authority as well as all other statutory clearances/no objection certificates/permission required to carry out the manufacture/activity under the prevalent laws, regulations and rules in force. Depending on the product to be manufactured or activity to be carried on and the location of the industry, the number of such clearances/no objection certificates may vary.

(c) and (d) Simplification of the existing procedures is a continuous process and it is always the endeavour of the Central Government to consult the State Governments, industry associations, etc., to bring about suitable changes from time to time.

[English]

Development of Format by CVC

3226. SHRI TUKARAM GANPATRAO RENGE
PATIL:
SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Vigilance Commission had developed a format which enabled it to dispose of any complaint within four weeks;

(b) if so, the number of cases disposed of within less than a week after the development of this format;

(c) whether the CVC has found a number of cases of corruption prevailing in many departments and a number of judicial officers and high and low officials working in various departments arrested as a result of its efforts;

(d) if so, the extent to which the Government has been providing help and assistance to the CVC in checking corruption; and

(e) the results achieved as a result of this assistance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SURESH PACHAURI):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The policy of the CVC is to dispose off complaints within four weeks as far as possible.

(c) Yes Sir. The CVC's action on complaints of corruption resulted on a number of occasions in the arrest of public servants coming under the jurisdiction of the CVC except the judicial officers.

(d) The services of CBI as well as the Chief Vigilance Officer's of various Ministries/Departments are available to the CVC in checking corruption.

(c) The complaints disposed off by the CVC during the last three years as under:

Year	Complaints received	Complaints Disposed off
2002	17709 (including B/F from previous year)	17744
2003	12362 (including B/F from previous year)	12131
2004	10966 (including B/F from previous year)	10592

Private Courier Companies

3227. SHRIMATI BHAVANA PUNDLIKRAO GAWALI:
Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the details and the contribution of the private courier companies and the effect thereof on the Post and Telegraph Service in the country;

(b) whether the Government proposes to constitute an authority in order to have control over the private courier companies;

(c) if so, the concept of "Sanchar Sevak" in the Department of posts and the time by which the scheme is likely to be implemented;

(d) the manner in which the Telecom. Resolution Technology helps in betterment of Telecom Sector; and

(e) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Private Couriers in India are working in an unregulated environment. Therefore, details of these courier companies are not available with the Department of Posts.

(b) The Indian Post Office (Amendment) Bill, 2005 is yet to be finalized. The Indian Post Office (Amendment) Bill, 2002 which lapsed in February, 2004 proposed registration of couriers to ensure a level playing field for all operators as also ensure quality of service and protection of customers rights.

(c) Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) in collaboration with Department of Posts has launched a pilot scheme on 24-12-2002 under which the telephone facility has been provided to villages through Grameen Dak Sewak Delivery Agents (GDSDAs) of the Department of Posts (DOP). These agents are also called Grameen Sanchar Sewaks. While Carrying a mobile fixed wireless terminal (FWT) with display unit in a carry bag they visit door to door to provide telephone facility to the rural population while on their beats in the villages as Grameen Dak Sewaks. The equipments have been supplied by the Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited. In the Pilot Scheme about 1800 Grameen Sanchar Sewaks were identified to cover about 8000 villages of the country using the existing "Wireless in Local Loop Network". The scheme is applicable on the existing STD/ISD PCO franchise basis. The scheme was implemented through out the country except in Andaman & Nicobar Haryana and Punjab Telecom Circles. As on 31-01-2005 around 11,291 villages are being covered by 2,668 GSSs throughout the country.

(d) There is no such technology as Telecom Resolution Technology.

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

Telephones on Demand

3228. SHRI SUNIL KUMAR MAHATO:
SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO:

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

(a) whether the Government proposes to provide telephones on demand in the country particularly in rural areas;

(b) if so, whether the Government has examined the feasibility of providing technologies having low running cost, minimum maintenance, cheap and reliable in rural and remote areas;

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

(d) the progress made in this regard as on date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) The office of the Administrator (USO) Funds has entered into Agreements with the successful bidders for providing subsidy support

towards provision of Rural household direct Exchange Lines (RDELs) in the eligible 1,685 Short Distance Charging Areas (SDCAs), where the cost of providing telephone is more than the revenue earned. As per the Agreement conditions, the successful bidders should provide at least 100 lines per Secondary Switching Area (SSA) within six months of the effective date of Agreement. Thereafter, all the wait listed subscribers are to be provided with telephones within a period of three months in these 1,685 SDCAs.

(b) and (c) Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) who is one of the successful bidders, has planned to cover the far-flung areas which cannot be covered economically on wired lines through deployment of Wireless in Local Loop (WLL) Technology. The WLL technology has the advantage of relatively wide coverage with less maintenance problems due to elimination of external plant.

(d) Out of a total of 65,62,87 rural telephone connections provided by BSNL, 10,45,680 telephones have been provided on WLL from 01-04-2001 to 30-01-2005.

[Translation]

Guidelines for Effective Telecom Services

3229. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government had issued guidelines in June 1996 directing that transfer of local telephone connections within the same exchange be effected within 7 days, Exchange to Exchange transfer within 15 days and State to State transfer within 1 month and out of order telephones be corrected within 48 hours.

(b) if so, the number of such complaints received from June 1996 till date separately by different telecommunication/MTNL officers wherein complaints were not attended as per the said guidelines, State-wise, particularly in Delhi; and

(c) the steps taken by the Union Government for ensuring strict compliance of the said guidelines and to make them more effective?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Maoists' Activities in Border Areas

3230. SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK:
SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN':
SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN:
SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU:
SHRI MOHAN SINGH:
SHRI D. VITTAL RAO:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government is aware of the growing activities of the Maoists in the country particularly in the border areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government has drawn or proposes to draw the attention of the Nepalese Government towards the increasing incidents of Maoists' activities in border areas; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) to (d) Government of India is aware of and concerned about the implications of the growth of Maoist insurgency in Nepal because of the open border and the links between Nepal's Maoists and Left Wing Extremist and other groups in India. The Maoist insurgency in Nepal has also fuelled migration of Nepalese into our border States. His Majesty's Government of Nepal is aware of these concerns. Government of India has also taken steps to strengthen security in border areas and the Sashastra Seema Bal has intensified its patrolling along the India-Nepal Border.

[English]

Flyovers in NCR

3231. SHRI JUAL ORAM: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has received reports from the consultants on the construction of flyovers in the National Capital Region (NCR);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the report on Badarpur flyover has been furnished;

(d) if so, the steps taken in this regard; and

(e) the present status thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Reports pertaining to construction of 4 flyovers each in Delhi and Haryana on NH-8 have been received. Detailed Project Report for construction of six lane elevated highway (Badarpur Flyover) on NH-2 and six lane elevated highway at Panipat on NH-1 have also been received.

(d) and (e) Construction of six lane elevated highway near Badarpur on NH-2 (km 16.700 to km 19.700) has been approved in principle, for implementation on Build Operate and Transfer (BOT) basis. Pre qualification process for selection of concessionaire has commenced.

Credit Rating Scheme for SSI Sector

3232. SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether in view of increasing competition in Indian industry, the small scale sector is realizing the need for credit rating scheme;

(b) if so, the benefits to be derived under the scheme by Indian industry; and

(c) the stand of the Government on launching the rating scheme for small scale sector?

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHAVIR PRASAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government, through the National Small Industries Corporation of India Ltd., (NSIC) and in consultation with the Indian Banks Association (IBA), has approved a new scheme, namely, 'Performance and Credit Rating of Small Scale Industries'. Benefits of the scheme for the small scale sector are as follows:

(i) The rating will serve as an independent evaluation, by an accredited third party, of the small scale units' capabilities and creditworthiness.

(ii) The small scale industries, on the basis of such rating, would be helped in securing credit from banks and financial institutions, with comparative ease and at reasonable interest rates.

(iii) The rating scheme will help the banks and financial institutions by providing them with independent evaluation of the strengths and the weaknesses of the applicant borrowing units which, in turn, would help them in evaluating risk and taking credit decisions.

(iv) Rating of the small scale units would help the vendors/buyers in judging their capabilities and capacities for decisions on finalization of purchase contracts with them.

(v) The rating scheme will help establish a sense of financial and operational discipline, which would further help the overall growth of small scale sector.

(c) Government has approved the Scheme 'Performance and Credit Rating of Small Scale Industries' for implementation through the NSIC, a public sector enterprise under the administrative control of Ministry of Small Scale Industries. Reputed rating agencies have been empanelled by the NSIC for this purpose. The Scheme includes Government financial assistance to the small scale units as reimbursement of a part of the expenditure on the rating for fees, payable by such units.

[Translation]

Non-Availability of Medicines in CGHS Dispensaries

3233. SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY:
SHRI VIJAY KUMAR KHANDELWAL:

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

(a) whether the Government has received complaints regarding non-availability of medicines in about 100 CGHS dispensaries in Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the action taken in this regard;

(d) whether sufficient funds have been earmarked for purchase of medicines through local purchase;

- (e) if so, the details thereof;
- (f) whether the bills for local purchase have been settled;
- (g) if so, the details thereof for the last two years, month-wise and year-wise;
- (h) the steps the Government intends to take for proper supply of medicines and settlement of bills;
- (i) whether the concerned CMO in each dispensary is involved in the alleged shortage of medicines; and
- (j) if so, the action proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (h) Adequate quantity of medicines is available in CGHS dispensaries. However, any drug prescribed by the specialists and not available in the dispensary is made available to the beneficiary from the Authorised local Chemist on the basis of individual prescription. In the case of CGHS dispensaries which do not have any authorised local chemist attached to them, the CGHS beneficiaries (including pensioner beneficiaries) are permitted to purchase the medicines from the open market for which reimbursement is made by the Government.

The Authorised local chemists under CGHS Delhi had stopped the supply of indented medicines during the period 17.2.2005 to 28.2.2005. The matter has been resolved and the Authorised local chemists have since resumed the supply of local purchase indent medicines with effect from 1.3.2005. Due to the strike by the local chemists, eleven complaints were received from the beneficiaries regarding non-availability of medicines. During the period of stoppage of medicines by the Authorised Local chemists, the CMO in-charges of the CGHS dispensaries were directed to permit the beneficiaries to

purchase the non-available medicines in the dispensary from the open market and get the amount reimbursed from their respective offices in case of serving employees and from CGHS Dte. in case in the pensioner cardholders.

The reasons for the strike cited by the authorized local chemists is late payment of their bills by the CGHS Directorate. Sometimes, due to paucity of funds near the end of the financial year, additional funds are sought for clearing the bills of the CGHS Authorised local chemists.

The allocation of funds during the last three years in respect of CGHS under the Sub-Head Supplies and Material from which payment is made to the Authorised Local Chemists is as under:

Financial Year	Rupees in Crore			
	Non-Plan		Plan	
	BE Stage	RE Stage	BE Stage	RE Stage
2001-2002	117.50	160.88	4.15	5.80
2002-2003	118.50	178.25	6.18	6.86
2003-2004	126.50	212.77	7.34	10.68

From the above figures, it can be seen that during the last three years, there has been increase in the budget allocation for supply of local purchase indent medicines through the Authorised Local Chemists under CGHS.

Settlement of bills of the Authorised local Chemists of CGHS Delhi is a continuous process and depends upon availability of funds. The detail of bills of the Authorised local Chemists of CGHS Delhi settled during the last two years is given at enclosed Statement.

(i) No, Sir.

(ii) In view of (i) above, the question does not arise.

Statement

Details of month-wise/year-wise expenditure are as under:

Month	Year-2002-2003	Month	Year 2003-2004
1	2	3	4
April, 2002	Rs. 47167928/-	April, 2003	Rs. 50005969/-
May, 2002	Rs. 105809785/-	May, 2003	Rs. 107481048/-
June, 2002	Rs. 89147122/-	June, 2003	Rs. 54451614/-

1	2	3	4
July, 2002	Rs. 273116339/-	July, 2003	Rs. 99446601/-
August, 2002	Rs. 79176573/-	August, 2002	Rs. 191346403/-
September, 2002	Rs. 84068777/-	September, 2003	Rs. 83954803/-
October, 2002	Rs. 37769592/-	October, 2003	Rs. 72381430/-
November, 2002	Rs. 58103310/-	November, 2003	Rs. 131007052/-
December, 2002	Rs. 14774376/-	December, 2003	Rs. 114802015/-
January, 2003	Rs. 52884192/-	January, 2003	Rs. 76909370/-
February, 2003	Rs. 129879214/-	February, 2003	Rs. 51094303/-
March, 2003	Rs. 218493498/-	March, 2003	Rs. 87295798/-

[English]

Mobile Phone Services in Karnataka

3234. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of companies providing mobile phone services in Karnataka;

(b) the company-wise number of subscribers so far;

(c) the safeguards through which the Union Government protects the interests of the subscribers;

(d) the areas of Karnataka which have not yet been linked with mobile network;

(e) the time by when the entire Karnataka is likely to be connected with the mobile service network; and

(f) the revenue earned through mobile services in the State alongwith the proportion of earnings and expenditure in the state?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) Six companies are providing mobile phone service in Karnataka. The name of these companies and the number of subscribers company-wise as on 31.01-2005 is given in the enclosed Statement I.

(c) in terms of Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) Act, 1997, TRAI has been, *inter-alia*, mandated to regulate the Quality of Service, tariff and customer perception in the telecom sector. TRAI has taken various measures to regulate the Quality of Service of Basic and Cellular Mobile Telephone Services, monitoring customer perception through customer survey and tariff related aspects.

(d) and (e) As per coverage criteria in the Licence Agreement, the Service providers are required to cover 50% of District Head Quarters (DHQs) in the service area within 3 years of effective date of Licence Agreement. The Service provider is also permitted to cover any other town in a district in lieu of the DHQ. The choice of DHQ/towns to be covered and further expansion beyond 50% DHQs/towns shall lie with the Licensee depending on their business decision. In view of above provisions of the Licence Agreement, the Government does not maintain the information regarding areas not linked with mobile service in a State. Further, since the expansion beyond 50% DHQs/towns shall lie with the Licensee depending on their business decision, therefore, the Government can not specify any time frame for covering entire Karnataka with mobile service network.

(f) The Government maintains Audited Gross & Adjusted Gross Revenue (AGR) statement received from various mobile service providers for the purpose of levy of Licence Fee and does not maintain the details of the expenditure made by them. As such proportion of earning and expenditure is not possible to provide. The details of

gross revenues earned through mobile services in Karnataka State as Per AGR statement provided by various service providers for the year 2003-04 are given in the enclosed Statement II.

Statement I*The Status of Mobile Telephone Service in Karnataka Telecom Circle Service area*

Sl. Ni.	Name of the Operators(s)	No. of Mobile Subscribers as on 31.01-2005
1.	Bharti Mobile Ltd.	1166918
2.	Spice Communications Ltd.	339254
3.	Hutchison Essar South Ltd.	521184
4.	Reliance Infocomm Ltd.	638147
5.	Tata Teleservices Ltd.	95598
6.	Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd.	662159

Statement II*Gross Revenue of Mobile Service Providers in Karnataka (for The Year 2003-2004)*

Sl. No.	Name of the Service Provider	Gross Revenue (in Rupees)
1.	Bharti Mobile Ltd.	5,016,061,019
2.	Spice Communications Ltd.	1,756,945,836
3.	Hutchison Essar South Ltd.	1,442,233,522
4.	M/s Reliance Infocomm Ltd.	1,646,990,108 (from WLL handheld)
5.	M/s Tata Teleservices Ltd.	229,391,342 (from Limited Mobility)
6.	Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd.	1,855,855,583

*[Translation]***MTNL Offices in Rented Buildings**

3235. MOHD. MUKEEM: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of exchange offices of MTNL, Delhi are functioning in rented buildings;

(b) if so, the rent paid per month and per building during the last three years till date;

(c) whether officers committed alleged irregularities while taking buildings on rent;

(d) if so, the number of such cases coming into light during the last three years and the details of action taken in each case;

(e) whether the MTNL has spent crores of rupees on beautification of such buildings till date; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and the action being taken to check such irregularities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Details are given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) and (d) One such case has been reported during the year 2004 and same is under examination.

(e) No, Sir.

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

Statement

Details of Exchange Offices of MTNL Functioning in Rented Buildings

AREA: BIKHA JI KAMA PLACE (BCP)

Sl. no.	Building Name & Location	Being used for Exchange Office/RSU	Rent per month for the Financial Year		
			2002-2003	2003-2004	2004-2005
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	337/3/2 Basement & Ground Floor Village Mahipal Pur, New Delhi	Exchange & Office	90227	89432	76572
2.	Flat No. 418, A.C.J BCP, New Delhi	Office	22230	22428	11762
3.	Flat No. 420 Ansal chamber-II, 6 Bhikaji Cama Place, New Delhi	Office	10244	10335	5421
4.	Flat No. 420 Ansal chamber-II, 6 Bhikaji Cama Place, New Delhi	Office	10244	10335	5421
5.	GF-61-C, Arjun Nagar, Safdarjung Enclave, New Delhi	Office & Store	16402	16548	16548
6.	GF-61-C, Arjun Nagar, Safdarjung Enclave, New Delhi	Office & Store	16401	16547	16547
7.	Flat No. 415, SD CH-II, BCP, ND.	Office	7515	7515	7515
8.	Flat No. 415, SD CH-II, BCP, ND.	Office	7515	7515	7515
9.	Flat No. 415, SD CH-II, BCP, ND.	Office	7515	7515	7515
10.	Flat No. 415, SD CH-II, BCP, ND.	Office	7515	7515	7515
11.	FF. 1,M.B.C. B.C. Place, New Delhi	Office	15041	15175	15175
12.	FF. 11,M.B.C. B.C. Place, New Delhi	Office	15041	15175	15175
13.	Flat No. 16-17, MBCB, B.C. Place, New Delhi	Office	27377	27621	27621
14.	Flat No. 16-17, MBCB, B.C. Place, New Delhi	Office	27377	27621	27621
15.	Flat No.FF-12, MBCB, BCP, ND.	Office	37538	37776	37776
16.	Flat FF-18-19 MBCB B.C. Place	Sanchar Haat	68411	67802	70694
17.	Flat No. 416, S.D. Chamber-II, 9, B.C.P. New Delhi	Office	23358	23566	23566
18.	Flat No. 417, S.D. Chamber-II, 9, B.C.P. New Delhi	Office	25275	25500	25500

1	2	3	4	5	6
19.	AB-9 SFJ. Enclave, New Delhi	Office	52578	53046	52859
20.	AB-9 SFJ. Enclave, New Delhi	Office	26289	26523	26429
21.	AB-9 SFJ. Enclave, New Delhi	Office	13145	13262	13215
22.	AB-9 SFJ. Enclave, New Delhi	Office	13145	13262	13215
23.	Chandan complex Asola GF & 1st Floor, Fatehpur Beri, N.D.	Exchange & Office	84040	83292	82963
24.	437, Mahipal Pur, New Delhi	Exchange & Office	42024	41650	41485
25.	16/1& 16/2 Mehrauli, New Delhi	Exchange & Office	72147	71505	73359
26.	16/1& 16/2 Mehrauli, New Delhi	Exchange & Office	24049	23835	24453
27.	S-28 First Floor Green Park, New Delhi	Office	104445	0	0
28.	S-28 First Floor Green Park, New Delhi	Office	104165	82811	82384
29.	Chandan complex Asola GF & Basement, Fatehpur Beri, N.D.	Exchange & Office	48314	27898	23203
30.	Basement, S-5 Green Park, N.Delhi	Sanchat Haat* Office	50245	49798	0
31.	Basement, S-5 Green Park, N. Delhi	Sanchat Haat* Office	8371	8446	0
32.	Basement, S-5 Green Park, N. Delhi	Sanchat Haat* Office	8371	8446	0
33.	Basement, S-5 Green Park, N.Delhi	Sanchat Haat* Office	8380	8455	0
34.	Basement, S-5 Green Park, N. Delhi	Sanchat Haat* Office	12562	12673	0
35.	Basement, S-5 Green Park, N. Delhi	Sanchat Haat* Office	12562	12673	0
36.	GF, S-5 Green Park, N. Delhi	Sanchat Haat* Office	46982	46564	0
37.	GF, S-5 Green Park, N. Delhi	Sanchat Haat* Office	7827	7896	0
38.	GF, S-5 Green Park, N. Delhi	Sanchat Haat* Office	7827	7896	0
39.	GF, S-5 Green Park, N. Delhi	Sanchat Haat* Office	7837	7907	0
40.	GF, S-5 Green Park, N. Delhi	Sanchat Haat* Office	11745	11850	0
41.	GF, S-5 Green Park, N. Delhi	Sanchat Haat* Office	11745	11850	0
42.	FF, S-5 Green Park N. Delhi	Sanchat Haat* Office	48749	48315	0
43.	FF, S-5 Green Park, N. Delhi	Sanchat Haat* Office	8122	8194	0
44.	FF, S-5 Green Park, N. Delhi	Sanchat Haat* Office	8122	8194	0
45.	FF, S-5 Green Park, N. Delhi	Sanchat Haat* Office	8131	8203	0
46.	FF, S-5 Green Park, N. Delhi	Sanchat Haat* Office	12187	12295	0
47.	FF, S-5 Green Park, N. Delhi	Sanchat Haat* Office	12187	12295	0

1	2	3	4	5	6
48.	1st Floor, S-5 Green Park, N. Delhi	Sanchat Haat* Office	49124	48687	0
49.	1st Floor, S-5 Green Park, N. Delhi	Sanchat Haat* Office	8184	8257	0
50.	1st Floor, S-5 Green Park, N. Delhi	Sanchat Haat* Office	8184	8267	0
51.	1st Floor, S-5 Green Park, N. Delhi	Sanchat Haat* Office	8194	8267	0
52.	1st Floor, S-5 Green Park, N. Delhi	Sanchat Haat* Office	12281	12390	0
53.	1st Floor, S-5 Green Park, N. Delhi	Sanchat Haat* Office	12281	12390	0
54.	16/1& 16/2 Mehrauli, New Delhi	Sanchat Haat* Office	50810	50358	51664
55.	16/1& 16/2 Mehrauli, New Delhi	Sanchat Haat* Office	50810	50358	51664
56.	Garege-61/C, Arjun Nagar, New Delhi	Office	2106	765	762
57.	Garege-61/C, Arjun Nagar, New Delhi	Office	2106	765	762
58.	19, Begam Pur, New Delhi	Office	10109	10709	10671
59.	GF 19B/1 Begam Pur, N. Delhi	Office	69891	73850	73469
60.	Basement 19B/1 Begam Pur, New Delhi	Office	23999	21418	21342
61.	1st Floor 337/3/2 Village Mahipal Pur,, New Delhi	Exchange & Office	37395	48012	47822
62.	294/3 Dhah Mal Road, Chatterpur, New Delhi	RSU/Exchange	38159	38498	38362
63.	HN. 252, Village Madi, Near Bus Stand, New Delhi	RSU/Exchange	1404	1404	
64.	KH. No. 346/58 Saidulajab, N.D.	RSU/Exchange	4000	4000	3600
65.	Kh. No. 332, Main Road Village Jonapur, New Delhi	RSU/Exchange	5666	5666	5666
66.	Kh. No. 332, Main Road Village Jonapur, New Delhi	RSU/Exchange	5666	5666	5666
67.	Kh. No. 332, Main Road Village Jonapur, New Delhi	RSU/Exchange	5666	5666	5666
68.	Khasra-252, Near Bus Stand, Village-Mandi, New Delhi	RSU/Exchange	10784	10880	10442
69.	(1) JC-42, Ghirki Ext. New Delhi	Office	62832	73524	73233
70.	90/22B Ground Floor, Malviya Nagar, New Delhi	Office	43094	43477	51150
71.	705-A, 28-1, Ward-3, Mahroli, New Delhi	Office	4250	4250	4250
72.	346/58, INGOU Road, Saidullajab, New Delhi	Office	20130	20309	20237
73.	Indian Oil Bhawan, Yusuf Sarai, New Delhi-16	Office	5000	5000	5000
74.	F-351 Lado Sarai New Delhi	Office	*	21292	21217
75.	Shop No. 48, 49, 50, 58 & 59 Sector-III Market, 1st Floor, Pushp Vihar, New Delhi	Office	*	51520	51520
76.	Shop No. 48, 49, 50, 58 & 59 Sector-III Market 1st Floor, Pushp Vihar, New Delhi	Office	*	41450	41450

1	2	3	4	5	6
77.	D70 Anand Niketan New Delhi	For RSU	*	33191	33668
78.	D70 Anand Niketan New Delhi	For RSU	*	33191	33668
79.	346/58 Main Road Vill. Saidullajab ND	Office	*	3774	3774
80.	Fiat No. 7 1st Floor, inside Anupam Theater, Saket, N.D.	Office	*	8500	8500
81.	Shop No. (SCO)31, Sector 12A HUDA Commercial Complex Gurgaon	Sanchar Haat	*	0	16300

*MEANS BUILDING NOT HIRED DURING THAT PERIOD

AREA: KAROL BAGH

Sl. No.	Location of building on rent	Being used for	Rent per month for financial year in Rs.		
			2002-2003	2003-2004	2004-2005
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	2, West Patel Nagar	GM office + DGM (F) AGM@+ AGM(A)+ AGM(OP)+ AGM(P&R)+AGM(L) CAO(B&A)	Area did not exist during the year 2002-03	287087	287087
2.	2/15 West Patel Ngr ND.	RSU	—	96458	96458
3.	61/16 Ramjas Road (GF) ND.	RSU	—	64000	64000
4.	652 Bijwasan ND.	RSU	—	56725	56725
5.	59/31 New Rohatak Road ND.	DLC	—	64000	64000
6.	57H Gali No. 3 Anand Parbat ND.	DLC	—	16000	16000
7.	Shop No. 61, GF Rajendra Bhawan ND.	RSU	—	20865	20865
8.	377 Kapas Hera ND.	RSU	—	0	20715
9.	3279 Ranjeet Nagar ND.	RSU	—	85680	85680
10.	WZ-118 Nariana Village ND.	RSU	—	96603	96603
11.	EG-111 Inder Puri ND.	Cordect	—	3000	3000
12.	631 RZ Block Anand Parbat ND.	DLC	—	7000	7000
13.	R-535 New Rajinder Nagar ND.	RSU	—	49000	49000

1	2	3	4	5	6
14.	C-28 Community Center Naraina ND	Sanchar Hatt DE/OD	—	122980	122980
15.	W-6 West Patel Nagar ND.	RSU+SDO Office	—	98086	98086
16.	WZ-121 Toda Pur ND.	RSU	—	14800	14800
17.	WZ-250C Inder Puri ND	RSU+SDO Office+Cordect Antenna	—	37374	37374
18.	6/37 WEA Karol Bagh ND.	RSU	—	0	38069
19.	1/3 Old Rajinder Nagar ND	RSU+DE (OD)+ SDO office	—	36530	36530
20.	1747/54 Naiwala, Karol Bagh	DLC	—	14655	14655
21.	206 Kirti Mahal	SDO office	—	7438	*
22.	Flat No. 107, Padama Tower, Rajinder Place	AGM (C) Office	—	8621	*
23.	Flat No. 108, Padama Tower, Rajinder Place		—	14896	*
24.	Flat No. 109, Padama Tower, Rajinder Place		—	11494	*
25.	Flat No. 110, Padama Tower, Rajinder Place		—	11494	*
26.	Flat No. 111, Padama Tower, Rajinder Place		—	6667	*

*Means building not hired during that period.

AREA: EAST DELHI

Sl.No.	Location of Building on Rent	Being Used for	Monthly Rent (In Rs.)			Remarks
			2002- 2003	2003- 2004	2004- 2005	
1.	Bharat Bldg 10-Darya Ganj	OFFICE	219580	219580	219580	
2.	Jeewan Vikas Bldg A Ali Rd	OFFICE	294447	294447	294447	
3.	Universal Bldg A Ali Rd	OFFICE	163624	163624	163624	
4.	21, Darya Ganj		1320	1320	1320	
5.	R S U Timar Pur	EXCHANGE	8000	8000	8000	
6.	R S U Roshan Ara Rd		55000	55000	55000	
7.	R S U Karnla Ngr	EXCHANGE	81000	81000	81000	
8.	R S U Chandrawal		75000	75000	75000	
9.	R S U P Ganj	EXCHANGE	39950	39950	39950	
10.	R S U Kishan Ganj	EXCHANGE	20000	20000	20000	
11.	F F Complex J Walan	OFFICE	1855	1855	1855	
12.	I S B T Bldg	OFFICE	782678	782678	782678	
					334951	Rent Revised w.e.f. 01.02.2005

Rent revised P.M. w.e.f. 01.02.2005.

AREA: SHAKTI NAGAR

Sl. No.	Location of Building on rent	Being Used for	Rent per Month for the financial year in Rs.		
			2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Flat No. 111 plot no. 10 KP Block P. Pura	RSU	8,786	5,806	6,566
2.	C 55/2 Wazir. Indul. Area	RSU	122,673	122,673	138,621
3.	Flat No. 112,113 Kp Block Pitam Pura	RSU	10,851	10,851	12,271
4.	Flat No. 101 Plot no. 10 1 floor KP. P. Pura	RSU	5,806	5,806	6,566
5.	206 Virat Bhawan MKN	OFFICE	3,826	4,056	4,400
6.	219 Virat Bhawan MKN	OFFICE	4,835	5,125	5,560
7.	GF-06 Virat Bhawan MKN	RSU	8,689	9,155	9,992
8.	214 Virat Bhawan MKN	OFFICE	4,019	4,260	4,622
9.	217 Virat Bhawan MKN	OFFICE	4,370	4,576	5,026
10.	215 Virat Bhawan MKN	OFFICE	4,019	4,261	4,622
11.	212-A Virat Bhawan MKN	OFFICE	4,370	4,633	5,026
12.	210 Virat Bhawan MKN	OFFICE	4,617	4,895	5,310
13.	216 Virat Bhawan MKN	OFFICE	4,370	4,633	5,026
14.	205 Virat Bhawan MKN	OFFICE	3,995	4,239	4,595
15.	Bldg. no. 10 LSC 2 floor Drwl Ngr.	OFFICE	28,738	28,738	22,558
16.	3 Comm. Centre & D35 KPM	OFFICE	15,076	15,076	16,188
17.	Bldg. no. 9 LSC 2 floor Drwl Ngr.	OFFICE	28,400	28,400	22,293
18.	Plot no. 9 LSC 3 Floor 1/2 Drwl. Ngr	OFFICE	14,409	14,409	11,310
19.	Plot no. 9 LSC 3 Floor 1/2 Drwl. Ngr	OFFICE	14,409	14,409	11,310
20.	GF-13 Virat Bhawan MKN	RSU	8,229	8,229	4,252
21.	Bldg. no. 10 LSC 3 floor 1/2 Drwl Ngr.	OFFICE	14,568	14,568	11,435
22.	Bldg. no. 10 LSC 3 floor 1/2 Drwl Ngr.	OFFICE	14,568	14,568	11,435
23.	Flat no. 104,106 KP Block Pitam Pura	RSU	11,244	11,244	12,715
24.	102.103 KP Block Pitam Pura	RSU	10,851	10,851	12,271
25.	Flat no. 114,115 Plot no. 11 KP Block	RSU	11,244	11,244	12,715
26.	Sh. No. 12 GF KP Block Pitam Pura	RSU	8,786	8,786	9,936

1	2	3	4	5	6
27.	Sh. no. 14 GF KP Block Pitam Pura	RSU	8,786	8,786	9,936
28.	Sh. No. 16 GF KP Block Pitam Pura	RSU	8,786	8,786	9,936
29.	Sh. No. GF 16 KP Block Pitam Pura	RSU	8,786	8,786	9,936
30.	Flat No. 117 KP Block Pitam Pura	RSU	8,540	8,540	9,657
31.	GF-13 KP Block Pitam Pura	RSU	5,806	8,786	9,936
32.	Flat No. 105 KP Block Pitam Pura	RSU	3,810	3,810	4,309
33.	Flat No. 105 KP Block Pitam Pura	RSU	3,810	3,810	4,309
34.	Flat No. 107 KP Block Pitam Pura	RSU	8,540	8,540	9,657
35.	28/2-4 29/2 Kewal Park Extn. Azad Pur	RSU	65,403	65,403	69,954
36.	347 RSU Burari	RSU	26,563	26,563	28,716
37.	C11 Ramgarh RSU JHN Puri	RSU	91,337	91,337	97,160
38.	Sh.No. 8 BS Block Shalimar Bagh	RSU	17,200	12,000	12,934
39.	192 A/145 Ganesh Pura Tri Nagar	RSU	80,792	92,041	92,041
40.	14537/11 Jai Mata Mkt. Tri Nagar	RSU	32,692	39,873	39,873
41.	Plot no. 2 LSC CU Block Agg. Sh. Comp. Pp.	RSU	73,013	87,616	96,059
42.	A17 Aadarsh Nagar	OFFICE	70,103	88,702	88,702
43.	Plot G3 Netaji Subhash Palace Wzr. Pur	RSU	15,289	62,500	62,500
44.	Plot G3 Netaji Subhash Palace Wzr. Pur	RSU	15,167	62,000	62,000
45.	22 Rajashthan Udyog Ngr	RSU	*	98,935	99,470
46.	229 230 Bharat Nagar	RSU	*	22,907	28,500
47.	229 Bharat Nagar	RSU	*	22,907	28,500
48.	537 Dr. MKN	RSU	*	49,696	63,444
49.	218 Virat Bhawan MKN	OFFICE	3,470	2,080	5,588
50.	Flat No. 204 DI Virat Bhawan MKN	OFFICE	*	2,590	7,049
51.	TU-22 Pitam Pura	OFFICE	4,781	10,094	
52.	DLC Burari	DLC	4,320	836	*
53.	204 Virat Bhawan MKN	OFFICE	4,360	*	*

*Building not hired during that period.

AREA: CENTRAL DELHI

Sl. No.	Location of Building on rent	Bing Used for	Rent per Month for the financial year in Rs.		
			2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
1.	Jeevan Tara Bldg. Parliament street, ND.	Office, SDOs, D.E., CSC and Sanchar Haat	44275	44275	44275
2.	A-17, Jangpura Extn., New Delhi	8.5K RSU	*	83348	43348
3.	DDA shopping center, Under Defence colony Flyover, ND	Offices of DE, SDOP-II, SDE(C-I) & C-II with F/Control	15580.15	15580.15	15580.15
4.	H-21, NDSE Part-I, New Delhi	NDSE RSU & Area field staff	*	61336	61336
5.	A-283, Defence Colony, New Delhi	RSU	51708	51708	51708
6.	Pratap Bhawan, 5 B.S.Z. Marg, New Delhi	DLC	8100	8100	8100
7.	Antriksh Bhawan, K.G. Marg, New Delhi	DLC	*	8480	8480
8.	Inder Prakash Bldg.	DLC	*	14368	14368
9.	Mohan Singh Place, B.K.S. Marg, ND	KBN Division office	298027	298027	298027
10.	Udyog Bhawan	SDOP-1 SBN	1058	1058	1058
11.	Shastri Bhawan	O/O AM, DE RP/SBN, RP D-1	18322	18322	18322
12.	Nirman Bhawan	RSU	18303	18303	18303
13.	K.G. Marg Barrack Defence pool	Fault Control, RP, SDOP-II	2018	2018	2018
14.	Room No. B-33 & 34 South Block, ND	DE I/D SBN store	10280	10280	10280
15.	Defence pool accounts	SBN Exchange	45825	45825	45825

*Building not hired during that period.

*[English]***Special Road Fund**

3236. SHRI RAJESH VERMA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether funds have been sanctioned/allocated under the Special Road Fund (SRF) for the repairing and widening up of roads in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the reconstruction and widening up of Sitapur-via Leharpur-Tambour in Uttar Pradesh has also been taken up under SRF;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the necessary funds have been allocated for this purpose;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) No, Sir. Funds are, however, allocated from Central Road Fund (CRF) *inter alia*, for development of National Highways and State roads.

(b) The allocation for 2004-2005 from CRF for National Highways and State roads are Rs. 1848 crores and Rs. 964 crores respectively.

(c) No proposal for reconstruction and widening up of Sitapur-via Leharpur-Tambour road in Uttar Pradesh has been taken up under CRF.

(d) to (g) Do not arise.

De-Reserving Handloom from SSI

3237. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether handloom is a reserved item within the small scale industries;

(b) if so, whether there is any move to de-reserve the handloom sector from small scale industries;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, reasons therefor?

MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHAVIR PRASAD): (a) No, Sir.

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

Anti-Aids Drugs at Concessional Rate

3238. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to make it mandatory for the Indian Drug Manufacturers to provide Anti-AIDS drugs to local people at concessional rate;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the measures taken in this regard;

(c) if not the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government for more involvement of private sector in HIV/AIDS prevention measures?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) No, Sir. The government has so far not proposed to make it mandatory for the Indian drug manufacturers to provide Anti AIDS drugs to local people at concessional rates.

However, the Government has reduced the cost of generic ARV drugs by exempting payment of central excise duty in the budget of 2002-03, on ten commonly used ARV drugs, such as, Stravudine, Zidovudine, Lamivudine, Nevirapine, Efavirenz, Didanosine, Indinavir, Ritonavir, Nelfinavir and Saquinavir.

(d) The National AIDS Control Programme is implementing preventive measures among the High Risk Groups through NGOs. Presently 933 such Targeted Intervention Projects are operational across the country among the High Risk Groups, such as the Female Sex Workers, Injecting Drug Users, migrant workers, truckers and Men having Sex with Men. NGOs are also involved in running Community Care Centres, Drop in Centres for HIV positive individuals and School AIDS Education Programmes. Under the Global Fund for Prevention of

AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (GFATM) project, they are involved in conducting counseling, outreach services and providing referral linkages with institutions providing Anti Retroviral Therapy.

[Translation]

Bio-Medical Waste Unit in Hospitals

3239. SHRI KARUNA SHUKLA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government had sought proposal from the State Government regarding setting up of bio-medical waste unit in the hospitals in each State;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has fixed any criteria for setting up of bio-medical waste unit; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (b) Yes, Sir. The Ministry of Health & Family Welfare had invited proposals from the State/Union Territory Governments for providing financial assistance for creating infrastructure in identified Government Hospitals/Institutions for establishment of Hospital Waste Management System in accordance with the Bio-Medical Waste (Management & Handling) Rules, 1998.

[English]

Decline in Sex Ratio

3240. SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that there is decline in Child Sex Ratio among the educated and rich sections as reported in the 'Hindu' dated February 19,2005;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) whether the Government agrees with findings of the study conducted by the Centre for Social Research that there is growing acceptance of female foeticide and lack of implementation of the law; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken by the Government for the effective implementation of the Pre-Conception and Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (Prohibition of Sex Selection) Act?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) Declining trend in the Child Sex Ratio has been a matter of concern for all in the country. In India, the CHILD SEX RATIO for the age group of 0-6 years was 927 girls per thousand boys in 2001 against 945 in 1991 Census. The Census 2001 figures further revealed that the child sex ratio is comparatively lower in the affluent regions, *i.e.*, Punjab (798), Haryana (819), Chandigarh (845), Delhi (868), Gujarat (883) and Himachal Pradesh (896). The figures reported in the Hindu, dated February 19,2005, Correspond to 'Sex Ratio at Birth' which are not comparable with the figures of 'Child Sex Ratio for the Age Group of 0-6 years'.

(c) and (d) The study conducted by the Centre for Social Research itself quotes that correct figures on female foeticide are not available. So, it is difficult to conclude that there is growing acceptance of female foeticide. In order to check female foeticide Pre-Conception and Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (Prohibition of Sex Selection) Act has been brought into operation in the country since 1996. The Implementation of the Act rests with the States and Union Territories through the Appropriate Authorities appointed under the Act at State, District as well as at Sub-district levels. The violators of the Act are punishable with imprisonment upto 5 years and fine up to Rs. 5 lakhs, along with cancellation of registration of the license. Under the Act, all units using ultrasound machines etc. should get themselves registered failing which these may be sealed and seized. By the end of February 2005, 25770 Units have been registered in the Country. There are 300 ongoing Court/Police Cases and 33 machines seized/sealed. Out of the total of 300 violations, 214 relate to non-registration, 10 relate to non-maintenance of records, 24 against communication of the sex of the foetus and the remaining are for other violations of the Act. In Delhi, 1779 ultrasound units have been registered and there exist 73 Court/Police cases. National Monitoring and Inspection Committee has been constituted at the Central level to take stock of the ground realities by field visits to the problems areas. The sale of ultrasound machine by the manufactures can only be made to the units registered under the Act. For better implementation of Act at prosecution level, National Judicial Academy, Bhopal has been involved in the training of Judiciary. To

enhance awareness about the Act, a number of activities through print and other media units are undertaken.

It is, nevertheless, recognized that mere legislation is not enough to deal with this problem that has roots in social behavior and prejudices. Various activities have been undertaken to create awareness against the practice of pre-natal determination of sex and female foeticide through Radio, Television, and print media units. Workshops and seminars are also organized through Voluntary Organizations at State/Regional/district block levels to create awareness against this social evil. Cooperation has also been sought from religious leaders, as well as medical fraternity to curb this practice. The Government of India has launched 'Save the Girl Child Campaign' with a view to lessen son preference by highlighting achievements of young girls. For 2003-04, Ms. Sania Mirza, Tennis player, and for 2004-2005, Ms. Aruna Kesvan, CBSE topper, were appointed as Brand Ambassador for the Campaign.

Power to Inspect Homoeopathic Medical Colleges.

3241. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Homoeopathic Central Council Act, 1973 gives powers to the Central Government to inspect Homoeopathic Medical Colleges;

(b) if so, whether only the Central Council of Homoeopathy has the legal right to inspect Homoeopathic Colleges and Hospitals;

(c) if so, whether the Department of AYUSH of the Ministry inspected a number of old and new colleges of Homoeopathy and allowed the opening of two new Homoeopathic Colleges at Rohtak and Sriganaganagar;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the inspection was conducted without any legal authority;

(f) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(g) the action against those found guilty?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (g) In order to improve the standards of Homoeopathy education and arrest the

mushroom growth of substandard Homoeopathy medical colleges in the country, the Homoeopathy Central Council Act, 1973 was amended in the year 2002. The amended law which came into force on 28.1.2003, provide for prior permission of the Central Government for opening of a new Homoeopathy medical college.

As per provisions under Section 12A of the Act, every person or medical institution is to submit a scheme to the Central Government for the purpose of obtaining permission and the Central Government has to refer the scheme to the Central Council for its recommendations. On receipt of the scheme from the Central Government, the Central Council may obtain such particulars as may be considered necessary by it from the person or the medical institution concerned. After considering the scheme, the Central Council is required to submit it to the Central Government together with its recommendations thereon. The Central Government may after considering the scheme and the recommendations of the Central Council, and after obtaining, wherever necessary, such other particulars as may be considered necessary by it from the person or the medical institution concerned, either approve or disapprove the scheme and any such approval is to be taken as a permission.

The schemes (applications) received by the Central Government for opening of new Homoeopathy colleges at Rohtak and Sri Ganganagar were forwarded to the Central Council of Homoeopathy for recommendations under Section 12 A of the amended Act. As the Central Council did not taken action in terms of the legal provisions on the scheme (application) referred to them, the Central Government deputed experts for inspection of applicant institutions to satisfy itself. This was necessary as Section 12A (5) of the Act provides that "where" within a period of one year from the date of submission of the Scheme to the Central Government under sub-section (2), no order is communicated by the Central Government to the person or medical institution submitting the scheme, such scheme shall be deemed to have been approved by the Central Government in the form in which it was submitted and accordingly, the permission of the Central Government required under sub-section (1) shall also be deemed to have been granted. The Act does not in any way preclude the Central Government from deputing, as required, experts for inspections.

As per provisions under the HCC (Amendment) Act, 2002, the Central Government is empowered to grant permission to those existing colleges whose permission had lapsed in 2003-2004. The legal provisions have been followed in letter on spirit.

Violation of Licence Conditions

3242. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Cellular Operators Association of India (COAI) has written to Government alleging violation of licence conditions by MTNL on Delhi-Mumbai traffic;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) The cellular Operators Association of India (COAI) has alleged that it appears to them that Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) is taking its own Long Distance Traffic between Delhi and Mumbai as if they have direct connectivity between these two service areas COAI has requested to consider extending this facility to the private service providers.

(c) It is to mention that as per existing guidelines, connectivity between two telecom service areas is permitted only through licensed National Long distance (NLD) Operator's Network As per information provided by MTNL, the traffic between MTNL, Delhi and MTNL, Mumbai telecom service areas is being carried through BSNL network, which is a licensed NLD operator. In view of this, there is no violation of license conditions by MTNL and hence no further action is required to be taken by the Government.

[Translation]

Decline in Income Earned by Ports

3243. SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been steep decline in the earning of some major ports during the last year;

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

(c) whether the expenditure incurred by the said ports on the other hand is increasing continuously;

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

(e) the corrective steps taken to increase the efficiency and decrease operational/administrative cost of major ports, particularly of Paradeep Port?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) Of the 12 Major Ports, income of Chennai and Mumbai Port declined from Rs. 446.04 crores and Rs. 968.28 crores in 2002-03 to Rs. 413.58 crores and Rs. 544.88 crores during the year 2003-04, respectively.

(c) The expenditure incurred by the said ports during the last four years is indicated below:

	(Rs. in crores)			
	2000-2001	2001-2002	2002-2003	2003-2004
Chennai Port Trust	437.12	411.43	319.36	339.39
Mumbai Port Trust	1095.12	855.97	705.22	761.67

(d) The increase in expenditure of Chennai Port during 2003-04 is due to increase in additional contribution to Pension fund on account of retirement of around 900 employees on Special Voluntary Retirement from service and due to reduction in the interest rate to maintain the required earnings to meet pension liability. The increase in expenditure of Mumbai port during 2003-04 is mainly on account of increase in salary & wages and general increase in costs.

(e) As a part of ongoing process, periodical reviews of different activities are conducted by the Ports to increase efficiency. Modernization of ageing plants and machinery is also undertaken by Ports to increase operational efficiency.

The total expenditure of Paradeep Port which includes operating expenditure has not increased during the year 2003-04 as compared to 2002-2003. The operational expenditure increased by 0.55% from Rs. 211.79 crores during 2002-03 to Rs. 212.96 crores in 2003-04. There is no increase in the administrative expenditure during the year 2003-04.

*[English]***Upgradation of National Highways**

3244. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to spend Rs. 1,72,000 crore for upgrading the National Highways;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether to fund the mega projects the Government is considering to seek market borrowings worth Rs. 30,000 crores and also external assistance and private capital; and

(d) the present status thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K. H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) A presentation was made by the Planning Commission before the Committee on Infrastructure for the proposed programme for upgradation of National Highways in next seven years (2005-2012) at an estimated cost of Rs. 1,72,000 crore (including Rs. 75,000 crore from Private Participation).

(c) and (d) It is too early to indicate the requirement of market borrowing or external assistance for the programme for upgradation of National Highways.

National Highways Development Proposal

3245. SHRI JASHUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal for National Highway Development under the consideration of the Union Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the priorities of the Government in the Saurashtra Region of Gujarat regarding highway development;

(d) whether any highways has been identified in the Saurashtra region for this purpose;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons for the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K. H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) A presentation was made by the Planning Commission before the Committee on Infrastructure for the proposed programme for upgradation of National Highways in the next seven years (2005-2012) at a proposed cost of Rs. 1,72,000 crore (including Rs. 75,000 crore from Private Participation). The presentation included development of National Highways, Bypasses, Expressways etc.

(c) to (f) The National Highway sections identified for 4 laning under NHDP Phase II and NHDP Phase III along with details in the Saurashtra region of Gujarat are enclosed Statement

Statement

Sl. No.	Section	NH	Length (km)	Present Status
1	2	3	4	5

East-West Corridor (NHDP Phase II)

1.	Porbandar-Jetpur (km. 2 to km. 117)	8B	115	Work has been awarded
2.	Jetput-Gondal (km.) (117 to km. 143.30)	8B	26	Work is to be awarded on BOT basis
3.	Gondal-Ribda (km.) 143.30 to km. 160	8B	17	Already 4 laned

1	2	3	4	5
4.	Ribda-Rajkot (km.) (160 to km. 175)	8B	15	Already 4 laned
5.	Rajkot Bypass (km.) (175 to km. 185)	8B	10	Work is to be awarded on BOT basis
6.	Rajkot-Bamanbore (km. 185 to km. 216)	8B	31	Already 4 laned
7.	Bamanbore— Ganamore-Gagodhar Road Section (km. 182.6 to km. 280)	8A	97.4	Work has been awarded
NHDP Phase II				
8.	Jetpur-Somnath	8D	127	Identified under NHDP Phase-III

Amendment in Telegraph Act

3246. SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is considering to make amendment in the Telegraph Act to ensure that the legal provision is more stringent for grey market operations;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is true that the national loss caused by grey market operators in the country since 1998 amounts to Rs. 400.00 crores; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) The amendment to the Indian Telegraph Act for revising the amount of financial penalties is under consideration.

(c) and (d) The estimated notional loss of more than Rs. 400 crores has been caused to the country, by 267 grey market cases detected till date, since 1998. As per available data, as on date the year-wise breakup is as given below:

Year	National Loss (Rupees in Crores)
1	2
1998	60
1999	55.92

1	2
2000	154.75
2001	126.63
2002	19.08
2003	17.56
2004	30.93
2005	27.57

Technology Parks for Women

3247. SHRI B. VINOD KUMAR: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the State-wise number of Technology Parks set up for women as on December 31, 2004;

(b) the number of Technology Parks proposed to be set up during the remaining years of the Tenth Five Year Plan; and

(c) the amount sanctioned and spent therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) Seventeen women technology parks, including one biotechnology park have been set up in the following States of the country:

Sl. No.	States	No. of Technology Parks
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1
2.	Assam	1
3.	Chhattisgarh	1
4.	Kerala	1
5.	Karnataka	1
6.	Madhya Pradesh	1
7.	Maharashtra	3
8.	Meghalaya	1
9.	Rajasthan	1
10.	Sikkim	1
11.	Tamil Nadu	2
12.	Uttaranchal	1
13.	Uttar Pradesh	1
14.	West Bengal	1

(b) Action on setting up atleast 8 Women Technology Parks is proposed to be initiated on receipt of proposals from organizations in different agro climatic regions during the remaining years of the 10th Five Year Plan.

(c) Total amount sanctioned is Rs. 331.27 lakhs and spent Rs. 287.13 lakhs for Technology parks up to 31.12.2004.

Misappropriation of Financial Assistance

3248. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Will the MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that AIMS, New Delhi is receiving financial assistance from Prime Minister Relief Fund, NGOs, individuals etc. for treatment of poor patients;

(b) if so, the details of donations received during the last five years;

(c) whether the amount received in donations etc., is allegedly being misappropriated; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the corrective measures taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (d) All India Institute of Medical Sciences received financial assistance/grants/medical advances from various Government organizations, including Prime Minister's Office, Delhi Arogya Nidhi (DAN), NIAF and other NGOs. The details of the grant received from the above organizations during the last five years is as under:

(Rs. in lakhs)

Year	Prime Minister's Office	Delhi Arogya Nidhi	National Illness Assistance Fund	Others
1999-2000	17.45	7.53	—	54.88
2000-2001	18.36	21.10	33.32	79.87
2001-2002	20.48	26.97	186.88	122.02
2002-2003	21.90	11.94	65.95	152.69
2003-2004	20.80	12.38	87.52	1079.36

The grants are received for individual patients for their treatment. All such patients submit the bills of medicines/implants/surgical items etc. for their treatment and the vouchers are duly verified by treating physician/surgeon and countersigned by Medical Superintendent and then the amount is reimbursed to the patients. For

procedures, where there are package charges, like Cardiology, Neurology and Orthopaedics (for implant only), the money is transferred to the account maintained by the department for the particular purpose. All grants received for such patients are accounted for properly and utilization certificates are sent individually to the granting agency.

*[Translation]***Promotions of Doctors**

3249. SHRI RAJENDER KUMAR:
SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to refer to reply given to Unstarred Question No. 102 on 1.12.2004 and state:

- (a) whether the information has since been collected;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. In CGHS dispensaries General Duty Medical Officers and Non Teaching Specialists of Central Health Service are posted. Their promotions are governed by Central Health Service Rules, 1996 and the instructions issued by the Government from time to time. In General Duty Medical Officer & Non-Teaching Specialist Sub-cadres of Central Health Service, the number of officers promoted during the year 2002, 2003, 2004 and 2005 are 675, 245, 152 and 193 respectively. At present 354 doctors are waiting for their promotion because of non availability of requisite documents/approval of competent authorities.

The promotions of other categories of employees serving under CGHS are governed as per the provisions of the duly notified recruitment rules of the post to which they are promoted.

*[English]***Inspection of Medical Colleges/Hospitals**

3250. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that there is a provision that every Medical College and Government Hospital should be inspected by the Medical Council of India;

(b) if so, whether Medical Council of India did not conduct inspection of Medical Colleges and Hospitals for a number of years;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) the response of the Government thereto; and

(e) the measures taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to conduct regular inspection of Medical Colleges and Government Hospitals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (e) The Medical Council of India is empowered to conduct inspection of medical colleges and attached hospitals under the various provisions of the Indian Medical Council Act, 1956, namely for the purpose of making recommendation to the Government of India for grant of permission to establish a new college or new course of study or increase in the intake capacity; for annual renewal of the permissions granted; for recognition of the medical courses under section 11(2) of the Act; and also periodical inspections of the already recognized institutes to maintain the standard of medical education in the country; The Medical Council of India has been conducting regular inspections of various medical colleges and attached hospitals which are due for inspection under the different categories stated above.

North-South, East-West Corridor Projects

3251. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Highways Authority of India has awarded six projects worth Rs. 1,800 crore on the North-South, East-West corridor;

(b) if so, whether three of the projects which add up to a work value of Rs. 995 crores have been bagged by the Nagarjuna Construction which has teamed up with Daelim of South Korea; and

(c) if so, the time by which the work on these projects is likely to start and the total expenditure involved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K. H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The contractors have started mobilizing equipments at site. The total expenditure involved on six construction packages is estimated at Rs. 1736.59 crore.

Gene Revolution

3252. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether after the green revolution, India needs gene revolution to develop high yielding foodgrain varieties to be able to feed much larger population in future:

(b) is so, whether the Government has asked the scientists to work on projects in this regards; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) Yes, Sir. The Green Revolution is showing signs of fatigue and farm productivity increases are flattening as many of the crop varieties are nearing their biological limits of productivity, and increase in their productivity with high agricultural inputs may not be feasible in future. To meet the needs of our increasing population, we need to increase our food production with less per capita arable land, less water and other natural resources under increasingly adverse environmental conditions. Advances in plant biotechnology make it possible to transfer defined genes from any source into our crops across the reproductive barriers, for improving their productivity.

(b) and (c) The Government is supporting research Projects on cloning and characterization of genes of agronomic importance and their transfer into our important crops. These efforts have resulted in identification of more than two dozen genes such as Bt., protease inhibitor, ferritin, lectin, fatty acid desaturase genes, tissue specific promoter, protein quality and salt resistant genes. In addition, Indian Initiative for Rice Genome Sequencing has identified many genes, and subsequently a new multi-institutional network programme on Rice Functional Genomics has been commissioned for identification and functional analysis for genes related to yield and biotic stresses. The Government is already supporting research projects on biotechnological interventions for improving productivity, reducing losses due to biotic and abiotic stresses and improving nutritional quality of crops such as Rice, Mustar, Tomato, Mungbean, Chickpea, Potato, Sweet Potato, Cotton, Sugarcane etc. Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has also contemplated a new programme to develop transgenics in important crops

such as rice, sorghum, maize, chickpea, pigeon pea, cotton, mustard, banana, papaya, tomato, brinjal, potato and cassava for important specific traits. The project would be undertaken by 20 ICAR institutions specializing in the genetic improvement of these crops.

[Translation]

Shortage of Pre-Paid Cards

3253. SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is shortage of pre-paid connections of the Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited in Uttar Pradesh, particularly in Bareilly district where complaints have been received about not getting connection despite lapse of more than one year; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Yes Sir, due to capacity constraints and to give trouble free service to the customers, the release of pre-paid connections has been controlled temporarily.

(b) Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) has placed Purchased order for supply and installation of equipment of 12,20,000 lines capacity including 42,800 lines capacity for Bareilly district in Uttar Pradesh and the connections are expected to be available on demand within six months.

[English]

Ayurvedic and Other Alternative Systems of Medicines

3254. SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has a proposal to promote Ayurveda and other alternative systems of medicines;

(b) if so, the programmes drawn up in that regard; State-Wise; and

(c) the steps being taken to promote Ayurvedic and other alternative systems of medicines in Rajasthan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) The Government is committed to promote Ayurveda and other Indian Systems of Medicine. A number of Central Sectors and Centrally Sponsored Schemes are being implemented in this regard for development of educational institutions, promotion of research activities, drugs quality control, hospitals & dispensaries, etc. Financial assistance is given for development of educational infrastructure, teaching hospitals, strengthening of State drug testing laboratories & pharmacies and supply of essential drugs to the dispensaries in rural and backward areas in all the States subject to suitable proposals in accordance with the relevant guidelines.

(c) The Government of Rajasthan has been given financial assistance for development of educational infrastructure, strengthening of State drug testing laboratories & State pharmacies and supply of essential drugs to a large number of dispensaries in the rural and backward areas of the State of Ayurveda, Unani and Homoeopathic Systems of Medicine.

[Translation]

Vacancies in Central Secretariat Services

3255. SHRI AJIT JOGI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that many vacancies are yet to be filled up in the Central Secretariat Services;

(b) if so, the time by when these posts are likely to be filled up;

(c) whether the Union Government proposes to give relaxation in age limit for entry to the Central Secretariat Services; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SURESH PACHAURI): (a) and (b) Filling up of vacancies in the Central Secretariat Services is an ongoing process and vacancies

arising periodically in these Services are filled up in accordance with the extant rules and instructions.

(c) There is no such proposal.

(d) Does not arise.

Funds to NGOs

3256. SHRI BAPU HARI CHAURE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government provides funds to the voluntary organisations NGOs working in the field of the Health and Family Welfare Programmes and Rural Health Care Schemes;

(b) if so, the total funds provided to the Non-Governmental Organisations during each of the last three years State-wise;

(c) the details of the NGOs engaged in the above programmes/schemes; and

(d) the agencies appointed by the Government for monitoring of the proper utilisation of the funds by these NGOs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

Fraud in Mulund Post Office, Mumbai

3257. SHRIMATI KALPANA RAMESH NARHIRE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the inquiry/investigation into fraud relating to small investors at Mulund West Post Office (Mumbai) has been completed;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that the postal staff was involved in the same;

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard;

(e) whether the complaint has been filed by the Department with the Mumbai Police/CBI in this regard;

(f) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons for delay; and

(g) the time by which the money of the investors is likely to be refunded?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Yes, Sir. The departmental investigation has been completed.

(b) The amount of fraud detected is Rs. 57,16,956/- (Rupees Fifty seven lakh sixteen thousand nine hundred and fifty six only). Four Small Saving Agents are involved.

(c) Four postal employees are found to be involved in the case.

(d) Disciplinary action has been initiated against all these officials.

(e) Yes Sir, the Department has filed complaint with the Mumbai Police.

(f) The Police have arrested the agents who are the principal offenders and filed charge sheet in the Court.

(g) So far twelve claims amounting Rs. 2,34,364/ (Rupees two lakh thirty four thousand and three hundred sixty four only) have been sanctioned. No claim is pending with the department for settlement at present.

[*Translation*]

Corruption Cases

3258. SHRI TUKARAM GANPATRAO RENGÉ
PATIL:
SHRI SUNIL KUMAR MAHATO:

will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Vigilance Officers responsible for checking corruption have proved to be inefficient and ineffective;

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

(c) whether the Government proposes to review the handling of corruption cases;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SURESH PACHAURI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) There is no such proposal.

(d) and (e) Does not arise.

[*English*]

Telephones to Gram Panchayats

3259. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether telephones have been provided to all Gram Panchayats in Andhra circle;

(b) if so, the number of Panchayats covered so far and those yet to be covered, district-wise;

(c) the time by which telephone facilities to all the Gram Panchayats are likely to be provided; and

(d) the budgetary allocation made for this purpose in 2003-04 and 2004-05 and the amount actually spent?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) No, Sir.

(b) 18,264 Gram Panchayats have been provided with telephone facility and 1,269 Gram Panchayats are yet to be provided with telephone facility. The Secondary Switching Area (SSA) wise details is given in enclosed Statement I.

(c) The office of the Administrator Universal Service Obligation (USO) Fund has signed agreement with Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) on 10-11-2004 for extending subsidy towards the provision of Village Public Telephones in the remaining uncovered villages in Andhra Pradesh. This excludes villages which are depopulated,

naxalite/insurgency infested, having population of less than hundred persons and those lying in deep forest areas. These villages shall be provided with VPTs in a phased manner by November, 2007.

(d) The subsidy support provided from USO Fund for the existing VPTs for various activities in Andhra Pradesh is given in enclosed Statement-II.

Statement I

Secondary Switching Area (SSA) wise list of Village Panchayats provided with telephone facility and yet to be provided with telephone facility in Andhra Pradesh

Sl. No.	Name of Secondary Switching Area (SSA)	No. of Panchayats provided with telephone facility	No. of Panchayats yet to be provided with telephone facility
1.	Adilabad	629	97
2.	Anantapur	823	42
3.	Chittoor	1144	148
4.	Cuddapah	715	26
5.	East Godavari	869	67
6.	Guntur	959	0
7.	Karim Nagar	988	63
8.	Khammam	575	33
9.	Krishna	933	0
10.	Kurnool	811	10
11.	Mahabubnagar	1092	12
12.	Medak	791	18
13.	Nalgonda	968	43
14.	Nellore	900	42
15.	Nizamabad	553	68
16.	Prakasam	897	58
17.	Rangareddy	581	02
18.	Srikakulam	985	79
19.	Visakhapatnam	724	205
20.	Vizianagaram	832	57
21.	Warangal	686	198
22.	West Godavari	809	01
	Total	18264	1269

Statement II**Subsidy support for Universal Service Obligation (USO) Fund for Village Public Telephones in Andhra Pradesh**

Sl. No.	Name of the Activity	Subsidy Disbursed (Rs. in crore)	
		2003-04	2004-05 upto 28-02-2005
1.	Operation and Maintenance of VPTs	2.48	3.50
2.	Replacement of Multi-Access Radio Relay (MARR) VPTs	0.21	5.76
Total:		2.69	9.26

Technology for Setting up of Telephone Facilities

3260. SHRI SUNIL KUMAR MAHATO:
SHRI V. K. THUMMAR:

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

(a) whether the Government has identified the technology for setting up of telephone facilities in the rural areas keeping in view the geographical and social conditions of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of various kinds of technologies utilised for setting up of telephone facilities in the rural areas of the country so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) BSNL has identified and utilised following technology for providing telephone facilities in the rural areas keeping in view the geographical and social conditions of the country;

- (i) Wireless in Local Loop (WLL): This is a fully wireless technology for the access network in the rural areas. This system consists of one Base Station Controller with multiple Base Stations located in different places.

(ii) Satellite based technology: Villages in remote and isolated areas which cannot be covered by any other terrestrial media are being provided with telephone facility using Digital Satellite Phone Terminals (DSPTs).

(iii) Underground cable/overhead lines.

[*Translation*]

State Health Development Projects

3261. SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the States as on date where the world Bank funded State Health Development Projects were launched in 1996 but have since been discontinued;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the achievements made under the said projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) to (c) The second State Health System Development Project was launched in Karnataka, Punjab and West Bengal in 1996 with World Bank assistance of SDR 235.5 m/US\$ 350 million. The project was completed on 31st March 2004. The World Bank in its final review has recorded that all the development objectives set for the project have been met.

*[English]***Restoring Retirement Age of Port/Dock Workers**

3262. SHRI JUAL ORAM: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has a proposal to restore the retirement age of port and dock workers to 60; and

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

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Panchayat Sanchar Seva Yojana

3263. SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government had launched Panchayat Sanchar Seva Yojana in the year 1995;

(b) if so, the objectives of the Yojana;

(c) whether under this Yojana, the Government had paid commission to agents who rendered no business;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the loss incurred by the Government as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The objective was to provide basic postal facilities in Gram Panchayat villages, which did not have postal facilities, in a more cost-effective manner, in collaboration with the Panchayats.

(c) and (d) Under the Panchayat Sanchar Seva Yojana, an agent was paid a fixed allowance of Rs. 300/- month (later revised to Rs. 600/- month from March 2001) for rendering counter services like sale of stamps and stationery and booking of registered letters, as well as for collection, conveyance and delivery of mail, wherever

permitted. Separate incentive/commission was given for the quantum of stamps and stationery sold and every registered article booked. Where no transaction took place, the agent was paid only the fixed allowance, but no commission.

(e) Does not arise in views of (c) and (d) above.

Allotment of Public Telephone Booths In Karnataka

3264. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of pending applications for allotment of public telephone booths, circle-wise, in Karnataka;

(b) the criteria laid down for allotment of such booths;

(c) the steps taken to clear all the pending applications;

(d) whether any priority is being given to educated unemployed youths/handicapped in regard to the said allotment of booths;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Sir, total number of pending applications in Karnataka are 1719. District-wise details are given in the enclosed Statement.

(b) All applicants of the age of 18 years and above are eligible for allotment of Public Telephone booths. The connections are provided as per their registration subject to technical feasibility.

(c) The following steps have been taken to clear the pending applications;

(i) Action initiated to lay underground cables to make the non-feasible areas feasible.

(ii) By installing WLL System in new areas.

(iii) Procurement of FWTs (Fixed Wireless Terminals) for areas covered by existing WLL systems and WLL capacity available.

(d) and (e) Normally, the Public Telephones are allotted to all the applicants as per their registration. However, where there is waiting list, priority in allotment is given to the handicapped persons along with war-widows/dependents, SC/ST and ex-servicemen. No priority is laid down for educated unemployed youths.

(f) No priority to educated unemployed youths is considered necessary as the PCOs are available on demand in most of the areas.

Statement

District-wise Pending Applications in Karnataka

Sl. No.	Name of District	Pending Applications, for PCOs (including Local and STD/ISD) PCOs as on 28-02-2005
1	2	3
1.	Bangalore (Urban)	129
2.	Bangalore (Rural)	96
3.	Bidar	0
4.	Belgaum	0
5.	Bijapur	740
6.	Begalkot	222
7.	Bellary	18
8.	Chickmanglur	41
9.	Devangere	0
10.	Chitradurga	0
11.	Dakshina Kannada	06
12.	Udupi	17
13.	Gulbarga	11
14.	Hassan	0
15.	Hubli	34
16.	Gadag	107
17.	Haveri	28
18.	Kolar	0

1	2	3
19.	Mysore	0
20.	Chamrajnagar	0
21.	Mandya	0
22.	Madikeri	0
23.	Raichur	0
24.	Koppal	0
25.	Shimoga	270
26.	Tumkur	0
27.	Uttara Kannada	0
Total		1719

WLL in Rural/Semi-Urban Areas

3265. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has formulated any strategy to introduce WLL technology in Rural and Semi-urban areas of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons thereof;

(d) whether the Government has initiated action against basic telephone operators for not fulfilling their commitment in providing services in rural areas;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) has planned to deploy Wireless in Local Loop (WLL) technology in all the rural and semi-urban areas of the country where the demand and viability exists. BSNL has so far deployed 8,59,750 lines of WLL in urban areas and 16,70,550 lines in rural areas as on 31-01-2005.

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

(d) to (f) Liquidated damages of Rs. 53.75 crore were recovered for delay in commencement of service, non-provision of Village Public Telephones (VPTs) and Direct Exchange Lines (DELs).

Upgradation of Medical Units in Karnataka

3266. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to upgrade 276 medical units in Karnataka at the village, district and state levels at a cost of slightly higher than Rs. 200 million for round the clock monitoring regarding occurrence of diseases besides keeping a close watch on unusual clinic symptoms;

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

(c) whether the Union Government is likely to provide funds for the upgradation of these medical units; and

(d) if so, the time by when these units are likely to become functional?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (b) The Government has initiated Integrated Disease Surveillance Project in nine states of the country in Phase-I including the State of Karnataka. The aim of the project is to strengthen the disease surveillance mechanism and for this purpose 249 Community Health Centres and 27 District Surveillance Units in the State of Karnataka have been identified. Out of the total allocation of Rs. 215.95 million earmarked for the State, an amount of Rs. 29.20 million has been released so far. These units are envisaged to become functional during the year 2005-06.

Funds for Telecom Services in Gujarat

3267. SHRI JASHUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the funds allocated for providing telecom services in Gujarat during each of the last three years and current financial year, district-wise;

(b) whether the telecom circles have achieved the target fixed in this regard;

(c) if so, the details of the expenditure incurred thereon;

(d) if not, the reasons for the same; and

(e) the time by when this target is likely to be achieved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) The details of funds allocated to Gujarat Circle for providing telecom services during the last three years and current Financial Year, district-wise are given in enclosed Statement I.

(b) In majority of the cases targets have been achieved. The status is given in enclosed Statement II.

(c) The details of the expenditure for the last three years and current financial year are as under:

Sl. No.	Year	Expenditure Incurred Amount (Rs. In Crores)
1.	2001-02	1170.81
2.	2002-03	896.19
3.	2002-04	337.21
4.	2004-05	95.77
		(upto 31.01.05)

(d) and (e) Due to late roll out of Mobile Network in Gujarat by the Vendor, the provision of Mobile Connections was delayed. However the Mobile Connections are now being released.

Statement I

SSA/District/Year-wise Detail of Funds Allotted for providing Telecom Services in Gujarat Circle

Amount (Rs. in Crores)

Sl. No.	Name of SSA/District	Year 2001-02	Year 2002-03	Year 2003-04	Year 2004-05
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Ahmedabad	269.1	164.04	159.64	104.24
2.	Amreli	28.92	55.97	3.83	1.61

1	2	3	4	5	6
3.	Baroda	87.4	38.01	30.57	12.79
4.	Bharuch	68.61	36.73	15.01	5.88
5.	Bhavnagar	33.42	23.31	11.89	5.94
6.	Bhuj	62.45	30.26	20.49	6.68
7.	Godhra	45.28	49.27	6.04	3.23
8.	Himatnagar	61.28	60.01	19.1	7.28
9.	Jamnagar	55.69	50.46	25.32	6.91
10.	Junagadh	69.55	22.71	41.7	7.14
11.	Mehsana	51.99	100.75	31.96	6.72
12.	Nadiad	57.16	41.15	8.6	4.11
13.	Palanpur	44.6	51.81	15.81	6.56
14.	Rajkot	91.16	118.75	22.55	18.3
15.	Surat	90.36	50.38	27.78	11.46
16.	Surendranagar	48.2	34.16	11.72	3.35
17.	Valsad	94.01	64.39	6.08	8.15
18.	C.O Ancillary Syst.	66.85	129.78	66.05	39.99
Total		1326.03	1121.94	523.94	260.34

Statement II

Details of Targets & Achievements During the Last Three Years and During 2004-05 (Upto 31.01.05) in Respect of Gujarat Telecom Circle

Sl. No.	Year	Parameters					
		Gross Telephone Connections (Fixed, WLL and Mobile)		Optical Fibre Cable (Route Kilometers)		Trunk Automatic Exchanges (Kilo Circuits)	
		Target	Achievement	Target	Achievement	Target	Achievement
1.	2001-02	650000	587866	9050	9215	59	61
2.	2002-03	502700	584669	2000	2633	86.5	90.5
3.	2003-04	424000	398840	1200	2008	51	29
4.	2004-05 (upto 31.01.05)	663000	270111	1000	383	26	16

Setting up of Ayurvedic Research Centre

3268. SHRI VIKRAMBHAI ARJANBHAI MADAM: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received any proposal for the setting up of Ayurvedic Centre in Gujarat;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) The Central Government has not received any proposal for setting up of an Ayurvedic Research Centre in Gujarat.

(b) and (c) Question do not arise.

Scheme for Hill Areas

3269. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has any scheme/programme for development of Hill Areas of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government has received requests for similar scheme/programme for Coastal Areas of Orissa;

(d) if so, the details and the action taken by the Union Government on such requests; and

(e) the time by which the Government is likely to chalk out a separate scheme/programme for the Coastal Areas?

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Special Central Assistance is released under the Hill Area Development Programme (HADP) and Western Ghats Development Programme (WGDP) for the development of designated hill areas of the country. HADP covers two districts of Assam, one district of Tamil Nadu and one district of West Bengal and WGDP covers 171 talukas of Western Ghats Region comprising Goa (3

talukas in 1 district), Karnataka (40 talukas in 11 districts), Kerala (32 talukas in 3 districts), Maharashtra (63 talukas in 11 districts) and Tamil Nadu (33 talukas in 8 districts). Special Central Assistance is being allocated to the States covered under these programmes on the basis of area and population with equal weightage in the case of HADP and 75% weightage to area and 25% weightage to population in the case of WGDP.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

New Map Policy

3270. SHRI SURESH PRABHAKAR PRABHU: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to evolve a new 'map policy';

(b) if so, the major provisions of the same;

(c) whether it includes the necessary changes in the field of Aerial/Digital photogrammetry;

(d) whether the Survey of India toposheets will be available in public domain in digital form; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (e) The New Map Policy is still under consideration of the Government. The provisions are in the process of finalisation.

US Developing New Nukes

3271. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) Whether the US has been designing new generation nukes as reported in the *Hindustan Times* dated February 8, 2005; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) Government has seen the report about US plans to develop new generation nuclear weapons. The report pertains to the Reliable Replacement Warheads Programme of the US. Dr. Samuel Bodman, the US Energy Secretary commenting on the programme has said "It's a matter of maintaining what we have. I think some have suggested 'it's creating something new. It's maintaining what we have". Earlier Stephen G. Rademaker the US Assistant Secretary of State, in a statement on February 3, 2005 said "Consistent with our alliance commitments and defense requirements, it is our policy to continue to plan for contingencies and conceptually explore technical options that could maintain the credibility of our nuclear deterrent capability". He added "the fact is that the United States is not developing any new nuclear weapons, including low-yield nuclear weapons. The study of new weapons designs under funding provided by Congress in past years for advanced concepts has been entirely conceptual".

(b) India has maintained that all weapons of mass destruction, including nuclear weapons should be eliminated globally through multilaterally negotiated, universal and non-discriminatory disarmament instruments.

Regularisation of Casual Labourers

3272. SHRI K.C. SINGH "BABA": Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that guidelines issued by the Government conferring grant of temporary status to and regularization of certain categories of casual labourers employed in Government Departments exclude certain casual labourers who were in service on the date of issue of the said guidelines, or who got employment after the date of issue of the said guidelines despite having rendered service for minimum number of days prescribed in the guidelines;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) if not, the number of casual labourers granted temporary status during the last three years, Ministry/department-wise particularly those working in the Defence Accounts Departments?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF

PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SURESH PACHAURI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. As per the provisions of Casual Labourers (Grant of Temporary Status & Regularisation) Scheme of Government of India, 1993, temporary status could be conferred on the casual labourers who were in employment on the date of the commencement of the scheme and who have rendered a continuous service of at least one year, which means that they must have been engaged for a period of at least 240 days (206 days in the case of Offices observing five days week). the casual labourers who do not fulfil the above criteria are not eligible for grant of temporary status.

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

Telephone Facilities in Karnataka

3273. SHRI G.M. SIDDESWARA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether urban and rural areas of all the districts of Karnataka have been provided with telephone facilities;

(b) if not, the number of villages where telephone facility has not been provided, district-wise;

(c) the details of the waiting list in rural areas of Karnataka, district-wise;

(d) the reasons behind the alleged failure of Union Government in achieving the targets of National Telecom Policy in rural areas;

(e) the time by when the waiting list of telephone connections in rural areas of Karnataka is likely to be cleared;

(f) the amount provided for this purpose; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Yes, Sir. Urban areas in all the districts & accessible, inhabited and undisputed village in Karnataka have been provided with telephone facilities.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Details are given in the enclosed Statement.

(d) As per Objectives of New Telecom Policy, 1999, the target is to achieve the rural teledensity from 0.4% to 4% by year 2010. The present tele-density is 1.63%. It is expected that the target of 4% fixed under NTP 1999 will be achieved by 2010.

(e) Majority of the present waiting list is expected to be cleared by June, 2006.

(f) The amount allocated for providing telephones in rural areas in 2004-05 is Rs. 156.11 crores.

(g) The waiting list in villages is proposed to be cleared by using CDMA Wireless in Local Loop (WLL) equipment.

Statement

Waiting List in The Rural Areas of Karnataka

Sl. No.	Revenue Districts	Rural Waiting List
1	2	3
1.	Bangalore (Rural)	11,921
2.	Bidar	81
3.	Belgaum	6,449
4.	Bijapur	2,478
5.	Bagalkot	1,046
6.	Chikmagalur	1,996
7.	Davangere	780
8.	Chitradurga (CTL)	1,730
9.	Dakshina Kannada	9,934
10.	Udupi	10,408
11.	Gulbarga	2,385
12.	Hassan	4,064
13.	Hubli	563
14.	Gadag	897
15.	Haveri	1,786
16.	Kolar	3,498

1	2	3
17.	Mysore	2,685
18.	Chamraj Nagar	75
19.	Mandya	3,402
20.	Kodagu	2,921
21.	Raichur	2,299
22.	Koppal	598
23.	Shimoga	7,120
24.	Tumkur	3,557
25.	Uttar Kannada	1,412

[Translation]

Network of Medical Stores

3274. SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR CHOUDHARY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to set up a country-wide network of Government medical stores;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) The Medical Stores Organization is already having its country-wide network and operates through its seven Govt. Medical Store Depots located at Delhi Chennai, Guwahati, Hyderabad, Karnal, Kolkata and Mumbai. These Medical Stores Depots cater to the needs of whole country for supply of Medicines to Govt. Hospitals and CGHS Dispensaries.

[English]

Broadband Services

3275. SHRI MUNSHI RAM:
SHRI MOHD. TAHIR:
SHRI D. VITTAL RAO:
SHRIMATI ANURADHA CHOUDHARY:

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

(a) the States where broadband services have been launched;

(b) the number of applications received for broadband connections; State-wise;

(c) whether the Government proposes to extend the said services to mobile phone users also; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Broadband Service has been launched in January 2005 in 9 States namely Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Delhi, Kamataka, Maharashtra, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal and Gujarat by Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) and Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL).

(b) The details of registrations received by BSNL & MTNL for Broadband connections state-wise is given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) and (d) Broadband Policy 2004 visualises creation of Infrastructure through various access technologies for provision of Broadband services within the licensing framework of service providers and spectrum management policy of Department of Telecommunications.

Statement

Details of Broadband Registration of BSNL & MTNL*

Sl. No.	Name of the Telecom. Circle/District	No. of Registration
1	2	3
1.	Andaman and Nicobar	79
2.	Andhra Pradesh	11811
3.	Assam	838
4.	Bihar	3597
5.	Chhattisgarh	802
6.	Delhi	18002
7.	Gujarat	10799
8.	Haryana	3242
9.	Himachal Pradesh	642

1	2	3
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	767
11.	Jharkhand	2029
12.	Kamataka	21491
13.	Kerala	6918
14.	Madhya Pradesh	5931
15.	Maharashtra	15809
16.	Mumbai	4763
17.	North East-1	754
18.	North East-II	399
19.	Orissa	2025
20.	Punjab	7313
21.	Rajasthan	4739
22.	Tamil Nadu	10166
23.	Uttar Pradesh (East)	7207
24.	Uttar Pradesh (West)	3206
25.	Uttaranchal	1096
26.	West Bengal	2927
27.	Chennai Telecom. District	16017
28.	Kolkatta Telecom. District	19168

*Note: Details at Sr. No. 6 & 16 are in respect of MTNL while rest are in respect of BSNL.

[Translation]

Delay in Issuance of Passport

3276. SHRI MANSUKHBHAI D. VASAVA:
SHRI VIKRAMBHAI ARJANBHAI MADAM:
SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR:
SHRI KASHIRAM RANA:
SHRI ATIQ AHAMAD:
SHRI M. ANJAN KUMAR YADAV:
SHRI V.K. THUMMAR:
SHRI RAGHUVVEER SINGH KOSHAL:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether slow progress in police verification is the major reason for the delayed issuance of passports;

(b) if so, the number of passport applications pending as on date, RPO-wise;

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to clear the pending applications at the earliest;

(d) whether district passport cells have not been set up in all the districts;

(e) if so, the time by when these are likely to be set up;

(f) whether inspection of passport offices have been conducted recently;

(g) if so, the details of various cases of corruption that have been unearthed thereby; and

(h) the action taken/proposed to be taken against those found guilty?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) Non-receipt of police verification report in time is sometimes one of the reasons for delay in issue of passports.

(b) A statement is enclosed.

(c) Steps taken to clear the pendency include (i) request police for expeditious verification (ii) streamlining of the process of application (iii) strengthening of public enquiry counters (iv) opening of a Central Public Grievance Monitoring cell under direct supervision of Chief Passport Officer to monitor complaints of delays.

(d) District Passport Cells have been opened in all States except Uttaranchal. Currently, approximately 400 districts in the country have District Passport Cells.

(e) The concerned State Government and Union Territories have been apprised of the advantages of opening of District Passport Cells and have been requested to open District Passport Cells in the districts where these have not yet been opened.

(f) Passport Offices are regularly inspected by officers of the Ministry.

(g) Does not arise.

(h) Action against those found guilty in such cases is taken as per rules and includes suspensions or imposition of appropriate penalties.

Statement

Pendency Statement

Sl. No.	Passport Office	Applications pending as on 14.03.2005
1	2	3
1.	Ahmedabad	4520
2.	Bangalore	4462
3.	Bareilly	1618
4.	Bhopal	8535
5.	Bhubaneswar	1882
6.	Chandigarh	10488
7.	Chennai	4164
8.	Cochin	3126
9.	Delhi	8779
10.	Ghaziabad	2118
11.	Guwahati	220
12.	Hyderabad	2134
13.	Jaipur	22087
14.	Jalandhar	3578
15.	Jammu	79
16.	Kolkata	1208
17.	Kozhikode	13927
18.	Lucknow	10264
19.	Mumbai	745
20.	Nagpur	1375
21.	Panaji	209
22.	Patna	1283
23.	Pune	45
24.	Ranchi	2520

1	2	3
25.	Srinagar	2934
26.	Surat	2656
27.	Thane	NIL
28.	Tiruchirappalli	4516
29.	Trivandrum	3428
30.	Visakhapatnam	2924

Opening of Homoeopathic Colleges

3277. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR KHANDELWAL:
SHRI FAGGAN SINGH KULASTE:
SHRIMATI NEETA PATERIYA:

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

(a) the procedures and norms laid down regarding taking approval for opening a Homoeopathy College in the country;

(b) the details of facilities and eligibility to be possessed by the Institutes for being recognised as colleges and the agency deputed for conducting inspection prior to granting approval in this regard;

(c) whether the Union Government has given approval for opening Homoeopathy Colleges in certain States during the recent years;

(d) if so, the details thereof, State-wise including the names of such Institutes;

(e) the name of the agency which conducted inspection prior to opening the said Homoeopathy Colleges;

(f) whether the Union Government has given approval for opening the said Homoeopathy Colleges without getting them inspected by a competent Homoeopathy council and without any recommendation;

(g) if so, the facts of the matter; and

(h) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI

PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (h) As per provisions under Section 12A of the Act, every person or medical institution is to submit a scheme to the Central Government for the purpose of obtaining permission and the Central Government is required to refer the scheme to the Central Council for its recommendations. On receipt of the scheme from the Central Government, the Central Council may obtain such particulars as may be considered necessary by it from the person or the medical institution concerned. After considering the schemes, the Central Council is required to submit it to the Central Government together with its Recommendations thereon. The Central Government may, after considering the scheme and the recommendations of the Central Council, and after obtaining, wherever necessary, such other particulars as may be considered necessary by it from the person or the medical institution concerned, either approve or disapprove the scheme and any such approval is to be taken as a permission.

The details of facilities and eligibility to be possessed by the applicant institute include availability of building infrastructure for conducting classes, hospital, laboratories, office accommodation including for teaching faculties, recruitment of teaching, technical and non-technical manpower as per the minimum prescribed norms, prescribed quantity of land, no objection certificate from the State Government and consent of affiliation of the University concerned.

Government of India has given permission to J.R. Kissan Trust, Rohtak and J.R. Tania Trust, Sriganganagar for opening of new Homoeopathy College at Rohtak (Haryana) and Sriganganagar (Rajasthan) respectively.

The applications received by the Central Government for opening of new Homoeopathy colleges at Rohtak and Sriganganagar were forwarded to the Central Council of Homoeopathy for recommendations under Section 12A of the amended Act. As the Central Council did not take action in terms of the legal provisions on the scheme (application) referred to them, the Central Government deputed experts, *v/z.*, Dr. S.P. Singh, Adviser (Homoeopathy) and Dr. T.N.S. Kurup, Assistant Director, CCRH for inspection of new Homoeopathy College at Rohtak (Haryana) and Prof. C. Nayak, Director (CCRH) and Dr. Alok Kumar, Deputy Adviser (Homoeopathy) for inspection of new Homoeopathy College & Research Institute at Sriganganagar, (Rajasthan) to satisfy itself. This was necessary as Section 12A (5) of the Act provides that "where within a period of one year from the date of submission of the Scheme to the Central

Government under sub-section (2), no order is communicated by the Central Government to the person or medical institution submitting the scheme, such scheme shall be deemed to have been approved by the Central Government in the form in which it was submitted and accordingly, the permission of the Central Government required under sub-section (1) shall also be deemed to have been granted". The Act does not in any way preclude the Central Government from deputing, as required, experts for inspections.

As per provisions under the HCC (Amendment) Act, 2002, the Central Government is empowered to grant permission to those existing colleges whose permission had lapsed in 2003-2004. The legal provisions have been followed in letter on spirit.

Recommendation of SC/ST Parliamentarian Conference

3278. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that the SC/ST Parliamentarian Conference held in December, 1999 had recommended that SC/ST member should be attached with Selection Boards for appointment/nomination to high posts in corporation/autonomous bodies/Government Departments;

(b) if so, the action taken thereon; and

(c) the number of SC/ST employees in Ministry of Finance holding such high posts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTRY OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SURESH PACHAURI):

(a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

[English]

Draft Regulations Pertaining to Homoeopathic Colleges

3279. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY:
SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:

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

(a) whether the draft Regulations laying down the scheme of recognition of new homoeopathic colleges, increase of seats and starting of new courses were sent by the Central Council of Homoeopathy to Union Government for approval;

(b) if so, whether the Government has approved the said draft regulations; and

(c) if so, the details thereof alongwith the changes incorporated by the Government in the said draft.

(d) whether the changes made were not in conformity with the Homoeopathy Central Council Act, 1973; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken to solve the said issue?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (e) The Central Council of Homoeopathy had sent draft Regulations for the Establishment of New Homoeopathic Medical Colleges, opening of New or higher course of study or training and increase of admission capacity by a Homoeopathic Medical College, for the approval of the Central Government. The Central Govt. with necessary changes and concurrence of the Ministry of Law & Justice sent the regulations to CCH for notification. The changes were made in respect of land area, bank guarantee, application fee, etc., for maintaining high standards of education and to arrest the mushroom growth of substandard educational institutions of Homoeopathy. The changes made were in conformity with the provisions of Homoeopathy Central Council Act, 1973. The Central Council, however, did not publish the regulations approved by Central Government. The matter has been referred to the Inquiry commission constituted to look into the irregularities committed by the Central Council of Homoeopathy.

Monitor of High Tech Products

3280. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO:
SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a new agreement had been signed between the U.S. and India late last year that committed India to monitor not just the end use of high tech products but also the end users;

(b) if so, the salient features of the said agreement alongwith the list of U.S. goods which are covered for end-use verification;

(c) whether under the said agreement India will help the U.S. Government to carry out a reference check on organizations or companies which import sensitive technology; and

(d) if so, the extent to which it is likely to be helpful to India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) and (b) Yes sir. India and the United States finalised an arrangement in September 2004 for end-use verification of selected dual use items subject to US licensing requirements or prohibitions. The focus of the arrangement is on end-use and not on end-users.

(c) Under the arrangement the Government of India would facilitate pre-license checks and post-shipment verifications in order to ensure the security of high-technology trade with the United States.

(d) As a result, the US Government has adopted more liberal and predictable licensing policies. This has led to expansion of high-technology commerce between the two countries.

12.01 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

[*English*]

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table:-

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Seamen's Provident Fund Organization, Mumbai, for the year 2003-2004.
- (ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Seamen's Provident Fund Organization, Mumbai, for the year 2003-2004, together with Audit Report thereon.
- (iii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Seamen's Provident Fund Organization, Mumbai, for the year 2003-2004.

- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 1847/2005]

- (3) A copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Shipping, Road Transport and Highways, for the year 2005-2006.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 1848/2005]

[*Translation*]

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHAVIR PRASAD): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table-

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Coir Board, Kochi, for the year 2003-2004, along with Accounts.
 - (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Coir Board, Kochi, for the year 2003-2004.
 - (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.
 - (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Coir Board, Kochi, for the year 2003-2004, together with Audit Report thereon, under sub-section (4) of section 17 of the Coir Industry Act, 1953.
 - (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) on the Audited Accounts of the Coir Board, Kochi, for the year 2003-2004.
 - (4) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (3) above.
- [Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 1849/2005]
- 5 (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Khadi and Village Industries Commission, Mumabi, for the year 2003-2004.
 - (ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Khadi and Village Industries Commission, Mumabi, for the year 2003-2004, together with Audit Report thereon.

- (iii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Khadi and Village Industries Commission, Mumbai, for the year 2003-2004.
- (6) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (5) above.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 1850/2005]

[*English*]

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Department of Telecommunications, Ministry of Communications and Information Technology, for the year 2005-2006.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 1851/2005]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF OVERSEAS INDIANS AFFAIRS (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs for the year 2005-2006.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 1852/2005]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation for the year 2005-2006.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 1853/2005]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table-

- (1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619 A of the Companies Act, 1956:-
- (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Central Electronics Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2003-2004.

- (ii) Annual Report of the Central Electronics Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2003-2004, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 1854/2005]

- (3) A copy each of the following Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions):-

- (i) Department of Ocean Development for the year 2005-2006.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 1855/2005]

- (ii) Ministry of Science and Technology, for the year 2005-2006.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 1856/2005]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SURESH PACHAURI): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table-

- (1) A copy of the All India Services (Death-cum-Retirement Benefits) Amendment Rules, 2004 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 820 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 20th December, 2004 under sub-section (2) of section 3 of the All India Services Act, 1951.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 1857/2005]

- (2) A copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions and Union Public Service Commission for the year 2005-2006.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 1858/2005]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table-

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Pharmacy Council of

India, New Delhi, for the year 2003-2004, along with Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Pharmacy Council of India, New Delhi, for the year 2003-2004.

- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 1859/2005]

- (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indira Gandhi Institute of Medical Sciences (Regional Cancer Centre), Patna, for the year 2002-2003, along with Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Indira Gandhi Institute of Medical Sciences (Regional Cancer Centre), Patna for the year 2002-2003.

- (4) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (3) above.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 1860/2005]

- (5) A copy of the Prevention of Food Adulteration (3rd Amendment) Rules, 2004 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 517 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 11th August, 2004 under sub-section (2) of section 23 of the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954 together with a Corrigendum thereto published in Notification No. G.S.R. 750 (E) dated the 17th November, 2004.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 1861/2005]

- (6) A copy of the Indian Medicine Central Council (Postgraduate Ayurveda Education) Regulations, 2005 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. 1 in Gazette of India dated 4th February, 2005 under sub-section (2) of section 36 of the Indian Medicine Central Council Act, 1970.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 1862/2005]

- (7) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Kidwai Memorial Institute of Oncology, Bangalore, for the year 2003-2004.

- (ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Kidwai Memorial Institute of Oncology, Bangalore, for the year 2003-2004 together with Audit Report thereon.

- (iii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Kidwai Memorial Institute of Oncology, Bangalore, for the year 2003-2004.

- (8) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (7) above.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 1863/2005]

- (9) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the MNJ Institute of Oncology (Regional Cancer Centre), Hyderabad, for the year 2003-2004, along with Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the MNJ Institute of Oncology (Regional Cancer Centre), Hyderabad, for the year 2003-2004.

- (10) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (9) above.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 1864/2005]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table-

- (1) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under section 37 of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India Act, 1997:

- (i) The Telecommunication (Broadcasting and Cable Services) Interconnection (First Amendment) Regulation, 2005 published in Notification No. 3-37/2005/B&CS in Gazette of India dated the 3rd March, 2005.

- (ii) The Reporting System On Accounting Separation (Third Amendment) Regulation, 2005 published in Notification No. 16-6/2005-FA in Gazette of India dated the 4th March, 2005.
- (iii) The Register of Interconnect Agreements (Third Amendment) Regulation, 2005 published in Notification No. F.No. 306-3/2005-QOS in Gazette of India dated the 4th March, 2005.
- (iv) The Register of Interconnect Agreements (Broadcasting and Cable Services) (First Amendment) Regulation, 2005 published in Notification No. 6-6/2005-B&CS in Gazette of India dated the 4th March, 2005.
- (v) The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (Access to Information) Regulation, 2005 published in Notification No. F.No. 14-1/2005-FA in Gazette of India dated the 4th March, 2005.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 1865/2005]

- (2) A copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Department of Posts for the year 2005-2006.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 1866/2005]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (RAO INDERJIT SINGH): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of External Affairs for the year 2005-2006.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 1867/2005]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table-

- (1) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under section 10 of the National Highways Act, 1956:
 - (i) S.O. 1276 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 17th November, 2004 authorizing Chief Engineer, National Highway, Road Construction Department, Bihar or his authorized representative to collect fees at specified rates on behalf of the Central

Government, on mechanical vehicles from the user of permanent bridge across Kari Koshi on National Highway No. 31.

- (ii) S.O. 95 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 27th January, 2005 regarding acquisition of land for four-laning of National Highway No. 4 (Chennai-Ranipet section) in the State of Tamil Nadu.
- (iii) S.O. 164 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 4th February, 2005 making certain amendments in Notification No. S.O. 1120 (E) dated the 29th September, 2003.
- (iv) S.O. 165 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 4th February, 2005 making certain amendments in Notification No. S.O. 991 (E) dated the 6th September, 2004.
- (v) S.O. 169 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 7th February, 2005 regarding acquisition of land for building, maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 5 (Chennai-Vijayawada section) in the State of Andhra Pradesh.
- (vi) S.O. 217 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 17th February, 2005 regarding acquisition of land for building (widening) of National Highway No. 7 (Mansar-Nagpur section) in the State of Maharashtra.
- (vii) S.O.1426 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 30th December, 2004 regarding acquisition of land for four-laning of National Highway No. 4 (Chennai-Ranipet section) in the State of Tamil Nadu.
- (viii) S.O. 107(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 31st January, 2005 regarding levy of fee from the user of four-laned National Highway No. 4 (Belgaum-Maharashtra section) in the State of Karnataka.
- (ix) S.O. 160(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 4th February, 2005 regarding levy of fee from the user of four-laned National Highway Nos. 79 and 79A in the State of Rajasthan.
- (x) S.O.161(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 4th February, 2005 regarding levy of fee

from the user of four-laned National Highway No. 8 in the State of Maharashtra.

- (xi) S.O.162(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 4th February, 2005 regarding levy of fee from the user of four-laned National Highway No. 79 in the State of Rajasthan.
- (xii) S.O.78(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 24th January, 2005 regarding acquisition of land on National Highway No. 46 (Krishnagiri-Ranipet section) in the State of Tamil Nadu.
- (xiii) S.O.112(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 1st February, 2005 appointing officers mentioned therein for acquisition of land in the State of Kerala.
- (xiv) S.O.116(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 2nd February, 2005 regarding acquisition of land on National Highway No. 54 (Lumding-Maibong-Haranganjo section) in the State of Assam.
- (xv) S.O.170(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 7th February, 2005 regarding acquisition of land for building, maintenance, management and operation of proposed Second Vivekananda Bridge on National Highway No. 2 in the State of West Bengal.
- (xvi) S.O.94(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 27th January, 2005 regarding acquisition of land for building (four-laning) of National Highway No. 4 in the State of Tamil Nadu.
- (xvii) S.O.1409(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 24th December, 2004 regarding acquisition of land on National Highway No. 46 (Krishnagiri-Ranipet section) in the State of Tamil Nadu.
- (xviii) S.O.1410(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 24th December, 2004 regarding acquisition of land on National Highway No. 46 (Krishnagiri-Ranipet section) in the State of Tamil Nadu.
- (xix) S.O.52(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 13th January, 2005 regarding acquisition of land on National Highway No. 7 in Tirunelveli district in the State of Tamil Nadu.
- (xx) S.O.110(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 1st February, 2005 regarding acquisition of land on National Highway No. 7 in Kanyakumari district in the State of Tamil Nadu.
- (xxi) S.O.114(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 1st February, 2005 regarding acquisition of land on National Highway No. 7 in Madurai district in the State of Tamil Nadu.
- (xxii) S.O.186(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 10th February, 2005 regarding acquisition of land for four-laning and widening of National Highway No. 7 and forming of new by-pass between Madurai—Kanyakumari section in the State of Tamil Nadu.
- (xxiii) S.O.199(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 14th February, 2005 regarding acquisition of land for building, maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 45 (Villupuram-Trichy section) in the State of Tamil Nadu.
- (xxiv) S.O.236(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 22nd February, 2005 regarding acquisition of land on Highway No. 5 for laying by-pass road to Singarayakonda village (Chennai-Vijayawada section) in the State of Andhra Pradesh.
- (xxv) S.O. 19(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 4th January, 2005 regarding acquisition of land for widening and construction of National Highway No. 47 (Mannuthy-Aluva section) in the State of Kerala.
- (xxvi) S.O.168(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 7th February, 2005 regarding acquisition of land for building, maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 5 (Vijayawada-Visakhapatnam section) in East Godavari district in the State of Andhra Pradesh.
- (xxvii) S.O. 1422 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 29th December, 2004 regarding acquisition of land for building, maintenance, management and operation of National

Highway No. 1A (Jalandhar-Pathankot section and Pathankot-Jammu section) in the State of Punjab.

(xxviii) S.O.1423(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 29th December, 2004 making certain amendments in the Notification No. S.O. 1096 (E) dated the 24th September, 2003.

- (2) Statement (Hindi and English version) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at item No. (i) of (1) above.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 1868/2005]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619 A of the Companies Act, 1956:

- (1) Review by the Government of the working of the Bharatiya Nabhkiya Vidyut Nigam Limited, Chennai, for the year 2003-2004.
- (2) Annual Report of the Bharatiya Nabhkiya Vidyut Nigam Limited, Chennai, for the year 2003-2004, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 1869/2005]

12.02 hrs.

COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Seventh Report

[*English*]

SHRI CHARNJIT SINGH ATWAL (Phillaur): Sir, I beg to present the Seventh Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions.

12.02½ hrs.

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

Ninth Report

[*English*]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi): Sir, I beg to present the Ninth Report (Hindi and English

versions) of the Public Accounts Committee on "National Scheme of Liberation and Rehabilitation of Scavengers and their Dependents".

12.03 hrs.

COMMITTEE ON THE WELFARE OF SCHEDULED CASTES AND SCHEDULED TRIBES

Statements

[*Translation*]

DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA (Ujjain): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table the Statements (Hindi and English versions) showing Final Action taken replies of the Government on the recommendations/observations contained in Chapter I of the following Action Taken Reports of the Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes:-

- (1) Seventh Report (13th Lok Sabha)—Reservation for and Employment of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in Canara Bank and credit facilities provided by the Bank to them;
- (2) Eighteenth Report (13th Lok Sabha)—Reservation in services including reservation in Admission and Employment of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in Central Universities;
- (3) Twenty-sixth Report (13th Lok Sabha)—Military Participation Ratio of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in Defence Services—Policy and Perspective; and
- (4) Twenty-eighth Report (13th Lok Sabha)—Policy of Recruitment of staff in various Nationalised Banks after abolition of Banking Service Recruitment Board (BSRBs).

12.03½ hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON COAL AND STEEL

Sixth and Seventh Reports

[*English*]

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR (Bangalore South): Sir, I beg to present the following Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Coal and Steel (2004-2005):-

- (1) Sixth Report on the Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations contained

in the Third Report of the Standing Committee on Coal and Steel (2004-05) on Demands for Grants (2004-05) of the Ministry of Steel; and

- (2) Seventh Report on the Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the Forty Seventh Report of the Standing Committee on Energy (2004-Thirteenth Lok Sabha) on the subject "Safety in Coal Mines".

12.04 hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

One Hundred Fifty-Seventh Report

[English]

PROF. BASUDEB BARMAN (Mathurapur): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy each (Hindi and English versions) of the One Hundred Fifty-Seventh Report of the Standing Committee on Human Resource Development on Action-Taken by Government on the recommendations/observations contained in the 152nd Report on Demands for Grants (2004-2005) of the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Now, we will take up Special Mentions.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA (Panskura): Sir, I seek a clarification on today's Business. We have received the Business Paper for today, and yesterday also we had a Business Paper. But today's Business Paper does not include a discussion on Pension. We would like to know from you, and from the Government as to what happened to the discussion on the Pension issue....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: We will come to this issue also.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: No, I am seeking a clarification on this issue...(Interruptions).

MR. SPEAKER: There is a method of seeking clarification from the Chair.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: Sir, does the Government intend to circulate a revised List or is the Government willing to allow the Ordinance to lapse? Will the hon. Minister kindly let us know about it...(Interruptions).

MR. SPEAKER: We will find it out.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: Sir, the hon. Parliamentary Affairs Minister is sitting here.

MR. SPEAKER: No, he is not obliged to reply immediately. No notice is given, and suddenly you confront the Chair with a question.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: Sir, we take it that the Government is not interested in it.

MR. SPEAKER: The List of Business has been circulated in the morning itself. Shri Lalit Mohan Suklabaidya.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: Sir, we would take it that the Government is not interested in it.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (Balasore): Sir, on 16th of this month I had given a Privilege Notice against the hon. Railway Minister, Shri Lalu Prasad.

MR. SPEAKER: I will let you know about it today. I will take a decision today on this issue.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: Sir, I have been informed that it was rejected by you. I would kindly like to know the reasons for the same.

MR. SPEAKER: The reasons will be sent to you. The usual procedure will be followed in respect of every hon. Member.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: Sir, it seems, it has not come to me, and that is why I am asking you about it. It has not come to me. Kindly send it to me.

MR. SPEAKER: Whatever is possible will be sent to you. We cannot discuss every Privilege Notice on the floor of the House.

DR. SEBASTIAN PAUL (Ernakulam): Sir, I have also given a Privilege Notice today.

MR. SPEAKER: Pardon me, notice of what?

DR. SEBASTIAN PAUL: Sir, I have also given a Privilege Notice.

MR. SPEAKER: This is a very strange method. The Business of the House is being carried out. Can any hon. Member stand up, and raise any issue that he likes? This is not the way to do it.

DR. SEBASTIAN PAUL: Sir, I have given a notice of Privilege.

MR. SPEAKER: No, please sit down.

SHRI LALIT MOHAN SUKLABAIDYA (Karimganj): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the National Highway 44 (NH 44) is the lifeline of Barak Valley and Tripura. It keeps our supply-line alive. In Karimganj District near the Srigouri High School, the NH 44 is very badly damaged because of erosion done by the river Barak. One lane of the road is already eroded, and the traffic is passing through the remaining lane of the NH 44. If this is not repaired immediately, the remaining part of the lane of NH 44, through which we get our supplies, will also become unusable.

I urge upon the Government to take immediate action for repair of the said portion of the NH or divert the traffic, so that we can get our supplies regularly.

MR. SPEAKER: Next is Shri Mitrasen Yadav. This time is for Special Mention of urgent matters. You cannot go on indefinitely. You have made your point.

SHRI LALIT MOHAN SUKLABAIDYA: Thank you, Sir.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): Sir, my matter is also very urgent.

[Translation]

SHRI MITRASEN YADAV (Faizabad): Mr. Speaker, Sir, ours is agriculture dominated country and agriculture is the biggest source of income in our country. There were 411 irrigation schemes in our country out of which only 21 irrigation schemes have been materialised though the Planning Commission has actually laid emphasis on it. These schemes involved an expenditure of 77 thousand crores of rupees. Owing to non-completion of these schemes on time, the expenditure has escalated by one lakh twenty thousand crores of rupees. There is 14 thousand crore hectare cultivable land in the country in the agriculture sector and the means of irrigation for the same are just one third. Only 6000 crore hectare of land is irrigated and the rest remains unirrigated. Owing to non allocation of funds as recommended by the Planning Commission to the States the irrigation facilities are being hampered and the agriculture production is being affected as no increase has been effected in the irrigated area in the country.

Sir, it is at the more necessary for the Central Government to make available adequate funds as per the recommendations made by Planning Commission for creating irrigation facilities in the country so as to boost agriculture production and make the country prosperous.

SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN (Vidisha): Mr. Speaker, Sir, tribal people residing in sanctuaries of several States including Madhya Pradesh are in grave danger. They are being deprived of their means of livelihood. They are being rendered homeless as well. Adivasis are basically simple and unscrupulous people who have been deprived of their means of livelihood and pushed to jungles by the so called civilised society. They reside in forests. They worship them and get their sustenance from there but the laws enacted during the last few days in the name of protection of forests and wild animals have squarely failed in ensuring the safety of forest as well as wild animals though criminals remain unfettered. All these laws are highly detrimental to the interest of these tribal people. Sir, tribal people used to earn their livelihood of plucking Tendu leaves during summer but in recent past, an order was passed banning the tribal people to pluck Tendu leaves in sanctuaries.

In summers, the tribal people used to arrange their six months job by plucking Tendu leaves for 20-25 days but now plucking of Tendu leave has been banned which has led to a serious crisis of sustenance for them.

Sir, roads are not being built there and electricity is also not being supplied in these areas. Tribals have been residing in forests for hundreds of years. They are not being allowed to pluck Tendu leaves, not only that the forest officers and staff often unleash inhuman assaults on them under the cover of forests related laws. They are thrashed, their wife's, sister's modesty is outraged and their pets are taken away forcibly. All this leads to movements like Naxalism and compel them to take weapons.

Sir, through you I would like to make an earnest request that all the laws enacted by us are for the good of human beings. If these laws are used to snatch their means of livelihood then such laws are better done away with and changed. The Government should take the initiative in this regard to enable the tribals to earn their livelihood by plucking Tendu leaves. Roads should be constructed there, electricity be supplied there so as to facilitate development in those areas.

[*English*]

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY (Puri): I associate myself with what the hon. Member has stated.

SHRI SURAVARAM SUDHAKAR REDDY (Nalgonda): I would like to draw the attention of the Government of India, through you, regarding the strike called by 1,50,000 employees of the public sector insurance companies. Their strike will start from today. As the Government did not respond to their demands and other forms of agitation, they were forced to go on strike.

There are two issues which are pending for quite a long time. One is, the pay revision, which is overdue, is not being accepted by the Government of India for quite some time. The other thing is, by outsourcing activities, particularly in the health insurance sector, several crores of rupees are being misused, while the employees of the insurance companies are sitting idle.

The Government, being the biggest employer in the country, should be a model employer. Unfortunately, it is not behaving like that. The Government is supposed to make others, particularly the Corporations and the private sector, implement the laws of the land, but the Government itself is not doing that.

We appeal, through you, Sir, that the Government should call the employees' organisations, particularly the insurance organisations, and settle their demands immediately. I may also inform the Government that the employees of Hindustan Cables are also on strike.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Basu Deb Acharia, you can associate yourself because this week you have already spoken.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, it is a very important matter—Thousands of insurance employees have gone on strike from today onwards for two days. For one year, they have been asking for revision of their pay-scales, which is overdue. Their demand is, at least, there should be a minimum of 18 per cent increase in their salaries. Yesterday, there was a negotiation, but that has also failed.

I demand that the Government should immediately give instructions to the LIC and the GIC management so that wage revision of the employees of the insurance companies could be finalised immediately.

[*Translation*]

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE (Mumbai South Central): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I also associate myself with hon. Basu Deb Acharia on this subject.

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi): Sir, I am associating myself with him on the subject.

MR. SPEAKER: Alright, Shri Mohan Rawale and Prof. Vijay Kumar Malhotra are associating themselves with him on the subject.

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, we also want that what the bank employees are getting...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Why are you speaking now? I have already gone on record that you are associating yourself with it.

[*English*]

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: Sir, I am also associating.

MR. SPEAKER: Yes.

Hon. Members, I have got 44 notices. Please cooperate.

[*Translation*]

SHRI TEKLAL MAHTO (Giridih): Hon. Speaker, Sir, through you, I want to draw the attention of the Government towards several incidents which have occurred in various districts of Jharkhand since the new government took over there. Several people have died there due to poverty and starvation. For example, in Ranchi the capital of Jharkhand, seven people of a family, Chandika Singh, aged 50 years, his wife aged 45 years and their five daughters hanged themselves on 20 March owing to poverty and starvation in D.N. Ghosh compound, Chiraiya Mahaul street under Lalpur thana. Similarly, people are dying in several districts of Jharkhand due to starvation. But the State Government is unable to take effective steps in this connection.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, where 54 per cent people are living below the poverty line, is it justified to buy vehicles for 11 ministers with a cost of two and half crores. I, therefore, request the Central Government to interfere in the above matter.

[English]

SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY (Dhenkanal): Sir, I am extremely grateful to you. Finally you looked at me.

MR. SPEAKER: Such a below the belt compliment is not necessary, Mr. Satpathy.

SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY: I did not mean to be sarcastic, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER: I wish you could now exchange your seat here, and you realise what to do.

SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY: I do not have that aspiration, Sir. Thank you. The Tsunami hit areas of India, like other parts of the world on the boundaries of the Indian Ocean, are still reeling under that impact. A mega-natural event, it has taught all of us a very important lesson. Parliament has to act and save the coasts of India. The only way to do that is to immediately and seriously implement the Coastal Regulatory Zone policy. A vision of the late Indira Gandhi, one of the most important political leaders of free India if the CRZ is put into action now in Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Orissa, Andaman and Nicobar Islands and Lakshadweep Islands will create a new environmental situation which would benefit the fisher folk who have been displaced and need to be resettled. The problems that need urgent attention of the Government are many. However, for the safety of the populace and the environment, this is the ideal time to implement the CRZ, which is divided into I, II and III phases, truthfully and help the future generations of this nation. This can be achieved by following some of the suggested methods, mely—(1) Forestry on the beach where the people who are ousted, the Government, and those who do the forestry, the investors, share the profits from products like palm, coconut, etc.; (2) Rehabilitate the displaced persons in areas where they are safe from the wrath of the ocean and have good sanitation facilities; (3) Concentrate on preserving the groundwater balance near the coast; and (4) States not affected directly by Tsunami—like Orissa, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Goa—should take special care and enforce as well as demarcate the CRZ area and implement the regulations stringently and clear the beach of construction and encroachments.

DR. C. KRISHNAN (Pollachi): Sir, I rise to speak about the welfare of labourers working in tea and coffee Estates in Valparai, Coimbatore District in Tamil Nadu. Their wages have been reduced. They were getting Rs. 76 a day three years ago. However, for the past three years they were being paid Rs. 72 only. Their arrears

should be given to them by the Estate owners. In Kerala, they are paying Rs. 84. The same Estate owners in Tamil Nadu are paying Rs. 72 to Rs. 74 only. This wage difference should be removed and they should be given a very good amount as daily wages. This is my request.

[Translation]

SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE: Hon. Speaker, Sir, I want to speak on the draught affected areas of the entire country. Several States like Gujarat, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh etc. including Chhattisgarh are reeling under drought situation.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: There is a discussion on this. You can take part then.

[Translation]

SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE: Both the Punhari and Siyari crops have been damaged due to the prevailing drought situation. The farmers are on the verge of ruin. The farmers and laborers are running from pillar to post. These people are migrating to Delhi, Bhopal, Haryana, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh and other States in search of livelihood. In view of the prevailing drought situation, the Chhattisgarh Government has been providing as much assistance as it can from within its resources. I demand that the Central Government should provide assistance to each State to the tune of Rs. 3 crore each so that developmental works could be undertaken in Chhattisgarh and bridges-culverts, roads, footpaths and check dam could be constructed all over in Madhya Pradesh. The Central Government should take necessary steps for all the drought affected areas and provide three crore rupees to each such area for developmental work.

SHRI PRADIP GANDHI (Rajnandgaon): I also associate myself with it.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Do you want to associate? You can associate. But, you are not in your seat.

SHRI BIKASH CHOWDHURY (Asansol): Mr. Speaker, Sir, Raniganj Coalfields area covers Burdwan district and some portions of Bankura, Birbhum and Purulia districts. Heavy water scarcity is felt for many years in the above areas due to the deeper mining methods and underground

and open cast projects. Water bodies under the ground and on the surface have completely destroyed. Water is not available even at the depth of 300 metres. Under these circumstances, Eastern Coalfields Limited have to take action because their activities are going on in these areas. Central Government should also undertake measures by coming forward to provide drinking water and provide water for other purposes. I would request the Central Government to come forward by extending a sum of Rs. 100 crore for providing water for domestic use and for other purposes in the Raniganj Coalfields Area. Thank you, Sir.

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Tufani Saroj, is Azamgarh-Gazipur road under the State Government or Union Government?

SHRI TUFANI SAROJ (Saidpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is under the Union Government. I want to draw your attention towards the Azamgarh-Gazipur State road situated in eastern Uttar Pradesh. This road, which is under the Uttar Pradesh Public Works Department is being widened under the Union Government's scheme with the World Bank bearing all its expenses. The Government plans to widen this road by 7 meters. The contract for widening of this 60-62 kms. long road from Azamgarh to Birno police station (District Gazipur) has been awarded to a contractor from Delhi for a consideration of Rs. 78 crore.

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Name will not be there.

[*Translation*]

SHRI TUFANI SAROJ: The Government has given directions to widen this road to 7 meters besides 3 layer pitching work on it. The road has been made 7 meters wide from Azamgarh to Chiraiyyakot Bazar (District Mau) as per the Government guidelines but the width of the road after Chiraiyyakot has been reduced deliberately. The concerned contractor has reduced the width of the said road after Chiraiyyakot from 7 meters to 5.5 meters only. Not only this, only single layer is being pitched instead of 3 layered pitch by flouting the Government orders openly. Thus, the contractor is not only looting the Government's and the World Bank's money but is also engaged in making the Government scheme unsuccessful.

Therefore, I urge the Government to order immediate inquiry in the construction work of this road and take strict action against the contractor responsible for the irregularities being committed in the construction of the said road.

[*English*]

SHRI SUNIL KHAN (Durgapur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I, along with other members of my constituency, wrote several letters to the Minister of Shipping, Road Transport and Highways regarding National Highway-60. It goes from Raniganj to Midnapore *via* Mejia, Bankura and Bishnupur. The three bridges, namely Sali Bridge, Nagardangha Bridge and Tarapur Bridge are in a dilapidated condition. That should be reconstructed. If it is not done, some accident will occur. The road from Bishnupur to Bankura is in a dilapidated condition. During the rainy season, we can have pisciculture in this area. These roads are the lifeline between Raniganj and Midnapore. That should be immediately plugged up and the three bridges should be reconstructed immediately. I urge upon the hon. Minister to look into this aspect.

[*Translation*]

SHRI BHUVANESHWAR PRASAD MEHTA (Hazaribagh): Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is gross irregularity in the supply and distribution of coal due to corruption prevalent in the coal ministry and Coal India. Presently, around 500 factories are lying closed due to non-supply of coal in Jharkhand, which is the leading producer of coal accounting for 37% of coal production in the whole country. In Hazaribagh Lok Sabha constituency only, which is my constituency, more than 100 factories based on hard coke and other coal are lying closed. Coal is being supplied from Jharkhand to other States. Twenty lakh tonnes of coal was given to the Pragatishil Sahakari Samiti in Uttar Pradesh and two lakh tonnes of coal was given from the Mahanadi Coalfield in double share ...(*Interruptions*).

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: It is a national asset and it should be available everywhere.

[*Translation*]

SHRI BHUVANESHWAR PRASAD MEHTA: Two lakh tonnes of coal was given from the Western Coalfield. Jharkhand's coal is being supplied to other States and

[Shri Bhuvanshver Prasad Mehta]

not to the factories there. Hundreds of factories are lying closed in Hazaribagh today and 25000 workers have been rendered jobless there. Therefore, through you, I want to urge the hon. Coal Minister to take action in this regard and that such a mentality regarding coal is not right. Eleven Coal Ministers were changed at the time of NDA's rule and even in UPA's Government the situation of 'Aaya Ram, Gaya Ram' exists.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: It is not necessary. I do not agree with you.

[Translation]

SHRI BHUVANESHWAR PRASAD MEHTA: There is no Chairman in Coal India for one and half years, I don't know how this Ministry will run. Therefore, we want that, first of all, coal should be given to the factories of Jharkhand so that the workers there do not become jobless.

SHRI HARIBHAU RATHOD (Yavatmal): Mr. Speaker, Sir, there are gross irregularities in the census report of 2001. The population of scheduled castes in Maharashtra has decreased by 6 percent. It is a very serious matter. Gram Panchayat elections are going to be held there shortly. Thousands of posts of Sarpanch have decreased due to the last census report in 1991. I have seen why this has happened. The followers of Dr. Baba Saheb Ambedkar there, called Neo-Buddhist, on being asked their caste told that they were Neo-Buddhist. But there is no such caste as Neo-Buddhist in our census. Hon. Shri V.P. Singh's Government had given SC status to all the Neo-Buddhists. Such gross irregularity has been seen in Maharashtra only now. Earlier, the population percentage of the Buddhists community was 0.1 but now they are claiming it to be 6 percent. This is a gross irregularity taking place in the census. A constitutional question has arisen in regard to SC community.

Speaking on behalf of Athawale ji, I urge the Government to pay attention to it and it must be decided as early as possible before the forthcoming Gram Panchayat elections in Maharashtra.

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (Pandharpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I also associate myself with it.

[English]

SHRI ABDULLAKUTTY (Cannanore): The Mananthavady-Mysore Road is serving as a link between

Kerala and Karnataka and it shortens the distance by more than 110 kilometres. This road has been in existence since the time of legendary Tipu Sultan. A stretch of 32 kilometres each on either side—Baveli in Kerala and H.D. Kota in Karnataka—runs through Rajiv Gandhi National Park set up in recent years. But this stretch needs upgradation. This is an existing road, but our Forest Department is creating some objections. Many people from either side travel on this road including pilgrims from Karnataka visiting Tirunelli Temple on the Kerala side. Being a State highway, the PWDs in Karnataka and Kerala maintain this highway. On the Karnataka side, the development work is being undertaken with the ADB aid package.

Sir, this State highway serves as a lifeline for *Advasis* inhabiting the area on both sides. The newly announced guidelines by the Environment and Forests Ministry permit the development of forest land for public utility purposes. This State highway is of utmost utility to users of both the States, and so, it needs to be upgraded within the stretch running through the Rajiv Gandhi National Park.

Therefore, Sir, I would urge upon the Centre to accord permission to upgrade this stretch under the new guidelines permitting the development of forest land for public utility purposes.

MR. SPEAKER: Some hon. Members have given notices to raise their issues during the 'Zero Hour' on very important matters like natural disasters. But we are going to have a structured discussion today under rule 193 regarding Natural Calamities in the country. We will have time. So, instead of raising them now, I would request them to participate in that discussion. I would allow them to participate there. Thank you

...(Interruptions)

SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI (Gulbarga): Sir, here, I would like to draw the kind attention of the Minister of Tourism. Gulbarga is a very historic place. It was the Capital of the Bahmani Kingdom. It was ruled for more than 600 years. There is a historic monument in Gulbarga city—a fort, where in one of the biggest mosques not only in India but also in Asia.

[Translation]

Therefore, through you I would like to say that in order to preserve that monument the Minister of Tourism should declare Gulbarga a tourist centre because that

historical mosque is a heritage asset. That is a big attraction for the tourists. Secondly Gulbarga is a religious place where the great Sant of twelfth century Shri Bisweshwar was born whose statue was installed in the Parliament last year. Lakhs of devotees visit Gulbarga. Dargah Bandanawaj, the second largest dargah after the one at Ajmer, is situated in Gulbarga and is visited by lakhs of Muslim devotees. Statue of Lord Buddha is also there. Gulbarga is a historical as well as religious place. Indian Ambassador to Turkey Shri Dharavirji has come to visit that mosque. He was informed that it was a historical mosque. Therefore he paid a visit to the place. Gulbarga is a place where several historical and religious monuments are situated. Sir, through you I would like to request the hon. Minister to kindly declare this place a tourist centre in order to attract the tourists. Besides this facilities should be provided to the tourists there.

[English]

SHRI B. MAHTAB: Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards a very piquant situation which has arisen in Orissa relating to the postgraduate medical students. Recently, a letter was sent by the Medical Council of India to the Principal, SCB Medical College, Cuttack stating: "You have admitted more number of students and you did not get the permission from the MCI". For the last 10 to 12 years, the SCB Medical College is admitting postgraduate students specially for pediatrics. So, 12 students were admitted. In January 2004, the State Government deposited the requisite amount and sent the application to the Central Government for forwarding it to the MCI. Accordingly, the Central Government had forwarded that application to the MCI. In the MCI Booklet, it is mentioned that whatever are the criteria, they would be followed. An Inspector was to be appointed and accordingly an Inspector was appointed in the month of April.

The academic session starts in June. By 30th June, all requisite admission procedures are to be completed; but the admissions are to be completed by 31st May. So, the Health Department of Orissa and the Medical College admitted the students for post-graduation. But to our surprise, the Inspector visited that place—who was supposed to give a report before the admissions took place—in the month of November; and in 2005, he is giving a show cause notice, asking them why they had admitted those students, they should be debarred and discharged from the Medical College.

They are bright students, pursuing their post-graduation studies, that too, in Paediatrics. Orissa has

dearth of paediatricians. Today also, we had a number of questions in this regard, although they did not come up. Orissa is in need of paediatricians, so also the whole country. This is a national issue.

Once the PG students are removed, the whole PG list in which students have been admitted for general medicines, for surgery, etc., will become topsy-turvy. I would like to draw the attention of the Government through you, Sir, to this issue, and something should be done immediately to instruct the MCI so that the students are allowed to complete their studies. Already they had pursued 11 months of studies. One more year is there to complete the course. At least they should be allowed to pursue their studies and subsequently for future students, whatever method is required to be followed, that could be followed in 2005. This is my earnest request to you.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Tripathy can associate with this issue; Shri Swain can associate with this issue.

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Sir, this is a serious matter. I am associating with this issue. The Government should take immediate action; we have shortage of doctors in Orissa.

MR. SPEAKER: I think, the House should associated with this. I consider the future of the students important.

[Translation]

DR. KARAN SINGH YADAV (Alwar): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to raise a very serious issue. In Rajasthan Mustard should have been procured at support price in this season. As per the norms fixed by the Union Government it should be procured at the rate of Rs. 1700 per quintal. But there are some problems in it. First problem is that there are less number of procurement centres and even in these centres there is shortage of staff. When the farmers go to sell their crops, they are asked to get gate passes issued in mandi, and produce land record, passbook and crop report issued by Patwari. Despite all these formalities the Government employees deputed on procurement duty return the produce of farmers to them saying that the quality of mustard is not good or that it contains moisture. Today the situation is such that the crop which ought to be procured at the rate of Rs. 1700 per quintal, is being procured by traders at the rate of Rs. 1300 or Rs. 1400 per quintal and after some time they sell the same produce to agencies like FCI, RAJFED, Tithan Sangh or other selling/procurement societies.

[Dr. Karan Singh Yadav]

I want to request that mustard is not being procured in my district Alwar. A thorough inquiry of mustard procurement centres in Bahrod, Khairtal, Khedi and Alwar should be conducted and mustard from the farmers should be procured at support price. Sir, through you I request the hon. Minister of Agriculture to provide for this...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI P. RAJENDRAN (Quilon): Thank you, Sir, I would like to bring to the notice of the Government, through you, that there is no examination centre in Kerala State for PGT Examination for Kendriya Vidyalaya. The educated youths of Kerala have to appear for this examination either in Chennai or in Bangalore. Due to this, they are experiencing undue hardships and sufferings. The most educated State of India, that is, Kerala is denied of this examination centre for PGT and this is most unjust and discriminatory. The poor educated youths are not able to appear in the examination due to huge expenses to be incurred for appearing for this examination in other States.

I would urge upon the Government, through you, to immediately sanction examination centres in Trivandrum, Cochin and Kozhikode for PGT examinations for Kendriya Vidyalayas and for all other Central examinations.

SHRI MANI CHARENAMI (Outer Manipur): Sir, North East Region has been identified as one of the biodiversity hot spots of the country. The forest cover in the North-East Region in 2001 was 1,69,366 sq. kms. and area under various Protected Areas is 22,815.84 sq. kms. that is 13.5 per cent of the total forest area. In Manipur, the forest area is 16,926 sq. km. and area under Protected Area is 81.30 sq. kms. that is 0.48 per cent of the total forest. The remaining 99.52 per cent is outside the Protected Areas and it is in these areas where all kinds of endangered wild flora and fauna are found. In these areas the meat of wild animals is being sold openly in big markets. Till today, Manipur State has not acknowledged the presence of Royal Bengal Tiger and elephants in the State. For the last about 20 years, the State has been sending nil report. On the other hand, killing of tiger has been going on unabated by the tribal people living in the forest.

In the year 1996, one male tiger was killed at Gaidimjang village. In the same year, two tigers were poisoned by the villagers of Phokong village. In 2002, one tiger was killed at Sekjang village and recently on 5th March, 2005, one tiger was killed by the villagers

just near the District Headquarters. The number of elephants in Manipur before 1980 was about twelve. Between 1980 and 1992, about six elephants were killed. Today, the remaining elephants are locked up in the deep forest of Chikha-Lemta forest. All corridors have been completely cut off due to construction of roads. As such, they have become resident elephants. All the above mentioned places are outside the Protected Area.

According to the villagers, the Royal Bengal Tiger and wild elephants are still at large in the vast virgin forest of the State. I, therefore, urge the Centre to ask the State Government to conduct census of the tigers and elephants in the areas where they are reported to have been sighted along with the villagers of the respective areas and also take up necessary steps to bring those areas under Project Tiger and Project Elephant. I further urge the hon. Minister of Environment and Forests to impress upon the Planning Commission to earmark fund for conservation of priceless flora and fauna, which are outside the Protected Areas with effect from the current financial year.

[Translation]

SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI (Jodhpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister of Environment and Forests towards the practice of sacrificing of animals and birds still prevalent in various places in the country even today.

Despite the fact that Act to prevent cruelty against animals is in force, animals are being sacrificed in the name of religion, they are being killed mercilessly.

Sir, through you, I would like to request the hon. Minister that time has changed a lot. Besides human beings animals and birds are very important from the view point of maintaining ecological balance. But about six to seven thousand species of wild life have become extinct due to this reason. Through you, I would like to request the Government that sacrifice of animals being offered in some temples or other places should be stopped.

SHRI REWATI RAMAN SINGH (Allahabad): Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards a very important issue.

Sir, 210 employees are working in Hindustan Cables factory in Naini, Allahabad and they are not getting their salaries for the last seven to eight months. They are on

the verge of starvation, their children are unable to pay for their school fee and medical facility is not available to them. This is the only public sector factory manufacturing optical fibre. There is huge demand of optical fibre these days. If Rs. 27-28 crores are provided to this company this company can be modernised completely and it should be merged with BSNL or RAIL TEL. Sir, through you, I request that salaries of these employees should be released immediately so that they could be saved from starvation.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I am sure the Government will look into it.

[Translation]

SHRI LAL MANI PRASAD (Basti): Sir, through you, I would like to raise a very important issue...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: Sir, I am not going to demand money for MPLAD...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: One Member is speaking. The House has never remained quiet as if there is no business before the House. An hon. Member is speaking. He is also entitled to raise issues.

[Translation]

SHRI LAL MANI PRASAD: Sir, I want to speak on behalf of the sugarcane farmers and through you I want to draw the attention of the Government towards the problems faced by them. Sugarcane is the main source of livelihood of the sugarcane farmers. By selling the sugarcane, a sugarcane grower marries off his children and meets his basic requirements. But the condition of sugarcane growers is very miserable in my Basti district. There is exploitation of sugarcane growers by the sugar mill owners in collusion with the State and middlemen as they indulge in under-weighting at the sugarcane purchase centres and this has caused resentment among the farmers and if they lodge their protests, false cases are fabricated against them. I, therefore, request that the false cases against them be withdrawn and their exploitation be prevented and their outstanding dues be paid.

SHRI D.P. SAROJ (Lalganj): Hon. Speaker, Sir, you have given me an opportunity to speak today after a long time, I am thankful to you for it. And with your

permission and through this House, I want to draw the attention of the Government towards the most backward district Azamgarh of the Poorvanchal, Uttar Pradesh. It is unfortunate that today the Hon. Railway Minister is not present in the House. Had he been here, it would have been better. He has presented a very good budget but the way the has neglected not only Azamgarh but the entire Uttar Pradesh, is not a good thing. I want to submit through you that one train passes to Mumbai *via* Azamgarh and two trains passes to Delhi *via* Azamgarh. There are two platforms at the Azamgarh railway station but there is no foot over bridge as a result of which the passengers face difficulty in crossing over from one platform to another and following which several accidents have taken place there resulting in deaths of many people. I, therefore, request that an overbridge should be constructed there.

The second thing is that more than one dozen MPs both from Rajya Sabha and Lok Sabha travel from that area but not a single good train plies from there. Mr. Speaker, Sir, you are very generous and I hope, you will show your generousness. What I want to tell you that for reaching Delhi from Azamgarh, we have first to travel 100 Km. to reach Varanasi then from there we board on another train for Delhi. It is therefore, requested that the Lichhavi train which plies from Muzaffarpur to Delhi *via* Varanasi be diverted to Delhi *via* Azamgarh at least thrice a week, we shall be very grateful to you. So long as late Kalpnath Rai was elected from Mau, a first A.C. coach used to be attached. Today about 13 MPs travel from there. That first A.C. coach has been withdrawn and in its place a second A.C. coach is attached and that is quite inferior and that has got no meaning as well. And in strong words I would like to say that we had given some suggestions to the former Railway Minister about the Kaifiat train.

MR. SPEAKER: Raise the issue of Azamgarh daily.

SHRI D.P. SAROJ: I have got an opportunity after a long time. The Kaifiat Express departs at 9 p.m.

MR. SPEAKER: The issue should be raised properly and one should put forward one's point in correct manner. Speaking like this is not good.

SHRI D.P. SAROJ: That train departs at 9 O'clock in the night. And nobody knows whether it will at all ply or not or where it will halt, nothing can be said certainly about this train so the timings of this train should be fixed and that should preferably ply in between 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. There is one Godan Express train for Mumbai.

MR. SPEAKER: This is your fourth point.

SHRI D.P. SAROJ: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I did not get an opportunity to speak on the Railway budget.

MR. SPEAKER: I support all the issues related to Azamgarh.

SHRI D.P. SAROJ: I want that the Godan Express should be run on regular basis all the days of week and this train should reach Azamgarh and Gorakhpur in the evening between 2 to 6 O'clock so that passengers could go their houses before it gets dark.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, now your mood must have calmed down.

SHRI RAJNARAYAN BUDHOLIA (Hamirpur, U.P.): Mr. Speaker. Sir, through you, I would like to bring to notice of the entire House and the Minister of Human Resource Development as well that there is no Kendriya Vidyalaya in parliamentary constituencies of a number of hon. Members.

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR (Chail): This is a very important issue.

SHRI RAJNARAYAN BUDHOLIA: I fail to understand as to why the Central Government is not going to open Kendriya Vidyalayas there even in the future just because of fulfilling some norms. Therefore, there is a need to relax the rules. I urge hon. Human Resource Development Minister that a Rajya Sabha Member is provided with the facility to recommend for admission of two students in the entire State wherefrom the Member is elected and on the same line the Lok Sabha Members should also have the discretion to recommend for admission of two students any where in the State in case there is no Central School in his constituency.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: In future, you should give your notice on time.

[Translation]

You did not give your notice before ten, still I am giving you an opportunity to speak.

SHRI BHANU PRATAP SINGH VERMA (Jalaun): Mr. Speaker, Sir, a large number of patients from my Lok Sabha Constituency Jalaun and from others areas in Uttar

Pradesh come to the All India Institute of Medical Sciences and other hospitals for treatment of hole in the heart. The age of the patients ranges from one month to twenty years. Angiography of these patients is done which costs between Rs. 20,000 to Rs. 45,000. Heart operation after angiography costs between one to two lakh rupees. The poor farmers from our area and other areas are getting their children treated either by selling their land or by taking loan. Many farmers among them are committing suicides also after failing to return the loan. Looking at the way the number of the patients suffering from this disease is rising, I urge the Union Government to constitute a committee to find out the cause behind the increasing number of these patients. The family members of several such patients living below poverty line should be provided financial assistance for the treatment of this disease.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Anwar Hussain, in future you should give your notice on time.

[Translation]

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR: Please allow those Members who have given notice at 8 a.m.

MR. SPEAKER: Permission will not be given even if the notice is given at 7.30 a.m.

[English]

Will you please not disturb when another hon. Member is speaking because your statements are not being recorded? Why are you doing this?

... (Interruptions)

SHRI ANWAR HUSSAIN (Dhubri): Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Home Minister in respect of the fate of 2.68 lakh voters of Assam who are debarred from exercising their franchise since 1991. Sir, this is a very serious matter in course of the intensive revision of voters list. In 1991, the voter list was prepared and along with the general voters, the names of 2.68 lakh voters were marked as "D" and they were debarred from exercising their right of franchise. This is a serious matter. Due to public demand, the Government has taken some steps. During these 15 years, out of 2.68 lakh cases, only 40,000 cases have been disposed of and all of them were declared as eligible voters. If this pace continues, it will take another 125 years to get it

* Not recorded.

completed. So, I urge upon the Government to expedite the matter and give the right of franchise to genuine voters.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Kharabela Swain, there was a discussion in the House today during the Question Hour about the MPLAD Scheme. If you want to speak in spite of that, you may please proceed.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: Sir, recently, a circular has been issued by the Ministry of Programme Implementation regarding the guidelines of the MPLAD Scheme. It says that if non-utilisation certificate for more than Rs. 1 crore is not sent by the District Magistrate, then no further instalment will be released from MPLAD fund. This has put the hon. Members into a lot of difficulties. Sir, even though this financial year is going to end, the second instalment of Rs. 1 crore has not been released. It is the general impression of the intelligentsia and most of the members of the media that, probably in the beginning of the year, the hon. Prime Minister of this country bought 800 big suit cases, stocked with Rs. 2 crore of hot cash, gave them to all MPs and asked them to spend it as they like. It is not like this. Excepting making some suggestions to the District Magistrate, we do not have anything else to do. The estimate is being prepared by the District Magistrate. The work order is being issued by him. He makes the cheque payment and executes the work. He does everything in this regard.

Now, there is a provision in the MPLADS guidelines that, within 45 days, the estimate has to be prepared. If the estimate is not being prepared within 45 days, then we cannot do anything. There is no time limit as to when this work will be executed. If the Magistrate or the Collector does not complete it within a reasonable time, then we cannot take any action against him.

The impression goes outside and so-called social scientists say that the MPs are useless and they are incapable of executing their job. In that case, where do we go?

That is why, my appeal to you is, the Ministry should be asked to release Rs. 1 crore in every six months and the execution of work should be left to us. Some method should be found out for this so that at least, if it is not executed on time, then we should be eligible to take some action against the DM or the officers. I am not demanding that the amount should be increased. Through

you, I appeal to the Government on this point. In the Business Advisory Committee also, I had appealed to you to kindly ask the Minister to see that we should not be held responsible for something on which we do not have any power. This is my appeal to you.

MR. SPEAKER: Your position is shared by us.

... (*Interruptions*)

13.00 hrs.

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, please hold patience. Today, I received 46 notices.

... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: I wish you could ration the time sitting here. Out of 46 notices, I find that 12 notices are from those hon. Members who have already raised one matter in this week. We have adopted this rule, not myself. Our leaders and the BAC have decided that only one matter will be allowed per week. Leaving those 12 hon. Members, I have already called 34 hon. Members today. Even then some hon. Members are pressing to raise some matters knowing well that they have already raised their matters this week and they are not entitled to raise any further issues. Some of them have no relevance.

But I am allowing one matter because of its importance though the hon. Member who wants to raise this matter has already raised a matter this week. I am allowing as an exception, not as a precedent. I am allowing Shri Ramji Lal Suman, provided he completes it in one minute.

... (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI GANESH SINGH (Satna): I want to raise an important matter...(*Interruptions*)

Reewanchal Express covers four Parliamentary constituencies...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: You want to raise a matter relating to the Ministry of Railways; when we have already had 35 hours of discussion on the Ministry of Railways! Sorry, I will not allow it. I have called Shri Suman to speak. Shri Ganesh Singh, I have not called you.

...(*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

SHRI GANESH SINGH: To whom we should refer this matter to?...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You, please, sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Just a minute. I can assure you that I will not give you time unless you sit down immediately.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI RAKESH SINGH (Jabalpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have not been given time to speak...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: You can go on shouting till the end of the day. I will not succumb. Knowing the rule, you have given the notice in your name. Why can it not be given in somebody else's name? You are not trying to follow the rules and procedures of the House.

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRAMANI TRIPATHI (Rewa): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I had also given a notice and my name is included in it...*(Interruptions)*.

SHRI GANESH SINGH: I have an important matter to raise. Why am I not being given time to speak...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: You are creating disturbance and disorderly scene in the House. You cannot have priority.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will be recorded. Only Shri Ramji Lal Suman's speech will go on record.

...*(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

SHRI GANESH SINGH: I was not given time to speak, so I am hurt and boycott the House.

13.01 hrs.

(Then Shri Ganesh Singh and Shri Rakesh Singh left the House).

SHRI RAMJILAL SUMAN (Firozabad): Mr. Speaker, Sir, Sardar Sarovar Project is the biggest project consisting 30 big and 135 medium size dams. The Planning Commission had sanctioned this project in 1988. At the time of its sanction its estimated cost was to the tune of Rs. 6406 crore. In March 2000 its estimated cost is Rs. 40 thousand crore. Rupees 15 thousand crore have already been spent on this project. When the project began, a provision was made by the tribunal that the people who will be affected by this project and lose 25% of their land in the construction of the dam, would be provided agricultural land and the families who would be affected by the increased water level would also be rehabilitated within 6 month. But it is quite regretful that affected families have neither been provided any alternative land nor are they rehabilitated even after the passage of such a long period of time. In 2000 the Supreme Court had said in one of its decisions that this project may be continued subject to the rehabilitation and payment of compensation to the affected families.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Please be brief.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJILAL SUMAN: About 33 thousand to 40 thousand families have been affected in Maharashtra, Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh. Nothing has been done for their rehabilitation. The most important thing is that the State Governments are framing their policies keeping in view their respective convenience. The rehabilitation work has not been done there and people have not got alternative land. Efforts are being made to show in the Website that rehabilitation of the people has been finished. On 15 March 2005, the Supreme Court said that each of the aggrieved families should be provided 5 acres of land...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Suman, this is the trouble.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJILAL SUMAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want your protection. The State Governments have failed to

* Not recorded.

discharge their duty. You please send a team of Members of Parliament there in order to have first hand knowledge of the situation prevailing there and get justice to the affected families. This is my only request. You gave me an opportunity to speak for which I am very thankful to you.

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Dr. Ramkrishna Kusmaria, you have also signed this. Would you like to speak on that? This is not to be treated as a precedent. I am making an exception for you just because of your cooperation.

[*Translation*]

DR. RAMKRISHNA KUSMARIA (Khajuraho): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Revanvhal Express plies *via* Beena-Katni section thrice a week and *via* Jabalpur during the remaining four days of a week. I request that this train should ply *via* Beena-Katni section on all days of the week so that the people of Bundelkhand get the facility and are benefited therefrom.

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you very much for your kind cooperation.

[*Translation*]

SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR (Sagar): This matter is also related with my constituency, therefore, I also associate myself with it.

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Virendra Kumar will associate with it.

Dr. Sebastian Paul, I have received your notice of question of privilege dated 23rd of March, 2005, that is today, against the *Hindustan Times* for publishing an article which is derogatory—as you have alleged—as well as it intends to lower the image of the Members of Parliament: You did not even give me one hour's time to study this. You want a reply immediately at 12 noon. This is not the way to conduct yourself as a Member.

The matter is under my consideration.

The House stands adjourned to meet again at 2.10 p.m.

13.06 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned for Lunch till ten minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.

14.15 hrs.

The Lok Sabha re-assembled after Lunch at fifteen minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

[*English*]

RE: PENSION FUND REGULATORY AND DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY BILL

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI BIJOY HANDIQUE): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, may I have your permission to make an announcement?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes.

SHRI BIJOY HANDIQUE: Sir, I have been instructed by the hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs to inform that the Government has decided to send the Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority Bill to the Standing Committee.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Okay.

14.16 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The House will now take up item no. 19, that is, Matters under Rule 377, Dr. Karan Singh Yadav.

(I) **Need to run Marudhar Express between Jodhpur and Varanasi *via* Lucknow**

[*Translation*]

DR. KARAN SINGH YADAV (Alwar): Sir, the Marudhar Express between Jodhpur to Lucknow-Varanasi has been plying for years and passes through Jaipur, Bandikui, Alwar and Mathura and in its fro journey from Lucknow it passes through Mathura, Alwar, Bandikui, Jaipur

[Dr. Karan Singh Yadav]

and then reaches Jodhpur. But for the last some weeks the passengers of my Lok Sabha Constituency have been a worried lot as they are apprehensive that now the Railway administration is contemplating to stop its run on the Alwar-Mathura route.

In such a situation, the passengers from Alwar will be deprived of the facility of travelling to Mathura, Agra, Kanpur, Banaras and further on. Then there will be no other train on the Alwar-Mathura broad-gauge line.

I, therefore, request the hon. Railway Minister on behalf of the passengers of my area that the Marudhar Express be continued to ply on its earlier route itself.

- (ii) **Need to improve the mobile telephone network in Amreli and Junagarh Districts of Gujarat and provide connectivity to more areas in the region**

SHRI V.K. THUMMAR (Amreli): Sir, I want to draw the attention of the Government through this House towards lack of mobile service facility and substandard mobile service in two districts Amreli and Junagarh under my parliamentary constituency. In several talukas of these districts like Kukawawa, Lathi, Khamba and Liliya Jafarabad mobile service has not so far been launched and it is not working properly in Dhari and Amreli areas and this service is virtually non-functional inside the houses as a result of which people are facing a lot of inconvenience. If mobile service functions satisfactorily in these areas, the demand for mobile connections can go up substantially following which the Department of Telecommunications could earn a good revenue. Simultaneously, I also want to tell the House that internet facility is not available in several talukas of my parliamentary constituency due to which people there are not able to take the benefit of the latest telecommunication services.

I, request the Government through the House to tone up the mobile service in Amreli and Junagarh districts under my parliamentary constituency and to immediately launch this service in the areas where it is not available.

- (iii) **Need to release a commemorative stamp in the memory of Shri N.M.R. Subbaraman, freedom fighter hailing from Madurai on the occasion of his Birth Centenary on 14.8.2005**

[English]

SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN (Dindigul): Sir, Shri N.M.R. Subbaraman of Madurai admired as "Madurai Gandhi",

he participated in all Satyagraha Movements of Gandhi and courted imprisonment along with his wife for about five years. He held positions like Chairman of the Madurai Municipality, Member of then Madras Legislative Assembly before and after Independence. He was also elected to the Lok Sabha from Madurai Constituency.

Uplifting the lives of Harijans was a work dear to his heart. His work among Harijans to bring them into the main stream of socio-political life is legendary. Through Tamil Nadu Harijans Sevak Sangh, a unit of all India Harijans Sevak Sangh founded by Gandhiji, N.M.R. Subbaraman was instrumental in establishing a chain of Harijan Hostels.

In the post Gandhian era Shri N.M.R. Subbaraman was deeply involved in Bhoodhan Movement started by Vinobaji and donated 100 acres of his fertile land to Vinobaji. He was instrumental in establishing the first Gandhi Museum in the country at Madurai.

On 14.08.2005 we will be celebrating Shri N.M.R. Subbaraman's Birth Centenary. I request the Government to release a commemorative stamp in the memory of this great patriot of India.

- (iv) **Need to extract coal from Minjhari mines in Chandrapur District, Maharashtra.**

[Translation]

PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR (Chimur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, there is a need to revive six coal mines including Minjhari mine in Chimur area of Chandrapur district. Coal is being imported in the country from China at a three-fold prices but mining work is not being started at Minjhari etc. coal mines. Murpar mine was run in losses. Licenced coal is also available in the market. All these cases should be investigated. Six mines including the Minjhari mine should be revived so that thousands of people could get employment.
...(Interruptions).

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Only the approved text will go on record.

...(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR: I thank you very much for giving me an opportunity to speak.

* Not recorded.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: What can I say, what you have said could not be taken on record.

- (v) **Need to initiate appropriate measures for controlling air and water pollution in the surroundings of Khandadhar water falls in Keonjhar District, Orissa.**

[*English*]

SHRI ANANTA NAYAK (Keonjhar): Sir, Khandadhar Waterfall in Keonjhar parliamentary constituency which was drawing attention of hundreds of tourists every day is fast losing its charm. The indiscriminate mining and felling of trees around that famous waterfall has destroyed the flora and fauna of the area. Several mines have been leased out and sponge iron plants have been set up near the tourist resort. The State Environment Control Board has given permission to the mine owners and industrialists to carry on their activities. The combined effect of all these has resulted in destruction of the bio-diversity of the area. The water of the rivers which are flowing in the area is getting increasingly polluted creating a severe health hazard for the people and wildlife which are dependent on them. The air pollution is increasing at an alarming rate.

It is necessary to preserve the flora and fauna around Khandadhar and to free the areas from pollution. Otherwise, the flow of tourists will continue to decline.

I desire that the mining and industrial activities in Khandadhar and other parts of Keonjhar district may be suspended till adequate air and water pollution control measures are taken and the State Pollution Control Board may be directed accordingly.

[*Translation*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Members of Parliament I would like to tell you that whatever you have given in writing and whatever text is approved by the office of the Speaker only that text will go on the records and nothing else.

- (vi) **Need to exclude wild pigs from the category of protected species in Uttaranchal.**

SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA' (Almora): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, there is a dense forest cover in the Himalayan region of the country, especially in the hilly areas of Uttaranchal. Most of the villages of this region are located near the forests. The inhabitants of

these villages are mainly dependent on the vegetables, fruits and crops cultivated in their fields and animal husbandry is also their major profession. Due to Wild Life Protection Act 1972 implemented before Forest Conservation Act 1980, the number of wild animals has rapidly increased. Especially the population of wild pigs, deer, kakad, tiger, bears has increased very much.

This rapid increase in their population has created a shortage of food for the wild animals in the forest as a result they have been straying into rural settlements for some time now and incidents of killing of the domestic animals of the villagers along with human beings are reported from time to time. The Department of Forests pays only a nominal compensation for this.

Apart from the loss of human life pack of wild pigs enter the fields and barns of villagers at night and gobble vegetables, fruits and crops being cultivated there and also destroy rest of the crop by digging the field.

Keeping in view the loss caused to crops in the plains of the country Nil Gai has been removed from the category of protected species. I would like to request the Government to provide sufficient compensation for the crops destroyed by the wild pigs and also to remove them from the list of protected species.

- (vii) **Need to release adequate funds to the Government of Madhya Pradesh for ensuring timely implementation of projects under Pradhan Mantri Gramin Sadak Yojana.**

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY (Mandsaur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Pradhan Mantri Gramin Sadak Yojana is an important instrument of rural development, which envisages to connect every village with pucca road and it will create business and trade opportunities in the villages. It will facilitate setting up of rural industries and stop migration from villages to cities. As per the target fixed under this project all the villages have to be connected by roads by 2007 but as the sufficient funds have not been made available for achieving the annual targets, several states are running behind their annual targets. Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan are some of the main states among them. So far as Madhya Pradesh is concerned, it is running for behind the schedule due to scarcity of funds for Pradhan Mantri Gramin Sadak Yojana. That is why the roads which were to be completed during year 2004-2005 in the parliamentary constituency of the hon. Members of Parliament will now probably be completed in the year

[Shri Laxminarayan Pandey]

2006. Work related to this should be finished within the stipulated time.

Hence, I would like to request the hon. Minister to provide required funds immediately to Madhya Pradesh, so that the project may be completed within the stipulated time.

- (viii) **Need to withdraw the Notification dated 9th November, 2004 extending the date of exemption of excise duty in Kutch district of Gujarat up to 31st December, 2005.**

[English]

SHRI AMITAVA NANDY (Dumdum): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, contrary to the assurances given in this House by the Minister of State in the Ministry of Finance in his replies to Unstarred Question No. 3434 dated 20th August, 2004, a Notification has been issued by the Ministry of Finance, Department of Revenue on 9th November, 2004 vide No. 55/2004-Central Excise, extending the date of exemption of excise duty in Kutch district of Gujarat up to 31st December, 2005. Since this has definitely defeated the very purpose of the exemption and I apprehend, especially in the case of iron and steel in the core sector, will put the producers of the entire country and West Bengal in particular to face uneven competition of carrying on the burden of 16 per cent excise duty, I demand either withdrawal of the Notification dated 9th November, 2004 or extension of the same benefit of excise duty exemption all over the country.

- (ix) **Need to construct a road overbridge at the southern end of Salempur railway station, U.P.**

[Translation]

SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD (Salempur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, with your permission I am giving notice under rule 377 regarding the urgent need to construct an overbridge at the southern end of Salempur railway station in my parliamentary constituency. Presently, for want of an overbridge at this place a situation of traffic jam upto several kms. is created causing hardship to the people and it also leads to wastage of time. At the time of marriages there remains unbearable traffic jam at this place. This route connects Balia and Bihar through the same road is connected Varanasi *via* Bhatni-Salempur. At present more than one lakh vehicles ply through this level crossing. This road has to be constructed on sharing basis.

Through this House I would like to request the Central Government that immediate action be taken to construct a road overbridge at the level crossing of the southern end of Salempur railway station to do away with the inconveniences caused to the people and also to get rid of the traffic jams.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Dr. Dharendra Aggarwal—
Not present.

- (x) **Need to ensure monthly supply of coal to the non-core sector at notified cost.**

SHRI RAJARAM PAL (Bithaur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, every month, coal has to be made available to the non-core sector in a specified quantity through e-auction by the Ministry of Coal, Bharat Coking Coal Limited, Dhanbad and the North-East Coalfield Limited but even till now in the months of February and March, coal is not being provided in the specified quantity and at the notified price. As a result, factories under non-core sector in the whole of Uttar Pradesh, particularly in district Kanpur, are on the verge of closure. Lakhs of daily wage labourers will be affected directly if the non-core sector industry gets closed. Therefore, I demand from the Government of India to kindly ensure the supply of coal to non-core sector at the specified and notified price every month.

- (xi) **Need to ensure remunerative prices to the cotton growers in the country through Cotton Corporation of India.**

SHRI ANANT GUDHE (Amravati): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, cotton is produced at a fairly large scale in the states like Maharashtra, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh in the country. Procurement of cotton is done through Monopoly scheme in Maharashtra. The prices of cotton were Rs. 2700 and Rs. 2800 last year in 2003-2004 and due to this, the farmers sowed cotton on a large scale this year but there is a tremendous fall in the cotton prices in the whole country. A heavy fall in the production of cotton has been registered due to low rainfall. Cotton has been procured this year at prices ranging from Rs. 1800/- to Rs. 2000/- only. Through you, I urge the Government to procure cotton through CII at the price of Rs. 3000 per quintal and 50% income tax should be imposed on the cotton imported into India from other countries.

(xii) Need to include Sambalpuri/Koshali language in the-Eighth Schedule to the Constitution.*[English]*

SHRI PRASANNA ACHARYA (Sambalpur): The western region of Orissa has a distinct culture, age-old tradition and a different language. This region consists of 10 districts of Orissa where people generally speak a common language known as Sambalpuri/Koshali.

Sambalpuri/Koshali language has its own words and phrases. It has its own dictionary. Nearly one crore people speak in this language. The folk song in this language is so popular that it has crossed the boundaries of not only Orissa but also India. Many high standard literatures including epics like Ramayana and Mahabharata have been written in this language which are very popular among the common readers. In the neighbouring State of Chhattisgarh also, which is adjacent to the Koshala region, many people speak in this language. There are many eminent writers and poets who have created high standard literature in this language. The great poet Gangadhar Meher belongs to this region.

In view of the above facts, there has been a consistent demand since last so many decades to recognize this language and place it in the Eighth Schedule to the Constitution of India. I would urge upon the Central Government to consider this demand and include the Sambalpuri/Koshali language in the Eighth Schedule to the Constitution of India.

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO (Kalahandi): Sir, I would like to associate myself with Shri Prasanna Acharya as I come from Western Orissa and the question is about including the language in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: You are associated.

(xiii) Need to air-lift essential commodities to Ladakh region to meet the shortage in the region.

SHRI CHHEWANG THUPSTAN (Ladakh): The entire Ladakh region is faced with a crisis situation due to shortage of essential commodities which could not be stocked in sufficient quantity due to sudden blockade of National Highways linking Ladakh with rest of the country. The situation has further been precipitated due to unusual heavy snowfall experienced in the entire State of Jammu and Kashmir including Ladakh. There is an apprehension

that the road link between Srinagar and Leh, and Manali and Leh would take longer to be restored and the roads may not be connected before second week of June. Under the circumstances, necessary arrangements shall have to be made for transporting essential commodities through Air Force Services Aircraft. I would request the Government of India to intervene in the matter and arrange for air-lifting of essential commodities in service aircraft of the Defence Ministry so that essential commodities could be made available to the people in Ladakh region.

14.37 hrs.

**STATUTORY RESOLUTION RE: APPROVAL
OF NOTIFICATION SEEKING TO AMEND
THE FIRST SCHEDULE AND SECOND
SCHEDULE TO THE CENTRAL EXCISE
TARIFF ACT***[English]*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Now, we will take up Item No. 20, Statutory Resolution.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (Shri S.S. Palanimanickam): Sir, I beg to move the following Resolution:

"In pursuance of sub-section (2) of Section 3 of the Central Excise Tariff Act, 1985, this House hereby approves of Notification No. 14/2005-Central Excise dated 7th March, 2005 [G.S.R. 161 (E) dated 7th March, 2005] which seeks to amend the First Schedule and Second Schedule to the Central Excise Tariff Act so as to maintain the rates of duty in respect of chassis fitted with engines, for certain motor vehicles, whether or not fitted with a cab, falling under Heading No. 8706 and 'other woven fabrics of man-made fibres' falling under Tariff Item 58063200 of the First Schedule to the amended Central Excise Tariff Act, 1985 at the Same rate as were in force on 27th February, 2005".

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

"In pursuance of sub-section (2) of Section 3 of the Central Excise Tariff Act, 1985, this House hereby approves of Notification No. 14/2005-Central Excise dated 7th March, 2005 [G.S.R. 161 (E) dated 7th March 2005] which seeks to amend the First

[Mr. Deputy Speaker]

Schedule and Second Schedule to the Central Excise Tariff Act so as to maintain the rates of duty in respect of chassis fitted with engines, for certain motor vehicles, whether or not fitted with a cab, falling under Heading No. 8706 and 'other woven fabrics of man-made fibres' falling under Tariff Item 58063200 of the First Schedule to the amended Central Excise Tariff Act, 1985 at the same rate as were in force on 27th February, 2005".

The motion was adopted.

14.39 hrs.

**PAREL INVESTMENTS AND TRADING
PRIVATE LIMITED AND DOMESTIC GAS
PRIVATE LIMITED (TAKING OVER OF
MANAGEMENT) REPEAL BILL, 2005**

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Now we will take up item No. 21.

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): Sir, I beg to move:

"The the Bill to repeal the Parel Investments and Trading Private Limited and Domestic Gas Private Limited (Taking over the Management) Act, 1979, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration."

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is

...(Interruptions)

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: I think, Sir, I will have to give an explanatory statement.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Okay.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I have the honour to present for your consideration the Parel Investments and Trading Private Limited and Domestic Gas Private Limited (Taking Over of Management) Repeal Bill, 2005, as passed by Rajya Sabha.

With your leave, Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, might I seek your indulgence to explain the background to this Bill? M/s Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL),

a Government of India undertaking was formed after merging four companies at different points in time, namely, ESSO, Lube India Undertaking, Caltex and Kosangas Company. HPCL has an all-India presence in the LPG business.

Two companies, namely, M/s Parel Investments and Trading Company Limited (formerly known as Parel Investments and M/s Trading Private Limited) and Domestic Gas Private Limited were concessionaires of Caltex, appointed as distributors for the sale of Caltex's packed LPG for southern and eastern India. The Government of India took over the management of PITCL and DGPL, and pending acquisition of their LPG business, HPCL were appointed as custodian through the Parel Investments and Trading Private Limited and Domestic Gas Private Limited (Taking Over of Management) Act, 1979.

The Goculdas Group of Companies, the common promoter of these two companies, filed writ petitions in the Delhi High Court in 1979 in respect of these companies. The Court granted interim relief to the petitioners and ordered that the non-LPG business of these companies shall not be taken over by the Government or HPCL. Shri R.M. Goculdas, the authorised representative of the Goculdas Group of Companies, offered an out-of-court settlement to Government in 1985. It was felt that a negotiated out-of-court settlement would end long drawn out litigation. Pending finalisation of the settlement, the writ petitions were disposed of by the Delhi High Court in December, 1996, with liberty to the parties to apply for their revival, if need be. However, the settlement could not be finalised.

In February, 2000, Shri Ashok Chandra, former Secretary, Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas was appointed to hear all the interested parties and give his recommendations.

On the basis of these recommendations, an out-of-court compromise settlement was negotiated between the Goculdas Group of Companies, HPCL and Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas. It envisaged taking over the LPG business of PITCL and DGPL only at a nominal amount of Rs. 10,000 handing back the management relating to non-LPG business to the Goculdas Group of Companies, and not raising any dispute in future with regard to taking over the management and assets and liabilities of their LPG business.

The title of the LPG business of the two companies was required to be vested in HPCL in order to regularise

HPCL's investments in modernising and expanding their LPG business. The acquisition of their LPG business would enable HPCL to maintain the bottling, transporting, marketing and distributions of LPG.

In accordance with the decision, the conveyancing of LPG business and related assets of PITCL and DGPL in favour of Government of India and HPCL has since been effected through deeds of assignment on April 2, 2004.

Under the deeds of assignment, all the assets relating to LPG business, namely, leaseholds, land, building, gas cylinders, bottling and filling facilities, tank lorries, LPG stock, bank balances, books of accounts, registers, have been acquired and transferred subsequent to management take over in 1979. In addition, only liabilities arising out of deposits collected from customers for LPG cylinders, gratuity to employees, current liabilities relating to sundry creditors and wages of employees have been assumed by the Government and HPCL. The remaining liabilities continue to be with the respective companies.

The Act of 1979 had displaced the Board of Directors of the two companies and had empowered HPCL to perform all functions of the Board of Directors. Under the deeds, the management of the said two companies shall be relinquished in favour of the respective two companies, except in relation to the LPG-related business which has been acquired.

An amount of Rs. 10,000/- has been paid for the assignment of the LPG business to each of the said two companies.

Under the deeds, the officers and workers employed in the LPG business of PITCL and DGPL shall be absorbed on the rolls of HPCL. Their employment shall continue on the same terms and conditions as were applicable prior to the acquisition and until revised by HPCL.

As the process of conveyancing is completed, it is now proposed to repeal the Parel Investments and Trading Private Limited and Domestic Gas Private Limited (Taking Over of Management) Act, 1979. The present Bill aims at this.

I, therefore, commend the Bill to this august House.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Motion Moved:

"That the Bill to repeal the Parel Investments and Trading Private Limited and Domestic Gas Private Limited

(Taking over of Management) Act, 1979, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (Balasore): Sir, I will complete in one minute. I would like to just draw the attention of the hon. Minister to a very interesting fact.

Shri R.M. Goculdas, the authorised representative of the Goculdas Group, had offered an out-of-court settlement to the Government of India in 1985. But when did the Government of India accept it? It was accepted after 15 years, that is, in 2000. It is very unfortunate. How is our Government functioning that it took 15 years for them to accept the offer? I will just seek one small clarification from the hon. Minister. He has mentioned about some liabilities arising out of taking over the charge, like gratuity to the employees, deposits collected from customers and current liabilities relating to sundry creditors. Are they very substantial? It is a very small clarification which I want to seek from the hon. Minister.

I support the Bill.

SHRI K.S. RAO (Eluru): Sir, I am very happy that the hon. Minister has taken up the Parel Investments and Trading Private Limited and Domestic Gas Private Limited (Taking Over of Management) Repeal Bill now. This is a glaring example as to why the countrymen are losing faith in the Government as well as the Judiciary. It took 26 years to bring the Repeal Bill here. It could have been done long back. Now, suppose, they say that the assets and other things would not have any value, the assets might not have been there at all and whatever assets are there they belong only to the Government. So, while appreciating the hon. Minister, I request the Government to bring such legislation and infuse confidence in the people that the Government is working and the Judiciary is also working. You must also send a message to the Judiciary that the cases should not be kept pending for decades.

I can understand if there is litigation going on which cannot be decided in a short span of time. But it took 25 years for such a small case where hundreds of crore of rupees are not involved.

I definitely appreciate when Shri Bahuguna in 1979 felt that in the interest of the public, he had to take over this private company. We can understand it. But when it has become difficult to run even public sector undertakings in a profitable condition, there is no sense in taking up the private companies by the Government.

[Shri K.S. Rao]

So, I support the hon. Minister that at least now he has brought this Repeal Bill and handing over, more particularly, the non-LPG business. But, once again, as my hon. friend Shri Kharabela Swain has said, I wish the hon. Minister to ensure that the valuable assets like land, which are there in the name of the company belonging to this LPG business, should not be left to that company and such assets should be taken care of by the hon. Minister.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Sir, I regret that I do not have the exact figure of the liabilities that are arising out of it. I should certainly communicate them to the hon. Member. But I can assure him that in so far as the liabilities relate to the LPG business, it is only reasonable that when we are taking over the assets, we should take over the liabilities as well. It is a profitable business and it will be run well.

I agree with the hon. Member Shri K.S. Rao that we should attempt to expedite these matters, but sometimes, disputes do require time to be the leavening for finding a solution to the problems.

Sir, with these words, I commend the Bill to the House.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

"The Bill to repeal the Parel Investments and Trading Private Limited and Domestic Gas Private Limited (Taking over of Management) Act, 1979, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The House will now take up clause-by-clause consideration of the Bill.

The question is:

"That clause 2 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 2 was added to the Bill.

Clause 1, the Enacting Formula, the Preamble and the Long Title were added to the Bill.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Now, the Minister may move that the Bill be passed.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: I beg to move:

"That the Bill be passed."

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Bill be passed."

The motion was adopted.

14.52 hrs.

DISCUSSION UNDER RULE 193

RE: NATURAL CALAMITIES IN THE COUNTRY

[Translation]

SHRI RUPCHAND MURMU (Jhargram): Hon. Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, kindly allow me to speak in Bangla.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Alright you may speak.

*SHRI RUPCHAND MURMU: At the outset I thank you for giving me the opportunity to initiate a discussion on natural calamities under rule 193. Almost every year we talk about drought and flood in this august House. In 1999, there was an oceanic storm in Orissa and in 2001, Gujarat's Bhuj was struck by an earthquake. Due to these natural calamities, there was large scale devastation in those areas. But Sir, what I would like to mention is that on 26.12.2004, there was a tsunami—which has utterly devastated various parts of the world. More than 2 lakh people have died, many have gone untraced. Sri Lanka, Indonesia, Thailand have been worst hit. Five States of India viz. Tamil Nadu, Pondicherry, Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Andaman & Nicobar Islands have suffered tremendous loss. According to the official figures, in these 5 States 10,273 persons have died, 5,823 persons are missing, more than 530 children have become orphans, crops spanning about 22 acres of land have been damaged, more than 36,000 animals have died. Besides ports, jetties, schools, colleges have collapsed along with the entire communication system. Sir, the relief measures have been undertaken by the Central Government on a war footing. Hon. Prime Minister had visited the devastated areas. UPA Chairperson and other hon. Ministers had gone there as well. From West Bengal, our Ministers like Shri Kanti Ganguly, Shri Gautam Deb have also been there. Military and para military forces have been deployed. Even the NGOs had done a great job. Actually the Central Government, State Governments have done a commendable job and I would like to

**Translation of the speech originally delivered in Bangla.*

congratulate the Government for this. We have already suffered a huge loss. Now, in any type of natural calamity, three aspects are there—rescue, relief and rehabilitation. Relief measures are yet to reach certain areas. But rehabilitation is most important. To combat the crisis situation, enough funds have been raised. The Government has announced a package of Rs. 2731 crore. But this is a measly sum. West Bengal Government has limited resources. Still it has raised Rs. 9½ crore for the PM's relief fund. We, the members of CPI (M) party had asked our cadres to go to each and every house to collect aid—donations, foodstuffs, clothings. We, on behalf of our party have sent relief items and cash worth Rs. 2 crore to Andaman Nicobar and Tamil Nadu. Some of our hon. MPs like Shri Ramchandra, Shri Shamik Lahiri, Shri Sujan Chakravarty had gone there with relief materials. The thing is that, the people who have suffered huge loss have to be adequately compensated. Women and children are worst hit by any natural disaster. In Indonesia, Thailand, children have been kidnapped, raped. However in our country, no such incidents have been reported. But there are complaints regarding distribution of relief materials. Government should be more vigilant in this regard.

I would like mention about the fishermen. They have lost everything they had. They should be given proper compensation. The agricultural tracts have been utterly damaged. They are filled with either sand or salt water. Government should take immediate steps to make the land cultivable once more, by using fertiliser, removing the sand and water or by whatever means it can. Sir, people who have survived the disaster are still sceptic, they are frightened of another plausible misfortune as earthquakes are occurring in some place intermittently. So I would urge upon the Government to appoint experts who would be able to predict the future of Andaman Nicobar islands. The educational institutions, hospital buildings which were destroyed should be built up once again.

We know that prevention is better than cure. But our country does not have proper mechanism to predict the possible disaster. Otherwise so many lives could have been saved.

15.00 hrs.

It is seen that natural calamities are increasing in number due to a great imbalance in the environment. We have to protect our environment. Sir, some countries

of the Pacific belt have evolved tsunami warning system. In this region in 100 years, 700 tsunamis have occurred. But they have been detected earlier by the tsunami warning system. I would say that such warning system must be installed in our country also. We have so many learned and expert scientists and researchers. We are fortunate to have an internationally acclaimed scientist as our President. He can contribute to a great extent in setting up such a tsunami warning system.

Sir, in 2002, 400 districts of 18 States had faced drought. The then Government did not announce it as a national disaster. When there were floods in some States the Government did not send adequate relief materials. In States like West Bengal, Assam there are frequent floods. Recently, due to heavy snowfall in Jammu & Kashmir, people faced a lot of problems. I request the Government to take cognisance of the situation and try to help out the people who suffer losses.

With these words I would like to end my speech.

SHRI MANVENDRA SINGH (Barmer): Thank you, Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir. My more learned Bolshevik colleague talked about the relief aspects of disasters and calamities. I will limit my talk to the management aspects of it.

I would like to first thank the hon. Minister of Home for committing the Government and making a commitment and a declaration in the House that India will finally see a National Disaster Management Authority. It is a commendable step. It is long overdue. India is unique in many aspects, but is also unique in this unfortunate fact of life that India has suffered more natural disasters of a larger variety than any other country in the world. So, this is a welcome step. I wish the hon. Minister of Home that these measures are expedited, that the House gets to discuss the creation of this authority, the House gets to discuss it at greater length. As I said, I will limit myself today just to the management aspects of it.

I would like to remind the House as well as the Minister that when India as well as other countries on the Bay of Bengal rim were struck by the terrible tsunami on the 26th December, the first Disaster Management Teams that were mobilised within India were from the State of Gujarat. That was because after having suffered the devastating earthquake in Gujarat, the Government of Gujarat had created their own State-level Disaster Management Teams. So this as a body already exists in the country, albeit in a State. It would be useful to draw

[Shr Manvendra Singh]

upon the lessons of how this body has functioned, in order to draw a national blueprint.

After all, the aim of any Disaster Management Authority is to minimise the damage (that is already happening), save lives, save livelihoods by helping those that are affected, protect their cattle, their animals or the other aspects of their livelihood. So, it requires that this proposed NDMA be as responsible and as responsive in terms of speed to the disaster zones as it is humanly possible. For any Authority to be responsive, to have the fastest possible response, that Authority must have the most decentralised functioning.

Then it is possible. Decentralised authority in terms of decision-making and in terms of despatching the response team is required. It also requires that there should be decentralised monitoring agencies because India, being a vast country, is affected by various climatic zones or weather patterns in different parts of the country on the same day. The country will be affected by various weather phenomena which are completely contrasted with other parts of the country. So, that requires that this monitoring authority be decentralised in its functioning.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Hon. Members, please keep silence.

SHRI MANVENDRA SINGH: On 26th December, 2004, when there was an earthquake on the Coast of Sumatra, it does not take much more than a—if I remember correctly—11th Standard Geography lesson to tell one that when there is a coastal earthquake or a sub-sea earthquake, it certainly has to be followed by Tsunami. However, because our monitoring system in the country is overly centralised, the measurement of data takes time and because the measurement of data takes time, the dissemination of information takes time and that time is invaluable in those few hours or minutes. When information is not shared to those who are likely to be affected, precious lives are lost, livelihood is affected, animal wealth and humanly-created wealth and all that had been created is lost.

So, to make decision-making responsive, it has to be decentralised. Response teams have to be decentralised. Monitoring agencies should be decentralised. That is one of my suggestions to the hon. Home Minister.

During the tenure of the former Deputy Prime Minister, and now the Leader of the Opposition, the

subject of disaster management was quite rightly taken away from the Agriculture Ministry and placed in the Home Ministry. Quite rightly so, as it was long overdue. The Home Ministry is far more responsible in the sense that it covers more aspects of India's governance and has more linkages with India's administrative structure than the Agriculture Ministry. So, I am happy to not that step was taken.

15.14 hrs.

[SHRI AJAY MAKEN *in the Chair*]

I would like to suggest that this process be taken further and response mechanism of India's disaster management authority be not just limited to the Ministry of Home Affairs but also include the Ministry of Defence. It is ultimately the first to respond to any disaster in India. That rests on the ability of the military and on the Armed Forces—to react, to respond, and to bring relief supplies to the affected zone. It would be pertinent to point out at this juncture that India's response, the military response, the military mobilisation after the devastating earthquake in Kutch, airlift of troops by the Indian Air force is a case study. That is a studied by various professional militaries around the world. The scale and the scope of that airlift into the disaster zone of Kutch is a case study in itself. So, obviously we have the capability, we have the experience. What is required is that we have put the structures around it so that the country respond as frequently as is required at a faster pace.

People who are affected should get their relief supplies, get their relief material much faster in order to save their lives. Ultimately, the most important point is to save lives. To use the military terminology, the KRA or the 'Key Result Area' of this Disaster Management Authority has to be to save human lives.

In this, I would like to add another point. In the process of creating this disaster Management Authority, in the process of creating this structure and for it to function, I have already elaborated, I think, extensively on having a decentralized response mechanism, a decentralized monitoring mechanism and to take it further. I would suggest and recommend that in the functioning between the Ministry of Home Affairs and the Ministry of Defence, this responsibility, this creation of a response team mechanism be brought down to the lowest possible formation levels of the armed forces because the military formations live together, they train together, they practise

together. Our disaster management team or disaster response team could be an aspect of this formation in their functioning. It could be at the brigade level or it could even be at the unit level in conjunction with the local Air Force stations, local Naval Stations so that the formation practices and its drills on disaster management, are in order.

Their training cycles include response to disaster; it includes lifting of supplies carried by air or by land, carrying relief material to disaster zones. We have seen the disaster after the Tsunami which was the first of its kind in recorded Indian history. Now, we see the highest snowfall in the Valley of Kashmir in the last 30 to 35 years. We have an Avalanche situation which we have not heard of in many years. So, the response mechanism, the response team has to cater to the obvious disasters in those areas. For example, the formation in the Valley would cater to train for response to disasters which are created by excessive snowfall. The team on the coastal regions could cater to a response to Tsunami kind of a situation or those within land could cater to situation like flood. About flood, I would like to point out that in our normal discourse about planning on disaster, we look at cyclones, we look at earthquakes and now, after the December Tsunami, Tsunami features very high on our agenda. But the disaster which happens almost annually, the disaster which affects the maximum number of Indians annually which affects the livelihood, which affects animal wealth, which affects assets, is the drought. It covers more parts of India. It covers more Indians annually than any other disaster. In our planning, I would request the Minister of Home Affairs to also keep in mind the monitoring mechanism as well as the response mechanism to drought. This is not just a parochial point because it affects my State or my constituency but it affects the neighbouring States, it affects more States than any other aspect of disaster and calamities.

Connected to this, there has been a talk for almost about five decades now, on the long-pending project.

One of the pet themes of the hon. President of India, since the time he was a senior scientist in the Ministry of Defence, is the inter-linking of rivers. The Government has made a commitment before the Supreme Court that the inter-linking project has not been shelved. It is a welcome commitment. I wish, the Government would go further on it, and I also wish that this House would have a debate on this issue of inter-linking of rivers because while one part of the country is reeling under droughts, another part of the country, at the same time, is suffering

from floods. There cannot be a more contrasting situation in the country than what I have just elaborated on. So, the inter-linking of rivers could also be a project taken up or a study taken up by this authority.

As a last point, Sir, I would like to commend the hon. Home Minister again for his commitment. But at the same time, I would like to remind him that in the recently tabled Budget, under the head 'Disaster Management,' there has been a serious cut back. But I hope, the hon. Minister uses his clout, his seniority and his conviction to restore that imbalance in the Budget.

Thank you for giving me the time.

SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA (Andaman & Nicobar Islands): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to participate in the debate regarding Natural Calamities in the country initiated by my good friend, Shri Rupchand Murmu. I am grateful to him because he has specifically mentioned some of the good work for the relief and rehabilitation. He has also pointed out some of the points, which he thought fit for further better activities for the rehabilitation of the tsunami victims.

We have seen many calamities in our country, *viz.*, droughts, floods and even the avalanches killing many people. But about tsunami, this is a new area which we have not experienced in the past. We have found that this is more powerful than any other such disasters, because more than 10,000 people, in a few islands, have either died or gone missing. Those who are missing, are not actually missing, they have gone forever.

Now, the main question is: what the Administration could do and what the Administration had done. Immediately, the whole Administration was deployed for the relief and rescue operations. Thereafter, the question of rehabilitation comes. For the relief and rescue operations, it took a long time, because the Andaman and Nicobar Islands are scattered islands with very small pockets, where it is difficult to land. Due to this disaster, many of the jetties got broken. There was no communication system. So, the helicopter was the only way by which one could reach the victims and provide them the relief materials. This took some time.

Sir, I also feel that nobody has had any experience to face such an alarming situation. But to some extent, there was a lack of planning also. But even then, what the Central Government has done is unique and commendable. On the very second day, the Defence

[Shri Manoranjan Bhakta]

Minister and the UPA Chairperson, Shrimati Sonia Gandhiji visited Car Nicobar and other areas, and all proper instructions were given to the defence personnel for help. So, the defence personnel, civilians and officials of the Administration, all put together, tried to face the situation to save and rescue those who were blocked in certain areas including Campbell Bay.

Then, the question came of providing accommodation, as to how to resettle the victims, because their houses had been washed away in the tsunami waves.

So, it was necessary to construct temporary houses. That work is now going on. Perhaps the Home Ministry has taken as a challenge. A number of officers have been deployed; relief material is reaching. They have targeted that, by the 15th April they should be able to complete the construction of temporary houses. Thereafter, construction of permanent houses will start.

Sir, I would like to say and place it on record in this House that the way the whole country stood by us during this time—irrespective of caste, creed, religion and language—is not equal to anything. Immediately, the Central Ministers—Home Minister, Agriculture Minister and Minister for Tribal Affairs—Ministers of State—Shri Jaiswalji, Regupathyji, Dr. Shakeel Ahamedji—and many other dignitaries visited the Islands. They tried to monitor the situation and, wherever the help was needed, they tried to provide that. I also acknowledge the way the Prime Minister reached there and immediately declared a relief of Rs. 200 crore. That is also commendable. Members of Parliament, including Members of this House—at the instance of the hon. Speaker—had volunteered Rs. 10 lakh from their MPLADS fund for the rescue and rehabilitation of the people, who were hit by the Tsunami. That is why, I would like to mention that we—the people of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands and being their representative—cannot forget the way our countrymen stood by us. We feel that, whatever may be our differences in party politics and in other matters, India is one. This has been proved once again. So, I would like to thank all the hon. Members of Parliament for their best wishes.

Sir, when this situation has come, two or three points come to our mind. First is whether there is any system or mechanism available by which an early warning may be available so that the same may be percolated down to the people and they may take their position in safe places. But, I think, even in the past, there was some discussion on disaster management in the Andaman and

Nicobar Islands. I think some report was also prepared but nobody read it. We could not use the recommendations made in that report. However, now, the time has come when the fate of the Islands has to be thought of. It is necessary that the Ministry of Home Affairs, being the nodal Ministry, takes the initiative for scientific study of the Islands and, thereafter, makes a disaster management plan so that we may face any eventuality in future. Otherwise, it will be very difficult for us to face them as we live in the Islands, which fall in seismic zone. If we do not follow the system, which can provide information regarding earthquakes and Tsunami, there will always be problems. That will be in the interests of the Islands.

Sir, I would like to say that there is the rehabilitation package, which is before us, and the work is going on. There are some discrepancies; there are some lacunae. A good package also can have some lacunae. So, as and when they are detected, it will be the responsibility of the Government to rectify them. After all, what is the purpose of having it? What is the purpose of providing such relief and rehabilitation? We want that our people should be resettled in a much better way than they were in the past.

So, when we want to do that, we should see the ground reality or the ground situation. The ground reality is that the entire Andaman and Nicobar Islands was affected because of the earthquake and the following Tsunami. When the entire Andaman and Nicobar Islands was affected, there was a difference in degree of damage. In the Andaman district, agricultural land was affected and there was damage to concrete houses. In the Nicobar district, coconut trees got completely washed away and almost all the deaths reported from that district.

So, we will have to see all this while providing assistance. What is the assistance? The tribal Nicobaris live on coconuts. It is their only livelihood, and there is no other livelihood for them. If they are paid Rs. 20 per tree as the compensation, it will be a very laughing situation because Rs. 20 comes to the cost of two coconuts. When the Defence acquired the lands, they paid them Rs. 5,000 per tree. When the Andaman and Nicobar Administration acquired the lands, they paid Rs. 1,000 per tree. Now, they are proposing to pay Rs. 20, which is very much less. At least, the minimum amount should be provided as compensation.

In Andaman, there is no big landowner and they are only small and marginal farmers. They have only 5-10

acres or 1-2 hectares of land. Their entire land is flooded with salt water. There was not only flooding of lands by salt water, but also their standing crops were lost. When this is the position, payment of Rs. 2,000 per hectare as compensation for standing crops is not fair and it is absolutely impossible for them to live. When we want to re-settle them, we should purposefully do it, and it should be better than the past. That is my request.

I have some suggestions to make, through you, Sir. As regards fisheries, there has to be a payment of Rs. 1 lakh in cash to the affected fisherman whose dongies and boats were fully damaged or lost. Immediate cash payment must be made for the repair of boats and dongies. Three months have passed since Tsunami struck and yet, they could not repair their dongies and boats. Replacement must be made of fishing equipments of those fishermen who lost their fishing equipment. They should issue permit for collection of logs to those fishermen who intend to purchase or make *bonga* dongies. They should allow selection of site for settlement of fishermen who lost their residential buildings. Compensation should be made to fishermen, self-help groups, unemployed youths, cooperative societies, vendors and fishermen. Immediate sanction must be made of soft loan under Rajiv Gandhi Financial Assistance to Tsunami affected fishermen. They should issue ration for six months. Even if their houses are repaired, they will have no income. So, how will they live? Sustenance is necessary for them at this stage. They should get the damaged cold storage repaired. As regards agriculture, they should immediately announce a package of assistance to farmers whose crop and plantations are affected due to Tsunami. They should allot alternate hilly land whose lands are affected due to inundation of sea water. They should issue ration to all affected farmers for a minimum period of one year or till the land is reclaimed.

- The Government should provide employment to at least one member from the affected families.
- Payment of compensation of Rs. 30,000 per hectare of paddy and vegetable.
- Payment of compensation of at least Rs. 8.25 lakh per hectare for coconut tree to the tribals.
- Payment of compensation of Rs. 50,000 to affected Government servants. Many Government servants are also affected by this calamity. Some Government servants who are still working, have seen their wives and children being taken away

by the tsunami. Since they are the Government servants, they should not be discriminated.

- Payment of compensation to affected shopkeepers and sanction of soft loan. Compensation of Rs. 1 lakh to fully damaged building. Payment of compensation to partially and minor damaged building.
- Sanction of soft loan for vehicle owner who lost their vehicles for replacement.
- Due to tsunami, economic conditions of most of the families were affected. Therefore, a fresh BPL survey may be conducted to re-determine their economic status.
- Immediate arrangement for payment of national security amounts to orphans and widows.
- Repairs of damaged infrastructure on priority basis under time bound programme. This work is going on but some more speed is necessary because rain is coming very fast.
- To provide employment to affected families under Food for Work or Employment Guarantee Scheme. I understand that the Andaman and Nicobar districts, having remote and backward territory, were not included in the 100 Days Employment Scheme. I request that these two districts should be included immediately so that they can benefit under the Food for Work or the Employment Guarantee Scheme.
- Marketing of agricultural produce like arecanut and coconut should be immediately undertaken and growers helped.
- Stay legal action for recovery of outstanding loan of affected families.
- Waiving of interest on loan up to Rs. 2.5 lakh including PMRY and other loan sanctioned under Rural Development Programme.
- Development of allotted grazing land under Rural Development Scheme from PRI Fund Scheme considering the acute shortage of grazing land due to tsunami.
- Issue of fodder and cattle feed on subsidised rate till the allotted grazing land are developed.
- Permission to affected families for collection of logs from standing trees on their allotted land for construction of building and proper development of plantation crop.

[Shri Manoranjan Bhakta]

- Repair of sea well on emergent basis, as there is inundation of seawater into the paddy field. Therefore, a re-survey be conducted to include all those affected for reclamation besides providing sluice gates at vulnerable points. Automatic sluice gates drain out accommodated water during low tide and gate closed during high tide.
- All the vacant posts under plan and non-plan should be filled in immediately. The Government of India was kind enough to withdraw the ban on recruitment in public service for Andaman and Nicobar. Moreover, the Andaman and Nicobar Administration may be advised to take into confidence the Panchayati Raj Institutions for better implementation of Government policies and programmes.

These are some of the requests that I have made to the hon. Home Minister and the Government of India. I would like to mention categorically that the amount of Rs. 821.88 crore which has been sanctioned for the relief and rehabilitation work is really unique. I would like to thank very much to the country, the Parliament and the Government for this. I thank once again for giving me this opportunity to speak.

MR. CHAIRMAN: We have a list of 40 speakers. Therefore, I would like to request to all the speakers to be as precise as possible.

DR. SUJAN CHAKRABORTY (Jadavpur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thank you for giving me this opportunity. At the very outset, I would like to thank Mr. Rupchand Murmu for initiating this discussion. The issue has really been very important for the entire nation. The issue of natural calamity has come up again due to the two unprecedented happening—one is Tsunami and its effects and the other is avalanches and snowfall in Jammu and Kashmir and other States.

In our country, obviously natural calamity is manifested mostly in flood and drought. Basically, it is an annual happening in the country. There are a very few countries which are having natural calamity every year and every time. In fact, our country is facing natural calamity twice or thrice a year. It is facing different sorts of calamities which is very unfortunate for our country.

I would like to concentrate on Tsunami and its effects. There is no doubt that the country is shocked. More than three lakh people have died world over. In our

country also, the figure is huge. More importantly around 10,000 people have died and more than 50 lakh people have been affected. The official figure of the death toll may be more than 10,000, but according to the unofficial sources the death toll is much more. The detailed report has not been gathered by the officials at the very start of the incident. What I would like to say is that when on 26th December, the incident broke up, the entire country saw a total unpreparedness. I must congratulate the Government of India. There is no doubt that the Government has tried very sincerely. It is a fact. The Prime Minister himself rushed to the affected areas be it Andamans, be it Tamil Nadu be it Kashmir and the Government has tried to gear up the entire activities. But still because of unpreparedness, it could not be reflected in the total action. It also applies to different organisations, State Governments and NGOs. I come from West Bengal. The State Government of West Bengal tried to help people in Andamans. The Ministers and Members of Parliament stationed themselves at Andamans consecutively for one month. The involvement of people and different NGOs has been major. Since it is a calamity, this is a right type of action that we could have taken.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I personally believe that the stand taken by the Government at the outset was very correct. Rather than begging for foreign aid to overcome the after effects of this disaster, the way our Government extended our support to the victims of this calamity in other countries was truly commendable. It was in keeping with the true traditions of India. While we ourselves were at distress, we were amongst the first few nations to rush in aid to countries like Sri Lanka and Indonesia to support them in their distress. My friends have already said about this. From all over the country people have contributed generously to the Prime Minister's Relief Fund for this cause. The Government of West Bengal, different organisations and groups have collected money and contributed to the Relief Fund. People took the initiatives themselves to collect money in the streets in order to be able to effectively contribute to the Funds of the Prime Minister and of the Chief Minister. The local people, be it in Andaman or at Tamil Nadu had taken the initiative to help in whatever manner possible to help the victims of this natural calamity.

Sir, I would be failing in my duty if I do not refer to an incident that took place in Tamil Nadu. Today, in the country, most unfortunately on different occasions we try to divide this country on lines of religion and community. But the incident in Tamil Nadu has a positive aspect. In a village called Parangapetti in Cuddalore district in Tamil

Nadu, which is basically a Muslim dominated village, the people who were affected, particularly the fishermen, mostly belonged to the Hindu and Christian community. The Muslims of that village had a Mosque Committee and at the time of the disaster, they took the initiative to evacuate the people from the area, took them to safety places and gave them shelter. Around 7,000 people, mostly belonging to the Hindu and Christian communities, were given shelter by them.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude now.

DR. SUJAN CHAKRABORTY: Sir, being the first speaker from my Party, I was told that I would be allowed 15 minutes time and I have prepared in that way.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The total time allotted to your Party is ten minutes. You have already taken eight minutes. Now, tell me, what should I do?

DR. SUJAN CHAKRABORTY: Sir, I would then stop here.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I have already told you that there are 40 speakers to speak on this subject. So, please be as brief as possible.

DR. SUJAN CHAKRABORTY: These 7,000 people were given food and shelter by them. Even a marriage of the Muslim community was cancelled and the food meant for the guests were served to the victims of this disaster, I believe, we should welcome such incidents and we, the politicians should take a lesson from this incident and try to purify ourselves and imbibe such spirit of fraternity.

Sir, now the question is, why did such a devastating incident take place? We know the scientific reasons for it, but I do not wish to go into those details. Many mysteries of the earth are yet to be uncovered. The movement of the tectonic plates resulted in the release of huge energy, to the extent of 2.0 exajoules which is equivalent to 150 litres of water boiling for the entire people of the world. It is huge energy. Oscillation of the earth has also been to the tune of 20 to 30 cm. The topography of the seabed has also changed. This may be the fourth biggest natural disaster since 1900 and the biggest natural disaster after Alaska in 1964. So, the gravity of this disaster could well be estimated. My question is, could it not have been predicted?

Science has developed to an extent that if we gear up ourselves, things can be managed. We are a natural

calamity prone area and these areas are within seismic zones. So, could we not prepare ourselves? In fact, we did not join the organisation of 26 countries of the Pacific Ocean zone. But in this case also, I am sorry to say that the United States National Ocean and Atmospheric Administration called the NOAA had the information and they had predicted it. And they had passed the information to the military base of Diego Garcia and they prepared themselves as to what to do. But that information has not been passed to other countries and to our country as well. Even a radio message could have been given. It is very unfortunate and shameful on the part of very big country and it cannot be accepted. The initial response was that they had proposed to give 35 million dollars as support which is their breakfast expenditure in Iraq. In fact, they did not take it up properly. It is very much insulting that even the International Monetary Fund have announced adjustment of repayment of Indonesia which is due in February, 2005 but not waiving. So, the international community, majority of them, have been taking it very seriously. But all of them have not responded properly. We should also keep it in mind.

I would like to place three other points here. One is the natural calamity. Causation is natural. But is the effect natural? No. Effects are not natural. We see that the effects of such incidents are more on the poor people and more on the less prepared countries. We will just take the example of parts of USA and Europe which are earthquake prone areas. But you will hardly find that much casualties more than 10,000 there. We had the casualty as 2000 in Uttarkashi in 1991. Latur had a casualty of 9000 in 1993. It was more than 10,000 in Orissa's Supercyclone and 13,000 plus in Gujarat earthquake in 2001 and more than 10,000 in the Tsunami of 2005. Such is the devastation! Hurricanes are happening more often in Japan and East coast of America but no such devastation happens there, Why? The average annual natural disaster kills in Japan is 63 and it is 2900 in Peru. Why is it so? The earthquake in California took place almost at the time of Latur earthquake but they had much less casualty...*(Interruptions)*.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude. You have already taken 15 minutes whereas only ten minutes was allotted for your Party. Please conclude now.

DR. SUJAN CHAKRABORTY: Sir, practically, the question of disaster management is the most important thing. I would suggest only two points. One is, the first casualty was disaster management itself which I was liking to speak. It is total lack of coordination from the civil

[Dr. Sujan Chakraborty]

administration and the military administration. We have our National Civil Defence College and the National Fire Training Institute of Nagpur but we could not gear them up. Disaster Management Authority is going to be formed and things should be looked into very categorically on the basis of rescue, communication, transport, people's involvement, etc.

I would request you to consider Dr. Swaminathan Research Foundation and other organisations because much rehabilitation works are to be done on a scientific basis. Particularly, animals could understand it more. So, scientific research should be made in a proper manner that the forecasting and understanding of the whole issue can be done properly.

[*Translation*]

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR (Chail): Hon. Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am grateful to you for providing me the opportunity to participate in the discussion on natural calamity raised by Shri Rupchand Murmu under Rule 193. You may call it Natural Calamity or nature's wrath or nature's temper but it is one and the same thing. Any epidemic striking our country mostly through storm, thunderstorm, hailstorm, flood, drought, starvation or disease is called natural disaster.

Just now several hon. Members have expressed their views about Tsunami, particularly our hon. Member Shri Manoranjan Bhakt from the Andaman-Nicobar has put forth his points in great details. Whenever volcanoes erupt in sea, it gives rise to Tsunami. Tsunami has been declared a national calamity in which various people, voluntary institutions, NGO's all the three wings of Army, hon. MLAs or MPs of various states have given their assistance. The victims of natural calamity particularly need affection.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, an incident involving great loss of life and property occurs suddenly. This calamity strikes the poor more. Since the poor earns his livelihood struggling with every natural calamity, he becomes victim the most. The Tsunami which struck on 26 December at the speed of 800 Kms/hr. was a severe blow killing around 10,000 people. 7,921 people in Tamil Nadu, 107 in Kerala, 105 in Andhra Pradesh, 900 in Andaman-Nicobar and 579 in Pondicherry lost their lives. Besides this, around 1,65,000 people died in other countries. Indonesia was the worst affected as Tsunami started from there. Our country lost Rs. 5,322 crore and property worth Rs. 7000 crore.

I would like to urge that a scheme for immediate relief is pending with the Government for the last three years. That scheme is related to providing mobile health services in the aircraft.

15.59 hrs.

[SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN *in the Chair*]

Under this scheme, mobile facilities can be provided to a number of victims by landing a helicopter or aircraft at any place facing such calamity. Often, it happens that whenever some calamity strikes somewhere, a lot of lives are lost as it takes too much time in shifting the victims from one place to another or in bringing them to the hospital. I am of the view that priority should be accorded to the mobile health service scheme lying pending with the Union Government for the last three years so that it can be pressed into service at the time of such calamities.

So far as rehabilitation of people is concerned, permanent houses of composite material should be constructed. The people rendered homeless by Tsunami are living in forests even today. Permanent houses of composite material should be constructed for them so that they may get houses.

16.00 hrs.

Secondly, there should not be shortage of funds for relief and rehabilitation work. I would like to thank the UPA Government for not taking any assistance from abroad and providing funds required to carry out relief and rescue operations after Tsunami. It should be the endeavour of all of us to ensure that funds are utilised properly and the money should reach to the Tsunami affected people. It is being reported in the newspapers some times that earthquake tremours are still being felt in Andaman and Nicobar Islands. Therefore, there is a need to console and back up the people there and when this issue was raised earlier here in the House at that time also I had said that those people should be rehabilitated in true sense. The major problem before those people particularly the people who earn their livelihood daily is of food, clothing and shelter. Employment should be provided to such people. The Union Government should provide for all this. The Union Government has already said that warning system should be developed by the year 2007 so that we could get prior warning about storm or earthquake and people could be shifted to safer places and their life and property could be saved.

Second thing which I want to say is that children have become orphan and rendered homeless in Tsunami affected areas and people are adopting them. I request that law relating to adoption should be relaxed so that such children could get support. The National Calamity Remote Sensing Agency is conducting a study in regard to loss suffered and it will give the figures in regard to loss suffered and the funds required and the number of people rehabilitated. All these thing will come before us. Calamity Management Authority should be set up so that we could provide relief and facilities to the affected people in real sense.

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude.

[*Translation*]

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR: Sir, I am the only Member from Samajwadi Party to speak so I may be given more time to speak.

Sometimes incidents of lightening in rainy season are heard. Twenty seven people have lost their lives due to lightening in Uttar Pradesh this year. This is also a major problem and we should do something for safety from it. Lightening conductors should be installed under trees and at bus stop as is done to save high rise buildings from lightening so that death caused due to it can be avoided. Sir, 44,000 stormy rains occur every day and 100 incidents of lightening occurs every second, we should be cautious about it. Only one or two days back there was rain in Delhi accompanied with hail storm. Crops have got destroyed in Uttar Pradesh due to hail stones and the farmers have got ruined. I would like to request the Union Government to sanction special package to Uttar Pradesh to provide relief to the farmers. Besides we should also formulate an action plan to deal with drought and flood problem and to shift and save people living along river banks immediately in case of floods. Similarly in drought hit areas the farmers are on the verge of ruining. Assistance should be provided to them also. So the Union Government should formulate an action plan to deal with such natural calamities. With these words I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak.

SHRI SITARAM SINGH (Sheohar): Mr. Chairman, Sir, a discussion on natural calamity is going on in the House. Hon. Mr. Speaker has granted permission for discussion on this topic, I would like to thank him for this.

Sir, discussion is being held on natural calamity. We can divide it in two parts—one, which is inevitable and strikes every year and the date and time of its arrival is a determinate occurrence and the other calamity which is not so and which strikes suddenly, like Tsunami. A lot of progress has been made in the whole world and India in the sphere of Science. I would like to ask the Government about the preventive measures have been taken by the Government of India to guard against the calamity which strikes suddenly? Whichever Government may have been in the saddle for the last several years, it could only ill-afford to first wait for the storm/calamity to occur and then to know about it and devise safety measures instead of taking preventive measures. I would say it clearly that tragedies like cyclone and Tsunami took place in the country. I thank the Government for facing it with a strong will and providing relief to the people. But I could not understand one thing that there is no science in our country which can tell about the possibility of such disaster 2-4 hours before it actually strikes? But, this did not happen. Thanking the Government, I would just say that they made a lot of efforts. Voluntary organisations, State Governments and many other people also came forward. I want to suggest that concentration should be on putting in place a calamity alert system to be followed by measures of dealing with the calamity.

Secondly, I want to tell that some of the calamities occur every year with certainly. Many hon. Members have discussed it. I want to say that there are many States in the country where floods are certain every year. Our Bihar tops in it. Uttar Pradesh and Assam are also included in it but Bihar has the maximum share of calamities what was happening before independence, that I cannot say. But, the floods have been occurring regularly after the independence. Firstly till date the Government of India has no method to check the floods. Many dams were built and rivers were diverted. The dams have become old today but they are not being repaired. Rivers are full of silt but they are not being desilted. The work of inter-linking of rivers is not being done. Most importantly, emphasis should be given on spending millions of rupees on preventing measures in order to save the money on account of losses being incurred every year. Had any of the Governments moved on this line and looked forward to a permanent solution, then a permanent solution could have been found and loss of crores of human lives could have been avoided. In Bihar, particularly in areas like Sheohar, Sitamarhi, Motihari, Betia, Darbhanga, Madhubani in North Bihar and the whole of North Bihar is affected by floods every year. Quite a long discussion on it took place last year too. I

[Shri Sitaram Singh]

want to tell clearly the losses incurred in that case but you will not allow more time for a discussion on that. But I want to suggest the Government that it should build high dams. The Government should link the rivers. You are doing the same on Brahmaputra. Preparations should be made with the technical advisor's help. The reason behind all the floods in Bihar is the rivers flowing from Nepal. Indian Government should hold talks with the Nepal Government so that a permanent solution of the problem can be found. Last time, hon. Minister had said during the discussion that millions of rupees can be spent on this but that expenditure should be incurred by making a national project. It seems that there is deficiency in the Government's thinking. I would like to say on this occasion that the Government should make preparation otherwise whole of the infrastructure would be lost. Farmer's crops get deluged, thousands of lives are lost, whole of the assets are lost and bridges are destroyed which are not compensated. In such a situation, I want to tell the Government to make serious effort solve this problem. The Government has adopted the district Sheohar but it could have adopted Sitamarhi under 'Food for Work' or 'Sam Vikas Yojana'. Besides, destruction was caused in Motihari and Betia. Madhubani and Darbhanga have been facing the same situation...*(Interruptions)*.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, you have rung the bell but I have just started speaking. Kindly, give me some time.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I urge the Government that backward districts should be included in 'Food for Work' Scheme or Sam Vikas Yojana. Half of Bihar has been destroyed by drought. It faces drought every year but the Government has not found a permanent solution for it. Ministers in the Government of India say that it is a matter of State Government but the State Government has no resources. The State Government will be in a position to do something only if the Centre provides resources. The State Government cannot provide for irrigation. The Government of India should consider this. In addition to natural calamity, there is irony of nature too. Bihar has witnessed ruination all along.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I will conclude after taking up two-three more points. Under natural calamity, a lot of damage is caused to the life and property due to hailstorm. The Meteorological Department of the Government of India never forecasts the hailstorm. It should tell through media that various places where hailstorm is expected. I consider this either a scientific lapse or the Government has become absolutely inactive in this matter. The Government never forms its opinion

in this regard. When the storm will come only after that some action will be taken in the name of relief. It is my suggestion to the Government that it should consider it seriously. The farmers will benefit if they can get prior information of hailstorm.

In the end, I wanted to say many things but cannot do so because of the constraint of time. Besides, fighting with the natural calamity, the Government should look for a permanent solution of the known problems.

SHRI MAHENDRA PRASAD NISHAD (Fatehpur):
Hon. Chairman, Sir, I thank you very much for giving me an opportunity to participate in the discussion on natural calamities in the country.

Sir, I thank the hon. Prime Minister and the hon. Home Minister for taking immediate steps to deal with the devastation caused due to Tsunami waves in our country. There is no other arrangement with Union Government except the Prime Minister relief fund to deal with natural calamities which causes large scale loss of life and property. The Union Government does not have any department to monitor the utilisation of the assistance amount provided by the Union Government or to implement the relief programme properly and to ensure that assistance actually reach to the affected people. The Union Government does not have any particular department to monitor this. We carry out relief operations with the help of Army. When the local administration or employees do not co-operate with the army or fail to provide prompt assistance in that case army cannot carry out the rescue and relief operations to the desired extent despite availability of resources. They cannot utilise their capacity to the full in absence of a special cell or for want of desired cooperation. Sir, through you, I want to say that we should set up a special cell to deal with such natural calamities occurring in the country. Natural calamity can occur anywhere and anytime. We should have a large cell to deal with natural calamities all over the country so that it can tackle such incidents occurring anywhere in the country with the help of its unit.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, many natural calamities occur at small scale and in a particular region and affect a limited area but the impact may be very severe causing loss of life and property. Be it the wrath of drought, hail storm, flood or incident of sudden outbreak of fire that cell can be pressed into service to control these incidents also. Natural calamities like earthquakes in Gujarat devastation of Tsunami in southern parts or heavy snowfall and landsliding in Jammu and Kashmir have occurred at large scale in our country.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, till date we have not been able evolve a system so that we can give prior warning about natural calamities likely to occur at various places in the country to enable ourselves to prepare relief and rescue programmes in advance or keep ourselves ready to deal with such incidents.

Sir, recently there was heavy hailstorm in Uttar Pradesh in Bundelkhand and Purvanchal and particularly in my Fatehpur district parliamentary constituency where crops of the farmers of more than two hundred villages have been damaged completely. They did not get time even to pick up a single grain from their fields. Roofs of their houses made of unbaked tiles collapsed. There is devastation of every sort. The compensation provided by administration is inadequate. I want to bring to the notice of the Government that rate of compensation to the families affected by natural calamities is too meagre. I request and demand that it should be reviewed and in true sense it should be determined so that the farmers who have taken loan to purchase seed and fertilizers and in case his crop is destroyed due to hailstorm, they should be compensated to the extent of loss suffered by them.

Sir, today situation is such that the crop of farmers has been destroyed due to hailstorm and they do not get even a single grain from their farm a serious problem arises before them. They cannot repay the loan taken by them for seed and fertilizers. They cannot marry off their sons and daughters and they do not know as to how will they feed their family till the next crop. That is why the farmers affected by hailstorm are compelled to commit suicide because they have a bleak future before them.

Sir, through you I would like to request the Government that there should be proper arrangement to provide adequate compensation to the families affected by natural calamities and rescue and relief operations should be carried out expeditiously. Therefore, it is imperative to set up calamity management authority for this purpose. I demand this and hope that this will be set up and thank you for giving me time to speak.

*SHRI A.K.S. VIJAYAN (Nagapattinam): Hon. Chairman, this august House is now discussing under rule 193 about the natural calamities that affect our country. I would like to express my thanks to the Chair for providing me with an opportunity to take part in the discussion to record my views on behalf of Dravida

Munnetra Kazhagam. After the formation of our UPA Government efforts are on to set up a Natural Disaster Management Authority. I thank the Government on behalf of our party DMK.

When it comes to natural disasters, we witness as a continuous tale floods on one part of the country and severe drought in another part of the country. But recently we witnessed a shocking devastation in the form of tsunami. It might have caused great destruction in many parts of the world time and again but the one we witnessed recently in Tamil Nadu was a great calamitous havoc in the recent history especially in the sub-continent. Coastal areas of Tamil Nadu had to bear the brunt and Nagapattinam district in my constituency was the worst hit coastal district in the southern peninsula. In and around my constituency alone more than 8000 people have died due to unundating tsunami that hit with swallowing waves. In our Nagapattinam district alone about 6000 people have died. In all about 6500 people have lost their lives due to this devastation that hit the sea shores of my constituency.

From Kodiakarai to Kollidam the writ of tsunami ran large leaving people high and dry. The enormity of the casualty and the extent of destruction and devastation were huge in these coastal belts of Tamil Nadu. The pilgrimage towns like Vehankanni and Nagore were the worst hit in the sense that more than a thousand people have died in each of these religious shrine towns. When such a vast destruction took place there was no immediate response from the State Administration to ensure that those who were still alive under the debris were saved. Some were even caught alive under mud and died due to delayed rescue operations. At this juncture I heartily thank our hon. Prime Minister, hon. Chairperson of the Advisory Council to the UPA Government Smt. Sonia Gandhi who had deputed Central Ministers to rush to the tsunami havoc hit areas Union Ministers Thiru Dayanidhi Maran, Thiru T. R. Balu, Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar, Thiru Raja were all there immediately to console the people affected by that sudden and shocking national calamity. In fact the relief measures gained momentum only after the visit of Central Ministers to the affected areas. If waves came like a mountain it is tsunami, if mountainous force comes like wave after wave it is Jayalalitha's corruption tsunami. A sizeable amount of funds meant for tsunami relief work were cobbled up by Jayalalitha's AIADMK men and ruling party people that is those who are in power there in Tamil Nadu. Our party DMK's leader and our alliance leader in Tamil Nadu Dr. Kalaingar Karunanidhi has enlisted all

* Translation of the speech originally delivered in Tamil.

[Shri A.K.S. Vijayan]

such mishandlings and misappropriations with documentary proof and evidence. I feel it is my duty to record some of them here. In Vedaranyam area the relief assistance was taken away in the name of God. In Nalu Vethaapathy in Vedaranyan Taluk, as relief assistance a sum of Rs. 4000 was given away to one Pethannasamy s/o Servarayan. On enquiry it was found out that the address given was that of a temple. A granite statue has received Rs. 4000 as tsunami relief. The money in fact has been pocketed by an AIADMK worker in the name of God. Similarly, tsunami relief assistance was given away in the name of a CRPF constable Shri Saravanam s/o Saminathan who was actually on duty away in Punjab and was not at all there when tsunami hit the coasts of Tamil Nadu. In fact Government of Tamil Nadu has not given tsunami relief allowance to any of the Government employees in the worst hit Nagapattinam district. In a village called Pushpavanam, in the name of tsunami relief help there were corrupt distribution of money as 'ageless' wonders. Because, Veerapandian s/o Balasubramanian, Manikandan s/o Dhanapalan, Satish Kumar s/o Chandra Sekharan and Vasantha Kumar s/o Chelladurai are shown as eligible beneficiaries. But they are all tiny children aged 2, 3, 4 and 4 respectively. Hundreds of such cases are there.

Even landless farmers have been extended with relief assistance as if they were compensated for crop loss. This is continuing even now. In Aru Kaatu Thurai, Kodiakkarai and Pushpavanam the total number of boats are not more than 200. But the Government there in Tamil Nadu claims to have given relief assistance for 1500 boats there. In Nagapattinam district alone lakhs of rupees have been taken away by AIADMK which is a greater swallow than even that of tsunami. Even in contracts that have been given for relief and developmental work, only the local ruling party men have an upper hand. There also the completion of such work is far from being satisfactory. Crores of rupees mobilised by NGOs that reach those affected areas are also not spared from these grabbing hands. Corruption-free approach is a rare commodity now. Even in humanitarian work inhuman greed is rampant. I wish to draw the attention of the Union Government to look into this in order to ensure that really needy are not deprived of much needed help and assistance at this juncture.

In Nalu Vethapathy village the total number of family ration cards is 709. But the assistance is extended to 1161 families. Similarly in Peria Kuthagai village the existing cards are 667 but 685 are shown as beneficiary families. Likewise, Aru Naatu Thurai is another village

with 667 family ration cards but it is recorded that thousand families are the beneficiaries. In Kovilpathu existing number of family cards 670 but the beneficiaries are 717. In Vella Pallam 1321 family card members are there. But the beneficiaries are shown to be 1415 in number. In Kodia Karai it is no different. Instead of 426 it is inflated as 667. In Vetta Karan Iruppu total family cards of 1949 is increased as 2622. In Cuddalore, the affected fishermen have gone on road blockade agitation yesterday because they could not get any meaningful and lasting relief assistance so far. They were all lathi charged and brutal attacks on them were let loose by the Government of Tamil Nadu. I urge upon the Union Government to safeguard the interests of those worst hit fishermen.

When it comes to construction of dwelling units, Union Government has proposed to extend an assistance of Rs. 40,000 each...*(Interruptions)*.

I would like to point out that this is not sufficient. Normally, even for changing the roof of crematoriums Rs. 35,000 is given from MPLADS funds. Hence I urge upon the Union Government to enhance the amount of this assistance from Rs. 40000 to Rs. 50000. When they are provided with well constructed houses care must be taken to ensure their safety and security. Construction and building materials must be of standard quality. Because the rehabilitation must be a lasting one.

Sir, the vast extent of damage and destruction we witness in places like Mayiladuthurai, Chidambaram, Cuddalore, Chengleput, Chennai, Sriperumbudur and Kanyakumari have shattered the lives of many. Hence I urge upon the Government to provide boats, fishing nets and needed help to carry on with their traditional livelihood.

Our leader Dr. Kalaignar had appealed for providing permanent residential complexes for fishermen and their families and they must get their occupational tools and vehicles as their losses are insurmountable.

Urging upon the Government to provide relief to the families of missing persons and salt manufacturers also, let me impress upon the Government to take effective steps to seek recourse to salinated cultivable lands at the earliest.

With this, I conclude.

SHRI B. MAHTAB (Cutback): Thank you, Sir.

I am standing today to take part in the discussion under rule 193 which has been raised by Shri Rupchand Murmu regarding natural calamities in the country.

Of course, Tsunami is a point for discussion today but at the same time the other natural calamities of high intensity also need to be discussed as a part of this discussion.

It is gratifying to not that the Twelfth Finance Commission, in its Report, has recommended specifically the inclusion of pest attacks, landslides, avalanches and cloudbursts as natural disasters in addition to cyclones, droughts, earthquakes, fires, floods and hailstorms as natural calamities. These are the natural calamities identified in the Report of the Twelfth Finance Commission. All natural calamities other than drought are supposed to be dealt with by the Ministry here in this Affairs.

As has been rightly pointed out by some hon. Members here in this House, drought is slow death and drought affects large parts of our country but the system of identifying areas affected by drought take quite a lot of time. By the time the Government or the administration wakes up to the situation, a lot of damage is already done. No relief or rescue measure is taken up instantly as it happens in the case of cyclones, earthquakes, floods or any other types of natural calamities. Therefore, I urge upon the Government to take this into consideration.

The idea that has been put forth by the Twelfth Finance Commission in its recommendation, as has been accepted by the Government, to include all these new items as natural calamities is going to be operative from April 1, 2005, for the next five years.

This will be a great help to different States which are affected by natural calamities. We heard about it in the hon. President's speech and subsequently, of course, in the Budget also. It is proposed that a Disaster Management Authority is going to be created. Accordingly, a Bill is going to come, to build a institutional mechanism which will have powers for undertaking prevention and mitigation measures. These are the two major aspects of that Disaster Management Authority, and it will develop the mechanism for ensuring preparedness, capacity building and co-ordinated response for various kinds of disasters. This will be a Central legislation which will provide for constitution of a National Disaster Management Authority under the Chairmanship of the hon. Prime Minister. We expected that the Disaster Management Bill,

2005, as has been proposed, would be coming up during this first part of the current Budget Session. As this is the second-last day of the first part of the Budget Session, we hope that it will be brought in the second part of the Budget Session. Of course, when that Bill comes up for discussion in this House, we will be discussing it in detail. But I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister because the calamity which struck the Indian Ocean Rim countries, be it Indonesia, Maldives, Sri Lanka, Thailand or Andaman and Nicobar Islands and our mainland, it is of a very large magnitude. There is no doubt about it. But there are certain issues which need elaboration to be discussed at this level.

Here I would like to draw the attention of this House, through you, on the deadliest tsunami. The recorded history of our human civilisation of deadliest tsunami is of 1883 which struck Indonesia's *Krakatoa* volcano which killed an estimated population of around 36,000 people. The speed at which tsunami travelled varies. Deep Ocean tsunami travels fast. The Chilean tsunami hit Japan without affecting any other islands in the Pacific. It travelled for about 22 hours and it killed thousands of people in Japan. The earliest tsunami in our eastern coast, in fact, at Car Nicobar Islands, was on 31st December, 1881 and the recent one, other than the one which we faced on 26th December, 2004, was on 26th June of 1941. Indian Ocean's plate movement has rendered India's coastal areas vulnerable to tidal service for the next 100 years. As a result, the Central and the State Governments need strong policies to regulate these high value economic zones.

Recently Shri S. Ramchandra, the Director of the Institute of Ocean Management, based at Tiruvananthapuram, has said one thing. This is a very serious issue and I hope that the Government will respond to this.

He has mentioned the oil and gas explorations may be one of the reasons for the changes in the earth's core. I think the Ministries of Ocean Development and Science and Technology, which are involved, are looking into this matter. They should come out with some statement on this. The Indian Ocean rim countries should become aware of this. India incurred relatively lesser damage, no doubt, than its neighbours along the Indian Ocean Rim because we find that from the Gangetic basin a deep gorge runs through the Bay of Bengal from the Bengal coast to Maldives and that has protected the mainland to a certain extent.

[Shri B. Mahtab]

But, at the same time, I would like to draw the attention to the magnitude of this incident which has affected us. This tsunami has obliterated the air and naval bases at Campbell Bay at Car Nicobar; it has endangered nuclear safety at Kalpakkam; it has induced interruptions at the Interim Test Range at Balasore in Orissa and it has affected the operations of the Eastern Naval Command. This was the magnitude other than the loss of life and property. These are some major issues which also should be taken note of. I think there is a need for the military preparedness as well as there is a necessity to build a disaster management by the civil administration.

I, now, come to another important aspect. From Orissa's super cyclone of 1999 to the earthquake in Bhuj in Gujarat in 2001, the flow of information was identified as the single most important system that needs to be made more effective in practice. The super cyclone and the earthquake exposed the serious limitations of our country, in India's system of preparedness. India has no national disaster management policy. During the crisis, the State is in charge and Centre offers financial and material support. Different Ministries dealing with disaster rather create administrative crisis during the calamity. The disasters are treated as one-time crisis and the disaster management is a non-Plan expenditure. There are the five points which, I think, the Government should address and should take steps at the earliest to mitigate the problem.

I would like to draw the attention of the Minister of Home Affairs here that there is a need to have a Secretary-level officer who should look after the disaster mitigation. Unless that is done, you cannot deal with the problem cohesively.

The earthquake which occurred in the shore of Sumatra has created the tsunami which hit the South-East Asian countries. It travelled for more than four hours to hit our mainland and Chennai was witness to the gravest disaster.

If the information could have been supplied to Tamil Nadu and to other affected areas of Kerala and Andhra Pradesh. I think, the human casualties would have been much less. Therefore, I would insist that changing the State Department of Relief and Rehabilitation into Department of Disaster Management will not help unless they take up the responsibility of looking at the whole cycle of disaster management, that is, prevention, mitigation, preparedness, response, relief and rehabilitation. If all these six aspects are taken into account, then only we can meet the natural disasters.

There is also a difference between a natural calamity and a national calamity which is to be treated as a natural calamity of high intensity. I think, other Members will speak in detail about it. We expect a good response from the hon. Minister of Home Affairs.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude now. There is a good number of Members who want to speak on this subject. So, there is not much time.

SHRI B. MAHTAB: Sir, I would conclude by saying that Orissa has been affected by all types of natural calamities. Orissa also falls in the seismic zone. Therefore, Orissa should get proper attention when a decision is taken on natural calamities and also natural calamities of national importance to enhance NCCF and CRF.

[*Translation*]

*SHRI M. APPADURAI (Tenkasi): Sir, at the outset I would like to thank the Chair for giving me an opportunity to speak on behalf of my party Communist Party of India. This House is not discussing about the natural calamities in the country. Sir, there can be several countries in a continent. But if there is a country that in itself is a continent, it is India. Here we find mountain ranges covered with snow throughout the year. Vast deserts are there. A long stretch of coast line is also there. Our country is situated in a tropical region as a meeting point of all the weather conditions. We have the western ghats that are one of the ancient mountain ranges of the world. We have youngest mountain terrain of the world and that is our Himalayan ranges. Sir, my constituency Tenkasi is situated in the western mountain ranges of the country towards its southern tip. I represent the people of that region which was the cradle of an ancient civilisation an ancient race and an ancient language called Tamil culture and civilisation Tamil race and Tamil language. Podhigai hills from where Tamil was born is around my place. Nature's plenty and bounty is there. May be because of that nature's fury also shows up because ours is a wide and vastly varying environ. Sir, it is natural that our country is prone to all kinds of natural disasters because of its geographical location. Cyclonic storms, Earthquakes, occasional tsunamis and avalanches, rains and floods and also drought are the calamities that hit hard the people in so many ways. We have learnt from history that tidal waves have swallowed Lemuria or Kumari continent of yore that had great Tamil kingdoms. The tsunami tragedy is a shocking disaster that has drawn the attention of the people not only from our country but from the entire world community. We are discussing at length its impact and the needed relief mission. Sir,

* Translation of the speech originally delivered in Tamil.

unpredictable devastation and destruction come out of storms, quakes and tsunamis. But rain and floods and drought can be forewarned. Hence I urge upon the Union and State Governments to take preventive measures ensuring a well coordinated viable mechanism. Sir, if we had ensured mangrove forests along the sea coast we could have considerably reduced the impact of tsunami.

Sir floods can be overcome with effective water management. Drought can be overcome by timely intervention that can be gauged immediately after the failure of monsoon. Sir, tsunami the worst tragedy that had caused great havoc has affected the coastal areas of Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Kerala and Andaman & Nicobar Islands. Though the governmental agencies failed to rush in immediately, the general public and NGOs came with help and right humanistic attitude. We could have contained the loss of lives and property in the tsunami tragedy and managed well the relief work had we constructed cyclone shelters in the sea coasts already. Similarly had we identified effectively in advance the earthquake-prone-areas we could have ensured construction of houses in those fault line areas in an appropriate manner adopting suitable technology and techniques.

I would like to state that the people of those affected areas were greatly consoled and touched by the gestures of the Centre both in the form of visits to the devastated sites by the hon. Prime Minister, Union Ministers and Central teams and by the announcement of relief measures and allocation of funds.

16.54 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

There is a proposal under consideration to construct a huge wall on our shores to protect our coastal areas from the possible tsunami in future. I do not buy this argument. Instead I would like to give a word of caution. I would like to point out what had happened to walls around Portuguese Fort in Porto Nova or Parangipettai and the Government constructed wooden wall structure around Mamallapuram shore temple. After the tsunami, it was found out that the recently constructed wall structures had been washed away but not the age old structures which had been raised with an exclusive technology that stood the test of time. The present rulers of Tamil Nadu evince keen interest to raise a wall on the entire stretch of Tamil Nadu coast. They may be hell bent on this as their intent is not so clean. They may be thinking in terms of amassing wealth by way of misappropriation in

crores. Our popular poet late Pattukkottai Kalyana Sundaram sang. "The legislators as when they try to end pilferage by legislating,

The decisive band of looters continue unabashedly."

Hence I urge upon the Union Government to see through the game and never give scope for those who are adept in misappropriation and never give in to their demands to construct a long coastal wall.

We face recurrent disasters in the form of both floods and drought. They devastate the country one and the same time when one part of the country suffers floods another part of the country is gored by the grip of drought. According to Mahakavi Subramania Bharathi, ever flowing perennial rivers are there in this country called Bharath. Every year we spend in lakhs and crores to mitigate the sufferings of the flood affected people both on the banks of Ganges and Brahmaputra. At the same time there is a strong plea for Rs. 1000 crore from the southern States of Tamil Nadu to overcome drought and near famine situation. If we had efficient water management and water engineering with amicable water sharing formula much of our flood havoc could have been averted. That is why our national poet Bharathi as a visionary said that we can make our country fertile by way of linking the mighty river Ganges with Cauvery. I am not going to urge upon you to link immediately Ganga with Cauvery. But you can immediately go in for linking rivers of the south. That would help the people of southern States especially those who live in drought prone areas in a big way. I urge upon the Union Government to take concerted and coordinated efforts in this regard. Sir, both floods and drought can be forewarned and assessed in advance. Once monsoon fails we presume the impending danger in the form of drought in months to follow. Timely interventions are still lacking to overcome the evil effects of drought. Do we act immediately? It is only after the time has run out, our drought relief work starts. But in the meantime the farmers and agricultural workers meet with huge loss to the tune of lakhs and crores of rupees. We need to have preventive strategies in place. The Government must remain a safeguarding one before the disaster could occur. Improving water resources, channelising water canals, ensuring effective water management could help overcome the impact of drought on our economy and the economic activity of the poor. Mega water reservoir projects have helped us to remove drought in certain areas. Hence I urge upon the Centre to pursue them. Hon. Chairman Sir, the recent tsunami has taught us a lesson.

[Shri M. Appadurai]

Sir, give me few more minutes to complete my speech.

The lesson that the tsunami has taught us is that there is no system in place called preparedness to meet any kind of natural disaster. Tsunami has shown that our country is not at all prepared. Sir, before governmental schemes are implemented I would like to impress upon you a particular point based on my observation. I live in Tuticorin, the coastal town. I have seen the impact of tsunami personally myself. Before the Governments could come with help, people across the country came forward to extend help and relief cutting across caste, creed and community. Humanitarianism was flooding in. Sir, our Minister of State for Finance has stated in this House that the extent of damage in the country caused by tsunami has been estimated to be about Rs. 11000 crore. On first of March in a reply to a question the Home Minister has stated that Rs. 8000 crore would be extended to affected regions under various schemes in the form of loans, subsidies and assistance. I believe that the tsunami damages can be much more than Rs. 11000 crore. I urge upon the Government to ensure that none of these schemes remain merely on paper. It must be translated into action reaching the needy in time. Most of the people affected are poor fishermen. We are here to provide them with help to rehabilitate themselves. Rehabilitation is possible with long term plans to carve out lasting solution.

Sir, December 25th was Christmas. The next day the 26th of December was a Sunday. That is why many of our fishermen did not go to the seas for fishing. Otherwise the death toll could have increased manifold and it might have even crossed a lakh and above.

People who have lost everything they had may not be able to take loans or subsidies and hence they must have assistance fully to rebuild their lives.

I would like to point out at this juncture that some people are trying to keep in cold storage the Sethu Samudram project pointing a finger at tsunami. I understand that such views have emanated from the office of our Prime Minister. I would like to express a strong protest to any such move to delay the Sethu Samudram project any further. It must be noted that tsunami destruction was less in places where the sea depth was more. So the digging for Sethu Samudram project could only deepen the sea bed that can only help reduce tsunami impact.

Hence I would like to point out that Sethu Samudram project could provide a cover to possible tsunami impact

in future. So I urge upon the Government to implement Sethu Samudram project immediately. Our Centre must set up an effective body for disaster management to stay in place for all times to come. As such it calls for coordination among three Ministries. This results in delay in plan and execution. Hence I urge upon the Government to set up an exclusive Ministry styled as Natural Disaster Management Ministry. I request the Government to seriously consider and bring before this House a Bill in this regard. Sir, the victims and affected people must have insurance cover. Similarly the farmers who have been affected by tsunami must have insurance protection in the style of crop insurance. Whatever be the disaster, the people affected the most are always the poor masses and the working class. The tears of crores of such people must be wiped out. Hence I urge upon the Government to take effective steps to protect and safeguard the poorer sections of the society from the onslaught of natural disaster.

With this, let me conclude Sir.

*SHRI ZORA SINGH MANN (Ferozepur): Thank you, Deputy Speaker Sir.

Sometime ago, severe hailstorms lashed Punjab. Even now, reports of hailstorms are pouring in. It has wreaked havoc on farmers. The standing crop of wheat has been totally damaged. The farmers of Punjab are already in a miserable condition. They are neck-deep in debt and are committing suicides. There was a time when farmers were called the 'provider of food' but now they are finding it difficult to make both ends meet. Hailstorms have snatched away their means of livelihood and their families are suffering. My Lok Sabha constituency Ferozepur has suffered irreparable damage. The standing crops have been destroyed and farmers are in a state of shock. They have no money. They cannot buy seeds. They cannot purchase fertilizers. Farmers are in a miserable condition. Keeping in view their plight, I appeal to the Central Government to provide a special package to Punjab so that adequate compensation is granted to the farmers for the damages suffered by them. This will bail out the farmers and they will be able to get a good crop in future.

17.00 hrs.

SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL (Tonk): Mr, Deputy Speaker, Sir, today we are debating the arise of natural calamities. Our Minister of Home Affairs is a little bit fortunate as today's debate will be helpful in someway or

* Translation of the speech originally delivered in Punjabi.

other in dealing with the Bill to be introduced in this regard. There have been instances of natural calamities in our country before and after independence. Here we come across with two types of natural calamities. The one which we have experienced and the other is Tsunami which was never heard of has been added as a new chapter of natural calamity. This was a horrible, terrible and an unprecedented natural calamity. Natural calamities frequently strike our country rain, flood and drought are regular occurrences. Cyclone and snow storm are frequent. That is why I am saying that we have gone through these natural calamities. On the basis of these experiences a Consolidated Act is to be introduced. I think that this Act will at least provide succour to the people in trouble.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we do not know the nature' nature. Today we are making use of natural resources. It has two forms. First form is related to reproduction under which we produce food grains and keep on consuming it. Second, we are exploiting such resources which are causing changes in the structure of the earth. We cannot imagine as to what will be the repercussion of this change. We are extracting oil, coal from this earth, such things do not return there. Lava erupts from volcanoes. We are also extracting ground water. As a result the structure of earth is changing. The fertile layer of the earth is eroded. This is helpful in retaining water and recharging ground water. In such circumstances the ice is melting and glaciers are also changing.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, do you believe in holy scriptures? There is a mention of doom's day in them. When it would occur, nobody can say but I would like to request that we must create such conditions which minimise the pain and plight of human beings during natural calamities.

In this country not only the Centre but the State Government also expend to provide relief from natural calamities. It hurts me that rupees one lakh crore have so far been spent on providing relief to the victims of natural calamities but we have been unable to find out permanent solution for such calamities. Now it has become imperative that embankments should be constructed on the rivers which have been identified for causing flood. We have a record of 100 years of the rivers which cause flood and see how do they change their courses causing devastating flood. In such situation cannot we do anything? Rivers are flooded and to prevent this there is a need to construct embankments on them or we should do something which minimises the impact of the flood.

Just now an hon. Member was saying that natural calamities have been identified but we are unable to take any preventive measures. This is the failure of our system. Whatever wisdom the nature has bestowed upon us, on the basis of that we can avoid such failures. The formula of disaster relief management has not been satisfactory so far. Before the Ninth Finance Commission the teams of Central Government used to visit the affected areas and thereafter aid was gradually provided. The Ninth Finance Commission provided formulae. The Tenth Finance Commission continued to follow the rules made by them. The Eleventh Finance Commission followed them with slight modifications. Are these formulas correct? How can we discover the magnitude of natural calamities on the basis of the formulas of Finance Commission? How terribly the calamity would hit, how many people would be affected, how much life and property would be swept away, we can never know the exact figure thereof. So, today it is essential that a new formula be evolved by taking guidance and also keeping in view the experiences gained from the works done by natural disaster management, till date so that the sufferings of human beings due to natural calamities and loss of livestock and property caused by it can be minimised.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I could not understand till date as to why there is no faith on the role played by State Government when natural calamities take place. What does the sending of Central team to affected States imply? Central team used to be sent even before the Ninth Finance Commission. That practice is still continued. The Central machinery acquires information from Patwaris, Tehsildars, SPO and from higher officers of the State Governments. When all these informations are to be acquired from the State Governments then why State Governments are not trusted? I believe that this distrust should go. States do have their machinery. States have their own employees and the estimate sent by State Governments should be accepted instantly by the Central Government and limitation of the provisions should not be imposed at least in case of natural calamities. Wherever a natural calamity hits, in any State for example an earthquake hit Gujarat and recently Tsunami wreaked havoc, States cannot manage it themselves. State Governments have their own problems. Their economic condition is not good, many of the States are in debt, in such situation a process of continuous monitoring should be started taking the entire country as a base, identifying what is needed in a particular part of the country and also efforts be made to ensure that human beings and livestock are less affected by natural calamities. In the light of the result and the facts which came to the fore

[Shri Kailash Meghwal]

following this exercise, we should make arrangements to avert the natural calamities and the present formula in this regard does not serve the purpose. We will have to give up this process. Human beings somehow survive the onslaught of nature calamities but the live stock and birds have to bear the brunt of famine and this affects our environment as well and we have to save all of them. We have not put in place a mechanism till date to tackle famine. Live-stock has its important place in our economy. If we continue to lose our livestock like this, we cannot march forward on the path of prosperity.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it's a major issue. Strikes are observed, agitations and demonstrations are also held, people make demand also in this connection, but the effective steps have not so far been taken to save our livestock, birds and our environment from the vagaries of the nature.

Sir, you are pressing the bell repeatedly and may be I have taken too much time, therefore, finally I would like to request this much only that a compact and meaningful bill based on the experiences till date should be brought in so that relief could be provided whenever and wherever any natural calamity occurs. If the Hon. Home Minister brings such a bill, the entire country would be grateful to him with these words, I conclude.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I want to put a problem before the House. I have a list of more than 30 Members to speak. Even if a member takes five minutes' time I think we need more than one and a half hour and if they take 10 minutes each then, it will take 3-4 hours. I, therefore, request the Hon. Members if they want to lay their speeches, then they could do so and such speeches will be deemed to be the part of the proceedings of the House.

I think it would be better if the Members conclude their speech in two-three minutes and this is my request to them as well. You will have to sit here for a long time. I therefore, need your cooperation. I have a list of more than 30 Members. Next Shri R. Prabhu. I request you all to conclude in two-three minutes. Next Speaker is Shri R. Prabhu.

[English]

SHRI R. PRABHU (Nilgiris): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, we are discussing natural calamities in the country in the backdrop of one of the major national calamities in this country in recent times, namely, Tsunami. My friends have

very aptly discussed the effects of the Tsunami and other natural calamities.

On December 26, a gigantic tidal wave, which is higher than the Empire State Building, taller than the Petronas Tower, travelling at a velocity of an aeroplane, came and hit the coast of India and, of course, Sri Lanka and other coast lines. This left a trail of destruction, devastation, death, people homeless, people losing their beloved ones, husbands losing their wives, children losing their parents. This is the kind of destruction, devastation that has taken place because of this holocaust of a great magnitude.

As soon as Tsunami hit, immediately the Central Government got into action. The Congress President Shrimati Sonia Gandhi, who is the Chairperson of the National Advisory Council of the UPA, hon. Prime Minister, hon. Home Minister, hon. Agriculture Minister and various Ministers visited the site personally. The respective Chief Ministers also visited the sites. Leaders of most political parties went to the site. The visit of the VVIPs and VIPs focuses attention on the magnitude of the calamity and focuses attention of the officers to see that rehabilitation and relief work is done on a war footing. I also compliment the citizens of this country who have *suo motu and* voluntarily donated a lot of money for the Tsunami relief. People have donated Rs. 2, Rs. 5 also. If you see the newspapers, you can see pages and pages of small print that you cannot even read, of people who have donated money. I would like to express my gratitude, through you, to these people who have donated money for the Tsunami relief. I am sure, the other Members of the House will also join me in this.

Unfortunately, when we travel to the districts of Tamil Nadu, after three months since the Tsunami hit and see that still relief measures have not taken off. People are still living in temporary quarters. Their houses have not started being constructed. Here, there is higgling-haggling whether Rs. 35,000 is enough or Rs. 40,000 is enough or Rs. 50,000 is enough. I request the hon. Minister to see—because two-room houses have to be built—that proper evaluation on the cost of building should be made and if it is Rs. 50,000 or Rs. 60,000, please see that money is available to build for these people.

Sir, I am from the State of Tamil Nadu, and so, I am restricting my speech to the Tsunami hit people of Tamil Nadu and the problems there. Basically, people affected in the coastal districts are fishermen. So, if we have to provide relief to them, we have to give them

boats. There are three kinds of classifications of fishermen. First is, people with big mechanised boats; second is, people with small catamarans; and third is, secondary people, who sell the fish. All these three types of people have been affected. Now, they are just living in temporary quarters, getting the food, which is doled out to them, and some relief.

Sir, there is also another problem. These fishermen used to go into the sea, whenever it was rough or even when the weather was bad, without any fear. But today, whenever they see the sea, they have a fear complex. So, together with relief and rehabilitation also, there should be counselling for them. Counselling for them is a very important aspect. Those people cannot even sell their produce or whatever they catch because people think that they are going to get sick if they eat the fish.

Now, houses have to be provided for these people. They are afraid to go and live near the sea. They also cannot go and live too far away from the sea, because then they cannot go into the sea to catch fish. So, you would have to find an optimum site for them to construct houses. One suggestion is that the Salt Board of India has a lot of land in the seacoasts and whether they could donate some land for construction of houses. I would like the hon. Minister to pursue this idea.

Then, Sir, there is another constituency which has been affected. A lot of people are Scheduled Castes and Dalits who live along the coastline there. They have also been affected. So, their rehabilitation and relief also should take place quickly.

Then, there is the problem of students, young men and women, boys and girls who are going to schools and colleges. Of course, the Tamil Nadu Government has postponed their examinations for one month, but still they have to be counselled and taken care of, to see that they pursue their studies further.

Sir, my friend Mr. Vijayan gave a nice example as to how a temple deity was one of the beneficiaries and one of the people identified for relief, and a Two-year old boy, a Three-year old boy, a Four-year old boy were the beneficiaries. But my friend forgot to mention somebody who has been dead for the past 25 years was also named as one of the beneficiaries for relief. So, this kind of haphazard relief is taking place. I do not blame any body. My friend from Tenkasi also said that their is massive corruption. All I can say is that here, in Tamil Nadu, there is an ego clash between the Centre

and the State. We have a Chief Minister who speaks in the Assembly blaming the Central Government, blaming the Prime Minister, saying that enough relief is not coming. Then, relief is being doled out to people like this, to their party members.

Sir, the only way to do this and to see that relief reaches proper people, to have a proper delivery system and reached the people, would be to have a special purpose vehicle to see that relief and rehabilitation work is done.

We talk about money allocation. Thousands of crores of rupees are allocated. But do we know whether these thousands of crores of rupees do reach the proper people, to those who need rehabilitation. These people should be properly identified. So, if we have a special purpose vehicle, which is chaired by a person or a retired bureaucrat who is not an employee of the Central Government or the State Government today, then I am sure, this kind of a proper delivery system could be done. This would be a model for all disasters in this country.

A lot of our friends were saying about the Orissa cyclone and about the earthquake. Therefore, a model has to be created. The hon. Home Minister is going to have a Disaster Management Authority. That is fine. Let that Authority be in place. But when a disaster of this magnitude takes place, you should have, for every particular State, a special purpose vehicle, which is attached to this Authority. This should be a model for future.

Sir, I would just conclude by saying one or two more points. There has been a lot of talk that this Tsunami did not affect places which have natural protection. As our world has evolved, we have natural protection for everything. The hon. President also was complimenting our cricketers the other day, for winning the Kolkata Test Match in Eden Gardens. We won that match because of Kumble.

Who was playing in that match. Now, Kumble was there in one of the resorts in the coastline near Madras when Tsunami hit. He would have been swept away by Tsunami. But the only thing that saved him was that, in that beach resort, there is a small creek running alongside. So, the intensity of the Tsunami, the magnitude of the wave, was reduced and dampened. That is how he was saved. People think that our temple towns of Rameswaram and Velankanni were not affected probably because of spiritual reasons. But, there are scientific

[Shri R. Prabhu]

reasons also why they were not affected. It is because natural protections are there, coral reefs are there; coconut groves are there. That is the reason why they were not affected. So, my humble request is that we should not go and try to alter nature. We should not go and try to create a separate thing and try to protect where natural protection is there. We have a Chief Minister who is talking about building a wall along 1700 km coastline of Tamil Nadu. Sir, this is, as our friend said, to have a Tsunami of corruption only. This is not to protect the people of Tamil Nadu. In certain places, where there is Ocean indirect erosion, I can understand the need to have a protecting wall or retaining wall. That is fine. But a China-wall like thing along the coastline of Tamil Nadu is only going to spoil the whole ecology and beauty of the coastline.

Lastly, there is a folklore in the South. I do not know whether it is fairy tale or is true. But, it is said that whenever small red fish in large numbers are caught, then something is happening at the bottom of the Ocean. So, the fishermen would never go out into the sea. This time, even though a large number of these red fish were caught, the fishermen went out into the sea and they were standing there when the Tsunami hit them. We should have some warning system. We should join the South-Eastern Asian countries and see that proper warning systems are in place. Whatever is the cost, we should share that cost and have this warning system in place, at the earliest.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Next speaker is Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan. If it is possible, please conclude within five minutes.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil): Sir, it is with a high degree of mental agony that I am participating in this discussion. Immediately after the occurrence, I had the experience of visiting the places like coastal areas of Kerala State and the coastal areas of Kanyakumari District. We had heard about natural calamities. We do read about them even in Papers everyday. But, this is a calamity which is unheard of in human history. The tragedy was so unbelievable that we could see several human beings suffering. I had the bitter experience of attending the cremation ceremony of 48 dead bodies on a single day. I had the bitter experience of witnessing the burial of dozens of people in a church and a mosque. I never expected to see such a thing in my life. How it happens we do not know. But it was said that all of a sudden the sea rose and the entire seacoast was washed off. The poor fishermen living in the coastal

areas had to suffer a lot. Immediately prior to the occurrence, the sea naturally withdraw. Then the fishes came out, people rose together immediately, waters came in and everything was washed away. In Alleppey district, there is a panchayat, which is 30 kms. or 40 kms. in length. On the eastern side, they were faced with backwaters and on the western side there is Arabian Sea. People were really between the deep sea and the deevil. If they run to the east, they would fall in backwaters, if they run to the west, they would be in the sea. Such a situation arose in Aratupuzha of Alleppey District. The loss was horrible, which cannot be explained. We cannot narrate it. Such was the experience all around at all these places. I went around all these places. Most of the people do not know what happened. members of the families are even today missing. No amount of words or no amount of relief work will be a substitute for the mental agony and the suffering of the poor fishermen who have been living for centuries on the seacoast of Kerala and Kanyakumari districts. I had the occasion to see all these things. We must realise one fact. We have heard of miseries in human lives. But this is a tragedy which we cannot describe in words. Such was the experience.

As far as the loss is concerned, it is estimated that in Alleppey District, the loss was about Rs. 2,253 crores. I myself had seen it. The District Collector was with us. It is a very very rare thing that people came together to do rescue work. This must be commented upon. Relief measures came in abundance. The reputed newspapers, institutions, etc. started relief work and started collecting fund for relief measures. *The Hindu* collected a magnificent amount towards this fund; *Malayala Manorama* collected a magnificent amount towards this fund; *Deshabhimani* also collected a magnificent fund forwards this. All these funds were diverted towards relief measures in the coastal areas. But still it is not complete. Houses could not be built in Kanyakumari district. The loss near Kulachal, Suchindram, Karunagapalli, Alleppey and other places, is immeasurable. We cannot substitute or compensate that by describing in words or giving money. But people came in large numbers to help with all their humanitarian feelings. Lakhs and lakhs of people came to help these poor people, but that is not sufficient. They have lost their dwellings, which must be replaced now. I request the Government of India to consider this.

In Quillon District, 137 people died; in Alleppey District, 141 people died. There is one thing that I would like to point out. Anti-sea erosion or sea wall has more or less saved them a lot. If that was not there, the entire

area would have been submerged. Sea wall is a safe measure, but that is not a sure measure. To some extent, with our experience we saw that the sea wall saved a lot. Lot of people had been saved because of this. I request the Central Government to prepare a package for constructing a sea wall along the coastal area so that such occurrences may not take place in future and people could be saved.

Living by the seaside has become a challenge now. People even now are fearing about it. I would also like to mention one more thing. The fishing industry is also heavily or adversely affected. There is no fishing activity now. Half of the fish could not be caught from these places and the fishermen say that the ground beneath the water is more or less damaged and no fishing is possible in those seacoast areas. After Tsunami, fishing has been adversely affected in those areas and that is a big problem so far as fishing community is concerned.

We should draw lesson from it and we should explore the possibility of restoring the fishing facilities that were there before Tsunami. Now, a wonderful situation has come about. The Government should take a serious view of the matter. I would like to mention this that Kerala is a well-reputed place for catching prawns; we call it *chakara*. People earn a lot of money from this. Thousands of fishermen flock together in Alleppey coast and catch it. *Chakara* is a very well-known name there and prawns are harvested there. But this time, it is adversely affected because of Tsunami.

I have even seen the sea rising above a certain level. It is a very bitter experience. I request the Central Government as well as all others concerned to do all that is possible. I have mentioned about Mata Amritanandamayi, the divine woman, who also belongs to the fishing community. She has collected crores of rupees through her followers. She has collected a huge fund, which is being utilised for the construction of houses for these poor people. I request the Central Government to amass all that is possible, give courage and give a feeling of safety to these people. I request the hon. Home Minister to consider these aspects. Funds should not be diverted for other purposes. There is diversion of fund by the State Government, which should not be allowed. The entire amount allotted should be spent for the rehabilitation of the people who are affected by Tsunami. With these words I thank you.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Devendra Prasad Yadav, please be brief. You have got only five minutes

to speak. I have got a long list of more than 30 speakers. Otherwise, we may have to sit up to 1100 o'clock.

[*Translation*]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV (Jhanjharpur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I shall try to obey your order... (*Interruptions*).

Today we are having discussion on the natural calamity. It is a very sensitive issue... (*Interruptions*).

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I agree with you.

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: Sir, in the morning on 26 December, 2004, one of the major earthquakes in the last four decades which caused Tsunami in the coastal areas of the country left a trail of death and destruction. Thousands of people in South Asia including India had been engulfed into the Sea of death. After Indonesia, Sri Lanka was the next country where there was massive destruction of life and property. Maldives, Malaysia, Myanmar, Bangladesh, Somalia, Kenya, Tanzania, Seyshells etc. suffered heavy loss due to the Tsunami. But the eastern coast of India particularly Nagapatnam and Andaman Nicobar islands were the worst hit areas. As per the available estimates though the exact figure is not available, about 10 thousand people have lost their lives and thousands of people have been displaced, most of them are the fishermen. The exact estimate cannot be made. As per the figures based on the estimate, it is said that property worth Rs. 69 thousands crore has been damaged. Despite the unprecedented national crisis, India came forward to wipe the tears of other Tsunami affected countries. Its indeed a praiseworthy step. Despite this unprecedented crisis seeing faced by the country, it declined to accept foreign assistance to tide over their national calamity of such a gigantic proportions. I think by doing so you have created a new record of self-respect. I appreciate this move of the UPA Government very much because they have enhanced the glory of our country. They have not let our hard working people be depended on the freebies by doing so. They had full faith in the capacity of our people to serve those who are in distress and they also worked out judiciously how to use the available resources to tide over the crisis. The foreign countries had promptly offered their assistance but the UPA Government very politely told them that for the time being they did not need foreign assistance for relief and rehabilitation work. This is good.

I also want to submit that the manner in which the efforts were made to put in place a disaster management

[Shri Devendra Prasad Yadav]

system, I do not say that sufficient work has been done in this regard or sufficient relief work has been done, but at the same time despite being in crisis, other Tsunami hit countries were provided assistance by us. This is indeed a praiseworthy step. I think that if any country is given dole, it takes no time in accepting such assistance and thinks that it has succeeded in securing foreign aid. But the stand India took in this regard is quite appreciable. But the way the Government acted to rehabilitate the Tsunami victims of the country and to provide relief to other Tsunami hit nations by the dint of its own resources calls for kudos.

After all, what is the way out to this problem? Hon. Members have given several suggestions in this regard, but no lasting solution is in sight. I want that there should be some permanent solution to this problem. A forecasting network, a warning system will have to be evolved to get before hand warning in order to minimize the losses. There must be a forecasting network in place, which is not impossible in this advanced era of science and technology.

I want to give some suggestions in this regard because such incidents occur every year in Bihar. There is flood in Bihar for six months and drought like situation prevails there for the remaining six months of the year. 21 districts of the North Bihar completely submerge in flood water. We don't have any system to give an exact forecast of any natural calamity. Flood damages embankments, houses are wiped out and crops worth crores of rupees get damaged. The Kamla Balan, Kosi, Bagmati etc. rivers wreck a havoc there. Rivers originating from Nepal cause flood in the State. A way out to this problem was suggested. It was regarding construction of a high level multipurpose dam. The Government had initiated action to prepare a DPR in this regard and a joint project office was proposed to be opened at Virat Nagar for the purpose. A proposal of opening a joint project office was also mooted in the seven water catchment areas along the Indo-Nepal border. When this Government took over on 17 August, it opened some offices but some offices are still to be opened there. And those offices will prepare a detailed project report so that a permanent solution to the flood could be found.

It is estimated that 3300 Megawatt hydropower will be generated from those rivers. As a result of it, the seven states in the country which are particularly flood-hit—whether it is Assam, West Bengal, Orissa, Bihar or certain parts of Uttar Pradesh—these states can get the hydropower at a cheaper rate of 17 paise per unit.

I want to give a suggestion that more than Rs. 10,000 crore are spent every year in our country in the name of disaster management. Recently, Rs. 500 crore have been added to the Natural Calamity Fund or Emergency Calamity Fund in the name of Tsunami. I would like to urge that it should be emphasized and people should not be made relief minded. We are passing through hard times.

Alright, we are passing through difficult situations. But, instead of giving more attention on distribution of food, packets or polythenes etc., we should put more emphasis on finding out permanent solution of the problem. A scheme should be made for it so that Rs. 10,000 crore spent in the country in the name of natural calamity are spent judiciously. Sir, the rule in that Rs. 50,000 have to be paid as compensation to the family member of a person dying as a result of being drowned and also money has to be given for building houses in case the house is damaged. Besides, as Food for work programme is being run in the 11 drought affected states in the country, similarly we have to make payment also for the programmes run for the drought affected states. I, therefore, think that the people should not be made relief minded by giving more emphasis on it. The approach of the Central Government in regard to the Tsunami is commendable but the public should not be made otherwise this country will turn to sloty. This country will not be able to stand on its own strength. Therefore, the country should not be made even in the time of calamity. Arrangement should be made for finding permanent solution for the losses suffered by them, only this will be a better solution. Therefore, I would like to urge that a warning system should be developed. When we can have a forecast system for natural calamities like earthquakes, Tsunami etc., we shall be able to assess the calamity and it can help us in protecting life and property before the calamity hits and thereby deaths of thousands of people due to calamity can be prevented. Today, when science and technology have developed so much, we can also develop a warning system. That is why, I would like to urge upon you that efforts should be made for finding a permanent solution for natural calamities and the money of the country should not be wasted. We should spend this money properly by making schemes. With these words, I conclude.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): Mr. Deputy-

Speaker, Sir, thank you for giving me this opportunity. I consider it a privilege to participate in this very important debate.

Sir, I want to preface my remarks by stating that I do not want to talk only about Tsunami today. The fact of the matter is that natural disasters are of many kinds. There are also manmade disasters. We, as a nation, must be cognisant of all possible kinds of disasters and be prepared to, the extent we can, reduce the impact of the calamity.

Sir, I wish to invite your attentions to what is called, the Himalayan Alpine Fault Range. The Himalayan Alpine Fault Range starts from Java and Sumatra and goes right up across the Himalayas into the Alpine Range. A very small portion of this Himalayan Alpine Fault Range is contiguous to the ocean. The rest of it is along the land, along the Himalayas. The reason for this Fault Line is that the East Coast of India was at one time a part of the Eastern part of the Antarctica. They were joined together billions of years ago. Over the years, the plate broke and after millions of years the Indian sub-continent was formed.

Sir, the fact is that the Indian sub-continent is constantly pushing against the Burmese plate and this constant friction ultimately is the cause for the frequent earthquakes. The movement of the plates is to the extent of five centimeters a year. This is something that we have, in fact, calculated from the Antarctica. One of the things that we are doing in the Antarctica is seeing the distance between the Antarctica and the Fault Line and seeing whether annually that distance is increasing and by how much. That will give us the speed at which the plate is moving against the Burmese plate.

This movement and pressure cause earthquakes. As I said, earthquakes are a constant phenomenon. They happen everyday because the plate is constantly moving and putting pressure. Now, at what point in time and at what place along the Himalayan Alpine range the pressure will result in a gigantic earthquake is something which is impossible to predict. Therefore, civilisation has not found a scientific method of determining as to when and at what place an earthquake will occur. The result of all this is that we are all always caught unawares.

There is a connection between an earthquake and a Tsunami. I want to explain that to the hon. Members of this House. The connection is the following.

Not every earthquake results in a Tsunami. There are earthquakes which are more than seven on the Richter scale which may result in a Tsunami but not every earthquake more than seven on Richter scale results in a Tsunami. The cause for the Tsunami can be an earthquake. It can be a volcanic eruption under the sea. It can be the fall of a meteorite or it can be any other natural phenomenon which we have not yet understood. But when that happens, there is a vertical displacement of billions of tonnes of water. Hundreds of kilometres of the ocean structure goes down a few meters displacing water vertically. The water when displaced ultimately has to find its equilibrium. That is the law of nature. And when the water has to find its equilibrium, the wave starts. So, we could predict the earthquake which resulted in the Tsunami. We do not know and we did not know the extent of water displacement that took place which ultimately resulted in a Tsunami.

Now, the Tsunami can be predicted. Luckily for science, it can be predicted. But I have to tell you that in the Pacific Ocean there is a conglomeration of countries under UNESCO which have set up the Tsunami warning in the Pacific system. But 60 per cent of all Tsunami warnings in the Pacific turned out to be false alarms in the Pacific. Confronted with this problem, the Government of India decided that we must set up a system which is more effective than the Pacific Tsunami warning system. We must set up a system which, in fact, in real time tells us as to when the Tsunami has taken place, how it is moving, at what speed it is moving, when it is going to hit different parts of the country and what kind of damage will it cause when it hits. For that, we need a few technologies. Firstly, we need what are called bottom pressure recorders.

SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY (Dhenkanal): Sir, I want a clarification. The Minister's speech is very interesting and enlightening. We are learning many things from his speech...*(Interruptions)*.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: You can ask clarifications when the concerned Minister speaks. Nothing will go on record.

...*(Interruptions)**

SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY: There were news reports that the Meteorological Department had heard about the Tsunami and the earthquake two hours prior to when it hit the coast of India. But they sent the fax to some former Minister instead of sending it to the

* Not recorded.

[Shri Tathagata Satpathy]

Minister concerned. Is that correct? This is a very loaded speech. If we err at that level, then we can imagine where we are.

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: I think the hon. Member, in one sentence, has lowered the level at which we are debating the issue. So, I choose not to answer him. I think we should deal with the issue at a much higher level because this is a national issue and I am not just going to talk about the Tsunami alone. I am going to talk about all natural disasters. Let us not reduce the level of debate as to who sent the fax to whom. I do not think that is the issue that we are discussing today. The learned Member can ask a question and I will be happy to answer him in the Question Hour. Now, let me continue ...*(Interruptions)*.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Minister concerned will reply. He will clarify.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: I will be more than happy to enlighten him outside the House...*(Interruptions)*.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: That should not be recorded.

...*(Interruptions)**

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Mr. Deputy-Speaker, the point that I was making was that we do have science today to actually set up a Tsunami Warning System. It will be more effective than the Pacific Tsunami Warning System. We have what are called Bottom Pressure Recorders. They are only devices which are set at the bottom of the sea which send sound waves to what are called data buoys at the surface of the ocean. Whenever there is a change in the pressure at the bottom of the sea, these sound waves will communicate that change to data buoys on the surface of the ocean. That, in turn, will communicate with a satellite which will send the relevant data to earth station so that we will know real time, almost real time, the extent of change in the pressure at the bottom of the ocean, around six kilometres below the ocean. So, whenever a tsunami occurs and the crust of the earth has a vertical default resulting in vertical displacement of billions of tonnes of water, we will immediately know. Now, this Tsunami Warning System or these Bottom Pressure Recorders are available in the market. They are called DART. We can purchase them. That technology is available. That is not a problem. The

problem is a little more complicated. You may know that the Tsunami is coming. you may also know the speed of the Tsunami. But at what point in time is it going to hit which part of the coast and how it is going to impact which part of the coast is very difficult to know because the tsunami may occur in different parts of the faultline starting from Java till the Himalayas, till, in fact, Myanmar, because that is the coastline which is adjacent to the ocean. We will have to calculate assuming that if a Tsunami takes place at one point, what would be the result if the speed of the Tsunami is assumed, how long will it take to reach different parts of the coast. Now, the coastline is not uniform. You have creeks somewhere; you have open coastline somewhere; you have marshlands somewhere; you have construction somewhere. So, we will then have to see which is the weakest part of the coastline it will hit and cause destruction and the extent of destruction. What we need today is what is called bathymetric survey. It is nothing but determining the shallowness or the depth of the ocean along the coast, both East Coast and the West Coast. Once you do the bathymetric survey, once you know the depth of the ocean and the depth of the coastline, then you will have to prepare a software programme. It will programme at what time the tsunami might occur at a given point in time along the faultline, how it will impact, assuming it is travelling at a speed of 600 kms. per hour, how long it will take to reach a particular part of the coast. This software we will have to prepare all along the faultline. That would take a period of time. Once we have the Bottom Pressure Recorders, the Bathymetric Survey and the software, we will have to marry all these and then tell real time as to when the tsunami will occur and at what point in time it will hit which part of the coast. That is the process which we have already started. That is the project that we have already prepared. In fact, we prepared the outline of the project two days after the tsunami occurred. This whole process will be completed in two and half years and we will have a system in place.

Now, there has been a lot of criticism saying that India is not collaborating with the other parts of the world because we do not want to have an integrated tsunami system. The point that we made was that basically it is the Indian coast which is exposed. It is because anybody sitting in Indonesia and the tsunami occurring in Indonesia does not have the kind of time to save himself. It is because it occurs there and then. But it impacts India two hours or two and half hours later, or six hours later along the East Coast of Africa, namely Somalia and even Cape Town, South Africa. So, we have sufficient lead

* Not recorded.

time to be able to give that information. What we have said is that we will set up a Tsunami warning System and we will also collaborate with all the neighbouring countries including Thailand, Indonesia, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Somalia, Maldives, and South Africa. We will do it with anybody who wants to collaborate with us. We will do networking with them. In other words, information that we generate will be networked with Bottom Pressure Recorders installed along their coastline.

It will be networked with the bathymetric survey that they have done and all this will then be centralised at a station in Hyderabad in Andhra Pradesh. This will be the real-time Tsunami Warning System. This is what we are planning and I wanted to inform the House about it.

The second aspect that I want to point out to you is that Tsunami happens once in a lifetime. In the last one hundred years, the known Tsunami happened only in 1941. So, it may be that the Tsunami may never take place in the next 50 years. Therefore, this particular system that we are devising will, in fact, be destroyed through fatigue because nobody will work for the System. So, what we are doing is that we are integrating the Tsunami Warning System with the Storm Surges System. We have already a Storm Surges System. We integrate that Tsunami with a storm surge so that the system will be worked every year. Why? It is because storm surges occur every year. So, the system will not suffer from any fatigue. That is one thing, and the cyclone is not involved here. This is what we are planning. But, let us look at it. Just forget the Tsunami for a moment and look at the fault line along the Himalayas. Let us ask the question whether, as a nation, we are prepared for the consequences of an earthquake of a Richter Scale of 8 and above, if it occurs along the Himalayan fault line. What is it? Is the nation prepared for it? The answer to that question candidly is 'No, we are not prepared for it'. I, in my department, have already started the process. The reason why they are not prepared for it is because Zone-VI is the dangerous Zone—200 kilometres along the Himalayas—where the maximum impact of an earthquake of this magnitude will occur. Then, Zone-V were Delhi falls and other parts of India fall—this is again a hundred kilometres this side—is the next most dangerous and affected Zone. Now, in order to know the impact of an earthquake of that magnitude, we will have to do what is called micro-zonation. In other words, we will have to divide the entire area along the Himalayan fault line into different zones. That we can do. After dividing into zones, we will find out what is the quality of clay, soil and the structure that is available in the ground.

For example, the land rocky or filled with clay or are we dealing with a land fill. The danger to a particular area will depend on the nature of the soil. That micro-zonation has not started. I have, in my department, told my officers to, at least, start that process in Delhi. This is because of the fact that due to an earthquake it is the poorest people who are most affected. Why? It is because the poorest people live in *Jhuggi-jhonpris*, it is the poorest people who live in landfill areas; it is the poorest people who live away from the big colonies, and it is the poorest people who have no protection from earthquake. So, we must identify which are those areas—through the process of micro-zonation—that are going to be impacted the most. Take for example, the constructions that take place in India. Most of the constructions that take place in India, I am afraid to say, are without the kind of structural protection that is needed from an earthquake of this magnitude. It is very simple. Instead of putting columns in the ceiling, if you put columns and cross them at the bottom of the building, it will be earthquake-proof. But, nobody has taken care to look into this aspect. Therefore, before we do all that, before we change the bye-laws, we must do micro-zonation. I have ordered that this should be done and this process we will try to finish as quickly as possible. Then, you will have to determine different zones and we will have to have different strategies for different zones because one type of strategy will not help all the zones. Now, this is the prevention part. In other works, if you assume that an earthquake were to occur, it will help. We know that an earthquake will happen and there is, of course, a fault line in the Western area also. That is why, earthquakes have occurred in Latur, occurred in other parts of Western India, like Koyana.

18.00 hrs.

That it is because of some fault line there as well. The hon. Home Minister knows very much about that aspect of the matter. That is also coming under the Himalayan fault line...(*Interruptions*).

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Sibal ji, please take your seat for a minute. I have with me a list of 28 Members to speak on this discussion. If the House agrees, the time can be extended for one hour.

...(*Interruptions*)

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: Yes.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: All right, we extend the time by one hour.

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Sir, I am prepared to finish now. Since there are so many Members to speak, I can have a dialogue with the House another day. I have no problem...*(Interruptions)*.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You should continue. Please try to conclude.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record except the speech of Shri Kapil Sibal.

...*(Interruptions)**

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Sir, I thank you. I appreciate it.

The point that I was making was that this process must start lest we are caught unawares tomorrow, lest people ask what was the Government doing. I am very happy to state—the hon. Home Minister will talk about it at length—that we have decided to set up a Disaster Management Authority...*(Interruptions)*.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Lal Singh ji, the Minister from your party is speaking. Please keep quiet. Mr. Minister, please continue.

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: The point is that the Disaster Management Authority should be an Authority of experts. It should have professionals who understand the seismology. It should have professionals who understand the climate change. In Japan, for example, today, there are buildings which are structured in such a way that even if an earthquake with a magnitude of 7 and above on the Richter's scale occurs, nothing happens to the buildings because the foundation of the buildings automatically shifts. But we have no such bye-laws in place. This is also something that the states must take care of because ultimately the construction activity is, as you know, a State subject. So, the States must be extremely concerned—especially Uttar Pradesh—as to what are the kinds of bye-laws which must be put in place to protect people from an earthquake of this magnitude.

Now, assuming an earthquake does take place, the first thing that happens in an earthquake is that all the electricity connections are broken. There is no communication. The first problem, as a nation, we face is that we must be able to communicate with our people. So, I think one of the things we ought to do is to have

a dedicated frequency which will be a dedicated earthquake frequency so that it takes over all other frequencies in all channels on radio frequencies. The moment an earthquake occurs, even if you do not have electricity, our poor people in the villages have transistors which work through batteries and they will be able to get information about the earthquake immediately. So, these are the kinds of things that, as a nation, we must anticipate. A dedication of radio frequency must be there.

We know that when there is no electricity, people do not know what to do. We must have in place thousands of sets, simple sets to generate electricity by only cycling. I know that in the Ministry of Science and Technology, we can procure such sets. We have a process through which a person only by by-cycling, is able to generate electricity. We should be prepared for that so that electricity, water and information are immediately available.

Having done that, the next issue is food. There also, my Department, the CFTRI, has already supplied food during the course of the Tsunami. We have packets of food that are immediately available. But, Sir, this is limited to the immediate needs of the people. You know what a disaster does to the people.

I went to Antarctica. I have to share this with you. When I went there, I interacted with people who have stayed for about 12 to 13 months without any communication with the outside world. There situation emanates neither from a man-made disaster nor a natural disaster. But it still has disastrous consequences on their psyche. Please imagine yourself in the Antarctica where there is night for 24 hours a day for 8 or 9 months, where you cannot move out, when there is a snow-storm. If you move out, you cannot see what is beyond your nose.

In the Antarctica, when the temperature comes down to minus 40 degree Celsius, it is very difficult for you to expose your eyes. Your eyes turn into stone. Suppose you go out and try to repair something, but you cannot find your way back because you cannot even see where the building is. I would say that this is not a natural disaster or a man-made disaster. Yet conditions of isolation have tremendous consequences on the psyche of human beings. Most of them lose their sense of balance. You can imagine the situation of a family in which young children had lost their lives due to the Tsunami. Before it occurred, the sea waves receded one kilometre. In many parts of Tamil Nadu, children ran out wondering at the natural phenomenon. Mothers ran after

* Not recorded.

them. Some family members lost everything. What is the impact on their psyche. The question before us is how we can rehabilitate them and help them lead a normal life. It is a task, which we have to deal with. We must deal with it. This be done by the Government alone; it must be a united effort on the part of civil society.

When a Tsunami or an earthquake occurs, it is not only the people who are directly affected, who have to be rehabilitated but also others who are indirectly affected, as their everyday life depends on the people who are directly affected. Do we have any system in place for that? I say 'No'. I think we in this House must together pledge that we should be cognizant of what we have to do when a tragedy of this magnitude occurs—whether it is a Tsunami or an earthquake or something like Sars or a man-made disaster. I shudder to think what will happen to my people in Chandani Chowk who have built houses are on top of another, ignoring all the building bye-laws. Most of the houses are fire hazards. Sir, wherever fire occurs, that, in itself, is a disaster. Is there any plan to deal with that situation? I say 'No'. Does the local administration have plans in place?

Sir, I am very happy to say that the Government, through the Home Minister—he will tell you more about it—is looking at the entire concept of disasters, and the management of disasters in a very comprehensive fashion. We should have plans in place at the national level, at the State level or at the district level so that we can meet various kinds of contingency as and when they happen—whether it is a man-made or a natural disaster. I think, we, in civil society, have to rise together without asking any question, which my good friend asked, because we cannot reduce the tragedy of human beings to a political debate. We should not do that. I think the time has come for us to be united, walk together and work together for a solution to the problems and consequence of disaster. Thank you very much.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: Sir, I would like to put one question before the hon. Minister. Sir, you have said about Japan where even if any earthquake takes place, nothing will happen to the buildings. In India, whenever somebody plans to build a building, he goes to the Town Planner who generally gives the permission. But, Sir, there are no structural designers...(*Interruptions*).

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: I will give you an answer.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: I would like to know whether you want to continue this thing. I would also like

to know whether it is not essential that the structural designers are available.

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: I will answer you. As a young boy, I went to the United States and worked there for several years as a lawyer in Wall Street. One of the things that I experienced as a young man when I used to work on the 42nd floor of a building, near the World Trade Centre, was my office door closing, as the building used to move from our side to another. I realised that the building was structurally so designed, there existed such elasticity of steel that the building stood firm despite the swaying of the structure. Now, we have those structures. We have that kind of steel. We have that kind of technology. We have the human resource to build structures. We also have the technology to ensure their safety.

[*Translation*]

SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA' (Almora): Sir, the House is debating a very sensitive and important issue namely 'Prevention and remedy for Natural Calamities'. As the Churning of sea had produced 14 'Ratnas' similarly this debate would set forth such important and concrete decisions as will be helpful in dealing with the natural calamities.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am grateful to Kapil Sibal Saheb who in his speech presented a clear picture of Tsunami and earthquake which provided valuable information to the hon. Members of Parliament in this regard and removed their Mr. conception. Affairs has himself worked. Since our Minister of Home twice as Minister in the Ministry of Science and Technology and now Kapil Sibal Saheb is Minister of Science and Technology, I hope that they would handle things very well. I have had the opportunity to work as a Minister of this Ministry for about four or four and a quarter year. I would not like to repeat the experiences which I gained there but one thing I would certainly like to share with this House that all the equipments and instruments of the Data-Voice in the Institute of Ocean Technology, Chennai are indigenous. They have been manufactured in the country. those are not being imported from abroad. Therefore, I think that all the scientists working in the Department of Ocean Technology should be congratulated by this House for indigenously manufactured equipments.

Sir, regarding Tsunami it is said that this incident occurred after a full 100 years so we should make arrangements at the earliest. Regarding this I would like

[Shri Bachi Singh Rawat "Bachda"]

to say only that we are members of the Standing Committee on Science and Technology. We had taken evidence and the entire Standing Committee was unanimous that the budget and demands for grants of this Ministry should be passed unanimously. Along with this I would like to add one more thing in this that when the cyclone hit Orissa the doppler radars of our country proved quite helpful in fore-warning people. It is a very good thing that hon. Minister has said that the Tsunami warning system will be connected with storms warning system and informed that soon we would advance in that direction.

Sir, regarding earthquakes, I would like to inform that in the Himalayan region zone, the collision of Euro-Asian plate with Tibetan Plate is causing displacement of the earth as the rate of 5 c.m. per annum resulting not only in the displacements of plates but also in increase in the height of Himalayas at the rate of 2 c.m. per annum. As a result of this not only the height of Himalayas is increasing but due to the collision of plates the entire Himalayan Zone is not getting stabilised and mountains not getting saturated to the extent to which they should. The mountains of South are in strong condition but the mountains of Himalayan region are not gaining strength due to this friction and as a result of this during cloudboursts and heavy rains all the roads of the entire region get blocked due to landslides causing huge destruction. During this year too, the landslide which took place at Govind Ghat near Hemkund Saheb and in my constituency from Champavat, Pithoragarh, Almora, Bageshwar to Chamoli was caused due to this reason. The main reason for this is tremendous increase in the height of the Himalayas and because the mountains are not getting saturated.

Sir, he talked about the measurement of 8 at Richter Scale. I can recall that the devastating earthquake which hit Uttar Kashi was measured 6.5 at rechter scale but it caused so much destruction. Similarly the earthquake which hit Chamoli in the year 1997 was also measured 6.5 at rechter scale. Since in the beginning, I gave my thanks to the Hon. Minister for providing valuable information, I hope that we shall get an opportunity to participate in the debate whenever there is a discussion on this issue and we shall get some new information regarding, this.

Sir, with Shri Shivraj Patil as Minister of Home Affairs, I hope that he will look into as to which inputs of science and technology, can be incorporated in it, which departments *e.g.* the Department of Ocean Development,

D.T.S. etc. can be associated with it and what type of co-operation may be taken from them.

Sir, an amount of Rs. 50 crore has been earmarked in the 10th Five Year Plan for the prevention of earthquakes in our country. I would like to inform that during the previous N.D.A. Government about 0.7 per cent was being spent in this field but in the Ninth Five Year Plan we have provided an amount of Rs. 12 thousand crore for research and development. The 10th Five Year Plan will continue till 2007 and in this Plan an amount of rupees 25 thousand crore has been provided for being spent on research and development. During previous financial year 1.4% was spent on R&D, that has increased now and I believe that there is a need to increase it further.

And the commitment to enhance it upto 2 per cent may be further enhanced. The entire House will fully cooperate with the Hon. Minister and the Government in it.

Sir, I do not want to go into more details of the Tsunami because of paucity of time. I, therefore, want to touch upon some issues related to my area leaving the Tsunami and Science and Technology related issues aside. The Government took the drought and flood problems seriously. Meanwhile a controversy had arisen that though the former Prime Minister made the announcement, the agreement was not signed. But thank God. for the explanation has come as to why the agreements related to Madhy Pradesh and Rajasthan could not be signed as the code of conduct had come into force. The linkage of rivers programme was a step forward in this direction. This was meant to save the country from the floods and drought besides to give a fillip to tourism, power and river transport. This was necessary for all these things. The central government should take various states in confidence who have their own linkage of rivers programme and go ahead.

Sir, I was talking about the Wadia Institute of Himalayan Geology. It is not in a position to forecast about cloud bursts which results in heavy losses. Hail Storms are constant source of heavy damage. Hail Storms destroys not only crops the Uttaranchal but also aprouts and fruits. There has been continuous snowfall since last year November, 2004. About one hundred and fifty people died in Kashmir due to heavy snowfall. Roads remained blocked for a week in many blocks like Munsiyari, Dharchula, Didihat of Uttaranchal and likewise in Himachal also. There was heavy loss of livestock as also human

life. The Government should pay its attention towards this problem of heavy snowfall.

Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Hon. Minister towards a major crisis because this heavy snowfall has resulted in heavy losses. This heavy snowfall has occurred after a gap of 50 years and the deposit of the snow is not old, it is of this year only, the snowfall is still continuing in this month of March. Those who know about it say that earlier there used to be heavy snowfall. When the rain will start in the month of June and July, the level of snowfed rivers will rise precariously posing a serious threat of flood in the coming time, this is what is predicted. I have a special appeal to make in this regard that a team of experts should be constituted to ascertain the magnitude of the problem and what are its probabilities, this should be known. I have some complaint to make here, though I did not want to make a complaint but I am compelled to do so. And my complaint is that in the budget which is allocated for the purpose, the contribution of the Central Government is 80 per cent in that—be it from the National Calamity Fund, Finance Commission or Prime Minister's Fund, but what is happening actually? I do not want to say about other States but I can say this about my State with certainty that the funds allocated to tackle the national calamity is being distributed among the districts. There is a Natural Calamity Management Ministry in the Uttaranchal Government. This money is going directly to the Minister-in-charge of districts and the legislature instead of taking its route through the said Ministry. Now works are being undertaken there but this money is not utilized for the purpose it is allocated. Suppose, if money is required for a damaged bridge, the same is not available. Work is being carried out on the contract basis. I am saying this with all seriousness that this matter needs immediate investigation. If any complaint received from anywhere it should be looked into. Rajiv Gandhi used to say that not even 15 paise and of one rupee reaches the people for which it is meant. That was then. Now, I would say that not even a single paise reaches to then. It should be taken seriously. Actually relief should be provided where the calamity has occurred. With these words, due to paucity of time, I conclude.

(English)

SHRI P.S. GADHAVI (Kutch): I would like to lay my speech on the Table of the House.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes, Please.

SHRI A. KRISHNASWAMY (Sriperumbudur): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, whenever we have a natural calamity, we used to discuss about floods, cyclone and drought in this august House.

It is unfortunate that we are discussing about Tsunami, which has affected most of the coastal areas of Tamil Nadu and Andaman and Nicobar Islands. Each and every citizen of India, cutting across caste and creed, has expressed their grief towards the people who have lost their lives and property due to Tsunami in all parts of India and Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

I would like to thank the people who have contributed funds for the people who have lost their lives and property. I would also like to thank those who have counselled us, particularly our hon. Prime Minister, our UPA Chairman Shrimati Sonia Gandhi, our hon. Home Minister Shri Shivraj V. Patil and other Ministers, by visiting the Tsunami-affected places in Tamil Nadu.

My colleague, Shri Vijayan has spoken in detail. He has given the facts and figures about the Tsunami corruption. I would like to speak very briefly regarding my personal experience which had happened in my constituency. My constituency is Sriperumbudur. We have a very small part of coastal area, pulicat lake. In that lake, 20 persons died due to Tsunami attack. The tidal wave comes at the height of 10 metres. As we have a shallow water river, the speed of the waves decreased and the waves went to the river bed, and with the result there was a less loss of life.

The State Government of Tamil Nadu has not taken any serious relief measures for the people who have been affected by Tsunami. I had seen personally that the police people, firemen and revenue people had not taken immediate relief measures. Even the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu has not instructed them to take speedy action. But our party leader and former Mayor, Thiru M.K. Stalin visited all the places immediately and undertook relief measures.

18.23 hrs.

[SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV *in the Chair*]

Mr. Chairman, Sir, not only that, the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu had accused the Central Government on the floor of the Assembly and she said that the armed forces, the military and para-military forces have not taken any serious steps for the people who have suffered from tsunami. This is false, Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir. We had

[Shri A. Krishnaswamy]

directly seen the working of the defence people, military and para-military people. They had done major Tsunami relief work. Even our President and our Prime Minister thanked the para-military forces, CRPF and praised them, and mentioned as to how they had acted in the Tsunami-affected areas. But the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu had accused the para-military forces on the floor of the State Assembly and said that they had not worked very seriously in the Tsunami relief work. When our DMK and UPA Members opposed her at that time, they were shifted from the Assembly, they were thrown out of the Assembly and even they were arrested for that. We had witnessed this scene in the State Assembly. Not only that, the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu has accused the hon. Finance Minister, Shri P. Chidambaram and said that he is a pauper. She also said that he has not allotted any money for Tamil Nadu. We know that the Finance Minister has allotted thousands of crores of rupees to the State of Tamil Nadu. We want to know how far the Tamil Nadu Government has handled that amount and also as to how they distributed it.

Sir, at the time of tsunami attack, no one knows how to take care of the deceased people and the people who are suffering. My humble suggestion is that those who are serving in the coastal areas—revenue people, police people, firemen, doctors, nurses and everybody—should be trained because Tsunami is predicted.

This is a new thing for India. So, we have to give them training so that in future they can easily handle the Tsunami attack.

In the Tsunami-affected areas, the fund meant for relief measures has not been distributed properly. The fishermen are getting only 50 per cent of the amount and the remaining 50 per cent of the amount has been taken by the ruling Government as bribe. Those fishermen who live in the shallow and backward riverbeds, particularly in my constituency from Pasiyavaram to Arambakkam, do not get the relief fund because they have been denied that they are fishermen. Those who live in the shallow riverbeds are not treated as fishermen. Also, those Adiravida people and the Scheduled Caste people who are living there and are doing the profession of fishing, have not been treated as fishermen. So they are also denied of the relief fund. They should also be taken into consideration and they should also be paid the Tsunami relief fund. Not only the fishermen but also those who depend on fishing should also be treated as fishermen and they should also be given the relief fund.

I want to say in this august House that prevention is better than cure. Last year I had submitted my memorandum to the Minister of Science and Technology. I had asked him to take steps to grow mangrove trees in the coastal areas, which will be fruitful to us, which will protect us from Tsunami like tidal waves. Now that we have experienced Tsunami, the Government has to plant mangrove trees in the entire coastal areas. It will be helpful to the fishermen and the people who are living in the coastal areas.

The Natural Disaster Management Authority is one of the very good visions. I welcome this. This should be monitored properly. This should be implemented very seriously. It can prevent Tsunamis. The warning system is also a welcome one.

The Rajiv Gandhi rehabilitation package for the tsunami-affected areas is a very good scheme. You have allocated more than Rs. 3,644 crore, Rs. 2,347 crore was allotted to Tamil Nadu.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude.

SHRI A. KRISHNASWAMY: I want to say here that more than Rs. 5,000 crore is needed to meet the rehabilitation and relief measures in Tamil Nadu. Also, the Government has announced 50 per cent subsidies for the replacement of catamarans, machine boats, motor boats, fishing nets and for repairing of the boats. That should be given immediately.

Also, whatever the amount which you give to the State of Tamil Nadu should be seriously monitored by the Central Government. Whenever you give the relief measure funds to those who lost their lives, at that time you have to invite the MPs. In the presence of the MPs, you have to hand over the amount to the relatives of the deceased persons, those who lost their lives. Why I am saying this is because the Government of Tamil Nadu issued Rs. 1 lakh from the Chief Minister's Relief Fund without inviting us. They personally issued the amount in the presence of the MLAs. So, I plead with this Government that in the presence of the MPs you have to give whichever amount from the Prime Minister's Relief Fund.

*SHRI P.S. GADHAVI (Kutch): Sir, I may be allowed to lay on the Table of the House, a few suggestions and my views in short on the discussion under Rule 193 on National Calamities.

* Speech was laid on the Table.

Sir, in our country, we have faced a number of calamities during the period of last fifty eight years like droughts, famines, floods, cyclones, earthquakes, Tsunami etc. We have lost precious lives of lakhs of people and movable and immovable properties worth billions of rupees have also been lost.

My constituency Kutch (Gujarat) has also witnessed many disastrous calamities during the last seven or eight years. In 1998, a cyclone hit coastal areas of my constituency and we lost more than three thousand precious human lives of poor labourers working in salt-manufacturing units. We also lost more than three lakh fruit bearing trees of farmers.

Again in 1999, western part of my constituency suffered heavy losses due to cyclone. We lost precious cattle wealth. More than fifty thousand cattle herds died in this calamity.

In January, 2001, world's worst earthquake caused loss of more than eighteen thousand precious lives and incalculable loss to movable and immovable properties only in my constituency.

Sir, I would like to submit that if proper system of prior timely warning of natural calamity is given to people then loss of human lives could definitely be saved.

Similarly, after natural calamity if rescue relief and rehabilitation operations are carried out by properly trained disaster management staff, then further loss and damages could be saved to a great extent.

After calamity, a master plan should be chalked out immediately for rescue, relief and rehabilitation operation work so that effective measures can be taken.

I can say that, after the earthquake in 2001, many teams of experts in disaster management from foreign countries visited my constituency. With all their equipment they did a very commendable rescue and operation work. They saved lives of hundreds of victims of disastrous earthquake.

Sir, I would like to submit a few suggestions. There should be regular courses for disaster management in all our universities.

Proper prior warning system of natural calamities should be improved.

At the Centre, as well as, in all the States, there should be regular duly qualified and trained staff to take care of all the issues concerned to natural calamities.

Sir, we are facing droughts and famines at some places and havoc of flood at other places in our country. A solution to this can be inter-river linkage programme. And it should be given top most priority.

Banks and other financial institutions should provide easy loans with much lower rate of interest to rehabilitate the people who are affected by natural calamity. For repayment of such loan, instalments should be spread over the period of more than 20 years.

Calamity affected people and their dependents should be given required help from Government for the purpose of their resettlement.

Thank you for giving me this opportunity, Sir.

*SHRIMATI K. RANI (Rasipuram): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, huge seismic sea waves were triggered by a massive earthquake of Sumatra under the sea with 8.9 magnitude. These hit the coastal areas of Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Pondicherry and Andaman and Nicobar Islands on 26th December, 2004 causing a heavy loss of human lives, animal lives and of property worth crores of rupees. The Tsunami waves caused maximum loss of lives and property in Chennai, Nagappattinam and Kanniyakumari areas of Tamil Nadu. The coast guard is undertaking a search for fishermen and has reported a damage to twenty seven thousand fishing boats along the Tamil Nadu coast.

The Central team, which visited these areas to assess the damage caused by Tsunami has declared a large number of people as dead or missing. The affected families of missing persons are facing lot of difficulties in showing their relatives as missing for getting compensation. And, it is feared that it will take more than five to seven years under the existing rules to get their compensations settled. If the affected families do not get compensation in time, I am afraid, their plight will become double in size.

Our charismatic leader Shrimati Sonia Gandhi visited and met the injured in the Government hospitals and displaced fishermen at the two relief centres and told "This is where we have to absolutely concentrate and ensure that they are rehabilitated as soon as possible and this is what the Government will definitely do."

* Speech was laid on the Table.

[Shrimati K. Rani]

Our Government had allotted Rs. 8,000 crore for the Tsunami affected people. The Reserve Bank had asked the banks and other financial institutions to provide loans on easy terms to the survivors. The loans are in addition to the assistance that is provided by the States from Rs. 500 crores Central Package.

The insurance companies had been directed to accelerate the claims for damage, particularly, for boats and other equipment of fishermen. Even though, it is understood that they are not getting the compensation and they are made to run from pillar to post to get their loans allotted, as their family members are missing.

Therefore, I would like to request the Government that the families, whose members are missing, may be paid compensation without any further loss of time. Their cases may be decided as soon as possible.

[*Translation*]

*SHRI E. PONNUSWAMI (Chidambaram): Hon. Chairman Sir, I thank the Chair for giving me an opportunity to speak in my mother tongue Tamil. Sir, we are sharing our views on the natural calamities and disasters that have affected our country. Natural disasters could be in any form like cyclones and storms, drought, floods and even the recent unexpected Tsunami tragedy. When the Indian subcontinent remained unprepared, rather unexpectedly on 26.12.04 the great havoc called Tsunami hit our southern coasts and caused huge devastation and destruction within 5 to 10 minutes. It was a great shock and havoc that will be indelible in our living memories. The shores of Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Andaman & Nicobar and Tamil Nadu are the Tsunami hit areas in our country. Chennai, Chinglepet, Kanyakumari, Ramanathapuram, Tirunelveli, Cuddalore, Nagapattinam and also Karaikal are the heavily hit districts as far as Tamil Nadu is concerned. Sir, Nagapattinam district suffered the most due to the Tsunami and Chidambaram taluk in Cuddalore district that comes under my constituency is the next heavily affected area in Tamil Nadu. It was a great puzzle in the beginning and a lasting horror in the end to the public who witnessed personally this natural disaster. Thousands of people were killed instantaneously. Lakhs of people were put to great hardship and insurmountable suffering due to the fury of nature. In my constituency in Cuddalore district the death toll rose to 614. The persons still missing are 48. The number of boats missing are 516. About 1600 hectares of cultivable land have become salinated due to inundated sea waves that hit the coast as part of the furious Tsunami. 1068 cattle heads have perished in this tragedy.

51 villages have been either washed out or devastated. More than 20,800 families have become victims losing lives and properties that belonged to these families. At least for 2 days that followed the tsunami, the Government of Tamil Nadu did not rush any help to 12,800 villages that bore the brunt of death and destruction of this magnitude.

Even when the Government agencies failed, the local public, people from neighbouring districts and States, NGOs from across the country rushed humanitarian aid in time. The Government of Tamil Nadu woke up from its deep slumber only after two days. But the Union Government was way ahead, Right from the hon. Prime Minister, our UPA Chairperson hon. Mrs. Sonia Gandhi and our hon. Home Minister all of them rushed to the affected areas in Tamil Nadu alongwith the Union Ministers from Tamil Nadu to express their sympathy to the people affected by the Tsunami. In our recent history, we have not seen a calamity of this kind. The Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu was not forth coming during the first two days that followed this calamitous deluge. So far Rs. 1760 crore have been allocated by the Union Government to Tamil Nadu. About Rs. 217 crore have been released to Tamil Nadu already. It is only from these funds from the Centre that Rs. 1 lakh each to the next of kin of the deceased have been distributed. We must ensure that boats, nets and houses are provided with adequate funds to give them all a long term relief. But so far only Rs. 75000 per catamaran, Rs. 32000 per net just Rs. 5 lakh instead of Rs. 15 lakh per mechanised boat have been distributed. When we asked about this inadequate assistance the stock reply from the State Administration was that the Central funds have not reached them as yet. Recently in the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly this allegation was made against the Centre by the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu. The Government of Tamil Nadu is enacting a play by way of making politics out of relief and assistance that has got to reach the victims at this hour of need. My esteemed colleagues from Tamil Nadu Shri A.K.S. Vijayan, Shri Krishnasami and Shri R. Prabhu have all dwelt at length on these commissions and omissions by the Government of Tamil Nadu. Not only our hon. Prime Minister but also His Excellency the President of India have stated that enough safeguard must be in place and adequate social security must be provided to overcome a havoc of this extent. Forewarning systems, precautionary measures must be there to face such challenges of this nature in the future. Hon. Minister for Science & Technology had explained in detail the system that could be in place soon to give us warning in time about Tsunamis and

* Translation of the speech originally delivered in Tamil.

earthquakes. But what is needed more at this hour of need is a non-partisan approach by all concerned. There must not be any politicalisation of issues at this tragic hour. It must be there either from the Centre or from the State. Timely help must be forthcoming in an appropriate manner at a time when it is shought more eagerly. As far as fishermen are concerned the need for boats, nets and shelter in the coastal areas are immediate and essential. Not only fishermen, there are labourers and unorganised sector workers in these areas who are from the downtrodden classes who belong to the poor masses who live below the poverty line and they have all lost their property and livelihood in this disaster. Their lives have been shattered and we must rush help to rebuild their lives. Immediately houses must be constructed for them. They must be helped to carry on with their traditional occupation after being provided with boats and nets. As far as the State Government in Tamil Nadu, nothing of this is forthcoming in an evolved manner with a well laid out plan. Simply they put the blame on the Centre saying that funds have not been received. Sir, several crores of rupees have been received by the Government there through the efforts of several philanthropic organizations, even media organizations and NGOs. Even small farmers have not got any help much needed at this hour.

Sir, few days back I saw in newspapers about the contributions made by the MPs towards Tsunami relief. Only 161 out of 541 members from this august House have apportioned funds from the MPLADS funds. This was initiated by the hon. Speaker who even evolved a way out to divert funds for Tsunami relief as a special case. I appeal to my esteemed colleagues that they must come forward to donate liberally from MPLADS funds because the extent of damage caused by Tsunami is much more than what has been enumerated. Sir, as far as I am concerned from the MPLADS fund account I oversee, I have donated already Rs. 50 lakh to the fund set up by hon. Speaker. I intend to spend the remaining Rs. 1.50 on Tsunami relief work this year. We need to react to this natural disaster taking it as a national disaster as people from several parts of the country have lost their lives and property and they need to be compensated and rehabilitated. I appeal to Government of Tamil Nadu through this august House that politicking must stop and earnest action must start at least from now on. So I urge upon the Union Government through our hon. Home Minister to provide shelter and professional equipment and implements like boats and get to start rebuilding their lives at the earliest.

With this I conclude my speech on our response to natural calamities.

*SHRIMATI TEJASWINI SEERAMESH (Kanakapura): Respected Chairman, in this age of great civilization, modernisation, globalisation with wonderful achievements and adventures, disasters like Tsunami proved once again Nature is very very superior power in the universe opposite mankind.

Whenever the mankind abused the principles and laws of Nature for its selfish, principles and laws of nature for its selfish life style, nature widely retaliated throughout the history, by floods, avalanches, volcanoes, draughts, cyclone, storms and diseases like AIDS.

In spite of our scientific advancement and weather forecast, we were unable to trace the warning of Tsunami. This once again proves that mankind cannot conquer or dictate the Nature.

My State, Kamataka, along with States like Andhra Pradesh drastically suffered by 4 1/2 years of worst draught, which pushed the poor farmers into the suicide death traps, caused greater migration of this locals and also threat to the underground water level and drinking water.

It is alarming situation to realise our national responsibilities, to protect our nature, like air, forest, oceans and, of course, the harmony between the religions, races, borders which were causing manmade disasters like 9/11 attack on USA.

According to the Tsunami lab at Novosibirsk in Siberia. In the pacific ocean region, during the last century, there were 796 Tsunami occurred, out of these only 117 caused human casualties and property damage.

Before 26th December Tsunami earlier there were 5 such tragedies occurred during 1797, 1843, 1861 and 1883. In 1797, 300 fatalities. In 1883, 36000, but in 1861 too thousands of fatalities recorded. Since 1883 from this Sumatra—Andaman region till 26th December, 2004, there have been no Tsunami originated. Sumatra—Andaman region had seen the earthquake with a magnitude of 8.4 in 1797, 8.7 in 1843, 8.5 in 1861, 7.9 in 2000. But the later earthquake which caused havoc across the South East and South Asia has been estimated 9 on the Richter scale.

* Speech was laid on the Table.

[Shrimati Tejaswini Seeramesh]

India has a long built expertise in National Disaster Management. But Bhopal gas tragedy of 1984 brought out serious inadequacies in our expertise and capability to deal with disasters of the kind we had not encountered in the past.

It was Shri Rajiv Gandhi, the then PM, openly admitted the lapses instead of covering them up and initiated the measures to rectify them and acted upon to revamp. I feel it is not improper to mention in this House that after Congress Government lost power at the Centre in 1989, the succeeding Government has not given the same importance as Rajiv did.

As far as post Tsunami relief is concerned, our Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singhji, a visibly humble and down to earth leader deserves an appreciation who won the hearts and minds of Tsunami victims.

It will be a sin on our part if we do not recognise the priceless service rendered by our leader and UPA Chairperson Smt. Sonia Gandhi who personally visited to console the Tsunami victims across the country, and monitored the relief measures.

Sir, nothing can compensate the loss of dear ones from the life forever, Mrs. Sonia Gandhiji, who laid down her life for his nation. As a proud widow of Rajivji, who became martyr to protect the national integration. As a painful mother of two who lost their dearest father Rajivji, as a grandmother of little two, today she is a complete woman. We are proud experience her dedication. In this hour, post Tsunami crisis, let us face together any disaster.

According to the Tsunami Laboratory at Novosibirsk in Siberia, there were 796 tsunamis in the Pacific Ocean region during the last century. Of these, only 117 cause human casualties and property damage. In the case of a majority of them, the human casualties and property damage were near the source of the Tsunami only. Only nine of them caused widespread destruction through the Pacific. The largest number of Tsunamis in a single year was 19 in 1938, but they were all minor and caused no damage. During the last century, there was not a single year when there was no Tsunami in the Pacific region.

According to the same source, 17 per cent of the total Tsunamis of the last century were generated in or near Japan. This was followed by : South America, 16 per cent; New Guinea Solomon Islands, 13 per cent;

Indonesia, 11 per cent; Kuril Islands and Kamchatka, 10 per cent; Mexico and Central America, 10 per cent; the Philippines, 9 per cent; New Zealand and Tonga, 7 per cent; Alaska and West Coast of Canada and the United States, 7 per cent; and Hawaii, 3 per cent. Thus, Indonesia figured fourth in the list of countries/areas most prone to Tsunami in this region.

Tsunami in the Pacific region are categorised as purely local, regional and Pacific wide. Local Tsunamis are usually caused by submarine landslides or volcanic explosions. A local Tsunami, which occurred off Alaska on July 9, 1958, generated waves, which were reportedly much higher and more forceful than the waves witnessed during the recent Tsunami havoc in the South East Asian and South Asian regions, but the damage caused was limited to the areas where it occurred. There was no spread effect. The last Tsunami, which caused widespread damage across the Pacific region, occurred on May 22, 1960. Among the affected countries were Chile, the USA (Hawaii), Japan and the Philippines. A Tsunami of lesser spread, but considerable damage was the 1964 great Alaska earthquake Tsunami, which reportedly produced a wave of 67 metres at Shoup Bay, Valdez Inlet. There were 106 deaths in Alaska, 13 in California and four in Oregon. There was property damage, but not less of human lives in the British Columbia area of Canada.

Before the December 26, 2004 tragedy, there have been five destructive Tsunamis, which had originated in the Sumatran region—on February 10, 1797, November 24, 1833, January 5, 1843, February 16, 1861 and 1883 (months and date not available). There were about 300 fatalities in 1797 and 36,000 fatalities in 1883. The details of the fatalities in the remaining incidents are not recorded, but it was reported that there were thousands of fatalities in 1861 too. Since 1883, there have been no Tsunami originating from the Sumatran region causing thousands of fatalities till December 26, 2004.

The Sumatran-Andaman region had seen the earthquake with a magnitude of 8.4 on the Richter scale in 1797, a magnitude of 8.7 in 1843, a magnitude of 8.5 in 1861 and a magnitude of 7.9 in 2000. The magnitude of the latest one, which caused havoc across South East and South Asia, has been estimated at 9. It has been reported that there was some delay in the estimation of the magnitude of the latest earthquakes by experts in many countries, including the U.S.A.

Explaining this delay, the US Geological survey says: "While earthquake location can be determined fairly

rapidly, earthquake size is somewhat more problematic. This is because location is mainly based upon measurements of the time that seismic waves arrive at a station. Magnitude, on the other hand, is based upon the amplitude of those waves. The amplitude is much more variable than the arrival times, thus causing greater uncertainty in the magnitude estimate. For larger earthquake, the problem is compounded by the fact that the larger the earthquake, the lower the characteristic frequency of the seismic waves. The means that surface wave arrivals, which contain lower frequency energy than the body waves, must be used to determine the magnitude. For a great earthquake, several hours of data must be recorded in order to accurately determine the magnitude. Thus, accurate estimates of the magnitude can follow an accurate estimate of the location by several hours. In the case of 9.0 Sumatra Andaman Islands earthquake, the standard methods were inadequate for measuring the very low frequency energy produced and had to be modified. This delayed the final determination of the magnitude until the next day.

Since the beginning of the 20th Century, whenever an earthquake of large magnitude (7.5 plus) had caused a Tsunami wave, the direction of spread have been towards the Pacific. This is the first time that the direction was towards the Bay of Bengal/Indian Ocean Region.

In view of the frequent occurrence of Tsunami waves in the Pacific region, the Pacific Tsunami Warning Centre (PTWC) was established in 1949 in Ewa Beach, Hawaii, to provide advance warning of likely Tsunamis to most countries in the Pacific basin as well as to Hawaii and all other US interests in the Pacific outside of Alaska and the US West Coast areas are served by the West Coast Alaska Tsunami Warning Centre (WC/ATWC) in Palmer, Alaska. The PTWC is also the warning centre for Hawaii's local and regional Tsunamis.

An international Tsunami Information Centre (ITIC) was established in 1965 by the IOC (Inter-governmental Oceanographic Commission) of the UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) to create Tsunami awareness and to improve Tsunami preparedness through networking with scientific research and academic organizations, civil defence agencies, and the general public in the areas which are prone to Tsunamis. It performs, *inter alia*, the following tasks: To monitor international Tsunami warning activities in the Pacific; to assist member-states in establishing national warning systems, and disseminate information on current technologies for Tsunami warning systems. It is located in Honolulu, Hawaii.

An International Coordination Group for the Tsunami Warning System in the Pacific (ICG) was set up in 1968 to ensure that tsunami watches, warning and advisory bulletins are disseminated throughout the Pacific to member states in accordance with the procedure outlined in a communication plan for the Tsunami warning system. The ICG is a subsidiary body of the UNESCO and the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC).

The Tsunami Warning System in the Pacific (TWSP) presently has the following 26 member-states: Australia, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Cook Islands, Costa Rica, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Ecuador, El Salvador, Fiji, France, Guatemala, Indonesia, Japan, Mexico, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Peru, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Samoa, Singapore, Thailand, the Russian Federation and the USA. It is reported that all these countries have also their national warning systems.

Despite this, not only Indonesia and Thailand, but also Western countries such as the US, France, Canada, Australia and New Zealand and Japan from where thousands of tourists spend their Christmas-New Year holidays in Thailand, Sri Lanka and the Maldives seem to have been taken by surprise by the Tsunami waves, which caused the death of over 1,20,000 people of this region and 2,000 plus foreign, mainly Western tourists. The deaths of Western tourists have been reported mainly from Thailand and Sri Lanka.

The Western countries, particularly the USA, issue advisories to their nationals travelling abroad about the likelihood of any danger to their lives, whether from terrorism from natural disasters. How come no advisory seems to have been issued to their nationals holidaying in their thousands (estimate 40,000) in this region, particularly in Thailand, Sri Lanka and the Maldives, after the occurrence of the seaquake off Aceh in Indonesia?

How did the Pacific warning system in general and the national warning systems of Indonesia and Thailand in particular fail to forewarn their nationals and foreign tourists of the impending tsunami disaster? How did the Western countries and the sophisticated systems set up by them since 1949 apparently fail to provide advance warnings when the direction of spread was towards the Bay of Bengal/Indian Ocean region? Now satisfactory explanation has so far been forthcoming.

An unnamed member of the Thai meteorological department has quoted as alleging that a Tsunami alert was not issued for fear of hurting the country's important

[Shrimati Tejaswini Seeramesh]

tourism industry in case it turned out to be a false alarm. Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra has promised an investigation into the matter.

India has not been a member of any of the Tsunami warning systems. Past proposals for India to set up its own national warning system and to join the international (mainly Pacific) network was given low priority apparently due to the high financial implications (Rs. 1,000 million—Rs. 45 equal to one US dollar) and the fact that India had not been a victim of Tsunami waves for a little over 100 years.

India's vulnerability to Tsunami caused destruction was estimated as very low, if not non-existent. As a result, not only was there no effort to set up an advance warning and international networking system, but Tsunami-vulnerability was not one of the factors taken into account in the determination of the location of our nuclear and space launching establishments and in designing their safety features. Similarly, this vulnerability was not taken into consideration while determining the location of our military establishments in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands and their safety features.

According to Indian officials, our nuclear establishments, including the power station at Kalpakkam near Chennai, the new Russian-aided power station under construction at Koodankulam on the southern coast in Tamil Nadu and the space complex at Srihari Kota in Andhra Pradesh have escaped any damage. Five members of the staff at Kalpakkam were tragically killed along with members of their families when the waves entered the residential township located near the sea.

Factoring in the Tsunami-vulnerability aspect in all our future planning of sensitive establishments of national security value and upgrading the safety measures of the establishments set up in the past is a task needing urgent attention, whatever be the cost.

The Government of India has also announced its decision to set up an advance warning system and join the international warning network. This would definitely increase our capability to anticipate future disasters and minimise the loss of human lives and material damage provided we pay equal attention to the human factor. Gadgets, technologies and international networking definitely help us by providing better technological inputs, better quality of information, etc. but ultimately how effective they are in the prevention or mitigation of a disaster or a crisis would depend on the quality of the

human mind that analyses, assesses and makes use of the data and how well-prepared it is and how fast it reacts. An alert, observant, analytical, proactive, far-seeing human mind is a thousand times more valuable than gadgets and technologies in the prevention and mitigation of disasters and crises.

This is as true of the crisis created by threats to national security as it is of natural and man-made disasters. We saw it during the sequel to the Bhopal gas tragedy of 1984, before the Kargil conflict with Pakistan in 1999 and before 9/11 terrorist strikes in the USA. For weeks before the Kargil conflict in India and the 9/11 catastrophe in the USA, there were enough indicators of the impending conflict/disaster. The human mind, which was expected to analyse the available data correctly and in time and act to prevent it, failed to do so.

In retrospect, one could see that even in the case of the Tsunami tragedy of epic proportions, which overtook us on December 26, 2004, there were enough tell-tale indicators such as the power magnitude of the seaquake not only off Sumatra, but also off Andaman and Nicobar, which is our own territory, the striking of the Tsunami waves against Car Nicobar much before they struck Thailand and their striking Thailand before they struck Southern India and Sri Lanka. One would have expected that a professional and alert mind would have immediately taken notice, rang the alarm bell and activated the crisis management machinery at New Delhi. According to media reports, the crisis management machinery got going only around 2 PM, about five hours after the monster waves struck the coast of Tamil Nadu.

As the cliché goes, it is easy to be wise after the event. True. But it is important to be wise at least after the event, even if we were not before. Otherwise, we will re-live similar disasters time and again. To be able to be wise at least after the event, one needs a clinically objective critical analysis of our inadequacies. According to the media, sources in the Ministry of Science and Technology have claimed that an immediate alert of the Sumatra seaquake was not issued because it had occurred in foreign territory and not in or in the vicinity of Indian territory. According to these sources, the present procedures call for such an alert only if a powerful quake takes place in Indian territory or in its vicinity. It is surprising and shocking that these officials seem to have overlooked the fact that the Andaman and Nicobar is our territory and that the seaquake had struck in the vicinity of our territory and our nationals in Car Nicobar were the first to be struck by this tragedy.

India has a long built expertise in National Disaster Management. But Bhopal gas tragedy of 1984 brought out serious inadequacies in our expertise and capability to deal with disasters of the kind we had not encountered in the past. A comprehensive and constantly-updated disaster management system was found lacking.

It goes to the credit of Rajiv Gandhi, the then Prime Minister, that he openly admitted the lapses instead of covering them up and initiated the measures to rectify them. He attached a senior officer, with expertise in this matter, to the Ministry of Home Affairs of the Government of India at New Delhi to revamp our natural disaster management system. After the Tsunami struck the southern region of India and Andaman and Nicobar on December 26, 2004, the local administration down to the lowest level rose to the occasion in organising rescue and relief work. Considerable credit for the excellent reflexes exhibited by them should go to the ground work done by Rajiv Gandhi. But, unfortunately, as it often happens, after his exit from the Government in 1989 due to the defeat of his Congress Party in elections, this subject did not receive the same attention from the succeeding Governments as it did under Rajiv Gandhi. It is to be hoped that at least now greater priority would be given to the urgent task of revamping our disaster management system, whether natural or man-made.

The aftermath of the Tsunami havoc must have brought home to the policy-makers that natural disasters can have enormous consequences not only for the lives and welfare of the human beings and the economy, but also for national security as seen in the Andaman and Nicobar. The joint service headquarters set-up in the islands forms an important component of our naval defence set-up and our capability to go to the assistance of the South East Asian countries in matters such as joint patrolling and surveillance of the Malacca Straits and the protection of the ships and oil tankers from pirates and terrorists. Repair of the damage suffered by our military capabilities in the islands is another aspect needing immediate attention, irrespective of the cost.

The delay in Indian joining the advance Tsunami warning system and setting up its own national capability due to financial reasons underlines once again the difficulties faced by our national security and disaster managers due to short-sighted approach of our financial experts, who reject such proposals on the ground that those are based on the likelihood of vulnerabilities and not on the possibility or certainty of actual threats. They are often reluctant to approve proposals, which are sought

to be justified on the ground that we have to forearm ourselves against a danger which could arise. Such a negative attitude could prove counter-productive. The fact that what could arise did not arise does not mean that those who drew attention to what could happen were fools or that the expenditure incurred on preventing it or mitigating its effect was a waste or the tax-payers' money.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: I would like to make a request to you people that there are 25 hon. Members yet to speak. After that, the hon. Minister has to give reply also. So this may take 2 and a half-hour. I want to make a request that in view of the time constraint, every Member should try to make his submission within five minutes.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: Even one hour back, there were 25 Members to speak. Five or seven Members have spoken during this period. Are there 25 Members yet to speak?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Chief whip keeps on sending lists.

[English]

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU (Srikakulam): Mr. Chairman, Sir, Tsunami has caused great loss to Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, and Pondicherry. The Tsunami has affected a total of 2,220 kilometres of coastline, besides Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

In Andhra Pradesh, due to the Tsunami, we lost 105 human lives, 481 dwelling units, 89 cattle, 596 hectares of cropped area, and 12,189 boats. For the last six years, Andhra Pradesh is consecutively facing severe droughts. In Andhra Pradesh, out of 1,104 mandals, we had declared drought in 689 mandals in the year 1999-2000; 142 mandals in 2000-2001; 995 mandals in 2001-2002; 1,087 mandals in 2002-2003; 453 mandals in the last year, 2003-2004; and 802 mandals in the current year, 2004-2005.

The Government of Andhra Pradesh had request the Union Government to provide Rs. 1,200 crore and 25 lakh metric tonnes of rice. So, far the Government of India has released only Rs. 117.88 crore from the National Calamity Relief Fund and sanctioned only 2.2 lakh metric tonnes of rice to Andhra Pradesh.

In the previous NDA Government, when the Telugu Desam Government was in power, in the State we had

[Shri Kinjarapu Yerrannaidu]

sanctioned 55 lakh metric tonnes of rice. We had implemented Food for Work Programme throughout the State of Andhra Pradesh. However, this UPA Government has sanctioned Food for Work Programme for only eight districts. The hon. Prime Minister has launched this Programme. Till yesterday, about 82 lakh agricultural workers and about 18 lakh small and medium farmers have migrated from Andhra Pradesh to various parts of the country.

The Eleventh Finance Commission has fixed the Calamity Relief Fund for each State as to how much money we have to provide under the Calamity Relief Fund. Secondly, the Government of India, based on the team's recommendations, decides the National Calamity Relief Fund. So, in the present scenario, even the affected States are not getting more money under the National Calamity Relief Fund. Now, my request, through you, to the hon. Minister of Home Affairs is that the Budget allocations under the Calamity Relief fund and also the National Calamity Relief Fund should be increased; otherwise no State will get more money.

The Twelfth Finance Commission will start working from 2005-2006 to 2010. As per the recommendations of the Twelfth Finance Commission, the Government should increase the Budget under the National Calamity Relief Fund and also under the Calamity Relief Fund to the States.

As regards The Tsunami warning centre, Hyderabad or Vishakhapatnam is the proper place to establish a Tsunami-warning centre. We have a Meteorological Department. We have a cyclone warning centre and a seismic warning Centre. But there is no Tsunami-warning centre. So, in the All-Party meeting also the Government of India has decided to create a Disaster Management Authority. They have already issued orders to create the Disaster Management Authority and also instructed the State Governments to convert their Relief and Rehabilitation Department to the Disaster Management Centre. They have also decided to enact a law in the current Budget Session. So, I am appreciating the Government of India in this regard.

Now, they have given Rs. 70 crore out of Rs. 3,666 crore as a grant to the State of Andhra Pradesh. They have also given a total sum of Rs. 70 crore to the State of Andhra Pradesh from various Heads, from the Ministry dealing with Fisheries and other Ministries, and from the National Calamity Relief Fund. But so far the activity has not started in Andhra Pradesh. We have given the money,

but the fishermen are also approaching various political parties. They are homeless, but we have given the relief. We have also done the rehabilitation work and also the reconstruction work is going on in Andhra Pradesh. So, all the fishermen are homeless. That is why, I am requesting the Government of India to ask the State Government. We have given the money for this purpose. They have to start construction of the houses for the fishermen without any delay.

As far as drought is concerned, there is a severe drought in Andhra Pradesh throughout the State. We have a scarcity of drinking water and we have a scarcity of fodder. There is a lack of Food for Work Programme. People are migrating to various parts of the country. According to the media reports also, whatever rice is given by the Government of India to the State of Andhra Pradesh, it is exhausted. So, this is the situation prevailing in Andhra Pradesh. That is why, the Government of India should honour the request of the State Government. They have asked for Rs. 1,200 crore money and 20 lakh metric tonnes of rice. So, I am requesting, through you, to the hon. Minister of Home Affairs to sanction more money under the National Calamity Relief Fund as well as rice under the Food for Work Programme. This is my simple request.

Sir, with these few words, I conclude.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Yerrannaidu, thank you very much. You have completed your speech within the stipulated time.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAJNARAYAN BUDHOLIA (Hamirpur, U.P.): Sir, due to changing weather in the country, the poor are the first and the worst affected by hailstorm, excessive rains and storm in several States every year. Agriculture being the main profession in the country, the farmers live in fields and the cattle rearers in open areas and are worst affected by hailstorms. Sudden hailstorms claim thousands of lives every year but the Government does not pay heed to it. Ready crops of farmers are destroyed by these natural calamities.

Tsunamis have caused huge losses in the country and abroad. This august House has already had extensive

discussions on this issue. I too, with a sense of grief, associate myself with the honourable Members' suggestions. At the same time, I want to draw your attention to the recent loss caused by hailstorms in Hamirpur, Mahoba, Chitrakut, Jalaun, Banda, Jhansi, Lalitpur and Chhatarpur etc. districts of Bundelkhand region. Ready crops of farmers have been destroyed, numerous farmers lost their lives and livestock have also died in large numbers. Traffic, power and telecommunications have suffered a lot and the houses of poor and people belonging to weaker sections have got destroyed. The people of the entire affected area are giving as SOS call. Sir, I am referring to the hailstorms on 2,3,4,8,10,11 and 12 March. Such natural calamities cause huge losses every year. So I request the Central Government to constitute a fund from which immediate relief can be provided to the affected people. With these words, I conclude.

MD. SALIM (Calcutta-North East): Sir, first of all I want to thank our colleague Shri Rupchand Murmu for starting discussion on this issue and at the same time, I want to thank the Chair for providing me an opportunity to express my views because I had an apprehension that this important issue might lose its importance in the commotion. Howsoever pride we may take in the development of science, technology and culture but when such natural calamities shake the entire humanity then we think that we are quite helpless and then we learn a lesson regarding the artificial things like religion, caste, language etc. Such calamities spare none of us and we have to deal with the same unitedly. This House has had enough discussion on Tsunami. Before I come to this point, I would like to thank the hon. Prime Minister and the Home Minister along whom I had the opportunity to visit Jammu & Kashmir. There we witnessed the degree of the calamity especially in the month of February which the people termed as unprecedented, they had never witnessed such snowfall during the last 30-35 years. While going through the airway, we witnessed a strange scene at Pir-Panjar. The entire land was covered with snow, electricity poles were looking like X-mas trees covered with snow, these were not able to bear the load of that much snow. When we went to remote areas, we found that power, telecommunication, drinking water all these services were disrupted and due to disruption in power supply, health services were also hampered. Essential supplies were also disrupted because highways and tunnels to Jammu & Kashmir were also blocked. For these reasons, people had to face the difficulties. The armed forces, para-military forces, State Government, Central Government, political parties, non-political organizations all were dealing with the problems unitedly.

I would like to say one more thing, Jammu & Kashmir is of paramount importance. We often have rumours that our neighbouring country wants to cut our supply line, sometimes it is militancy what we talk about and the other time there is firing on the highway. In such circumstances, the State capital is shifted to Jammu in winter time. So we should keep ration and stock of essential supplies for three to four months to deal with the situation. During the last snowfall, you must have seen on T.V. how the tourists were stranded there, there was no LPG supply. If at all there was any LPG, there was no arrangement for supply. The State Government also had the same problem because the State had not witnessed such calamity during the last 30 years. Still he tried to overcome the situation and efforts were also made to send Central assistance from Delhi.

Just now our friend from Himachal Pradesh has told that there has been too much snowfall. It is feared that flash flood can come when the snow will melt and glaciers will subside. Now summer is arriving, therefore, assessment should also be made regarding how much water can come down on melting of snow there and which problems it can cause to the people living downside.

We all are very well aware of the Tsunami disaster. The speed with which the Government of India responded to deal with such situation is highly commendable and I praise it. The Union Government also talked to the other States. I come from West Bengal. I know that the Centre spoke to our State Government because Andaman-Nicobar is near us. Therefore, we talked to the administration there and did whatever we could. The public, State Government, private corporate bodies and public sector, all of them worked in their own way setting up an example.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please give some suggestions also. You are an experienced Members.

MD. SALIM: We also appreciate the US and other countries which extended their help immediately at the time of such disasters. But we also appreciate the fact that the Government of India has raised the sovereignty, integrity and glory of the country by saying that they would ask for help when they would need it. We said that we can do ourselves the immediate relief and rescue work. Besides, we provided assistance to the Maldives, Sri Lanka, Indonesia, which is also praiseworthy. I believe that the core groups formed by you in regard to rehabilitation should not be an *ad-hoc* arrangement. Some

[Md. Salim]

relief is provided, somewhere Rs. 20,000 and somewhere Rs. 50,000 are given, this should not be done. Whether it is coastal area of Andaman-Nicobar, it is not only the question of housing or dwelling units but also of the development of the fishermen there. Hon. President speaks about providing urban facilities in the rural areas. So, we have got this opportunity where we should set up an example by making provisions where their integrated development can be accomplished and to which the other State Government can give a new direction by adding relief and rehabilitation in it inspite of floods, earthquake or any other problem.

As far as the Disaster Management Authority is concerned, we appreciate it. We hear about bringing of a legislation in this regard and it should be brought as soon as possible. It has been seen that we respond only when there is some sudden catastrophe or a situation like that. And then slowly, slowly the matter loses its importance. Though the snowfall took place in February but we are discussing it in March. This should continue.

Whenever such a calamity, whether man made or natural, strikes like subsiding of the glaciers in Amamath, I try to go there. I also went to Amamath. The biggest problem at such places is that of communication. Many people were killed there. But, the people who get trapped there face the problems. There should be some communication network. We saw that people from our area had gone to Tamil Nadu and Andaman-Nicobar in the Christmas season, when this calamity struck there, then our people thought that they had perished. Therefore, arrangements should be made in regard to how to respond in an emergent situation. Similarly, there are your Government Officers. Everything is OK if the train are running smoothly but nobody will take responsibility if there is an accident and it disrupts the routine work. There are some people or organizations to see what is to be done and how it is to be done but they should also be trained to handle such works. We should also pay attention to science and technology which was discussed just now. Floods, drought, cyclone, erosion by rivers natural calamities strike our country. Asking for a package has also become a fashion in our country. The package for disaster should be proportionate. Here, people settle near river banks. I support the works done by the UPA Government for the natural calamity. We should work in this regard by rising above politics. We should not put a sticker of someone's name on such works. We do not believe in this system of pasting stickers. At the time of national tragedy, we should work rising above petty interests.

[English]

*SHRIMATI V. RADHIKA SELVI (Tiruchendur): Sir, I thank you very much for giving me an opportunity to lay my speech. In this natural calamity discussion. My thanks also go to our beloved leader Shri Kallinar M. Karunanidhi and Jupiter of Tamils Talla Pathi M. K. Stalin.

Sir, my Tiruchendur constituency has land, sea and mountains. Water, which starts its journey from the mountain with millions of cubic water, enters into the sea. During the course of its journey, many people are blessed whereas millions of cubic water enters into the sea without any utilisation. River Thamirabarani in my constituency enters into the sea in the village named Punnakayal. During flood many villages are damaged and millions of cubic water gets into the sea without any help to mankind. Whereas places like Radhapuram and Sathankulam in my constituency are worst affected for lack of water. Now, it is high time that the flow of River Thamirabarani is channelised to help people living in Radhapuram and Sathankulam. Central Government should put in suitable projects to implement this.

Government would not have forgotten the tragedy of Tsunami that occurred in the Andaman and Tamil Nadu. In my constituency, many fishermen have lost their lives and livelihood. Many of their boats were damaged. Some are irreparable and some are repairable. They have lost their shelters also. In Punnankayal and Chinnamuttam sand dunes are formed thereby preventing the fishermen's entry into the sea. They have to remove the sand dunes before entering into the sea. Government should take proper steps to remove the sand dunes and also find solution to prevent formation of sand dunes. This will provide much help for the people of Punnakayal and Chinnamuttam.

There is a small harbour in Chinnamuttam for the past 20 years. It has the capacity to hold 150 fibre boats. But now 350 boats are there. Due to over-crowding boats get damaged quite often. During Tsunami many boats were damaged and the loss is around Rs. 75 crore. Even though the Central Government has sanctioned the amount, it has not reached the affected fishermen properly. They are worried about their future. Shelters provided to them are in damaged condition. The Central Government should see that fishermen community should get what they have lost during Tsunami. My brothers Shri A.K.S. Vijayan and Shri A. Krishnaswamy have already explained about Ms. Jayalalitha Government's corruption in detail. So, I do not want to touch that subject again.

* Speech was laid on the Table.

Central Government should take steps to provide mini harbours in various fishing villages to minimise damages that may occur during natural calamities in future. Recently, during new moon day, water entered about 100 meters in my constituency. To prevent these calamities. Government should bring in mini harbours at the earliest.

[Translation]

SHRI GANESH SINGH (Satna): Mr. Chairman, Sir, it is a proven fact that our country is a country of natural calamities. Every year our country is visited by some or other natural calamity causing huge devastation in the country. Our farmers always say that they are totally dependent on nature and their well being is only in the hands of God. In fact, this is the condition prevailing in our country. Day by day the equilibrium of nature is getting disturbed and it is imperative to look into the causes of these calamities but the Government is not serious enough. Calamities hit our country in different forms *viz.* floods, drought, earthquake, cyclone, hailstorm, blight, landslide, avalanche, cloud burst, fire and insects which destroy the crops of the farmers. Only due to Tsunami, 6 countries got totally devastated and about 67 islands are still missing, life and property worth crores of rupees were lost. Mr. Chairman, Sir, from 684 A.D. to 1940, Tsunami waves have hit 84 times. In Chile, such catastrophe struck in 1960. Thereafter Tsunami waves hit on 26 December, 2004 which was the biggest calamity of the world. 1 Lakh 36 thousand 973 people have so far been killed in earthquakes in our country only between 1985 till date. 10,273 people lost their lives in Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Pondicherry and Andaman and Nicobar and crops in 22750 hectares of land was destroyed by the Tsunami waves. About 2 lakh 39 thousand 24 families were affected. About 83 thousand 788 boats were destroyed and the members of the families of the boatmen lost their lives. 40 feet high Tsunami waves have proved that the nature can play havoc in any country. A large part of the States of Bihar, Assam, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal and Jharkhand got affected by floods. At that time, people of entire country empathise with the affected people but we could not find any permanent solution of this malady, if things continue like this, the condition of this country may further deteriorate.

19.00 hrs.

Farmers and the poor people become victims of natural calamities in largest number. Today, many States

of the country are affected by flood and several others are hit by drought. Recently, aids were provided to the victims of Tsunami under the name of Late Rajiv Gandhi Rehabilitation package whereas the people of the entire country extended their support, therefore it is not appropriate to glorify only one man.

MR. CHAIRMAN: At present more hon. Members are to speak. Hence, if the House concurs its time may be extended by yet another hour.

SHRI GANESH SINGH: Minister of Ocean Development just announced that Tsunami warning system would be set up at a cost of Rs. 125 crore and in the next two and half years, we would be able to warn the country about Tsunami in advance. Five tribes of Andaman, namely—Jarava, Ogi, Shompens, Sentinelese, Great Andamanis had intuition that Tsunami was about to hit and that is why they left their settlements in advance. Not a single man of their community was affected. Can we not learn anything from this method? Can these methods not be used scientifically?

Every year, several villages of the country are destroyed by hailstorms. Chaurasias, who cultivate betel leaves, tied hailstone to prevent hailstorms. Similarly, animals and birds have the intuition of earthquakes. After all some natural method has always been there. Why have we not been able to use that method till now? Why we cannot do any thing to save the people from natural calamities? This is a serious question.

I believe that all the work undertaken so far to deal with natural calamities are not enough. Recently due to heavy hailstorm crops worth crores of rupees were destroyed in 22 districts of Madhya Pradesh including Satna, Katni, Vidisha, Raysen etc. and many other States of the country. I want that the Central Government should at least provide compensation to the farmers for their destroyed crops. For that purpose a Central team should be sent to make on the spot study.

We would certainly welcome the decision to set up Natural Disaster Authority. The NDA Government had also constituted a National Disaster Management Committee. The then Minister of Agriculture Shri Sharad Pawari was the Chairman of that Committee. I would like that the recommendations made by them are incorporated in this Bill meant for constituting the Authority. We can control floods by constructing big bunds. We can also inter-link the rivers so that the people of the villages are protected against these calamities.

[Shri Ganesh Singh]

The farmers who are brought under National Crop Insurance Scheme are not benefited because tehsil is fixed as the area under insurance. If the Patwari halka is fixed as the basis of Crop Insurance Scheme and the crops destroyed by insects and other diseases are also included in this Insurance Scheme, then farmers will certainly stand benefited.

SHRI MADAN LAL SHARMA (Jammu): Hon. Chairman, Sir, I am thankful to you for giving me an opportunity to speak. First of all I would like to thank Rupchand Murmu ji who initiated this discussion. And I am also thankful to Hon. Home Minister. If I speak on the Tsunami, I will repeat the same what has been said by the Hon. Members. I, therefore, wish to associate myself with them. Today, the UPA Government has earned a name for itself all over the World. Whenever our country was struck by natural calamity, a large number of institutes and many countries came forward to extend their support to deal with the situation. But it is for the first time that our Government has humbly told them that we are strong enough to tackle the situation and we do not want to take help from any country. The people of the country have rallied around the Government in this hour of crisis. This has raised the stature of our country. We not only helped the victims of our country but also provided assistance to other Tsunami affected countries. The Government do have its responsibility but NGOs, people of the film industry also came forward to provide aid to the Tsunami affected people.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, may I remind you of the 1962 war with China when the mothers and sisters of our country sold their jewellery in order to send money to our brave soldiers. We are ready to do anything that is required for the security of our country. Then we fought the 1965 war. Our country was not so advanced at that time, despite that, people showed their unity and faced the situation. Then there was a war in 1971 and in 1999 we fought the Kargil War. Our country was facing crisis at that time. Besides, natural calamity had also struck and there were some man made problems also but we took here decisions rising above the party politics to tackle all these calamities. I feel that ours is a peace loving country. I want to give my thanks to madam Sonia Gandhi, Chairperson of the UPA, an icon of nobility Mr. (Dr.) Manmohan Singh and Mr. Sivraj Patil. These people approached the Tsunami affected people and wiped their tears. Now, it is the responsibility of the Government to discharge its duty.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Those Member who want to lay their speeches can do so.

SHRI MADAN LAL SHARMA: Now, I come to my State Jammu and Kashmir. I once again thank Madam Sonia Gandhi for she visited Jammu Kashmir on the third day since the start of the snowfall in Jammu and Kashmir. The entire valley was enveloped in white sheet of snow. Our leader reached the Jawahar tunnel where the snowfall was 18 feet. Our senior leaders and Defence Minister Pranab Mukherjee also accompanies her. Thereafter Hon. Prime Minister and Hon. Home Minister also visited there. Jammu & Kashmir had witnessed militancy for the last 15 years. The Kargil war broke out in 1999 which virtually ruined Jammu and Kashmir. The nature played havoc there as snowfall of this magnitude never occurred there in 35 years but arrival of our leaders, lifted the morale of people there. They felt as if the people of entire country are with them in their moment of crisis. They took on the spot decisions about relief package to be provided to the State. For their this act of kindness I give my thanks to the UPA Government, the Prime Minister, Home Minister, Defence Minister and Sonaji on behalf of the public of State of Jammu and Kashmir. This all make the people to feel that the entire country is behind them.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, simultaneously I want to give some suggestions. I am happy to know that a Disaster Management authority is going to be set up, what will this Authority do? Natural calamities have become a regular feature. Somewhere there is flood and somewhere there is draught and at places there are other kinds of calamities. In our State there are two rivers, the Jhelum and Chenab and after one week when the summer sets in, snow will start melting causing floods in these rivers destroying the villages situated along the banks of these rivers. Thickly populated villages and agriculture land are washed away.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude now.

SHRI MADAN LAL SHARMA: Sir, let me speak. With your interruptions I am not going to digress from my speech. I am aware of the time limit. What I want to say is that a long term plan should be formulated so that people there could get rid of this off and on devastation caused by the flood and they get relief. Finally, I would like to thank the UPA Government, the Prime Minister, Sonia Gandhi ji, Home Minister and Defence Minister who visited our State in this hour of crisis and took care of people there and boosted their moral...*(Interruptions)*.

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV (Patna) : Will you not say thanks to Shir Gulam Nabi Azad?

SHRI MADAN LAL SHARMA: All these people reached there at his instance. Azad Saab and I are locals.

*DR. RAMKRISHNA KUSMARIA (Khajuraho): Sir, nobody is mentally prepared to face the natural calamity but we have no escape from the same. These calamities are food, drought, hailstorm, cyclone, earthquake, tsunami etc. These calamities are mainly caused by natural imbalance which is mainly caused by human interference in nature. Natural resources are being exploited. Agriculture does not cause ecological imbalance rather it supplements it, but indiscriminate extraction of coal, oil and ground water does not make up the losses suffered by nature and causes calamities like volcano, earthquake etc. Deforestation, Polluting relenting environment, use of luxury items like A.C., fridge etc. are causing depletion in ozone layer by emitting gases from them which may cause rise in atmosphere temperature which may lead to disaster.

The Tsunami has caused unprecedented loss of life and property including livestock in coastal areas of Pondicherry, Andaman-Nicobar, Chennai, Thiruvananthapuram etc. Similarly, various coastal areas including Orissa and Andhra Pradesh have been affected by cyclones. Latur and Jabalpur have suffered loss of life and property and people have been rendered homeless there due to earthquakes.

Recent hailstorm in Bundelkhand has destroyed crops. Nothing is left there to be used as food. Immediate relief is required there. Developmental works need to be undertaken there. Nearly 100 villages in my constituency Khajuraho have been affected by hailstorm. I want to say one thing that in addition to relief, they should get their claim of crop insurance. Insurance companies are engage in loot. The procedure for it should be simplified and the unit for this purpose should be the fields as it is the fields only where hailstorm affects.

Sir, the NDA Government under the able leadership of Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee had formulated a scheme for linking the rivers with a view to deal with the problem of flood and drought, this scheme should continue.

Sir, crisis management should be effected properly to check natural calamities. Adequate measures should be taken to prevent natural calamities. Immediate relief should be provided to the affected people. At the same time, rehabilitation work for them should start immediately. The work to evacuate the affected people should be undertaken and assistance should be provided to them.

* Speech was laid on the Table.

A special package should be provided in the budget for all these works. Expertise and technical support of specialists is required for this.

SHRI ALOK KUMAR MEHTA (Samastipur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, thank you for giving me an opportunity to participate in the discussion on natural calamities. Natural calamities can be divided in two categories—first, which are still beyond human control and the other, on which man do not have control. Calamities in the first category include super cyclone in Orissa in 1999, earthquake in Bhuj in 2001, hailstorm in various States in the country and snowfall at various places. These calamities destroyed the crops and caused loss of life and property. The recent Tsunami in South India has posed a challenge before the entire mankind.

Sir, I am Economist, Malthos had said that if the man failed to keep their population in check then the nature would find ways to do so through various calamities. I want to say that over exploitation of natural resources by man results in natural calamities. We have no advance warning system for the calamities on which we have no control. Recently I happened to go to Japan as part of a delegation. There we saw an exhibition on Science and Technology in which equipments relating to earthquake were being manufactured and improved but they too have had no break through in developing any advance warning system. Therefore, I appreciate the solidarity displayed in tackling the situation after Tsunami in the country and in neighbourhood. For that our Government took immediate steps, the NGOs and individuals in the country displayed the highest sense of solidarity. I want to thank the Government for this, the Government took immediate measures to tackle this situation without any external assistance. The Government deserves all accolades for this.

I want to give some suggestions in this regard. Research and Development in the field of meteorology needs to be streamlined. Meteorological office and laboratories need to be modernised and well equipped and staff need to be trained. In addition to Reserve Forces and Para-Military forces, volunteers of NGOs also need to be trained.

[*Translation*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude.

SHRI ALOK KUMAR MEHTA: There should be co-ordination between the voluntary organizations and Governments all over the world... (*Interruptions*).

MR. CHAIRMAN: You please conclude. The time allotted to your party is also over.

SHRI ALOK KUMAR MEHTA: There is a need to constitute a separate fund for development and calamity management. Rs. 8000 crore have been announced for providing assistance to the Tsunami affected people. Besides such announcements have also been made in various areas but the monitoring mechanism in this regard should be streamlined because material do not react to the Tsunami affected people hardly they get the benefit of it at all because gross corruption is prevailing in it and it should be checked...*(Interruptions)*.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The hon'ble Member is being asked repeatedly by the Chair to keep the constraint of time in mind. We have to finish it by half past seven.

SHRI ALOK KUMAR MEHTA: Sir, I have to raise a very important issue which is a technical issue also...*(Interruptions)*.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Ram Kripal Yadavji, you are a very senior Member. You should co-operate in conducting the House.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ALOK KUMAR MEHTA: Excessive exploitation of nature should be checked. We should concentrate on minimum exploitation of natural resources. Flood is also one of the natural calamities which can be controlled by man...*(Interruptions)*.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The hon'ble members is not trying to understand. Now your speech will be concluded from the Chair itself.

SHRI ALOK KUMAR MEHTA: Floods cause massive devastation in Bihar and Assam. There is proposal to construct a high dam there to control that. Its construction should be expedited. When the drought prone State like Rajasthan can be turned into green State then why efforts should not be made to turn drought-prone and other backward states to green lands...*(Interruptions)*.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Your speech is concluded. Please sit down. What you say now is not going on record.

...*(Interruptions)**

SHRI ALOK KUMAR MEHTA: Sir, I thank you for giving me time to speak.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri M.P. Veerendra Kumar.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: You cannot lay rest of your speech. There is no rule to that effect. Please do into give suggestions by sitting on your seat. You can either deliver or lay your speech.

[English]

SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR (Calicut): Mr. Chairman Sir, I only want to make one point. I had been to places where Tsunami had hit very badly in Kerala. Alappad area in Kollam district was the area where mineral mining was going on. It was this area which was very badly affected in Kollam district. In the Aratuppuzha area where it was struck, so many people died and became victims of this. 14 kilometres between Aratuppuzha and Harippad, the difference between sea and back water was 15 feet to 50 metres.

Sir, now it is earmarked for mining. If that area is mined, what will happen? The entire sea water will get converted into bad water, and the saline water will get destroyed. There will be an ecological disaster in Kuttanad.

I would make only one more point. The rehabilitation work is going on. But the demonstrations are taking place because there are complaints that the relief is not reaching them. So, it must be monitored.

Sir, the Kerala Government has also estimated a loss of Rs. 1,500 crore. But I do not know how only Rs. 160 crore has been given. Of the total persons affected, two-thirds are the fishermen who have been affected more. So, they have to be given boats and they have to be rehabilitated. But the rehabilitation work, which is going on, is not at all satisfactory.

So, I would urge upon the hon. Minister to kindly see that all these things are properly looked into.

SHRIMATI M.S.K. BHAVANI RAJENTHIRAN (Ramanathapuram): Mr. Chairman, Sir, Vanakkam.

"Kedupathum kettarukkuch charvai matru aange edupathuram ellam mazzhai"

The great poet Iyan Valluvar clearly states about the main natural calamities—flood and drought—in these lines. It means, if we get rain in regular time, people will

* Not recorded.

be happy, but on the other hand, if it fails, people will be put into great disaster. If the rain is heavy, there also people meet inconveniences.

Thus, flood and drought are the main calamities. Every country faces these problems now and then. In our country, the northern part is mainly affected by flood, and the south is by drought. Due to the huge Himalayan mountain, the holy river Ganges is full of water, and sometimes, if she gets angry, she will turn as food, and thus the calamity comes. On the other hand, in most of the southern parts of India, due to failure of monsoon, the rivers are dry, and so, people face calamity.

Sir, every Member has spoken very well on Tsunami impact. I feel that there are two Tsunami. One is unexpected Tsunami, which we experienced in December, 2004, and the other is expected Tsunami, that is, the natural calamities like flood and drought.

At this juncture, I want to express a few words about the most backward and watershed constituency, that is Ramanathapuram. Fortunately, it is my constituency. Most of its area is rain-fed looking at the skies for rain. This constituency is economically very backward with insufficient rainfall and inadequate irrigation facilities. The agricultural sector is not sustainable. There are no large industries worth the name. Even the small industries, which are already existing, are on the decline.

Sir, India has definitely not been shining in my constituency. Considering the under-development conditions of the constituency, which has remained so, for many decades since Independence, there is a compulsive need to think in terms of a special package of assistance from the Government of India to my constituency.

Sir, we know that when an operation is over, we should give more importance to the post-operative care. Similarly, Tsunami is over but after that, people should be relieved from the impact of Tsunami.

Sir, my constituency has got a very long coastal area from Thondi to Kannirasipuram. There, nearly 3.5 lakh fishermen are living. They have no other work except fishing, for their livelihood. Recently, Tsunami has affected people's day-to-day life very much. The prevailing Government in Tamil Nadu has, under the Tsunami Relief Fund, helped only 20,847 fishermen out of a total of 3.5 lakh. It is very meagre. The Tamil Nadu Government has also failed to provide the relief fund to the original

fishermen. The people are in dire need of the financial assistance. So, in order to protect the fishing society, people from Tsunami impact and other natural calamities, a barrier wall should be constructed along the seashore areas under the multi-crore scheme.

Sir, about the wasteland project also, at present, the Government of India has given very negligible funds for the backward districts like Ramanathapuram. I would request the Government of India to sanction more funds for watershed projects under DPAP, IWDP and NWDPR.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude now.

SHRIMATI M.S.K. BHAVANI RAJENTHIRAN: I am just concluding, Sir.

Besides, the Government should give suitable financial assistance for the construction of concrete houses for the fishermen in my constituency. Most of the children are without parents and most of the ladies are without their husbands, brothers.

So, the Central Government should take suitable steps to save those orphans. Our pathetic condition is that our State Government is not interested in issuing the Tsunami funds to the original fishermen. It is misusing the fund. Other hon. Members from Tamil Nadu have very well spoken about it.

Sir, the Central Government should take special care of the Tsunami-affected areas of Tamil Nadu and should give more package for the fishermen.

[Translation]

SHRI HARIBHAU RATHOD (Yavatmal): Mr. Chairman, Sir, lakhs of persons were engaged by the Tsunami waves originating thousands of kilometres into the sea. The entire world expressed sorrow over that incident. The people from every part of the world came forward for assistance and donated to the Prime Minister's National Calamity Relief Fund and N.G.O.'s fund for providing relief to the Tsunami victims.

Sir, a question arises in mind that these Tsunami waves originated thousands of kilometres away and it took five to six hours to reach them here but still we did not have any technique or system to give prior intimation of this to our people. This has demonstrated our weakness in this regard. The people extended more help to the victims than the Government.

[Shri Haribhau Rathod]

Sir, similar earthquake rocked Latuor region of Maharashtra in which lakhs of people got ruined and killed. Rehabilitation work there has yet not been completed so far. Hon'ble Home Minister Shri Shivraj V. Patil hails from the same constituency. I would like to draw his attention that there are 25 Tandas' in his district where rehabilitation has not been done so far. Villages were surveyed but 'Tandas' attached thereto are not surveyed, they are left out. I met the hon'ble Chief Minister Shri Vilasraoji recently and he told me that it is my district and you don't worry I will see it but 1528 families in 25 'Tandas' have not been rehabilitated so far, they are yet to be rehabilitated. I would like to request the hon'ble Minister to consider and see it and the affected families of the 'Tandas' in case where such rehabilitation has not been done so far.

Sir, last month big hailstones hit Maharashtra particularly Vidarbha, Marathwada, Jalgaon, Dhule and Nasik. Hailstone balls weighing about half kilogram destroy crops in the entire region. The farmers there got ruined. Before this also the farmers had suffered lot of miseries. You might be remembering that I raise this point here in the House in June and July that the farmers sowed their fields in the month of July but there was crop failure and they have to sow seeds again for a second time and now hailstones have hit their crops badly and the farmers have got ruined completely. The farmers in that region are committing suicide. Previously they had sown seeds in their fields three times...*(Interruptions)*.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude.

SHRI HARIBHAU RATHOD: Sir, I am just concluding. Sir, despite sowing crops thrice by the farmers, it was destroyed by hailstones again. In our region crops of paddy and oranges were destroyed in Yawatmal, Chadrapur, Gadchiroli, Amrawati, Nagpur and that of wheat and gram in Marathwada. The same story was repeated in Jalgaon, Dhule and Nasik...*(Interruptions)*.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Rathod ji, you are only describing the problem and its causes. Please suggest some remedy.

SHRI HARIBHAU RATHOD: Mr. Chairman, Sir, when a man dies, we run after him but the people who are going to die can be saved. Today the situation is like that farmers are moribund and we are repeatedly saying that the crops of farmers were destroyed by hailstorms after being sown twice and thrice by them. People are dying.

Which type of Government policy is this? The Government should pay attention towards them earlier. We show lot of compassion for the people after their death? The incidents of suicide will not stop in Maharashtra. We are raising this issue in the House time and again. A place caught fire in my constituency last month in which 25 thousand houses were gutted down. I called on District Collector and sought his help. He replied to me that it was not a natural calamity. What is a natural calamity? When floods hit, people are rendered homeless, and when villages are gutted by fire it should also be treated as a natural calamity...*(Interruptions)*.

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR: Please allow to construct houses in such cases from MPLAD fund...*(Interruptions)*.

SHRI HARIBHAU RATHOD: I agree to this. I told the District Collector that I am ready to get 35 houses constructed under Indira Awas. I am ready to release funds but he said that he would release funds only if beneficiary is a BPL card holder otherwise not. But such incidents also merit attention and Government must provide assistance. Sant Sewa Lal had said—

"Rupaya Katora Pani Bikdega, 12 Kos Par Diya Jalega

Jgbudi Ayegi, Sab Samundra Me Sama Jayenge."

It seems that the said time has come now. We should be able to stop this natural disaster. When some one in the Village is hurt, the Government should feel the pain. We raise this issue time and again, but nobody pays attention to it. This issue is also raised during Zero Hour, even then nobody pays heed to it...*(Interruptions)*.

Sir, the Government of Maharashtra had asked for Rs. 1750 crore. Drought like condition is prevailing there for the last two years. At that time we did not let the House function for eight days. Your Government did nothing. Government should pay attention to this.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI (Bapatia): Thank you, Sir.

I rise today to take part in the discussion under Rule 193 regarding natural calamities in the country. I would initially like to thank my colleague Shri Rupachand Murmu for having initiated the discussion and I thank you also Sir, for having given me the opportunity to speak.

So many words have been spoken about Tsunami here. I would not want to go into the details of it. We all know about the tectonic plates; today we are very wise; we know the difference between the tidal waves and the Tsunami. We know the velocity with which it travels and ultimately we know the disaster which it can leave behind.

However, I would just like to say here that Tsunami which has always been a stuff of the Japanese folklore tales, has really swept into our lives today. As the waters eroded, they not only eroded lands, but they also eroded the self-confidence, the livelihood and even the confidence of millions of people that it has affected.

After every great tragedy of this magnitude, even before the mind has digested the statistics, the glory details, and many words of condolences have been exchanged, it is a long and arduous trek back on to the path of reality. Two areas that should concern us here are : one, how to manage the recovery and rehabilitation with as minimum fuss as possible and second, how better would we be prepared if we are faced with such a situation next time.

I would like to reiterate here the words of the Roman Scholar, Pliny who said that the only thing of certainty is that we are not certain of anything. The killer wave. Tsunami that had originated in the Indian Ocean triggered by the earthquake clearly emphasizes this. Managing this necessarily requires flexible and adaptable approaches to environmental management and disaster management also. A High Powered Committee had actually been set up in 1999 and it submitted its report in 2001. But unfortunately I do not think much importance was given to the suggestions put forth by this Committee.

One of the few recommendations, which is of very grave importance, is that the Disaster Management Authority should be under the purview of the Home Ministry and not under the Ministry of Agriculture. I suppose steps are being taken towards this and I deeply appreciate that.

I would just like to restrict myself to the suggestions that I would like to give here. We always wake up very late, after the damage has been done, forgetting that to be forewarned is to be forearmed. Most of us are aware of the fact that Andaman and Nicobar Islands fall in Seismic Zone Five. Just now, Shri Kapil Sibal was mentioning about the seismic zone six, which falls along the foothills of the Himalayas. We are all aware that the Andaman and Nicobar come under the Seismic Zone Five and they are also liable to volcanic eruptions and these two could trigger off the disastrous Tsunami.

Here, what is very much required to take into consideration is that even while the entire coast was reeling under the disastrous effects of tsunami, there were small areas like Aureville in Pondicherry, which actually braved these deadly waves. These areas were not as badly affected as the others. This is stark revelation that if the Coastal Regulatory Zone norms are violated then how badly we could be affected. CRZ norms of 1991 seek to regulate human activities within 500 metres of the coast. This also categorises the coast into four zones. Under the first zone, like one of my colleagues was telling us, which is the most sensitive zone and under this falls the mangroves and the coral reefs and here no developmental activity is to take place. Under Zone two, we have the buildings and towns which almost touch the coast. Under Zone three, we have under developed areas and tourist places where developmental activities can take place on a case to case basis. zone four includes areas like the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. However, these have been violated and there has not been any proper regulation on this. There have been undue construction activity and depletion of underground water resources because of industry. Something very stern and strong should be done about this.

Other than this, I would also like to draw the attention of the House to the Indian Meteorological Department, IMD. Not very long ago IMD had boasted that it had one of the best infrastructures compared to the world. But this boast will shatter to dust when the hon. Minister, Shri Kapil Sibal, himself had accepted that this IMD needed a lot of modernisation and upgradation too. Here, we need to take a cue from the China Meteorological Administration, which includes a professionally run TV station, which provides weather information to farmers, fishermen and others.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude now.

SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI: Sir, please give me a minute more.

One suggestion is that the East Coast of India is very prone to these cyclonic activities. I would like to request the Minister that this East Coast may be declared as cyclone prone area because the infrastructure required should be much stronger than the regulate infrastructure. So, Sir, I would request the hon. Minister to consider declaring the East Coast of India especially the Andhra Pradesh, which falls in that, as the cyclone prone area and give it better infrastructure to that extent.

SHRI CHENGARA SURENDRAN (Adoor): I thank you very much for giving me this opportunity to participate in this discussion on natural calamities. I express my deep grief to the people who lost their dear ones and suffered loss of property due to the devastating killer waves that hit the coastal areas on 26th December, 2004.

In this shocking event, actually Tsunami originated in the Sumatra Islands and hit the coastal districts of Kerala and Tamil Nadu after five hours or more only. In this most modern world, no warning system could work in time to help the victims. This has happened when the world is so inter-connected and any event in one end of the world could be known to the people of the other end within second.

In on district, namely, Kollam of my State, Kerala one of the Panchayats, namely, Allappad, was totally washed away. About 200 people died in Kerala and the total loss calculated by the State Government comes to Rs. 1500 crore.

I appreciate that the hon. prime Minister, some Ministers and some national leaders visited the State and met the people who suffered loss of life and property. They have realised the gravity of the problem and allotted Rs. 160 crore for rehabilitating the affected people. But majority of the sufferers are still living in the relief camps. The progress of the work being done by the State Government for constructing permanent houses for the affected-people is very slow. When the Central Government has given such an aid for rehabilitation, I would suggest that there should be some Committee to monitor the progress of work in which the Members of this House from the affected States are the members. This will enable them to see whether the money which has been given by the Central Government is being utilized for the purpose it is given.

As a result of Tsunami, coastal areas are totally destroyed. Not only this, the income of the poor people from fisheries has totally come to nil. They are not getting fish. So there should be some permanent relief schemes for continuing aid to the fishermen.

The fragile eco-system of the Kerala coast would get upset and an ecological disaster would fall in Kerala, if the mineral sand mining in Kerala coast at Alappad—Arattuppuzha area, as proposed by the Kerala Government is allowed. That should be stopped.

Moreover, there should be some Central schemes for developing mangroves and sea wall on the coastal

areas to prevent damage that may be caused due to Tsunami in future.

[Translation]

SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA (Hoshiarpur): Sir, today we are having detailed discussion on this issue. The effects of floods, drought, Cyclone, earthquake and thereafter Tsunami have been stated in detail especially by the Members of Parliament who witnessed Tsunami and the destruction caused by it. I do not want to go in detail. I would like to conclude after raising an issue relating to my constituency. I would also like to offer some suggestions.

My constituency is divided into three parts. First part is—Kandi, second Bith, and third—Bet. If the people of Kandi and Bith are asked as to how much land they own, they would reply that they have twenty acres, thirty acres, fifty acres of land, but they are wage earners because their land does not get water for irrigation. In case, it does not rain they have to work in the fields of other people. If their lands are irrigated each of them can provide work to 50 people and this can solve the problem of unemployment of their area. The second area is of bet. Here water is available in plenty and natural drainage system gets blocked during rains, farmers who have sown seeds in their fields do not get desirable produce. There is lack of management there. Where the water is required, it should be provided there. Where there is no need of water, it should be drained efficiently and thus floods and drought can be averted in that part of Punjab.

Sir, when Tsunami hit, our party asked us to collect money. Being President of that area, I took up this programme in six districts. During this programme I collected funds for Tsunami victims by polishing the shoe of the people. Even rickshawpullers donated money. If we go a little back we find that one the call of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose who said 'give me blood, I will give you Independence', many countryman joined INA and fought for the freedom of the country. When country became independent, the country faced the problem of shortage of foodgrains. Then Shri Lal Bhadur Shastri gave a call go skip one meal. I come across many people who say that they had skipped one meal, even the Dhabas and Hotels remained closed. The country has such capacity. Recently when Tsunami hit the country the Government refused to accept foreign aid because we believed that people would extend collectively their whole hearted help at this time of crisis.

The Hon'ble Home Minister is going to set up a disaster management authority. Every State has sought funds and protection of its interests in anticipation of the setting up this authority. Where this money is going to come from?

[*English*]

Charity begins from home.

[*Translation*]

I have a suggestion to make. All the Members of Parliament to donate permanently to the said fund from their salaries only as much as they desire. A system should be evolved under which right from the Prime Minister to peon make their contribution in the said fund so that we may not have to dig well when the house catches fire. We should have funds/resources available with us to meet any natural calamity whenever it happens to strike us and solve the problem.

There is paucity of time but I wish that everybody should contribute towards gearing up to face any calamity that may descend on the country because man learns a lot while encountering any adverse situation or difficulty. People donate generously after occurrence of earthquakes, Tsunami and flood. I want that whenever this fund is set up it should be ensured that regular contributions from all over the country keep coming to that fund. With these words I conclude.

[*English*]

SHRI DHANUSKODI R. ATHITHAN (Tirunelveli): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am grateful to you for giving me this opportunity to speak on this important subject.

Sir, calamity is a natural disaster that happens frequently and so the States as well the Central Government should be more concerned about this. India is the largest democracy in the world. Dr. Bimrao Babasaheb Ambedkar gave this country a Constitution and leaders of this great country like Mahatma Gandhi, Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru, Sardar Patel, Rajaji, Kamraj and others declared our nation as a Welfare State. So, the Government should do anything and everything for the welfare of the people of this country. Whenever people are in distress, the Government should come forward to help them out of their distress. The great Tamil saint and Poet Thiruvalluvar said, "Udukkai Izhandavan Kaipola aange, Idukkai Kazhaivadam Natpu"-this means that

whenever there is dust on our body, our hands automatically comes to remove the dust. Likewise, whenever our people are affected and they are in difficulty, we should come to their rescue immediately.

Sir, natural calamities in a larger sense may be divided into five major heads, namely, earthquake, cyclone, flood, drought and fire. Of all these, earthquake is the most devastating. The origing of earthquake is also from earthquake which was 8.5 on the Richter scale.

At 6 a.m. on the 26th of December, 2004, the earthquake which was formed in the Sumatra Islands had hit Indonesia, Malaysia, Sri Lanka and India and caused unprecedented havoc in all these countries. We can say that 26th December, 2004 is a black day for India. The Eastern and Southern coastal parts of India have been severely affected by the killer waves. Andaman and Nicobar Islands, particularly Car Nicobar, had been totally devastated and destroyed. Andaman, Visakapatnam, Guntur, Prakasam in Andhra Pradesh, Pondicherry and 13 districts of Tamil Nadu including Chennai have been affected besides Kollam and Allapuzha of Kerala. Tsunami waves are new to India. Nobody actually knows about the velocity and the magnitude of the waves. Within a fraction of a second, it had swallowed thousands of people. In Chennai, people who were walking on the sea shore and the children who were playing were swallowed by the killer waves.

Immediately after the heart-rending disaster, the Chairperson of the UPA and the Congress President, Shrimati Sonia Gandhi, our hon. Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh and the Ministers of the Central Government including all leaders rushed to the affected areas and consoled the people affected by Tsunami. The UPA Chairperson, Shrimati Sonia Gandhi consoled the people and discussed about the relief measures. She has shown keen interest and taken utmost care to help the victims of the Tsunami waves. She has directed the State Chief Ministers ruled by the Congress Party to act on the relief measures on a war footing. She has directed all the PCC Presidents, MPs and MLAs to get actively involved in the relief activities physically as well as financially.

The hon. Prime Minister visited Tamil Nadu twice and consoled the affected families. He assured the people that all their damages whether they are houses, boats, nets, cattle and other things will be set right and the Central Government will compensate for all the losses. He announced Rs. 1 lakh per head as death compensation.

[Shri Dhanuskodi R. Athithan]

The Tamil Nadu Congress President, Shri G.K. Vasan, under direction and guidance from the Congress President, has visited all the villages which have been affected by Tsunami. He has toured and spent most of his valuable time for about 15 days in consoling the affected people. He distributed goods worth crores of rupees to the affected people from Chennai to Kanyakumari.

I wish to compliment the Chief Ministers of Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka and the PCC Presidents who have liberally donated money and materials to the Government of Tamil Nadu and PCC, Tamil Nadu. I wish to appreciate Dr. Kalaingar, the DPA Chairman who has donated Rs. 1.25 crore to Shrimati Sonia Gandhi and Shri Stalin, MLA who has given Rs. 21 lakhs to the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu. Besides that, I wish to compliment Shri Dayanidhi Maran, Mr. Kalanidhi Maran and the SUN TV which contributed more than Rs. 5 crore through their viewers. *The Hindu* contributed Rs. 10 crore through its readers to the Prime Minister Relief Fund and all the State Chief Ministers also contributed to the affected people.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude now.

SHRI DHANUSKODI R. ATHITHAN: I also compliment Shri Pranab Mukharjee for directing the Defence personnel for rescue operations.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Santosh Gangwar may present the BAC Report to the House.

19.54 hrs.

BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Tenth Report

[English]

SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR (BAREILLY): Sir, I beg to present the Tenth Report of the Business Advisory Committee.

19.54 hrs.

DISCUSSION UNDER RULE 193

Natural calamity in the country-contd.

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRA MANI TRIPATHI (Rewa): Mr. Chairman, Sir, thank you very much. We are having a discussion under Rule 193 on natural calamities when

we have not yet been able to quite get out of the vast devastations caused by Tsunami. Perhaps it was not possible to check it. Had our Government adopted scientific techniques and new scientific inventions taking place well in time then perhaps loss of life and property of such a magnitude might have been avoided.

But the way in which the entire country stood united and came forward extend help generously to the victims of Tsunami tragedy is commendable. Each and every section of society from every nook and corner extended help to the affected people. But I want to say that not only the Tsunami tragedy has occurred in the country but such tragedies are an annual feature in one or the other part of our country either in the shape of excessive rainfall, causing floods, or lack of rainfall causing drought, or hailstorm or outbreak of fire causing loss of life and property worth crores of rupees. I am not just talking of the Government of the day. Since independence no long-term scheme has been formulated to deal with natural calamities. We are accustomed to act or react only when the tragedy befalls us. Short terms schemes did get formulated at times but no long-term scheme has ever been formulated on account of which we have suffered loss of life and property worth crores of rupees. I would like to urge the UPA Government that while setting up the Disaster Management mechanism by tearing a lesson from the past it should also take preventive measures to check natural calamities.

With all humility I would like to say that we should not try to take undue advantage of such tragedies as has been the wont of almost everyone here. The Prime Minister's National Calamity Relief Fund is there but I am unable to understand as to what extent of this Government is willing to go in the matter of hero-worship. Is it a proper way to deal with any tragedy to carry out relief work in the name of any particular person? The hon'ble Home Minister is sitting here in the House and he is a seasoned politician and with all humility I would like to say that we should shun hero-worship. Howsoever great a man may be, he can deviate from the right track. Therefore we should look forward to a real remedy or a way out rather than adoring a mere passer-by...*(Interruptions)*.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI BIJOY HANDIQUÉ): Why does the Member talk about irrelevant things? We are running against time...*(Interruptions)*.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record except Shri Tripathi's speech.

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please take your seat.

[*Translation*]

[*Translation*]

SHRI CHANDRA MANI TRIPATHI: Recently cyclone wreaked havoc in Orissa. Similarly an earthquake struck in Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh. But there is no scheme to tackle such calamities. When the crops get damaged, only nominal assistance is provided to farmers.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Tripathi ji, you are an experienced Member. You can give your suggestions in a short time. So give your broad suggestions.

SHRI CHANDRA MANI TRIPATHI: Today the prices of commodities have gone up substantially. Circumstances have changed. But even today the assistance to the farmers is provided under the RBC which was conceived during the British regime. What I want to say is that the farmers are not being provided assistance in proportionate to the damage to their crops. In a way, this assistance is just like a drop in the ocean...(*Interruptions*).

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now your time is going to over. Today, we do not have more time. Please conclude now.

SHRI CHANDRA MANI TRIPATHI: I have taken two minutes times only. Now I am concluding in one minute. I would like to say that for preventing floods...(*Interruptions*) what are you saying?

20.00 hrs.

[*English*]

...(*Interruptions*)*

MR. CHAIRMAN; No, No. Nothing will go on record.

...(*Interruptions*)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record.

...(*Interruptions*)*

[*Translation*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: No unparliamentary words will be recorded in the proceedings.

SHRI CHANDRA MANI TRIPATHI: The work should be taken up for inter-linking of the rivers...(*Interruptions*).

* Not recorded.

SHRI CHANDRA MANI TRIPATHI: Dredging of river banks should be taken up and the encroachments which have come up along the river banks should be removed. I want to say that LIC provides assistance in the form of insurance when the losses are suffered in other fields, similar assistance should be extended on this count too. With these words, I conclude and thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Member, now it is 8 O'clock. Earlier the time of the House was extended for one hour. I think there are still five-six members who have to speak. Therefore, the time of the House is extended for one more hour.

CHAUDHARY LAL SINGH (Udhampur): Sir, thank you for giving me an opportunity to participate in this discussion. Sir, the situation of flood and drought occur ever year but in between calamities like earthquakes and Tsunamis also occur and this year for the first time in thirty years there were heavy rains and snowfall in Jammu & Kashmir. These things cause heavy losses. Be it Tsunami or the avalanches in Jammu & Kashmir, the army and the Air Force have played an important role. Through you, I convey my thanks to them. I thank the Army, air force and para-military forces for their contribution in maintaining connectivity and serving life. I would like to give some suggestions with regard to these calamities. My first suggestions in this regard is that we should bring a legislation to tackle such situations, then only we can manage the disasters. Responsibilities of the State Governments and the Central Government will be fixed in the said legislation. The earlier Government failed in bringing any such legislation but I hope, this time the present Government will bring such a legislation wherein a legal frame will be provided suggesting the measures to be taken in such situations. Otherwise, whenever we are faced with any calamity we have to think as to how we have to take appropriate steps, arrange ration, army, shelter, tent, how to save life, arrange equipments, manpower for ice breaking, ways and means to clear the roads—I have practically seen all such things. These things can be done only when you find out a well planned solution to this problem.

Further, I want to say that funds are provided to the States every year, including ours, on account of flood

[Shri Choudhary Lal Singh]

and drought. This has to be kept in mind that funds are provided regularly to the districts which have been declared as drought prone. But there has never been any let up in the drought situation in these districts rather it has aggravated. It is so because the funds are not utilised there, Sir, I would like to submit that at the time when the Government provide funds a monitoring cell or committee should also be constituted simultaneously so that the people get the benefit. As someone dies in a family, the priest, performing the last rites becomes happy, similarly, when there is a murder, the SHO of the area becomes happy in the hope that somebody has fallen prey to him. I mean to say that some opportunists start minting money even in such hard and sad times. Some people take the flood or drought as an opportunity to mint money. There is a need to put check on this trend.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please, take your seat. Hon. Member, you have already taken your time. Please conclude. You have only half a minute.

CHOUDHARY LAL SINGH: Sir, I am concluding. The elected Members and representatives of our people should be given this responsibility in their respective constituencies so that they can oversee such type of work. Along with this, I would like to say that a survey has been conducted to build 15 thousand houses in my constituency.

I would like to say that we need 20,000 houses. You please pay attention to this. Provide some relief, we have problem of both food and fodder. I would like to mention some areas which have been affected by snowfall at this time. These areas are namely Kishtwar, Madwa, Badawan, Dashan, Indrawal, Mugalmaidan, Shatru, Assar, Baggar, Atholi, Padar, Thathri, Bhalesa, Goha, Desa, Banihal, Ramban, Pogalparistan, Chinani, Doodu, Basantgarh, Sannasar, Patnitop, Lutiduna, Ramnagar, Majalata, Bilawar, Bani, Basauli, Dharmamahanpur, Dhardugnu, Dharjankhal, Kathua, Athiyalata, Athun, Udampur and Doda. Avalanche has taken place in some areas of Kashmir because people have cut the jungle and have settled in higher regions. So attention be paid towards the forests under Government's control. If we go against nature, it will avenge.

[English]

SHRI TAPIR GAO (Arunachal East): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thank you very much for giving me this opportunity.

Sir, we are discussing the natural calamities and about national disaster management in this august House. This is a kind of shedding crocodile tears. In Hindi it is called magamachcha ke Aansu. We are simply discussing the occurrence. We are simply highlighting the problems faced by the victims when such natural calamities strike. This country needs important attention to this problem. This country needs a separate Ministry, Budgetary provisions for solving all these issues every year.

We have got natural calamities, earthquakes, snow-fall affected areas, rain and flood affected areas throughout the country. This country, Baharat, has got different characteristics of geographical picture. Without taking much time, I will take the august House towards the North-Eastern region. From Bihar to the entire North-Eastern region, this is a permanent phenomenon every year. After every six months, we are going to face the problem. We are facing the flood situation in that part of the country. I am concerned about drought, snow-affected areas also. But a permanent phenomenon that distorts the eastern part of the country every year is this. Every year, we are simply getting Rs. 40 or Rs. 50 crore for the areas from Bihar to the North-Eastern Region. I would like to inform the hon. Minister that the characteristics of the rain and flood in the North-Eastern region is different from Bihar or Assam also. In the mountainous and hilly areas, once there is a major flood, the entire geography of the land surface is totally affected. I will cite one example.

Last time, we had a major flood in Arunachal Pradesh. The main tributaries of the river Brahmaputra are inside Arunachal Pradesh.

[Translation]

When an elephant is to be caught, hold it by its Head, if we hold it by tail

[English]

if we try to catch hold of the elephant by its tail, we are doing nothing. In Arunachal Pradesh, we have got five major tributaries of the river Brahmaputra. The Tributaries of Brahmaputra, which regard flood control management, as per your view, I am suggesting the remedies.

Inside Arunachal Pradesh, we have got five major tributaries of the river Brahmaputra. All the rain waters from Tibet and the Himalayan Region flow into Arunachal Pradesh. We face floods for six months. The flood water accumulates and it affects entire Assam and even the neighbouring countries. That is why, we need a Budgetary provision for flood control. The country needs a separate

Ministry and separate management at the State level, district level to tackle such situation.

Last time also, the hon. Prime Minister visited. Every year, the hon. Prime Minister and the Minister concerned hire a helicopter to visit the affected areas of the North-Eastern region.

20.10 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

In spite of this management system, in spite of the visits which are made by the hon. Prime Minister and hon. Ministers concerned, a huge amount is spent in the management of helicopters and all that. In spite of that management system, Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, the floods and natural calamities have affected the areas. The Government of India should constitute a special team permanently for such affected areas. Before the expiry of six months, we should constitute a high-powered Committee. It should come forward to help the victims. One of my hon. friends from Gujarat has cited about the Gujarat earthquake. All these problems are due to lack of proper management system. Even the Tsunami-hit victims are not getting even their due compensation. We should set up separate committees at the Central level, at the State level or at the District level. It is my humble appeal to the hon. Minister that we should provide for separate budgetary allocation for such natural calamity.

SHRI J.M. AARON RASHID (Periyakulam): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, on 26 December, 2004, the Tsunami killer wave hit the 600 kilometre long coastal areas of Tamil Nadu. On the very next day, Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singhji, our Chairperson of UPA and our beloved Congress leader Smt. Sonia Gandhiji and Rahul Gandhiji came to Chennai and visited the Tsunami-hit areas. Shrimati Sonia Gandhiji consoled the fishermen who have lost their properties, namely, fishing boats, roving boats, catamarans, houses and their personal belongings. The thatched houses of poor fishermen have been fully destroyed. The Central Government came with an immediate helping hand by sending Paramilitary Forces and the Tamil Nadu State Police personnel helped the victims. Temporary shelters and camps had been put up. Food and medicines were supplied by the Central Government, to the needy people affected by Tsunami. From our UPA Central Government, Shri Pranab Mukherjee, our Home Minister and Shrimati Ambika Soni along with Madam Chairperson of UPA, visited the affected areas. Madam Soniiji went to the far-away places

even by road and in helicopter to all the coastal areas...(*Interruptions*).

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: This will not go on record, except the speech of the hon Member.

...(*Interruptions*)*

SHRI J.M. AARON RASHID: After the visit of our Prime Minister and Madam Soniiji, the Central Government has given an immediate relief package of Rs. 1,400 crore to Tamil Nadu for which I am very thankful to them. I would like to request the Central Government that the amount should go directly to the affected persons. Yesterday also, there was a big protest and road *roko* in Cuddalore. The Tamil Nadu Police lathi-charged the crowd and chased them away. The hon. Minister of State for Law and Justice is also here. Many people were injured and they were admitted in the hospital.

The affected fishermen are not getting the Government subsidy and help. The local State ruling party people are benefited...(*Interruptions*) Shri Swain, please do not disturb me.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.

...(*Interruptions*)*

SHRI J.M. AARON RASHID: I would like to bring to the notice of the Government to one important aspect.

[*Translation*]

Several tenants live in rented houses there but they do not get anything and all the benefits go to the house owner. Tenants return to their rented houses after toiling for the whole day to earn their daily bread and they pay Rs. 1000/- as rent. The facilities which the Government provides to the house owners should be given to the tenants also.

[*English*]

Many people lost all their belongings. At least, they should be given some compensation.

In Nagore, the minority Muslims, as a goodwill gesture, came forward to help the Government and removed the dead bodies and buried them in Muslim burial grounds. Kulachal town of Kanyakumari district is badly affected.

* Not recorded.

[Shri J.M. Aaron Rashid]

Sir, many places in the constituency of our hon. Minister of State for Home Affairs are also affected by the Tsunami tragedy. The affected places are, Ammapattinam, Jagadapattinam, Kottaipattinam, Manamelgudi, Meemisal, Kattumangudi, Mallipattinam and Adhirampattinam. In these places, all the fishermen have lost their boats and their belongings.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Please conclude.

SHRI J.M. AARON RASHID: Sir, I am concluding.

Then, Velankanni and Nagappattinam are the worst affected areas in Tamil Nadu. Whatever has been promised by the UPA Government has been fulfilled. But we have completely forgotten the salt industry. We have not done anything to the salt industry. Everybody who spoke here spoke on behalf of house owner, boat owners, cattamaran owners, but not on behalf of the people working in the salt industry.

Sir, salt was an instrument chosen by Mahatma Gandhi to drive out the mighty British Empire. In this 75th year of the Salt Satyagraha undertaken by Mahatma Gandhi, Known as 'Dandi March', it is being reenacted now. We got freedom due to Dandi March and our BJP people are enjoying the fruits in Gujarat with their Government over there. Salt is the cheapest product and it is very sensitive. Salt comes under Central Subject. It is very pathetic that the Government of Tamil Nadu has not looked into the plight of the salt industry and its poor workers. So, I would request the Central Government to step in immediately and give relief to the orphaned salt workers.

Sir, in the Nagappattinam district of Tamil Nadu alone, more than 6,000 people have lost their lives. Many people have lost their near and dear ones and all their properties. My sincere and humble request to the UPA Government is to extend further help to the Tsunami-affected people.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Please conclude now.

SHRI J.M. AARON RASHID: Sir, I am just concluding.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: If you do not conclude now, I am going to call the next speaker. Shri A.V. Bellarmin.

SHRI J.M. AARON RASHID: Sir, I would request the Central Government to send a committee of experts to monitor and review the relief works being carried out there. It would be a great help to the affected people there. I, once again, request the Central Government to send a team immediately to Tamil Nadu to review the

relief works which have been done till now and also extend more help immediately to the affected people.

[Translation]

*SHRI A.V. BELLARMIN (Nagercoil): Sir, we may have come across several natural disaster. But the one that has affected us seriously and occupy our minds still is Tsunami the tragedy of the century. Our Nagercoil constituency was hit hard and the second largest loss of lives and property has taken place there. In Tamil Nadu, the second most affected district is ours. This Tsunami that had caused great havoc in several parts of the world in several States of our country had hit many districts in our State of Tamil Nadu. Our district suffered the second largest devastation in Tamil Nadu. I do not find matching words to describe the huge loss of life and property in our fishing villages and small harbours. Even if I find words I am afraid I may not be able to find time during this discussion as the time is being restricted or regulated. Hence, I want to record in this august House certain important things. What followed Tsunami the harbour wave was the humanitarian wave that came as wave after wave. It is only with that humanitarian help that people affected by Tsunami got immediate help and relief above all rescue operations help. It is only with the help from the public that came forth generously and instantly timely help was extended in digging out corpses from beneath the debris and muddy beaches. It took at least two to three days for both the Governments at the Centre and the State to come to the aid of the affected people. We must rise above politics and must look into the relief and rehabilitation process with all its seriousness it warrants at this grave moment. I would like to point out that our huge administrative machinery needs to be geared and tuned to handle disaster management of this magnitude and natural disaster of any kind. Our men need to be trained in a proper way. We must set up suitable organisational structure to effectively intervene and manage disaster relief work. We must take care to see that forewarning mechanisms and systems must be in place as prevention is always better. The people who were affected need lasting rehabilitation measures than immediate cosmetic interventions that are short term. Long term strategies must be evolved to provide lasting solution. Fishermen have been affected mostly and hence there is an urgent need to provide shelter and tools for their livelihood. Catamarans, vallams, boats and mechanised boats along with nets and angles are required to rebuild and restart their lives. Interim relief work has got many lacunae and lapses. Shelters that were raised immediately after Tsunami are not in a livable condition so soon. So, permanent rehabilitation measures must focus on providing things needed to carry out these occupations that are

* Translation of the speech originally delivered in Tamil.

most often traditional in nature. If well laid structures are to be raised as shelters as part of permanent and lasting rehabilitation measure, I would like to suggest certain things to be borne in mind. New housing facilities must be sufficiently kept apart from the sea. When it comes to housing for the Tsunami affected, the funds claimed to have been apportioned are quite substantial. It is said the Centre is extending Rs. 2800 crore. State administration is also expected to spend considerably on shelter. A good amount has been mobilised as contribution to the Chief Minister's relief fund. Many agencies have come forward to construct cluster of houses to rehabilitate people who have been rendered homeless. Many NGOs have also come to the fore. Even now there is no proper coordinating mechanism to avoid overlapping of and duplication of work. Hence I urge upon the Government to ensure viable coordination. Based on that, permanent settlements have to be raised intact in locales that cannot be hit easily by the waves even during cyclonic storm and even during Tsunamis. Even before Tsunami could destroy houses, the State Government-built housing-clusters collapsed. That much for construction. Sir, when Government goes in for constructing houses they must entrust the job with professional agencies that can ensure standard and quality of construction. We need to maintain our coast line also from being affected further. In our coastal areas, rare earth in our sands is being quarried by several private players. Removal of sands is carried out uninterrupted. This will add to the vulnerability of our coastal areas in the face of inundating sea waters.

There must be a ban on sand quarrying on our beaches. Enough technical know how must be developed to have more of mangroves in our sea shores that would avoid both sea erosion and devastating force and impact of tidal waves. Boulders must not be spread across our sea shores. Instead lasting and conserving methods must be adopted. As far as Kanyakumari district is concerned more than 2000 fishing boats were in operation. Already there are proposals to develop four fishing harbours. Kolachal harbour must be expanded further to improve economic activities and sea transportation. While carrying out permanent rehabilitation work, AVM canal in that area could be included as part of infrastructure development for a lasting solution to overcome the problems that are being faced by the people there now. This can generate employment opportunities. So I urge upon the Government to take up lasting projects for permanent rehabilitation. When we are putting our heads and hearts together to bring about lasting relief to those affected by the swallowing Tsunami, we must ensure that our schemes are not swallowed by 'corruption Tsunami'.

At this juncture I would like to thank our hon. Prime Minister, our hon. Chairperson of the Advisory Council to

the Government Mrs. Sonia Gandhi and other Union Ministers who have visited the Tsunami ravaged areas I also thank our hon. Speaker of Lok Sabha who had impressed upon the hon. Members of Parliament to donate liberally from MPLADS funds towards Tsunami relief. I also thank All the donors who have donated generously to help rebuild the lives of gloom marooned people hit by Tsunami.

With this, I conclude.

SHRI SURESH PRABHAKAR PRABHU (Rajapur): Mr. Deputy-Speaker Sir, since there is a disaster situation and time management, I will not make a speech, I will only make points.

Sir, firstly, the Government should prepare a complete Atlas, a mapping of the disaster prone areas and one should prepare that map using GIS and other technology. You must compulsory insist on insurance cover for all those who live in high risk disaster prone areas because it is not possible for any Government to provide funds indefinitely and infinitely for a disaster management operation.

Secondly, you must involve more and more voluntary organisations into disaster management area. I am happy that yesterday only, the hon. Home Minister has convened a meeting of Home Guards. I think, we really need to create more such cadres from schools, from colleges, with factories who can respond to disaster in a very short time because it is not possible that the Government can create a standing team for disaster management.

Thirdly, we really need to find out, how compulsory insurance will be introduced in a high risk disaster management area. That will prevent people from settling in that area. Like, when Tsunami came, in fact, there was a clear violation of Coastal Regulation Zone, CRZ. If the people had not settled down there, probably many lives could have been saved. The CRZ should also be implemented in a very strict manner and that also should be done.

Sir, another thing that I would like to say is that in every district there is a team, but it needs a serious revamp. I remember when I used to go to the school, everyday, at 9 o'clock in the morning, a siren used to go. It was just to test whether the siren was working or not. I think, for this disaster team, at the district level, there should be a regular drill that will be conducted so that they do not wake up only at the time when the disaster comes. So, they should do it on an ongoing basis.

Sir, another thing is that we should introduce a new building code, most of the people died because the

[Shri Suresh Prabhakar Prabhu]

building collapsed and they died under the debris. If we have buildings, like in Japan, which is an all time earthquake prone area, then the number of casualties would be less.

Every time when the earthquake takes place, neither many people die nor the property loss is more. So, we really need to change our building code in a big way.

The second point is that rapid response mechanism should now be introduced. We need some core team all over the country which can really respond rapidly to supplement this informal structure that would be created, and that should be taken into consideration.

While we talk about natural calamities, there are certain man-made calamities that we are encountering now. We have seen that in cyclical and regularity, floods come and droughts come. We really need an action plan which the Home Minister mentioned while he was intervening in the debate last time. We really need a drought proofing of this area and that we can do.

The other one is that all these will not fall in place unless we really go to the root cause, that is, the rise in population. The density of population in a square kilometre ratio is so high. That is why, the incidence of death is also very high. We really need massive population control measures. I think, that is some thing which is really lacking now.

I come to my last point. Climate change is an external factor which is influencing the entire climate pattern of the country, not just the country but the world also. Therefore, natural disasters unknown to us so far will happen in the next few years. We are seeing now rains in areas where it never rained. It snowed in UAE. Therefore, this climate change is a component which should also be taken into consideration while dealing with the natural calamity.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Our last speaker is Dr. K.S. Manoj. Only three minutes please.

DR. K.S. MANOJ (Alleppey): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I come from a place which has been affected by Tsunami. Arattupuza Panchayat of Alapuzha district in Kerala is very severely affected in Tsunami.

Sir, Tsunami is a rare phenomenon, occasional phenomenon. But along the sea coast of Kerala, sea erosion due to high tide waves during the monsoon season is very common. A lot of houses were lost and also the properties were lost in this sea erosion. But definitive measures are not taken to safeguard the lives and properties of these poor fishermen who reside along the sea coast.

Sir, the sea coast of Kerala, unlike the sea coast of Andhra Pradesh or some other States, is very densely populated. Some of my colleagues have already pointed this out. There are narrow strips of lands between sea coast and backwaters. In this area, there is no transport facility. In Arattupuza and Alapatt panchayats, many deaths occurred due to lack of transport facilities. Around this 14 kilometres narrow stretch between the lake and the sea, not even a single bridge is there. They were in a hurry and we cannot save their lives. The people residing along the sea coast should be protected. The tragic thing is that sea erosion which takes the life of thousands of people is not considered as a natural calamity.

We are neither getting funds from the Calamity Relief Fund nor from the Natural Calamity Contingency Fund. My humble request to the hon. Home Minister is that sea erosion should be considered as a natural calamity and assistance should be given to the people who are affected.

The coastal line of Kerala, as I mentioned earlier, should be protected. As far as we are concerned, sea wall has got some amount of protection. All these deaths occurred in area where sea wall was deficient. Either you consider construction of sea wall or as has been mentioned by my colleagues, growing of mangroves, which can be tried.

Sir, due to the paucity of time, I conclude my speech now but please allow me to lay the rest of my speech.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: No.

The House stands adjourned to meet tomorrow, the 24th March, 2005 at 11.00 a.m.

20.30 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Thursday, March 24, 2005/Chaitra 3, 1927 (Saka).

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