

LOK SABHA DEBATES

(English Version)

Fourth Session
(Fourteenth Lok Sabha)



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LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Wednesday, March 9, 2005/Phalgun 18, 1926 (Saka)

(The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock)

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

[Translation]

...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (Pandharpur): Mr. Speaker, there is peace in the House today.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I am grateful to hon. Members for that!

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Let us start the Question Hour.

...(Interruptions)

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi): Sir, you can start the Question Hour; we have no problem. The protem Speaker in Jharkhand. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I would hear you later, after the Question Hour.

11.01 hrs.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Combating Cancer

+
*81. SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH:
SHRI M. RAJA MOHAN REDDY:

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

(a) whether the Government is aware that India has the World's highest incidence of cancer of gall bladder, mouth and lower pharynx, breast cancer, etc. as appeared in the *Hindu* dated January 30, 2005;

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

(c) whether people of the country face the risk of contracting gastric cancer and damage to nervous and cardio vascular system due to dangerously high levels of nitrate in ground water in different States;

(d) whether the Government has sent any team for the investigation;

(e) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(f) the concrete steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government for the prevention and treatment of cancer?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) to (f) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) to (f) The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) under National Cancer Registry Programme has developed an Atlas of Cancer in India based on the information collected for the year 2001-2002 from 105 collaborating centres across the country with a view to have an idea of the pattern of cancer in several areas of the country. According to the report, the incidence of different cancer is not uniform throughout the country. While cancer incidence in India as a whole is much lower in comparison to the incidence across the world, the incidence of cancer of mouth, tongue and gall bladder in the country is higher than those reported in the "Cancer Incidence of Five Continents" published by WHO in 2002, based on the data pertaining to 1993-97. As per the Atlas on the basis of ICMR's population based cancer registry data, the highest incidence rates have been reported for the Cancer of Gall Bladder among the women in Delhi and the Cancer of Tongue and Mouth among the men in Bhopal. The highest rate of cancer of hypopharynx as reported from Aizwal is based on the inputs from the collaborative centres which include private hospitals as well.

As per the ICMR, it is estimated that at any given time, there are 2-2.5 million cancer patients in the country. There are about 7-9 lakh new cancer patients in the country. In order to control this problem, the National Cancer Control Programme (NCCP) was launched in 1975 with the objectives of prevention, early detection and

treatment of cancer in the country. The strategies under the programme include awareness generation in the community for prevention and early detection of cancer, through District Cancer Control Programme and provision of comprehensive cancer treatment facilities across the country by way of supporting Regional Cancer Centres. Government Medical Colleges and Government Hospitals are also supported by development of Oncology Wings.

Regarding the level of nitrates in drinking water, it is stated that the level of various chemicals in ground water including the nitrates and the nitrites are being monitored by the Central Ground Water Board and Rajiv Gandhi Drinking Water Mission. The reports from the Central Ground Water Board suggest that the level of nitrates in ground water in certain States are indeed high. However, as per the WHO Guidelines of Drinking Water Quality (3rd Edn., Vol. 1, Chapter 12, 2004), the weight of evidence is strongly against there being an association between nitrite and nitrate exposures in humans and the risk of cancer. A conclusive evidence is yet to be established as regards the relationship between nitrite/nitrate and neurological manifestations. There is slight protective effect of these ions on the cardiovascular systems.

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, my question was about cancer, but the hon. Minister has not given a clear answer in this regard. I would like to emphasise the point that the health of the people of a particular country is the asset of that country. We have progressed enough and our country is going to be a developed country from a developing country but we are continuously lagging behind from the health point of view. The increasing number of AIDS, Cancer, Diabetes and Blood-pressure patients points out to the fact that the Health Department and the Health Ministry are not working well at the ground level.

Sir, the first case of AIDS was detected in 1986 and today the number of affected persons has reached 205 million in this short period of time. There is no correct figure or information about cancer with the Government. I would like to have some clarifications about the information that he has given in his written answer. It has been stated in the written reply that different types of cancer affect people in different areas. For example, the type of cancer people are afflicted with in Delhi is somewhat different to the incidence in other parts. Incidence of mouth cancer are highest in Bhopal. So, I

want to know whether the Government have made arrangements to investigate particular types of cancer affecting people in particular places so that people can have proper knowledge about it.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: You answer should have been a little more elaborate.

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: Sir, I share the concern of the hon. Member about the rise of incidence of diseases, especially non-communicable diseases like cancer, cardiac problems and other health related issues.

The Government today, under our hon. Prime Minister, is very seriously committed to improving healthcare for all citizens, especially the rural poor. This year, we have an unprecedented 31 per cent increase in the health budget over the last year. This shows the commitment of the Government on health issues and we are going towards finding the root causes of the

Coming back to the issue of cancer, I agree, that is the costliest disease to treat today of the non-communicable diseases. The Government is going ahead improving the infrastructure and resources to provide treatment. For cancer, we take action in three parts. The first part is the preventive part; the second is the testing or the screening part; and the third is the curing or treatment part. Till date, we have about 21 Regional Cancer Centres identified by the Government all over the country. We are trying to identify one Regional Cancer Centre in every State and two in the more populous States.

The hon. Member has said that cancer-related deaths and specific cancer-related problems have not been identified. We have identified them and a list has been prepared by the ICMR. I could send the list to the hon. Member about the different types of cancers.

Today, we have about 700 to 900 thousand new cases of cancer every year. At one point of time, we have about 2 million to 2.5 million cases of cancer. The Government is very seriously committed to identify them. In the initial stage, we could treat them hundred per cent than in the second and third stages.

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it has been seen that corporate hospitals are being

set up in metropolitan cities and the elite class of the country get facilities from those hospitals because cancer is curable if it is detected at preliminary stage. National Cancer Control programme was launched in the year 1975 with the stated objective of providing information to the people upto district level. As per my information at district level, the people in Uttar Pradesh have no access to such an information about cancer. The first question is about the extent to which we have progressed since the year 1975 in this regard. The second question is whether the enhanced budget is sufficient in the wake of the increasing incidence of these diseases due to climatic conditions and whether people will get all those benefits from the budget?

[English]

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: The National Cancer Control Programme was started in 1975 and till today you see where have we gone. In the Tenth Plan for the National Cancer Control Programme, we have revamped the Programme and included screening as a major part of the Programme at the district level. We have added a District Cancer Control Programme whereby in the first year, about Rs. 22 lakh of money is given to a district nodal agency, a government hospital, a cancer hospital, and in the subsequent years, about Rs. 17 lakh is given as a recurring expense mainly to create awareness at the root level and to screen them. We have a scheme called 'NGO scheme' whereby we give money to the NGOs available at the local areas to conduct screening camps for spreading an awareness and for each camp we give a total sum of Rs. 8,000 for doctors who are in the camp. The NGOs could conduct any amount of camps they could and after screening, they are advised to take the patients to the Regional Cancer Centre to whom we are giving money and supplementing them.

DR. RAM CHANDRA DOME: It is a very vital question put by my hon. friend.

My question is regarding incidence of cancer. In this cancerous society, our society also gets conscious. Cancer is a preventable disease. So far as medical science is concerned, cancer is totally preventable and the mainstay of treatment is awareness and early detection. It was also stated by the hon. Minister.

I want to know from the hon. Minister that so far what is his comprehensive programme for cancer control down to the rural level in the form of creating awareness and early detection. So far as my knowledge about detection of cancer at the very initial stage is concerned,

people are not getting this opportunity. So, what about the early detection programme, at least, at the district level and what is the latest status?

Part-B of my question is this. One important news item has been published by a national magazine that some big multinational companies from abroad are marketing a programme particularly in the agricultural sector, particularly about genetically modified seeds as well as pesticides also which are creating some positive bearing to generate cancers in our society.

What is the information that the Ministry has got till date? This is part-B of my question. Thank you very much.

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: Sir, regarding awareness part and screening part, I have answered in the previous question itself that we have modified our programme for having a District Cancer Control Programme and we are going to the district level and the village level. We have a National Cancer Registry whereby we collect information from all across especially at the root level. This Programme, in the years to come, will go to different parts of the country and I am sure will have more awareness on that and, of course, on screening.

About the second part of pesticides and other related cancers, the ICMR is also going into the issue. We have an issue in Kerala of Indosulphan which was used rampantly by aerial spraying. We are taking note of these issues and the ICMR is actually surveying these activities.

DR. RAM CHANDRA DOME: Sir, what about the detection at district level? That is not answered.

MR. SPEAKER: He has done it.

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: That is what I have answered in the last question. We have got a District Cancer Control Programme whereby we are giving money to NGOs for screening programme.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Minister will see to that whether they are functioning or not.

SHRI VIJAYENDRA PAL SINGH: Sir, my question is very specific. Actually the next question is also on tobacco and cigarettes. What I want to know from the hon. Minister is that cigarettes and tobacco are injurious to health, but has any study been done that the people who smoke

cigarettes and have tobacco are more prone to cancer of the lungs and other cancers than the people who do not smoke and have tobacco? Has any study been done on it? If a study has been done, please explain to us the details. In the recent Budget, tax has been levied on *gutka*, tobacco and cigarettes; but in the rural India, nothing has been done about smoking *bidis*.

MR. SPEAKER: You have made your point.

SHRI VIJAYENDRA PAL SINGH: Is smoking *bidi* not prone to cancer? Please explain to us the difference.

MR. SPEAKER: No explanation, only information. This is not the time for explanation.

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: Sir, even though this comes under the next question, I would like to inform the hon. Member that tobacco-related health issues are the biggest health and social economic issues in the country today. Tobacco-related health issues like cancer and lung diseases, and other related strokes and other innumerable diseases are caused due to tobacco problems. We have a lot of studies done. In fact, this is the latest study on tobacco control in India. This is a very comprehensive study done from all over the world and also about *bidi* and tobacco industry also and the issues and problems that we are facing. In the next question, I will go in depth into *bidi* and cigarettes and all the other issues.

MR. SPEAKER: What about *gutka*? You have not mentioned it.

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: It includes *gutka* also.

MR. SPEAKER: Do not say that the Speaker has prevented smoking here!

...(Interruptions)

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: In the next question I will!

SHRI R.L. JALAPPA. Thank you, Sir. The hon. Minister knows that some of the medical colleges are situated in the rural parts where cobalt units are established and cancer detection camps are also being held and cancer is being treated. For such colleges, may I request the hon. Minister to give yearly aid to such institutions?

MR. SPEAKER: It is a suggestion for action, not a question.

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: Sir, we do have a programme...

MR. SPEAKER: You do not answer.

SHRI R.L. JALAPPA: Sir, please let him answer.

MR. SPEAKER: You put a question and then I will allow him.

SHRI R.L. JALAPPA: Does the Minister help those medical college hospitals who have been treating sufficient number of cancer patients?

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Minister may now answer.

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: Sir, we had a programme called Cobalt programme whereby we were giving assistance of about Rs. 1 crore to private cancer centres and Rs. 1.5 crore to Government centres. This was discontinued recently because the Finance Ministry had made some queries about the funds allocated through these private hospitals that a certain number of patients should be treated free of cost but they were not adhering to it. We had discontinued it as on date. We are trying to improve the Government facilities because all the poor patients are treated there.

[Translation]

PROF. RAM GOPAL YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the largest number of patients of mouth cancer is in Mainpuri district of Uttar Pradesh and this is because of consumption of tobacco, but in the answer to the question, it has been stated that the largest number of the patients suffering from mouth cancer is in Bhopal. I do not agree to this view. The largest number of people suffering from mouth cancer is in Mainpuri district because the largest volume of chewable tobacco is produced there. Generally, it is believed that chewing tobacco causes cancer. I want to know from the hon. Minister, I raised this issue many times in the other House also whether the Government would set up any regional cancer investigation centre in Mainpuri, Uttar Pradesh? ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Prof. Ram Gopal Yadav, there is another Question on this, the next-Question.

[Translation]

PROF. RAM GOPAL YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, my question is about setting up an investigation centre. There should be a Centre at a place where there is the largest number of cancer cases. I would like to know whether the hon. Minister would set up such a Centre there? *(Interruptions)*

The 'B' part of my question is whether the Government would bring a Bill in the House to ban the use of tobacco, keeping in view the general perception that tobacco chewing causes cancer?

[English]

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: Sir, the Indian Council of Medical Research is the highest research institute in the country. They have done a research of the problems related to cancer, and incidence and occurrence of cancer all over the country. Also, they have formed recently an atlas about cancers and different types of cancers occurring in different parts of the country. I would like to say that Bhopal has the highest incidence of oral cancers; and Delhi women have the highest incidence of gall bladder cancers. We could take up a study, the ICMR could take up a study in Uttar Pradesh. In Uttar Pradesh, we already have a Regional Cancer Centre in Allahabad and the Government proposes to sanction one more RCC in Uttar Pradesh because it is a highly populous State and we will consider that.

MR. SPEAKER: That is good.

Shri Yerrannaidu, please do not put any question on tobacco. It is covered by next Question.

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: Mr. Speaker, hon. Minister has said that according to the Indian Council of Medical Research's estimate, there are 2.25 million cancer patients in the country. The Members of Parliament have been writing letters to the Prime Minister to get money sanctioned from the Prime Minister's Relief Fund for the poorer sections in the society. The Government has not been taking them very seriously to give aid to the poor cancer patients. Since the UPA Government came into power, we have written so many letters for the sake of treatment of poor patients suffering from non-communicable diseases, for the health of the poor people.

MR. SPEAKER: It does not arise from this Question. Please put a separate question.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: So, I would like to know whether the Government has any scheme to help the people belonging to poorer sections if they suffer from cancer or some other non-communicable diseases. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: He has already replied to that in details.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: Sir, this is most important.

MR. SPEAKER: Certainly, I also declare.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: Every Member of Parliament had the problem. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please co-operate.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: It is very unfortunate that after so many days, we are having the Question Hour, and you do not have the patience. Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: Sir, I am asking. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will be recorded except what the hon. Minister says.

*...(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER: Do not misuse the indulgence given.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: Sir, I am asking question to the hon. Minister. Does this Government have any scheme to aid poorer sections in the society? Otherwise, what is the meaning of their having increased the budget by 30 per cent as compared to last year?

* Not recorded.

MR. SPEAKER: You discuss about it when Budget will be discussed.

Hon. Minister, if you have any direct answer to this, give it. Otherwise, it does not really arise from this Question.

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: Sir, we have the National Illness Fund wherein 50 per cent of the money is put in by the State Government and 50 per cent by the Central Government. We sanction a lot of funds for the poor patients. I have gone to the extent of sanctioning even Rs. 10 lakh for one individual poor patient. According to the merits of the case, we sanction it if it comes from the State Government because we are partners in National Illness Assistance Fund. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Speaker will recognise only those hon. Members who behave.

Shri Ramadas Bandu Athawale, for a change, you are keeping quiet. Put a question briefly and to the point.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister the reason of India being the country with the largest number of cancer patients.

My second question is whether the Government have any remedy to cure the unruly behaviour of NDA, as this problem needs a solution. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I do not know. What is the question?

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR: Sir, my question is connected with the ground water extraction. It is said that nitrate content is high in the ground water because of ground water extraction being done by big companies in Kerala. The fluoride content is also very high in the ground water. This causes a deadly disease known as fluorosis. Has the Ministry conducted any study on this issue? The ground water extraction in South India has increased the fluoride content in the ground water, which results in cancer.

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: Sir, the question asked by the hon. Member does not directly relate to this particular question.

MR. SPEAKER: It is about ground water extraction resulting in cancer.

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: Sir, the hon. Member asked whether increase in nitrate content in the ground water could cause cancer.

Fluorosis is prevalent in Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Gujarat, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and some parts of Karnataka also. Studies have shown that fluorosis does not cause cancer, but it causes other disabilities of the teeth, brittle bones, etc.

SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR: Sir, my question is connected with the ground water extraction.

MR. SPEAKER: Q. No. 82.

Shri Pralhad Joshi—not present.

Shri Adhir Chowdhury—not present.

Decrease in Production of Agro and Rural Industries

*83. SHRI B. MAHTAB: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether production in the Agro and Rural Industries Sector is decreasing in comparison to the total industrial production of the country;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to boost these industries?

[Translation]

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

Statement

(a) and (b) No, Sir. The production in the Khadi and Village Industries (KVI) sector, which is the major

component of the agro and rural industries sector, and also the total industrial production of the country have both been showing an increasing trend. As per the data published by the Reserve Bank of India in its Handbook of Statistics on the Indian Economy (2003-04), the industrial production in the country in the first year of the 9th Plan (1997-98) was Rs. 300696 crore which grew to Rs. 516023 crore (both at current prices) by the end of the year 2003-04. During the same period, the production in the KVI sector increased from Rs. 4519 crore (1997-98) to Rs. 9682 crore (2003-04) (both at current prices). Thus, during the period 1997-98 to 2003-04, the nominal growth of total industrial production in the country was 71.6 per cent, compared with 114.3 per cent in the KVI sector.

(c) The agro and rural industries sector continues to receive support of the Government. A new Ministry of Agro and Rural Industries was created out of the erstwhile Ministry of Small Scale Industries and Agro & Rural Industries in September 2001. Against the original Tenth Plan outlay of Rs. 2950 crore for the Ministry of Agro and Rural Industries, an amount of Rs. 2745.03 crore has already been made available during the first four years of the Tenth Plan (2002-03 to 2005-06).

Further, the Government has been implementing the Rural Employment Generation Programme (REGP), through the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC), to assist setting up of agro and rural industries in the rural areas by providing subsidy in the form of margin money assistance along with loans from banks. Other relevant schemes implemented through the KVIC include the Interest Subsidy Eligibility Certificate Scheme (ISEC) for providing bank loans to KVI unit at subsidized rates of interest, assistance to VKI units in marketing their products, including setting up of Confederation for Promotion of Khadi and Village Industries (CPKVI) for strengthening the marketing networks of the KVI products, Product Development Design Intervention and Packaging (PRODIP) Scheme for improved designs and packaging, improved raw material management by optimizing production of slivers/rovings in the Central Sliver Plants (CSPs) and introduction of better quality standards for village industries products.

Under the Pradhan Mantri Rozgar Yojana (PMRY), implemented through the District Industry Centres of the State/Union Territories and the banks, loan and subsidy are provided to the educated unemployed to set up self-employment ventures, including agro and rural industries.

The Government also supports the development of the coir sector through the Coir Board, a statutory body, under various schemes and programmes of assistance, viz., domestic market promotion, export market promotion, development of production infrastructure, supply of equipment and machinery at subsidized costs, Mahila Coir Yojana, training and extension, etc.

[English]

SHRI B. MAHTAB: Thank you, Mr Speaker, Sir. My first supplementary is regarding the statement which has been placed here. It states that as against the original Tenth Plan outlay of Rs. 2,950 crore, Rs. 2,745.03 crore has already been allotted within the last four years, and hardly Rs. 204 crore is left, which is supposed to be spent in the last year of the Plan. Does the Minister feel that this amount is sufficient enough or are some provisions being made to increase the allocation?

[Translation]

SHRI MAHAVIR PRASAD: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the honourable Member has asked about spending allocated money. He has quoted the amount which is left after incurring expenditure. Our Ministry is trying to spend more and more amount out of the amount left.

[English]

SHRI B. MAHTAB: Sir, I did not get my answer.

MR. SPEAKER: At least, you got some answer. Kindly ask your second supplementary.

SHRI B. MAHTAB: Sir, I had asked whether some increase is going to be made in it.

MR. SPEAKER: The Minister has said that he will look into it as and when required. Yes, kindly ask your second supplementary.

SHRI B. MAHTAB: Sir, how much money—which has been allocated specially for Khadi & Village Industries and Agro & Rural Industries—has been spent? Does the Government have any information regarding the subsidy component, which has been utilised or which has been spent? How much actually trickles down to the entrepreneurs, that is, after leaving out the subsidy?

MR. SPEAKER: Actually, this question does not arise from the main question, which is before us. It speaks

about decrease in production, and you are asking about subsidy or about quantum of production.

SHRI B. MAHTAB: This is an input, which enhances the productivity.

MR. SPEAKER: It does not directly arise from it. It depends entirely on the Minister concerned. Mr. Minister, are you ready to answer this question? Have you got the complete facts with you?

[Translation]

SHRI MAHAVIR PRASAD: Mr. Speaker, Sir, in reply to the question asked by hon. Member, I would like to inform that we have done a lot of work for promotion of Agro and Rural Industries. We have a number of scheme on the basis of which Khadi and Rural Industries can be promoted. Out of those one of the most important scheme is Rural Employment Generation Programme—REGP. Simultaneously, there are so many schemes on the basis of which we would like to promote Khadi and Village Industries in rural sector. These schemes are—Internet Subsidy Eligibility Certificate Scheme for providing loans at subsidised rate of interest, assistance to KVI units in marketing their products, strengthening marketing network, *i.e.* streamlining marketing system and improved product development design.

[English]

SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN: Sir, as per the statement of the Minister, industrial production for the year 2003-04 was worth Rs. 5,16,023 crore, whereas in respect of khadi and village industries, for the same period, it was worth Rs. 9,682 crore. Khadi is the symbol of our nation and our freedom struggle. Since our UPA Government under the stewardship of Shrimati Sonia Gandhi is committed to the growth of rural industries, may I know from the hon. Minister what kind of further incentives our Government is going to give to improve production in khadi and village industries?

[Translation]

SHRI MAHAVIR PRASAD: Mr. Speaker, Sir, there are two aspects of this question—one is related to Khadi and other is related to Rural Industries. With regard to Khadi I am ready to accept that its production has declined in the recent past. Therefore, the Government have constituted an Expert Committee for revival of KVIC which is likely to submit the recommendation shortly. For

revival of Khadi sector when we receive the recommendation of said Committee with regard to changing old looms, mobilisation of capital, arranging raw material, marketing and quality of products and improving design we would see and act as to how we can create jobs for the people through Khadi.

[English]

SHRI ANNASAHEB M.K. PATIL: Sir, agro-industry is a base for the development of the country. As we see, in 1952, the share of the agro-based industries was to the tune of 69 per cent in our national income, but today, it has come down to 24 per cent because of no encouragement to agro-based industries or agro-based employment. I have gone through the Budget and there is not much of interest shown by the Government for the development of agro-based and rural industries.

MR. SPEAKER: Please put your question.

SHRI ANNASAHEB M.K. PATIL: Has any scheme been worked out by the Department to encourage agro-based industries for export purposes?

MR. SPEAKER: It is about exports. Have you got the information, Mr. Minister?

[Translation]

SHRI MAHAVIR PRASAD: Mr. Speaker, Sir, as honourable Member has said that there is a declining trend in it. But I have a copy of report of Reserve Bank of India with its remarks. RBI has brought out a book on our economy. On the basis of said report industrial production in India, especially during 1997-98 to 2003-04 has increased by 71.6 per cent whereas, during same period agro-based industries have recorded 114.3 per cent growth.

Our UPA Government under the leadership of hon. Manmohan Singhji and Shrimati Sonia Gandhi has been making efforts for its development.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Please listen to the Minister. He has a right to reply as you have right to question.

SHRI ANNASAHEB M.K. PATIL: The question is specifically about the exports.

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER: You let him speak please.

SHRI MAHAVIR PRASAD: The Government itself are concerned that more funds should have been spent on rural industries. I would have talks with hon. Prime Minister and hon. Finance Minister for allocating more funds under this Head so that jobs can be created in this sector.

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Actually he is having more production so that he can export.

[*Translation*]

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, through this question, the Honourable Members have expressed concern over the decline in production of Agro and Rural Industries. There are many such castes in the country who have been continuing with their ancestral business for many generations like dairy, rope making, pottery, brewing of liquor and tari, utensil making and piggery etc. Through you, I would like to ask the hon. Minister whether the Government have chalked out any programme to promote such industries and whether it is proposed to give them loan or subsidy.

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: The question is whether there is a decrease in production.

[*Translation*]

SHRI MAHAVIR PRASAD: Mr. Speaker, Sir, as honourable Member has pointed out, I would like to say that tari, liquor and other intoxicants do not come under the jurisdiction of this ministry. In addition to it, fishery and piggery also do not come under our country. We would consider the proposal made by honourable Member to promote dairy.

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Do not encourage it either.

Shri Prabhunath Singh.

Shri Prabhunath Singh, have you got any question?

Inattentive Member! I called you thrice but you did not respond. Your name is recorded.

[*Translation*]

SHRI ALOK KUMAR MEHTA: Sir, an assurance was given by the hon. Minister during the last budget session to conduct survey and to provide additional fund for development of Agro and Rural Industry in the State like Bihar. I would like to know from the honourable Minister as to what steps have been taken in this regard during the last one year.

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Does it arise out of this question? You raise it during the Budget Discussion.

[*Translation*]

SHRI ALOK KUMAR MEHTA: This assurance was not given during budget discussion but it was given during question hour.

SHRI MAHAVIR PRASAD: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I think it will be more justified to raise the issue raised by the hon'ble Member, during budget discussion.

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: You gave the appropriate answer.

[*Translation*]

Autonomy to CBI

*84. +
SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH "LALAN":
SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal is under the consideration of the Government for modernisation and technical upgradation of CBI as an investigating agency and also for giving more autonomy to it and making it accountable to the Parliament directly;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, whether the Government proposes to consider it;

(d) whether judiciary has commented on the standard of functioning of CBI during the previous years; and

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

[English]

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) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) to (c) The Central Government has been funding the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) for modernization and technical upgradation.

The CBI already has full functional autonomy under the Delhi Special Police Establishment Act, 1946 as amended by the Central Vigilance Commission Act, 2003 and has the requisite authority under the law for investigation and prosecution purposes.

The Central Vigilance Commission Act, 2003 enjoins the Commission to include in its annual report a separate part on the functioning of the CBI. This report is laid before each House of the Parliament. The CBI is accountable to Parliament as its budget is discussed by the Department-Related Parliamentary Standing Committee and voted by the Parliament.

(d) and (e) Honourable Courts make various comments from time to time, of which Government takes due cognizance.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH "LALAN": Mr. Speaker, Sir, CBI is such an institution in the country on which the people of the country trust to some extent even today, but due to political interference in its functioning, it is losing its credibility. However, the Government in its reply have admitted that action has been taken to give autonomy to CBI upto some extent through the CBI Act, 2003 but the actual position is that the Government even today are interfering in the functioning of the CBI through the Ministry of Law and Justice due to which it is losing its credibility. That's why all the important cases, such as Global Trust Bank Case, which have been taken up by the CBI till date. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: No, do not bring them here. It does not arise. You have asked about a very specific question—giving autonomy to CBI.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH "LALAN": I am talking about the autonomy to the CBI.

MR. SPEAKER: Ask the question on that only.

[English]

Do not bring in individual cases. That is not permitted here.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH "LALAN": The autonomy of CBI is being interfered through the Ministry of Law & Justice due to which it is losing the credibility of its autonomy. I would like to know from the Government. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please don't interrupt. It's no point. Please take your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will be recorded.

...*(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, leave that matter.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, let us hear the Minister.

...*(Interruptions)*

* Not recorded.

MR. SPEAKER: It seems we have forgotten what is meant by Question Hour.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You cannot interrupt.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN': I haven't mentioned the name as per your direction, but he is unnecessarily interrupting.

MR. SPEAKER: Please forget him.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, you do not have to reply to him.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN': I through you would like to know from the Government what problem they are facing in giving fully a constitutional status to the CBI and keeping it out of Government control?

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: If it's so, then what is the meaning of P.I.L. in the Supreme Court?

SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN': We are not discussing about P.I.L. in Supreme Court here.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will be recorded except the reply of the Minister.

...(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Raghunath ji, please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Everybody is making comments on others.

...(Interruptions)

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

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, please keep quiet. Let us have some order in the House.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will be recorded.

...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Any comments that are recorded should be shown to me. I will take action as per the rules.

[Translation]

SHRI SURESH PACHAURI: Hon. Mr. Speaker, Sir, the responsibility of the cases which the CBI investigated under the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988, earlier was with the Union Government under section 4 of the Delhi Police Establishment Act, 1946. But, as the hon. Member has himself admitted that according to clause (A) of the sub-section (1) of section (8) of the CVC Act, 2003.

[English]

CVC has superintendence over the functioning of CBI for offence committed under Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988,

[Translation]

Besides, the CVC has been given the right to issue directions even under clause (B) of section 8 (1) of the CVC Act, 2003.

Moreover, the hon. House has given this right also to the CVC under CVC Act, 2003 that it can review the cases of CBI from time to time and can also issue instructions. So far as the autonomy is concerned, CBI has full autonomy under the CVC Act. Only CVC has the

* Not recorded.

right to have superintendence over the cases which the CBI investigate under the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988. The Union Government have nothing to do with that.

SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN': Mr. Speaker, Sir, my question was whether the Government would give full autonomy to the CBI. What problem does the Government have in giving constitutional status to the CBI? I have got no answer for that.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: You have referred to about his accountability. He has answered that in his written submission.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN': As the hon. Minister has stated that CBI has the autonomy in certain cases under the Prevention of Corruption Act. But there are several examples, which I do not want to quote, wherein the Ministry of Law and Justice have directly interfered in the CBI investigations by giving its opinion. On the one hand, you are giving autonomy to the CBI and on the other hand having control over it through the Ministry of Law and Justice. My question is whether the Government proposes to keep the CBI out of its control by bringing complete transparency in the appointment of the officers in the legal division of the CBI?

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: You should put that question to the Law Minister.

[Translation]

SHRI SURESH PACHAURI: So far as the appointment of CBI Counsel is concerned, the appointment is made after going through a definite process and Director Prosecution appoints the CBI Counsel.
...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: He is talking about the legal cell. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: He does not need your help.

[Translation]

SHRI SURESH PACHAURI: This is not a new practice rather it is in existence since the previous regime and Vineet Narain. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Only hon. Minister's reply will go on record.

...*(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

SHRI SURESH PACHAURI: In compliance with the observation of the Supreme Court in Vineet Narain case stating that there should be a separate Directorate of Prosecution in CBI, this practice, about which the hon'ble member has just mentioned, has stated in 2002 in the NDA regime itself.

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Hon'ble Minister has stated that Union Government provides money for the modernization and technical upgradation of Central Bureau of Investigation. Through you I would like to submit that the Government provides the money, but I would like to know as to what effort the Government has made for the modernisation of the Central Bureau of Investigation. The most unfortunate aspect is that those cases, which are under consideration of the CBI or which are examined by the CBI, get excessively delayed. The Hon'ble Minister has stated that the various observations made from time to time by the Hon'ble Court are taken due cognisance of by the Government. Through you, I would like to know as to what observations the High Court and the Supreme Court have made during the last three years in connection with those cases, which have been examined by the CBI and what decision the Government has taken in this regard?

SHRI SURESH PACHAURI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, there are two parts of the question raised by the Hon'ble member. The first one is regarding the modernisation of CBI and under the allocation of funds for the same, an outlay of rupees one crore in various items has been provided by the Union Government during the year 2004-2005.

So far as the observation made by the Hon'ble Courts are concerned, I would like to clarify that no written adverse observation has been made by the Hon'ble Court

* Not recorded.

in the recent past so far, however any observation made is taken seriously and the CBI acts accordingly.

SHRIMATI KRISHNA TIRATH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to ask the hon. Minister through you as to how many proposals for modernisation and technical upgradation have been received by CBI during the last three years and how much amount is proposed to be spent on them and what type of cases are entertained by the CBI?

SHRI SURESH PACHAURI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, so far as the modernisation grant given during the last three years is concerned, I would like to state that out of rupees 32 lakh sanctioned in 2002-2003, an amount of rupees 30 lakh was spent and out of rupees one crore given in 2003-04, rupees 89 lakh were spent. Presently, the proposal is of one crore. So far as, the technical upgradation is concerned, a provision of rupees 12 lakh has been made for special units under it.

[English]

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: Sir, the question is being asked on two aspects. One is about the autonomy and the other is about making the CBI accountable to Parliament.

Part (A) of my Supplementary is this. Will the Minister clarify that there was either a law or a system or a convention, whatever might be, that a particular person having a particular position in the hierarchy cannot be prosecuted without the prior permission of the Government? Is it true? And, if it is true, will the Government dispense with it?

Part (B) of my Supplementary is that whether the Government agrees that the CBI can be made accountable to Parliament. If it is so, will the Government agree to place before Parliament, a progress report of the investigation of different cases that it has taken up? I am asking this because there are serious complaints regarding the functioning of the CBI, particularly, during the preceding six years.

SHRI SURESH PACHAURI: Sir, as far as more autonomy to the CBI is concerned, I have already mentioned that as per the CVC Act of 2003, the CVC exercises superintendence on the functioning of the CBI for offences committed under the Prevention of Corruption Act.

Regarding more autonomy to CBI, some other measures have also been ensured for the functional autonomy to CBI. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: I have asked a very pointed question.

SHRI SURESH PACHAURI: I am coming to that.

Sir, as far as more measures to ensuring functional autonomy to CBI are concerned, I would like to make it clear that the senior level appointments in the CBI are made by the High Level Selection Committee headed by the Central Vigilance Commissioner.

As far as the tenure of the Director, CBI is concerned, it is also fixed for two years.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: I am asking about the action against some persons without the permission of the Government.

MR. SPEAKER: He has asked the other part. He is replying.

SHRI SURESH PACHAURI: Sir, as far as action against some people without the permission of the Government is concerned, there are certain procedures. In relation to the Civil Services Officers, the proposal is submitted before the Ministry of Personnel and after getting the approval, the action is being taken. But during the process also, we take the opinion of the CVC and the UPSC.

Sir, as far as the accountability of the CBI to Parliament is concerned, I would like to make it clear that the CBI is administratively under the Department of Personnel. But for the purposes of budget, sanctioned posts, departmental proceedings against the CBI officials...

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: What about a progress report of the investigation? Will you place it before Parliament?

MR. SPEAKER: Just wait. Let him reply.

SHRI SURESH PACHAURI: As far as the investigation report is concerned...

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: Progress report!

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Dasgupta, just a minute. Let him reply.

SHRI SURESH PACHAURI: As far as the investigation report is concerned, we do not ask for the investigation report. We may ask for some information. But we never interfere in the working of the CBI, maybe in relation to the investigation.

As far as the annual report of the CBI is concerned, it is placed before the Departmental-Related Standing Committee of Ministry of Personnel.

But on the other hand, there is a separate part on the functioning of CBI which is covered under Section 14 of CVC Act, 2003. According to this, it includes the Annual Report, which is submitted to the Houses of Parliament as per Section 14 of CVC Act, 2003.

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, so far as the autonomy of CBI is concerned, the CBI is directly accountable to the Lok Sabha and the Hon'ble Minister has given a vague reply and he has not replied in precise terms.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: That is your view.

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: I would like to state through you that so long as the cases connected with the State Government are not recommended by the State Government, the CBI do not take them up. I would like to know whether the CBI would be given this much of autonomy that if it deems fit, it can intervene in any case and examine it. Would it be given this such of autonomy and would its right to examine continue? What is being contemplated by the Government to make CBI directly accountable to Lok Sabha?

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: You know the position—the State Governments have their rights.

[Translation]

SHRI SURESH PACHAURI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, although this supplementary question is not related to

the original question, yet I would be glad to make a reply. It is alright that normally in those cases, which are referred to the CBI for investigation, the recommendation of the State Government is required. However such cases, which are of serious nature and about which directions are given by the court, are suo motu taken up by the CBI for investigation. A conference of CBI officers had taken place a few days ago about the suggestion given by you. This point has been discussed in detail in the conference.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: You have got a very pointed answer!

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY: Sir, the CBI is a premier investigation agency in the country and people have a lot of faith in its investigation. This has credibility. Nowadays, there is an increasing demand from the people so that the CBI investigate their cases early. Here, increasingly we feel that there is an increase in its workload, which seriously jeopardises its credibility. May I know whether any step is taken by the Ministry to see that CBI is not over-burdened so that its credibility remain intact?

MR. SPEAKER: Where does this Question come to!

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY: Sir, it comes under 'modernisation and technical upgradation'.

MR. SPEAKER: Modernisation reduces workload. Mr. Minister, have you got any answer to this question?

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY: Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister what is the mechanism that it has created.

MR. SPEAKER: Okay. It is for the Minister to answer. According to me, this question does not arise from the Main Question. Would you like to answer, Mr. Minister?

SHRI SURESH PACHAURI: Yes. Mr. Speaker, Sir, so far as the modernisation and technical upgradation of CBI is concerned, we have taken appropriate steps in this direction.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: He is asking whether you are going to reduce the workload of the CBI.

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY: No, Sir. I want to know whether he has taken any steps to see that the CBI is not over-burdened by that.

MR. SPEAKER: Okay, it is the same thing.

[Translation]

SHRI SURESH PACHAURI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, so far as the workload is concerned we have periodic information for the evaluation of the performance of the CBI regarding those cases referred to CBI, and our effort is to take quick decisions thereon. I am glad to state that in 2004, the conviction rate of CBI cases was 66.33 per cent.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Question No. 85, Dr. Dhirendra Agarwal — Not Present.

Shri Mansukhbhai D. Vasava — Not Present.

Question No. 86, Shri Bachi Singh Rawat 'Bachda'.

Avian Influenza Virus

*86. SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA': Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of the report of spread of avian influenza, a (H5NI) virus from neighbouring countries to India;

(b) if so, the details thereof including mode of its transmission and its harmful effect on human and animals;

(c) the number of cases detected so far; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to check and prevent its spread in the country?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) to (d) In the wake of outbreak of avian influenza among poultry and other animals in Asian countries of Republic of Korea, Vietnam, Japan, Thailand, Cambodia, China, Laos, Indonesia and human cases in Vietnam,

Thailand and Cambodia, Government of India took adequate measures to prevent entry of Avian Influenza into India. The measures instituted are:

- Government of India alerted all State Governments/Union Territory administrations to keep a close watch on fatality among bird population, especially poultry and appearance of severe respiratory illness in the exposed human population.
- Ministry of Home Affairs, Environment & Forests, Shipping and Railways were sensitized on the issue to prevent cross border entry through poultry, poultry products and migratory birds.
- Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying had written to the Chief Secretaries and the Directors of Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Services of all the States/UTs enclosing guidelines for prevention and spread of the disease in poultry and proforma for reporting the disease.
- A ban was also enforced on import of poultry and poultry related products from all countries affected with bird flu outbreak.
- A Joint Monitoring Group under the Chairmanship of Director General of Health Services consisting members from Indian Council of Medical Research, National Institute of Communicable Diseases, World Health Organization and Department of Animal Husbandry is monitoring the situation and advising appropriate actions to the Government.
- National Institute of Communicable Diseases, Delhi, has been identified as nodal agency to investigate any suspected cases/outbreak among human population and the laboratories under Indian Council of Medical Research are kept in readiness.

Because of the proactive steps taken by the Government, there is no spread of Avian Influenza from neighbouring countries into India. No case has been reported in India either in humans or birds. Government of India is in a state of preparedness to treat and contain the disease if it has to appear in human population.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: It is not going on record. Q. No. 86 is being replied. No cross talks, please.

...(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA': Hon'ble Mr. Speaker, Sir, the reply given by the Hon'ble Minister. ... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: We are functioning very well today. Questions are put and answers are given. Everybody is attentive. Let us follow today's example. Even Prof. Malhotra has not disturbed us before the Question Hour. He may do it afterwards.

[Translation]

SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA': Mr. Speaker, Sir, the reply given by the Hon'ble Minister in respect of my question is not satisfactory. In reality, the news of Avian Influenza in our neighbouring countries. ... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: A very important question on health is being asked.

[Translation]

SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA': The outbreak of a new Avian Influenza disease there, is certainly going to affect our country taking into account such a huge population. I would like to know from the Government, as to what preventive or remedial measures it has taken to prevent the disease and what preparation, the Government has done to prevent its recurrence in future?

[English]

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: Sir, the Government is concerned about the outbreak of avian influenza in neighbouring countries of Vietnam and Thailand and the preventive measures our Government has taken are clearly given in the written answer. The Government has taken a number of steps. For example, it has written to all the State Governments to check and report any death

of these birds and other related birds, like the ducks and migratory birds. Of course, the Department of Animal Husbandry has written to us and we are surveying all these issues of outbreak in the country. H5 N1 virus could be transmitted through the birds to human beings. Till date we have not got any information about transmission from one human to another human. So, we are closely monitoring and looking into it. DGHS, WHO and all other Government machinery are closely monitoring the situation in the country.

[Translation]

SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA': Mr. Speaker, Sir, Avian Influenza is a sort of communicable disease. In our country, the people are usually victim of malnutrition so far as health is concerned and they are not looked after properly. I would like to know whether the Government propose to set up a separate cell in the Ministry of Health for the communicable diseases of the same nature of constitute a task force for taking immediate action in this regard.

[English]

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: Sir, this question does not arise out of malnutrition.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Member is asking generally about the contagious diseases.

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: A number of steps have been taken. We have a number of communicable and non-communicable diseases. We have numerous national programmes on these communicable and non-communicable diseases. WHO has warned us to take action against the avian influenza virus. We are looking at the issue and monitoring it closely.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Rail Accidents

*41. SHRI SANTASRI CHATTERJEE:
SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPAN:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

* Not recorded.

(a) the details of train accidents taking place, including at railway level crossings, since December, 2004 till date, alongwith the causes of each accident, accident-wise;

(b) the loss of railway properties and number of persons killed/injured alongwith the compensation paid to the victims/their family, accident-wise;

(c) the details of inquiry ordered into each accident, their findings and the action taken against the officials found guilty;

(d) the steps taken/to be taken by the Government to man the unmanned level crossings and to reduce the rail accidents there;

(e) whether the Government is also considering the proposal to close the unmanned level crossings in view of the direction given by the Hon'ble Supreme Court thereon; and

(f) if so, the progress made in this regard so far alongwith the alternative arrangements worked out by the Government therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) There have been 41 consequential train accidents during the period December, 2004 to January 2005. Type wise and cause wise details of these accidents along with number of persons killed/injured, ex-gratia/compensation paid to the victims/their families and loss of railway property, are given below:-

Cause of Accidents	Collisions	Derailments	Manned level crossing accidents	Unmanned level crossing accidents	Fire in trains	Total
Railway staff failure	4	20	1	—	—	25
Other than railway staff failure	—	—	—	9	1	10
Equipment failure	—	2	—	—	—	2
Sabotage	—	1	—	—	—	1
Incidental	—	2	—	—	—	2
Under Investigation	—	1	—	—	—	1
Total	4	26	1	9	1	41
Casualty						
Killed	38	—	1	14	—	53
Injured	46	4	—	11	—	61
Inquiry						
CRS Inquiry	1	1	—	1	—	3
Departmental Inquiry	3	25	1	8	1	38
Cost of damage (in Rs.)	21910000	27726502	1000	44240	319858	50001600
Ex-gratia (in Rs.)	4780000	—	—	—	—	4780000
Compensation* (in Rs.)	4525000	—	—	—	—	4525000

(All figures are provisional)

*Some cases are under process with Railway Claims Tribunal.

(c) Each and every train accident is inquired into either by a Joint Committee of Railway Officers or by the Commissioner of Railway Safety depending upon the seriousness of the accident and action as warranted is taken against the officials who are found guilty. Out of the above 41 consequential train accidents, 3 are under inquiry by the Commissioner of Railway Safety and the remaining 38 by departmental inquiry committees, out of which 33 have been finalized. Action against the responsible officials will be taken up as warranted by the findings. Details of individual accident cases are given in the enclosed Statement.

(d) Railways have framed a criteria based on traffic volume passing through level crossing and, visibility condition for road/rail users for manning of unmanned level crossing in a programmed basis, depending upon the availability of funds and resources. In the last three years, from 2001-02 to 2003-04, 531 unmanned level crossings have been manned. 211 unmanned level crossings have been programmed for manning in the current year 2004-05.

(e) Hon'ble Supreme Court has yet to give its judgment in the matter.

(f) Does not arise.

Statement

Consequential Train Accidents during December 2004 to January 2005

S.No.	Date of accident	Type of accident	Train(s)	Locations	Division	Brief Particulars	Inquiry	Findings	Action taken
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1	06.12.2004	Derailment	5315 Exp.	Idgah Station	Agra	1 coach next to train engine derailed	Departmental	Failure of railway staff	DAR action initiated.
	08.12.2004	Unmanned	262 Pass.	Akkahabbalu-Mandgere	Mysore	1 moped dashed against the train engine	Departmental	Failure of other than railway staff	FIR lodged against road users.
3	09.12.2004	Collision	Yard Pilot & 2392 Exp.	Varanasi Station	Lucknow	Yard Pilot collided with 2392 Exp.	Departmental	Failure of railway staff	DAR action initiated.
4	10.12.2004	Derailment	KVL-8 Goods	Dabpal-Gidam	Waltair	Rear most 4 wagons derailed	Departmental	Failure of railway staff	DAR action initiated.
5	12.12.2004	Derailment	183 Pass	Chauth ke Barwara Station	Jaipur	1 coach derailed	Departmental	Failure of railway staff	DAR action initiated.
	12.12.2004	Derailment	1 SHB Pass.	Malot-Paldi	Ambala	2 coaches derailed	Departmental	Incidental	Nil
7	13.12.2004	Derailment	Up Massamari Goods	Udaiguri-Rawta Bagan	Rangia	10 wagons derailed	Departmental	Failure of railway staff	DAR action initiated.
8	13.12.2004	Derailment	JSM-BNDM Goods	Shri Bhadritya Lathi - Odiana Chacha	Jodhpur	1 wagon derailed	Departmental	Failure of railway staff	DAR action initiated.
9	14.12.2004	Collision	9112 Dn & 1 JMP pass	Bhangala-Mirthal	Ferozpur	9112 Exp. Collided with 1 JMP Pass	Commissioner of Railway Safety	Failure of railway staff	DAR action initiated.
10.	15.12.2004	Unmanned level crossing	6124 Up Exp.	Mundiambakkam - Vikravandi	Madras	1 Tempo dashed against the train	Departmental	Failure of other than railway staff	FIR lodged
11.	18.12.2004	Unmanned level crossing	246 Up pass	Sidhwalia-Dighwa Dubauli	Varanasi	1 Tractor dashed against the train	Departmental	Failure of other than railway staff	FIR lodged

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
12.	18.12.2004	Unmanned level crossing	3246 Dn. Exp.	Gauchai-Partha	Sonepur	1 Tempo dished against the train	Departmental	Failure of other than railway staff	FIR lodged
13.	21.12.2004	Unmanned level crossing	6 SD Pass.	Kashimpur-Baraut	Delhi	1 Bullock cart dished against train	Departmental	Failure of other than railway staff	FIR lodged
14.	21.12.2004	Derailment	UP HGN Goods	Malkaid Road-Chittapur	Secunderabad	9 wagons derailed	Departmental	Failure of railway staff	DAR action initiated
15.	21.12.2004	Derailment	Dn Tilagarh Goods	Bandel Station	Howrah	2 wagons derailed	Departmental	Failure of railway staff	Awaited
16.	25.12.2004	Derailment	UP OGL Goods	Hoehangabad	Bhopal	3 wagons derailed	Departmental	Equipment Failure	Awaited
17.	25.12.2004	Fire	527 Up Pass.	Dheena-Sakaldaha	Danapur	1 coach caught fire	Departmental	Failure of other than railway staff	Awaited
18.	25.12.2004	Derailment	DDL 23185 Goods	Sonnagar Station	Mughalsara	3 wagons derailed	Departmental	Failure of railway staff	DAR action initiated
19.	27.12.2004	Derailment	9112 Exp.	Manakser-Harumengarh	Bikaner	1 coach derailed	Departmental	Failure of railway staff	DAR action initiated
20.	02.01.2005	Derailment	Up RNC Goods	Punchpilla-Bajrang Garh	Ratlam	5 wagons derailed	Departmental	Equipment Failure	Awaited
21.	04.01.2005	Derailment	579 Up Pass.	Gonakhpur Station	Lucknow	Train engine derailed	Departmental	Failure of railway staff	DAR action initiated
22.	05.01.2005	Derailment	9024 Exp.	Kharwar-Sampla	Delhi	1 coach derailed	Departmental	Incidental	Nil
23.	09.01.2005	Unmanned level crossing	2424 Exp.	Dhoopuri-Koligaram	Alipurduar	1 Truck dished against the train	Departmental	Failure of other than railway staff	FIR lodged
24.	10.01.2005	Collision	Diesel light engine & 2137 Up Mail	Bhatinda Station	Ambala	Diesel light engine collided with 2137 Up mail	Departmental	Failure of railway staff	DAR action initiated
25.	12.01.2005	Derailment	8225 Exp.	Nagpur Station	Nagpur	2 coaches derailed	Departmental	Failure of railway staff	DAR action initiated
26.	12.01.2005	Unmanned level crossing	102 Dn Pass.	Shamsabad-Kaimgarj	Izzatnagar	1 Jeep dished against the train	Departmental	Failure of other than railway staff	FIR lodged
27.	12.01.2005	Unmanned level crossing	9031 Exp.	Adipur-Anjar	Ahmedabad	1 scooter dished against the train	Departmental	Failure of other than railway staff	FIR lodged
28.	15.01.2005	Derailment	Dn MUG Goods	Mohd Khers-Shujalpur	Ratlam	5 wagons derailed	Departmental	Failure of railway staff	DAR action initiated
29.	16.01.2005	Manned level crossing	4853 Exp.	Rudeul-Rauzagan	Lucknow	1 tractor dished against the train	Departmental	Failure of railway staff	DAR action initiated
30.	17.01.2005	Derailment	4265 Exp.	Haridwar Station	Moradabad	1 coach derailed	Departmental	Failure of railway staff	Awaited

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
31.	17.01.2005	Deraiment	2 BNM Pass.	Mandla Fort-Nainpur	Nagpur	Train engine derailed	Departmental	Failure of railway staff	DAR action initiated
32.	20.01.2005	Deraiment	406 Pss.	Khongsara-Bhanwar Tank	Bilaspur	Train engine derailed	Departmental	Failure of railway staff	DAR action initiated
33.	21.01.2005	Unmanned level crossing	002 Mixed Pass.	Chilthil Road-Rankube	Mumbai Central	1 tractor dished against the train	Commissioner of Railway Safety	Failure of other than railway staff	FIR lodged
34.	23.01.2005	Deraiment	Up Harduaganj Goods	Manchar Ganj Station	Alahabad	7 wagons derailed	Departmental	Failure of railway staff	DAR action initiated
35.	24.01.2005	Deraiment	5621 Exp.	Tirath-Barauni	Sonapur	6 coaches derailed	Commissioner of Railway Safety	Awaited	Awaited
36.	24.01.2005	Deraiment	8238 Exp.	Nagpur Station	Nagpur	Train engine derailed	Departmental	Failure of railway staff	DAR action initiated
37.	26.01.2005	Collision	2 light engines	Delhi Area	Delhi	Light engine collided with light engine ahead	Departmental	Failure of railway staff	Awaited
38.	27.01.2005	Deraiment	1063 Exp.	Palri Station	Solapur	Train engine derailed	Departmental	Sabotage*	Awaited
39.	30.01.2005	Deraiment	Works train	Monghyr Station	Maldia Town	3 coaches derailed	Departmental	Failure of railway staff	Awaited
40.	30.01.2005	Deraiment	8915 Exp.	Mehsana-Ahmedabad	Ahmedabad	Train engine & 2 coaches	Departmental	Failure of railway staff	DAR action initiated
41.	31.01.2005	Deraiment	VZP Goods	Gopalsainam Station	Wakair	3 wagons derailed	Departmental	Failure of railway staff	DAR action initiated

*Prime-facie findings.
All figures are provisional.

Banerjee Committee Report on Godhra Fire Incident

*42. SHRIMATI C.S. SUJATHA:
SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a High Level Committee under the Chairmanship of Justice (retd.) U.C. Banerjee, constituted to inquire into the incident of fire on Sabarmati Express at Godhra station, has submitted its interim report to the Government;

(b) if so, the facts and details of recommendations made therein;

(c) the names of persons and railway officials found guilty for the incident;

(d) whether the present report is contrary to previous reports submitted to the Government by different investigating agencies;

(e) if so, the main differences between these reports;

(f) whether the Government has taken any meaningful initiative in order to ensure impartial problem to put an end to paradox arising out of probe report of Banerjee Committee and Nanavati Commission;

(g) if so, the details thereof; and

(h) the final view taken/proposed to be taken by the Government on the Banerjee Committee report?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Conclusions and observations of the interim report are as under:—

- (i) The fire on Sabarmati Express on 27th February, 2002 cannot but be ascribed to be an accidental fire which engulfed the coir, the foam and the latex available on berths coupled with the luggage of the passengers causing thereby the smell of burning and thereafter dense smoke culminating into leaping flames and not a deliberate attempted event.
- (ii) There has been a preponderance of evidence that the fire in coach No. S6 originated in the coach itself without any external input.
- (iii) The question of any miscreant activity does not and cannot arise.
- (iv) All is not well with Railway Safety as they should be in their approach in order to avoid any further untoward incident like the present one.
- (v) There has been failure on the part of the Commission of Railway Safety and Railway Administration to conduct a statutory inquiry into this accident.
- (vi) The response of Godhra Fire Brigade was not satisfactory.
- (vii) Failure of Government Railway Police has also been adversely commented.
- (viii) Role of Railway Administration has been adversely commented for:—
 - (a) Not making any concerted efforts to preserve clues of the incidents.
 - (b) Not giving due importance to this railway accident as this was considered to be a miscreant activity by Railway Administration without any inquiry.
 - (c) Discrepancies in record keeping.
 - (d) Not following up the specified practices at the time of railway accident like certification of track and coach fitness.
 - (e) Failure of Railway Protection Force (RPF).

(c) No individual has been found guilty for the incident.

(d) and (e) No other inquiry report from any other investigating agency has been submitted to the question of contradiction does not arise.

(f) Nanavati Commission appointed by Government of Gujarat is yet to submit its report. There is, therefore, no question of any paradox.

(g) Question does not arise.

(h) No final view in this matter can be taken as this is an interim report.

Crash of Aircraft

*43. SHRI TAPIR GAO:
PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of fighter aircraft and helicopters crashed from November, 2004 onwards till date, date-wise and place-wise;

(b) the loss of lives and properties as a result thereof;

(c) the amount of compensation paid to the deceased family/affected civilians;

(d) whether each accident has been investigated;

(e) if so, the outcome thereof;

(f) whether any inbuilt technical fault has been found in MiG-21 aircraft; and

(g) if so, the reasons for not phasing out MiG-21 aircraft?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (g) The Defence Forces have lost four fighter aircraft and three helicopters in the crashes since 1st November, 2004. The date and place-wise details are as follows:—

	Date	Service	Place	Type of aircraft
1.	1.11.2004	Air Force	Nal (Rajasthan)	MiG-21 (Fighter)
2.	5.11.2004	Air Force	Bareilly (Uttar Pradesh)	MiG-27 (Fighter)
3.	9.11.2004	Air Force	Gwalior (Madhya Pradesh)	Mirage-2000 (Fighter)
4.	30.12.2004	Air Force	Bagdogra (West Bengal)	Cheetah (Helicopter)
5.	4.1.2005	Air Force	Nal (Rajasthan)	MiG-21 (Fighter)
6.	1.2.2005	Air Force	Jamnagar (Gujarat)	Chetak (Helicopter)
7.	18.2.2005	Army	Siachen (Jammu & Kashmir)	Cheetah (Helicopter)

The Defence Forces have lost one pilot in the accident at Gwalior that took place on 9th November, 2004. However, there was no casualty/damage either to any civilian or any civilian property in any of these accidents.

A sum of Rupees Five Lakhs has already been sanctioned as Ex-Gratia to the family of the deceased Indian Air Force (IAF) pilot. Other compensation/benefits are being processed as per existing rules.

Each aircraft accident in the Defence Forces is investigated through a Court of Inquiry. Of these seven accidents, two were due to Human Error, while in the remaining five cases the Court of Inquiry is still under progress.

All accidents, including those involving MiG-21 aircraft, have been investigated thoroughly. However, no in-built technical fault has been found. Therefore, the question of premature phasing out of this aircraft from the IAF fighter inventory does not arise, at present. However, MiG-21 aircraft will be phased out in a planned manner by the year 2017.

Steps to Minimise Impact of Rising Crude Prices

*44. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA:
SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has taken any steps to minimise the impact of rising international crude prices on domestic oil prices;

(b) if so, the details of steps taken to ensure stability of petrol and diesel prices in the country;

(c) whether any action has been taken to modify present duty structure on oil;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government is also considering long-term supply contract with Oil producing countries; and

(f) if so, the steps taken in this regard so far?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (d) Government have taken a number of fiscal measures to contain the impact of unprecedented rise and volatility of increase in international prices since late 2003/early 2004, distressingly escalated since mid-2004. Effective 16.6.2004, excise duties on petrol, diesel and domestic LPG were reduced by 4%, 3% and 8% respectively. Later, effective 19.8.2004, the excise duties on petrol, diesel and PDS Kerosene were reduced by 3%, 3% and 4% respectively. Also, customs duties on petrol, diesel, PDS Kerosene and Domestic LPG were reduced by 5% each. In the Budget 2005-06, the following changes have *inter alia*, been announced effective 1.3.2005:

Customs Duties

— Reduction in customs duty on crude from 10% to 5%.

— Reduction in customs duty on domestic LPG and PDS Kerosene from 5% to nil.

- Reduction in customs duty on other petroleum products were from 15%-20% to 10%.

Excise Duties

- Reduction in excise duty on Domestic LPG from 8% to nil and on PDS Kerosene from 12% to nil.

In addition to these fiscal measures, the following administrative measures have been taken:

- (i) PDS kerosene and domestic LPG are subsidized products. In addition to Government subsidy, public sector oil marketing companies (OMCs) have been sharing the burden by not passing the full increase in the international prices in the domestic consumer prices of these products. Under-recoveries on this account are estimated around Rs. 18,00 crore in the current fiscal year, 2004-05.
- (ii) There has been no increase in the price of PDS kerosene since April 2002; Diesel and LPG prices have been frozen since midnight of 4/5 November 2004; and of petrol since midnight of 14/15 November 2004.

(e) and (f) The Government does not contract oil supplies. The oil companies enter into crude oil supply contracts with the companies of the oil producing countries. The terms of such contracts, including the duration, are finalized on commercial considerations. Within the framework of overall Government policy in this regard, the bulk of our oil imports are effected under long-term supply contracts.

Setting up of Regulator for Aviation Sector

*45. SHRI RAJESH VERMA:
SHRI HARIBHAU RATHOD:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is considering setting up a separate regulator for the Aviation Sector;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the main role of the proposed Regulatory Authority; and

- (d) the time by which it is likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (c) Government is considering to set up Airport Economic Regulatory Authority. The proposed regulator is *inter-aha* expected to deal with tariff and service standard at airports.

(d) The setting up of the Regulatory Authority will require an enabling legislation which is likely to be introduced in the Parliament shortly.

Permission to foreign Broadcasters for Uplinking from India

*46. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL:
SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has permitted foreign broadcasters to uplink TV Channels from India;

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

(c) the names of the companies which have been granted such permission and the channels operated by them with the type of the contents of each channel;

(d) whether there are reports that some companies are bypassing the procedures and guidelines;

(e) if so, action taken by the Government against these companies;

(f) whether Industry has requested the Government to relax guidelines and follow Foreign Institutional Investments (FII) in new channels; and

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

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) to (e) A company with 100% foreign equity is eligible to seek permission to uplink a Non-News & Current Affairs Channel, whereas in the case of News Channels, only Foreign Direct Investment is allowed up to 26% of the Paid Up equity. The Government has, so far, permitted 15 Indian companies

to uplink 55 channels, with varying percentages of foreign equity, the details of which are given in the enclosed Statement.

As per existing uplinking policy, non-News & Current Affairs TV channels are permitted to uplink from India, irrespective of their ownership, equity structure or management control. This is subject to fulfilment of eligibility criteria and adherence to various terms and conditions including, programme and advertisement codes prescribed under the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995.

For News & Current Affairs TV channels, the eligibility criteria require, *inter-alia*, that: (i) Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in the applicant company shall not exceed 26% of the paid-up Equity; provided the equity held by the largest Indian shareholder is at least 51% of the paid up equity excluding the equity held by Public Sector Banks and Public Financial Institutions as defined in Section 4A of the Companies Act, 1956; (ii) At least 3/4th of the Directors on the Board of Directors and all key Executives and Editorial Staff shall be resident Indians; (iii) the

representation on the Board shall as far as possible be proportionate to the shareholding; (iv) CEO of the applicant company and/or Head of the channel shall be a resident Indian; (v) The companies are required, to adhere to the programme and advertisement codes.

The complete uplinking guidelines for private TV channels are available on this Ministry's website (<http://www.mib.nic.in>)

The permission to uplink TV Channels is granted to a company, after scrutinizing its application in terms of eligibility criteria, including foreign investment norms. As of now, it is not mandatory for channels, which are viewed in India, to be uplinked from India. A number of companies running News & Current Affairs Channels currently do not conform to eligibility criteria and have been given permission to ensure compliance to the equity norms by 31st March 2005.

(f) Yes, Sir.

(g) The matter is currently under examination.

Statement

Name of Company	Channels having News Content	Channels not having News Content
1	2	3
1. ATN International Ltd.		Ahimssa
2. Broadcast Worldwide Ltd.	Tara Bangla	Tara Marathi Tara Punjabi Tara Gujarati
3. Coxwain Technologies		Sursangeet SS Music
4. Intelelevision Ltd.		Num TV Splash TV
5. Jain Studios Ltd.	Jain TV	
6. Jeevan Telecasting Corp Ltd.	Jeevan TV	
7. MCCS Ltd.	Star News	
8. New Delhi TV Ltd.	NDTV 24x7 NDTV India NDTV Profit	

	1	2	3
9.	Sky (B) Bangla Pvt. Ltd.	Akash B	
10.	Sri Adhikari Bros. TV. N/W Ltd.	SABe TV	
11.	Softline Broadcasting Pvt. Ltd.		Sadhna
12.	Tanu Health Care Ltd.		Care TV
13.	Television Eighteen India Ltd.	CNBC) TV18	
14.	TV Today Network Ltd.	Aaj Tak Delhi Aaj Tak Headlines Today Mumbai Aaj Tak	
15.	Zee Telefilms Ltd.	Alpha Bangla Alpha Bharati Alpha Gujarati Alpha Kaveri Alpha Kriehna Alpha Marathi Alpha Punjabi Zee News	Aapka Action Cinema Alpha Punjabi UK Bhajan Classic Cinema Commedy TV Delhi TV Golden Cinema Jagran Khoj TV Mansi Premiere Cinema Zee Cinema Zee Cinema UK Zee International Zee Music Zee Music UK Zee Sports Zee TV Zee TV SE Asia Zee TV South Africa Zee TV UK Zee TV USA

Financial Assistance under 'An Integrated Programme for Street Children'

*47. SHRI B. VINOD KUMAR: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the financial assistance allocated and released to different States/UTs, local bodies, educational institutions and the Voluntary Organisations/NGOs under the 'An Integrated Programme for street children' during each of the last three years and the current year, State/Union Territory-wise and VO/NGO-wise;

(b) the actual amount utilized under the scheme during the said period;

(c) the number of street children rehabilitated under the programme during the said period, State/Union Territory-wise;

(d) whether any performance appraisal/evaluation of the programme had been carried out to improve its functioning; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MEIRA KUMAR): (a) and (b) Under the Scheme "An Integrated Programme for Street Children", financial assistance is not allocated State/ Union Territory-wise and NGO-wise. The amount released to each State depends upon the number of complete proposals received, receipt of utilization certificates and the Budget Provision. However, the total amount allocated and released under the Scheme is as under:

(Rs. in crore)

Year	Budget Estimates	Amount released
2001-02	10.80	8.06
2002-03	11.00	11.00
	(Revised Estimates)	
2003-04	9.90	9.90
2004-05	12.55	9.04

The details of assistance released during the last three years and the current year, State/Union Territory-wise and NGO-wise are given in the enclosed statement-I. The actual amount utilized by most NGOs is same as the amount released to them during a particular year. In cases where unspent balance is left at the end of year, the same is adjusted in the assistance released during the next financial year.

(c) The details of number of children benefited under the scheme by way of facilities such as shelter, nutrition, health care, education, vocational training, recreation and in some cases, restoration to families or referral to long term institutional care are given in the enclosed statement-II. In addition to the above beneficiaries, a large number of children have benefited by way of the Childline service which is also being assisted under the Scheme. Childline is a 24-hour toll-free telephone service which can be accessed by a child in distress or an adult on his behalf.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. All the projects being assisted by the Ministry are inspected annually. The funds are released to the organisations only after the inspection reports are found satisfactory. An "evaluation of welfare programmes for street children in Delhi and Uttar Pradesh" was also conducted in 2003-04 for the Ministry by "The Organisation for Applied Socio-Economic Systems (The Oases Society)", New Delhi. The broad findings of the study are as under:

- (i) There is need for allocating additional money for better nutrition for children.
- (ii) There is a need for training and orientation of staff running these projects as well as sensitization of police personnel on child rights.
- (iii) There is need for concerted efforts to check children joining the ranks of street children through poverty alleviation programmes, women empowerment and increased health-care and education facilities.

*Statement I**Financial Assistance Released to different NGOs under the scheme 'An Integrated Programme for Street Children' State/Union Territory-wise*

Sl. No.	Name of the State/ Union Territory	Name and address of the Organization	Name of Project	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05 (till 28th February)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	Navjeevan Bala Bhavan, Poomanandampet, Vijayawada-520003	Street Children	0	14.39	11.5	0
2.	Andhra Pradesh	SKCV Childrens Trust, Santosh Bhavan, Opp. Press Club, Gandhinagar, Vijayawada-520003	Street Children	0	14.03	6.43	0
3.	Andhra Pradesh	Urban and Rural Development Society, India (URDES), 1-9-1113/30/1/C, Street No. 6, Dayanandanagar, Vidyanagar, Hyderabad-520044	Street Children and Childline	0	6.63	0	0
4.	Andhra Pradesh	Society for Integrated Development in Urban and Rural Area, (SIDUR) 144/2 RT, Vijay Nagar Colony, Hyderabad-500057	Street Children and Childline	0.64	3.1	5.99	1.61
5.	Andhra Pradesh	Golconda Urban and Rural Area Development Society (GUARDS), H.No. 6-6-410/B, Behind Pragya Tools Ltd., Gandhinagar, Secunderabad-500090	Street Children	6.58	4.34	4.46	4.5
6.	Andhra Pradesh	Jagruthi Educational & Community Development Society, 1-1-16-12-A/D (Plot No. 384) Jawahar Nagar, Chikkadpally, Hyderabad	Street Children	4.48	4.5	5.83	4.93
7.	Andhra Pradesh	Karuna Society, H.No. 13-6-826/30 Babu Nagar, Mehdiapatnam. Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh	Street Children	0	0.84	0.84	2.98
8.	Andhra Pradesh	Kothapet Mahila Mandali, Pothuraju Chowk, Kothapet, Guntur-522001	Street Children	13	8.37	8.37	8.37
9.	Andhra Pradesh	Sri Venkateswar Mahila Mandali, D.No.-5-8-11/3, 2/7, Prodiapet, Guntur-522002	Street Children	13.65	7.2	7.48	7.48
10.	Andhra Pradesh	Urban and Rural Development Mission, Munnangi Brahma Reddy Bhawan, Opposite Rotary Community Hall, Narasaraopet Road, Chilkakaluript, Guntur, Andhra Pradesh-522616	Street Children	0	17.5	8.96	8.96
11.	Andhra Pradesh	Ushodaya Yuvajana Samkashema Sangham, 4th Lane, Gunturivari Thota, Guntur, Andhra Pradesh	Street Children	0	1.48	2.97	2.97
12.	Andhra Pradesh	Nimala Hrudaya Seva Sansthan Phirangipuram, Guntur, Andhra Pradesh	Street Children	0.93	3.7	2.52	1.29

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
13.	Andhra Pradesh	Star Mahila Mandali, HN. 5-2-295, Rahimpura Street, Village & Post-Koratta Karim Nagar, Andhra Pradesh	Street Children	0	1.24	1.49	2.98
14.	Andhra Pradesh	Nav Bharatha Educational Society KVS Colony, Kothapet Dhone, Kumool, Andhra Pradesh	Street Children	0.73	2.82	2.89	3.73
15.	Andhra Pradesh	Dakshina Bharata Rural Development Society, Kammavari Palem, Nadigama Mandal, Krishna District	Street Children	1	3.97	2.89	3
16.	Andhra Pradesh	Himagiri Rural Development Society, D.No. 7/1-A, Ganika Palem, Ranastalam Mandalam Srikakulam, Andhra Pradesh-532407	Street Children	1	3.98	4.09	6.13
17.	Andhra Pradesh	Viveka Educational Foundation, PAMUR, Prakasham District, Andhra Pradesh	Street Children	0.75	0	5.94	1.5
18.	Andhra Pradesh	Navodaya Seva Sangam, H.No. 107, Netaji Road, Jadchirala, Distt. Mahabubnagar	Street Children	0	2.79	3	2.99
19.	Andhra Pradesh	Child Foundation of India, Plot No. 120, 39-5-30, Murali Nagar, Visakhapatnam-530007	Street Children	8.35	7.01	5.61	4.1
20.	Andhra Pradesh	Visakha Rural Development Society, 1-4-14, Gandhinagar, Vishakhapatnam	Street Children	12.3	6.07	6.86	3.6
21.	Andhra Pradesh	Sewa Bank, D. No. 49-11-4, Lalitha Nagar, Vishakhapatnam-530007	Street Children	6.77	5.07	4.21	4.21
22.	Andhra Pradesh	City Educational Society H.No. 32-41-19 Revenue Colony, Vijaywada	Street Children	0.74	2.97	2.97	3
23.	Andhra Pradesh	Priyadarshini Service Organisation, D.No. 45-56-9, Saligramapuram, Visakhapatnam	Street Children	2.59	4.5	4.48	4.48
24.	Andhra Pradesh	Nagesh Village Development Sanstha, 2nd Metro Building, KN Road, Tadepalligudam, West Godavari, Andhra Pradesh	Street Children	0	0.75	2.87	2.93
25.	Andhra Pradesh	Sree Krishnadevaraya Yuvajana Sangham Dommaranandyala, Lakshmi Narsimha Nagar, Cuddapah, Andhra Pradesh	Street Children	0.25	2.98	2.61	2.83
26.	Andhra Pradesh	B.R. Satya Naryana, Orphanage Thapovanam Chittoor, Andhra Pradesh	Street Children	0	0.74	2.94	2.97
27.	Andhra Pradesh	Divya Disha, Flat No. 21, Meghna Mana, Old Lancer Lane, Secunderabad-500028	Child Line Project	0	8.9	0	4.86
28.	Andhra Pradesh	NALSAR University of Law, 3-4-761 Barkatpura, Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh	Child line Project	0	1.46	0	0

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
29.	Andhra Pradesh	Confederation of Voluntary Association, H.No. 20-4-10, Near Bus Stand Charminar Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh	Child Line Project	0	0	0.53	0
30.	Andhra Pradesh	Deptt. of Social Work, Andhra University, Visakhapatnam	Child Line	1.82	1.1	0.81	0.57
31.	Andhra Pradesh	Priyadarsini Service Organisation, Visakhapatnam	Child Line	5.05	6.12	2.16	4.32
32.	Andhra Pradesh	Forum for Child Rights, Vijayawada Total (Rupees in Lakhs) Andhra Pradesh	Child Line	5.45 86.08	4.96 154.45	2.86 124.56	3.72 105.01
33.	Assam	Indian Council for Child Welfare, G.N. Bordoloi Road, Ambari, New Government Emporium, Guwahati-781001	Street Children and Childline	11.3	10.67	10.65	8.22
34.	Assam	Sadua Asom Gramya Puthibharal Samth Telia Patty, Chanmari Road, PO Halbar Goan, District Nagaon, Assam	Street Children	0	1.23	0	2.46
35.	Assam	Salesian Sisters of North-Eastern India, Provincial House, St. Mary's Convent Maligaon, Guwahati, Assam	Street Children	0	0	1	0
36.	Assam	Gram Vikas Parishad, Rangilo PO Jumamura, District Nagaon, Assam	Street Children	0	0.75	0	4.26
37.	Assam	National Institute of Public Cooperation & Child Development, North Eastern Regional Centre, Jawahar Nagar, PO-Khanpara, Guwahati, Assam Total (Rupees in Lakh) Assam	Child Line Project	0.96 12.26	0.38 13.03	0 11.65	1.63 16.57
38.	Bihar	Lal Bahadur Shastri Gramin Vikas Pratisthan, F-41, People's Cooperative Colony, Near Water Tower, Kankarbagh, Patna, Bihar	Street Children	0	1	0	0
39.	Bihar	Bal Sakha, Janta Rest House Patna-800001, Bihar Total (Rupees in Lakh) Bihar	Child Line	4.74 4.74	2.43 3.43	5.01 5.01	6.2 6.2
40.	Gujarat	Disha Darshan Seva Trust, 89, Purnkunji, Society, Part-I, Meghaninagar, Ahmedabad-380016	Street Children	5.06	7.91	0	9.45
41.	Gujarat	Andh Apang Kalyan Kendra, Jantanagar Road, Ghatlodia, Ahmedabad	Street Children	3.58	9.6	5.89	5.94
42.	Gujarat	Akhand Jyot Foundation, Fatehpura Gam, B/H Police Chowky, Fatehpura, Paldi, Ahmedabad-380007	Street Children	8.64	4.32	9.75	0

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
43.	Gujarat	K.H. Jani Charitable Trust, E-11, New Girdharpark, Opp C.N. High School, Ambewadi, Ahmedabad-380006	Street Children	5.85	14.53	4.5	0
44.	Gujarat	Indian Council for Social Welfare, Municipal Bal Bhavan, Paldi, Ahmedabad-380007	Street Children	4.5	3.53	7.95	0
45.	Gujarat	Rachnatmak Abhigam Trust, "Hardik" Prema Park Society, Opposite L.G. Hospital, Maninagar, Ahmedabad-380008	Street Children	4.5	8.01	9	0
46.	Gujarat	Patani Sheri Seva Sangh, 1453, Pragati Chowk, Near Gayakwad Haveli, Raikhad, Ahmedabad	Street Children	4.5	16.02	7.63	0
47.	Gujarat	Aayush Foundation, D/4, Panchvati Apartments, At Panchvati Cross Char rasta, Elish Bridge, Ambewadi, Gujarat, Pin 380006	Street Children	0.74	2.97	1.49	0
48.	Gujarat	Dr. Bhim Rao, Charitable Trust, B.R. general Hospital Last Bus Stop Kalapinagar, Ahmedabad	Street Children	0	0.75	0	1.24
49.	Gujarat	Baroda Citizens Council, Above Health Museum Sayajibaug, Baroda-380018	Street Children and Childline	8.52	8.27	13.66	5.8
50.	Gujarat	Vikas Jyot Trust, Nagarwada Chor Rasta, Behind Bharat Floor Mill, Vadodara-390001	Street Children	6.14	4.37	12.49	0
51.	Gujarat	Shishu Mliap, 1, Shrihari Apartments, Behind Express Hotel, Alkapuri, Baroda-380007	Street Children	3.32	3.32	0	0
52.	Gujarat	Sahyog Charitable Trust, C/14-15, Bhagyoday Complex, Garwa Refinery Road, Vadodara-390016	Street Children	7.39	0	20.91	8.74
53.	Gujarat	Sri Purjit Memorial Trust 2/5, Prakash Society Opp. Nirmala Convent School, Rajkot-360001	Street Children	4.67	7.98	13.55	9.33
54.	Gujarat	Navasarjan Xavier Cell for Human Development, Near R.T.O., Ring Road, Surat-395001	Street Children	3.73	2.14	6.83	1.84
55.	Gujarat	Deptt. of Social Work, M.D. Samaj Seva Mahavidyalaya, Usmanpur	Child Line	1.89	0.84	1.12	0
56.	Gujarat	Ahmedabad Study Action Group, Kashmira Chamber Behind Popular House, Navrangpura, Ahmedabad	Child Line Project	2.49	4.64	3.57	1.95
57.	Gujarat	Faculty of Social Work, M.S. University, Fatehganj, Baroda	Child Line	1.82	1.15	1.16	0.58
58.	Gujarat	Sarswatam, P.O. Box No. 07, Mandi, Kutch, Gujarat-370485	Child Line	0.44	0	0	0

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
59.	Gujarat	Jenapath, 1338, Khijdewalo Vas Mithakali Gam Ahmedabad, Gujarat	Child Line	0	1.51	1.08	0
		Total (Rupees in Lakh) Gujarat		77.78	101.86	120.58	44.87
60.	Goa	Goa Salesian Society, Don Bosco High School, Panaji-403001	Child Line	2.04	3.97	0	6.42
61.	Goa	Nirmala Education Society, Nirmala Niwas, Altinho, Panaji, Goa	Child Line	1.82	1.09	1.1	0.56
62.	Goa	Vikalp, P.B. 345, Margoa	Child Line Project	0.26	0.72	0.42	0.29
		Total (Rupees in Lakh) Goa		4.12	5.78	1.52	7.27
63.	Haryana	Akhil Bhartiya Swami Agyandeo Samaj Uthan Samiti, Rohtak, Haryana	Street Children	0.25	0	0	0
		Total (Rupees in Lakh) Haryana		0.25	0	0	0
64.	Jammu & Kashmir	Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam Welfare Society, Neha Ghar, Kachhi Chawni Jammu (Tawi)-180001	Street Children	5.96	3.61	2.23	0
		Total (Rupees in Lakh) Jammu & Kashmir		5.96	3.61	2.23	0
65.	Jharkhand	Chhotanagpur Sanskritik Sangh, Joganath Nagar Dhruwa, Ranchi-834004	Child Line	0.07	0	0.96	0.27
66.	Jharkhand	SAMADHAN, 2K/91 Bariatu Housing Colony, Ranchi, Jharkhand	Child Line	0	0.41	0.58	0.29
67.	Jharkhand	Xavier Institute of Social Service PB No. 07 Punulia Road, Ranchi, Jharkhand	Child Line Project	0	1.48	0.94	1
68.	Jharkhand	Young Men's Christian Association, Johanriessen building, Old H.B. Road, Ranchi, Jharkhand	Child Line	0	0.87	0.99	3.94
		Total (Rupees in Lakh) Jharkhand		0.07	2.76	3.47	5.5
69.	Karnataka	Young Men's Christian Association, (YMCA) 66 Infantry Road, Bangalore-560001	Street Children	6.94	6.71	7.69	12.84
70.	Karnataka	Mythri Sarva Seva Samithi, No. 373, Hundred Feet Road, HAL 2nd Stage Indiranagar, Bangalore	Street Children	0	0.71	0	0
71.	Karnataka	Baswa Karya Samiti, Kotgyol, Post Nittur (V) Taluqa-Bhalki, District Bidar, Karnataka	Street Children	0	1.25	2.72	1.49
72.	Karnataka	Sri Maitri Mahila Mandali, Sri Maitri Association, Sugar Factory Road, Doddabathi Post, Davengere Distt.	Street Children	8.98	8.98	8.98	8.98

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
73.	Karnataka	Sri Sheldhi Association, Guttur, Harihar, Davengere Distt.	Street Children	8.98	8.33	7.83	8.98
74.	Karnataka	Annapurana Association, Chintamani Nagar, Harihar, Davengere, Karnataka	Street Children	0	2.45	2.72	2.98
75.	Karnataka	Sharda Niketan, Sharda Niketan Road, Roopa Nagar, M.K. Hally, Mysore, Karnataka	Street Children	0	0.75	0	0
76.	Karnataka	Sri Surabee Mahila Mandali, Shimoga, Karnataka	Street Children	0	0	0	1.88
77.	Karnataka	Young Mens Christian Association, Mangalore	Child Line Project	3.57	3.37	1.79	3.78
78.	Karnataka	School of Social Work, Mangalore, Karnataka	Child Line Project	1.42	0.98	1.01	0.51
79.	Karnataka	National Institute of Mental Health and Neuro Sciences, Post Box No. 2900 Hasur Road, Bangalore, Karnataka	Child Line Project	0	0.87	0.59	0
80.	Karnataka	Bangalore Oniyavara Seva Coota, Bosco Yuvodaya, 91-B 8th Cross Gandhinagar Bangalore, Karnataka	Child Line Project	0	1.55	4.19	1.96
81.	Karnataka	Association for promotion of Social Action, NAMMANE Vimanpura, Bangalore, Karnataka	Child Line Project	0	1.55	0	4.38
		Total (Rupees in Lakh) Karnataka		29.89	37.5	37.52	47.74
82.	Kerala	Association for Welfare of Handicapped, P.B. No. 59, 17/194-A, M. Square Complex, Pavamani Road, Calicut-673001	Street Children and Childline	7.68	3.93	14.45	12.57
83.	Kerala	Farook College, P.O. Farook College, Kozhykode, Kerala	Child Line	0	0.68	1.01	1.58
84.	Kerala	Loyola Extension Services Sreekariyam, Thiruvananthapuram-695017	Child Line Project	1.58	1.14	1.16	0
85.	Kerala	Trivandrum Don Bosco Veedu Society, Trivandrum	Child Line	3.88	4.32	2.16	4.32
86.	Kerala	Trivandrum Social Service Samiti, Trivandrum	Child Line	0.22	0.73	0.19	0.35
87.	Kerala	Rajgiri College of Social Sciences, Kalamasori, Cochin	Child Line	1.82	1.12	0.58	1.17
88.	Kerala	Don Bosco Sneh Bhavan, Polluruthi, Cochin	Child Line	5.09	3.7	2.09	6.4
89.	Kerala	St. Christina-Holy Angles Home, Pullazhy, Trissur, Kerala	Child Line	0	0.87	3.75	3.76

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
90.	Kerala	Vimala College, Vimala Community Extension Centre, Engineering College, P.O., Trissur, Kerala	Child Line Project	0	0.69	0.51	1.07
91.	Kerala	Hilda Trust, PB No. 9 Mysore Road, Sulthan Bathery, Wayanad, Kerala	Child Line	0	0.69	0.5	1.5
92.	Kerala	JVALA, Manded Kaipetia, North Wayanad, Kerala	Child Line	0	0	1.1	1.88
		Total (Rupees in Lakh) Kerala		20.25	17.87	27.5	34.6
93.	Madhya Pradesh	Seva Bharati 'AARADHAN' Sadarpura, Ujjain, M.P.	Street Children	0	1.38	3.08	0
94.	Madhya Pradesh	Seva Bharati, Madhya Bharat, Matru Chhaya Swami Ramirth Nagar Opposite Malka Mill, Hosangabad Road, Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh	Street Children	0	0.06	0.57	0
95.	Madhya Pradesh	AARAMBH, Education and Community Development Society, Corporate Office: 53-C, Indrapuri (BHEL), Bhopal-462021 Reg. Office: 184, Bharat Nagar (BHEL), Bhopal-462021	Child Line Project	3.18	3.78	2.01	4.08
96.	Madhya Pradesh	The Bhopal School of Social Sciences, Habibganj, Bhopal-462024	Child Line Project	1.14	1.11	0.61	1.14
97.	Madhya Pradesh	Arushi Society, 96-9A, Saket Nagar, Bopal, MP	Child Line	0	0.1	0	0
98.	Madhya Pradesh	Lok Biradari Trust, Indore	Child Line Project	5.05	4.24	1.78	5.42
99.	Madhya Pradesh	Indore School of Social Work, 14 Old Sihore Road, Indore	Child Line	1.83	0.99	0.52	0
		Total (Rupees in Lakh) Madhya Pradesh		11.2	11.66	8.57	10.64
100.	Maharashtra	Salaam Balaak Trust, PT Welfare Centre Asha Sedan, Marg Umar Khadi, Mumbai	Street Children	5.87	4.5	9	8.95
101.	Maharashtra	Society Undertaking for Poor People's onus for Rehabilitation (SUPPORT), Old BMC Office, 2nd Floor, Vakola Market, Nehru Road, Santacruz (East), Mumbai-400055	Street Children	1.8	0.9	1.31	0
102.	Maharashtra	The Vatsalya Foundation, King George V-Memorial, Dr. Moses Road, Mumbai-400011	Street Children	5.51	5.19	3.69	9.19
103.	Maharashtra	Tata Institute of Social Service (TISS), PB No. 8313, Sion-Trombay Road, Deonar, Mumbai-400088	Street Children	0	2.42	0	0
104.	Maharashtra	Child Line India Foundation, Nana Chowk, Municipal, 2nd Floor School, Ferere Bridge, Near Grant Road Station, Mumbai	Inspection of SC Projects	2.64	2.61	0	0

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
105.	Maharashtra	Apang Va Niradhar Bahuddeshiya Kalyankari Sanstha, Zingabadi Tokali Road, Nagpur-440030	Street Children	12.32	20.12	11.54	16.41
106.	Maharashtra	Sandhi Niketan, Shikshan Sanstha, Wadgaon, Taluqa Mukhed, Nanded, Maharashtra	Street Children	0	1.24	0	0
107.	Maharashtra	Khatun Minority Women's Social Welfare & Education Society, 534 MHB Colony, Malegaon, Nasik, Maharashtra	Street Children	0.74	0	0	0
108.	Maharashtra	SNEHALAYA, Infront of Chitra Cinema, Near Municipal School, No. 14, Ahmednagar, Maharashtra	Child Line Project	0	0	1.1	1.83
109.	Maharashtra	Akalkot Education Society, New Palace Compound, Akalkot, Maharashtra	Child Line Project	0	0.87	3.81	1.58
110.	Maharashtra	Apulki Samaj Sewa Sanstha Aurangabad, Maharashtra	Child Line	0	0	2.04	0
111.	Maharashtra	Walchand College of Arts & Sciences, Walchand Hirachand Marg, Ashok Chowk, Solapur, Maharashtra	Child Line Project	0	0.68	0	1.05
112.	Maharashtra	Media Matters, 40C Sai Section, Ambemath Kalyan, Maharashtra	Child Line	0	0.68	0	1.21
113.	Maharashtra	AAMRAE, Devki Singh Kishwai, Room No. 8, Golibar, Behind Adarsh Aptt., Santacruz (E), Mumbai-400055	Child Line Project	7.29	4.79	0	0
114.	Maharashtra	AASARA, Near Praful Nakhwa Chawl, Chandani Kowada, Thane (East)-400603	Child Line Project	0.74	0.35	0.74	0.78
115.	Maharashtra	Childline India Foundation (Childline Central Development and Support Cell) Nana Chowk Municipal School 2nd floor, Frere Bridge Low level, Nana Chowk, Near Grant Road Station, Mumbai-400007	Child Line Project	11.03	79.03	34.39	27.6
116.	Maharashtra	Hamara Club, C/o Tata Institute of Social Services, Post Box No. 8313, Sion-Trombay Road, Deonar, Mumbai-400088	Child Line Project	0.39	0.39	0.78	0.39
117.	Maharashtra	PRERANA, C/o Priti Patkar Kamathipina Municipal School, 7th Lane, Sukhlagi Street, Kamathipara, Mumbai-400008	Child Line Project	0.39	0.74	0	3.29
118.	Maharashtra	Youth for Unity and Voluntary Action, Field Office: 52/53 Near Park Municipal School, Opp. Nare Park Ground, Mumbai-400012	Child Line Project	5.4	4.9	2.74	5.48

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
119.	Maharashtra	Balprafuta, St. Dominic Savio School, Mahakali Caves Road, Andheri (East), Mumbai-400093	Child Line Project	5.14	5.43	0	5.4
120.	Maharashtra	AASARA, Near Praful Nakhawa Chawl, Chandani Kowada Thane (East)-400603	Child Line Project	0	1.42	3.66	2.08
121.	Maharashtra	Bapuji Bahujan Samaj Kalyan, Bahuddeshya Sansthan, Shriniketan Apartments 5, Nargundkar Layout, Khamla Road-440015	Child Line Project	0.29	0.87	0.29	0.54
122.	Maharashtra	Indian Social Service Unit of Education (ISSUE), 138, Misal Layout, Nara Road, PO Jalpetaka, Nagpur-440014	Child Line Project	0.26	0	1.13	0.29
123.	Maharashtra	Matru Seva Sangh Institute of Social Work, West High Court Road, Baraj Nagar, Nagpur-440010	Child Line Project	1.84	0.45	0.57	1.47
124.	Maharashtra	Vardeen, Indian Association for Promotion of Adoption, C/o Lata Mangeskar Hospital, YMCA Complex, Maharajbag Road, Sitabuldi, Nagpur-440001	Child Line Project	0.5	0.75	0	0.54
125.	Maharashtra	Karve Institute of Social Service, 18 Hillside Kama Nagar, Pune	Child Line	1.95	0.51	0.73	0.37
126.	Maharashtra	Dnyanawirdhi Dwara Desh Vikas, Bombay Road, Pune	Child Line	5.3	3.15	1.78	3.69
127.	Maharashtra	Navjeevan World Peace and Research Foundation, Nasik, Maharashtra	Childline Project	0	0	0	1.5
		Total (Rupees in Lakh) Maharashtra		69.4	141.99	79.28	93.64
128.	Manipur	Social Development & Rehabilitation Council, (SDRC) Phouden, Mamang Lekai, BPO Phouden, Thouble, Manipur PIN 795138	Street Children	0	0.74	2.23	2.97
129.	Manipur	Manipur Voluntary Health Association, Wangkhei Ningthem, Pukhari Mapan, Imphal	Child Line Project	0	2.03	1.37	5.64
130.	Manipur	Manipur Mahila Kalyan Samiti, D.M. Road, Dewlahand, Imphal	Child Line	0	0.18	0.15	0.23
131.	Manipur	Department of Anthropology, Manipur University Canchipur, Manipur	Child Line Project	0	0	1	0.34
		Total (Rupees in Lakh) Manipur		0	2.95	4.75	9.18
132.	Meghalaya	Impluse NGO Network, Lower Luchumiere Near Horse Sgoe Building, Shillong	Street Children and Childline	0.41	0	0.4	2.66

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
133.	Meghalaya	Bosco Reach Out, Don Bosco Technical School Shillong	Child Line	1.88	3.68	1.78	5.41
134.	Meghalaya	St Mary's College Bosco Reach Out, Don Bosco, Technical School, Laitum Khrah, Shillong	Child Line Project	0	1	0	0
		Total (Rupees in Lakh) Meghalaya		2.29	4.66	2.18	8.07
135.	Orissa	Ruchika Social Service, Organisation, G-8, Ganga Nagar Unit IV, Bhubaneswar-751001	Street Children and Childline	7.39	8.04	8.6	13.97
136.	Orissa	Basundhara, Basundhara Nagar, Abhinava Bidanasi, Cuttack-751001	Child Line	3.66	0	5.42	7.33
137.	Orissa	Rural and Urban Socio-Cultural, Help (RUSH), Upper Nua Sahi, Puri-752001	Child Line Project	3.74	3.75	3.76	1.88
138.	Orissa	State Institute of Educational Technology, PO Sainik School, Bhubaneswar, Orissa	Child Line Project	0	0.68	0	0
139.	Orissa	Open Learning Systems, Plot No. G-3/A/1, Gadakana Mouza, Near Press Chhak, PO: Mancheswar Railway Colony Bhubaneswar, Orissa	Childline Project	0.75	1.02	1.01	0.51
		Total (Rupees in Lakh) Orissa		15.54	13.49	18.79	23.69
140.	Punjab	Guru Nanak Charitable Trust, Gurnat Bhavan, Mullanpur Mandi, Distt. Ludhiana-141001	Street Children	6.18	6.03	5.94	3.09
141.	Punjab	Gramin Vikas Kalyan Society, Near Kundan Cinema, Azimgarh, Abohar, Distt. Ferozepur	Street Children	17.1	7.94	8.34	9
		Total (Rupees in Lakh) Punjab		23.28	13.97	14.28	12.09
142.	Rajasthan	India Institute of Data Interpretation and Analysis (I-India) 1, Lakshmi Path, Hatroi, Jaipur-302006	Street Children and Childline	17.27	15.56	15.21	9.82
143.	Rajasthan	Jan Kala Sahitya Manch Sansthan, F-70, Shankar Marg, Kanti Chandra Marg, Bani Park, Jaipur-302006	Street Children and Childline	14.92	12.2	11.38	5.4
144.	Rajasthan	Adivasi Sanskritik Sewa Sansthan E-32 Saraswati Nagar, Opposite sector-06, Malviya Nagar, Jaipur, Rajasthan	Street Children	0	0.5	0	0
145.	Rajasthan	Nav Disha Vikas Samiti, Alwar	Child Line Project	4.53	1.75	0	0
146.	Rajasthan	VIHAAN, Society for Child Development & Education in Rajasthan, 262, Muktanand Nagar, Opp. Amamath Hospital, Gopalpura Mode, Tonk Road, Jaipur-302018	Child Line Project	0.46	0.22	0	0.54

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
147.	Rajasthan	Seva Mandir Old Fatehpura Udaipur, Rajasthan	Child Line	0	2.22	3.26	3.71
148.	Rajasthan	Udaipur School of Social Work, Vidhya Path, Pratap Nagar, Udaipur, Rajasthan	Child Line Project	0	1.05	0.92	0.85
		Total (Rupees in Lakh) Rajasthan		37.18	33.5	30.77	20.32
149.	Tamil Nadu	Indian Council for Child Welfare, No. 5, 3rd Main Road West Shenoy Nagar, Chennai-600030	Street Children and Childline	1.49	19.82	15	10.51
150.	Tamil Nadu	Mazzarello Marielaya Magair Naivazhvu Meiyam Social Service Society, 29, Pedanar Koli Street, Chennai-600001	Street Children	8.4	8.76	7.54	8.79
151.	Tamil Nadu	Asha Nivas Social Service Centre, 9, Rutland Gate, V Street, Chennai-600008	Street Children	8.06	11.23	12.32	8.78
152.	Tamil Nadu	Asian Youth Centre, L-8, 26th Street, Anna Nagar East, Chennai-600102	Street Children and Childline	3.22	4.57	7.4	8.01
153.	Tamil Nadu	Nesakkam-Street Elfins Education and Development Society (SEEDS), 6, First Cross Street, Lake Area Nungambakkam, Chennai-600034	Street Children	0	0	7.79	2.16
154.	Tamil Nadu	Don Bosco Anbu Ilam Social Service Society, 16, Malayappan Street Mannady, Chennai	Street Children and Childline	13.72	10.41	13.27	12.67
155.	Tamil Nadu	Chennai Mahabodhy Society, 2/145, Railway Station Road, Kavaripattai, Chennai, Tamil Nadu	Street Children	0	1.25	0	0
156.	Tamil Nadu	Don Bosco Anbu Ilam Social Service Society, P.A. G.M. Nagar, Post Box No. 40, Bypass Road, Ukkadam, Coimbatore-641001	Street Children	12.58	11.26	15.64	8.78
157.	Tamil Nadu	Tiruchirapalli Multipurpose Social Service Society, Tiruchirapalli, Tamil Nadu	Street Children	0.74	0	2.97	2.52
158.	Tamil Nadu	Directorate of Social Defence Campur, 153, Purasawakkam High Road, Kollys, Chennai-600010	Child Line Project	1.32	1.38	1.38	0.69
159.	Tamil Nadu	Guild of Service (Central) Sewa Samejan Boys Home No. 1, Kamarair Street, Dusrathapuram, Saigramam, Chennai	Child Line Project	0	0.05	0.39	0
160.	Tamil Nadu	New Hope Area Development Programme, 14, Shanmuguram Street, Purasawakkam, Chennai-600007	Child Line Project	0.81	0.67	0.63	0.32

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
161.	Tamil Nadu	Families for Children, 107, Vellore Road, Podanur, Coimbatore-641023	Child Line	0.57	0.27	0.27	0.29
162.	Tamil Nadu	Don Bosco Anbu Ilam Social Service Society, 230, Bretts Road Mulluvadi Gate Salem, Tamil Nadu	Child Line Project	0	3.29	1.61	3.41
163.	Tamil Nadu	Young Women's Christian Association, 76 A Cherry Road, Hasthamputti, Salem, Tamil Nadu	Child Line Project	0	1.34	0	0.94
164.	Tamil Nadu	Madurai Institute of Social Science, 9 Allagarkoil Road, Madurai, Tamil Nadu	Child Line Project	0	1.44	0.55	0
165.	Tamil Nadu	Grace Kennette Hospital, 34 Kennette Road, Madurai, Tamil Nadu	Child Line Project	0	3.65	2.16	6.44
166.	Tamil Nadu	Sisters of the Cross Society for Education Development, Post Box No. 395, Teppakulam, Post, Trichy	Child Line Project	1.89	3.62	1.88	3.75
167.	Tamil Nadu	Bishop Herber College, Vayaloor Road, Tiruchirapalli, Tamil Nadu	Child Line	0.96	0.97	0	1.46
168.	Tamil Nadu	The Tirunelveli Social Service Society, 2A St. Mark's Street, PB No. 108 Palayam Kottari Tirunelveli, Tamil Nadu	Child Line Project	0	0	1.85	3.45
		Total (Rupees in Lakh) Tamil Nadu		53.76	83.98	92.65	78.83
169.	Tripura	ARK Science & Social Organization Jogendranagar, Agartala-799010	Street Children	5.44	3	3	1.5
170.	Tripura	Vivekanandan Yuba Mahamandal Bridge Chowmuhani, Bishalgarh, Tripura	Street Children	0.25	0	0	0
171.	Tripura	Voluntary Health Association of Tripura, Circuit House Area, PO Kunjaban, Agartala, Tripura	Child Line Project	0	0	0.95	1.88
		Total (Rupees in Lakh) Tripura		5.69	3	3.95	3.38
172.	Uttar Pradesh	Sarodaya Viklang Seva Sansthan, 23 Station Road, Haridwar, Uttaranchal	Street Children	0	1.5	0	0
173.	Uttar Pradesh	Gramothan Jan Sewa Sansthan, 82 B/4, Asulabad, Allahabad	Street Children	9	9	9	13.5
174.	Uttar Pradesh	Saheed Memorial Society, E-1698 Rajajipuram, Lucknow-226017	Street Children	13.31	13.1	13.5	4.66
175.	Uttar Pradesh	Uttar Pradesh Council for Child Welfare, 2, Rana Pratap Marg, Moti Mahal, Lucknow	Street Children	8.39	0	19.96	8.45

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
176.	Uttar Pradesh	St. Mary Intercontinental Child & Women Welfare Orgn. of India, C-228 Talkatora Avas Vikas Colony, Rajajipuram, Lucknow-226017	Street Children	12.11	13.06	13.5	2.81
177.	Uttar Pradesh	Samaj Seva Sansthan, 414, 238, Sarai Mall Khan Chowk, Lucknow	Street Children	8.5	8.5	8.5	11.51
178.	Uttar Pradesh	Social and Economic Institution, Gaurav C-2116, Indira Nagar, Lucknow-226016	Street Children	0	15.28	7.99	3.7
179.	Uttar Pradesh	New Public School Samiti, 504/21-D, Tagore Marg, Daliganj, Lucknow	Street Children	4.1	4.01	2.05	1.42
180.	Uttar Pradesh	Bhartiya Anusuchit Jati Janjati Vikas Samiti 105, Narayan Puri, Krishna Nagar, Lucknow, UP	Street Children	0	0.75	0	0
181.	Uttar Pradesh	Sarvajanik Shikshonayan Sansthan, Village & Post-Allipur, Dist. Hardoi	Street Children	12.51	8.72	8.73	4.37
182.	Uttar Pradesh	Diocesan Development & Welfare Society, Bishop's House 32, Thronhill Road, Allahabad	Child Line Project	0	3.84	1.86	5.57
183.	Uttar Pradesh	Shri Shanti Vikas Seva Sansthan, Vill. & Post Girid Boargaon, Dist. Sant Ravidas Nagar	Child Line Project	0.26	0	0.66	0
184.	Uttar Pradesh	Dr. Shambhunath Singh Research Foundation, C 14/160, B-2, Sonia Dr. Shambhunath Singh Marg, Varanasi	Child Line Project	4.36	4.2	2.01	0
185.	Uttar Pradesh	Janmitra Nyas, SA-4/2A, Daulatpura, Varanasi	Child Line	0.49	0.51	0.28	0.83
186.	Uttar Pradesh	Gandhi Adhyayan Peeth, Mahatma Gandhi Kashi Vidyapith, Varanasi	Child Line	0	0.57	1.15	1.14
187.	Uttar Pradesh	Gramyanchal Sewa Samiti, S-1/131B, Narainpur, Shivpur, Varanasi-221003	Child Line Project	0.07	0.58	0	0.83
188.	Uttar Pradesh	Ankur Yuva Chetna, Shiver, Lucknow	Child Line Project	5.09	3.91	0	0
189.	Uttar Pradesh	National Institute of Public Cooperation & Child Development, Regional Centre, Gudamba Kursi Road, Lucknow	Child Line Project	1	0.87	0	0.52
190.	Uttar Pradesh	Human Unity Movement (HUM), A-28/2, 'Madhukuri' Indira Nagar, Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh	Child Line Project	0	0.27	0.48	0
		Total (Rupees in Lakh) Uttar Pradesh		79.19	88.67	89.09	59.31
191.	West Bengal	Women's Co-ordinating Council, 5/1, Red Cross Place, Calcutta-700082	Street Children	0	20.09	8.29	8.3

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
192.	West Bengal	Children's Right Development Service B-25, Aurobindo Park, PO-Purbapuriary, Calcutta-700096	Street Children	9	9	0	0
193.	West Bengal	Centre for Social Development, 68 Barrack Road, Barrackpore, 24-Parganas (North)-700032	Street Children	5.99	8.53	8.25	8.14
194.	West Bengal	Humanity Association, 34-A, Sashibhusan De Street, Calcutta-700012	Street Children	4.03	11.37	3.84	12.09
195.	West Bengal	Ramakrishna Vivekananda Mission, Rajgarah House, 7, Riverside Road, Barrackpore, 24-Parganas (North)	Street Children	8.82	8.12	3.1	11.48
196.	West Bengal	Institute of Psychological and Educational Research (IPER), 27, Circus Avenue, Calcutta-700017	Street Children and Childline	13.03	7.49	18.07	14.19
197.	West Bengal	Liberal Association for Movement of People (LAMP), 66, Surya Sen Street, Calcutta-700009	Street Children	6.28	19.48	13.5	13.5
198.	West Bengal	Bengal Mass Education Society, 99/F, Bidhan Sarani, Calcutta-70004	Street Children	8.51	9.45	9.45	9.45
199.	West Bengal	Forum of Communities United in Service (FOCUS), 6, Tiljala Road, Calcutta-700046	Street Children	9.31	10.16	10.4	10.41
200.	West Bengal	Bikash Bharati Welfare Society, 20/1B, Lal Bazar Street, Calcutta-700001	Street Children	7.92	8.98	8.98	4.49
201.	West Bengal	Tiljala Shed, 6 C Rifle Range Road, Calcutta	Street Children	1.74	7.6	8.17	8.18
202.	West Bengal	Vivekananda Education Society, 13/3, Kalicharan Dutta Road, Calcutta-700061	Street Children	7.92	7.02	7.39	8.07
203.	West Bengal	West Bengal Council for Child Welfare, Ramesh Mitra Road, Calcutta	Street Children	27.16	21.9	24.21	24.21
204.	West Bengal	Song of Unity and Liberty (SOUL) 5/3, Gope Lane, Calcutta	Street Children	6.66	16.32	13.32	13.32
205.	West Bengal	Janasiksha Prothar Kendra, 57-B, College Street, Calcutta-700073	Street Children	16.75	15.04	10.84	5.44
206.	West Bengal	United Bustee Development Association, 6/1A, Delhi Seampur Road Calcutta-700014	Street Children	9.85	6.96	6.95	6.95
207.	West Bengal	Society for Educational & Environmental Development (SEED), 150, G.T. Road, South, Howrah-711102	Street Children and Childline	7.77	9.27	0.39	16.93

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
208.	West Bengal	People's Union for Development & Reconstruction (PUDAR) 30/3-A, N.S. Dutt Road, Howrah-711101	Street Children	9.37	9.84	9.79	9.81
209.	West Bengal	Harijan Sevak Sangh, 97/3 Naskar Para Road, Ghurun, Howrah	Street Children	1.06	3.39	2.89	2.94
210.	West Bengal	Gana Unnayan Parshad (GUP), 10, Gomesh Lane, Calcutta-700014	Street Children	13.38	8.93	4.47	8.94
211.	West Bengal	Prantik Jana Vikash Samity, EC-163, Salt lake City, Calcutta-700064	Street Children	8.21	8.35	4.48	8.94
212.	West Bengal	Calcutta Social Project, 172/3, Rash Behari Avenue, P.O. Rash Behari, Calcutta-700029	Street Children	2.56	8.31	6.41	5.7
213.	West Bengal	West Bengal Scheduled Castes Tribes & Minority Welfare, 90A/1B Suren Sarkar Road, Kolkata, West Bengal	Street Children	0	7.3	17.74	8.65
214.	West Bengal	Usthi Foundation, India, P-125, Metropolitan Cooperative Housing Society, Sector-A, P.O. Dhapa, 24-Parganas (South)-743506	Street Children	3.57	0	0	0
215.	West Bengal	Bustee Local Committee and Social Welfare Centre, 82-A, Dr. Sudhir Basu Road, Calcutta-700023	Child Line Project	0.79	0.39	0.77	0
216.	West Bengal	CINI Asha, 63, Rafi Ahmed Kidwai Road, Calcutta-700016	Child Line	4.3	5.14	5.14	2.6
217.	West Bengal	City level Programme of Action and Working Children Calcutta Municipal Corporation Building (1st Floor), 5, S.N. Banerjee Road, Calcutta-700013	Child Line Project	1.24	1.39	1.36	0.68
218.	West Bengal	Don Bosco Ashalayam, 158/18, Billious Road, Howrah	Child Line	3.14	4.97	2.55	5.11
219.	West Bengal	Loreto Day School, Sealdah 122, Acharya Jagdish Chandra Bose Road, Calcutta-700014	Child Line Project	0.36	1.07	0.77	0.78
220.	West Bengal	School of Women's Studies, Jadhevpur University, 24th Parganas, West Bengal	Child Line Project	0	0.68	1	0.43
221.	West Bengal	Child in Need Institute, Village-Daulatpur, PO Pailan, Via-Joka, 24th Parganas (S), West Bengal	Child Line Project	0	0	0.95	1.86
222.	West Bengal	Sreema Mahila Samity, Village & Post Duttapullia Nadia, West Bengal	Child Line	0	0.86	3.75	3.68
223.	West Bengal	Prabhudha Bharati Shishuirtha, Ashutosh Bhawan, Krishnapriya, Midnapore	Child Line Project	0	0.87	3.74	1.86

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
224.	West Bengal	Vivekananda Lokshiksha Niketan, Village-Faridpur, PO Kaksin, Purba Medinipur, West Bengal	Child Line Project	0	0	1.1	3.68
225.	West Bengal	Sabuj Sangha, Purabepua, Natunpalli, Sonarpur, West Bengal	Child Line	0	0.86	1.87	3.54
226.	West Bengal	Universal Progressive Study and Cultural Forum, Alipurduar Court, District, Jalpaiguri, West Bengal	Childline Project	0	0	0	1.42
227.	West Bengal	Centre for Human Rights Research Studies, 37/1, Lal Mohan Ghosh Road (Near Bus Stand), P.O. Krishnagar, District-Nadia, West Bengal	Childline Project	0	0	0	0.14
228.	West Bengal	Karimpur Social Welfare Society, Tarakdas Road, P.O. Karimpur, District-Nadia, West Bengal	Childline Project	0	0	0	0.14
		Total (Rupees in Lakh) West Bengal		196.69	259.13	223.93	245.85
229.	Chandigarh	Youth Technical Training Centre Society (YTTS), Room No. 13, Karuna Sadan, Sector-11B, Chandigarh-160011	Street Children	0	0	16.37	4.5
230.	Chandigarh	Post Graduate Institute of Medical Education Research, D/o Pediatrics, Advance Pediatric Centre, Sector 12, Chandigarh-160	Child Line Project	1.15	0	3.47	4.16
231.	Chandigarh	Institute of Development & Communication, S.C. O. 1128/7 (1st Floor), Sector-22B, Chandigarh-16022	Child Line Project	0.73	0	0	0
		Total (Rupees in Lakh) Chandigarh		1.88	0	19.84	8.66
232.	Delhi	Seva Bharati, Keshav Seva Kendra, Kalander Colony, Dilshad Vihar, Delhi-110095	Street Children	1.58	6.57	2.41	0
233.	Delhi	Salaam Baalak Trust, A-12/5, Vasant Vihar, New Delhi-110057	Street Children and Childline	17.8	23.67	15.8	18
234.	Delhi	PRAYAS F-I-X, DDA Flats, Near Jahangirpuri Police Station, Jahangirpuri, Delhi-110033	Street Children and Childline	26.52	33.57	16.06	18.34
235.	Delhi	Bal Sahyog, Connaught Circus, New Delhi	Street Children	0	11.79	5.77	4.14
236.	Delhi	Indian Council for Child Welfare, 4, Deen Dayal Upadhyay Marg, New Delhi-110002	Street Children	0	3.47	9.48	0
237.	Delhi	Association for Social Health and Rehabilitative Action by Youths (Ashray), Busti Vikas Kendra Tagore Road, Kamla Market, New Delhi	Street Children	1.13	0	2.46	0

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
238.	Delhi	Don Bosco Ashalayam, Opp. Pump House No. 3, Old Najafgarh Road, Palam Gaon, Delhi-110045	Street Children and Childline	6.16	11.22	6.78	7.44
239.	Delhi	Bhartiya Parivardhan Sanstha, D. Basti Vikas Kendra, Nand Nagri Delhi-43	Street Children	0	0.74	3.71	4.19
240.	Delhi	BUTTERFLIES Mailing address: U-4, FF, Green Park, Extn. New Delhi-110016 Regd. Office: C/o Prabhatara Mohammadpur, R.K. Puram, New Delhi-110066	Child Line Project	7	5.31	2.74	5
241.	Delhi	Delhi Brotherhood Society, 7, Court Lane, Delhi-110054	Child Line	5.42	5.27	2.67	5.29
Total (Rupees in Lakh) Delhi				65.61	101.61	67.88	62.4
Grand Total (Rupees in Crore)				8.06	11.00	9.90	9.04

Statement II

No. of Street children benefited/rehabilitated under 'An Integrated Programme for Street Children' State-wise/Union Territory-wise

Sl. No.	Name of the State/ Union Territory	2001-02 No. of street children benefited/ rehabilitated	2002-03 No. of street children benefited/ rehabilitated	2003-04 No. of street children benefited/ rehabilitated	2004-05 (till 28th February, 2005) No. of street children benefited/ rehabilitated
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	2580	5040	6200	5800
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0	0	0	0
3.	Assam	280	600	700	464
4.	Bihar	0	0	0	0
5.	Chhattisgarh	0	0	0	0
6.	Goa	0	0	0	0
7.	Gujarat	3682	7132	5764	2006
8.	Haryana	100	0	0	0
9.	Himachal Pradesh	0	0	0	0

1	2	3	4	5	6
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	300	300	300	0
11.	Jharkhand	0	0	0	0
12.	Karnataka	900	1200	1700	2100
13.	Kerala	221	0	600	300
14.	Madhya Pradesh	0	200	300	0
15.	Maharashtra	1360	1960	2220	2060
16.	Manipur	0	0	200	200
17.	Meghalaya	100	0	0	66
18.	Mizoram	0	0	0	0
19.	Nagaland	0	0	0	0
20.	Orissa	300	300	600	600
21.	Punjab	550	550	1100	850
22.	Rajasthan	800	900	1600	800
23.	Sikkim	0	0	0	0
24.	Tamil Nadu	1300	2500	3403	3041
25.	Tripura	300	100	200	100
26.	Uttar Pradesh	2500	2850	5250	3187
27.	Uttaranchal	0	0	0	0
28.	West Bengal	7389	10675	9793	15285
29.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	0	0	0	0
30.	Chandigarh	0	0	600	300
31.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	0	0	0	0
32.	Daman & Diu	0	0	0	0
33.	Delhi	1530	2788	3026	2200
34.	Lakshadweep	0	0	0	0
35.	Pondicherry	0	0	0	0
Total		24472	37195	43556	39359

*[Translation]***Obscene Programmes on TV**

*48. SHRIMATI KARUNA SHUKLA:
SHRI V.K. THUMMAR:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 360 dated August 19, 2004 regarding violence and obscenity in DD programmes and state:

(a) whether there is an increase of obscenity and violence being shown on the TV programmes/ advertisements by various Indian and foreign channels in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government is taking any steps to stop the programmes which are being shown through uplinking from other countries; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) and (b) Programmers and advertisements of all satellite TV channels (whether uplinked from India or abroad), transmitted/retransmitted through the cable network are required to adhere to the Programme and Advertising Code prescribed under the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 and rules framed thereunder.

Action for violations of the codes can be taken by any authorised officer *i.e.* SDM, DM or Commissioner of Police or any other officer notified in the official gazette by the Central Government or State Government. The Central Government has constituted two inter-ministerial committees under Section 20 of the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 to look into the violations of the Programme and Advertising Code.

(c) and (d) The Government is examining the issue of introducing downlinking guidelines to regulate the content of satellite TV channels which are uplinked from other countries and are downlinked in India for Public viewership. The Government is also considering setting up a regulatory authority for regulation of broadcasting content.

*[English]***Restructuring of Delhi and Mumbai Airports**

*49. SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD:
SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Empowered Group of Ministers (EGoM) has since finalised its report for restructuring and modernisation of Delhi and Mumbai Airports;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether 'Request for Proposal' (RFP) documents have been finalised;

(d) if so, whether selected bidders have been advised to submit the detailed proposals;

(e) if so, the details of selected bidders; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor and the time by which the whole process is likely to be finalised?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (c) The key principles involved in Request for Proposal document and other Transaction documents regarding restructuring and modernisation of Delhi and Mumbai airports are under consideration.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

(f) As per the present time table, the entire transactions are likely to be completed in the first half of financial year 2005-06.

*[Translation]***Damage to Defence Installations by Tsunami**

*50. SHRI MITRASEN YADAV:
SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of defence installations have been damaged in different parts of the country due to recent Tsunami;

(b) if so, the details of loss of lives and properties as a result thereof, force-wise;

(c) the amount of compensation paid/proposed to be paid to the next of kin and kin of the deceased families;

(d) the steps taken by the Government for reinstallation of damaged structures;

(e) whether an Integrated Logistic Committee was set up under the Defence Secretary for relief and rehabilitation in Andaman and Nicobar Islands; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and the action taken on the recommendations made by the Committee?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (f) A number of Defence installations, particularly of Air Force, Navy and Coast Guard located in Andaman and Nicobar Islands have suffered damages due to the recent Tsunami.

The loss of life (force-wise) was as under:—

(i) Andaman & Nicobar Islands:

Name of the Force	Number of Serving Personnel	
	Dead	Missing
Army	Nil	Nil
Navy	Nil	Nil
Air Force	7	4
Coast Guard	Nil	Nil
Military Engineering Service	Nil	1

(ii) One Civilian (Group 'D') of the Coast Guard lost his life in Chennai.

(iii) The number of Defence personnel dead/missing in the other affected States/Union Territories is "Nil".

(iv) A preliminary assessment of loss is indicated below:—

Coast Guard	Rs. 325.19 lakhs
Carnic Air Force Station	Rs. 295.00 lakhs
Naval installations on Mainland	Rs. 26.29 lakhs

Next of kin of the above mentioned Air Force Personnel have been paid compensation of Rs. 53.36 lakhs from Air Force Group Insurance Society and Air Force Central Welfare Fund, which are Regimental non public funds. Payment of compensation of Rs. 1.00 lakh has also been announced by the Central Government.

An amount of Rs. 1.00 lakh has been paid to the next of kin of the deceased Coast Guard personnel by the Government of Tamil Nadu.

In addition, an amount of Rs. 13,000/- has been paid to the next of kin of the deceased by the Coast Guard. In addition, ex-gratia amount of Rs. 1.00 lakh from MP's Relief Fund is being paid. The payment of family pension, gratuity and other terminal benefits to the next of kin of the deceased defence personnel is being processed as per extant norms.

Emergency repair to operationalise affected defence installation due to Tsunami have already been carried out by the defence forces.

No Committee by the name of "Integrated Logistic Committee" was set up. However, an Integrated Relief Command headed by Lt. Governor of Andaman and Nicobar Islands was constituted for effective coordination and operationalisation of relief and rehabilitation measures.

Repairing of Old Railway Bridges

*51. SHRI SURENDRA PRAKASH GOYAL:
SHRI MAHAVIR BHAGORA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether railway administration has earmarked any funds for repair of railway bridges which are more than 80 years old and are in dilapidated condition;

(b) if so, whether such bridges have been identified;

(c) if so, the details thereof, zone-wise;

(d) the funds earmarked for repair thereof; and

(e) the time by which the repair work of these bridges is likely to be completed alongwith details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Repair and Rehabilitation of bridges is an on going process on Indian Railways. Railway undertakes repair, rehabilitation/rebuilding of

bridges on the basis of their physical condition as ascertained during annual inspections and not on the basis of age. Few bridges which may show signs of deterioration of physical condition indicating need for rehabilitation are classified as Distressed Bridges. These, however, are neither unsafe nor dilapidated bridges. Therefore, all bridges more than 80 years old do not necessarily require repair & rehabilitation. Sometimes the bridges are strengthened due to the requirement of heavier axle loads and higher tractive effort. Based on such identification of bridges, allotment of funds is made annually to carry out their repair, rehabilitation/rebuilding duly prioritizing the works as per requirement.

In 2001-02, to clear the backlog of replacement of such identified bridges on Indian Railways, 2700 bridges were sanctioned for repair/rehabilitation/rebuilding at a cost of Rs. 1530 Crore (Net) under Special Railway Safety Fund (SRSF) to be completed in a span of 5 years *i.e.* from 2001-02 to 2006-07. Apart from SRSF, additional funds are also made available annually to take up the repair/rehabilitation of fresh accruals of bridges works under Depreciation Reserve Fund (DRF). Year wise repair, rehabilitation/rebuilding of bridges identified after creation of SRSF during the last 4 years is given as below:—

Year	SRSF		DRF	
	Bridges Repaired/ Rehabilitated	Expenditure (in Cr.)	Bridges Repaired/ Rehabilitated	Expenditure (in Cr.)
2001-02	280	44.00	445	64.00
2002-03	496	152.00	655	48.00
2003-04	530	157.00	1033	71.00
2004-05	411 (Target)	149.00 (Till Dec. 04)	1218 (Target)	65.00 (Till Dec. 04)

(b) to (e) Does not arise. However, a statement giving zone wise the total number of bridges sanctioned under SRSF and DRF yet to be rehabilitated as on 01.04.2004,

number of bridges targeted for rehabilitation for year 2004-05, total funds allotted under SRSF and DRF and progress achieved up to 31.01.2005 is enclosed.

Statement

Status of Repair, Rehabilitation/Rebuilding of Bridge Works in 2004-05

Railway	No. of bridges sanctioned for repair, rebuilding/ rehabilitation as on 01.04.2004	No. of bridges targeted during 2004-05 for rebuilding/rehabilitation	Bridges completed up to 31.1.05	Budget Allotment (In Crore)
1	2	3	4	5
Central	252	101	99	31.22
Eastern	381	101	59	74.82
East Central	238	82	33	84.16
East Coast	89	64	37	20.61

1	2	3	4	5
Northern	1114	351	361	79.61
North Central	100	59	29	13.24
North Eastern	64	37	36	39.08
North East Frontier	284	122	75	18.63
North Western	144	104	75	6.52
Southern	354	62	26	39.21
South Central	294	169	116	48.82
South Eastern	158	55	44	31.98
South East Central	126	44	17	8.29
South Western	52	16	2	6.51
Western	917	140	115	70.68
West Central	319	122	55	36.61
Total	4886	1629	1179	610

[English]

Agreement with US under Open Sky Policy

*52. SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:
SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has signed an agreement with United States under the Open Sky Policy;

(b) if so, the salient features of the agreement;

(c) the benefits likely to accrue to both the countries under the agreement;

(d) whether India has sought certain modifications to ensure that the benefits do not go to international carriers with which US airlines have a tie-up;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether India has also rejected US proposal to conduct a security audit of all the Indian airports;

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

(h) the number of flights increased after implementation of the said agreement between the two countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. As per the revised Air Services Agreement recently initialed with USA, both countries can designate any number of airlines and can operate any number of services from any point in the home country to any point in the territory of other Contracting State with full intermediate and beyond traffic rights. The designated airlines of one country can also code-share with the domestic airlines of the other country.

(c) India-USA routes in one of the major markets for the Indian carriers. The revised agreement has removed all constraints for operations on India-USA route. Indian carriers will be benefited from the various flexibilities provided in this agreement, particularly from the unlimited intermediate and beyond traffic rights which can now be exercised by them from/to any intermediate/beyond point. Indian carriers can also operate to any point in USA.

Under this agreement, benefits are available to both sides on reciprocal basis.

(d) and (e) Under this agreement, there is no limit on the code-share operations by airlines of either countries. However, in order to preclude the possibility of increased opportunities being sought by third country carriers, it has been clearly specified in the agreement that code share operations will not create any additional entitlements for third country carriers with which the Indian or the US carriers may code share to operate to the territory of the other State.

(f) and (g) On security issue, the provision in the revised agreement are based on globally accepted standards and are consistent with our existing policy. The provisions apply reciprocally to both countries.

(h) Since this agreement has been initiated very recently *i.e.* on 15th January, 2005, there has been no increase in the number of flights operated by any airlines as yet.

Refining Cost of Oil Products

*53. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) the refining cost of various oil products per barrel;
- (b) the basis on which the cost of production per litre petrol/diesel is estimated;
- (c) whether the production cost of various oil products is more in public sector refineries than the private sector refineries;
- (d) if so, the main reasons therefor; and
- (e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to reduce the production cost of oil products?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (e) Oil refining is a continuous process and the cost of refining of individual petroleum products is not worked out separately because all products are produced together. The cost of refining crude oil depends upon a number of factors including the type of crude oil, size of refinery, refinery configuration, age of equipment, technology used, etc. The average refining

cost of public sector refineries during 2003-04 was Rs. 511/MT. This cost includes costs incurred towards chemicals, utilities, salaries, maintenance, overhead expenses and depreciation on fixed assets but does not include the cost of capital. The details of the refining costs of private sector refineries are not available.

The cost of refining varies from refinery to refinery and efforts are continuously made to reduce costs. The Centre for High Technology under the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas has taken up a study for operational bench marking of 15 public sector refineries through M/s Shell Global Solutions International of the Netherlands. Under this study, the performance of Indian refineries would be evaluated on certain Key Performance Indicators for comparison with refineries abroad. The results of the study are awaited. Further measures will be decided in the light of this study.

[Translation]

New Oil Pricing Policy

*54. SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether petroleum products like petrol, diesel, L.P.G. etc. are being sold to the consumers in the country on the basis of import price, despite the fact that there is huge domestic investment in the refineries in the country;
- (b) if so, the names of the beneficiaries of such huge domestic investment;
- (c) the reasons for not percolating these benefits down to the common consumers in the country;
- (d) whether the Government would consider to formulate a new oil pricing policy to safeguard the interests of the consumers in the country; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (e) In view of our high oil import dependence, at present around 71%, volatility in international oil markets decisively impacts the price at which crude oil is procured by refineries. Margins, including refinery margins, are a relatively small percentage of the cost of producing petroleum products.

Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) having refineries market their products direct to consumers but are able to realize full import parity prices only on non-sensitive petroleum products like Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF). On consumer-sensitive products like Motor Spirit (Petrol), High Speed Diesel, Domestic LPG and PDS Kerosene, prices are fixed in consultation with Government on the principle of equitable burden sharing between oil sector PSUs, Government and consumers. In consequence, OMCs have to bear massive under-recoveries relative to import parity prices. To the extent that public sector OMCs have to procure sensitive petroleum products from private refineries, there is, of course, a gap between import parity prices realized by the refinery and the price realized by the OMC from consumers, but the quantities involved constitute a relatively small proportion of total turnover.

The following measures have *inter alia* been taken to insulate consumers from the full impact of high international prices:

- (i) Effective 1.3.2005, the customs duty has been reduced on crude from 10% to 5%; on PDS Kerosene and Domestic LPG from 5% to nil; and on other products from 15%/20% to 10%. This reduction would have a downward pressure on the refinery gate prices of petroleum products.
- (ii) Effective 1.3.2004, excise duty on PDS Kerosene and Domestic LPG has been reduced from 12% and 8% respectively to nil.
- (iii) PDS Kerosene and Domestic LPG are subsidized products. In addition to Government subsidy, public sector oil marketing companies (OMCs) have been sharing the burden by not passing the full increase in the international prices in the domestic consumer prices of these products.
- (iv) As regards petrol and diesel, although a price band mechanism, with an appropriate band ceiling, has been prescribed for OMCs, domestic diesel prices have been frozen since midnight of 4/5 November 2004 and petrol prices since midnight of 14/15 November, 2004.

Review of Performance of Counselling/ De-addiction Centres

*55. SHRI BAPU HARI CHAURE: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the cases of drug addiction are on the rise;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the procedure adopted for reviewing the performance of Counselling/De-addiction Centres;

(d) whether any research and development facility is available to solve the problems of alcoholic people;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the reasons for setting up of Counselling Centres instead of De-addiction Centres alongwith the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MEIRA KUMAR): (a) and (b) There is no authenticated report to indicate the increase/decrease of addiction cases, as no timeline data for benchmarking is available.

(c) The performance of the Counselling/De-addiction centres assisted by the Ministry is evaluated through half-yearly progress reports submitted by the organizations and annual inspections carried out by the State Governments/Ministry's Officers/Designated agencies.

(d) and (e) No alcohol-specific research study, has been conducted. However, the Ministry has sponsored a number of studies on the problems of drug abuse including allocation. The Ministry in collaboration with United Nations Office on Drugs and Crimes (UNODC) has conducted a National Survey on the extent, pattern and trends of drug abuse in India. In addition, the Ministry has institutionalized the Drug Abuse Monitoring System (DAMS) to monitor the trends of drugs abuse in the country.

(f) The Counselling Centres were primarily set up to cater the needs of outpatients and were having wide coverage for counselling & awareness purposes only. Now, the De-addiction Centres are providing the holistic intervention, which includes treatment, counselling, awareness as well as rehabilitation of substance abusers.

[English]

Privatisation of Airports

*56. SHRI JOACHIM BAXLA:
SHRI ANANTH KUMAR:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is considering to privatise some of the Airports in the country;

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

(c) the airports selected for privatisation;

(d) the amount likely to be earned from this move; and

(e) the steps proposed to be taken to safeguard the interests of the employees likely to be affected by privatisation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (c) Government has already accorded its approval on 11.9.2003 for restructuring and modernisation of the international airports at Delhi and Mumbai through the formation of two separate Joint Venture Companies (JVCs) for world class development and expansion. Airports Authority of India (AAI) and other Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) of Government of India will hold 26% equity with the remaining 74% equity held by the private sector partner(s).

(d) The transaction of restructuring and modernization of Delhi and Mumbai airports is proposed to be structured with the mechanism of upfront fee as well as annual lease payment from the JVCs. The quantum of revenue, which will accrue to AAI, can be estimated only after the bidding process.

(e) The existing manpower at the two airports are to be utilised by the JVCs for 3 years. Thereafter, atleast 40% of the employees shall be offered regular appointment in the JVCs. The remaining employees shall revert to AAI.

[Translation]

Rates of Natural Gas

*57. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH "LALAN":
DR. CHINTA MOHAN:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether different rates for natural gas are fixed for its use in the power, fertiliser and steel sectors in the country;

(b) if so, the details of the rates for natural gas fixed in March 2001, March 2004 and January 2005 for its use in these sectors;

(c) the criteria followed by the Government while fixing different rates for natural gas for these sectors; and

(d) the estimated average generation cost of natural gas in the year 2004?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) Government administers the price of natural gas produced by Oil & Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) and Oil India Limited (OIL) from their existing fields (excluding Joint Ventures). This price is uniformly applicable to all the sectors.

(b) The price of gas under Administered Price Mechanism (APM) since March 2001 till date is Rs. 2850/- per thousand Standard Cubic Meter (MSCM) for general consumers and Rs. 1700/- per thousand MSCM for consumers in the North-East. Some gas produced by Private/Joint Venture companies and Re-gasified Liquefied Natural Gas (RLNG) is being sold at market price ranging from Rs. 5500 to Rs. 7300/MSCM.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) During the year 2003-04, the average cost of production of gas of ONGC (the main producer of APM gas) from the existing operating fields (excluding Joint Venture) is about Rs. 3427/MSCM.

Indo-Iran Gas Pipeline Project

*58. SHRI HARISHCHANDRA CHAVAN:
SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of Indo-Iran gas pipeline project;

(b) whether the Indo-Iran gas pipeline project has been discussed with the Government of Pakistan recently; and

(c) if so, the reaction of Government of Pakistan thereto?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) India is pursuing the import of natural gas from Iran through an onland pipeline transiting through Pakistan. Discussions on the project are at a preliminary stage.

(b) and (c) On 6.9.2004, the Foreign Ministers of India and Pakistan met in New Delhi and agreed as follows:

"The two Ministers recognized the importance of availability and access to energy resources in the region around South Asia. It was further stated that the Ministers of Petroleum/Gas could meet to discuss the issue in its multifarious dimensions".

On 26.9.2004 the Prime Minister of India and the President of Pakistan met in New York and agreed as follows:

"It was felt that such a project could contribute to the welfare and prosperity of the people of both countries and should be considered in the larger context of expanding trade and economic relations between India and Pakistan."

Thereafter, during the visit to India on 24-25 November, 2004 of the Prime Minister of Pakistan, accompanied by his Petroleum Minister, further discussions were held. The issue was broached with Iran at Tehran on 5-6 December 2004 and further dealt with in meetings with them in New Delhi on 7.1.2005 and 15.2.2005. Cabinet authorization for the approach to be adopted was secured on 9.2.2005. It is now proposed to hold bilateral discussions between the Petroleum Ministers of Pakistan

and India in pursuance of the agreement between the two Foreign Ministers in New Delhi on 6 September, 2004 and subsequent developments in this regard.

[English]

Production of Natural Gas

*59. SHRI SURESH PRABHAKAR PRABHU:
SHRI SURESH KALMADI:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of natural gas produced from different sources in the country during each of the last three years, State-wise;

(b) the rate and amount of royalty paid to each State during the said period;

(c) whether in the light of the recent judgement of the Supreme Court, any enactment or regulatory model is contemplated to enable the States to have their own policy for exploitation of their petroleum and gas resources; and

(d) if so, the steps taken/being taken by the Government in regard thereto?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) Royalty on natural gas is paid at the rate of 10% of the value of natural gas obtained at well head. The quantity of natural gas produced in various States and the amount of royalty paid during the years 2000-01 to 2003-04 are given below:

State	Gas Production & Royalty paid	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04
1	2	3	4	5	6
Andhra Pradesh	Gas production (MMSCM)	1604.00	1796.00	2038.00	1927.00
	Royalty paid (Rs. Crores)	30.07	32.43	35.51	35.48
Assam	Gas production (MMSCM)	2199.72	1990.87	2046.53	2203.62
	Royalty paid (Rs. Crores)	16.57	13.86	14.26	19.36

1	2	3	4	5	6
Gujarat	Gas production (MMSCM)	3149.00	3170.00	3531.00	3517.00
	Royalty paid (Rs. Crores)	53.06	46.62	84.12	74.48
Rajasthan	Gas production (MMSCM)	159.46	101.38	161.55	168.13
	Royalty paid (Rs. Crores)	1.22	0.76	1.37	1.39
Tamil Nadu	Gas production (MMSCM)	200.00	349.00	466.00	605.00
	Royalty paid (Rs. Crores)	2.79	5.37	7.58	11.03
Tripura	Gas production (MMSCM)	376.00	416.00	446.00	508.00
	Royalty paid (Rs. Crores)	5.39	5.74	5.75	5.94

(MMSCM : Million standard cubic metres)

(c) No, Sir. There is no such direction in the judgement of the Supreme Court.

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

[*Translation*]

Firing on LoC

*60. SHRI RAGHURAJ SINGH SHAKYA:
SHRI AVTAR SINGH BHADANA:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of times Pakistan has opened fire on Indian Army posts in Jammu and Kashmir in violation of ceasefire agreement;

(b) the number of soldiers and civilians killed/injured during the said firing;

(c) the amount of compensation paid to the dependents of deceased soldiers and civilians;

(d) the outcome of flag meetings held with Pakistani counterpart to resolve the issue;

(e) the measures taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to ensure peace on the LoC/border;

(f) whether the incidents of terrorist attacks have been on increase in J&K;

(g) if so, the details of such attacks reported during the last six months; and

(h) the number of cases of cross border infiltration reported during each of the last three years till date?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (h) Firing from across the Line of Control (LOC) on the Indian Army posts has been reported, once in November 2004, twice in January 2005 and once in February 2005, in violation of the ceasefire agreement.

No soldier or civilian has been killed or wounded in the aforesaid firing incidents. The question of payment of compensation to the dependents of the deceased soldier and civilians, therefore, does not arise.

The issue of four instances of firing from across the border was raised by Director General Military Operations (DGMO) with his Pakistani counterpart. Flag meetings at local levels were also held in November 2004 and January

2005. The Pakistani side denied complicity of Pakistani troops in opening fire and reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to uphold the ceasefire.

The ceasefire on the border with Pakistan is being upheld. All possible measures like fencing on LoC, Operation 'Sadbhavana', to win hearts and minds of the people, Confidence Building Measures (CBMs), etc., have been taken to ensure that peace on the border continues.

There is no perceptible increase in terrorist attacks in J&K in recent times.

Details of estimated infiltration cases during the last three years are as under:-

Year	Infiltration Cases
2002	1729
2003	1313
2004	507
January 2005	12

[English]

Guidelines for Loan to Priority Sector

*61. SHRI KIRIP CHALIHA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has issued guidelines to commercial banks both in public and private sectors to adhere to a minimum limit for providing loans to priority sectors;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether these guidelines are being followed by all the commercial banks; and

(d) if not, the action taken by the Government against the erring commercial banks both in public and private sectors?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) The Reserve Bank of India has, from time to time, issued a number of guidelines to banks in regard to matters relating to Priority Sector Lending. A target of 40 per cent of net bank credit (NBC) has been stipulated for lending to the priority sector by

domestic scheduled commercial banks, both in the public and private sector. Within this, sub-targets of 18 per cent and 10 per cent of NBC have been stipulated for lending to agriculture and the weaker sections respectively.

(c) and (d) The guidelines on lending to Priority Sector are being followed by the scheduled commercial banks. In case, the domestic scheduled commercial banks, both in the public and private sector, have a shortfall in lending to priority sector/agriculture, they are required to deposit into Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF) established by NABARD, the amounts allocated to them by Reserve Bank of India vis-a-vis the shortfall in their achievement. As a disincentive for non-achievement of agricultural lending target, the rates of interest on the deposits made by the contributing banks have been lowered and are charged in inverse proportion to the extent of shortfall in the agricultural lending vis-a-vis the stipulated target of 18%.

Merger of Banks

*62. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN:
SHRI RAJESH VERMA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal is under consideration of the Government to merge one nationalised bank with the other nationalised bank;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time by when the merger of these banks will be made effective;

(d) whether any such mergers have taken place during the last three years;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) the names of the other banks likely to be merged during 2005-06; and

(g) the manner the Government proposes to protect the interests of the stakeholders and employees of such banks?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (c) IBA has recommended that Government should consider proposals for consolidation between nationalised banks in order to strengthen them.

Govt. has indicated that it would consider specific proposals from nationalised banks as they arise. Any such proposal for consolidation by way of merger etc. of one nationalised bank with another nationalised bank has to come from the management of the banks concerned with Govt. playing a supportive role as the common shareholder. No directive on consolidation has been issued by Govt. or RBI.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

(f) The Boards of Banks have to take a decision in this regard based on the synergy levels of merging/consolidating entities.

(g) While supporting any merger proposal, Government will ensure that the interests of the stakeholders and employees of merging banks is adequately protected.

[*Translation*]

Pending Court Cases

*63. SHRI RAJNARAYAN BUDHOLIA:
SHRI VISHVENDRA SINGH:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the sanctioned strength of Judges of various High Courts and Supreme Court;

(b) the number of posts of Judges lying vacant in various courts as on date, court-wise;

(c) the reasons for not filling of vacant posts;

(d) whether a large number of civil, criminal and other cases are pending in Supreme Court and various High Courts;

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

(f) the steps being taken by the Government to fill up the vacant posts of Judges and for speedy disposal of long pending cases in courts?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) to (f) The sanctioned strength as also the number of posts lying vacant in Supreme Court and various High Courts as on 28.02.2005 is given in the Statement-I enclosed.

Filling up of vacancies in the High Courts is a continuous consultative process among the constitutional authorities. While every efforts is made to fill up the existing vacancies expeditiously, vacancies do keep arising on account of retirements, resignation or elevation of Judges.

Pursuant to the Supreme Court Judgment of October 6, 1993 read with their Advisory Opinion of October 28, 1998, the process of initiation of proposal for appointment of Judges of a High Court lies with the Chief Justice of that High Court. The Government has, however, been requesting the Chief Justices of the High Courts, Chief Ministers and the Governors of the States, from time to time, to initiate proposals for filling up the present the anticipated vacancies during the next six months. In response to these efforts, 79 proposals for appointments have been received from the Chief Justices of High Courts with regard to 138 vacancies obtaining as on 28.2.2005.

As on 1st January, 2005 14,995 admission matters and 15,156 regular hearing matters were pending in the Supreme Court of India. A Statement-II showing the pendency position in the High Courts as per the information available enclosed. Age-wise details of the pending cases are not maintained.

The pendency of cases in the Courts could be ascribed to various factors, which *inter-alia*, include vacancies of Judges, new legislations, substantial increase in fresh institution of cases, rise in population, heightened awareness of rights on the part of the citizens, granting of adjournments, industrial development in the country, increase in trade and commerce and socio-economic matters, legislative and administrative aspects touching on the life of citizens, lawyers' strikes etc.

Various steps have been taken by the Government for the speedy disposal of cases which include setting up of fast track courts, amendment to the Civil Procedure Codes, permanent adalats for disputes relating to public utilities, increase in the number of posts of Judges, establishments of special courts/tribunals, improvement in the standard of legal education, adoption of alternative modes of disputes resolution, such as arbitration and conciliation.

Statement I

Sl.No.	Name of the Court	Sanctioned Strength as on 28.2.2005	No. of vacancies	No. of Proposals received from the Chief Justice of the High Court with reference to column 4
	Supreme Court	26	2	—
	High Courts			
1.	Allahabad	95	17	01
2.	Andhra Pradesh	39	10	07
3.	Bombay	60	04	—
4.	Calcutta	50	15	04
5.	Chhattiegarh	06	—	03
6.	Delhi	33	04	05
7.	Gauhati	19	01	—
8.	Gujarat	42	07	08
9.	Himachal Pradesh	08	01	01
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	14	05	01
11.	Jharkhand	12	05	—
12.	Karnataka	40	09	04
13.	Kerala	29	—	—
14.	Madhya Pradesh	36	06	04
15.	Madras	42	16	17
16.	Orissa	20	06	05
17.	Patna	31	08	13
18.	Punjab & Haryana	40	11	—
19.	Rajasthan	40	12	06
20.	Sikkim	03	01	—
21.	Uttaranchal	09	—	—
	Total	668	138	79

Statement II*Pendency position in the High Courts as on 1.3.2005*

Sl.No.	Name of the High Court	As on	Civil cases	Criminal cases	Total
1.	Allahabad	31.12.04	544655	175993	720648
2.	Andhra Pradesh	31.12.04	164915	17226	182141
3.	Bombay	31.12.04	288454	37330	325784
4.	Calcutta	30.06.04	206321	39896	246217
5.	Delhi	31.12.04	60353	10772	71125
6.	Gujarat	31.12.04	113505	25962	139467
7.	Gauhati	31.12.04	50442	6939	57381
8.	Himachal Pradesh	31.12.04	17939	5600	23539
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	31.12.04	42417	2435	44852
10.	Karnataka	31.12.04	118899	10754	129653
11.	Kerala	31.12.04	113652	21752	135404
12.	Madras	31.12.04	275730	23029	298759
13.	Madhya Pradesh	31.12.04	141785	59133	200918
14.	Orissa	31.12.04	91996	14553	106549
15.	Patna	31.12.04	63290	21658	84948
16.	Punjab & Haryana	31.12.04	218457	46845	265302
17.	Rajasthan	30.06.04	135432	40336	175768
18.	Sikkim	31.12.04	50	5	55
19.	Uttaranchal	31.12.04	29850	6048	35898
20.	Chhattisgarh	31.12.04	42158	21574	63732
21.	Jharkhand	31.12.04	20865	14947	35812
Total			2741165	602787	3343952

*[English]***ADB and World Bank Aided Projects**

*64. SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the development projects undertaken in the States especially Kerala by ADB and World Bank;

(b) the States which have sought more assistance for future projects from ADB and World Bank; and

(c) the response of Union Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (c) The list of development

projects undertaken in the States, including the State of Kerala, with the World Bank and Asian Development Bank (ADB) assistance during the last three years is given in the statement enclosed.

States which have sought assistance for future projects from ADB and World Bank are Madhya Pradesh, Uttaranchal, North Eastern States, Karnataka, Jammu and Kashmir, Assam, West Bengal, Himachal Pradesh, UP, Tamil Nadu, Gujarat, Punjab, Delhi, Maharashtra and Kerala. Projects received from the States are scrutinized by the Ministry and posed for funding to the World Bank and Asian Development Bank if such projects conform to the Country Assistance Strategy/Country Strategy & Program jointly arrived at, between the Government of India and the concerned Multilateral Development Bank.

Statement

A list of Projects undertaken in the States, including the State of Kerala, with World Bank and Asian Development Bank (ADB) assistance during the last three years

Sl.No.	Name of Project	Beneficiary State	Donor Agency	Ln. Amount US& million	Year of loan signing/ Board approval
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	East West Corridor	West Bengal	ADB	320.00	26.11.2002
2.	MP Road Sector Development Programme	Madhya Pradesh	ADB	30.00	5.12.2002
3.	MP Road Sector Development Project	Madhya Pradesh	ADB	150.00	5.12.2002
4.	Modernizing Govt. and Fiscal Reforms	Kerala	ADB	200.00	16.12.2002
5.	Assam Power Sector Development Programme	Assam	ADB	150.00	10.12.2003
6.	Assam Power Sector Development Project	Assam	ADB	100.00	10.12.2003
7.	Urban Water Supply and Environmental Improvement	Madhya Pradesh	ADB	200.00	12.12.2003
8.	Chhattisgarh State Road Development Project	Chhattisgarh	ADB	180.00	15.12.2003

1	2	3	4	5	6
9.	Assam Governance & Public Resource Management Sector Development Programme	Assam	ADB	125.00	16.12.2004
10.	Assam Governance & Public Resource Management Sector Development Programme	Assam	ADB	25.00	16.12.2004
11.	Multi Sector Project for Rehabilitation in J&K	J&K	ADB	250.00	21.12.2004
12.	Gujarat State Highway Project	Gujarat	World Bank	350.00	18.10.2000
13.	Karnataka State Highway Project	Karnataka	World Bank	360.00	26.7.2001
14.	Kerala State Transport Project	Kerala	World Bank	255.00	6.5.2002
15.	Mizoram State Roads Project	Mizoram	World Bank	60.00	6.5.2002
16.	Uttar Pradesh State Roads Project	Uttar Pradesh	World Bank	488.00	19.2.2003
17.	Tamil Nadu Roads Sector Project	Tamil Nadu	World Bank	348.00	28.8.2003
18.	Rajasthan Power Sector Restructuring Project	Rajasthan	World Bank	180.00	27.2.2001
19.	Gujarat Earthquake Re-construction Program-II	Gujarat	World Bank	400.00	30.3.2001
20.	Andhra Pradesh Economic Restructuring Project	Andhra Pradesh	World Bank	245.778	4.2.1999
21.	AP District Poverty Initiatives Project	Andhra Pradesh	World Bank	111.00	12.5.2000
22.	AP Rural Poverty Reduction Project	Andhra Pradesh	World Bank	150.00	3.4.2003
23.	Assam Agricultural Competitiveness Project	Assam	World Bank	153.93	14.1.2005
24.	Chhattisgarh District Rural Poverty Project	Chhattisgarh	World Bank	112.56	18.8.2003
25.	Integrated Watershed Development Project II	Multi-state	World Bank	135.00	14.7.1999
26.	Karnataka Watershed Development Project	Karnataka	World Bank	100.40	26.7.2001

1	2	3	4	5	6
27.	Madhya Pradesh District Poverty Initiatives	Madhya Pradesh	World Bank	110.10	5.12.2000
28.	National Agricultural Technology Project	Multi-state	World Bank	100.00	22.6.1998
29.	Rural Roads Project	Multi-state	World Bank	399.50	8.11.2004
30.	Raj-District Poverty Initiatives Project	Rajasthan	World Bank	100.50	19.5.2000
31.	Rural Women Dev. and Empowerment Project	Multi-state	World Bank	24.70	24.4.1999
32.	UP Sodic Land Reclamation Project II	Uttar Pradesh	World Bank	194.10	29.3.1999
33.	Uttaranchal Decentralised Watershed Development Project	Uttaranchal	World Bank	69.62	30.7.2004
34.	Uttar Pradesh Water Sector Restructuring Project	Uttar Pradesh	World Bank	149.20	8.3.2002
35.	Rajasthan Water Sector Restructuring Project	Rajasthan	World Bank	140.00	15.3.2002
36.	Karnataka Community Based Tank Management Project	Karnataka	World Bank	98.90	4.6.2002
37.	Madhya Pradesh Water Sector Restructuring Project	Madhya Pradesh	World Bank	394.20	30.11.2004
38.	Maharashtra Rural Water and Sanitation Project	Maharashtra	World Bank	181.00	30.9.2003
39.	A.P. Forest Community Management Project	Andhra Pradesh	World Bank	108.00	8.10.2002
40.	Karnataka Rural Water and Sanitation	Karnataka	World Bank	151.50	8.3.2002
41.	Kerala Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Project	Kerala	World Bank	65.50	4.1.2001

[Translation]

Review of Power Generation

*65. SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR KUSHAWAHA:
PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are contemplating to review the position of power generation in view of the power crisis in Northern India;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the power generated by the Thermal Power Projects/Stations is not adequate enough to meet the demand in the country;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) the projects which are not generating the power according to their installed capacity; and

(f) the effective measures taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.M. SAYEED):

(a) and (b) The electricity generation as well as power supply position in the country including that of Northern Region is reviewed on regular basis. In view of various initiatives taken by the Government, energy shortage in the country has declined from 8.8% in 2002-03 to 7.1% in 2003-04 and 6.8% in 2004-05 till December, 2004.

Power shortages in the country including Northern Region are due to the growth in generation capacity addition not keeping pace with the growth in demand. In the Northern Region though overall generation during the period April 04'-January 05' has been almost as per the target, generation from hydro power station under various utilities in the Northern Region has been less than the target by 11.8% resulting in shortfall of 4250 Million Units. Low hydro generation has been mainly due to reduced inflows and relatively less snowfall/snowmelt particularly in the catchment region of Bhakra reservoir. During the same period, generation from thermal power stations in the Northern Region has, however, been 102.9% of the target and higher by 5.1% as compared to corresponding period last year.

The energy and peak shortages in Northern Region during April 04'-January 05' were 9.4% and 10.1% as compared to 5.4% and 6.5% respectively during the corresponding period of last year.

(c) and (d) The overall electricity generation in the country during the period April 04'-January 05', has been as per the target. The growth of electricity generation during this period has been 6.0% as compared to 3.8% and 3.7% in the corresponding periods of 2002-03 and

2003-04 respectively. Generation from thermal and hydro power stations has been as per the respective targets and higher by 4.9% and 16.3% respectively as compared to corresponding period of last year.

Thermal stations could have generated more but for the following main reasons:

- (i) Shortage of Coal.
- (ii) Shortage of gas.
- (iii) Low dispatch schedules from beneficiaries for high cost liquid fuel power.

(e) Generation targets of power stations are fixed by the Central Electricity Authority in consultation with the individual power utilities, every year. The names of thermal power stations in the country which have not generated as per their targets during the period April 04'-January 05' are given in the statement enclosed.

(f) The following measures are being taken to improve power generation in this regard:

- (i) Renovation, Modernization and Life Extension of thermal units:
Government, through Power Finance Corporation provides interest subsidy on loan to undertake Renovation & Modernization and Life Extension works.
- (ii) Improvement of Plant Load Factor by reducing periods of planned maintenance and by adopting better operation and maintenance practices.
- (iii) Efforts for supply of adequate quantity and quality of coal.
- (iv) Early stabilization of new generating units.
- (v) Creation of robust National Grid to facilitate inter-regional transmission of power leading to improvement in Plant Load Factor of Thermal Power Stations.

Statement

List of thermal power stations not generating as per target during April'04-January 05

Station	April'04-January 05			
	Target MU	Actual MU	Shortfall MU	% of Target
1	2	3	4	5
NTPC				
Farakka STPS	9008	7956.56	1051.44	88.3
Anta GT	2431	2353.91	77.09	96.8

1	2	3	4	5
Kawas GT	3282	2237.01	1044.99	68.2
Kayamkulam GT	1664	246.95	1417.05	14.8
NLC				
Neyveli-II	8045	7269.12	775.88	90.4
DVC				
Durgapur	1508	1212.44	295.56	80.4
Bokaro-B	2457	1999.12	457.88	81.4
Mejia	4071	3780.11	290.89	92.9
NEEPCO				
Kathalguri GT	1313	1294.33	18.67	98.6
IPGPCL				
Rajghat	706	579.28	126.72	82.1
IPGT	1523	1319.87	203.13	86.7
Haryana				
F' Bad Ext	769	743.82	25.18	96.7
Panipat	5154	4982.39	171.61	96.7
PSEB				
GNDTP	1775	1701.51	73.49	95.9
UPRVUNL				
Obra	4978	4498.06	479.94	90.4
H'Ganj B	613	561.82	51.18	91.7
Anpara	9716	9449.14	266.86	97.3
GEB				
Gandhi Nagar 1-4	3262	2758.88	503.12	84.6
Kutch Lig.	815	718.29	96.71	88.1
GSECL				
Gandhinagar-5	1369	1277.97	91.03	93.4
Dhuvaran CAPP	588	571.48	16.52	97.2
GSEGL				
Hazira CAPP	963	945.34	17.66	98.2
AE CO.				
Sabarmati	2200	2168.97	31.03	98.6

1	2	3	4	5
GETC				
GTE Corp	3719	2968.82	750.18	79.8
MPGPCL				
Amarkantak	166	141.5	24.5	85.2
Amarkantak-Ext	952	838.39	113.61	88.1
Chhattisgarh				
Korba-II	834	721.11	112.89	86.5
Korba West	4660	4589.27	70.73	98.5
MSEB				
Nasik	5148	4829.25	318.75	93.8

List of thermal power stations/power utilities not generating as per target during April'04-January 05

Station	April'04-January 05			
	Target MU	Actual MU	Shortfall MU	% of Target
1	2	3	4	5
Koradi	5776	5543.22	232.78	96.0
APTRANSCO				
Pedapuram CCGT	1322	975.11	346.89	73.8
Jegrupadu GT	1337	1174.06	162.94	87.8
Kondapalli GT	2093	1853.04	239.96	88.5
Godavri GT	1250	1158.59	91.41	92.7
KERALA				
Brahampuram DG	227	101.97	125.03	44.9
Kojikode DG	299	123.18	175.82	41.2
Cochin CCGT	918	85.78	832.22	9.3
Kasargode DG	119	13.75	105.25	11.6
KARNATAKA				
Raichur	8946	8699.6	246.4	97.2
Yelhanka DG	293	170.34	122.66	58.1

1	2	3	4	5
Bellary DG	156	32.96	123.04	21.1
Tanir Bavi	1374	422.6	951.4	30.8
Torangallu Import	660	355.88	304.12	53.9
Belgaum DG	446	155.55	290.45	34.9
TAMIL NADU				
Ennore	1163	993.76	169.24	85.4
Mettur	6835	6750.86	84.14	98.8
North Chennai	3720	3330.97	389.03	89.5
Basin Bridge GT	126	31.36	94.64	24.9
Valathur GT	551	445.75	105.25	80.9
Kuttalam GT	540	501.08	29.92	95.4
Samayanallur DG	410	270.35	139.65	65.9
Neyveli TPS (Z)	1197	1005.9	191.1	84.0
PPNL CCGT	1001	492.92	571.08	42.9
Samalpatti DG	415	282.7	132.3	68.1
Basin Bridge DG	902	621.16	280.84	68.9
BIHAR				
Barauni	265	122.68	142.32	46.3
JHARKHAND				
Patratu	1041	609.62	431.38	58.6
TVNL				
Tenughat	1255	1093.82	161.18	87.2
WBDCL				
Bandel	1975	1819.02	155.98	92.1
CESC				
Newcossipore	408	404.04	3.96	99.0
ASSAM				
Namrup ST	43	0.13	42.87	0.3
Namrup WHP	73	65.07	7.93	89.1
Lakwa GT	349	246.97	102.03	70.8
DLF	160	114.68	45.32	71.7

**Recommendations of Expenditure Reforms
Committee**

*66. SHRI MANSUKHBHAI D. VASAVA:
DR. DHIRENDRA AGARWAL:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have examined the recommendations made by the Committee on Expenditure Reforms;

(b) if so, the recommendations which have not been accepted alongwith the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government has not been able to check the expenditure by high ranking officers on unproductive work; and

(d) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto alongwith the action taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (d) The Government had set up the Expenditure Reforms Commission (ERC) to review the whole gamut of Government expenditure. The reports of the ERC covered 36 Ministries/Departments and 4 specific issues, *i.e.* food subsidy, fertilizer subsidy, autonomous institutions and optimization of staff strength. The recommendations of the ERC excepting those relating to food subsidy have been broadly accepted by the Government. In so far as recommendations on food subsidy and related matters are concerned, ERC's suggestions have provided valuable inputs for formulating policies on subsidy, procurement, foodgrains trade, buffer stock, etc.

It has been the constant endeavour of the Government to curtail non-developmental expenditure.

Accordingly, Ministry of Finance has issued comprehensive austerity instructions on 24.09.2004. These measures, *inter-alia*, include 10% cut for budgetary allocation for non-plan, non-salary expenditure.

Irregularities In GTB

*67. SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR:
SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Oriental Bank of Commerce (OBC) has filed criminal complaint with CBI against five borrowers of Global Trust Bank (GTB) for misappropriating over Rs. 192 crores;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the internal investigations have revealed many other cases of financial irregularities in some of the borrower accounts;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon;

(e) the total amount of loan disbursed by the Global Trust Bank from 1998 to 2004;

(f) the number of persons/borrowers who were advanced more than rupees one crore or more amount as loan and outstanding amount as on date; and

(g) the steps taken by the Government to recover the loans?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) Upto 15.12.2004 Oriental Bank of Commerce (OBC) had filed five complaints with CBI against borrowers of erstwhile Global Trust Bank (GTB) for investigation of criminality observed in their accounts as per details given below:

Sl.No.	Branch	Name of account	Amount involved (Rs. crore)
1	2	3	4
1.	Fort, Mumbai	United Software Ltd.	6.76
2.	Mylapore, Chennai	Pearl Distillery Ltd. Kayvalya Agro Farms Pvt. Ltd. Smruthi Agro Farms Pvt. Ltd.	30.28

1	2	3	4
3.	Bandra, Mumbai	Petro Energy Products Co. India Ltd.	101.56
4.	MG Road, Bangalore	Shonkh Technologies International Ltd.	48.00
5.	Nirman Point, Mumbai	Business India Publications Ltd.	12.94

(c) and (d) Internal investigations have revealed financial irregularities in 23 more borrower accounts as per details given in the Statement enclosed. In these cases the bank has filed 12 more complaints with CBI.

(e) to (g) The amount of loan disbursed by GTB from 1998 to 2004 is not readily available, as the system does not generate such information. However, the outstanding balance of total advances of GTB as on

31.3.1998 and 31.3.2004 was Rs. 2574.78 crores and Rs. 4194.42 crores respectively. As on 31.3.2004, there were 328 borrowers' accounts having an outstanding of Rs. 1 00 crore and above with an aggregate outstanding of Rs. 3702.03 crores. The bank is proactively pursuing recovery in NPA accounts of GTB and till 31.1.2005 recovery of Rs. 127.96 crores has been made. Further, NPAs amounting to Rs. 811.88 crores in 32 accounts have been settled, restructured or upgraded.

Statement

Complaints filed after 15.12.2004 with CBI in erstwhile GTB accounts

Sl.No.	Branch	Name of account	Amount recoverable (Rs. in crores)
1	2	3	4
1.	Nariman Point, Mumbai	Ramya Traders Pvt. Ltd. Maestro Traders Pvt. Ltd.	49.49
2.	Fort, Mumbai	Indsec Securities and Finance Ltd.	70.46
3.	Opera House, Mumbai FC Road, Pune	Swabhiman Exim Pvt. Ltd. Shubhkamna Mktg. Pvt. Ltd. Naseeb Impex Pvt. Ltd.	42.66
4.	Bandra, Mumbai	Prateek Realty Pvt. Ltd.	35.95
5.	Opera House, Mumbai	Beautiful Realtors Ltd. Crystal Gems Beautiful Diamond Ltd. Beautiful Jewellers Pvt. Ltd.	109.47
6.	SD Road, Secunderabad	CCL Flowers Ltd. Interflora Farms & Exports	5.53
7.	Nariman Point, Mumbai	Vidiani Agrotech Ind. Ltd.	12.93

1	2	3	4
8.	SD Road, Secunderabad	Gem Cables & Conductors Ltd. Gem Telecom Ltd.	39.43
9.	M Block, CP, New Delhi	World Tex Ltd.	17.45
10.	Opera House, Mumbai	Vikram Diamonds Hayagriv Ind. Ltd. Hayagriv Diamond Ind. Pvt. Ltd.	64.48
11.	CG Road, Ahmedabad	Core Healthcare Ltd.	24.68
12.	M Block, CP, New Delhi	Wise Infrastructure Ltd. Wise Ind. Parks Ltd.	59.08

[*English*]

Fake Currency Notes

*68. SHRI M. SHIVANNA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that a very large number of fake currency notes are in circulation in the country;

(b) if so, whether recently fake currency notes of more than one crore rupees have been received by the Reserve Bank alone; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to control the situation?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) As per information furnished by the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) on recoveries/seizures made by banks and law enforcement agencies, circulation of Fake Indian Currency Notes (FICN) of various denominations have been noticed. However, the quantity of FICN is minuscule as compared to the total volume of Indian bank notes in circulation.

(b) During 2003-04, the total value of forged notes detected and impounded at Issue Offices of the RBI and branches of banks in various denomination amounted to Rs. 2.76 crores.

(c) To curb circulation of fake currency notes in the country, the Government has taken a number of steps which included stepping up of vigilance by the Border

Security Force/Custom authorities to prevent smuggling of fake currency notes into the country, training and sensitisation of law enforcement agencies, dissemination of information on security features through print and electronic media for the benefit of public, etc. Further, based on the recommendations of a High Level Committee, some additional security features have been approved for incorporation in the Indian bank notes which will make counterfeiting extremely difficult.

[*Translation*]

Export of Handicraft

*69. SHRI TUKARAM GANPAT RAO RENGE
PATIL:
SHRI MADAN LAL SHARMA:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of concessions and facilities being provided to the exporters for promoting export of handicraft items;

(b) whether the Government proposes to introduce a new scheme for promoting handicraft;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government has set up Export Promotion Council/Special Economic Zones to promote export of handicraft items; and

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

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) The concession and facilities being provided by the Government to exporters for promoting export of handicraft items include: duty draw back on exports; assistance for participation in fairs/exhibitions abroad under Market Development Assistance; entitlement for duty free import of trimming and embellishment to improve quality of product; setting up of Special Economic Zones at Gautam Budh Nagar (Uttar Pradesh), Moradabad (Uttar Pradesh) and Jodhpur (Rajasthan); organization of Indian Handicrafts and Gift Fair and Carpet Expo; setting of India Exposition Mart at Greater Noida; setting up of National Centre for Photo and Picture Framing at Saharanpur and Jodhpur and internal and external publicity.

(b) The Government is of the view that the above schemes are adequate for the present.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. The two Export Councils namely Export Promotion Council for Handicrafts and Carpet Export Promotion Council have been set up and three Special Economic Zones have been approved at Gautam Budh Nagar (Uttar Pradesh), Moradabad (Uttar Pradesh) and Jodhpur (Rajasthan) to promote export of handicrafts. Initiatives taken by these councils have contributed in increasing the export of handicrafts including hand-knotted carpets from Rs. 1220.00 crores in 1990-91 to Rs. 12765.18 crores during 2003-04. The three Special Economic Zones have not yet become operational.

[English]

Twelfth Finance Commission Report

*70. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI:
SHRI MADHU GOUD YASKHI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has accepted the recommendations of the 12th Finance Commission in toto;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether massive share of resources is likely to go to States in the form of debt relief and waivers;

(d) if so, the estimated amount earmarked by Union Government to States for maintenance of roads, buildings environment and heritage conservation;

(e) the total amount likely to be disbursed to States from Central share during 2004-05;

(f) whether Union Government have received any suggestions from the States on the recommendations of the report; and

(g) if so, the details with the response of the Union Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (g) Government of India has accepted the recommendations of the Twelfth Finance Commission (TFC) relating to share of States in Union taxes and duties, grants-in-aid under Article 275(1), debt rescheduling at 7.5% rate of interest and debt relief to States. Other non-financial recommendations will be examined in due course.

TFC has recommended total estimated transfer of Rs. 6,13,112.02 crore to States as share of States in the net proceeds of all shareable Union taxes and duties and has recommended grants amounting to Rs. 1,42,639.60 crore, aggregating to a total transfer of Rs. 7,55,751.62 crore to the States over the five year period 2005-10.

TFC has estimated relief in interest payments of Rs. 21,276 crore, lower repayments by Rs. 11,929 crore and loan waiver of Rs. 32,199 crore if all the States take necessary action to enact fiscal responsibility legislation, eliminate revenue deficit and meet other specified conditions as per TFC recommendations.

The grants-in-aid for maintenance of Roads and Bridges, Public Buildings, Forests and Heritage conservation for the five year period 2005-10 is Rs. 15,000 crore, Rs. 5000 crore, Rs. 1000 crore and Rs. 625 crore respectively.

Revised estimates of State's share in Union taxes and duties in FY 2004-05 are Rs. 78,617 crore.

The Union Government has not received any suggestions on the recommendations of the TFC.

[Translation]

External Debt

*71. SHRIMATI ANURADHA GHOUDHARY:
SHRI MOHD. TAHIR:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total foreign debt liability of our country as on date;

(b) whether there has been an increase in the amount of foreign debt during the current year as compared to the last year;

(c) if so, the total percentage of increase registered in this regard;

(d) whether the Government is committed to bring down the foreign debt; and

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

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (c) According to the latest data available, India's external debt stood at US \$ 113.59 billion at end-September 2004, showing an increase of 0.1 per cent as compared to US \$ 113.46 billion at end-September 2003.

(d) and (e) Government follows a prudent external debt management policy to keep external debt within manageable limits. The policy focus is on concessional loans, longer maturity profiles, close monitoring of short-term debt and laying emphasis on non-debt creating capital flows. Recent initiatives towards moderation of external debt include prepayment of high cost loans, rationalization of interest rates on NRI deposits, end-use stipulations for external commercial borrowings and restriction on short-term trade credits.

[English]

Refinance Interest Rate

*72. SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH:
SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether NABARD has reduced the rate of interest on refinance to increase the agriculture credits in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of schemes of NABARD disbursed loans, the target fixed and achieved under such schemes during 2003-04 and 2004-05; and

(d) the action taken to boost the loan assistance among agriculture graduates and post-graduates in various States?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. With effect from 13th February, 2004, the rates of interest on short-term refinance for seasonal agricultural operations are in the range of 5.25% to 5.75% as against the earlier range of 5.50% to 6.00%. The rates of interest on schematic refinance for farm/non-farm sectors (term-loans) are now in a range of 5.50% to 6.75% against the previous range of 5.75% to 7%. The details are given in the Statement-I enclosed.

(c) The details of the disbursement and achievement under the different schemes of NABARD are given in the Statement-II enclosed.

(d) The initiatives taken by NABARD to boost loan assistance among agriculture graduates and post graduates in various States are as under:

1. Under the Agri-Clinics and Agri-business Centres (ACABC) Scheme introduced in 2001, agriculture graduates are eligible for loan assistance to set up ACABC units.
2. Margin money/collateral requirement has been waived for loans upto Rs. 5 lakh.
3. Refinance support under automatic refinance facilities is being allowed.
4. Soft loan assistance for margin money may be availed irrespective of availment of refinance from NABARD.
5. Rate of interest on refinance has been fixed at 5.5% irrespective of size of the loan.
6. Six months expenses for setting up of units is allowed to be capitalized and included in the project cost.
7. Eight districts have been identified in eight States for intensified implementation of the scheme.

Statement I*The Rates of Schematic Refinance for farm and non-farm Sectors*

Slab	Loan Size	NER Including Sikkim & A & N Islands For all purposes	Other Regions			
			MI, DLF, LD, WLD, SGSY, SHG, SC-ST Action Plan of Contract farming under AEZ, A&M, RH, FM	NFS	Cold storage/ rural godown and other activities	Agri- Clinics
1.	Upto Rs. 50,000/-	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50
2.	From Rs. 50,000 to Rs. 2 Lakh	5.50	6.25	6.25	6.25	5.50
3.	Above Rs. 2 Lakh	5.50	6.25	6.50	6.75	5.50

MI:	Minor Irrigation	DLF:	Dryland Farming
LD:	Land Development	WLD:	Wasteland Development
SGSY:	Swarnajayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana	SHG:	Self Help Groups
OF:	Organic Farming	AEZ:	Agri Export Zone
A&M:	Aromatic & Medicinal Plants	RH:	Rural Housing
NFS:	Non-Farm Sector	FM:	Farm Mechanisation

Statement II*Sector-wise disbursement of refinance by NABARD under Schematic lending during the year 2003-04 and 2004-05*

(Rs. In crore)

Sl.No.	Purpose	Target 2003-04	Disbursement 2003-04	% Achievement	Target 2004-05	Disbursement As on 31st December, 2004	% Achievement
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Minor Irrigation	1,047.47	651.45	62.19	860.53	415.2	48.25
2.	Land Development	158.2	185.56	117.3	203.97	212.36	104.11
3.	Farm Mechanisation	1,493.55	827.51	55.41	1,105	779.45	70.54

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
4.	Plantation & Horticulture	306.04	250.75	81.93	337.41	125.36	37.15
5.	PF/SGP/AH-others	242.11	280.37	115.8	304.84	229.04	75.13
6.	Fisheries	48.28	23.25	48.15	59.38	20.57	34.65
7.	Dairy	874.32	669.15	76.53	967.95	467.46	48.29
8.	Storage/market yard	219.99	25.38*	11.54	87.15	21.65	24.85
9.	Forestry/wasteland and development	18.93	10.94	57.81	27.16	3.39	12.47
10.	Bio-Gas/Non-conventional energy sources	10.2	0.93	9.12	3.05	0.02	0.51
11.	Non-farm sector	1,760.36	2563.22	134.25	2667.17	1,713.04	64.23
12.	SGSY	594.13	229.45	38.62	373.23	316.14	84.7
13.	SC/ST Action Plan	151.34	73.61	48.64	125.58	60.07	47.83
14.	SHG	460.98	705.44	153.03	873.33	765.89	87.7
15.	Others	214.1	1,308.28	611.06	504.45	766.93	152.03
Total		7,600	7,605.29	100.07	8,500.2	5,896.57	69.37

- * Amount pertains to NABARD Refinance disbursed to the banks under schematic lending and does not include capital investment subsidy scheme (CIS). Under CIS during the year, a subsidy of Rs. 88.40 crore and refinance of Rs. 22.89 crore was released, enhancing the aggregate capacity created to 86.62 lakh tonnes.
- * SGRY-Swarmjayanti Gram Swarojagar Yojana.
- * SHG-Self Help Group.
- * SC/ST-Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe.

Financial Assistance through Banks to Tsunami affected People

'73. SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH:
SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether any public sector bank is adopting any Tsunami affected village;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the public sector banks have made any assessment on the financial need of the villages of such Tsunami affected areas;

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

(e) whether the Government has announced a special Tsunami relief Package for providing subsidized financial assistance through banks to the Tsunami affected fishermen; and

(f) if so, the details thereof alongwith the number of applications received so far, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) According to the information furnished by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), the State-

wise and Bank-wise details of Tsunami affected villages adopted by the Public Sector Banks are indicated in the Statement-I enclosed.

(c) and (d) The State-wise details of assessment on financial need of the Tsunami affected areas made by the Public Sector Banks are indicated in the Statement-II enclosed.

(e) and (f) Government of India vide its Office Memorandum dated 27.01.2005 advised CMDs of all

Public Sector Banks (PSBs) to expeditiously implement the Rajiv Gandhi Rehabilitation package for Tsunami affected areas and a revised relief package including banks loan along with guidelines dated 24th February, 2005 was issued to the respective States/Union Territories *i.e.* Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Pondicherry and Andaman & Nicobar Islands for immediate implementation. The salient features of the revised special relief package for fishermen community is indicated in the Statement-III and IV. Data relating to the number of applications received under the package are not available at present.

Statement I

State-wise and Bank-wise details of villages adopted as Tsunami affected

(I) Tamil Nadu:-

Banks in Tamil Nadu have not specifically adopted any village but have ensured that under the common area of bank branches relief measures are provided to all the 41 Tsunami affected villages.

(ii) Pondicherry:-

Villages adopted Bank-wise.

Sl.No.	Name of the Bank	Name of the Village adopted
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	Krusukuppam
2.	Bank of Baroda	Vamba Keeralalayam
3	Bank of India	Vaithikuppam
4.	UCO Bank	Kolapet
5.	Indian Bank	Pannithittu, Narambai, Veerampattinam, Pudukuppam, Nallavadu
6.	Indian Overseas Bank	Vadakatteli, Keelaiyur, Mudalimedu, Keelavanjur, Melavanjur, Pattinancherry, Vadakuvanjur

(iii) Kerala:-

Banks have adopted the following villages/wards.

1.	Indian Bank	Cheriyazheekal, Azheekal, Edakkazhiyoor
2.	Indian Overseas Bank	Engadiyur
3.	Corporation Bank	Cheriyazheekal, Alappad
4.	Canara Bank	Methala, Manathala, Kaipamangalam, Kudlu, Cheruvathoor, Neeleswar
5.	Bank of Baroda	Perinjanam, Umba

1	2	3
6.	Syndicate Bank	Hosbettu, Chithari, Uppala, Pallikere
7.	Vijaya Bank	Bambrana, Itchalangod, Koipady
8.	State Bank of India	Kadappuram, Kasargod, Kanhangad
9.	State Bank of Travancore	Ochira Ward No. 1 of Azheekal, Karunagapally Ward No. 3 Azheekal, Anddhakaranazhi, Hosdurg, Trikkarippur
10.	Dhanalaskhmi Bank Ltd.	Edvilangu
11.	V. Bank	Punayoor
12.	NGMB	Kalanad, Padne, Ajanur, Kunjathur

(iv) Andaman and Nicobar Islands:-

All the villages in the Union Territory are already allotted to one bank branch or other under Service Area Approach and bank branches are required to take care of the entire credit needs in their respective service area villages.

(v) Andhra Pradesh:

Banks have not adopted any village. However, all the banks in the 9 coastal districts, which have been affected by the Tsunami, are implementing relief measures.

Statement II

Assessment made by PSBs on the financial need of Tsunami affected areas

(i) Tamil Nadu:-

State Level Bankers Committee (SLBC) convenor bank for the State has assessed the credit requirement of the Tsunami affected at Rs. 420.30 lakh with 1593 accounts.

(ii) Pondicherry:-

Bank-wise assessment is as under:

Bank	Accounts	Amount (Rs. lakh)
1	2	3
Andhra Bank	50	20.00
Bank of Baroda	366	33.72

1	2	3
Bank of India	82	65.00
UCO Bank	105	60.00
Indian Bank	290	166.25
IOB	313	107.00

(iii) Andaman and Nicobar Islands:-

Bank-wise details are as follows:-

Andaman District

SBI	410	529.51
Syndicate Bank	602	966.71
Canara Bank	72	63.02
Indian Bank	31	132.27
UCO Bank	67	165.86
PNB	8	50.34
Allahabad Bank	148	380.12
IOB	10	12.49
Vijaya Bank	3	32.34
Bank of Baroda	4	217.12
Cooperative Banks	7858	5309.88

Nicobar District

SBI	57	105.23
Syndicate Bank	94	109.36
Cooperative Banks	2175	251.03

(iv) Andhra Pradesh:-

Preliminary assessment on the extent of damage to the loss of property and life has been made by the Fisheries Department of the Government of Andhra Pradesh. According to its report, the loss is estimated at Rs. 36.05 crore. Banks in the State have prepared a special credit plan of Rs. 61.36 crore in coordination with

the State Government, which is being implemented in the nine coastal districts affected by Tsunami.

(v) Kerala:-

Preliminary assessment as made by State Government/PSBs is about Rs. 90 lakhs. However, the detailed estimate for three more districts are yet to be received.

Statement-III***Rajiv Gandhi Rehabilitation package***

The salient features of Rajiv Gandhi Rehabilitation package-Fishermen: The brunt of the Tsunami have been borne by the fishermen community. As such, a special package has been approved for replacement of boats and nets with the following norms (for Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and Pondicherry).

(a)	Replacement of Cataraman Boats plus nets upto units cost of Rs. 32,000	Fully Subsidy
(b)	Replacement of Boats plus motor and nets upto unit cost of Rs. 1.50 lakh	50% subsidy and 50% loan
(c)	Replacement of Mechanized boats plus nets upto unit cost of Rs. 20.00 lakh	35% subsidy (with a ceiling of Rs. 5.00 lakh) and balance as loans
(d)	Repair of Mechanized boats	60% subsidy (with a ceiling of Rs. 30.00 lakh) and balance as loan
(e)	Repairs of all other types of boats	Full subsidy upto Rs. 10,000

Fishermen covered by the package indicated at (a) will have the option to opt for package indicated at (b) above.

of 2% will be paid in case of prompt repayment. The moratorium for the loan payment will be one and a half years and repayment period will be seven years after that. Affected fishermen will be entitled to get loans, even if earlier loans are outstanding.

Bank loans will carry interest at 7%. Interest subsidy

Statement IV***Rajiv Gandhi Rehabilitation package for Andaman & Nicobar Islands***

The salient features of Rajiv Gandhi Rehabilitation package—An assistance of Rs. 15.01 crore has been approved for the fishery sector, which includes Rs. 2.53 crore for construction of cold storage. On the lines of the package for the fishery sector for the mainland, it has been agreed that the cost of country boats in the lowest category may be fully reimbursed. Keeping in view the high cost of transportation as most of these boats are to be fabricated in the mainland and then transported, the following package has been approved (For Andaman & Nicobar Islands).

(a)	Replacement of country Boats (Dongies) plus nets upto unit cost of Rs. 65,000 including transportation cost from main land	Full Subsidy
-----	--	--------------

- | | | |
|-----|---|--|
| (b) | Replacement/upgradation of Boats plus motor and nets upto units cost of Rs. 1.50 lakh | 50% subsidy and balance as loan |
| (c) | Repair of boats with motors | 60% subsidy (with a ceiling of Rs. 65,000) and balance as loan |
| (d) | Repairs of country boats (Dongies) | Full subsidy upto Rs. 10,000 |
| (e) | Repairs of cold storage | As per damage assessment. |

Note: There are no fibre glass or big mechanised boats in the Islands.

Fishermen covered by the package indicated at (a) will have the option to opt for package indicated at (b) above.

Banks loans will carry interest at 7%. Interest subsidy of 2% will be paid in case of prompt repayment. The moratorium for the loan payment will be one and a half years and repayment period will be seven years after that. Affected fishermen will be entitled to get loans, even if earlier loans are outstanding.

[Translation]

Private Investment in Power Sector

*74. SHRI ANANT KUMAR HEGDE: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government propose to formulate a scheme to increase private investments in power sector;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether any target has been fixed by the Government in this regard; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.M. SAYEED):
 (a) and (b) The National Common Minimum Programme has reiterated the commitment of the Government to an increased role for private generation of power and more importantly, in power distribution. From time to time, Government has taken several measures to increase private investment in the power sector. Also, 100% Foreign Direct Investment has been permitted in projects for electricity generation, transmission and distribution.

The Electricity Act, 2003 which has come into effect from 10th June, 2003 contains several measures to attract

private investment in the power sector. Government has also initiated the process of reforms and restructuring of power sector which would improve the finances of the power utilities thereby attracting private investments.

Under the Act, thermal generation has been fully delicensed and captive generation has been freely permitted.

Under the provisions of the Act, open access in transmission has been introduced to promote competition amongst the generating companies who can now sell to different distribution licensees across the country. Guidelines for competitive bidding for procurement of power by distribution licensees under the Electricity Act, 2003 have been issued.

Government has also been assisting the private sector power projects in achieving financial closure. Encouraged by the provisions of the Electricity Act, 2003, the financial institutions have conveyed that there would be no dearth of funds for viable projects with reasonable tariffs implemented by promoters having credible background. An Inter-Institutional Group (IIG) comprising senior representatives from the financial institutions as well as from the Ministry of Power, has been instrumental in facilitating financial closure of 11 private power projects having a total capacity of over 4000 MW in the last one year.

(c) and (d) In the 10th Five Year Plan, a total capacity addition of 7121 MW has been targeted from private sector. Out of this, 718 MW capacity has so far been commissioned and 13 projects with a total capacity of about 5800 MW are under execution. Further, the IIG is presently facilitating financial closure of 8 projects of about 10,000 MW capacity.

*[English]***PMGSY**

*75. SHRI SHRINIWAS DADASAHEB PATIL:
SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the State-wise amount allocated in the year 2004-2005 for the implementation of 'Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojna' in the country;
- (b) the target date for completion of 'Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojna';
- (c) the norms fixed for construction of roads under this scheme;
- (d) whether the Government has received representations from the States regarding this Yojna;
- (e) if so, the details thereof;
- (f) the reasons for not allocating sufficient funds to certain States;
- (g) the details of the progress of 'Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojna' till date, State-wise along with the expenditure incurred thereon;
- (h) whether the above mentioned project is lagging behind its scheduled date of completion; and
- (i) if so, the extent of delay and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH): (a) State-wise allocation for the year 2004-05 under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojna (PMGSY) is given in the Statement-I enclosed.

(b) The Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojna (PMGSY) seeks to provide connectivity by way of all-weather roads to all Unconnected eligible Habitations. Though the goal of the programme was to achieve connectivity to all eligible habitations by the end of the Tenth Plan Period, the annual targets and achievements are based on the budgetary allocation made from year to year. In the Budget Announcement of 2005-2006, the Finance Minister has announced 'Bharat Nirman' to be implemented over

a period of four years. The goals include connecting all villages that have a population of 1000 (500 in the case of hilly/tribal areas) with a road by 2009.

(c) The PMGSY aims to construct high quality rural roads in accordance with the PMGSY Guidelines as per the technical standards in the Rural Roads Manual of the IRC (IRC: SP20:2002) and (which applicable), the Hill Roads Manual (IRC:SP:48).

(d) and (e) States have from time to time been giving suggestions on various aspects of the Yojana. Several States, including Punjab, Haryana and Kerala, have asked for higher allocations based on their contribution to the Cess. Several States, including Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka, have asked for additional funds keeping in view the large number of unconnected habitations. Hill States also made suggestions in the light of the conditions obtaining in their areas.

(f) Annual proposals are received from States and works are executed on a time bound basis. Releases to States are on the basis of allocation earmarked subject to utilisation of earlier releases and submission of audited accounts. In case these programme requirements are not met, the next instalment is held up.

(g) Statement-II indicating State-wise Physical and Financial Progress of PMGSY is enclosed.

(h) and (i) Though the programme goal was to connect the eligible habitations by the end of the Tenth Plan Period, targets are determined on the basis of annual budgetary allocation primarily based on accruals into the Central Road Fund.

Statement I*Allocation of funds under the PMGSY for 2004-05*

Sl.No.	State	Annual Allocation (Rs. in crores)
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	90.00
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	35.00
3.	Assam	75.00
4.	Bihar	150.00

1	2	3	1	2	3
5.	Chhattisgarh	87.00	18.	Mizoram	20.00
6.	Goa	5.00	19.	Nagaland	20.00.
7.	Gujarat	50.00	20.	Orissa	175.00
8.	Haryana	20.00	21.	Punjab	25.00
9.	Himachal Pradesh	60.00	22.	Rajasthan	130.00
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	20.00	23.	Sikkim	20.00
11.	Jharkhand	110.00	24.	Tamil Nadu	80.00
12.	Karnataka	95.00	25.	Tripura	25.00
13.	Kerala	20.00	26.	Uttar Pradesh	315.00
14.	Madhya Pradesh	213.00	27.	Uttaranchal	60.00
15.	Maharashtra	130.00	28.	West Bengal	135.00
16.	Manipur	20.00			
17.	Meghalaya	35.00		Total	2220.00

Statement II*Physical & Financial progress under PMGSY in Phase-I to Phase-IV (2000-01 to 2004-05)*

(Rs. in crore)

Sl.No.	State	Value of proposal	Amount Released	No. of road works	Length of road works (in km.)	No. of Road works completed (upto Jan., 05)	Length of road works completed (upto Jan., 05)	Exp. Upto (upto Jan., 05)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1.	Andhra Pradesh	918.53	757.91	3733	9114.52	3001	6681.20	661.70
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	127.46	127.46	341	1021.73	315	1007.55	122.73
3.	Assam	674.10	452.01	808	2325.36	494	774.80	295.97
4.	Bihar	452.87	313.89	968	2219.85	261	707.40	242.00
5.	Chhattisgarh	1086.24	549.59	1034	6013.03	416	2354.32	466.10
6.	Goa	9.72	10.00	90	178.16	70	156.86	5.17
7.	Gujarat	325.20	215.86	1200	2513.88	768	1623.62	172.95

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
8.	Haryana	173.83	107.92	85	1213.58	48	709.72	96.09
9.	Himachal Pradesh	446.37	315.66	743	3349.24	335	1301.00	195.03
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	171.69	75.00	178	635.27	36	82.93	40.97
11.	Jharkhand	472.10	352.92	501	2752.90	224	1229.75	304.64
12.	Karnataka	424.70	365.68	1709	5442.30	1233	4069.77	322.52
13.	Kerala	131.18	69.17	366	679.98	144	275.41	56.17
14.	Madhya Pradesh	2089.72	1424.44	2486	12182.00	1359	6359.70	1291.95
15.	Maharashtra	684.75	454.29	2158	5146.84	1379	2865.35	298.96
16.	Manipur	120.71	80.00	790	710.64	416	72.67	59.06
17.	Meghalaya	115.67	115.67	317	718.33	248	563.71	76.22
18.	Mizoram	211.24	118.11	80	1032.50	48	705.40	109.43
19.	Nagaland	124.23	88.95	185	1606.29	156	1203.11	80.06
20.	Orissa	1360.53	878.54	2140	6417.92	1066	2604.60	562.99
21.	Punjab	217.90	127.40	516	1282.78	345	665.27	100.89
22.	Rajasthan	1385.40	1137.89	3289	12400.71	2704	9405.28	1048.94
23.	Sikkim	86.27	70.97	81	1444.73	40	1267.31	46.77
24.	Tamil Nadu	550.51	353.14	2230	4196.89	1320	2246.56	277.47
25.	Tripura	76.60	76.60	247	619.68	194	416.61	49.00
26.	Uttar Pradesh	1564.59	1245.03	8599	15531.65	6415	10746.96	1016.80
27.	Uttaranchal	258.93	201.04	213	1227.39	102	385.78	111.52
28.	West Bengal	1044.81	717.12	754	3982.50	374	1802.01	477.37
	Total	15305.85	10803.26	35841	105960.64	23511	62284.65	8589.47

[Translation]

Handicraft Sector

*76. SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO:
SHRI ANJAN KUMAR M. YADAV:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has assessed the number of workers of Handloom and Handicraft sector in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the schemes and aspects kept in mind at the time of preparing development schemes for the artisans;

(d) whether there are shortcomings in implementation of these schemes;

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

(f) whether the Government has any proposal for the establishment of training centres for handicraft artisans/workers; and

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

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The census of handicraft artisans on all India basis was conducted in the year 1995-96 through National Council for Applied Economic Research & as per their report, the total employment in the handicrafts sector was 47.61 lakhs in 1995-96. The State-wise details are given in the Statement-I enclosed.

Joint census of handlooms and powerlooms was also undertaken in the year 1995-96 and there were 65.51 lakh persons engaged in weaving and associated activities in handlooms sector in the country. The State-wise details are given in the Statement-II enclosed.

(c) The schemes currently under implementation for development and promotion of handicraft sector include: Baba Saheb Ambedkar Hastshilp Vikas Yojana; Design & Technology Upgradation; Marketing & Support Services; Export Promotion; Training & Extension; Research and Development; Bima Yojana & Special Handicrafts Training Project.

These schemes have been prepared keeping in view: Generation of productive employment opportunities to achieve higher standard of living of artisans individually and collectively in rural and urban craft clusters; meeting the requirement of the sector in the area of marketing, design development, training, welfare of artisans etc.; increased foreign exchange earning for the country and preservation of cultural heritage through research and documentation, region/craft specific strategies and protection of crafts facing extinction.

(d) and (e) Periodic evaluation of schemes is carried out with a view to assess their outreach and impact and based on the evaluation, necessary corrective measures are taken from time to time.

(f) Training is being imparted to artisans through the existing departmental training centres and through grant-in-aid to NGOs, State Handicrafts Corporations, Apex organizations, master draftspersons etc. under Ambedkar Hastshilp Vikas Yojana and Special Handicrafts Training Project on the basis of need based proposals within the budgetary allocation.

(g) Does not arise.

Statement I

**State-wise Number of Handicrafts Artisans
in 1995-96**

State	Artisans
1	2
Andhra Pradesh	121880
Arunachal Pradesh	15735
Assam	100482
Bihar	213115
Delhi	44904
Goa	1122
Gujarat	141970
Haryana	117933
Himachal Pradesh	49015
Jammu & Kashmir	542119
Kerala	15258
Karnataka	21779
Madhya Pradesh	51123
Maharashtra	112816
Manipur	379988
Meghalaya	53564
Mizoram	5260
Nalgand	79878
Orissa	101907
Punjab	69356
Rajasthan	407700
Sikkim	9768
Tamil Nadu	125342
Tripura	244495
Uttar Pradeesh	1176529
West Bengal	554281
Union Territories	
Andaman & Nicobar Islands	1090

1	2
Chandigarh	430
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	111
Daman & Diu	278
Lakshadweep	126
Pondicherry	1832
All India	4761186

Statement II

State-wise details of number of persons engaged in weaving and associated activities

Sl.No.	Name of the State	No. of persons engaged in Weaving and associated Activities
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	490616
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	53473
3.	Assam	2322268
4.	Bihar	110732
5.	Chhattisgarh	28362
6.	Delhi	6708
7.	Goa	25
8.	Gujarat	57936
9.	Haryana	22810
10.	Himachal Pradesh	65099
11.	Jammu & Kashmir	51847
12.	Jharkhand	56975
13.	Karnataka	177562
14.	Kerala	63153
15.	Madhya Pradesh	27744
16.	Maharashtra	80901

1	2	3
17.	Manipur	462087
18.	Meghalaya	#
19.	Mizoram	#
20.	Nagaland	126228
21.	Orissa	246782
22.	Pondicherry	7369
23.	Punjab	13160
24.	Rajasthan	71915
25.	Sikkim	1228
26.	Tamil Nadu	607675
27.	Tripura	291761
28.	Uttar Pradesh	401362
29.	Uttaranchal	19322
30.	West Bengal	686254
	Total	6551354

#Data not received from Meghalaya and Mizoram.

Abolition of Excise and Customs Duty

*77. SHRI KIREN RIJU:
SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item appearing in *Economic Times* on 15th January, 2005 captioned "Lahiri Panel for lower levies on crude";

(b) whether the Government have examined recommendations made by the Lahiri Committee;

(c) if so, the details thereof and action proposed to be taken in this regard;

(d) whether the Government is also considering exempting customs and excise levies on subsidized products such as cooking gas and kerosene; and

(e) if so, whether PSUs refineries will lose their profitability thereafter?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (c) The Advisory Group headed by Dr. Ashok Lahiri had submitted its recommendations

on revision of tariff structures for petroleum sector. Taking into consideration the recommendations of the Advisory Group and the views of the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, in this year's budget, following changes have been made in customs and excise duty structure for petroleum sector:

CUSTOMS

Product	Pre budget	With effect from 1.3.2005
Crude petroleum oil	10%	5%
Petrol and diesel	15%	10%
Kerosene (Public Distribution System)	5%	Nil
Liquefied Petroleum Gases (for domestic use)	5%	Nil
Other petroleum products	20%	10%

CENTRAL EXCISE

Product	Pre-budget rates				With effect from 1.3.2005			
	BED	SED	AED Rs./ltr	SAED Rs./ltr	BED	SED	AED Rs./ltr	SAED Rs./ltr
Petrol (motor spirit)	16%	7%	1.50	6.00	8%+Rs. 5.00/ltr.	Nil	2.00	6.00
High Speed Diesel	8%	—	1.50	—	8%+Rs. 1.25/ltr.	—	2.00	—
Light Diesel Oil	16%+Rs. 1.50/ltr.	—	—	—	16%+Rs. 2.50/ltr.	—	—	—
Kerosene (PDS)	12%	—	—	—	Nil	—	—	—
LPG (domestic)	8%	—	—	—	Nil	—	—	—

(d) LPG for domestic use and kerosene for public distribution system have been fully exempted from both customs and excise duties.

(e) It is not possible to comment on the profitability of the refineries as it will depend on various factors including the product mix. However, according to Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, the net duty protection to PSU refineries in percentage terms as compared to product realization without duty available to refineries may get reduced by 1% due to changes in tariff.

[English]

Shortfall of Market Shares of Banks

*78. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:
SHRI MAHBOOB ZAHEDI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- whether nationalised banks operating in the country have been losing their market share;
- if so, the reaction of the Government thereto;
- the credit and deposit break up of private banks during the said period;

Deen Dayal Hathkargha Protsahan Yojana

*79. SHRI KASHIRAM RANA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Deen Dayal Hathkargha Protsahan Yojana and the incentives provided under the scheme;

(b) the monitoring mechanism to check the utilization of assistance provided under the scheme at the National and State level;

(c) whether the Government has assessed the impact of the scheme so as to decide the fate of scheme keeping in view the huge allocation of funds;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) The Government of India had introduced a comprehensive developmental scheme Deen Dayal Hathkargha Protsahan Yojana (DDHPY) in the year 2000-01 to take care of a wide gamut of activities such as product development, infrastructure support, institutional support, training to weavers, supply of equipments and marketing support etc. both at macro and micro level in a coordinated manner for an overall development of handloom sector and benefit to handloom weavers. The scheme will be in operation till 31.3.2007.

Components for which assistance is given under the scheme are basic inputs such as (s) Assistance for Margin Money (b) Purchase of new Looms (c) Purchase of Jacquard (d) Purchase of Accessories (e) Training (f) Infrastructural support and (g) Design Input and for Publicity, Marketing incentive, Transport Subsidy and Strengthening of Handloom Organisations.

(b) The scheme provides that the State Government would be responsible for making necessary administrative arrangement for overseeing each project and for effective monitoring of its functioning and performance. The Office of the Development Commissioner for Handlooms also monitors the performance of the projects through its own field agencies and through periodical field visits by the senior officials of the Office of the Development Commissioner for Handlooms. In order to ensure utilization of assistance, Central assistance under the Basic Input is released in instalments after the State Government has made adequate provision to match its share and on

submission of viable proposals duly recommended by the State Level Project Committee (SLPC). 2nd instalment is released only after the State Government furnishes utilization certificate in respect of the 1st instalment released and also the matching State share, progress report indicating component-wise assistance released and the beneficiaries covered thereunder alongwith the recommendation of the SLPC for release of 2nd instalment etc. In the case of Marketing Incentive component, assistance is released only after the State Government has released its share to the implementing agencies and on receipt of the utilization certificate for the earlier releases. In the case of National Level Organisations, the Government of India shares the entire assistance and funds are released to the grantee organization on receipt of audited claims in the prescribed proforma and utilization certificate for the past releases etc.

(c) to (e) No general assessment of the impact of the scheme has been made so far. However, monitoring of the projects by the State Governments and in the course of visits of the senior officers of the Office of the Development Commissioner for Handlooms indicates that the assistance released under the scheme has resulted in creation of assets like looms, jacquards, CAD/CAM etc. and also has helped in clearance of handloom stocks.

Rate of Interest on Loan to Farmers

*80. SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:
SHRI SUGRIB SINGH:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the nationalized, co-operative banks and NABARD give loans to farmers on different rates of interest;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether in the case of delay in repayments such bank charge different rates of penalty from the farmers;

(d) if so, the reasons for not having uniform policy of the Banks in this regard;

(e) whether NABARD propose to reduce the rate of interest on the loan to be given to farmers;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the steps taken by the Government to bring transparency and uniform policy in this regard?

(c) Yes, Sir.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Yes, Sir. However, NABARD only provides refinance to the Banks.

(e) and (f) Interest rates of NABARD on refinance have been reduced in November, 2003 and February, 2004. A chart indicating the detailed refinance interest rates of both short term and long term credit is given in the enclosed Statement-I and II respectively.

(b) and (d) As the interest rates on loans given by Banks have been deregulated, they have been charging rates of interest keeping in mind their cost of funds, risk premium, cost of intermediation etc. However, the interest rate policy of the Reserve Bank of India provides that interest rates on loan upto Rs. 2 lakh by Commercial Banks should not exceed the Bench mark Prime Lending Rate.

(g) The interest rate on loan given by Banks have been deregulated. Banks are thus free to lend at sub BPLR rates to creditworthy borrowers based on an objective and transparent policy, subject to the approval of their boards.

Statement I

Short Term Refinance facilities provided by NABARD-at a glance

Sl.No.	Purpose	Agency	Interest rate charged
1	2	3	4
1.	SAO	SCBs	5.25/5.75*
2.	SAO	RRBs	5.75/6.00*
3.	Pledge of securities	SCBs	6.00%
4.	Marketing of Crops	SCBs	6.00%
5.	Marketing of Crops	RRBs	6.00%
6.	Collection and Marketing of Minor Forest Produce	SCBs	Apex 6.25%/primary 6%
7.	Production/Procurement and marketing of cloth by Weaver's Co-operative Societies	SCBs	6% NER, J&K, HP, Sikkim 5.75%
8.	Procurement & supply of yarn by Apex/Regional WCS	SCBs	6.25% NER, J&K, HP, Sikkim 5.75%
9.	Working capital requirement of SHDCs & SHnDCs	SCBs	6.25%
10.	Industrial Co-operative Societies (other than Weaver's Co-operative Societies)	SCBs	Apex 6.25%/primary 6.00%
11.	Rural artisans, including Weaver members of PACS/LAMPS/FSS	SCBs	6.00%
12.	Procurement, stocking and distribution of Chemical Fertilizers and other inputs for agricultural operations	SCBs	6.50% for wholesale distribution & 6.25% for retail distribution of fertilisers

1	2	3	4
13.	Working capital requirements of co-operative sugarcane against repledge of sugar stock	SCBs	11%
14.	Short-term OSAO loans	RRBs	6.00%/6.25%
15.	Working capital requirements of SHDCs/SHnDCs	Scheduled Commercial Banks	6.25%
16.	Financing of PWCS	Scheduled Commercial Banks	6.25%
17.	Short term approved agricultural, allied and marketing activities	SCBs	6.5%
18.	Working capital requirements for pisciculture/fishery activities	SCBs	5.75%
19.		RRBs	5.75%
20.	ST liquidity support NRC (LTO) Fund	SCBs	6.50%
21.	Medium-term (Non-Schematic) loans	SCBs	5.75%
22.	Medium-term (non-Schematic) loans	RRBs	5.75%
23.	MT-financing purchase of shares in coop processing societies	SCBs	5.75%
24.	Long-term loans to State Governments for contributing to the share capital to the cooperative credit institutions NRC (Stabilisation) Fund	State Govts.	8%
25.	Conversion of short-term loans into medium-term loans in areas affected by natural	SCBs	Same rate as charged for SAO
26.	Medium-term (Conversion) loan	RRBs	Same rate as charged for SAO

ST (SAO) to SCBs in NER & Sikkim-5.25%
ST (SAO)-DTP to all SCBs-5.25%

5.25/5.75-For SCBS/RRBs with NPA<=20%
5.75/6.00-For SCBS/RRBs with NPA>20%

SAO: Seasonal Agricultural Operation

SCBs: State Cooperative Banks

RRBs: Regional Rural Banks

ST (SAO): Short-Term (Seasonal Agricultural Operations)

NRC (LTO): National Rural Credit (Long Term Operations)

FSS: Farmers Service Society

PACS: Primary Agriculture Credit Society

LAMPS: Large Size Advesi Multi-purpose Society

SHDCs: State Handicraft Development Corporation

SHnDCs: State Handloom Development Corporation

Statement II**NABARD's Interest Rate on Schematic Refinance**

Slab	Loan Size	NER Including Sikkim & A & N Islands For all purposes	Other Regions			
			MI, DLF, LD, WLD SGSY, SHG, SC-ST Action Plan of Contract farming under AEZ, A&M, RH, FM	NFS	Cold storage/ rural godown and other activities	Agri- Clinics
1.	Upto Rs. 50,000/-	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50
2.	From Rs. 50,000 to Rs. 2 Lakh	5.50	6.25	6.25	6.25	5.50
3.	Above Rs. 2 Lakh	5.50	6.25	6.50	6.75	5.50

MI:	Minor Irrigation
LD:	Land Development
SGSY:	Swarnajayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana
OF:	Organic Farming
A&M:	Aromatic & Medicinal Plants
NFS:	Non-Farm Sector

DLF:	Dryland Farming
WLD:	Wasteland Development
SHG:	Self Help Groups
AEZ:	Agri Export Zone
RH:	Rural Housing
FM:	Farm Mechanisation

Ban on Tobacco Products

*82. SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI:
SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY:

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

(a) whether the Government has banned direct and indirect advertisement of all tobacco products in the country;

(b) if so, whether the tobacco companies are continuing to advertise their products in various magazines and through other mode of advertisements;

(c) if so, the action taken/proposed to be taken against them;

(d) whether the Supreme Court has recently directed the States/UTs to impose ban on Gutka which is mixed

with whitening chemical agents like magnesium carbonate which affects vital body parts;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether the Government has a proposal to amend the Food Adulteration Act, 1954 to provide punitive punishment to manufacturer of Gutka;

(g) whether the Government is aware that fake cigarettes with names and looks similar to same popular imported brands have swamped the markets in the country;

(h) if so, whether these cigarettes are made from sub-standard tobacco and contain saturation level of lethal pesticides and toxic fertilizers; and

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

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) to (i) The central legislation titled "The Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products (Prohibition of Advertisement and Regulation of Trade and Commerce, Production, Supply and Distribution) Act, 2003", which is applicable to whole of the country, *inter-alia* contains a provision, *i.e.*, section 5, which prohibits direct and indirect advertisement of cigarettes and other tobacco products. This provision came into force from 1st May 2004. The State Governments/Union Territories are the main implementing authorities. While the law is being implemented strictly, some instances of violation have come to the notice of the Central Government wherein certain tobacco products were advertised. The concerned State Governments were advised to take appropriate action against the violators as per the provisions of the law and also put in place necessary mechanism to prevent such violations.

The Hon'ble Supreme Court, in a Writ Petition seeking prevention of manufacture and sale of chewing tobacco (Gutkha) containing ingredients like Magnesium Carbonate that are harmful and prohibited under the provisions of the Law, issued notices on 11.2.2005 to the Union of India and all State Governments/Union Territories directing them to file their reply in the matter. The matter is subjudice.

Addition of Magnesium Carbonate in Gutkha is not permitted under the provisions of the Prevention of Food Adulteration Rules, 1955, and is a punishable offence under Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954. The Government of India has instructed all Food (Health) Authorities to keep a strict vigil and check general adulterants including Magnesium Carbonate in Gutkha.

The Department of Consumer Affairs in the Government of India have reported that no information is available relating to sale of fake cigarettes with names and looks similar to some imported brands in the country and that any aggrieved consumer in the matter can seek redressal in the consumer forums established under the Consumer Protection Act, 1986. It may be further added that at present there is no regulation of ingredients in the manufacture of cigarette products. However, the above Tobacco Control Act, 2003, proposes to regulate the tar and nicotine contents of cigarettes and other tobacco products.

[*Translation*]

Rules for Registration of Private Hospitals/Nursing Homes/Doctors

*85. DR. DHIRENDRA AGARWAL:
SHRI MANSUKHBHAI D. VASAVA:

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

(a) the rules have been laid down for the registration of private hospitals, private nursing homes and private doctors;

(b) whether there has been violation of these rules due to negligence on the part of the Government;

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

(d) the number of cases of violation of these rules registered during the last three years, State-wise alongwith the number of cases disposed of so far out of them; and

(e) the reasons for delay in taking action on these cases?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) to (e) Health being a State subject under the Constitution of India, it is primarily the responsibility of the State Government to regulate the functioning of Private Hospitals & Nursing Homes and therefore information in regard to violation of the rules of the respective Government by hospitals/nursing homes is not maintained centrally.

The Central Government is considering to enact a legislation prescribing standards and specifications that will stipulate minimum standards for hospitals, nursing homes and other clinical establishments. The proposed enactment would lay down norms for assessment, accreditation, inspection, certification, regulation of such clinical establishments as well as maintenance of records.

It is mandatory for all Medical practitioners, including the private practitioners, to register with respective State Council/Indian Medical Council before they could practice medicine. The conduct of registered Medical Practitioners is regulated by the Indian Medical Council (Professional Conduct, Etiquette and Ethics) Regulations, 2002, as amended from time to time.

[English]

Psychological Trauma among Tsunami Victims

*87. SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:
SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO:

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

(a) whether the World Health Organisation (WHO) warned that the problem of psychological trauma among the Tsunami affected might be more serious than what was so far believed;

(b) if so, whether the WHO has said that virtually every one who has been affected by the natural disaster appeared to be suffering from psychological trauma and needed support;

(c) whether the havoc wrought by Tsunami has forced the WHO to take a fresh look into the health management guidelines for South and South East Asian Region;

(d) if so, whether the WHO has issued fresh guidelines in regard to post calamity management;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether experts from various nations including India participated in the formation of guidelines for emergency health preparedness;

(g) if so, the details thereof; and

(h) the effective measures taken/being taken by the Government to implement the guidelines?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) to (h) As per the World Health Organization (WHO), estimates of Psychiatric disorders [Post traumatic stress disorder, depression, anxiety disorder, suicidal ideation etc.] after a disaster ranges from 5-10% among the affected population. WHO is of the view that everyone is affected after a disaster such as Tsunami but a substantial percentage [50%] of the affected population recover by themselves or with some social support. Forty percent needs psychosocial first-aid which can be given by a Community level worker and the balance 10% possibly require services from mental health professionals.

Thus WHO has strongly advocated a community based approach and have prepared manuals on Psychosocial Care for Tsunami-Affected Population for Community Level Workers and their Trainers. They have also prepared guidelines for Relief Workers for caring for their own well-being. These manuals/guidelines were prepared in the month of January, 2005, with contributions from Indian and International experts.

However, immediately after Tsunami, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare identified National Institute of Mental Health and Neuro Sciences [NIMHANS], Bangalore, for coordinating the Psychosocial relief and rehabilitation work along with other premier institutions in the country. NIMHANS drew up an extensive action plan covering the entire Tsunami affected areas in the two States of Tamil Nadu and Kerala and U.T. of Andaman & Nicobar Islands and Pondicherry. Apart from providing psychosocial care, capacity building efforts initiated include identification of seven training hubs, training of community leaders, student volunteers and self-help groups about psychosocial care. NIMHANS is now planning long term requirements with regard to psychosocial care.

The community based approach advocated by WHO has already been implemented by NIMHANS. However, the manuals and guidelines prepared by WHO would be considered by NIMHANS to further strengthen the Community based long term Psychosocial care.

[Translation]

Sale of SSI Items in World Market

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

(a) whether environmental and quality standards apply on the items produced by the small scale industries in connection with their sale in the world market;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the assistance being provided to the small scale industries by the Government so that items produced by these industries conform to the international standards?

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHAVIR PRASAD): (a) Yes, Sir. There are several environmental and quality standards applicable to various items for sale in the world market. These

standards vary from item to item, country to country and buyer to buyer and are applicable to the products; whether manufactured by small scale industries or otherwise.

(b) ISO 9000 and ISO 14000 series are internationally accepted Quality Management System (QMS) and Environmental Management System (EMS) respectively. Some of the quality standards applicable to various products are the following:

- (1) National Electrical Manufacturers Association (NEMA) Standards, USA.
- (2) Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) Standards, USA.
- (3) British Standards, UK.
- (4) Deutsches Institute for Normung E.V. (DIN) Standards, Germany.
- (5) Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS).

(c) The Government provides assistance to the small scale industries in a number of ways to enable them to manufacture products conforming with the standards laid down by the international buyers. The schemes of such direct assistance include the following:

- (a) product testing facilities at subsidized rates through testing laboratories of the Ministry of Small Scale Industries (SSI) located in various regions of the country;
- (b) incentive scheme of the Ministry of SSI to assist registered small scale industries in acquiring ISO certification (for quality and environment management) for registered small scale industries by acquiring ISO certification under which charges for acquiring ISO 9001/14001 (or its equivalent) certification are reimbursed to the extent of 75 per cent of the cost, subject to a maximum of Rs. 75,000; and
- (c) grants-in-aid offered by the Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce and Industry to cashew exporting units to improve quality and obtain international certification.

[English]

Vande Matram Scheme

*89. SHRI KULDEEP BISHNOI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has abandoned the "Vande Matram" scheme launched last year for pre-natal care of pregnant women;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) if not, the details of works done under the scheme so far alongwith the expenditure incurred; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to provide free check up facilities to pregnant women on regular basis?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) The Vande Mataram Scheme is a voluntary scheme initiated in February 2004, under the auspices of the Federation of Obstetricians and Gynaecological Society of India (FOGSI). FOGSI have appealed to its members to provide for free OPD services for ante-natal and post natal check up of pregnant women and family planning services on the 9th of every month free of cost and to refer such women who require treatment for any complications, if necessary, to pre-identified referral centres. Instructions have been issued to all State Governments to facilitate voluntary doctors by providing them with free Vande Mataram Boards for their clinics, create awareness in the community about the scheme and about the voluntary doctors and also to provide Iron Folic Acid Tablet, Injection Tetanus Toxide, condoms and oral pills etc. for free distribution to the patients who attend the clinics of these doctors on the 9th of every month. These items are to be provided by the District Administrations from out of the funds and drugs available with them under the Reproductive & Child Health (RCH) Programme. No separate funds have, therefore, been earmarked for this scheme. As per information made available by FOGSI, 1653 volunteer doctors are providing services under the scheme.

(d) Under the on-going RCH Programme, various interventions focused on providing safe motherhood services to pregnant women are being implemented. These include Essential Obstetric Care; Emergency Obstetric Care; provision for referral transport for pregnant women with complication of pregnancy through panchayats; provision of drugs and equipment at first referral units; provision of contractual staff like Additional Health Workers, staff nurses, doctors and anaesthetist. Funds are also being provided for schemes like 24 hours

delivery services at selected primary health centres and community health centres.

Release of Funds under MPLAD Scheme

*90. SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR:
SHRI SURESH CHANDEL:

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

(a) whether funds under the Members of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme for the year 2004-05 have not been released so far in case of some MPs;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and steps proposed to be taken in this regard;

(c) the time by which the funds are likely to be released to nodal districts of each MP under the said scheme;

(d) whether the Government has any proposal to wind up this scheme;

(e) if not, whether the Government has any proposal to increase the amount to be allotted to each MP under MPLAD Scheme;

(f) if so, the details thereof;

(g) whether the Government has received representations for effective implementation as well as amendments in guidelines;

(h) if so, the details thereof; and

(i) the time by which new guidelines/amendments are likely to be implemented by the Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) to (c) Out of the budgeted amount of Rs. 1580 crore for the year 2004-05, Rs. 1065 crore have been released upto 3.3.2005 in respect of 750 Members of Parliament including 29 Ex-Members of Parliament (Rajya Sabha). The funds in respect of the remaining MPs could not be released because the reports received from their Nodal Districts do not fulfil the criteria of unsanctioned balance being less than Rs. 50 lakh and unspent balance being less than Rs. 1 crore. Their funds would be released as soon as the reports fulfilling the said conditions are received from their Nodal Districts.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

(g) to (i) The revision of the Guidelines is being finalized.

Criminals Taking Asylum

*91. SHRI J.M. AARON RASHID: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are people hiding in India after committing crimes in Gulf countries and having escaped from the clutches of legal action in those countries;

(b) if so, whether the Governments of these Gulf countries have requested the Union Government to send these Indians back to the respective countries for undergoing trial there;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) India has signed Extradition Treaties with four out of six Gulf countries viz., UAE, Kuwait, Bahrain and Oman. Of these, Extradition Treaty with UAE only is in force, while internal procedure for ratification of other three treaties is yet to be completed. Extradition of Indian nationals is not possible under the Extradition Treaty in force in UAE. However, the trial of the individual is possible in India on the basis of case file, material and other evidence required for prosecution. In such cases, the countries concerned are requested to provide the required information.

[Translation]

Expenditure on Health Sector

*92. SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR:
PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA:

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

(a) whether as per the United Nations Human Development Report less than 1 per cent of GDP is spent on health sector in India;

(b) if so, whether the poor and the rural people are most affected because of it;

(c) if so, whether the Government has formulated any scheme to provide Government medical facilities to the rural people; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) to (d) The Human Development Report-2004 brought out by the UNDP has indicated that less than 1% of GDP is the share of public health expenditure in India in 2001. Public Health expenditure and infrastructure though extensive have not been able to address the requirements across all States and sections of society. A National Rural Health Mission has been envisaged to provide accessible, affordable, accountable, effective and reliable primary health care especially to the poor and vulnerable sections of the population.

The core strategy under the Mission would include:

- Train and enhance the capacity of Panchayat Raj institutions in ownership, control and management of public health services.
- Promote access to health care to household through Accredited Social Health Activists (ASHA).
- Health plan for each village through Village Health Samiti of the Panchayat.
- Strengthening sub-centres with untied funds.
- Strengthening the Primary Health Centres for improved reach and delivery of services.
- Strengthening of existing Community Health Centres for improved curative care.
- Preparation and implementation of an inter-sectoral District Health Plan including drinking water, sanitation and hygiene and nutrition.
- Integrating relevant vertical Health and Family Welfare Programme under the NRHM at National, State and District levels.

- Technical support to National, State and District Health Missions for Public Health Management.

[English]

Confidence Building Measures between India and Pakistan

*93. SHRI MADHU GOUD YASKHI:
SHRI K.S. RAO:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Foreign Secretary level talks were held between India and Pakistan recently;

(b) If so, the various issues discussed therein including the CBMs adopted by the two countries;

(c) whether India has conveyed serious concerns to the US regarding its alleged arms sale to Pakistan in the wake of Indo-Pak dialogue having reached a sensitive stage;

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

(e) the details of concrete steps envisaged to strengthen bilateral ties between the two countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED): (a), (b) and (e) The Foreign Secretary Level talks between India and Pakistan were held from December 27-28, 2004. The following main decisions were taken during the meeting:

On the issue of Peace and Security including CBMs, the two Foreign Secretaries, *inter-alia* reviewed the progress made during the meetings of Experts on Nuclear and Conventional CBMs. Building upon the existing contacts between DGMOs, they agreed to promote regular contacts at local level at designated places and explore further CBMs along the international boundary and the LoC. They discussed and narrowed further their differences on the draft agreement on pre-notification of flight testing of ballistic missiles, and agreed to work towards its early finalization.

It was agreed that the meetings on the other six subjects under the Composite Dialogue, *i.e.* Siachen, Wullar Barrage/Tulbul Navigation Project, Sir Creek,

Terrorism & Drug Trafficking, Economic & Commercial Cooperation and Promotion of Friendly Exchanges in various Fields would be held on mutually agreed dates between April and June 2005.

It was decided that technical meetings including the Joint Study Group on Trade and Economic Cooperation headed by the Commerce Secretaries, Indian Coast Guards and Pakistan Maritime Security Agency, Pakistan Rangers and Border Security Force of India, Expert level dialogue on Nuclear and Conventional CBMs, technical level meeting on bus service between/through Amritsar and Lahore, meeting between the Narcotics Control Authorities would be held between January and June 2005.

On issues related to apprehended fishermen, civilian prisoners and missing defence personnel, it was *inter-alia* agreed that:

- (i) Immediate notification would be provided to the respective High Commissions through the Foreign Ministries of arrested Pakistani/Indian nationals;
- (ii) Consular access would be provided within three months of apprehension;
- (iii) Repatriation would be done immediately after completion of sentence and nationality verification;
- (iv) A mechanism would be introduced for early repatriation, without sentencing of inadvertent crossers;
- (v) A similar mechanism would be established for early release, without sentencing of those under 16 apprehended by either side.

India announced Visa on arrival at Wagah Border for Pakistani nationals above 65 years, children below 16 years, and pre-vetted groups and grant of Student Visas to Pakistan nationals on a case-by-case basis.

The India-Pakistan process was taken significantly forward during the External Affairs Minister, Shri K. Natwar Singh's visit from 15-17 February, 2005. Following concrete steps were taken to further strengthen bilateral relations:

- (i) Agreements were reached to start bus services between Srinagar and Muzaffarabad, and

between Lahore and Amritsar, including to religious places such as Nankana Sahib. Pakistan also agreed to work towards early restoration of the Munnabao-Khokrapar rail link.

- (ii) It was also decided that agreements would be concluded in the coming months on Pre-notification of Missile Tests, and between Coast Guards and Pakistan's Maritime Security Agency, as well as between the narcotics control authorities of the two countries. Discussions would begin on Agreements on Preventing Incidents at Sea, and Reducing the Risk of Nuclear Accident or Unauthorised use of Nuclear Weapons.

(c) and (d) India's strong concern regarding the repercussions of arms sales to Pakistan by the US, including on the ongoing India-Pakistan dialogue, has been conveyed at high levels to the US Government. It was also conveyed that such transfers of arms to Pakistan at a time when Indo-US relations saw transformation towards a strategic partnership, will impact on the goodwill for the US in India.

U.S. officials have stated that while the United States values its relationship with India, as far as India-Pakistan, relations were concerned, while the US has an arms supply relationship with Pakistan, it was supportive of the India-Pakistan dialogue.

E-Governance

*94. SHRI AKHILESH YADAV: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has finalized a plan to bring e-governance to the grass-root level as envisaged in the Common Minimum Programme;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the amount earmarked for this purpose; and

(c) the time by when the rural areas in the country are likely to have connectivity of this facility?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN): (a) to (c) A National e-Governance Plan has been drawn which seeks to implement 25 Mission Mode Projects for the present as per details given in the enclosed Statement. This covers 8 projects in the category

of Central Government, 10 projects in the category of States Sector and 7 projects in the Integrated Service category. The scope also includes establishment of Common Core Infrastructure comprising State Wide Area

Networks, State Data Centres and Common Service Centres. There is no specific Allocation of Funds for the entire programme, individual projects are being taken up for approval and Allocation of Funds.

Statement

Mission Mode Projects

S.No.	Mission Mode Projects	Line Ministries/Departments responsible
1	2	3
Central Government		
1.	Income Tax	Ministry of Finance/Central Board of Direct Tax
2.	Passport Visa & Immigration Project	Ministry of External Affairs/Ministry of Home Affairs
3.	DCA21	Department of Company Affairs
4.	Insurance	Deptt. of Banking
5.	National Citizen Database	Ministry of Home Affairs/Registrar General of India (RGI)
6.	Central Excise	Department of Revenue/Central Board of Excise & Custom
7.	Pensions	Deptt. of Pensions & Pensioners Welfare & Deptt. of Expenditure
8.	Banking	Deptt. of Banking
State Government		
1.	Land Records	Ministry of Rural Development
2.	Road Transport	Ministry of Road Transport & Highway
3.	Property Registration	Department of Land Resources
4.	Agriculture	Department of Agriculture & Cooperation
5.	Treasuries	Ministry of Finance
6.	Municipalities	Ministry of Urban Development and Poverty Alleviation
7.	Gram Panchayats	Ministry of Rural Development
8.	Commercial Taxes	Ministry of Finance
9.	Police (UTs initially)	Ministry of Home Affairs
10.	Employment Exchanges	Ministry of Labour
Integrated Services		
1.	EDI (E-Commerce)	Ministry of Commerce and Industry
2.	E-Biz	Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion/Department of Information Technology

1	2	3
3.	Common Service Centres	Department of Information Technology
4.	India Portal	Department of Information Technology and Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances
5.	EG Gateway	Department of Information Technology
6.	E-Courts	Ministry of Justice/Ministry of Home Affairs
7.	E-Procurement	Ministry of Commerce & Supply

National Blindness Eradication Programme

*95. SHRI JUAL ORAM:
SHRI SUNIL KUMAR MAHATO:

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

(a) whether the Government has reviewed the National Blindness Eradication Programme in every State;

(b) if so, the performance of each State in the National Blindness Eradication Programme during the last three years;

(c) whether the Programme has not been able to achieve its desired result in some States;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the details of projects under NBEP commissioned with the help of WHO in India, State-wise;

(f) whether the Government has established monitoring cell for the evaluation of the projects; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. State-wise performance report is given in the enclosed Statement-I.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir, some of the States, like Assam, Bihar, Jharkhand and Arunachal Pradesh have not been able to achieve the targets set on account of inadequate infrastructure and lack of trained manpower.

(e) Under National Programme for Control of Blindness, WHO assisted activities are given in Statement-II.

(f) and (g) Yes, Sir. State Ophthalmic Cells are established in all the States and UTs to monitor the programme.

Statement I

National Programmes for Control of Blindness Performance of Cataract Surgery

Sl.No.	State	2002-2003		2003-2004		2004-2005*	
		Target	Achv.	Target	Achv.	Target	Achv.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
MAJOR STATES							
1.	Andhra Pradesh	350000	404002	350000	443091	400000	373916
2.	Bihar	140000	63927	140000	87876	100000	7343

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
3.	Chhattisgarh	80000	56451	80000	64196	80000	59118
4.	Goa	7000	5294	7000	5497	7000	1250
5.	Gujarat	400000	436740	400000	449234	450000	269230
6.	Haryana	110000	90665	110000	104375	110000	33116
7.	Himachal Pradesh	16000	16226	16000	18343	16000	8769
8.	Jammu & Kashmir	13000	11553	13000	10712	13000	7663
9.	Jharkhand	70000	29544	70000	28054	70000	0
10.	Karnataka	220000	244699	220000	263613	250000	191183
11.	Kerala	90000	83345	90000	79696	100000	45231
12.	Madhya Pradesh	240000	224049	240000	233870	250000	131467
13.	Maharashtra	420000	480356	420000	519561	500000	424281
14.	Orissa	130000	81619	130000	82652	130000	64821
15.	Punjab	160000	122670	160000	133376	160000	63386
16.	Rajasthan	220000	188747	220000	226829	230000	180103
17.	Tamil Nadu	400000	371559	400000	452650	440000	290640
18.	Uttar Pradesh	450000	551516	450000	567718	450000	325660
19.	Uttaranchal	100000	34703	100000	37105	60000	28476
20.	West Bengal	220000	233382	220000	249895	220000	119079
Total		3836000	3731047	3836000	4058343	4036000	2624732

NORTH EASTERN STATES

1.	Arunachal Pradesh	1000	532	1000	664	1000	507
2.	Assam	45000	20889	45000	23063	45000	9809
3.	Manipur	2000	722	2000	553	2000	538
4.	Meghalaya	2000	824	2000	1283	2000	184
5.	Mizoram	800	733	800	796	800	531
6.	Nagaland	500	400	500	429	500	291
7.	Sikkim	1000	378	1000	253	1000	170
8.	Tripura	8000	8270	8000	8098	8000	3439
Total		60300	32746	60300	35139	60300	15469

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
UTs							
1.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	500	530	500	693	500	625
2.	Chandigarh	5500	5560	5500	6320	5500	4461
3.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	330	500	330	250	330	2
4.	Daman & Diu	350	372	350	372	350	273
5.	Delhi	80000	73391	80000	79994	80000	42477
6.	Lakshadweep	20	8	20	87	20	1
7.	Pondicherry	7000	7397	7000	9969	700	2310
Total		93700	87748	93700	97685	93700	50149
E.S.I.A.F., C.R.		10000	5582	10000	6442	10000	3899
Grand Total		4000000	3857133	4000000	4197609	4200000	2694249

Statement II

WHO Assistance for Prevention of Blindness: Important Activities undertaken with WHO assistance include

- Intra-country Fellowship in Corneal Transplantation, Vitreo-Retinal Surgery, Lasers in Ophthalmology and Pediatric Ophthalmology;
- Pilot Survey on childhood blindness in Delhi;
- High Quality workshops in Eye Care for Faculty of Medical Colleges;
- Development of Plan of Action for "Vision 2020: The Right to Sight" initiative;
- Training in District Programme Management;
- Study on Situational Analysis of Eye Care Infrastructure & Human Resources in India.

Implementation of Recommendations of JPC on Soft Drinks

*96. SHRI M. SREENIVASULU REDDY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has taken any decision regarding the implementation of the recommendations of

the Joint Parliamentary Committee on pesticides residues and safety standards in packed water and soft drinks particularly Coca-cola and Pepsi-cola;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Supreme Court has issued any notice to the Union Government to regulate the contents of soft drinks and mineral water;

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the steps taken/ being taken in this regard so far;

(e) whether the Government has issued any directions to the soft drink companies for a complete and mandatory disclosure of the contents of the soft drinks;

(f) if so, whether the Government has set any time limit to implement these standards in order to protect the interests of the consumers; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) to (g) The Central Committee for Food Standards (CCFS) deliberated in detail on the recommendations of the Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) on Pesticide Residues in and Safety Standards for Soft Drinks, Fruit Juice and

other Beverages in its 50th meeting held on 13th February, 2004. The CCFS recommended that water to be used in the manufacturing of carbonated water shall conform to the standards prescribed for packaged drinking water under the Prevention of Food Adulteration (PFA) Rules, 1955, as amended vide Notification GSR No. 554(E) dated 18.7.2003. Accordingly, the standards of carbonated water have since been amended vide notification GSR No. 451(E) dated 15.7.2004.

In Writ Petition (Civil) No. 681 of 2004, filed in the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India by Centre for Public Interest Litigation Vs. Union of India for seeking directions for Union of India (Ministry of Health and Family Welfare) to lay down strict guidelines and rules so that the manufacturing process of soft drinks in India can be regulated with regard to their contents, the Hon'ble Supreme Court has passed order to issue notice to Ministry of Health & F.W. who are the respondent in this case.

Under the Prevention of Food Adulteration (PFA) Rules, 1955, manufacturers of all packaged food articles, including those of soft drinks are required to indicate the contents of the food articles on the labels, in accordance with the relevant labelling provisions under the PFA Rules.

Strategic Dialogue with China

*97. SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA:
SHRI SURESH KALMADI:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has held strategic dialogue with China recently;

(b) if so, the details of the discussions held with Chinese Deputy Foreign Minister for Asian Affairs;

(c) whether the Government has conveyed its concerns on nuclear proliferation in the neighbouring countries;

(d) if so, the reaction of China thereto; and

(e) the time by when a final agreement on border issue is likely to be signed by the two countries?

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

(b) During the talks, both sides had in-depth exchange of views on important regional and global issues that shape the present international environment. Substantive discussions took place on bilateral relations, including in particular on preparations for the forthcoming visit of the Chinese Premier to India. Both sides noted with satisfaction recent positive trends in bilateral relations and reiterated their desire to improve the relationship at all levels and in all areas while addressing the outstanding differences, including the boundary question, in a fair, reasonable and mutually acceptable manner.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Both sides exchanged views on nuclear proliferation in the region, including the need for international efforts to deal with these proliferation concerns.

(e) While the two sides seek an early resolution of the boundary question, no timetable has been set to arrive at final settlement of this issue.

[Translation]

Safety Norms of Nuclear Plants

*98. SHRIMATI KARUNA SHUKLA:
SHRI KIREN RIJJU:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the safety norms laid down for our nuclear plants;

(b) whether these norms are adequate;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Government proposes to establish an independent Nuclear Plant Monitoring system for the safety of Nuclear Plants;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether the Government proposes to replace the obsolete reactors; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) Yes, Sir. The Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB) has been entrusted with the task of laying down safety

norms for our nuclear plants. The AERB has issued Safety Codes for Siting, Design, Quality Assurance and Operation of these plants. These codes are supported by Safety Guides which provide guidance on meeting the Requirements of the Codes. A number of safety guides dealing with various aspects of the Requirements of the Codes have also been issued by the AERB.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) and (e) This system is already in place. AERB is responsible for monitoring and enforcement of safety provisions in nuclear plants in the country.

(f) and (g) No, Sir. All our reactors have been upgraded from time to time and their operation is subject to meeting safety requirements. The safety of all nuclear reactors is periodically reviewed by the AERB and appropriate actions are taken based on such reviews to ensure that the reactors meet all specified safety norms. For reactors which have seen a service period of over 25-30 years, extensive safety reviews are conducted, that take into account the ageing related degradation also. Based on the outcome of such reviews, the required actions such as retrofitting and safety upgrades are implemented. For example, such actions have already been implemented in recent years for Rajasthan Atomic Power Station-1 (RAPS-1), Rajasthan Atomic Power Station-2 (RAPS-2) and Madras Atomic Power Station-2 (MAPS-2) and are being implemented for Madras Atomic Power Station-1 (MAPS-1), Tarapur Atomic Power Station-1 (TAPS-1) and Tarapur Atomic Power Station-2 (TAPS-2).

[English]

Tightening of Visa Rules by Britain

*99. SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT:
SHRI MOHAN SINGH:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that British Government has tightened the rules governing visa for migrant workers as a result of which unskilled labourers of Indian origin are facing difficulty to stay in Britain;

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

(c) whether a number of doctors, engineers and specialists of Indian origin will also face difficulty in working and residing in Britain;

(d) if so, the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to protect the rights of these specialised persons; and

(e) the number of Indian students of Indian origin doing specialised courses in Britain at present?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A statement giving details of the new visa rules of the British Government is laid on the Table of the House.

(c) Doctors, engineers and specialists of Indian origin will not be affected.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) It is not possible to give the exact number of students of Indian origin pursuing specialised course in the UK as ethnicity is not revealed by the UK Government under their statutory law. However, according to statistics obtained from Higher Education Statistics Agency, UK, 12,148 domiciled Indian students in 2002-03 were attending Higher Education Institutions in UK.

Statement

UK citizens of Indian origin enjoy the same rights as all other British citizens and hence proposals published for tightening entry requirements into the UK will not affect them. However, all non-EU citizens, including Indian citizens, in lower skilled categories will be affected once the 5 year strategy for asylum and immigration, 'Controlling our borders: making migration work for Britain' published on February 7, 2005, by the British Government—is implemented.

2. This Strategy aims to put in place a system of controls with the stated purpose of ensuring that only those who benefit Britain will be allowed to come, to work or study; to strengthen the UK's borders; to crack down on abuse and illegal immigration; and increase removals.

3. Key measures in the strategy include points system for those coming in to work or study in the UK, will consist of four new tiers: highly skilled, skilled, low skilled

and student/specialist. Points will be allocated according to qualifications, work experience, income and other relevant factors. Points will be adjusted to respond to changes in the labour market.

4. There will be no automatic right to stay in the UK for lower skilled workers. They will have to leave when their visas expire.

[Translation]

Dropsy Cases

*100. SHRI KAMLA PRASAD RAWAT: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that the Dropsy disease is spreading in various States;

(b) if so, the States in which this fatal disease is spreading;

(c) the reasons for the spread of this disease; and

(d) the remedial steps taken/proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) to (d) Reports of dropsy cases have been received from the State of Uttar Pradesh (in Lucknow District) only.

The main cause of dropsy is due to adulteration of mustard oil with argemone mexicana.

Under the Prevention of Food Adulteration (PFA) Rules, 1955, the standards for mustard oil already provide that it shall be free from argemone oil. The States/UT Governments have been advised from time to time to keep a strict vigil on the quality of mustard oil and to take action as per PFA Rules, 1955, to prevent adulteration and to alert the public regarding the dangers of consuming adulterated mustard oil.

[Translation]

Opening of School of Drama and Training in Maharashtra

443. SHRIMATI KALPNA RAMESH NARHIRE: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to open any new school of drama and training in Maharashtra; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

[English]

Bogibeel Project

444. SHRI M.K. SUBBA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Moran-Dhamalgaon Rail link is a vital supply line for implementation of the Bogibeel Project, for transportation of project material;

(b) if so, the progress so far made in completion of the said rail link and the time by which it is likely to be completed; and

(c) the other steps being taken for timely completion of the Bogibeel Project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Yes, Sir. The Moranhat-Dhamalgaon rail link will enable transportation of bridge construction material directly to Bogibeel Bridge site instead of transshipment from rail to road traffic being resorted to at present.

(b) The earthwork in the acquired land of the approach embankment of Moranhat-Dhamalgaon rail link has been taken up and about 30% of the work has been completed. The work is likely to be completed in the year 2006-07 subject to availability of funds and acquisition of required balance land.

(c) The Bogibeel Project has been taken up under "National Rail Vikas Yojana". A State Level Co-ordination Committee involving Chief Secretary, Govt. of Assam and General Manager/Construction of Northeast Frontier Railway has been set up to regularly review the progress of the project and sort out the problems.

[Translation]

**Opening of LPG Agencies in Andhra Pradesh
and Jharkhand**

445. SHRI ANJAN KUMAR M. YADAV:
SHRI SUNIL KUMAR MAHATO:
DR. DHIRENDRA AGARWAL:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that due to the policy of forest conservation and discouraging the use of wood there is acute shortage of fuel in the rural areas of the country, especially in Andhra Pradesh and Jharkhand;

(b) if so, whether the Government is contemplating to open more LPG agencies for the supply of LPG in the rural areas of the said States; and

(c) if so, the number of agencies proposed to be opened in the current financial year in these States, district-wise?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) It is a basic objective of the National Forests Policy, 1988, to meet the requirements of fuel wood, fodder, minor forest produce and small timber of the rural and tribal populations.

(b) LPG agencies are set up by Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) in accordance with their commercial considerations after assessing the viability of potential locations in different parts of the country. At present, LPG connections are available on demand throughout the country. OMCs have also taken innovative steps to increase the supply of LPG to rural and other low consumption areas, like the opening of community kitchens in villages, sale of 5 kg. cylinders for low income group customers and giving special attention to setting up LPG distributorships in rural/semi-urban areas.

(c) The total number of LPG distributorships operating in Andhra Pradesh & Jharkhand as on 1.1.2005 is 759 & 136 respectively. During the current financial year 2004-05, OMCs have planned to set up 82 LPG distributors in Andhra Pradesh and 8 LPG distributors in Jharkhand.

[English]

Supply of Kerosene

446. SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that fishermen in coastal areas suffer due to lack of adequate supply of Kerosene;

(b) if so, the steps taken in this regard;

(c) whether the Government has received any representations from the State Governments, especially from Kerala to increase the quota of Kerosene; and

(d) if so, the action taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) There is no separate allocation of Kerosene (SKO) for the fisheries Sector as the present Government guidelines limit the supply of SKO under the Public Distribution System to the purposes of cooking and illumination only. Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) have been allowed to market free sale Kerosene and fishermen can obtain such kerosene from the outlets of any of these companies.

(c) Yes, Sir. This Ministry has received representations from various State Governments/Union Territories (UTs) including Kerala for the enhancement of their Kerosene quotas.

(d) Additional allocations have been made to various States/UTs to meet their demand and an additional allocation of 5,275 Metric Tonnes (MTs) of SKO for the period January to March, 2005 has been made to Kerala. The National Council of Applied Economic Research have been commissioned to undertake the first-ever detailed study of kerosene demand in the country, including demand in the fisheries sector.

[Translation]

Exploration of Oil and Gas in Himalayan Region

447. SHRI SURESH CHANDEL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has a plan for exploration of gas and oil in the Himalayan Region keeping in view the availability of oil and gas reserves there;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the estimated expenditure likely to be incurred on the project?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC) and Oil India Ltd. (OIL) are carrying out exploration work in the Himalayan region. ONGC have acquired 8027 Ground Line Kilometer (GLK) of 2D seismic data and drilled 18 wells in the Himalayan foothills. OIL has acquired 6222 GLK of 2D seismic data and drilled one exploratory well.

During the Tenth Plan period (2002-07), ONGC have envisaged acquiring 225 GLK 2D seismic data and drilling of 3 exploratory wells in the Himalayan foothills in the States of Jammu & Kashmir and Himachal Pradesh.

(c) During the Tenth Plan period, an outlay of Rs. 101.18 crores and Rs. 98.29 crores has been estimated by ONGC and OIL respectively for the region.

[English]

Oil Block Project in Libya

448. SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Oil Corporation and ONGC have combinedly received an oil block project in Libya;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the total number of oil/gas exploration projects handled by the public sector oil companies in foreign countries at present, country-wise; and

(d) profits earned by the oil companies from these projects during each of the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) A consortium of Indian Oil Corporation Ltd. (IOC) and Oil India Ltd. (OIL) has

been awarded Block 86 under Exploration and Production Sharing Agreement (EPSA)-IV, Round-I by the National Oil Corporation (NOC), Libya, IOC and OIL will each have a 50% Participating Interest in this Block, OIL being the operator. Block 86 is an onland block in the Sirte basin of Libya.

(c) The number of oil and gas Exploration & Production projects abroad in which public sector oil companies are at present participating is as follows:-

ONGC-Videsh Ltd. (OVL)	—	13
Indian Oil Corporation Ltd. (IOC)	—	1
Oil India Ltd. (OIL)	—	3
Gail India Ltd. (GAIL)	—	1

(d) The net profit earned by OVL during the last three years is given below:-

	(Rs. Million)
2001-02	236.81
2002-03*	589.95
2003-04*	4284.49

*Consolidated profit with its wholly owned subsidiary company, ONGC Nile Ganga B.V.

No profits have been earned by other oil companies so far.

[Translation]

CBRR Report on Handicaps

449. SHRI BALESHWAR YADAV: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn towards survey report of Community Based Rehabilitation Resources (CBRR) wherein it is stated that the condition of the handicaps has been worsen in Haryana, Rajasthan and Delhi instead of improvement; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the remedial measures taken/being taken by the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JEGADEESAN): (a) No, Sir. The Government is not aware of the survey conducted by CBRR.

(b) Does not arise.

Programmes Broadcasted by AIR Centre Alwar

450. DR. KARAN SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the programmes broadcasted by the Alwar (Rajasthan) centre of Akashvani cannot be heard in the entire district;

(b) whether mountains of Aravali hills create hindrance in transmission of radio waves in most of the places of this district;

(c) if so, the corrective steps taken by the Government to solve the problem;

(d) whether the Government proposes to start some other scheme of Akashvani for this hilly area; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) to (e) Yes, Sir. Coverage in FM band gets affected by hills. However, in order to further strengthen the radio coverage in Alwar district, existing 6 kW FM transmitter at AIR Alwar is proposed to be replaced by 10 kW FM transmitter in 10th Five Year Plan. The implementation of the scheme is, however, subject to approval of the competent authority and availability of resources.

[English]

Taking over in Siri Fort Club

451. SHRI K.S. RAO:
SHRI MADHU GOUD YASKHI:

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether DDA's 'Siri Fort Club and Tower Restaurant violated ASI rules as reported in the 'Hindustan Times' of 31st December, 2004;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has any plan to take over these buildings; and

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

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Delhi Development Authority constructed Officer's Club building within the prohibited area of the centrally protected Siri Fort Wall, whereas the Asaid Tower/Jhankar Banquet raised unauthorized constructions like toilets, guard room, workshop, sheds, underground water tank, kitchen, etc. in the prohibited area.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The Delhi Development Authority has been directed to hand over the Officer's Club building to the Archaeological Survey of India. The matter of unauthorized construction by the Asaid Tower/Jhankar Banquet is subjudice.

[Translation]

Bomb Blast in Ordnance Factory

452. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether bomb blast incident took place in Ordnance Factory, Chanda (OFC) in Maharashtra recently;

(b) if so, whether the Government has investigated the matter;

(c) if so, the outcome thereof and the action taken by the Government against the officials found guilty; and

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to avoid recurrence of such incidents in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI BIJOY HANDIQUE): (a) Yes, Sir. An accidental fire had taken place in Building No. 273 of Unit No. 9 of Ordnance Factory, Chanda (OFCH), Maharashtra, on 31.1.2005.

(b) A Board of Inquiry (BOI) has been constituted to investigate the cause of the fire.

(c) The report of the Board of Inquiry is yet to be received.

(d) The Board of Inquiry has been asked to suggest remedial measures to be taken to avoid recurrence of such incidents. Appropriate action would be taken on the basis of the Board of Inquiry report.

Opening of New Petrol/Diesel Pumps In West Bengal

453. SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of new diesel/petrol pumps proposed to be set up during the current financial year in West Bengal, district-wise;

(b) the number of gas agencies functioning in West Bengal at present, district-wise; and

(c) the number of cooking gas agencies proposed to be set up in West Bengal during the current financial year, district-wise?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (c) During the current financial year, 2004-05, the four public sector oil marketing companies (OMCs), viz., Indian Oil Corporation Limited, Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited, Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited and IBP Co. Limited plan to set up 111 retail outlet dealerships (petrol/diesel pumps) and 59 LPG distributorships (cooking gas agencies) in different districts in the State of West Bengal.

(b) As on 31.1.2005, there are 435 LPG distributorships of these OMCs operating in various districts in the State of West Bengal.

International Status Airports

454. SHRI JAI PRAKASH (MOHANLAL GANJ): Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the names of airports reckoned as International Airports in the country, State-wise; and

(b) the names of the domestic Airports the Government proposes to grant International status during 2005-06?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) The airports at Mumbai in Maharashtra, Delhi in NCT of Delhi, Chennai in Tamil Nadu, Kolkata in West Bengal, Trivandrum and Cochin in Kerala, Bangalore in Karnataka, Hyderabad in Andhra Pradesh, Ahmedabad in Gujarat, Goa, Guwahati in Assam and Amritsar in Punjab are functioning as International airports. Besides the domestic airport at Srinagar has also been recently accorded approval as international airport.

(b) Decision to grant the international airport status is taken from time to time based on availability of suitable length of runway commensurate communication & navigational equipments, demand from scheduled national/international airlines operator etc.

[English]

Preservation and Digitalisation of Documentary Films of National History

455. SHRI KULDEEP BISHNOI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that over 2,00,000 documentary films of Films Division of India, that record 50 years of nation's history and development have not been preserved properly;

(b) if so, the reasons for such neglect; and

(c) the concrete steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government for proper preservation and digitalisation of these documentary films?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) and (b) Films Division is having an archival legacy of more than 8,000 films preserved in over 2,00,000 cans. It is true that ideal preservation facilities were lacking due to which decomposition has set in, in some of the cans.

(c) Government has set up a Committee to undertake categorization and restoration of the precious archives, both in conventional as well as digital format and their transfer in High Definition/Digibeta Tapes for preservation. The original celluloid format of most precious films will be transferred to the vaults of National Film Archives of India, Pune for its safe preservation away from Mumbai's humidity and salinity.

Criteria for Issue of Grants to NGOs

456. SHRI RUPCHAND MURMU: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria laid down by the Government for the Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) to receive Centrally sponsored grant-in-aid to set up de-addiction centres;

(b) whether the existing policy of the Government provides grant-in-aid to more than one NGOs in any one particular district of the country; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JEGADEESAN): (a) The following criteria have been laid down by the Government for a Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO) to set up de-addiction centres:

- (i) It should have a properly constituted managing body with its powers, duties and responsibilities clearly defined and laid down in writing.
- (ii) It should have resources and facilities and experience for undertaking the programme.
- (iii) It is not run for profit to any individual or a body of individuals.
- (iv) It should ordinarily have existed for a period of three years.
- (v) Its financial position should be sound.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. However, due to budgetary constraints and with a view to extending the de-addiction services to the uncovered districts, preference is given to such NGOs who have set up the De-addiction Centre in a district where there are not more than two existing projects for this purpose.

[Translation]

Sale of Shares of ONGC

457. SHRI KHIREN RIJIJU: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Oil Company and the ONGC propose to sell each other's share;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of the number of shares of both the companies held by each other?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (c) Oil & Natural Gas Corp. Ltd. (ONGC) holds 10,64,53,095 equity shares of Rs. 10 each of IOC, where as Indian Oil Corporation Ltd. (IOC) holds 13,70,67,381 equity shares of Rs. 10 each of ONGC. At present, there is no proposal to sell each other's share.

[English]

Oil and Hydro-Carbon in Assam

458. SHRI NARAYAN CHANDRA BORKATAKY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether ONGC has struck oil and hydro-carbon in several areas of Assam;

(b) if so, whether Canadian Agency is handling those oil wells; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC) has made 33 Oil and Gas finds since inception in different parts of the State of Assam.

During the year 2003-04, ONGC has made one hydrocarbon find at East Lakhbari in the State of Assam.

(b) and (c) One oil field, namely Amguri field in Assam, which was discovered by ONGC, has been transferred to the consortium of Canoro Resources Limited, Canada and Assam Company Limited on 29.10.2004 under a Production Sharing Contract (PSC) signed with the Government of India.

The PSC for Amguri field, provides *inter-alia*, for payment of signature bonus and production bonus to ONGC and profit petroleum sharing between the

Government of India and the contractor in accordance with the provisions of the PSC.

[Translation]

Construction of Over-Bridge at Mankapur Railway Crossing

459. SHRI DAHYABHAI VALLABHBHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a proposal to construct an over-bridge on Mankapur Railway Crossing at Nagpur has been pending with the Union Government;

(b) if so, since when and the reasons for delay in this regard; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to construct this over-bridge with a view to obviate the difficulties and hardship being faced by the public on this account?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (c) The work for construction of Road Over Bridge (ROB) at Nagpur in lieu of Mankapur level crossing No. 295A at Km. 1638/26-28 on Itarsi-Nagpur section connecting National Highway-69 (NH-69) & NH-7 was sanctioned in 2001-02. The complete work of ROB is being executed by Maharashtra State Road Development Corporation (MSRDC) on Build, Operate and Transfer (BOT) concept. General Arrangement Drawing has been approved by Railway. Work is in progress on Railway portion.

New Railway Station at Ganpur, Manmad

460. SHRI TUKARAM GANPAT RAO RENGE PATIL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to construct a new railway station at Ganpur of Nizamabad-Manmad railway division of South Central Railways;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The proposal regarding opening of a halt station at Ganpur has been examined and not found feasible.

[English]

Conversion of Gurgaon-Delhi MG Line Into BG

461. SHRI CHANDRA DEV PRASAD RAJBHAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to convert Gurgaon-Delhi (Sarai Rohilla) Metre Gauge line into Broad Gauge line;

(b) if so, by when;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Government also proposes to start electrification work on this route; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (c) The work of gauge conversion of metre gauge line between Delhi and Rewari has been targeted for completion during 2005-06.

(d) and (e) Due to relative priority for electrification of other high density routes, the electrification of this line is not being taken up at present.

[Translation]

Withdrawal of Subsidy on Kerosene and Cooking Gas

462. SHRI RAGHUVVEER SINGH KOSHAL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is considering to withdraw subsidy on kerosene and cooking gas by 2007 in a phased manner;

(b) if so, the time by which the phased attempt to withdraw subsidy is likely to be initiated and process through which it is likely to be completed;

(c) whether the Government is aware that there will be a steep rise in prices if subsidy on cooking gas and kerosene is withdrawn;

(d) if so, the comparative details of the consumer price with and without subsidy;

(e) whether the Government is aware that there will be a steep rise in demand of wood used for fuel owing to steep rise in prices because of withdrawal of subsidy on cooking gas and kerosene resulting in adverse effect on environment and forest; and

(f) if so, the proposed strategy of the Government to check this adverse effect?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (d) As per the Government decision, the budgetary subsidy at present on PDS Kerosene and Domestic LPG is available upto 31st March 2007. Besides the budgetary subsidy, the oil PSUs are sharing the burden of subsidizing these products. Based on the average international prices of Kerosene and LPG for the month of February 2005 and taking into account the current level of duties & taxes on these products, the retail selling prices (RSPs) of PDS Kerosene and Domestic LPG in Delhi would increase by Rs. 8.22/litre and Rs. 96.20/cylinder respectively in case the existing total subsidy, including the subsidy element borne by oil PSUs, is withdrawn.

(e) and (f) As regards the rise in demand for fuel wood owing to the rise in prices of kerosene and cooking gas as and when subsidies are withdrawn, in order to minimize the adverse effect on environment and forests encouragement is being given to planting fast-growing trees species, yielding small timber and fuel wood on private lands under various social/farm forestry programmes.

Welfare Schemes for Minorities

463. SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of schemes implemented by the Government for the welfare of the minorities and backward classes among minorities;

(b) the financial assistance, grants and loan provided by the Union Government under these schemes during each of the last three years and the current year, scheme-wise and State/Union Territory-wise;

(c) the funds provided by the Union Government for Wakf, Urdu education, Madarsa and Minority Department, item-wise and department-wise; and

(d) the details of proposals seeking Central assistance, grants and loans pending with the Union Government during the last three years, till date alongwith its reasons and the time by which these are likely to be cleared, State/Union Territory-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JEGADEESAN): (a) Following are the schemes for the welfare of minorities and backward classes among minorities:

- (i) Scheme of Pre-examination Coaching for weaker sections including minorities, based on economic criteria, for recruitment in services and admission in professional courses.
- (ii) Area Intensive & Madrasa modernization Scheme under the Ministry of Human Resource Development.
- (iii) In addition, the National Minorities Development and Finance Corporation (NMDFC) provides loans for the economic empowerment of Minorities and loans for pursuing professional and technical courses.
- (iv) The Maulana Azad Education Foundation (MAEF) is a registered society with the objective of promoting education amongst the Minorities.
- (v) The Central Wakf Council (CWC) provides grants-in-aid for development of urban Wakf properties.
- (vi) The backward classes among the Minorities also enjoy the benefits of the following schemes for the OBCs: (i) Pre-Matric Scholarship for OBCs, (ii) Post-Matric Scholarship for OBCs; (iii) Hostels for OBC Boys and Girls; (iv) Assistance to Voluntary Organization for Welfare of OBCs.

(b) and (c) Statement I-IV showing the grants released under these schemes during the last three years and the current year scheme-wise and State/Union Territory-wise, is enclosed.

(d) Subject to availability of the funds, all the proposals are considered and cleared by the Ministry during the financial year.

Statement I

State/UT-wise funds released during 2001-02 to 2004-2005 under the Scheme of Coaching and Allied assistance for weaker sections including OBCs, SCs and Minorities

(Rs. in Lakhs)

Sl.No.	Name of State	2001-2002	2002-2003	2003-2004	2004-2005 upto (25.2.2005)
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	Nil	111.8	34.05	Nil
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
3.	Assam	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
4.	Bihar	Nil	6	Nil	Nil
5.	Chhattisgarh	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
6.	Goa	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
7.	Gujarat	Nil	5.45	Nil	Nil
8.	Haryana	2.19	24.68	Nil	20
9.	Himachal Pradesh	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
11.	Jharkhand	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
12.	Karnataka	Nil	Nil	14.33	Nil
13.	Kerala	20.86	22.01	20.54	Nil
14.	Madhya Pradesh	Nil	19.99	25.63	82.89
15.	Maharashtra	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
16.	Manipur	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
17.	Meghalaya	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
18.	Mizoram	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
19.	Nagaland	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
20.	Orissa	2.5	Nil	Nil	Nil
21.	Punjab	Nil	7.76	Nil	Nil
22.	Rajasthan	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
23.	Sikkim	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

1	2	3	4	5	6
24.	Tamil Nadu	11.15	Nil	Nil	Nil
25.	Tripura	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
26.	Uttar Pradesh	2.61	Nil	Nil	Nil
27.	Uttaranchal	Nil	Nil	5.45	Nil
28.	West Bengal	2.68	Nil	Nil	Nil
29.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
30.	Chandigarh	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
31.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
32.	Daman & Diu	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
33.	Delhi	1.9	10	Nil	3.48
34.	Lakshadweep	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
35.	Pondicherry	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Total		43.89	207.69	100	106.37

Statement II

The details of financial assistance/grants provided under the scheme during the last three years and during the current year i.e. 2004-05 is given below

Area Intensive & Madrasas Modernisation

(Rs. in Lakh)

States/UTs	2001-2002		2002-03		2003-04		2004-05	
	Infra. Dev.	Madarsa Modernisation	Infra. Dev.	Madarsa Modernisation	Infra. Dev.	Madarsa Modernisation	Infra. Dev.	Madarsa Modernisation
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Andhra Pradesh	300	12.51	956.01	12.51	958	68.04	0	0
Bihar	0	0	0	0	0	79.92	0	0
Chandigarh	0	0.36	0	0	0	0	0	0.72
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	0	0.72	0	0	0	0	0	0
Jammu & Kashmir	0	0	0	0	0	61.68	0	0
Haryana	250	0	0	0	998.62	0	450	0
Orissa	0	0	0	0	0	168	0	0

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Madhya Pradesh	30	147.18	115.92	90.06	0	0	57.28	421.56
Tripura	0	38.53	0	45.72	0	48.96	0	45.72
Tamil Nadu	77.31	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.72
Uttar Pradesh	78.6	0.37	1233.6	390.82	271	245.88	810.1	0
West Bengal	224.5	1.4	0	0	0	0	0	0
Karnataka	55.72	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Maharashtra	400	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rajasthan	112.71	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Statement III

*State-wise Disbursements—Term Loan Scheme implemented by
National Minorities Development & Finance Corporation*

(Amount in Rupees Lakhs)

Sl.No.	State	SCA	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
			Amount released	Amount released	Amount released	Amount released (upto 31.1.2005)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Andhra Pradesh	APSMFC	150	100	565	—
2.	Assam	AMDFC	100	0	50	—
3.	Bihar	BSMFC	326	197	500	150
4.	Chandigarh	CHCFDCL	10	0	13	6
5.	Chhattisgarh	CHACDFC	0	15	0	—
6.	Delhi	DSCSTFDC	0	100	75	100
7.	Gujarat	GBCDC	0	0	0	—
		GMFDC	2025	700	600	—
8.	Himachal Pradesh	HPMFDC	25	33	50	150
9.	Haryana	HBCKN	300	157	150	200

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	JKSCSTDC	100	0	0	—
		JKWDC	150	118	200	144
11.	Kerala	KBCDC	900	1025	1025	720
		KSCFFDC	200	100	150	55
		KSWDC	125	100	150	150
12.	Karnataka	KMDC	300	400	600	38
13.	Maharashtra	MHBCMFCDC	600	200	500	—
14.	Manipur	MTDC	0	0	0	—
15.	Madhya Pradesh	MPBCMFCDC	0	50	0	—
		MPHDC	20	0	30	25
16.	Mizoram	MCAB	500	275	50	—
		ZIDCO	250	307	0	—
17.	Nagaland	NIDC	300	150	260	200
		NHDC	0	19	50	68
18.	Orissa	ORSC TFDC	150	50	20	—
19.	Pondicherry	PDBCMDC	0	22	9	10
20.	Punjab	BACKFINCO	250	50	50	—
21.	Rajasthan	RSCSTFDC	0	0	0	—
		RMFDCC	25	30	50	50
22.	Tamil Nadu	TAMCO	0	0	200	125
23.	Tripura	TSCDC	0	50	0	—
24.	Uttar Pradesh	UPMFDC	750	1282	1178	1294
25.	Uttaranchal	UMFDC	0	25	0	—
26.	West Bengal	WBMFDC	1650	1550	1700	2300
		Total	9206	7104	8224	5784

Statement IV*National Minorities Development & Finance Corporation-Micro Financing Scheme**Year-wise, State-wise Statement of Micro Credit Disbursed*

Sl.No.	States	(Amount in Rs. Lakhs)				Total Amount
		2001-2002 Amount	2002-2003 Amount	2003-2004 Amount	2004-2005 Amount (Upto 31.12.2004)	
1.	Andhra Pradesh	156.1	31.65	74.89	47.37	347.45
2.	Assam	0	22.5	29.25	33.75	85.5
3.	Bihar	1.68	5.64	20.94	11.25	47.28
4.	Gujarat	70.5	0.5	0	0	75.5
5.	Haryana	12.52	0	9	0	21.52
6.	Karnataka	2.7	39.67	104.5	5.04	155.02
7.	Kerala	39.4	9	0	0	57.35
8.	Madhya Pradesh	0	0	50	20	75.31
9.	Maharashtra	36	59.04	36.9	24.75	200.79
10.	Manipur	1.34	2.8	0	0	13.01
11.	Naqaland	0	0	0	27.25	38.27
12.	Orissa	0.34	4.5	13.05	21.37	46.63
13.	Rajasthan	10.51	0.43	4.5	30.5	51.54
14.	Tamil Nadu	38.44	29.75	15.33	22.5	113.71
15.	Uttar Pradesh	39.05	25.15	23.95	39.23	149.51
16.	Uttaranchal	0.5	4.5	0	4.5	10.93
17.	West Bengal	68.6	55.28	60.07	37.37	241.89
Total		477.68	290.41	442.38	324.88	1731.21

*National Minorities Development & Finance Corporation—Educational Loan Scheme**Educational Loan Scheme has started from January 2004*

(Rs. in Lakhs)

Name of the Scheme	2003-04 (Amount Disbursed)	2004-05 as on 31.3.2005 (Amount Disbursed)
Educational Loan Scheme	58.00	232.00

Statement V**Maulana Azad Education Foundation****Category-wise Break-up of Grant-in-Aid Sanctioned during the last Three Years & Current Year**

Categories	2001-2002		2002-2003		2003-2004		Total		2004-2005	
	No. of NGOs	Amount in Lacs	No. of NGOs	Amount in Lacs	No. of NGOs	Amount in Lacs	No. of NGOs	Amount in Lacs	No. of NGOs	Amount in Lacs
Residential Schools	2	60.00	2	35.00	0	0.00	4	95.00	0	0.00
Construction of Hostel Building	10	215.00	6	95.00	8	100.00	24	410.00	6	125.00
Establishing/Expansion of School/Colleges	46	533.40	40	398.00	32	239.60	118	1171.00	44	489.93
Technical Education	9	110.93	2	20.73	2	3.00	13	134.66	9	96.45
Remedial Coaching	2	15.30	0	0.00	0	0.00	2	15.30	0	0.00
Sadbhawna Kendra	0	0.00	0	0.00	4	38.90	4	38.90	0	0.00
Total	69	934.63	50	548.73	46	381.50	165	1864.86	59	711.38

Note: The Category-wise sanction of the grant-in-aid pertaining to 2004-2005 is the amount sanctioned upto 31.1.2005.

Statement VI**Grant-in-aid released by the Ministry to CWC under the Scheme of Development of Urban Wakf Properties**

(Rupees in lakh)

Sl.No.	Name of the States	2000-2001 Amount & No. of projects	2001-02 Amount & No. of projects	2002-03 Amount & No. of projects	2003-04 Amount & No. of projects
1.	Uttar Pradesh	41.00-1	—	—	—
2.	Rajasthan	—	—	—	—
3.	Punjab	20.00-1	23.38-1	35.70-1	—
4.	Manipur	—	20.00-1	11.30-1	—
5.	Maharashtra	25.00-1	—	25.00-1	25.00-1
6.	Madhya Pradesh	—	20.00-1	—	15.00-1
7.	Kerala	30.00-1	20.00-1	5.00-1	35.75-3
8.	Karnataka	64.00-3	56.62-4	41.00-2	43.00-3
9.	Gujarat	—	—	25.00-1	31.00-2
10.	Tamil Nadu	—	—	15.00-1	8.25-1
	Total	180.00-7	140.00-8	158.00-8	158.00-11

Utilisation of Aircraft Cargo Capacity

464. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Airlines aircraft cargo capacity remained unutilized in the last couple of years resulting into a loss of Rs. 369.25 crore;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken to check the declining trend in the carriage of cargo?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Construction of Over-bridge Near Maihar Station

465. SHRI GANESH SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government proposes to construct the rail over-bridge at National Highway near Maihar station in the middle of Allahabad-Jabalpur route; and

(b) if so, the time by which sanction is to be given for the project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) Work of a Road Over Bridge at Maihar was sanctioned on deposit terms and the State Government was asked to deposit Rs. 2.45 Crore to commence the work but no amount has yet been deposited by them, hence, work could not be taken up.

[English]

Rules and Regulations to Deal with Disability

466. MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of the discontentment in the Armed Forces with regard to the Rules and Regulations for dealing with disability occurring the period of service, other than in War;

(b) whether these rules and regulations are of pre-independence vintage;

(c) whether the Government is aware that the percentage of disability given by an expert, high level Medical Board can be reduced by the CDA (Pension), Allahabad;

(d) whether the Government had made any attempt to review and update those; and

(e) if so, when and the details of changes made?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI BIJOY HANDIQUE): (a) There have been representations from Ex-Servicemen relating to different aspects of disability pension.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Medical Adviser (Pension) attached to the Office of the PCDA (P), Allahabad adjudicate the percentage of disability in the case of Personnel Below Officer Rank in disease related cases. In the case of officers the adjudication is done by the respective Service Hqrs. While adjudicating the matter the adjudicating authority sometimes modifies the percentage of disability recommended by the Medical Board. However, whenever the individual feels aggrieved, he has the option to appeal against the decision to the Appellate Committees.

(d) The Rules/Regulations are modified as and when necessary.

(e) The Entitlement Rules to Casualty Pensionary Awards to the Armed Forces personnel, 1982 issued in supersession of previous orders have further been amended by Corrigendum issued on 21st August, 1984 substituting para 3 of the Appendix regarding applicability, 24th August, 1992 amending applicability of Clause 12 (e) of the Rules, 20th June, 1996 amending Rule 14 regarding attributability to military service and 21st June, 1996 amending Rule 17 regarding medical opinion and competent medical authorities and amending Rule 27 (C) regarding medical authority.

Operation of Scheduled Air Services by Private Airlines

467. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has given permission to several airlines for operation of scheduled air services in India and abroad during the last one year;

(b) if so, the details alongwith the names of airlines;

(c) whether the Government has also given permission to several private airlines to purchase aircraft within specified time period;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) whether these airlines have adhered to time schedule for purchase of aircraft and if not the details alongwith the reasons and the names of those private airlines?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Following the decision to permit private scheduled carriers to operate on international routes, following private scheduled carriers have been permitted to operate on international sectors as per their requests:-

Jet Airways: Sir Lanka, Nepal, Bangladesh, UK, Belgium, USA, Malaysia, Singapore.

Air Sahara: Sir Lanka, Nepal, Bangladesh, UK, Malaysia, Singapore.

As regards domestic sector, all scheduled operators are free to deploy capacity on any sector subject to fulfilment of route dispersal guidelines.

(c) and (d) The Government has given permission to the following private airlines to purchase/import the aircraft during the period from 1.1.2004 to 31.12.2004:

Private Airlines	A/c Type	Permitted to import	Actually imported
Jet Airways	B-737	03	02
Air Sahara	B-737-800	04	01
Air Deccan	A-320	07	03
	ATR-42	06	03

(e) The validity of the import permission is for one year. If the validity expires, then the airlines are required to obtain fresh approval/extension from the Government.

Reservation for Handicapped persons in Pondicherry

468. PROF. M. RAMADASS: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the reservation to handicapped persons in education and employment has been strictly implemented in the Union Territory of Pondicherry;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps taken by the Government to fill up the backlog;

(d) whether the Government is considering to establish an institute for the physically handicapped and mentally retarded in the Union Territory of Pondicherry; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JEGADEESAN): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Government of Pondicherry is ensuring reservation in identified posts in their establishments. The Government is also providing reservation in educational institutions according to the provisions of the Persons with Disabilities Act, 1995.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

LPG Shortage in Gujarat

469. SHRI VIKRAMBHAI ARJANBHAI MADAM: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of LPG shortage in Gujarat during the last three months and the gas cylinders are available in the black market; and

(b) if so, the concrete measures being taken in this matter?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) Public Sector Oil Marketing

Companies (OMCs) have not reported any backlog of LPG during the last three months in Gujarat and say they are meeting the entire demand of LPG customers in full. They have further informed the Ministry that strict scheduling and monitoring of supplies is being done to check possible diversion of LPG to unauthorised uses.

The crackdown on the illegitimate diversion of domestic LPG to unauthorised uses is perhaps causing some disruption by unscrupulous elements but this problem is also being addressed.

Railway Division at Salem

470. SHRI K.C. PALANISAMY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has any proposal to set up a separate Railway Division with headquarters at Salem, Tamil Nadu; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Modernisation of Prasar Bharati

471. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prasar Bharati has prepared a plan for its modernisation;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the total funds required for the purpose;

(c) the sources identified by the Prasar Bharati for mobilisation of the required funds;

(d) whether the Prasar Bharati has also sought Government's facilitation to get assistance from the World Bank; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI

S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The modernization plan covers a broad spectrum, which, *inter alia*, includes digitalization and modernization of production facilities/satellite broadcast equipment, modernization and automation of studio/transmission facilities, augmentation of existing studio facilities, etc. for both All India Radio and Doordarshan. The total cost is estimated to be around Rs. 1,177 crore (appx.). The sources identified for mobilization are through 'Direct Budgetary Support (DBS) and Internal Extra Budgetary Resources (IEBRs)'.
(d) No, Sir.
(e) Does not arise.

Indian Officers in UN Peace Keeping Mission

472. SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the United Nations Organisation has requested the Government of India for longer tenure of the Indian Officers posted in UN peacekeeping mission; and

(b) if so, the response of the Government of India thereto?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, requests for extension of tenure of deputation of individual officers are and when received are considered on the merits of each case.

Rehabilitation of Tsunami affected Children

473. SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE:
SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY:
YOGI ADITYA NATH:

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of children orphaned by the Tsunami disaster;

(b) whether the Government is taking special measures for rehabilitation of Tsunami disaster orphan children; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JEGADEESAN): (a) As per available information 529 children have lost both the parents.

(b) and (c) The concerned State Governments/UT Administrations had been alerted and advised to maintain strict vigil against trafficking of these children. While a large number of organizations/individuals have expressed interest to adopt these children and their requests have been forwarded to the concerned State Governments/UT Administrations, it is most likely that these children will be rehabilitated in a familiar environment within the community. Various relief and rehabilitation measures have been taken by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment including setting up of Child Helpline services at Port Blair, Nagapattinam and Karaikal and provision of trauma counselling services through Indian Council for Child Welfare at Cuddalore, Nagapattinam and Kanyakumari districts. An assistance of Rs. 11.68 lakhs has been sanctioned for 2004-05 to the Social Welfare and Nutritious meal Programme Department of Government of Tamil Nadu for setting up of 3 children's homes for tsunami orphans. The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment has also released Rs. 11.00 lakhs to the State Social Welfare Advisory Board, Andaman & Nicobar Islands for special care to women especially lactating mother and children affected by Tsunami and staying in various relief camps.

[Translation]

Recognition of Hindi Journalism Courses in IIMC

474. SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR CHOUDHARY: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Hindi Courses offered by Indian Institute of Mass Communication is going on without recognition;

(b) if so, whether the Government proposes to impart recognition to Hindi Journalism courses in IIMC; and

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

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) to (c) The Post Graduate Diploma course in Hindi Journalism offered by Indian

Institute of Mass Communication (IIMC) has been granted provisional recognition by the Ministry of Human Resource Development. Ministry of Human Resource Development has also been requested to grant permanent recognition to the course.

[English]

Setting up of Science Cities

475. SHRI DINSHA PATEL: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to set up more Science cities in the country;

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

(c) the expenditure likely to be incurred thereon?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) and (b) The work on the following Science Cities are in progress.

1. Pushpa Gujral Science City, Kapurthala, Punjab
2. Science City, Ahmedabad, Gujarat
3. Regional Science City, Lucknow, UP

(c)

Name of the Science City	Project Cost (Rs. in Crores)	Government of India Share (Rs. in Crores)
Pushpa Gujral Science City, Kapurthala, Punjab	100.00	70.00
Science City, Ahmedabad, Gujarat	88.00	9.00
Regional Science City, Lucknow, UP	19.70	8.96

Non-inclusion of Castes in SC list

476. SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to refer to Unstarred Question No. 3711 dated December 23, 2004 regarding Recognition of SCs castes in States and state:

(a) whether the concerned State Governments have furnished the ethnographic details for inclusion of said

communities in the list of Scheduled Castes in their respective States;

(b) whether the Union Government has also received memorandum in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof and further steps taken/ to be taken by the Union Government for inclusion of said communities in the list of SC; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor and the remedial measures taken by the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JEGADEESAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Yes, Sir. In the representation dated 12.03.2003 of the General Secretary, All India Namasudra Social Welfare Association, Kolkata, a request has been made to include Namasudra, Poundra, Rajbanshi, Jele etc. communities in the list of Scheduled Castes in the States and Union Territories of Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Delhi and Andaman & Nicobar Islands. The concerned State Governments and Union Territory Administrations have been reminded to furnish the ethnographic details. No time frame can, however, be assigned in the matter, as the proposals require consultation with various agencies and that any amendment in the list of Scheduled Castes can be done only by an Act of Parliament in view of provision of Article 341 (2) of the Constitution of India.

Presentation of Indian Culture

477. SHRI GIRIDHAR GAMANG: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the policy framed by the Union Government to preserve, protect and propagate the Indian culture;

(b) the problems identified by the Government while implementing the policy and the steps taken to overcome them;

(c) the funds provided by the Ministry of Culture to the States for cultural developments during each of the last three years;

(d) whether the State Governments have also created States Cultural Fund; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) and (b) The issues of preservation, protection and propagation are being addressed by the Ministry of Culture through various institution and schemes operated directly. Many institutions are autonomous bodies while a few are attached and subordinate offices. Through the inputs received from various Advisory Committees, Expert Committees and members of autonomous bodies, the task of preservation and protection of Indian culture is addressed.

(c) The details of funds provided to State Governments under some of the major schemes are given in the enclosed statement.

(d) The Ministry of Culture is not aware of this fact.

(e) Does not arise.

Statement

State-wise Grant released during the year 2001-2002

Sl.No.	State	Amount (Rupees in lakhs)
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	7.50
2.	Bihar	5.00
3.	Goa	3.30
4.	Gujarat	34.87
5.	Himachal Pradesh	4.55
6.	Karnataka	7.50
7.	Kerala	4.80
8.	Meghalaya	2.70
9.	Nagaland	3.50
10.	Rajasthan	1.25
11.	Uttar Pradesh	13.60
12.	West Bengal	2.50
13.	Mizoram	50.00
14.	Pondicherry	20.00
15.	Punjab	25.00

1	2	3
2002-2003		
1.	Bihar	7.52
2.	Haryana	5.25
3.	Himachal Pradesh	6.75
4.	Kerala	5.70
5.	Karnataka	33.00
6.	Madhya Pradesh	11.25
7.	Manipur	5.85
8.	Maharashtra	3.45
9.	Uttar Pradesh	115.75
10.	Sikkim	335.00
11.	Arunachal Pradesh	130.00
12.	Uttaranchal	193.00
2003-2004		
1.	Assam	2.60
2.	Goa	1.70
3.	Himachal Pradesh	2.17
4.	Kerala	6.25
5.	Maharashtra	2.11
6.	Meghalaya	6.75
7.	Nagaland	651.00
8.	Punjab	35.20
9.	Uttar Pradesh	102.94
10.	West Bengal	1.50
11.	Karnataka	20.00
12.	Mizoram	196.24
13.	Tripura	168.74
14.	Madhya Pradesh	50.00
15.	Orissa	75.00
16.	Jammu & Kashmir	62.50
17.	Pondicherry	55.00
18.	Sikkim	400.00
19.	Arunachal Pradesh	129.94

*[Translation]***Rail Connection with Religious Places**

478. SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA:
SHRI JASHUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is formulated any scheme to connect the religious places in the country with rail; and

(b) if so, the religious places likely to be connected with rail in the near future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) Providing rail connectivity to various places of importance including religious places is an ongoing process. Projects are taken up on the basis of demands, economic viability, traffic potential, strategic importance and socio-economic development of the area.

*[English]***Setting up of Rail Near Plants**

479. SHRIMATI C.S. SUJATHA:
SHRI S. AJAYA KUMAR:
SHRI VIKRAMBHAI ARJANBHAI MADAM:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to set up 'Rail Near' plants for expanding the network;

(b) if so, whether locations for the new plants have been identified;

(c) if so, details thereof and the time by which the new plants are likely to start functioning;

(d) whether the Government has received representations from Members of Parliament for setting up of the Rail Near plant in Kerala; and

(e) if so, the decision taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) As of now, only two Plants at Nangloi (Delhi) and Danapur are operational and under stabilization. There is no immediate plan for any New Plant.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

[*Translation*]

Eligibility Criteria for Participation in Welfare Schemes

480. SHRI DHAN SINGH RAWAT: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the eligibility criteria for participation in the welfare schemes and programmes of the Ministry;

(b) whether there is any mechanism or agency to review the realization of objectives set under the schemes and programmes financed by the Ministry;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the details of such reviews undertaken during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JEGADEESAN): (a) The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment releases central assistance to implement schemes/programmes for welfare of Scheduled Castes, Other Backward Classes, Minorities, persons with disabilities, elderly persons, children in need of care and protection and victims of alcoholism and substance abuse. The details of these schemes including eligibility criteria etc. are available on the website of this Ministry (<http://socialjustice.nic.in>).

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. Performances of all the schemes are monitored on quarterly basis by the Planning Commission in addition to regular internal review meetings. Annual Review meetings with State Government's Welfare Secretaries are also held. The performance of NGOs is monitored through the audited financial statements of annual reports/half yearly progress reports. Annual inspections are conducted by State Governments, Ministry's representatives and authorized agencies such as the National Institutes. Independent evaluation studies are also undertaken.

(d) Conferences of State Welfare Secretaries were held during July 2002 and August 2004. 87 evaluation studies have also been sponsored during 2001-02, 2002-03 and 2003-04.

[*English*]

Rail Projects in Orissa

481. SHRI B. MAHTAB: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of the on-going rail projects in Orissa;

(b) whether the Government has reviewed the existing track conditions in the State to ensure the passengers' safety; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) The project-wise up-to-date progress along with target date of completion, wherever fixed, estimated cost and budget outlay proposed during 2005-06 for various on-going New Line, Gauge Conversion, Doubling and Electrification projects falling fully or partly in Orissa are as given under:-

Sl.No.	Name of the Project	Present Status	Estimated Cost (Rs. in crore)	Budget Outlay proposed during 2005-06 (Rs. in crore)
1	2	3	4	5
NEW LINES				
1.	Daitari-Banspani (155 Kms)	Banspani-Joruli (11 Kms) section has been completed and commissioned. Joruli-Keonjhar (48 Kms) section has also been	590.60	128.81

1	2	3	4	5
		completed. On Keonjhar—Tomka (98 Kms) section, earthwork, bridgeworks and other ancillary works are in progress. The project is likely to be completed during 2006-07, depending upon availability of resources. The work is under National Rail Vikas Yojna (NRVY).		
2.	Lanjigarh Road—Junagarh (56 Kms)	Land has been acquired partially. In phase-I, work has been taken up from Lanjigarh to Bhawanipatna (31 Kms), where earthwork and bridgework are in progress.	119.29	8.00
3.	Khurda Road—Bolangir (289 Kms)	Final Location Survey (FLS) has been completed partially. Land has been acquired partially. Earthwork and minor bridges have been completed on a length of 2.5 Kms from Khurda Road end, where the land is available with the Railway. Tenders for earthwork and bridges or further part-length are under finalization.	700.00	10.00
4.	Haridaspur—Paradeep (82 Kms)	FLS and soil investigation of major bridges have been completed. Land has been acquired partially. The project is being implemented under NRVY.	301.64	20.00
5.	Angul-Sukinda Road (98.7 Kms)	FLS and soil investigation for all major bridges have been completed.	415.47	0.10
6.	Talcher—Bimlagarh (154 Kms)	FLS and preliminary arrangements like preparation of plans & estimates have been taken up.	726.96	5.00
GAUGE CONVERSION				
1.	Rupsa—Bangriposi (89 Kms)	In phase-I, gauge conversion of Rupsa—Baripada (52 Kms) segment has been taken up, which is targeted for completion during 2004-05.	102.75	3.00
2.	Naupada—Gunupur (90 Kms)	FLS has been completed. Land acquisition is in progress. Earthwork and bridge-works are in progress.	91.30	5.00
DOUBLING				
1.	Nergundi—Cuttack—Raghunathpur (43 Kms)	Kapilas Road—Nergundi—Birupa Cabin—Kendrapara Road segment has been completed and commissioned. Remodeling of Cuttack yard has been completed and commissioned. The work on Cuttack—Raghunathpur is likely to be completed during 2005-06.	134.74	8.97

1	2	3	4	5
2.	2nd Bridges on Mahanadi & Birupa (3 Kms)	2nd bridge over River Birupa has been completed and commissioned. Work of 2nd bridge over River Mahanadi bridge is being executed by Rail Vikas Nigam Ltd. (RVNL). Tenders for this work are under process.	109.45	28.60
3.	Lanjigarh—Tittagarh (47 Kms)	Kesinga—Rupra Road—Norla Road (23 Kms) segment has been completed and commissioned. Norla Road—Lanjigarh (11 Kms) section is targeted for completion during 2004-05. Earthwork and bridgework are in progress on rest of the section.	134.73	10.00
4.	Rajathgarh—Barang (20 Kms)	FLS and geo-technical investigation of all major bridges have been completed. Land acquisition is under process. The work is being executed by RVNL.	157.98	30.00
5.	Khurda Road—Puri (Phase-I) (15.3 Kms)	Earthwork and bridgeworks are in progress.	47.28	10.00
6.	Sambalpur—Rengali (22.7 Kms)	FLS has been completed. Land acquisition is under process and tenders are under process.	70.36	10.70
7.	Jharsuguda—Rengali (25.6 Kms)	New work proposed in the Budget 2005-06	56.58	7.00
8.	Jharsuguda Bypass Line (8.73 Kms)	FLS has been completed. Detailed Estimate is under preparation.	19.62	10.00
9.	Cuttack-Barang (12 Kms)	FLS is in progress. The work is being executed by RVNL.	127.13	30.00
10.	Khurda Road-Barang 3rd Line (35 Kms)	FLS is in progress. The work is being executed by RVNL.	133.41	30.00
RAILWAY ELECTRIFICATION				
1.	Kharagpur/Nimpura—Bhubaneswar including branch line of Talcher—Cuttack—Paradeep (540 Route Kms)	The work is in progress and targeted for completion by March 2005 except Cuttack—Paradeep section for which the target has not been fixed because of doubling in progress.	325.18	19.50

1	2	3	4	5
2.	Bhubaneswar— Kottavalasa including Khurda Road-Puri (470 Route Kms)	Bhubaneswar—Kottavalasa main line has been completed in March 2002. Khurda Road-Puri section has been completed in December 2004.	322.71	5.00

(b) and (c) Repair and maintenance of Railway track is a continuous process. Maintenance works are carried out regularly depending upon the need for ensuring safety of traffic. Track is inspected regularly and corrective action taken promptly wherever required. Speed restrictions are also imposed for ensuring safety, if the situation so warrants. Track renewals are also undertaken depending upon the need to renewal and subject to availability of funds.

The following steps have also been taken, for improving safety on Indian Railways (IR) as far as track is concerned:-

- (i) Regular inspection of track at various levels is undertaken.
- (ii) For monitoring track geometry and running characteristics of track, sophisticated track recording cars and oscillograph cars are being used.
- (iii) Training to railway staff is provided immediately after their recruitment and thereafter their knowledge is refreshed periodically. Seminars/workshops/field demonstrations are also organized for Permanent way staff from time to time to enhance/update their knowledge.
- (iv) Patrolling of railway track by gang men is carried out at vulnerable locations during monsoon, summer and winter.
- (v) The specifications of rail steel have been upgraded and are in conformity with the International Union of Railways (UIC) specifications.
- (vi) Ultrasonic Flaw Detectors are used to detect hidden flaws in the rail.
- (vii) Mechanized maintenance of track is being introduced progressively, for better and improved maintenance.

(viii) The track structure is being upgraded on a planned basis.

(ix) To keep the track in good condition, track renewals are carried out whenever it becomes due for renewal subject to availability of funds.

Committee on Collected Works of Mahatma Gandhi

482. SHRI BHARATSINH MADHAVSINH SOLANKI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 230 dated 16.12.2004 regarding book on Mahatma Gandhi and state:

(a) whether the Government is contemplating to constitute a Committee of scholars to study the matter;

(b) if so, the details of terms of reference of the said Committee; and

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

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) and (b) It has been decided to constitute a committee consisting of eminent Gandhians/Gandhian scholars to study the matter.

(c) It is likely to be constituted very shortly.

[Translation]

Gram Gyan Kendra

483. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY:
SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR:
PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR:
SHRI MOHD. TAHIR:
SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR KUSHAWAHA:
SHRIMATI ANURADHA CHOUDHARY:

Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is contemplating to set up 'Gram Gyan Kendra' under the Panchayati Raj Institutions' in the country;

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

(c) the objectives of the scheme;

(d) the names of the States where such Kendras are proposed to be set up in the first phase;

(e) the time by which these Kendras are likely to be set up in all Gram Panchayats in the country; and

(f) the expenditure likely to be incurred thereon?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (f) In its first report to the Union Agriculture Minister submitted on 29th December, 2004, the National Commission on Farmers, has made several recommendations, including setting up Rural/Village/Knowledge Centres to harness Information Communication Technology and other tools of communication for village and rural development. In the Seventh Round Table of Ministers in charge of Panchayati Raj held in Jaipur from 17-19 December, 2004 in para-8 of the Resolution, it was resolved that the Community Service Centres being rolled out by the Ministry of Information Technology at the Centre may be located in the Panchayat offices so that Panchayat services can also be delivered through the Common Service Centres. A copy of the resolutions passed during the Seventh Round Table Conference is enclosed as Statement. The number and location of the Centres and the financing implication of establishing them will be known only after the Commission's recommendations have been processed and passed by Government.

Statement

Seventh Round Table of Ministers in-charge of Panchayati Raj—Jaipur, 17-19 December, 2004

IT enabled e-Governance

1. it is recognized that IT (Information Technology and Communication) is a vital input of capacity for Panchayats so that they can perform their constitutionally and legislatively mandated functions better.
2. IT ought to be primarily positioned as:

(i) a decision making support system for Panchayats themselves;

(ii) a tool for transparency, disclosure of information to citizens social audit;

(iii) a means for better and convergent delivery of services to citizens;

(iv) a means for improving internal management and efficiency of Panchayats;

(v) a means for Capacity building of representatives and officials of the Panchayats;

(vi) an e-Procurement medium.

In this endeavour, the Round Table specifically proposes the following initiatives.

Process Re-engineering

3. All States shall undertake a time-bound exercise of process re-engineering in consonance with the activity mapping already being undertaken by them for the functions transferred to the Panchayats, with a view to moving the processes of decision making, implementation, disclosure to the public, delivery of services and reporting and dissemination of information to Panchayat representatives to an IT enabled environment.
4. In this exercise regard shall be had to avoid duplication of hardware and software initiatives by different State Government departments and agencies.
5. Considering the functional domain of Panchayats that potentially extends to 29 subject listed in the Eleventh Schedule, all e-Governance initiatives at the local level have to converge with the appropriate PRI as the nodal point.

Data Ownership

6. Such re-engineered processes shall ensure that the ownership of the data collected at the Panchayat level is with that level in the first instance, as the system becomes sustainable when those who use the data feel that they own it.
7. While owning the data, the Panchayat could also operate, outsource or provide space to IT enabled multi service kiosk centres that provide

IT enabled services to the people, including those that fall within the functions of the Panchayats.

8. The Community Service Centres being rolled out by the Ministry of Information Technology at the Centre may be located in the Panchayat offices so that panchayats services can also be delivered through these Common Services Centres (CSC).

Training

9. There has to be a systematic approach on training of staff and Panchayati Raj members through a cascading mode on use of IT.
10. The opportunities offered by the satellite connectivity provided through the ISRO, including EDUSAT, can be used for undertaking training.
11. While developing training material, regard shall be had to design user friendly approaches that can facilitate training of the illiterate or the neo-literate.

Software

12. Development of common software application packages with provision for appropriate customization by States is preferred. In this connection, the National Informatics Centre (NIC), which being a government body present in all districts of the country and which has already done considerable software development for Panchayats, may be considered as the primary software provider.
13. It is recommended that NIC strengthens themselves at all levels and provide dedicated staff through creating a Panchayat informatics division, with a time bound mandate to develop e-Governance solutions to all levels of Panchayats. This will include the strengthening of the District Informatics Office of the NIC to support the District Planning Committee and the Panchayats.
14. The National Panchayat Portal developed by the NIC for the Ministry of Panchayati Raj to become the information hub that links up Panchayats, the State Government and the Central Government for sharing of information, experiences and best practices. As a first step,

all State Governments may immediately link and port the content of their existing Panchayat Raj websites or portals to the National Panchayat Portal and all District, Intermediate and Village Panchayats can be enabled and facilitated to link up with the portal. The content can be regularly updated by the respective stake holders.

15. A repository of software solutions already developed by several States shall be maintained by the Ministry of Panchayat Raj or an institution nominated by it, so that they can be used by other States.
16. Software development shall be primarily undertaken in open source software, with Indian language interphase, so as to reduce cost of replication and licencing.

Hardware

17. States should consider specifying a framework for common standards for hardware and put in place a system for transparent procurement through competitive bidding.
18. Funds for acquisition of hardware could be dovetailed from various sources and could include:
- (i) Infrastructure funds available in multilaterally funded projects;
 - (ii) Own incomes of Panchayats;
 - (iii) Funds recommended by the Finance Commission for the creation and maintenance of Databases;
 - (iv) Funds sourced from a fund to be created and managed by the Ministry of Panchayati Raj;
 - (v) MP and MLA Local Area Development funds;
 - (vi) Purchases based on systems of annuity based purchases.
19. Considering the present power situation in the country, while procuring hardware, special attention shall be paid to providing reliable and uninterrupted power supply to computer systems. Special emphasis shall be placed on renewable energy devices and systems that consume less energy.

Infrastructure and connectivity

20. It is recommended that the NIC expands its communication network, NICNET, to link all Panchayats at all levels by using State Wide Area Network funds provided by the Department of Information Technology, Government of India.
21. State Governments can approach ISRO for providing satellite based connectivity in all the States to enable connectivity of all Panchayats. The initial infrastructure cost could be considered to be met or supported by an infrastructure fund that could be operated by the Ministry of Panchayat Raj.

Operationalisation of the plan

22. The initiative of empowering Panchayats with IT capacity shall be treated on par with creating national infrastructure such as power, telecom and roads.
23. Formulate a mission mode/empowered committee mode for IT enabled automation of panchayat institutions with NIC and other solution providers, keeping in view the national e-Governance action plan of the Government of India.

Capacity Building & Training

1. Training and communication ought to reach all PRI functionaries and elected representatives, namely:
 - (i) Gram Panchayat Members, Chairpersons and Office bearers,
 - (ii) Intermediate Panchayat Members, Chairpersons and Office bearers,
 - (iii) District Panchayat Members, Chairpersons and Office bearers,
 - (iv) All officials concerned at National, State, District, Intermediate & Village level; and
 - (v) Standing Committee members at all levels.
2. There should be special effort made towards sensitizing the media, political parties, representatives in the legislatures, civil society organisations and citizens.

3. There must be special campaigns for mobilization of Gram Sabha members.
4. There must be special training for women, SC/ST representatives as well as first time entrants into the panchayat system within 3 months of their entry.
5. Training for PESA areas should be designed so as to have regard to the cultural traditions and special needs of tribal people.
6. Training and communication should not be viewed as a single one-time intervention but should be continuous, ongoing process leading to enhanced sense of self esteem and confidence. Training cover both the "before" and "after" election periods. Initial training and communication should reach all elected representatives within one year.
7. For those Panchayat members who need it, a functional literacy training course should be undertaken immediately after their elections.
8. The panchayats should be encouraged to have a sense of ownership of the training programmes and play a major role in designing content and mechanisms of training. To this end, there must be representation for Panchayat members in the governing boards of training institutions that cater to their needs.
9. Content of training should press on strategic and technical aspects and should be based on a systematic Training Needs Analysis arrived at through multi-stakeholders consultative workshops, which would precede the design of training modules and materials.
10. There should be a minimum core curriculum that is common across the States adapting to suit local contexts. Core curriculum should include:
 - (i) Vision on purna swaraj through Gram swaraj,
 - (ii) Principles of secularism, equality and human rights emanating from the Constitution of India;
 - (iii) Gender equity and social justice;
 - (iv) Status of human development;

- (v) Poverty alleviation;
 - (vi) Participatory planning, implementation and monitoring;
 - (vii) Right to Information and transparency;
 - (viii) Social Audit; and
 - (ix) Rules and regulations covering Panchayati Raj.
1. Overall perspective of training must reinforce issues of social equity, gender sensitivity and justice among all participants in the process of governance through Panchayati Raj, including all levels of the bureaucracy.
 2. Thematic curriculum should include:
 - (i) Human Resource Management,
 - (ii) Natural Resource Management,
 - (iii) Disaster Management,
 - (iv) Financial Management, including own resource management and accounting,
 - (v) Sectoral approaches into providing basic human needs.
 3. Training strategy should be inclusive, participative and interactive and a composite mix of various interventions:
 - (i) face-to-face participatory training;
 - (ii) exposure visits;
 - (iii) peer training/learning;
 - (iv) satellite training;
 - (v) radio/cassettes/films;
 - (vi) Traditional means of communication;
 - (vii) Newsletters, updates and digests of replies to Frequently Asked Questions;
 - (viii) Resource centres and Help Desks for Panchayats.
 4. Training content and processes should be relevant to the ground reality of elected representatives. It should continue to develop and evolve based on feedback and impact assessment. Training should become a two way process so that feedback can help in reforming the content and process of training, as also result in systemic changes in panchayat and government functioning.
15. State should move towards formation of training networks and collectives to share experiences, learn from each other, and access material from each other. States should also institutionalize collaboration with Community based organisations at the State, District and Block level.
 16. Training should inspire elected representatives to form federations or collectives and facilitate them to voice their demands for genuine devolution and development.
 17. Trained members should be encouraged to become resource persons for further training of panchayat representatives Peer to peer learning, both within and outside the State through regional or national tie ups should be encouraged and supported.
 18. Training should include exposure to best practices through visits to other Panchayats.
 19. All open universities may tie up with IGNOU and build linkages with the SIRDs and other like institutions engaged in training and capacity building.
 20. Training programmes shall be designed especially for the secretarial and technical staff working with Panchayats through institutions such as IGNOU. Such training programmes should lead to formal certification on achieving prescribed standards of learning.
 21. Education in democracy and the constitutional role of panchayats as institutions of local self-government should be made part of school curricula.
 22. It shall be the endeavour of the central government to provide in as short a time as possible a panchayat capacity building fund through the Ministry of Panchayati Raj, which could include a certain percentage of central transfers specially earmarked for that purpose. Similarly, State Governments should also create a Panchayat Capacity Building Fund for periodic training.

23. There should a national perspective plan on decentralized training and capacity building for all PRI functionaries with specific objectives time frame and resources.
24. States can benefit by the use of pedagogy and training techniques with information accessible to all. The Ministry of Panchayati Raj could develop a repository of training programmes, including training resources and manuals developed by the Commonwealth. Development of master modules in training in issues of gender, poverty, mass communication etc. could also be developed.
25. Independent training impact assessment studies should be periodically undertaken to assess the outcomes of training and inform emerging needs for follow up.
26. States shall work towards upgradation of training centres, such as SIRDs, and extension training centres at the district, block level and below.
27. With respect to the training needs of Panchayat members from the Union territories and States with Sixth Schedule areas, the Government of India would identify as SIRD or a group of institutions that could undertake the training.

[English]

Gas Connections

484. SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:
SHRI BHUPENDRASINH SOLANKI:
SHRI MAHESH KANODIA:
KUNWAR JITIN PRASADA:
SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the existing gas connections as on date in the country, State-wise;

(b) the per annum rate of growth and the rate of increase in production of gas in the country;

(c) the quantity of LPG imported to meet the demand in the country annually;

(d) the number of gas connections released during 2004, State-wise;

(e) the number of persons on the waiting list for gas connections as on December 31, 2004; and

(f) the steps taken to clear the waiting list?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) As on 01.01.2005, 826.80 lakh LPG customers were registered with Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs). The State-wise details are given in the enclosed Statement-I.

(b) The rate of growth/increase in consumption and production of LPG in the country during the last three years is as under:-

Year	Consumption (%)	Production (%)
2001-02	10.1	13.7
2002-03	8.1	4.2
2003-04	13.1	5.0

(c) OMCs have imported 659 Thousand Metric Tonnes (TMT), 1,073 TMT and 1,708 TMT of LPG to meet the demand in the country during the years 2001-02, 2002-03 and 2003-04 respectively.

(d) During the year 2004, OMCs enrolled 77.58 lakh customers. The State-wise details are given in the enclosed Statement-II.

(e) and (f) As on 31.12.2004, there was no waiting list for LPG connections with OMCs.

Statement I

Total No. of LPG customers registered with OMCs as on 01.01.2005

(Rounded Figs. in Lakhs)	
State	Customer Population
1	2
Andhra Pradesh	90.94
Arunachal Pradesh	0.98
Assam	14.49
Bihar	19.36

1	2
Chhattisgarh	7.81
Delhi	37.44
Goa	3.59
Gujarat	46.71
Haryana	27.10
Himachal Pradesh	10.74
Jammu & Kashmir	11.78
Jharkhand	8.34
Karnataka	45.83
Kerala	43.29
Madhya Pradesh	33.54
Maharashtra	111.31
Manipur	1.82
Meghalaya	0.81
Mizoram	1.54
Nagaland	1.07
Orissa	11.89
Punjab	39.30
Rajasthan	33.84
Sikkim	0.86
Tamil Nadu	75.62
Tripura	1.86
Uttar Pradesh	84.34
Uttaranchal	12.95
West Bengal	41.70
Total	820.87
UNION TERRITORIES	
Andaman & Nicobar Islands	0.39
Chandigarh	3.00

1	2
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	0.28
Daman & Diu	0.25
Lakshadweep	0.03
Pondicherry	1.99
Total	5.93
All India	826.80

Statement II*LPG Connections Enrolled during the year 2004*

State	Enrolment (Rounded Figs. in lakhs)
1	2
Andhra Pradesh	9.02
Arunachal Pradesh	0.09
Assam	1.68
Bihar	2.27
Chhattisgarh	1.03
Delhi	1.79
Goa	0.21
Gujarat	4.11
Haryana	2.42
Himachal Pradesh	0.81
Jammu & Kashmir	1.09
Jharkhand	0.98
Karnataka	5.42
Kerala	4.14
Madhya Pradesh	3.10
Maharashtra	10.81

1	2
Manipur	0.16
Meghalaya	0.08
Mizoram	0.08
Nagaland	0.14
Orissa	1.63
Punjab	3.70
Rajasthan	3.89
Sikkim	0.08
Tamil Nadu	5.82
Tripura	0.11
Uttar Pradesh	8.14
Uttaranchal	0.86
West Bengal	3.69
Total	77.15
UNION TERRITORIES	
Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0.07
Chandigarh	0.17
Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0.06
Daman and Diu	0.02
Lakshadweep	0.00
Pondicherry	0.11
Total	0.43
All India	77.58

Supply of Crude Oil from Oman

485. SHRI ARJUN SETHI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Minister of Oil, Government of Oman during his recent visit to India has promised to consider India's proposal for supply of crude oil from that country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the quantity of crude oil expected to be supplied annually by Oman?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (c) During a bilateral meeting between the Minister of Petroleum & Natural Gas and Panchayati Raj, Government of India and Minister of Oil & Gas of Oman in New Delhi on 7th January 2005, the Minister of Oil & Gas of Oman agreed *inter-alia* to favourably examine the request of Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd. (HPCL) to import 10,000 barrels per day of Omani crude on term contract basis.

Production Cost of LPG

486. SHRI SUNIL KUMAR MAHATO:
SHRI MANSUKHBHAI D. VASAVA:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the production cost of LPG has been assessed by the Government;

(b) if so, what was the average production cost during each of the last three years; and

(c) the percentage of taxes, cess and surcharges levied on LPG by the Union and State Government during the said years?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) Oil refining is a continuous process and the cost of refining individual petroleum products including LPG is not worked out separately because all products are produced together.

(c) The details of sales tax levied on LPG (domestic) by different States are given in the enclosed Statement-I. The details of customs and excise duty rates are given in the enclosed Statement-II.

Statement I**Effective Rates of Sales Tax on LPG (Domestic) At major States/UTs**

1	(in percentage)		
	March 2003	March 2004	December 2004
	2	3	4
Andhra Pradesh	16.00	16.00	16.00
Assam	13.20	13.20	13.20
Bihar	11.26	14.84	14.84
Chhattisgarh	13.80	13.80	9.20
Chandigarh	8.80	8.80	9.38
Delhi	8.00	8.00	8.00
Goa	1.00	1.00	1.00
Gujarat	14.00	14.00	14.00
Haryana	10.00	8.80	8.80
Himachal Pradesh	8.00	8.00	8.00
Jammu & Kashmir	12.60	12.60	12.60
Karnataka	12.00	12.00	12.00
Kerala	16.00	16.00	16.00
Maharashtra			
1. Mumbai, Thane and Navi Mumbai	10.30	10.89	10.89
2. Others	10.30	10.89	10.89
Madhya Pradesh	13.80	13.80	13.80
Manipur	8.00	8.00	8.52
Moghajaya	8.16	9.43	10.23
Nagaland	12.00	12.00	13.43
Orissa	12.00	8.80	8.80
Punjab	8.80	8.80	8.80
Rajasthan	14.05	14.30	14.00
Sikkim	12.00	12.00	12.00

1	2	3	4
Tamil Nadu	8.00	8.00	8.00
Tripura	12.00	12.00	12.00
Uttaranchal	10.00	10.00	10.00
Uttar Pradesh	10.00	10.00	10.00
West Bengal	17.00	17.00	17.00

Note: Excludes Entry Tax wherever applicable.

Statement II

Applicable Rates of Customs & Excise Duty on LPG (Domestic)-Percentage (%)	Percentage figure for		
	March 2003	March 2004	March 2005
Customs Duty	10	10	Nil
Excise Duty	16	16	Nil

[*Translation*]

Investment by Foreign Oil Companies

487. SHRI DEVIDAS PINGLE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether some foreign oil companies have shown interest in making investment in India as reported in the 'Dainik Jagran' dated 18 January, 2005;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of foreign companies which have shown interest in making investment in India as well of those companies have made direct investment in India;

(d) whether Indian companies are likely to be affected due to investment made by foreign companies; and

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

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (c) In order to attract significant investments for accelerating exploration and exploitation

of hydrocarbon reserves in our 26 sedimentary basins, only 18% of which have thus far been reasonably well explored, and for the development & production of discovered fields situated in the onland and offshore areas of the country, Government have been inviting bids from private companies, including foreign companies, on a regular basis since 1991. The New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP) was launched in 1997. Four rounds of bidding have taken place and bids for the fifth round of NELP have been declared open on 4.10.2005 with the bid closing on 31.05.05. Following the roadshows held in January & February this year for the promotion of NELP-V, several companies have shown interest in viewing the data for these blocks. A list of these companies is enclosed as Statement-I. By 31.3.2004, the total investment made by foreign companies in exploration blocks and in discovered fields awarded to them was to the tune of approximately US\$ 1,124 million. The names of the companies which have made or are making investments in the Exploration and Production sector in India are given in the enclosed Statement-II.

(d) and (e) India has a large unexplored sedimentary area requiring besides huge investments, new geological ideas and technology. The New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP) offers equal opportunities to domestic &

foreign companies to bid for blocks offered through open international competitive bidding. Indian companies have the option, which they may exercise, of establishing joint ventures with foreign companies in submitting bids.

Statement I

List of companies which have viewed/booked for viewing NELP-V data at Data Centres/Online viewing as on 24th February, 2005

Sl.No.	Company Name
1	2
1.	Al-Thani
2.	Anadarko
3.	Atlantic Energy
4.	Bharat Petroleum Corpn. (BPCL)
5.	BHP Billiton
6.	BP Exploration
7.	BG
8.	Burren Energy
9.	Cairn Energy Plc.
10.	Canoro Resources
11.	CBM Solution
12.	Crescent Petroleum
13.	Dragon Oil
14.	Eni S.P.A.
15.	EOG Resources
16.	Essar Oil Ltd.
17.	Everest Energy Corpn.
18.	Exxon Mobil
19.	First West Petroleum
20.	Foresight
21.	GAIL India Ltd.
22.	Geoglobal Resources
23.	Geo Petrol International

1	2
24.	Gujarat State Petroleum Corpn. (GSPC)
25.	Hardy Expln. & Prodn. (India)
26.	Hindustan Oil Expln. (HOEC)
27.	Houston Geological Society
28.	Hunt Oil
29.	Husky Energy
30.	Hydro Oil & Gas
31.	Indian Oil Corpn. (IOC)
32.	Joshi Technologies Inc. (JTI)
33.	Jubilant Enpro
34.	KUFPEC
35.	Marathon Oil
36.	Merlin Energy
37.	Murphy E&P Co.
38.	National Thermal Power Corpn. (NTPC)
39.	Niko Resources
40.	Norwest Energy NL
41.	Oil & Natural Gas Corpn. (ONGC)
42.	Oil India Ltd. (OIL)
43.	Oil Search
44.	Omimex Resources
45.	OMV Expln. & Prodn.
46.	Orient Petroleum
47.	Paladin Resources
48.	Petrobras
49.	Petronas Carigali
50.	Pexco (Asia West) NV
51.	Premier Oil
52.	Providence Resources
53.	Reliance Industries
54.	Rupsa Petroleum

1	2
55.	Santos
56.	Selan Expln. Inc.
57.	Shell
58.	Sherritt International Corpn.
59.	SNL Enterprises
60.	Statoil
61.	Stratic Energy Corpn.
62.	Sunwing Energy
63.	Talisman Energy
64.	Tata Petrodyne
65.	Total
66.	Tradewinds Oil & Gas Inc.
67.	Transworld Expln & Prod.
68.	Tullow
69.	Zarubezhneft
	9. Geo-Global Resources Inc., Canada
	10. Geo-Petrol International Inc., France
	11. Hardy Exploration & Production India Inc. (subsidiary of Hardy Oil & Gas Ltd., U.K.)
	12. Heramec Ltd. (subsidiary of Heritage Oil Corporation, U.K.)
	13. Joshi Technologies Inc., USA
	14. Mosbacher India LLC (subsidiary of Mosbacher Energy, USA)
	15. Niko Resources Ltd., Canada
	16. OAO, Gazprom, Russia
	17. Okland International LDC, USA
	18. Petrom S.A., Romania
	19. Polish Oil & Gas Company, Poland
	20. Ravva Oil (Singapore) Pte. Ltd. (subsidiary of Marubeni Corporation, Japan)
	21. Tullow India Operations Ltd. (subsidiary of Tullow Oil Plc., Ireland)
	22. Premier Oil North East India (subsidiary of Premier Oil, UK).
	23. Premier Oil Cachar B.V. (subsidiary of Premier Oil, UK).
	24. Shell E&P India B.V.

Statement II

List of Foreign Companies who have made or are making investment in E&P sector in India

1. British Gas Exploration & Production India Ltd. (subsidiary of BG Energy Holdings Ltd., UK)
2. Cairn Energy Cambay B.V. Netherlands (subsidiary of Cairn Energy Plc., U.K.)
3. Cairn Energy Gujarat B.V. Netherlands (subsidiary of Cairn Energy Plc., U.K.)
4. Cairn Energy India West B.V. Netherlands (subsidiary of Cairn Energy Plc., U.K.)
5. Cairn Energy India Pty. Ltd. (subsidiary of Cairn Energy Plc., U.K.)
6. Canoro Resources Ltd., Canada
7. Centurion Energy International Inc., Canada
8. Energy Equity India Pty. Ltd. (subsidiary of Energy Equity Resources Ltd., Australia)

[English]

Production of Diesel and Electric Locomotives

488. SHRI AJAY CHAKRABORTY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the targets fixed for production Diesel and Electric Locomotives both for broad gauge and metre gauge for the year 2004-05;

(b) whether the production of these types of locos are lagging behind in comparison to targets;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Government has fixed any responsibility for it; and

(e) if so, the number of officials found guilty and the action taken against them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) The targets fixed for production of Broad gauge Diesel and Electric Locomotives for the year 2004-05 are 120 and 90 locomotives respectively and NIL Metre gauge Diesel and Electric Locomotives.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Actual out turn of Electric Locos from Chittaranjan Locomotives Works (CLW) and Diesel Locos from Diesel Locomotives Works (DLW) against the target (April' 2004 to Jan.'05) are as under:—

Unit	Target	Actual
CLW	56	51
DLW	102	99

Thus, there is a shortfall of 5 electric locos from the targeted out-turn till January, 2005 of certain critical items like gears, pinions, imported cables, elastomeric cables, armature shafts, electrolytic copper and wheel discs. All out efforts are being made by CLW in achieving the target of out turn of electric locomotives during the year.

There is a slight shortfall in diesel locos production due to delay in availability of certain critical items like alternators. Target will be met by DLW for diesel locomotives during the year.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Visit of Chief of Army Staff to China

489. SHRI ARJUN SETHI:
SHRI MADHU GOUD YASKHI:
SHRI K.S. RAO:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Chief of the Army staff has visited China in the last week of December 2004; and

(b) if so, the issues discussed of and outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The areas of cooperation discussed during the visit include closer interaction in the fields of counter-terrorism, training exchange programmes, exchange of military delegations and observers for selected military exercises. The discussions focused mainly on building of trust and confidence between the two countries, particularly in the military sphere to ensure peace and tranquillity on the borders and to improve the military to military relations between the two Armed Forces. The visit has led to better mutual understanding and cooperation between the two countries, based on the overall commitment to the principles of Panchsheel and mutual respect and sensitivity for each other's concerns.

Gauge Conversion

490. SHRI JASHUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of railway track, in kilometres, converted from metre gauge to broad gauge during each of the last three years, State-wise;

(b) the target fixed for gauge conversion under the Tenth Plan;

(c) the extent to which this target has been achieved till date; and

(d) the funds allocated by the Union Government for this purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) The details are given in the attached statement.

(b) A target of 2,365 Kms was fixed for the 10th Plan which has been revised to 4,000 Kms in mid-term appraisal.

(c) During the 10th Plan, 2159 Kms of gauge conversion has so far been completed upto 28.02.2005.

(d) The funds to the tune of Rs. 1067.24 crore has been provided in Revised Budget 2004-05 & an outlay of Rs. 690 crore is proposed in 2005-06.

Statement

Year-wise gauge conversion done during the last three years State-wise is as follows

	2001-02 (Kms)	2002-03 (Kms)	2003-04 (Kms)
Andhra Pradesh	29	166	30
Assam	46	—	—
Gujarat	61	367	152
Karnataka	1	25	57
Uttar Pradesh	24	—	—
Maharashtra	50	42	—
Rajasthan	—	150	241
Tamil Nadu	—	80	176
West Bengal	—	—	198
Total	211	830	854

Round Table of Key Asian Oil Buyers & Sellers

491. SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA:
SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA:
SHRI P.K. VASUDEVAN NAIR:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Round Table of Key Asian oil buyers and sellers was organised in New Delhi with a view to provide a platform to gain price stability and supply security of the oil in the Asian Oil market;

(b) if so, the details of the countries participated in the Round Table; and

(c) the subjects discussed and the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Besides, India, Iran, Japan, Malaysia, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, UAE, China, Korea and Kuwait participated in the Round Table.

(c) The Round Table Conference of Asian Oil/Energy Ministers was aimed at enhancing Regional Cooperation in the Oil & Gas Economy and focused on the issues of Stability, Security and Sustain ability through Mutual Interdependence. A copy of the Chairman's Inaugural Address and concluding remarks is enclosed as Statement.

Statement***The Inaugural Address of Chairman of Round Table Conference***

Your Excellency, the co-host of this conclave, the distinguished Head of Delegation of the Emirate of Kuwait,

Your Excellencies, Ministers and Heads of Delegation from the principal Asian suppliers and consumers of petroleum,

Your Excellencies, Ambassadors to New Delhi of these countries,

Distinguished representatives of the Governments of participating countries,

Distinguished representatives of National Oil Companies and the Asian Oil Industry,

Distinguished delegates of the principal international organizations here present, our co-sponsor, the Secretary-General of the International Energy Forum, the distinguished representative of the International Energy Agency, and the distinguished Acting Secretary-General of OPEC—the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries,

My fellow-Minister, the distinguished Minister of State for External Affairs of India, Shri E. Ahamed, Ladies and Gentlemen, Fellow Asians,

We meet in the shadow of the terrible Tsunami tragedy that has struck our shared continent of Asia. Might I request you to please stand and observe a minute's silence in memory of the 125,000 or more who have been snatched so cruelly from our midst? ... Thank you.

This is a moment that might yet be recorded as "historic" in the annals of regional cooperation in Asia. For this is the first gathering together of the principal Asian Ministers charged with responsibility for the most

crucial sector of the economy—petroleum and natural gas. Whether our meeting today does get recorded as “historic” does, of course, depend on the outcome of our deliberations and of our resolves to persist on the path of such dialogue. I have little doubt, however, that it will—for in the very act of journeying to our capital you have registered your commitment to our shared destiny. Through almost all of the advancement of human civilization, it is Asia that has been in the vanguard. For the last few centuries, we fell to the sway of others. Now, once again, are we the captains of our ship and the masters of our fate. I thank you most warmly and sincerely, on behalf of our Government and all our one billion people, for having done us the unforgettable honour of being present here at the creation. Thank you, indeed.

Excellencies, in the sector of our concern, hydrocarbons, the dawn of the 21st century heralds an unprecedented, dare I say revolutionary change in international oil and gas relations. In the last quarter of the last century, Asian oil producers came into their own when OPEC secured fair and just remuneration for the most vital element of growth of prosperity—oil. Now has come Asia’s turn to consume that oil—and thus fuel the resurgence of Asia as the harbinger of the further advancement of human civilization. The total consumption of the Asian countries here present almost equals the total production of the Asian countries here present. No longer are we labouring so that others might profit. We have already emerged as the world’s principal source of supply; we are emerging as the world’s principal destination for the consumption of that supply. Already, some two-thirds of the fossil fuel that principal producers around this table extract from the bosom of Mother Nature is bought by the principal consumers represented at this very table. That trends will only accelerate as we traverse the 21st century—the Asian Century. We are gathered here to rise to that challenge and to avail of that opportunity.

The Challenge, Your Excellencies, lies in eschewing the errors of the past. The opportunity, Your Excellencies, lies in fashioning a more fair, more just and more remunerative oil order for all of us in Asia—in which the Asian producer is ensured a stable, secure and sustainable return for a most precious but depleting natural resource, and the Asian consumer is assured a stable, secure and sustainable regime within which to promote progress and prosperity for that deprived one-half of humankind that inhabits our shared continent of Asia. We commence have a dialogue to meet that challenge and rise to that opportunity.

How do we do so?

First let me deal with stability. Last year has seen the worst roller-coaster ride in oil prices for the better part of a generation. OPEC has behaved most responsibly through this period of turmoil and turbulence. Instead of pursuing short-term advance, OPEC, led by its Asian members, has persistently striven for moderating volatility and dampening speculation. For this, OPEC and its membership have earned the world’s gratitude. Moreover, OPEC’s production plans give the world the reassurance that global oil supply will keep pace with booming global demand, and that over the next twenty years at least there will be no market disequilibrium to warrant and wild fluctuation in prices. If, nevertheless, volatility rather than stability has marked international prices in the last twelve months that is largely because of speculation and apprehensions—that have been mostly belied—of the fallout on oil production of exogenous political developments. The fact is that however uncertain developments in the world political order have been, the underlying global oil economy has held a steady course.

For us in Asia to convert that underlying stability in production (and the prognosis for production) into stability in oil markets, it is essential that we develop a sophisticated Asian market for petroleum and petroleum products. That is how the West converted their abundance of natural resources into abundance of production and consumption.

Unfortunately, we in Asia continue to behave as if we were still a residual consumer of Asian oil production when, in fact, we are the principal consumer.

Your Excellencies, for Asia to be the residual consumer made some economic sense when there was large and growing production on both sides of the Atlantic, on-land in the America and off-shore in Europe. It was in that era that Western Texas Intermediate (WTI) and Brent emerged as markers. But as the world wheels into the 21st century, WTI output is down by three-quarter compared to two decades ago and Brent output is down by two-third compared to just a decade ago—and both are set decline even further, and to decline quite precipitately at that. Meanwhile, it is Asia, from Eastern Siberia through the Caspian, Central Asia and China, to South-East Asia and to some extent even South Asia, and, of course, above all, Iran and West Asia, that is booming in both the output and throughput of oil. Yet, Asia has little in terms of global market. And even less in terms of a well-prepared oil and oil products market.

With a view to bringing about greater stability in Asian trade in petroleum and petroleum products, can we think in term of an Asian market:—

- where long-term contracts become longer,
- where price discovery through the market is more transparent,
- where such transparency facilitates greater stability in formulate for pricing in long-term contracts,
- where spot purchases occupy a progressively larger share of market transactions,
- where petroleum exchanges are established and used,
- where derivatives are integrated into market practice,
- where, in short, an Asian market emerges

which reflects Asian realities and the real role in the global oil economy of Asian production, Asian consumption and Asian trade?

To pose the problem, Your Excellencies, is easier than to find the answers. But I do submit, Your Excellencies, that through sustained dialogue among ourselves, buttressed by dialogue among our experts and market operators, we might be able to find an Asian solution to the imperatives of Asian stability.

As for the second theme of our meeting—security—the answer there too lies in promoting mutual interdependence. Security has two aspects. One is security against unexpected disruption of supplies. As a joint emergency response mechanism, perhaps we should consider jointly building storages which would enable consumers to enjoy an uninterrupted flow of supplies and producers to enjoy an uninterrupted flow of oil revenue till normalcy is restored.

The second aspect of security relates to assurance of markets for producers and assurance of supplies for consumers. This calls for mutual interdependence through mutual investments in each other's countries by producer and consumer nations of the Asian Oil community. Hitherto, we have looked West for much of the investment in Asian petroleum exploration and production, Asian petroleum refining, and Asian petroleum marketing—and

in saying so I include gas as well. Now, increasingly, Asia itself is merging as a significant source of investment in Asia. Japan is, of course, a long-established Asian investor in other Asian countries. China in the last decade, as also Malaysia, have become key players in E&P in Asia and, indeed, the world over. So has India. We are already in E&P, refining and marketing projects in more than ten countries and much of our overseas investment is in Asia. Reciprocally, in refining, we in India have been the beneficiary of investments by Iran in the Chennai Petroleum Corporation and of Qatar in LNG. These are but illustrative examples. A future beckons in which Asian countries can become major participants in the massive investments which need to be made in the Asian countries represented at this table, running to an estimated 1580 billion dollars over the next 25 years in upstream, midstream and downstream oil and gas development in all our countries put together. Investment on this humungous scale, to the extent possible mutual and reciprocal intra-Asia investment, would hugely enhance security of production and consumption for all of us around this table, for all our fellow-Asians and, indeed, for all of humankind the world over. The oil and gas sector in India welcomes the world with open arms, and reserves a particular welcome for Asian investors. Equally, we stand ready to do our share for the promotion of the global oil economy in general and the Asian oil economy in particular. We believe we should continue and intensify this dialogue in the interests of facilitating mutual investments to ensure mutual security.

The third great theme of our meeting today is sustainability. It has taken millions of years, indeed, hundreds of millions of years for Nature to create and store what we have substantially exhausted in a mere one hundred years or so. What remains we can use only if used with great care. That calls for conservation, on the one hand, and technology, on the other. Japan shown the way to both conservation and the technology for conservation, as perhaps no other country in the world has. India has had no alternative but to conserve and innovate, although we still have a long, long way to go. China has taken significant initiatives. So has the Republic of Korea. Asian oil exporting countries have demonstrated a commendable awareness of the importance of sustainability. The time now is for us to pool together our experience, forge them into a shared, common experience, and build on that experience in concert. Sustainability in Asia calls for sustained dialogue among Asians. We stand ready and willing to place our Petroleum Conservation Research Association, the Indian Institute of Petroleum,

the University of Petroleum Studies, The Energy and Research Institute of India (TERI), our Centre for High Technology, our Oil Industry Safety, Directorate, Indian Oil's R&D Centre, and all our other scientific and technological research and development institutions at the service of all Asia. It is said that one in every three Information Technologies in the world is an Indian. Our achievement in petroleum technology is perhaps less spectacular. But we would be more than happy to share what we know with our fellow-Asians and even more to learn from others, above all to learn from our fellow-Asians.

As we embark on this historic initiative which will, I hope, bring us together frequently, even up to once or preferably twice a year, perhaps alternately in a net oil exporting and a net oil importing country of Asia, and perhaps progressively expanding our ambit while keeping our core intact, I welcome all you once again to our national capital and wish you all a pleasant and fruitful stay in our midst.

Your Excellencies, I thank you, one and all.

Chairman's Statement on the conclusion of the first Round Table of Asian Ministers on Regional Cooperation in the Oil and Gas economy, New Delhi on 6th January, 2006

A. GENERAL

1. The Asian oil economy is integral to, and inseparable from, the global oil economy.

2. With Asian destinations emerging as the principal consumers for Asian production, and the share of Asia in global production and consumption likely to progressively increase, cooperation between Asian producers and Asian consumers is crucial to ensuring

Stability,
Security and
Sustainability
through
mutual interdependence
in the Asian oil and gas economy.

3. The fundamentals of such cooperation must include moderation, dialogue, mutual understanding and respect, security of international supplies, demand-supply equilibrium, and strategic partnerships based on a reciprocity of interests.

4. To this end, an Asian dialogue is both welcome and indispensable aimed at evolving and elaborating an Asian consensus.

5. It is, therefore, agreed that the instrumentality of Round Tables of Asian Ministers on Regional Cooperation in the Oil and Gas Economy, initiated here in New Delhi, must be maintained. The following countries have kindly agreed to host/co-host subsequent Round Tables:

Second Round Table : Saudi Arabia, Co-host:
Japan

Third Round Table Japan, Co-Host: Qatar

Fourth Round Table Kuwait, Co-host: Republic of
Korea

The Round Tables may follow the pattern of alternating between net importing and net exporting countries.

6. For the preparation of Ministerial Round Tables, the Secretariat of the International Energy Forum might convene experts, operators and officials to prepare position papers and agenda documents.

7. To reinforce Ministerial-level discussions at the Round Tables, a parallel effort may be initiated to bring together Asian business operators belonging to the countries represented at the Round Table.

B. STABILITY AND SECURITY

1. There is scope for improving Asian markets for petroleum and petroleum products. The issue requires careful study and detailed consideration, primarily among experts and operators with a view to identifying broad policy parameters that might require further consideration.

2. Prices should be sustained at levels which encourage Asian consumers to increase their purchases of Asian produce; at the same time, prices should be such as to encourage Asian producers to promote investment in oil and gas for Asian consumer destinations as an economic priority.

3. Crisscross investments all along the entire oil and gas products chain through reciprocal investment interlocking of producers and consumers will guarantee security of both supply and demand, thus contributing to stability of prices and thereby security of both supply and demand. Thus stability of prices would encourage

domestic and cross-country investment in all streams of the petroleum sector and other energy-related projects.

4. Caution must be exercised in promoting balanced investment so that over-investment does not lead to excess capacity nor under-investment to shortage of supplies.

5. Strategic storage and stockpiling contribute to security, and in this regard the valuable experience of Japan might hold significant lessons for other major consumers. However, there must be no abuse for illegitimate commercial purposes of such strategic storage and stockpiles.

6. The exchange of information and knowledge is the key to increasing confidence on the part of both buyers and sellers.

7. The Sustainable and Flexible Energy system ("SAFE") proposed by Japan constitutes a useful framework for further consideration of issues of energy security.

8. The Iranian proposal for an Asian Bank for Energy Development merits deeper consideration.

C. SUSTAINABILITY

1. Endorsing the importance of energy conservation for the protection of the environment and issues of climate change, the need for technological cooperation in the pursuit of cleaner and more environmentally-sound fossil fuel technologies was emphasized.

2. To this end, cooperation among Asian research and development centres and the promotion of conservation awareness among the general public were recognized a key instrumentalities.

[Translation]

Crude Oil Production in Bombay High

492. SHRI CHANDRA MANI TRIPATHI:
SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of Crude Oil produced in Bombay High during each of the last three years;

(b) whether there has been a decline in the production of Crude Oil in Bombay High;

(c) if so, the reasons therefore; and

(d) the scheme formulated by the Government to increase the production of Crude Oil?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) Oil production from Mumbai High during the last three years was as follows:—

Year	Production (In Million Metric Tonne)
2001-02	9.818
2002-03	11.378
2003-04	11.646

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Several important steps have been taken to increase oil and gas production. These include the following:—

- (i) improving the recovery factor from existing major fields by implementing Enhanced Oil Recovery (EOR)/Improved Oil Recovery (IOR) schemes; in particular, Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC) have taken up 15 fields for this purpose at an estimated investment of Rs. 10,972 crore, which would also help in accelerating oil production from these fields;
- (ii) increasing exploration efforts through the New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP); Under the four rounds of NELP, Production Sharing Contracts (PSCs) have been signed for 90 blocks. The Fifth Round of NELP has been declared open from the 4th January, 2005 to invite bids for 20 exploration blocks;
- (iii) exploring new areas, especially in deep water and difficult frontier areas, as also the deeper layers of already producing fields;
- (iv) developing the newly discovered fields speedily and stepping up the use of new technologies for seismic surveys, work over, stimulation operations, drilling of wells etc. in producing areas;

- (v) acquiring acreages abroad.

[English]

Petroleum Regulatory Board

493. SHRI HARIN PATHAK:
SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO:
SHRIMATI KIRAN MAHESHWARI:
SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK:
SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA:
SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) the current status of proposed Petroleum Regulatory Board;
- (b) whether the Government is considering to introduce the proposed Bill in this regard before Parliament; and
- (c) if so, the steps proposed to be taken by Government to protect the interest of the State Governments?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (c) Government propose to set up a Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board to ensure uninterrupted and adequate supply of petroleum, petroleum products and natural gas to all parts of the country including remote areas, at fair prices and to establish sectoral regulations to ensure competition, protect consumers and encourage investment as well as take action against violation of Rules and Regulations of the Board.

The proposal is under consideration of a Group of Ministers.

[Translation]

Imposition of Passenger Tax

494. SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether any categories/classes have been prescribed for airports in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the amount of tax per passenger being charged by the Airports Authority of India;

(d) whether uniform tax is being charged at all the airports in the country;

(e) if so, whether uniform facilities have been provided at all the airports; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) All operational airports in the country owned and managed by Airports Authority of India (AAI) are categorized as International, Domestic and Custom airports. AAI also manages civil enclaves at certain Defence airports.

(c) AAI does not levy any tax from passengers using these airports. However, a Passenger Service Fee (PSF) is levied on all embarking passenger @ Rs. 200/- per domestic passenger, Rs. 200/- per international passenger when booked in Indian currency and US\$5 per international passenger when booked in foreign currency. Service Tax @ 10.2% is also being levied on the PSF since September, 2004.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. The passenger facilities are provided at the airports depending upon the size of the terminal building, frequency of operations, density of the passengers handled and other operational parameters. However, certain basic passenger amenities are provided at all the terminal buildings and the airports uniformly though not on the same scale.

(f) Does not arise.

[English]

Gauge Conversion of Dindigul-Trichi Line

495. SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal for gauge conversion from Dindigul to Trichi;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the funds allocated for this project; and

(d) the time by which it is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Broad gauge line already exists on Dindigul-Tiruchchirappalli section.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

[*Translation*]

Trial Run of Sky Bus Metro

496. PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA:
SHRI RAVICHANDRAN SIPPAPARAI:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Konkan Railways has undertaken the trial run of Sky Bus Metro;

(b) if so, whether the trial run was successful;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the time by which the Sky Bus Metro is likely to become operational;

(e) whether the Government proposes to introduce the Sky Bus Metro in some important metro-cities; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (f) Ministry of Urban Development and Poverty Alleviation has set up a Committee under Chairmanship of Dr. E.V. Indiresan to examine the following issues:

(i) To examine the techno-economic and financial feasibility of the sky bus metro system.

(ii) To ascertain the safety of the system.

(iii) To critically evaluate novel system component, such as suspended rail technology, traversing systems, etc.

(iv) To critically evaluate the integration of different technologies.

(v) Any other matter considered relevant by the Committee.

Success of trial run and implementation of Sky Bus plan can be decided only after the Committee submits its report and the Sky bus technology is proved.

[*English*]

Allotment of LPG Agencies in Himachal Pradesh

497. PROF. CHANDER KUMAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the target fixed for allotment of LPG agencies in Himachal Pradesh during each of the last three years;

(b) the number of LPG agencies allotted in the State during the said period;

(c) whether the target has been achieved; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (d) Government have given freedom to Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) to set up LPG distributorships in accordance with their commercial considerations. The commissioning of LPG distributorships depends upon various factors such as identification of viable locations, release of advertisements, conducting interviews and the ability of the candidate to secure land for godown, showroom etc. In view of these factors, OMCs have stated that it is difficult to fix any specific targets for commissioning LPG distributorships for a particular year. However, OMCs have allotted 33 LPG distributorships in Himachal Pradesh during the last three years.

Smuggling of High Speed Diesel

498. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether huge quantity of high speed diesel (HSD) is being smuggled into the country from Gulf and is being sold to petrol pumps after adulterating it with kerosene oil;

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

(c) the quantum of smuggled HSD seized during the last two years?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI

SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Indiscipline in Armed Forces

499. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWASI:
SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that indiscipline is growing in the armed forces day-by-day;

(b) if so, whether the authorities have inquired into the causes for increasing indiscipline in the armed forces;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) No, Sir. The number of army personnel court martialled during the year 2000 was 1215, which has come down in the year 2004 to 872. A similar trend has been observed in the Air Force and the Navy.

(b) to (d) The defence forces pride themselves at the high level of discipline maintained by them. Certain cases of indiscipline, reported in the recent past are a few aberrations committed by individual members of the Armed Forces. Notwithstanding this, all cases of indiscipline in the defence forces are dealt with sternly as per the military law and severe punishments are imposed on the guilty, which act as deterrent to the other personnel of the defence forces.

[Translation]

Special Recruitment Drive

500. SHRI BHANWAR SINGH DANGAWAS:
SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL:
SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL:
SHRI M. SREENIVASULU REDDY:
SHRIMATI KIRAN MAHESHWARI:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that less number of people are joining the defence forces now-a-days;

(b) if so, the percentage of decline in number of applicants in the last year in comparison to the previous years;

(c) whether the Government is considering any special recruitment drive to encourage and attract more people to join defence forces; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Every eligible citizen of the country irrespective of caste, class, religion, community and domicile is eligible for recruitment into the armed forces, provided he/she meets the laid down age, educational, physical, medical standards and other criteria.

Plantation of Jatropha

501. SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD:
SHRI KASHIRAM RANA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways has started plantation of jatropha on its land to support the production of biodiesel;

(b) if so, the production of jatropha during each of the last three years; and

(c) the steps taken for more production of jatropha on unused land of Railways in the future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Railways have taken up plantation of 'Jatropha Curcus' on railway land on a large scale from the year 2003-04 onwards. During 2003-04, 24 lakh Jatropha have been planted on railway land. Another 57 lakh trees have been planned for the current year 2004-05.

(c) Zonal Railways have been advised to vigorously take up plantation of 'Jatropha Curcas' on railway land. Progress of plantation is also monitored regularly on Railways/in Railway Board. Apart from departmental effort, plantation of Jatropha has also been taken under 'commercial plantation' scheme.

*[English]***Upgradation of Airstrips in West Bengal**

502. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of airstrips in West Bengal and the number out of them being used for regular flights;

(b) whether any assistance has been provided by the Union Government for their expansion and upgradation;

(c) if so, the details of assistance provided during each of the last three years; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) There are six airports in West Bengal, namely, Bagdogra, Kolkata, Cooch Behar, Balurghat, Malda and Behala. All these airports excepting Bagdogra belong to Airports Authority of India (AAI). Bagdogra airport belongs to Indian Air Force. AAI maintains a civil enclave at this airport. Of these, only Bagdogra and Kolkata airports are operational.

(b) to (d) No, Sir. All expenditure for expansion and development of the airports are generally met from the internal resources of AAI. Presently, at Kolkata airport, work of strengthening of main runway including provision of Cat. II lighting system and construction of an integrated cargo complex are in progress. There is also a proposal to operationalise the airport at Cooch Behar for operation of ATR 42 type of aircraft. The work is likely to be taken up during 2005-06.

Quality of Tracks

503. SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have not yet provided Ultrasonic Flaw Detection machines to most of the field staff who are required to check the quality of the track;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken for providing these machines to the field staff?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Air Hubs

504. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Air Sahara has started an Air Hub in Hyderabad recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether other airlines are also being allowed air hubs; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Air Sahara have started to and fro air services from Hyderabad in their Hub Hyderabad Plan w.e.f. 3rd February, 2005. As a consequence of this plan, Air Sahara is now operating 16 flights to 13 cities from Hyderabad as against earlier schedule of 4 daily flights to 4 cities.

(c) and (d) Government has laid down Route Dispersal Guidelines with a view to achieve better regulation of air transport services taking into account the need of different regions of the country. It is, however, up to the airlines to provide air services to specific places depending upon the traffic demand and commercial viability. As such, the airlines are free to operate anywhere in the country subject to compliance of Route Dispersal Guidelines issued by the Government. Further, at present to scheduled domestic airline other than Air Sahara has come up with proposal to establish air hubs.

Outsourcing of Non-core Activities

505. SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has a proposal to take some new steps to increase the efficiency of Railways;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Railways have any plan to outsource the non-core activities as a part of its programme to increase the efficiency; and

(d) if so, the steps taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The working of Indian Railways is kept under continuous review to improve its efficiency. The direction of initiatives and various steps to improve the system are indicated in the Corporate Safety Plan, the 10th Five Year Plan (2002-07) and the budget documents. Some of the important initiatives are as under:—

- (i) Strengthening of high density network.
- (ii) Technological up-gradation of assets for improving efficiency, throughput and increasing average speed of trains.
 - Enhanced production of state-of-the-art Technology three-phase locomotives, *i.e.* WAP-5, WAP-7 and WAG-9. The high speed and high power locomotives will increase the average speed of trains as well as carry more passengers and higher freight loads, thus improving efficiency.
 - Increase the efficiency of 3-phase electric locomotives and Electric Multiple Units by adoption of Insulated Gate Bipolar Transistor based traction propulsion system.
 - Locotrol operation in freight locos have been proposed for trial. This will increase the speed of heavy haul operation, providing higher freight output and enhanced throughput.
 - Regenerative braking feature in three phase locomotives and Electric Multiple Units will increase the energy efficiency of the locomotives and Electric Multiple Units.
- (iii) Provision of computer based centralised traffic control especially on heavily worked sections to improve efficiency in train operations.
- (iv) Provision of continuous track circuiting and automatic block signalling to augment line capacity.
- (v) Simulator based training for electric loco crew and motormen will improve the driving techniques and safety consciousness amongst drivers and motormen.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Ministry of Railways policy on outsourcing—finalised in March, 2004.

- (i) As a part of the over-all reform agenda, Railways as a department would deal mostly with the core activities of a national transport organisation in line with its responsibility both as a commercial transport organisation and a vehicle for social change.
- (ii) List, modify, develop and implement non-core activities through outsourcing consistent with the agenda of planned right sizing of the organisation.

Eleven items have been identified for outsourcing in the first stage of non-core restructuring:—

- (a) Disbursement of salary through Bank.
- (b) Outsourcing of engineering surveys, project management and supervision.
- (c) Constitution of Rail Land Development Authority.
- (d) Transportation of released track material and activities connected with bridge works.
- (e) Painting/removal of paint of rolling stock.
- (f) Outsourcing of maintenance of IVRS (Interactive Voice Response System).
- (g) Unscheduled repair of major electrical assembly of locomotives/Multiple Units/Air Conditioned Coaches.
- (h) Unscheduled and Scheduled repairs of house wiring (power supply) and operations of Pumps/Diesel Generator Sets/Stationary Air Conditioned Plants/Distribution Network of power supply.
- (i) Leasing of Second Class Luggage Brake Van space.
- (j) Catering Services.
- (k) Production Units as independent cost and profit centres.

[Translation]

Sale of Kerosene

506. SHRI HEMMAL MURMU: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to sanction setting up of Kerosene Sales Depot in open market by the Public Sector Oil Companies;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the sale of Kerosene is to be done through the petrol pumps and by opening new depots at various places on block level at a price higher than the price of Kerosene at public distribution system outlets; and

(d) if so, the number of divisions and petrol pumps where sales facility will be made available in the country during the first phase?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) have been allowed to market free sale Kerosene over and above the Public Distribution System (PDS) requirement directly to the genuine customers. Mangalore Refineries & Petrochemicals Limited (MRPL) and Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) have also been allowed to market kerosene outside the PDS directly to genuine customers.

(c) and (d) There is proposal under consideration for strengthening the distribution network for PDS Kerosene with the objective of reaching the subsidized Kerosene to entitled consumers towards whom the subsidies are targeted.

[English]

Recommendations of Naresh Chandra Committee

507. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether First and Second Reports of the Naresh Chandra Committee have been examined by the Government;

(b) if so, the number of recommendations made in these reports and the number of recommendations out of them have been accepted by the Government; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to implement them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The recommendations of the committee have been examined in consultation with various stakeholders and a comprehensive national civil aviation policy is being drafted.

Setting up of New DD/AIR Stations

508. SHRI ANANT GUDHE: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the Doordarshan Studios, Towers and All India Radio Stations, which have already been sanctioned or inaugurated but not completed so far, location-wise;

(b) whether the Government has fixed any target for timely completion of these Studios/Towers/Stations; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) to (c) The details are given in the enclosed Statement. The projects are expected to be completed in phases by the end of the 10th Plan subject to availability of funds.

Statement

DD's Projects under Implementation	AIR's Projects under Implementation
1	2
Studios Gorakhpur (permanent) Dehradun (permanent) Raipur (augmentation) Ranchi (augmentation)	Station Karimnagar Nellore Srikakulam Kakinada

1

2

HPTs

Bhatinda (DD News)
 Bikaner
 Bilaspur
 Chhatarpur
 Dharamshala
 Dharmapuri
 Hissar
 Hissar (DD News)
 Karnal
 Kurseong (DD News)
 Radhanpur
 Sagar
 Saharasa
 Tirunelveli
 Vadodara
 Vadodara (DD News)
 Srinagar (DD News-upgr.)
 Srinagar (Kashir Ch.-upgr.)

LPT

Ambassa

VLPT

Devbhog

Banka
 Gaya
 Madhubani
 Baikunthpur
 Jashpurnagar
 Dantewara
 Rajnandgaon
 Jamnagar
 Junagarh
 Ambala
 Gumla
 Dhanbad
 Dumka
 Sringeri
 Konni
 Amravati
 Oras
 Shirdi

Ujjain

Rairangpur

Raigada

Parlakhmundi

Deogarh

Dungarpur

Chautan Hill

Dharmanagar

Longtherai

Kanchipuram

Ghazipur

Bageshwar

Champawat

Dehradun

Dharchula

Haldwani

New Tehri

Rudraprayag

Gairsen

Balurghat

Bardhaman

Coochbihar

Maldah

Tamluk

Purulia

Darjeeling

*[Translation]***Running of Trains on CNG and Diesel Mixture**

509. SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY:
 SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN:
 PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR:
 SHRI MUNSHI RAM:
 SHRI MOHD. TAHIR:
 SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR KUSHAWAHA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal for running trains on CNG and Diesel mixture is under consideration of the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether such engines are being manufactured in the country;

(d) if so, whether CNG trial of such engines has been conducted;

(e) if so, whether such engines are proposed to be used in long distance trains;

(f) if so, the distance for which said engines are proposed to be used under first phase; and

(g) the time by which final decision in this regard is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) A feasibility trial is contemplated.

(b) One Diesel Multiple Unit is undergoing modifications. However, not all problems have been overcome so far.

(c) Since the nature of conversion is by way of a 'retrofit' the engines are expected to retain their indigenous content.

(d) The stage has not been reached so far.

(e) to (g) It is premature to take a view on these aspects. Should initial trial be successful, ways and means to consolidate energy security, environment friendliness and economies of operation, will be explored on Railways.

*[English]***Air Connectivity with Srinagar Domestic Airport**

510. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether International Airport Status has been granted to Srinagar domestic airport;

(b) if so, whether restriction has been imposed on foreign carriers from operating scheduled flights to the Srinagar Airport;

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

(d) the steps the Government proposes to take to link Srinagar with the domestic as well as International Airports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) Yes, Sir. Various scheduled airlines viz. Indian Airlines, Jet Airways and Air Sahara have already linked Srinagar with Delhi, Jammu and Leh.

Clearance to Storm Water Drainage System

511. SHRI D.V. SADANANDA GOWDA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry of Defence has received any proposal from the Government of Karnataka in 2003 for development of storm water drainage system (SEDS);

(b) if so, the reasons for not giving clearance to the said proposal; and

(c) the time by which the proposal is likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Local Military Authorities had requested the Bangalore Mahanagar Palika (BMP) to submit a detailed proposal in this regard. However, the same is yet to be received from BMP.

(c) The request of the Government of Karnataka would be considered after the detailed and final proposal is received from BMP.

Train Actuated Warning Device at Level Crossings

512. SHRI ATIQ AHAMAD: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of level crossings in the railways particularly in North Central railway where the Train Actuated Warning Device (TAWD) has been provided so far;

(b) the details of accident prone level crossings in the railways particularly in North Central railway, where the TAWD has not been installed so far; and

(c) the time by which the TAWD is likely to be provided at all accident prone level crossings?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No level crossing on North Central Railway has so far been provided with Train Actuated Warning Device (TAWD).

(b) and (c) Provision of TAWDs is in progress on selected 70, manned level crossings and 20 unmanned level crossings on Northern, North Central, North Western, North Eastern, East Coast, Southern, South Central and South Eastern Railways on limited trial basis to see the efficacy of the device on manned and unmanned level crossings. This includes 10 manned level crossings on Jhansi-Bina section of North Central Railway. This work is likely to be completed by 30.6.2005. Based on the performance of these TAWDs, further provision of the device would be considered.

Price Stability of Oil

513. SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA': Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has initiated any action plan to explore possibility of price stability and sustainability of oil with neighbouring countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the outcome of such initiatives is expected to reflect in the domestic industry?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (c) The first Round Table of

Asian Ministers on Regional Cooperation in the Oil & Gas Economy was held in New Delhi on 6th January 2005. This Round Table focused on the issues of stability, security and sustainability through mutual interdependence. A copy of the Chairman's Statement on the conclusions of this Round Table is enclosed as Statement. Discussions on these issues will continue through subsequent Round Tables, with the next one planned in Saudi Arabia.

Statement

Chairman's Statement on the conclusion of the first Round Table of Asian Ministers on Regional Cooperation in the Oil and Gas economy, New Delhi on 6th January, 2006

A. GENERAL

1. The Asian oil economy is integral to, and inseparable from the global oil economy.

2. With Asian destinations emerging as the principal consumers for Asian production, and the share of Asia in global production and consumption likely to progressively increase, cooperation between Asian producers and Asian consumers is crucial to ensuring

Stability,
Security and
Sustainability
through
mutual interdependence
in the Asian oil and gas economy.

3. The fundamentals of such cooperation must include moderation, dialogue, mutual understanding and respect, security of international supplies, demand-supply equilibrium, and strategic partnerships based on a reciprocity of interests.

4. To this end, an Asian dialogue is both welcome and indispensable aimed at evolving and elaborating an Asian consensus.

5. It is, therefore, agreed that the instrumentality of Round Tables of Asian Ministers on Regional Cooperation in the Oil and Gas Economy, initiated here in New Delhi, must be maintained. The following countries have kindly

agreed to host/co-host subsequent Round Tables:

Second Round Table	:	Saudi Arabia, Co-host: Japan
Third Round Table		Japan, Co-Host: Qatar
Fourth Round Table		Kuwait, Co-host: Republic of Korea

The Round Tables may follow the pattern of alternating between net importing and net exporting countries.

6. For the preparation of Ministerial Round Tables, the Secretariat of the International Energy Forum might convene experts, operators and officials to prepare position papers and agenda documents.

7. To reinforce Ministerial-level discussions at the Round Tables, a parallel effort may be initiated to bring together Asian business operators belonging to the countries represented at the Round Table.

B. STABILITY AND SECURITY

1. There is scope for improving Asian markets for petroleum and petroleum products. The issue requires careful study and detailed consideration, primarily among experts and operators with a view to identifying broad policy parameters that might require further consideration.

2. Prices should be sustained at levels which encourage Asian consumers to increase their purchases of Asian produce; at the same time, prices should be such as to encourage Asian producers to promote investment in oil and gas for Asian consumer destinations as an economic priority.

3. Crisscross investments all along the entire oil and gas products chain through reciprocal investment interlocking of producers and consumers will guarantee security of both supply and demand, thus contributing to stability of prices and thereby security of both supply and demand. Thus stability of prices would encourage domestic and cross-country investment in all streams of the petroleum sector and other energy-related projects.

4. Caution must be exercised in promoting balanced investment so that over-investment does not lead to excess capacity nor under-investment to shortage of supplies.

5. Strategic storage and stockpiling contribute to security, and in this regard the valuable experience of

Japan might hold significant lessons for other major consumers. However, there must be no abuse for illegitimate commercial purposes of such strategic storage and stockpiles.

6. The exchange of information and knowledge is the key to increasing confidence on the part of both buyers and sellers.

7. The Sustainable and Flexible Energy system ("SAFE") proposed by Japan constitutes a useful framework for further consideration of issues of energy security.

8. The Iranian proposal for an Asian Bank for Energy Development merits deeper consideration.

C. SUSTAINABILITY

1. Endorsing the importance of energy conservation for the protection of the environment and issues of climate change, the need for technological cooperation in the pursuit of cleaner and more environmentally-sound fossil fuel technologies was emphasized.

2. To this end, cooperation among Asian research and development centres and the promotion of conservation awareness among the general public were recognized a key instrumentalities.

Road Map for Development of Civil Aviation Sector

514. SHRI KASHIRAM RANA:
SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether a comprehensive road map for the development of civil aviation sector is being prepared;

(b) if so, the outline details thereof together with its present status;

(c) the details of the areas identified to make air travel affordable and hassle-free and also to improve the operational efficiency of the aviation industry so as to face competition from the private airlines; and

(d) the steps taken to ascertain the views of the various concerned interests in formulating the new road map?

Statement**Details of Established Complaints of Over-charging by Distributors**

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (d) The Naresh Chandra Committee constituted by the Government to prepare a road map for the civil aviation sector has submitted its report part-I on 8.12.2003 and the second and final part on 2.11.2004. The recommendations have been examined in consultation with various stakeholders and a comprehensive Civil Aviation Policy is being drafted.

[Translation]

Black-marketing of LPG Cylinders

515. SHRI BHUPENDRASINH SOLANKI:
SHRI MAHESH KANODIA:
DR. M. JAGANNATH:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of the black marketing of LPG cylinders in the country;

(b) if so, the number of complaints received against the gas agencies during 2004, State-wise;

(c) the action taken by the Government against the agencies; and

(d) the measures being taken to ensure regular supply of gas?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) have received 27 established complaints against their LPG distributors during the year 2004 pertaining to overcharging on domestic cylinders. The State-wise details are given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) Action against the erring distributors has been taken as per Marketing Discipline Guidelines (MDG)/ Distributorship Agreement.

(d) OMCs have not reported any backlog of LPG to their registered customers and say the entire demand of LPG is being met in full.

Sl.No.	States/UTs	Number of distributors found indulging in overcharging
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1
2.	Bihar	5
3.	Delhi	1
4.	Gujarat	2
5.	Madhya Pradesh	3
6.	Maharashtra	1
7.	Punjab	2
8.	Rajasthan	2
9.	Tamil Nadu	1
10.	Uttar Pradesh	8
11.	West Bengal	1
Total		27

[English]

Use of LPG in Private Vehicles

516. SHRI TUKARAM GANGADHAR GADAKH:
SHRIMATI KALPNA RAMESH NARHIRE:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the opinion of experts about use of LPG in private vehicles;

(b) whether any proposal is under the consideration of the Government to allow use of LPG in private vehicles; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (c) LPG is an established

alternative and eco-friendly fuel for running vehicles. Government have already allowed the use of LPG as auto fuel as per LPG (Regulation of Use in Motor Vehicles) Order, 2001 in all vehicles, including private vehicles. As per this Order, the vehicle is to be fitted with a fixed auto LPG tank; replaceable cylinders, being unsafe, are not permitted.

Quality Certificate for Advertised Products

517. SHRI G.M. SIDDESWARA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is essential for the products advertised through Government controlled media to have product quality certificate;

(b) if not the reasons for the same;

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken for fixing criteria for quality certificate for advertised products; and

(d) the steps being taken by the Union Government against obscene advertisements?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) to (c) The Press in India is free from Government control. The Press Council of India (PCI) is a statutory authority established for preserving the freedom of the Press and for maintaining and improving the standards of newspapers and news agencies in India. PCI has set norms for Journalistic Ethics which state that newspapers should not publish advertisements containing anything unlawful, illegal, contrary to good taste or to journalistic ethics and propriety.

As regards the electronic media, Prasar Bharati, a statutory autonomous Corporation, follows its own code for commercial advertising, which contains stringent provisions for safeguarding the interest of society in general, and consumers in particular.

Advertisements transmitted/re-transmitted through the Cable Television Network are required to adhere to the provisions of the Advertising Code prescribed under the Cable Television Network Rules, 1994 which *inter-alia* prescribe that advertisements shall conform the laws of the country, the product advertised shall not suffer from any defect or deficiency as mentioned in the Consumer Protection Act 1986, and shall not contain references

which are likely to lead the public to infer that the product advertised has some miraculous property or quality which is difficult of being proved.

(d) Press Council of India has set norms for Journalistic ethics according to which newspapers/journals shall not publish anything that is obscene, vulgar or offends public good taste. The PCI also takes cognizance *suo moto*, or looks into specific complaints against obscene and vulgar advertisements in print media.

Doordarshan and All India Radio follow their own Codes, which do not allow obscene advertisements. As regards private Satellite TV channels, advertisements are required to adhere to the Advertising Code prescribed in the Cable Rules which *inter-alia* prohibit telecast of any advertisement which offends morality, glorifies obscenity, has indecent, vulgar or suggestive or offensive themes or presents a derogatory image of women. Under Section 19 of the Cable Act an "Authorized Officer" can take action for violation of the Advertising Code. The Central Government has constituted an inter-ministerial Committee under Section 20 of the Cable Act to take cognizance *suo moto* or look into specific complaints regarding violation of advertising code.

The Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) certifies films, including that of advertisements for public exhibition under the provisions of Section 5(B) of the Cinematograph Act, 1952 and the guidelines framed there under. While certifying the advertisements it is ensured that the advertisements which have any obscene/vulgar contents are either refused or certified after deletion of such scenes.

Development of Cooch Behar Airport

518. SHRI HITEN BARMAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Central Team has visited the non-operational Cooch Behar Airport recently;

(b) if so, the findings of the team in this regard; and

(c) the time by which the said Airport is likely to become operational?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The infrastructure available at Cooch Behar requires major development, repair and renovation, obstacles need to be removed and land needs to be acquired for operation of ATR-42 type of aircraft.

(c) The development work is likely to commence in the third quarter of 2005-06 subject to availability of land. The execution period is 12 months from the date of commencement of work.

Kashir Channel

519. SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the total grants allocated to Kashir Channel for telecasting the programmes during each of the last three years;

(b) the actual expenditure incurred for such programmes during the said period;

(c) whether almost all the artists and skilled workers in film making and dependent on Kashir Channel are languishing without any work, at Srinagar; and

(d) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken to provide adequate funds to the Kashir Channel?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) and (b) Prasar Bharati have furnished the following details:—

(Rs. in crores)

Year	Amount allocated	Expenditure incurred
2002-03	26.15	18.68
2003-04	32.02	33.52
2004-05	25.58	14.29 (upto Jan.' 05)

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

[Translation]

TV Serials on Prominent Freedom Fighters

520. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the serials based on the lives of the prominent freedom fighters produced and telecast by various Doordarshan centres during the last three years till date, State-wise/DD Centre-wise;

(b) whether the Government proposes to produce and telecast TV serials based on the lives of prominent freedom fighters belonging to the tribal communities; and

(c) if so, the details thereof, State-wise/DD Centre-wise?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Availability of CNG

521. SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any scheme aimed at ridding of pollution caused by the consumption of petrol and diesel in transport vehicles is being implemented by the Ministry;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether adequate quantity of CNG is available as per the requirement;

(d) if not, the quantity available and storage position of CNG; and

(e) the time by which the scheme is likely to be implemented throughout the country in accordance with the plan?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) The Government had announced an Auto Fuel Policy in October, 2003 which seeks to control vehicular pollution through changes in vehicular technology and fuel quality. The scheme is to introduce Bharat Stage-II emission norms for new vehicles throughout India and Euro III equivalent emission norms for new vehicles in 11 select cities in a phased manner starting from April, 2005. Depending upon the availability of natural gas, CNG is also being introduced as auto fuel in some cities.

(c) to (e) At present, CNG as auto fuel is being supplied in a big way in Delhi and Mumbai where more

than 92,000 and 1,40,000 vehicles respectively are running on CNG. Full CNG requirement of both Delhi and Mumbai is being met. CNG is also being supplied in Surat and Baroda in a small way. The introduction of CNG for automotive purposes in other cities is dependent on creation of adequate pipeline infrastructure and source of gas. With the progressive expansion of gas transmission and distribution infrastructure and diversification of gas supplies, it is expected that CNG Projects would also gradually come up in other cities.

[English]

Panchayati Raj Training Centres

522. SHRI SHRINIWAS DADASAHEB PATIL: Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government is aware that due to inadequate number of Panchayati Raj training Centres, the State Governments are facing hardship in imparting training to the newly elected members of the local self Governments;

(b) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Union Government in this regard;

(c) whether help of Non-Governmental Organisations would be taken in imparting training to the newly elected members; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Panchayati Raj extends assistance to States in meeting the challenge of imparting training to all the elected representatives and official functionaries in an effective, time-bound and economical fashion. Currently, the Ministry provides assistance to 28 State Institutes of Rural Development (SIRDs) and 88 Extension Training Centres (ETCs) engaged in imparting training to the elected representatives and officials in the States for meeting partially their requirement of recurring and non-recurring expenditure. The State Governments are also encouraged to use all available infrastructure, including network with NGOs and other institutions for training. State Governments are expected to work towards upgradation of quality of training centres at the District, Block and village level with a view to meet the requirements of the concerned State relating to training of Panchayati Raj

representatives. Ministry of Panchayati Raj also provides financial assistance for Research studies to the NGOs/ Research Institutions.

(c) and (d) The seventh Round Table of Ministers in charge of Panchayati Raj examined in detail all aspects of the question of training and drew up by consensus a set of 27 action points relating to "Capacity Building and Training". The 27 points may be perused at the Statement.

Statement

Capacity Building & Training

1. Training and communication ought to reach all PRI functionaries and elected representatives, namely:
 - (i) Gram Panchayat Members, Chairpersons and Office bearers,
 - (ii) Intermediate Panchayat Members, Chairpersons and Office bearers,
 - (iii) District Panchayat Members, Chairpersons and Office bearers,
 - (iv) All officials concerned at National, State, District, Intermediate & Village level; and
 - (v) Standing Committee members at all levels.
2. There should be special effort made towards sensitizing the media, political parties, representatives in the legislatures, civil society organisations and citizens.
3. There must be special campaigns for mobilization of Gram Sabha members.
4. There must be special training for women, SC/ST representatives as well as first time entrants into the panchayat system within 3 months of their entry.
5. Training for PESA areas should be designed so as to have regard to the cultural traditions and special needs of tribal people.
6. Training and communication should not be viewed as a single one-time intervention but should be continuous, ongoing process leading to enhanced sense of self esteem and confidence. Training cover both the "before" and

- "after" election periods. Initial training and communication should reach all elected representatives within one year.
7. For those Panchayat members who need it, a functional literacy training course should be undertaken immediately after their elections.
 8. The panchayats should be encouraged to have a sense of ownership of the training programmes and play a major role in designing content and mechanisms of training. To this end, there must be representation for Panchayat members in the governing boards of training institutions that cater to their needs.
 9. Content of training should press on strategic and technical aspects and should be based on a systematic Training Needs Analysis arrived at through multi-stakeholders consultative workshops, which would precede the design of training modules and materials.
 10. There should be a minimum core curriculum that is common across the States adapting to suit local contexts. Core curriculum should include:
 - (i) Vision on purna swaraj through Gram swaraj,
 - (ii) Principles of secularism, equality and human rights emanating from the Constitution of India,
 - (iii) Gender equity and social justice;
 - (iv) Status of human development,
 - (v) Poverty alleviation;
 - (vi) Participatory planning, implementation and monitoring;
 - (vii) Right to information and transparency;
 - (viii) Social Audit; and
 - (ix) Rules and regulations covering Panchayati Raj.
 11. Overall perspective of training must reinforce issues of social equity, gender sensitivity and justice among all participants in the process of governance through Panchayati Raj, including all levels of the bureaucracy.
 12. Thematic curriculum should include:
 - (i) Human Resource Management,
 - (ii) Natural Resources Management,
 - (iii) Disaster Management,
 - (iv) Financial Management, including own resource management and accounting, and
 - (v) Sectoral approaches into providing basic human needs.
 13. Training strategy should be inclusive, participative and interactive and a composite mix of various interventions:
 - (i) Face-to-face participatory training;
 - (ii) Exposure visits;
 - (iii) Peer training/learning;
 - (iv) Satellite training; and
 - (v) Radio/cassettes/films;
 - (vi) Traditional means of communication;
 - (vii) Newsletters, updates and digests of replies to Frequently Asked Questions; and
 - (viii) Resource centres and Help Desks for Panchayats.
 14. Training content and processes should be relevant to the ground reality of elected representatives. It should continue to develop and evolve based on feedback and impact assessment. Training should become a two way process so that feedback can help in reforming the content and process of training, as also result in systemic changes in panchayat and government functioning.
 15. State should move towards formation of training networks and collectives to share experiences, learn from each other, and access material from each other. States should also institutionalize collaboration with Community based organisations at the State, District, and Block level.
 16. Training should inspite elected representatives to form federations or collectives and facilitate them to voice their demands for genuine devolution and development.
 17. Trained members should be encouraged to become resource persons for further training of

- panchayat representatives Peer to peer learning, both within and outside the state through regional or national tie ups should be encouraged and supported.
18. Training should include exposure to best practices through visits to other Panchayats.
 19. All open universities may tie up with IGNOU and build linkages with the SIRDs and other like institutions engaged in training and capacity building.
 20. Training programmes shall be designed especially for the secretarial and technical staff working with Panchayats through institutions such as IGNOU. Such training programmes should lead to formal certification on achieving prescribed standards of learning.
 21. Education in democracy and the constitutional role of panchayats as institutions of local self-government should be made part of school curricula.
 22. It shall be the endeavour of the Central Government to provide in as short a time as possible a panchayat capacity building fund through the Ministry of Panchayati Raj, which could include a certain percentage of central transfers specially earmarked for that purpose: Similarly, State Governments should also create a Panchayat Capacity Building Fund for periodic training.
 23. There should a national perspective plan on decentralized training and capacity building for all PRI functionaries with specific objectives timeframe and resources.
 24. States can benefit by the use of pedagogy and training techniques with information accessible to all. The Ministry of Panchayati Raj could develop a repository of training programmes, including training resources and manuals developed by the Commonwealth. Development of master modules in training in issues of gender, poverty, mass communication etc. could also be developed.
 25. Independent training impact assessment studies should be periodically undertaken to assess the outcomes of training and inform emerging needs for follow up.

26. States shall work towards upgradation of training centres, such as SIRDs, and extension training centres at the district, block level and below.
27. With respect to the training needs of Panchayat members from the Union territories and States with Sixth Schedule areas, the Government of India would identify as SIRD or a group of institutions that could undertake the training.

Reservation for Economically Backward Classes In Government Jobs

523. SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI:
SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT:

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to refer to Unstarred Question No. 1192 dated July 15, 2004 regarding Review of Commission's Working for Reservation to EBCs and state:

(a) whether the Commission to provide reservation quota in Government jobs for the people belonging to Economically Backward Classes not covered by the existing Reservation Policy is being reconstituted;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the time by which the said Commission is likely to submit its report; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JEGADEESAN): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Commission will consist of a Chairperson, one member and one Member-Secretary. The Commission should submit its report within 6 months from the date of appointment of Chairperson.

Folk Cultural Museum in Kerala

524. SHRI LONAPPAN NAMBADAN: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Kerala Folklore Academy has submitted a proposal with the recommendation of Kerala Government for setting up a folk cultural museum in Kerala;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) to (c) The proposal of the Kerala Folklore Academy for setting up a folk cultural museum was received in this Ministry and was placed before the Expert Committee constituted under the scheme of 'Promotion & Strengthening of Regional & Local Museums' in its meeting held on 31.08.2004. The proposal was not recommended by the Expert Committee as setting up of a Museum is not covered under this scheme.

Damage to Amir Khusru's Dargah

525. SHRI SURESH KURUP: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has conducted any enquiry into the security lapses that led to damage of Amir Khusru's Dargah at Delhi;

(b) if so, the findings thereof;

(c) the action taken thereon;

(d) whether the Government has any plan to prevent the recurrence of such type of incidents; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the initiative taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) to (e) An enquiry into the incident at Amir Khusru's Dargah at Delhi was conducted by the Delhi Circle of the Archaeological Survey of India. The enquiry has revealed that the damage was caused in the morning hours when other devotees and priests were offering prayers by a pilgrim who was not mentally sound. The enquiry has not revealed any security lapse.

[Translation]

Nangloi Railway Station

526. SHRI SAJJAN KUMAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any scheme to convert the Nangloi Railway Station of Outer Delhi into a Model Station and provide it with suburban facilities;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which development work is likely to be carried out and facilities would be available?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (c) Nangloi Railway Station is one of the Model Station for the purpose of providing upgraded passenger amenities. Works that have been planned for the station include construction of new station building, development of circulating area, extension of platform for accommodating 24 coach trains etc. These works will be completed in due course subject to availability of funds.

[English]

Development of Devanahally Airport

527. SHRI M. SHIVANNA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Agreements/Memorandum of Understanding have been signed for the construction of Devanahally International Airport near Bangalore;

(b) if so, whether the Government of Karnataka has also agreed to provide assistance for execution of the project;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the total estimated cost of this project; and

(e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to take up the project at the earliest?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Concession Agreement, Shareholders Agreement, State Government Support Agreement, State Support Agreement and Land Lease Agreement have been signed and executed. The communication, Navigation & Surveillance/Air Traffic Management (CNS/ATM) Agreement has been approved by Airports Authority of India for execution.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. The assistance provided by Government of Karnataka are (i) Rs. 350 crores interest free financial support, (ii) 4000 acres of land at a token rent of Rs. 1/- for the entire land till commencement of operations, (iii) Exemption of Property Tax for five years, (iv) Exemption of Stamp Duty on land lease deed, (v) Exemption of road cess and Entry Tax for goods or construction purposes, (vi) provision of infrastructure like water, power at the site etc.

(d) The estimated cost of the project is Rs. 1400 crores.

(e) Government has taken necessary steps to ensure that the financial closure is achieved by Bangalore International Airport Ltd. at the earliest.

Dismantling of Safdarjung Airport

528. SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK:
DR. M. JAGANNATH:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has taken decision to dismantle the Safdarjung Airport in Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the plan chalked out by the Government to use the Airport land?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Sardarjung Airport is being used for VVIP, VIP flights and other aviation related activities.

[Translation]

Manning of Sahni-Devara Crossing

529. SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is contemplating to man/ open the abandoned Sahni-Devara crossing between Kinara and Magarwara station *via* Kanpur Bridge on Kanpur-Lucknow section and the railway crossing under the overbridge near Unnao railway station on Lucknow-Kanpur Rail route for 24 hours;

(b) whether the Union Government has received any requests from public representatives in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the action taken or being taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Level crossing No. 39, commonly called Sahni-Devara crossing location between Kanpur Bridge left bank station (popularly known as Kinara) and Magarwara station is open for 24 hours. However, level crossing No. 33 at Unnao Road Over Bridge, has been closed as a Road Over Bridge has been constructed on cost sharing basis in lieu of the level crossing with the State Government.

(b) to (d) Yes, Sir. An Hon'ble Member of Parliament has addressed Hon'ble Minister of Railways regarding reopening of level crossing No. 33 and round the clock manning of level crossing No. 39. Whereas level crossing No. 39 is already manned for 24 hours, re-opening of level crossing No. 33 is not desirable as the same was closed as per standard condition of agreement for construction of Road Over-Bridges in lieu of busy level crossing on cost sharing basis.

[English]

Recruitments in Army

530. SHRI MADAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the current percentage of recruitable male population of Jammu & Kashmir for recruitment to the Army;

(b) the intake in the Army from the State during 2003 and 2004;

(c) whether any specific recruitment drives were launched for intake of Jawans in the Army from the State; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) The Recrutable Male Population (RMP) factor of Jammu & Kashmir based on 2001 decadal census is 1% of the total RMP factor of the country.

(b) The intake in the Army from Jammu & Kashmir in the year 2002-2003 and 2003-2004 was 4266 and 3261 respectively.

(c) and (d) Recruitment in the Army is conducted through open rally system covering all districts of the country including Jammu & Kashmir at least once in a

year. Every male citizen of the country irrespective of their caste, class, creed, religion and region is eligible for recruitment in the Army, provided he meets the physical, educational, medical and other laid down criteria.

Timings of FM Band in Periyakulam

531. SHRI J.M. AARON RASHID: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that in Periyakulam, FM band is broadcasted only from 5.50 A.M. to 6.00 P.M.;

(b) whether the Government has received requests from changing the timings from 6.00 A.M. to 10.00 P.M.;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) to (d) The transmission, which was for limited hours, has been extended from 5.50 A.M. to 6 P.M. There has been demand to extend the transmission hours from listeners. The request could not be considered favourably owing to financial and staff constraints.

Fuel Marketing Policy

532. SHRI UDAY SINGH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has recently rapped the oil companies for abdicating their responsibility of distribution of LPG and kerosene and called for developing a parallel market to reduce the price differential between the open market and subsidised product prices;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to announce a clear cut fuel marketing policy for oil companies; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI

SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (c) Some State Governments have expressed reservations about sale of non-PDS kerosene through the existing network of SKO dealers. Therefore, in order to ensure easy availability, the Government has advised the Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) to consider creation of a separate network for marketing free-sale kerosene.

Similarly, M/s. Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC), M/s. Gas Authority of India Limited (GAIL) and M/s. Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) have also been authorised to sell surplus LPG directly or through parallel marketeers in the country, after meeting the domestic requirement. Government have also authorised these three companies to sell their indigenously produced LPG with effect from 01.04.2006 subject to condition that bulk sale would not exceed 20% of their total sale.

Agreement between India and China

533. SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR:
SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and China have recently agreed for cooperation in oil and gas sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether a task force has been set up to identify specific areas where both the countries can collaborate in the hydrocarbons sectors; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (d) Looking to the vast possibilities in forging alliances with Chinese oil companies in seeking acreages in third countries and bilateral cooperation in other areas of the hydrocarbon sector, the national oil companies of India and China keep in touch with each other on a case to case basis. Although, no agreement has been signed between India and China in the area of cooperation in hydrocarbons, a joint Task Force of the Ministers of External Affairs and Petroleum & Natural Gas has been established to examine the prospects for Sino-Indian cooperation in the hydrocarbons sector.

[*Translation*]

Programmes of Regional Languages

534. SHRI CHANDRABHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Doordarshan/AIR Centres set up by the Government during the last three years;

(b) whether priority is being accorded to the regional languages programmes by DD/AIR;

(c) if so, the details thereof alongwith average time period of regional languages programmes, State-wise;

(d) whether the Government is considering to enhance the broadcasting/telecasting timings and for showing more programmes in regional language in Madhya Pradesh; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) Seven AIR stations and two Doordarshan studios have been commissioned during the last three years.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. The time band of 3.00 PM to 8 PM daily on DD-1 is earmarked for the telecast of regional programmes in the terrestrial mode. The programme output of Doordarshan's 11 Regional Language Satellite Channels ranges between 102-168 hours per week and of the 10 State Networks between 10-35 hours per week. As regards AIR, around 90% of programmes are broadcast in the regional languages and local dialects spoken in that region.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

[*English*]

Transfer of Funds

535. SHRI SARBANANDA SONOWAL: Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry of Panchayati Raj has urged the Ministry of Power to transfer the funds released under

the accelerated power reforms and development programme schemes for empowering Panchayati Raj Institutions to undertake rural electrification including distribution of electricity;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the response of the Ministry of Power thereto; and

(d) the total funds so far distributed and utilized by the Panchayati Raj Institutions in implementing the production and distribution of electricity?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (d) Rural Electrification including distribution of energy is a matter listed in the Eleventh Schedule of the Constitution, which has been assigned to the Panchayats. The Ministry of Power has in its scheme of Rural Electricity Infrastructure and Household Electrification proposed to associate the Panchayati Raj Institutions in the management of rural electricity distribution through franchisees. Moreover the question of independent power producers associating panchayats in their enterprises especially for small scale power generation for local use and sale of surplus to State Electricity Boards is being pursued in the context of the Prime Minister's proposal to promote Rural Business Hubs through the Panchayati Raj Institutions. A summary of the presentation made on the occasion of the National Presentation to representatives of the Panchayati Raj Institutions may be seen in the enclosed Statement.

Statement

Plenary Session-II on "Power for Rural Business Hubs"

Rural electrification is necessary in a big way to uplift rural India & realize the 8% GDP growth of the country. Presently 1,25,000 villages and 55% households in India do not have access to electricity. The electrification would have several benefits like employment opportunities, increase in agriculture activities, good quality of life, improve health facilities and setting up of education institutes for the youths etc. To undertake electrification at rural level a partnership approach with Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) could be a win-win situation for the country.

Rural electrification is as necessary as freedom and right of living. Electrification can help in creation of employment opportunities and would uplift the standard of living for rural people and would thus curtail the mass immigration from rural to urban India. In this context, the Hon'ble President of India Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam has already promoted the concept of PURA *i.e.* Providing Urban Amenities in Rural Areas with special priority to North East special category and backward states. This scheme needs to be expeditiously implemented at the village level with participation from corporates, people at village level and PRIs.

The Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources and the Ministry of Power at central level have initiated various schemes and necessary policy framework to achieve rural electrification with participation of PRIs.

For energy and employment at rural villages *Jatropha* plantation holds huge opportunities. The *Jatropha* seeds are converted to bio diesel through the process of trans-electrification. the biodiesel thus produce can be used for power generation and could also be used as fuel in buses, trucks, tractors, water pumps and DG sets. The rural population can plant *Jatropha* at cost of Rs. 20,000 per hectare and to produce 2.62 MMT of biodiesel by 2007 with a potential to create almost 2.2 million job opportunities in rural India.

Use of biomass like husk, stalks, forest plantation, *Jatropha*, Cattle dung, Mahua etc. holds good promise as means of power generation in the villages. Bio-mass gasification is the most promising technology for generating heat and gas which could be used for rural industry and for electrification requirements.

The cost of power is low and could be easily affordable to the villages. Rural industry in the States Sikkim, Karnataka, AP, and Punjab are already practicing the use of biomass gasifier leading to substantial cost saving and self-reliance. The few issues which need to be addressed to make biomass power generation to be adopted at the village level include rising of electricity, sustainable biomass supply, role of PRIs in management ownership and sustainance of such projects.

The Oil and Natural Gas Corporation has taken strategic decision to utilize several on shore and off shore isolated gaswells to generate power using decentralized power generation technology to generate power for various

applications at rural level. Recognizing its social responsibility, the ONGC has launched ONGC pura. The ONGC pura will operate to a trust model, which would need help from State, Local, and Central Government to establish sustainable projects at the rural level. The corporation has already tied up with partners like NABARD, TERI, Wartsila as its partner in the process. It is estimated that a total of 141 MW of power could be generated at less than Rs. 2.5 per kwh and will have several benefits for the villagers.

The IPPAI has taken the mission of creating one lakh sustainable electricity utilities by empowering PRIs. Presently in India the situation of supply continuously lagging demand is persisting. In this scenario, the rural India can joins hands to establish power generation capacity to meet electricity requirements of the villages. It is estimated that if each PRI sets up 0.5 MW power generation facility a total installed capacity of 1.25,00 MW can be established across the country. These facilities can be a good opportunity for PRIs to earn revenue from sale of power and create jobs at local levels. IPPAI has recommended setting up of 10 to 15 demonstration projects spread across the country to showcase the proposed model to PRIs.

Petro-Chemical Plant at Paradip

536. SHRI JUAL ORAM: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to set up a new petro chemical plant at Paradip;

(b) if so, the details alongwith the estimated cost and the capacity of the plant; and

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

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (c) IOCL have entered into an MoU with the Government of Orissa on 16.2.2004 to set up a greenfield refinery at Paradip. In order to improve the economic viability of the project, the techno-economic feasibility of converting this refinery into an integrated refinery-cum-petrochemical complex is being examined. The detailed feasibility report for the project is expected to be completed by August, 2005.

[*Translation*]

**Installation of TV Transmitters in
Himachal Pradesh**

537. SHRIMATI PRATIBHA SINGH: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether after conducting a survey in Himachal Pradesh, the Ministry has sanctioned setting up of 20 VLPT, LPT and HPT during Ninth Five Year Plan whereas out of it work is in progress only on 10 transmitters and for installation of remaining 10 transmitters and converting VLPT into LPT the Director, Information and Public Relations, Himachal Pradesh had requested Director General, Doordarshan, Mandi House in this regard;

(b) if so, the further action taken by the Government with regard thereto alongwith reasons for its pendency till date; and

(c) the places where towers are proposed to be installed in Himachal Pradesh during Tenth Five Year Plan alongwith the numbers thereof and number of towers installed so far?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) and (b) Prasar Bharati has informed that all the 22 Transmitters targeted for installation in Himachal Pradesh as part of the 9th Plan have since been commissioned. The request made on behalf of the Government of Himachal Pradesh for upgradation of VLPTs to LPTs cannot be acceded to in the absence of any approved scheme for this purpose. Action is, however, underway to provide an auto change facility at the VLPTs in Himachal Pradesh during 2005-06 to enable relay of the regional service of DDK, Shimla.

(c) Tower for HPT at Dharamsala is under implementation. Tower for VLPTs at Chairgaon, Kaja and Phooladhar have already been commissioned.

[*English*]

Implementation of Schemes for Disabled

538. SHRI RAVICHANDRAN SIPPAPARAI: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of the neglected condition of disabled as appeared in *Times of India*, dated February 08, 2005;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(d) the specific measures the Government proposes to take to rectify the glaring omissions in preparation of data and implementation of schemes for the disabled?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JEGADEESAN): (a) to (d) Facts on the specific issues raised in the press clipping titled "Disabled are the most neglected Report" appeared in Times of India, dated 8.2.2005 are given below:

(i) The utilization of funds is measured as difference in Revised Estimates and actual expenditure. Thus, the unspent amount for disability sector for the 9th Plan was Rs. 35.07 crores and not Rs. 197.89 crores as reported. Further, for the schemes arising out of implementation of Persons with Disabilities Act, the unspent amount was Rs. 10.88 crores and not Rs. 16.21 crores and for the Office of Chief Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities (CCD), Rs. 1.56 crores and not Rs. 5.99 crores. Major reasons for non-utilisation of funds were:

(a) State Governments took time to formulate projects and set up mechanism for implementation.

(b) The office of CCD could be set up only by the middle of the 9th Plan due to administrative procedure involved in getting required clearances/ approvals.

(ii) Under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), 15.93 lakh children with disabilities of elementary school-going age group were identified in the country in 2004-05 of whom 10.77 lakh children had been enrolled in elementary schools.

(iii) According to the latest information available, the status of reservation against identified posts for persons with disabilities is given below:

(As on 1.1.2000)

Group of Posts	Total strength of the cadre	Number of posts in identified category	No. of persons with disabilities actually employed	% w.r.t. identified posts
A	57,643	4,305	134	3.07
B	73,851	4,652	205	4.41
C	16,07,243	1,67,863	6,307	3.76
D	9,60,025	1,04,578	3,329	3.18
Total	26,98,762	2,81,398	9,975	3.60

(iv) All the Central Ministries/Departments have been requested to incorporate essential information on disability issues in their annual reports.

Private Sector Participation in Railways

539. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has been actively considering to bring amendments to the Railways Act to involve more private sector participation;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government proposes to ensure that private sector participation is not going to affect the Railways adversely; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Adequate safeguards are provided in project-related agreements to ensure safe and adequate maintenance and operation of the system.

Construction of Bunkers on LoC by Pakistan

540. SHRI SUGRIB SINGH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Pakistan has constructed new bunkers along the LoC during the course of ceasefire agreement;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) Since November 2003 when the cease-fire became effective, Pakistan is reported to have constructed bunkers and improved/strengthened the existing defences along the Line of Control Uri, Tangdhar, Batalik, Kargil and Naoshera sectors.

(c) Construction and improvement of defences is an on going process. Any significant construction activity by Pakistan close to the Line of Control/International Border is being objected to, and resolved in local flag meetings or through Director Generals of Military Operation talks. Pakistan activities are being monitored and suitable military measures are taken to deny advantage to the adversary.

[Translation]

Position of Rail Lines of Madhya Pradesh

541. SHRI KRISHNA MURARI MOGHE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Madhya Pradesh has sent proposals for completing Maksi-Devas rail line, linking the Lalitpur-Singrauli line to Tikamgarh and Panna and a third rail line between Jhansi and Bhopal;

(b) if so, the action being taken on these proposals; and

(c) the time by which the work on these projects is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Dewvs-Maksi line was commissioned on 31.01.03 and the construction of Lalitpur-Satna-Rewa-Singrauli new line *via* Tikamgarh and Panna is in progress and will be completed in the coming years as per availability of resources.

[*English*]

New Railway Station at Bhimbaitka

542. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Madhya Pradesh Government has sent a proposal to the Union Government for construction of a new railway station at Bhimbaitka and naming it as "Dr. B.S. Bakarkar";

(b) if so, the action taken by the Union Government thereon; and

(c) the time by which the station is likely to be constructed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The proposal is under examination.

Creation of Petro India

543. SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to create 'Petro India';

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the terms and conditions of this new company proposed to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (c) No proposal to create "Petro India" is at present under consideration of the Government. However, Government have set up an Advisory Committee on 17.1.2005 with the terms of

reference of examining the core competence of the public sector undertakings in the petroleum and natural gas sector of India to assess their competitiveness in the evolving domestic and international scenario, analyzing the various options of leveraging their strengths to optimally fulfil their required contribution to the national objectives of energy security, accelerated growth, sustained development and social objectives of Government policy. The Advisory Committee is enjoined to make recommendations on identifying the most appropriate structure of the oil public sector undertakings to secure these ends.

The Advisory Committee is holding deliberations.

[*Translation*]

Renovation of Railway Stations in U.P.

544. SHRI MUNAWAR HASSAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of railway stations in Uttar Pradesh where the work relating to expansion and renovation has been started during 2003-04 and 2004-05 and the amount spent thereon, Station-wise;

(b) whether the work relating to renovation has been completed; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (c) A statement is enclosed.

Statement

(a) to (c) The names of stations in Uttar Pradesh where works relating to expansion and renovation have been sanctioned during 2003-04 and 2004-05 are as follows:—

Acharya Narenderdev Nagar

Adhyatmic Nagar

Agra

Aishbagh

Ajgain

Akbarganj

Alamnagar	Chandrauli
Aligarh	Chaprawat Halt
Allahabad	Charbagh
Amausi	Chhata
Amethi	Chhaukhandi
Anjni Shahbad	Chilbila
Antu	Chitra Koot Dham Karvi
Ayodhya	Chopan
Babatpur	Clutterbuckganj
Babina	Dalmau
Babrala	Dandupur
Badshahpur	Dariyabagh
Banda	Dasna
Bani	Etawah
Banthara	Faizabad
Barabanki	Fatehpur Sikri
Baral	Fursatganj
Bareilly	Gangaganj
Baryaram	Garh Mukteshwar
Basti	Garhi Manikpur
Behtagokul	Gaura
Belharghat	Gauriganj
Belthra Road	Gomtinagar
Bhadohi	Gulaothi
Bhatni	Hafizpur
Bhimsen	Haidergarh
Bhitora	Hapur
Bhuteshwar	Harauni
Bighapur	Harchandpur
Bilwai	Hardoi
Birapatti	Harpal Ganj
Brindavan Road	Iradatganj
Bulandshahar	Jageshwar Ganj

Jais	Mathura
Jaitipur	Meerut Cantt.
Jakhania	Mehrauli
Jalalgarh	Misarauli
Jalalpur Dhari	Mondh
Jaunpur	Moradabad
Jaunpur City	Nagaria Sadat
Jhangai	Najibabad
Jhansi	Nigohan
Kanpur	Nihalgarh
Kapsethi	Orai
Kashi	Parsand
Kasrak	Parsipur
Kastlakasmabad Halt	Partapgarh
Khajraha	Paryawankalan Kakar Road
Khalispur	Patranga
Khorasan Road	Pilkhua
Koiripur	Pilkhani
Kunda Harnam Ganj	Piparsend
Kundanganj	Pratapgarh
Kusumbhi	Prayag
Lachmanpur	Prithviganj
Lar Road	Puranpur
Lalitpur	Raghaul
Lambhua	Rai Bareilly
Lucknow	Raja Ki Mandi
Mahirawan	Raja Ka Sahaspur
Mahoba	Rajghat
Malihabad	Ram Chaura Road
Manikala Halt	Rampur
Manikpur	Rawatpur & Badshahnagar
Mariahu	Rupamau
Markundi	Sandila

Station-wise expenditure is not maintained as many work(s) are sanctioned for a group of stations. The total expenditure incurred in respect of these stations during 2003-04 was Rs. 6.38 crore and expenditure during 2004-05 is expected to be Rs. 17.49 crore. Works at 41 stations have been completed out of the above. Progress of remaining works is in different stages. The works are taking their scheduled time of construction and there is no delay.

[English]

Land-Losers of Goa

545. SHRI ALEMAO CHURCHILL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of land-losers of Goa due to execution of Konkan Railway project;

(b) the number out of them have been provided with the jobs; and

(c) the number of persons provided the stalls at the Railway stations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) There are around 10,068 land-losers in Goa.

(b) 138

(c) 12

Refinery at Bhatinda

546. SHRI NAVJOT SINGH SIDHU: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the commissioning of refinery at Bhatinda has been delayed;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the time by which it is likely to be completed/commissioned; and

(d) what will be the cost overrun and time overrun of the project?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI

Saraichandi
Saraikansrai
Sarkoni
Sarsawa
Sewapuri
Shahjahanpur
Sharanpur
Sharma Halt
Shivnagar
Shivpur
Sindurwa
Sitapur Cantt.
Sonik
Srikrishan Nagar
Sultanpur
Suremanpur
Suryawan
Suwansa
Takaia
Talbehat
Tilhar
Tikariya
Tirlochan Mahadev
Tundla
Ugrasainpur
Unchahar
Unnao
Varanasi
Yamuna Bridge
Yusufpur
Billi
Wyndhamganj

SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) The refinery project at Bhatinda (Punjab) was to be set up by Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) keeping in view the incentives granted by Government of Punjab (GoP) to the project. In respect of these incentives, HPCL had sought a Deed of Assurance (DoA) from the State Government. The work on the project was kept on hold as the conclusion of DoA was awaited. GoP have now agreed to grant the incentives in a mutually acceptable form. Accordingly, HPCL intend to take up the refinery project on formally concluding the DoA with GoP.

(c) The refinery is likely to be commissioned in 2009.

(d) While there will be no cost overrun, the refinery as of now has been delayed by more than two years.

Surrender of Militants

547. SHRI D. VITTAL RAO: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Militants operating in J&K Region surrendered during the last one year;

(b) whether the fake surrender were taken place in J&K as reported in the *Hindustan Times* dated January 9, 2005;

(c) if so, the facts thereof; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to check such incidents in future?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) A total of 137 terrorists are reported to have surrendered during the year 2004.

(b) and (c) The enquiry conducted by the State Government of Jammu & Kashmir revealed that some youths were lured by three suspected persons promising them jobs and financial help. The surrenderees were given fake names of active terrorists and missing persons believed to be in Pakistan occupied Kashmir/Pakistan presently. All the three accused who misled these youth have been arrested.

(d) The Surrender Policy announced by the State Government of Jammu & Kashmir provides for acceptance of surrenderees only after the antecedents of surrenderees are verified by the J&K police. The rehabilitation package is given to the surrenderees only on receipt of such

confirmation. This procedure ensures that only genuine surrenders are accepted.

Inclusion of Majuli Island in World Heritage Sites

548. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has nominated Majuli Island for inscription as World Heritage Site for 2006 under cultural category;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether a legislation for protection of the cultural values of Majuli Island is being considered by Government of Assam in consultation with ASI; and

(d) if so, the time by which it is likely to be finalised?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The nomination dossier for Majuli Island in Assam as a World Heritage Site under Cultural Category for the year 2006 has been submitted to the World Heritage Centre of the UNESCO.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The Government of Assam is considering to place a draft bill on Majuli Island in the ensuing Budget Session of the Assam Legislative Assembly. Archaeological Survey of India had preliminary discussions with the State Government on the draft bill, but no time limit has been set for finalizing the bill.

[Translation]

Facilities to Senior Citizens

549. SHRI RAMSEVAK SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is formulating any scheme to provide more facilities to senior citizens in railway journey; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the time by which it is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Uneconomical Rail Lines

550. SHRI AJIT JOGI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of non-profitable railway lines in the country, State-wise; and

(b) the action proposed to be taken by the Government with regard to these railway lines?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) There are 112 uneconomic branch lines in the country and such information is maintained Railway Zone-wise only and not State-wise.

(b) Steps being taken include curtailment in staff strength, reduction in number of train services, dismantling of redundant sidings, introduction of rail bus services, observance of economy in operation etc.

[English]

Petrotech'05

551. SHRI G.V. HARSHA KUMAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a five-day conference-cum-exhibition on petroleum industry Petrotech'05 was held in New Delhi in January, 2005; and

(b) if so, the issues discussed and the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) The 6th International Petroleum Conference and Exhibition, "PETROTECH-2005", was organized from 15-19 January, 2005 by the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) under the sponsorship of various public and private sector companies. The theme of this Conference was "Value from Hydrocarbons—Advances in Science and Technology."

About 4,100 delegates, both Indian and foreign, attended the Conference. Exhibitors from 15 countries, in addition to domestic companies, participated in the Exhibition held to show-case the Indian petroleum industry

to the world. Petrotech-2005 enabled experts and other participants to share their experience and knowledge, assess trends in the global petroleum industry with particular reference to India, and discuss mutual cooperation for business development.

[Translation]

Arrangements for Gurutagaddi Programme

552. SHRI D.B. PATIL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has made or proposed to make special arrangements for the pilgrims to visit Nanded (Huzoorsahab) in Maharashtra to participate in Gurutagaddi programme to be held in 2008; and

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith funds provided/ to be provided therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No, Sir. However, special arrangements to clear the extra rush during Melas & Festivals are made depending on the traffic demands, operational feasibility and availability of resources.

(b) Does not arise.

[English]

Rail Link between India and South East Asia

553. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has mooted the idea of a rail link between India and South-East Asia at the Third India-ASEAN Summit at Vientiane in Laos on November 29-30, 2004; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Offer of Shares by Oil India Limited

554. SHRI M.K. SUBBA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Oil India Limited (OIL) has been considering an Initial Public offer of about Rs. 25 crore of its shares;

(b) if so, the steps taken in that direction so far and the response to the offer from different interested parties including the IOC and ONGC; and

(c) at what stage the matter stands?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (c) Government have received a proposal from Oil India Limited (OIL) for disinvestment of 15% of Government equity through an Initial Public Offer (IPO) with a view to getting their shares listed on the Stock Exchanges. Consultations in this regard have begun with the agencies concerned.

[Translation]

National Media Centre

555. SHRI HARIBHAU RATHOD:
SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is contemplating to set up the National Media Centre;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the funds earmarked for setting up the Centre; and

(d) the time by which it is likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) to (d) A state-of-the-art National Media Centre is proposed to be set up at New Delhi with modern communication facilities for use of the print and electronic media as part of the Plan Scheme of PIB, during 10th Five Year Plan. A plot measuring 1.955 acre has been allotted for the purpose at 7, Raisina Road. Rs. 35.00 crores have been earmarked for setting up of the National Media Centre under the Scheme. The project is likely to be completed in twenty-four months from the date of commencement of construction.

[English]

Grievances of Railway Workers

556. SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received any representations from the quarters of Railway Stations, especially from Kerala with regard to grievances of passengers and employees;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has taken necessary steps for the redressal of the grievances of railway workers;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Railways has denied parcel booking facilities at stations where the trains stop less than 5 minutes; and

(f) if so, the steps taken to resolve the problems of such goods movements?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Railway Administration is taking adequate steps for the redressal of grievances of passengers and Railway workers.

(e) and (f) In the larger public interest and for the convenience and safety of travelling public, maintenance of punctuality of trains and reduction in the transit time of parcels, booking and carriage of parcel traffic was rationalised in February 2004. The rationalisation does not permit booking of parcels by such Mail/Express trains which have stoppage time of less than five minutes at intermediate stations to avoid over-carriage of parcels and for the maintenance of punctuality of trains. This restriction does not apply to Ordinary Passenger trains. However, in the interest of travelling public and to improve quality of parcel services, there is no proposal to withdraw the rationalisation. Moreover, wherever desirable, parcel booking has been continued by increasing the stoppage time of some of the trains.

Contract for Supplying Fuel to Aeroplanes

(Figures in Thousand Metric Tonnes)

557. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN:	2001-2002	1834
SHRI HARISHCHANDRA CHAVAN:	2002-2003	1890
SHRI ASADUDDIN OWASI:	2003-2004	2085
SHRIMATI KIRAN MAHESHWARI:		

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to sign contract with the private companies for supplying Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF) to aeroplanes;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of private companies with which talks have been held so far the supply of fuel to the aeroplanes;

(d) the extent to which the prices of ATF is likely to come down by allowing private sector in this field; and

(e) the quantum of fuel consumed by the airline companies during each of the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (c) The authorization to market transportation fuels, namely petrol, diesel and aviation turbine fuel A(TF) can be given to any company, subject to the company investing or proposing to invest Rs. 2000 crore in exploration and production (E&P), refining, pipelines or terminals. Reliance Industries Ltd. (RIL) has been given authorization to market ATF. Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) have long been in the business.

Airports Authority of India (AAI) has invited Expression of Interest (Eoi) from the authorized oil companies to set up Aviation Fuel Stations (AFS) at the airports on land to be leased by the AAI. Indian Oil Corporation Limited, Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited in the public sector and RIL in the private sector have been shortlisted for setting up these facilities.

(d) It is expected that increased competition would lead to better consumer services, including more value for money.

(e) ATF consumption by the airlines in the last three years is as under:—

[Translation]

Renovation of Katarmal Temple

558. SHRI BALESHWAR YADAV: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by the Government to renovate the Katarmal Temple in Uttaranchal and the total amount of funds provided/released so far in this regard;

(b) whether any investigation has been conducted by the Government to determine that if a part of the temple is sinking;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) The Sun Temple Complex at Katarmal consists of main temple and 44 miniature shrines. The two miniature shrines in distress were restored as per original after dismantling the damaged portion. The conservation work of the main Sun Temple is in progress. For this purpose an estimate amounting to Rs. 57.17 lakhs has been sanctioned. The total amount allocated in this regard for the current financial year is Rs. 12,37,000/-.

(b) There are no visible signs indicating that a part of the temple is sinking. Hence no such investigation has been conducted.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Does not arise.

Status of Bhopal BHEL Unit

559. SHRI BAPU HARI CHAURE: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) the present profit/loss of Bhopal based unit of BHEL;

(b) whether there is any proposal for the disinvestment/sale of this unit;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) if not, the reasons for retrenchment of workers of this unit; and

(e) the reasons for withdrawing some of the welfare as well as reimbursement of medical expenses facilities provided to the workers of this unit?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) The Profit before tax of BHEL, Bhopal unit for the year 2003-04 is Rs. 131.37 crore.

(b) and (c) No, Sir.

(d) No retrenchment of workers has been done for Bhopal unit of BHEL.

(e) There has been no withdrawal of any of the welfare as well as reimbursement of medical expenses facilities provided to the workers of Bhopal unit of BHEL.

[English]

DD's DTH Service

560. SHRIMATI KALPNA RAMESH NARHIRE: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that DTH service provided by Doordarshan is not gearing up;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government is also aware that most of the channels provided by Doordarshan DTH services are unpopular as a result of which the response amongst viewers is low; and

(d) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken to include more popular channels in Doordarshan DTH service to attract viewers?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI

S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) to (d) Prasar Bharati has informed that Ku Band (Free-to-Air DTH) transmission service of Doordarshan, DD Direct Plus, launched on 16th December, 2004 carries 16 Doordarshan channels, 2 Parliament channels, one Education Channel and 14 Private Free-to-Air channels, along with 12 All India Radio Channels. DD Direct Plus has proved to be popular with viewers, in view of estimated sales of over 2 million Ku-Band receive systems in the country. The number of TV Channels is envisaged to be increased to cover other popular channels as well.

[Translation]

Running of Trains through Shorter Route

561. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to run Varanasi, Howrah bound trains originating from South India *via* Chandafort-Gondia route to save the valuable time and money of the passengers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there are any technical and Administrative difficulties to materialise it; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the time by which the said trains are likely to be started through this shorter route?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (d) There is no proposal to run the south bound trains from Howrah and Varanasi *via* Gondia-Chandafort as it will neither save money nor time of the through passengers because neither the distance nor the journey time will decrease.

[English]

Grants to Sainik School

562. SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the expenditure on the running of Sainik School, Satara, though under the purview of the Union Government is borne by the Government of Maharashtra;

(b) if so, whether in July 2004 the Government of Maharashtra has requested the Union Government to sanction a grant of Rs. 2.5 crore for yearly expenditure of this school;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

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

(e) if no decision has been taken, the reasons for delay?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) The initial capital expenditure on establishment of Sainik Schools is met by the respective State Governments. The running expenditure of the Schools is met from the fees paid by the cadets and the expenses on maintenance of the infrastructure of the Schools are borne by the State Governments. The expenditure on salaries of three service officers posted as Principal, Headmaster and Registrar is borne by the Ministry of Defence.

(b) No, Sir. No such request has been received by the Ministry of Defence.

(c) to (e) Does not arise in view of reply at (b) above.

Installation of DTH Sets

563. SHRI KULDEEP BISHNOI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Doordarshan has planned to install DTH sets free of cost in the rural areas of certain States;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the number of DTH sets proposed to be installed in the rural areas free of cost, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) As per the Ku-band project, 10,000 KU-band dish receive systems (DTH sets) are envisaged to be installed in public institutions *viz.*, Anganwadis, schools, public health centres, panchayats, youth clubs,

Cooperative Societies, etc., free of cost in phases, in the uncovered villages of the following 15 States where TV coverage is less than the National average:—

1. Chhattisgarh
2. Madhya Pradesh
3. Gujarat
4. Rajasthan
5. Uttaranchal
6. Himachal Pradesh
7. Karnataka
8. Arunachal Pradesh
9. Assam
10. Manipur
11. Meghalaya
12. Mizoram
13. Nagaland
14. Tripura
15. Sikkim

State-wise number of DTH dish receive sets envisaged to be installed is given in the enclosed Statement.

Statement

State-wise details of Ku-band (DTH) dish receive system

Sl.No.	State	No. of receive system to be installed
1	2	3
1.	Chhattisgarh	763
2.	Gujarat	1205
3.	Madhya Pradesh	2476
4.	Karnataka	1662
5.	Rajasthan	2144
6.	Uttaranchal	283

7.	Himachal Pradesh	355
8.	Arunachal Pradesh	100
9.	Assam	412
10.	Manipur	100
11.	Meghalaya	100
12.	Mizoram	100
13.	Nagaland	100
14.	Tripura	100
15.	Sikkim	100
Total		10000

Payment of Interim Dividend by CPSEs

564. SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has asked the Central Public Sector Enterprises of infrastructure related sector to pay an interim dividend; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) and (b) Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) are expected to pay dividend to the Government of India, as they would pay to any shareholder. Government of India only issues guidelines from time to time reiterating this position. The CPSEs in the infrastructure sector come within the purview of these guidelines.

Re-employment to Ex-Servicemen

565. MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to refer to reply given to Unstarred Question No. 2636 dated December 16, 2004 regarding re-employment to Retired Personnel and state:

(a) the number of Servicemen retired from Services—Army, Navy and Air Force, during each of the last three years, Service-wise till date;

(b) the number of Army Personnel retired, rank-wise, during the said period;

(c) the number of persons re-employed under the Government sponsored schemes, including the reservation quota;

(d) whether the Government is satisfied with the status or re-employment of ex-Servicemen;

(e) if not, whether any major initiative is being taken by the Government;

(f) if so, the details thereof;

(g) whether the Government would consider lateral shifting of serving Servicemen to para military forces, as a solution to early retirement and unemployment of ex-servicemen; and

(h) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI BIJOY HANDIQUE): (a) to (c) A statement is attached.

(d) It is the constant endeavour of the government to help ex-servicemen to find re-employment in government and other sectors. Directorate General of Resettlement (DGR) headed by a Major General, under the Ministry of Defence, is entrusted with matters connected with resettlement and welfare of ex-servicemen.

(e) and (f) Various steps have been taken by the Government towards increasing re-employment of ex-servicemen. Some of these are as follows:—

(i) Training—These trainings are meant to enhance the ex-servicemen's capabilities.

(ii) Reservation.

(iii) Security agencies.

(iv) Placement.

(g) and (h) The Government is considering a proposal for lateral transfer of army personnel to Central Para Military Forces. The modalities for lateral transfer are being worked out in consultation with Ministry of Home Affairs.

Statement**I. Annual retirement/wastage (Officers/Junior Commissioned Officers/Other Ranks):**

Year	Army	Navy	Air Force	Total
2001	74407	3550	3511	81468
2002	34834	3148	6517	44499
2003	72096	2529	6039	80664
2004*	27997	1541	1858	31396

*Data for the year 2004 is for January to June 2004.

II-A. Rank-wise number of officers retired on superannuation:

Year	Gen.	Lt. Gen.	Maj. Gen.	Brig.	Col.	Ltd. Col.	Maj. and below	Total
2001	—	20	35	119	193	375	100	842
2002	01	15	40	96	177	351	115	795
2003	—	21	38	105	134	327	182	807
2004	—	22	36	105	177	298	160	798

II-B. Rank-wise number of retired Junior Commissioned Officers/Other Ranks:

Year	Sep.	Nk.	Hav.	Nb.Sub.	Sub. & Sub. Maj.	Total
2000-2001	22028	12914	15750	1514	5824	58030
2001-2002	17209	12375	13737	1604	7485	52410
2002-2003	12074	9476	11868	1381	7508	42307
2003-2004	14922	11203	20513	1589	7416	55643

III. Sector-wise placement of ex-servicemen in the country:

Year	Central Govt.	State Govt.	Private Sector	Total
2001	6718	2146	3221	12085
2002	6844	2219	3064	12127
2003	5513	3096	3079	11688
2004*	3140	1640	1764	6544

*Data for the year 2004 pertain to 6 months period i.e. January-June, 2004.

Rail Line Electrification

566. SHRI VIKRAMBHAI ARJANBHAI MADAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal for rail line electrification from Ahmedabad to Delhi and Ahmedabad to Hapa; and

(b) if so, when the work is likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) At present, there is no proposal for electrification from Ahmedabad to Delhi and Ahmedabad to Hapa rail line.

(b) Does not arise.

[*Translation*]

Sale of Children by Parents

567. SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT:
SHRI ANANTH KUMAR:

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of the growing incidence of sale of children by their parents owing to poverty;

(b) if so, the number of such incidents came to light in the country during the last one year;

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to check such incidents; and

(d) the assistance being provided by the Government to the organizations adopting those children?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JEGADEESAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

[*English*]

Funds for Gauge Conversion from Naupada to Gunupur

568. SHRI GIRIDHAR GAMANG: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of funds provided for conversion of N.G. line into B.G. line from Naupada to Gunupur during 2004-05 and progress made so far;

(b) whether B.G. line from Gunupur Railway Station has been included;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken by the Ministry to clear the extension of B.G. line project with the concerned authorities for execution of extension line?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) An outlay of Rs. 15 crore has been provided for Naupada-Gunupur Gauge Conversion project in the Budget 2004-05. Final Location Survey for the project has been completed. Land acquisition is in progress. Earthwork and bridge-works are in progress.

(b) to (d) An updating survey for extension of this line beyond Gunupur up to Theruvali (76 Kms) has been included in the Budget 2005-06.

Permission to Private Airlines to Fly Abroad

569. SHRI SANTASRI CHATTERJEE:
SHRI P.C. THOMAS:
SHRI ARJUN SETHI:
SHRI HARISHCHANDRA CHAVAN:
SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN:
SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA:
SHRI MADHU GOUD YASKHI:
SHRIMATI ANURADHA CHOUDHARY:
SHRI BADIGA RAMAKRISHNA:
SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA:
SHRI MUNSHI RAM:
SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL:
SHRI J.M. AARON RASHID:
SHRI K.S. RAO:
SHRI PRAKASHBAPU V. PATIL:
SHRI P.K. VASUDEVAN NAIR:
SHRI MOHD. TAHIR:
SHRI P.S. GADHAVI:
SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI:
SHRI K.C. PALANISAMY:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has permitted the private airlines to operate on International routes except Gulf countries;

(b) if so, the details alongwith the terms and conditions laid down for the purpose;

(c) the reasons for not allowing the private airlines to the Gulf countries;

(d) the names of the airlines alongwith the countries where they have been allowed to operate;

(e) the amount likely to be earned by the Government annually by permitting the private airlines to operate on foreign routes; and

(f) the steps taken by the Government to safeguard the interests of the National carriers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Indian scheduled carriers having continuous operations of at least 5 years in the domestic sector and having a minimum fleet size of 20 aircraft have been permitted to operate on international routes except UAE, Qatar, Bahrain, Oman, Kuwait and Saudi Arabia.

(c) Gulf sectors have been kept reserved for Air India and Indian Airlines for a period of 3 years as most of their operational revenue/profit out of international operations are generated from these routes.

(d) As per their requests, following private scheduled carriers have been permitted to operate on international sectors:—

Jet Airways:	Sri Lanka, Nepal, Bangladesh, UK, Belgium, USA, Malaysia, Singapore
Air Sahara:	Sri Lanka, Nepal, Bangladesh, UK, Malaysia, Singapore

(e) Government will not directly earn any revenue as a result of permitting private airlines to fly to overseas destinations. However, the increased international connectivity to/from India will have a beneficial impact on trade, commerce and tourism sectors in particular and the national economy as a whole.

(f) Due consideration is being given to the operational plan of Air India and Indian Airlines before allocating routes to other eligible scheduled carriers. Gulf routes have been kept reserved for Air India and Indian Airlines for a period of three years as most of their operational revenues/profit from international operations are generated from these routes. On other routes entitlements have been granted to Air India and Indian Airlines based on the requests received from them and only the balance entitlements left thereafter have been allocated to the private airlines.

Ban on Licensed Porters from Handling Parcels

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

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railway Board has issued orders banning the licensed porters from handling parcels;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government has considered the adverse impact of this decision on the livelihood of lakhs of porters dependent on the parcels movement; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government to safeguard the interests of the porters?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (d) The licensed porters are given licenses for carrying passengers' luggage for which they get porterage charges directly from the passengers, which are revised from time to time. Though they were allowed to be utilised for parcel handling work for short periods only, their main livelihood continued to be carrying passengers' luggage. On most of the Zonal Railways, licensed porters are satisfactorily carrying on their job except on a few Railways where some Court Cases are involved.

Distribution of Aids/Appliances by NIRTR

571. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for shortfall in achieving the target set for distribution of aids/appliances by the National Institute of Rehabilitation, Training and Research;

(b) the measures taken by the Government to achieve the target;

(c) whether there are no arrangements for post fitment care of beneficiaries to whom aids and appliances were distributed;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the details of programmes launched to promote economic development activities and self employment ventures for the disabled and the achievements made therein?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JEGADEESAN): (a) and (b) There is no shortfall in achieving targets set under Scheme of Assistance to Disabled Persons for Purchase/Fitting of Aids/Appliances (ADIP Scheme) being implemented by organizations including National Institute of Rehabilitation Training & Research (NIRTR).

(c) and (d) At the time of fitting/distribution care is taken to explain the use of aids & appliances. Further the institutes carries out repairs and/or replacement as per the terms of the Scheme.

(e) Self-employment and economic development of persons with disabilities are being promoted through Vocational Training Centres set up under Deen Dayal Rehabilitation Scheme (DDRS). Loans are given under Schemes of National Handicapped Finance & Development Corporation (NHFDC). The details of achievements during the year 2003-2004 are as under:

Name of Scheme	Persons Benefited
VTCs under DDRS run by 200 NGOs	22,292
General Loan Scheme of Concessional rate of Interest under NHFDC	5,235
Vocational Training/Counselling by NIRTAR	5,242

[*Translation*]

Oil Exploration Contract to Indian Companies

572. SHRI KHIREN RIJJU:
SHRI CHANDRA MANI TRIPATHI:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the Indian Oil Companies who got oil exploration contracts abroad during the last three years;

(b) the countries for which oil exploration contracts have been awarded to the Indian Oil Companies alongwith details thereof; and

(c) the details of the share of Indian Oil Companies in the production of oil from this work?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) Indian Oil Companies such as ONTC Videsh Ltd. (OVL), Indian Oil Corporation Ltd. (IOC), Oil India Ltd. (OIL), Gail India Ltd. (GAIL) and Reliance Industries Ltd. (RIL) have acquired participating interests in oil/gas exploration projects during the last 3 years in various countries. The details are given in Statement-I.

(c) Information in respect of OVL is given in Statement-II. As regards the other oil companies, at present their participation is in exploration blocks only, where production has not yet started.

Statement I

Sl.No.	Country	Project	Year of Acquisition	Name of the Indian Company & Participating Interest (PI)
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Yemen	Malik Block-9	January 2002	Reliance Industries Ltd. 12.25%

1	2	3	4	5
2.	Myanmar	Block A-1	April, 2002	OVL: 20% Gail-10%
3.	Iran	Farsi Offshore	December, 2002	OVL: 40% <i>with Operatorship</i> IOC: 40% OIL: 20%
4.	Sudan	GNOP	March, 2003	OVL: 25%
5.	Libya	NC-188 & NC-189	June, 2003	OVL: 49%
6.	Libya	Block-86	February, 2005	IOC: 50% OIL: 50%
7.	Syria	Block-24	January, 2004	OVL: 60%
8.	Sudan	Block 5A	May, 2004	OVL: 24.125%
9.	Sudan	Block 5B	May, 2004	OVL: 23.5%
10.	Sudan	Pipeline Project	June, 2004	OVL: 90% OIL: 10%
11.	Australia	WA 306P	Aug., 2004	OVL: 55%
12.	Ivory Coast	CI-112	Sept., 2004	OVL: 23.5% OIL: 11.5%

Statement II***OVL share in the production of Oil and Gas from Overseas Projects***

Sl.No.	Name of the Project	Unit	2002-03	2003-04	1st half 2004-05
A.	Oil/Condensate				
1.	Sudan	MMT	0.18	3.323	1.847
2.	Vietnam	MMT	0.003	0.022	0.020
B.	Gas				
1.	Vietnam	BCM	0.070	0.523	0.572
	Total		0.253	3.868	2.439

*[English]***Gas Pipeline between Myanmar-India through Bangladesh**

573. SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA:
 SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU:
 SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:
 SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY:
 SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO:
 SHRI RAJNARAYAN BUDHOLIA:
 SHRI Y.G. MAHAJAN:
 SHRIMATI ANURADHA CHOUDHARY:
 SHRI MUNSHI RAM:
 SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY:
 SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY:
 SHRI MOHD. TAHIR:
 SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:
 SHRI M.K. SUBBA:
 SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN:
 SHRI BALESHWAR YADAV:
 SHRI JUAL ORAM:
 SHRI G.V. HARSHA KUMAR:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Myanmar has agreed to supply gas to India by pipeline through Bangladesh;

(b) if so, whether any agreement among the three countries has been signed; and

(c) if so, the details alongwith the terms and conditions stipulated in the agreement?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (c) In January, 2005, a delegation visited Myanmar to participate in a trilateral meeting of Oil Ministers of Myanmar, Bangladesh and India to discuss cooperation in the hydrocarbon sector with Myanmar and the import of natural gas from Myanmar through an onland pipeline *via* Bangladesh. A Joint Press statement was issued by the three Ministers on 13.1.2005 a copy of which is annexed. Simultaneously, a Joint Press Statement was issued also by the Ministers of Bangladesh and India which is also enclosed Statement. The three Ministers agreed to constitute a Techno-Commercial Working Committee (TCWC) to prepare an MoU for cooperation for implementation of Myanmar-Bangladesh-India Pipeline Project which will

finally be signed by the three Governments. The draft MoU was negotiated and initiated at the first meeting of the Techno-Commercial Working Group in Yangon on 24-25 February 2005. The three Ministers will jointly sign the MoU after approval from their respective Governments.

Statement

January 13, 2005

Joint Press Statement

1. Substantial natural gas reserves have been found in off-shore and on-shore structures, including the North Eastern blocks of the Bay of Bengal off the coast of Myanmar. In addition, sizeable quantities of natural gas reserves have been found in on-shore structures in the North Eastern regions of Bangladesh and India as also on-shore in Myanmar. The speedy implementation of development programmes by all the Governments of the region and accelerating economic growth is boosting a huge market for natural gas in the region requiring the regional development of energy sources and infrastructure for the delivery of the gas to consuming centres. In concert with parallel developments in other segments of the power and energy sector, a new era of cooperation is opening up for the countries of the region.

2. To harness this win-win opportunity, the Honourable Minister for Energy of Myanmar, H.E. Brig. Gen. Lun Thi took the initiative to convene a Tripartite Ministerial Meeting between himself, the State Minister for Energy and Mineral Resources of Bangladesh, H.E. Mr. A.K.M. Mosharraf Hossain, and the Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas and Panchayati Raj of the Republic of India, H.E. Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar, in Yangon, on 12-13 January, 2005.

3. The following was agreed to by the three Governments:—

- (i) The Government of Myanmar agrees to export natural gas to India by pipeline through the territory of Bangladesh and India to be operated by an international consortium as may be agreed upon by the parties concerned, based upon technical and commercial feasibility. The Governments of Bangladesh and India reserve the right to access the pipeline as and when required, including injecting and siphoning off their own natural gas; details in this regard will be worked out on the basis of commercial

agreements. The route of the pipeline may be determined by mutual agreement of the three Governments with a view to ensuring adequate access, maximum security and optimal economic utilization.

- (ii) The Governments of Bangladesh, India and Myanmar, represented by their respective Ministers and delegations, recognizing the unique potential for developing energy resources and related infrastructure needed to access and deliver energy to various parts of the region, agree to set up an appropriate mechanism for cooperation between and among themselves to pursue their common goal of development for all the people of the region.
- (iii) The Governments of Bangladesh, India and Myanmar agree to establish a Techno-Commercial Working Committee comprising duly designated representatives of the three Governments. The Working Committee shall:—
 - (a) identify areas of cooperation, collaboration and investment to develop natural gas resources, infrastructure and marketing in the region; and
 - (b) deliberate and advise the three Governments on policy issues as set out in Para 3(i) above such as pipeline routing, access-related issues as well as technical and commercial matters.
- (iv) The first meeting of the Committee will be held in Yangon within a month with a view to preparing a draft Memorandum of Understanding which will be concluded and signed at Dhaka at the earliest mutual convenience of the three Governments.

4. The Governments of Bangladesh, India and Myanmar agree to pursue both trilateral and bilateral cooperation to promote, develop and implement projects and forums to augment the utilization and development of energy resources and related infrastructure in the region.

5. The Governments of Bangladesh, India and Myanmar agree to exchange relevant information to jointly promote energy surveys; develop upstream, downstream and other energy-related projects; and jointly recommend measures for the development and expansion of access to energy for the benefit of people of the region.

6. The Governments of Bangladesh, India and Myanmar agree to continue keeping contact with each other at the Ministerial level and to meet both trilaterally and bilaterally at regular intervals in order to update each other on the measures being taken relating to the development of activities in their respective countries in regard to natural gas and, more generally, the power and energy sector.

7. With respect to issues of bilateral cooperation which impinge on their trilateral cooperation, such as hydroelectricity and other diversified sources of energy supply, trade and transit, the Ministers of the three countries agreed that such bilateral issues will continue to be pursued bilaterally. In this context, they agreed to recommend to their respective governments the importance of evaluating issues relevant to bringing their nations closer to each other by establishing policy frameworks which will augment practical measures for further economic cooperation and collaboration among themselves. The Ministers further noted that energy cooperation is being promoted within the framework of initiatives in BIMSTEC and SAARC and agreed that these initiatives need to be pursued vigorously.

8. The Ministers of Bangladesh and India place on record their high appreciation of the leadership as well as hospitality and cooperation extended by H.E. Bring Gen. Lun Thi, Minister for Energy of the Government of the Union of Myanmar, in convening this historic Tripartite Ministerial Meeting in Yangon.

Joint Press Statement between the Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources of the People's Republic of Bangladesh and the Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas of the Republic of India to promote bilateral Energy Cooperation (January 13, 2005)

The State Minister for Energy and Mineral Resources of Bangladesh, H.E. Mr. A.K.M. Mosharraf Hossain and the Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas and Panchayati Raj of the Republic of India, H.E. Mr. Mani Shankar Aiyar, met in Yangon, Myanmar, on 12-13 January, 2005 on the occasion of the Tripartite Conference called in Yangon by the Government of the Union of Myanmar to discuss cooperation in developing regional energy resources and infrastructure.

2. On the sidelines of the Tripartite Conference, the Bangladesh Minister raised with the Indian Minister the following issues relating to bilateral cooperation between

the People's Republic of Bangladesh and the Republic of India:—

- (i) Transmission of hydro-electricity from Nepal and Bhutan to Bangladesh through Indian territory;
- (ii) Corridor for supply of commodities between Nepal and Bhutan and Bangladesh through Indian territory; and
- (iii) To take necessary measures to reduce trade imbalance between the two countries.

3. In respect of the above issues, the Indian Minister stated as follows:—

- (i) With regard to Bangladesh's request for the provision of electricity facilities from Nepal and Bhutan to Bangladesh, the Indian Minister agreed that the Government of India would examine positively any fresh proposals received from Bangladesh in regard to examining required facilities.
- (ii) In regard to Bangladesh's request for transit facilities to Bhutan and Nepal through India between Bangladesh on one side and Bhutan and Nepal on the other, the Indian Minister conveyed that the Government of India supported this request. he pointed out that some facilities had already been provided at Phulbari which at present were not being fully utilized. He conveyed that the Government of India would favourably examine any further requests that might arise to augment existing facilities.
- (iii) With regard to Bangladesh's request for rectifying the imbalance of trade, the Indian Minister agreed with the need to expand bilateral trade between the two countries in order to bridge the trade gap that exists at present. Projects such as proposed at the Trilateral Conference will contribute to this objective.

4. The Indian Minister accepted the kind invitation of the Bangladesh Minister to visit Bangladesh in the near future.

Opening of Petrol/Diesel Pumps in Orissa

574. SHRI B. MAHTAB: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of petrol/diesel pumps set up by different public sector oil companies during 2004-05 in Orissa, location-wise; and

(b) the places where petrol/diesel pumps are proposed to be set up in Orissa during 2005-06?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) The number of retail outlet dealerships (petrol/diesel pumps) set up by the four public sector Oil Marketing companies (OMCs), viz., Indian Oil Corporation Limited, Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited, Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited and IBP Co. Limited during the year 2004-05 (upto 31.1.2005) at different locations in the State of Orissa is 66.

(b) The names of the districts in the State of Orissa where these OMCs have plans to set up retail outlets during the year 2005-06 are given in the enclosed Statement.

Statement

Name of the districts in the State of Orissa where the oil marketing companies plan to set up retail outlets during 2005-06

Sl.No.	District
1	2
1.	Koraput
2.	Bhadrak
3.	Balasore
4.	Cuttack
5.	Sundergarh
6.	Angul
7.	Sambalpur
8.	Khurda
9.	Ganjam
10.	Puri
11.	Jagatsinghpur
12.	Bargarh
13.	Jajpur

1	2
14.	Rayagada
15.	Sonepur
16.	Kalahandi
17.	Keonjhar
18.	Dhenkanal
19.	Nawarangapur
20.	Jharsuguda
21.	Bolangir
22.	Boudh
23.	Gajapati
24.	Kendrapara
25.	Malkangiri
26.	Nayagarh
27.	Nuapara
28.	Mayurbhanj
29.	Deogarh
30.	Kandhamal

Railway Reservation Centres

575. SHRI RAJESH VERMA:
SHRI RAJNARAYAN BUDHOLIA:
SHRI Y.G. MAHAJAN:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of railway reservation centres established in the country, State-wise;

(b) whether the Government propose to establish more railway reservation centres in view of the need of railway reservation centres; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) *State-wise* list of Railway Reservation Centres commissioned as on 28.2.05 is given in Statement-I.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. Provision of Computerised Reservation Facilities is an on-going process. These facilities are sanctioned at number of new locations every year depending upon the availability of funds. State-wise list of locations where government propose to extend these facilities is given in Statement-II.

Statement I

State-wise list of Commissioned Railway Reservation Centres

Sl.No.	State	No.
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	92
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	1
3.	Assam	25
4.	Bihar	115
5.	Chhattisgarh	22
6.	Delhi	29
7.	Goa	3
8.	Gujarat	46
9.	Haryana	20
10.	Himachal Pradesh	11
11.	Jammu & Kashmir	22
12.	Jharkhand	37
13.	Karnataka	44
14.	Kerala	37
15.	Madhya Pradesh	55
16.	Maharashtra	115
17.	Manipur	1
18.	Meghalaya	1
19.	Mizoram	1
20.	Nagaland	3
21.	Orissa	35
22.	Punjab	32

1	2	3
23.	Rajasthan	61
24.	Sikkim	1
25.	Tamil Nadu	91
26.	Tripura	2
27.	Union Territories	9
28.	Uttar Pradesh	130
29.	Uttaranchal	21
30.	West Bengal	101
Total		1163

Statement II*State-wise List of proposed Railway Reservation Centres*

Sl.No.	State	No.
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	7
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	1
3.	Assam	16
4.	Bihar	8
5.	Chhattisgarh	6
6.	Delhi	2
7.	Gujarat	8
8.	Haryana	7
9.	Himachal Pradesh	4
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	2
11.	Jharkhand	13
12.	Karnataka	16
13.	Kerala	7
14.	Manipur	1

1	2	3
15.	Meghalaya	1
16.	Mizoram	1
17.	Madhya Pradesh	10
18.	Maharashtra	6
19.	Orissa	10
20.	Punjab	9
21.	Rajasthan	6
22.	Sikkim	1
23.	Tamil Nadu	4
24.	Union Territories	3
25.	Uttar Pradesh	29
26.	Uttaranchal	6
27.	West Bengal	13
Total		197

Issue of SC Certificates

576. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of applications received for grant of SC Certificates by Chandigarh UT Administration during each of the last three years;

(b) the number of such certificates issued during the corresponding period; and

(c) the reasons for denial of SC Certificates to members of Scheduled Castes, which are included in the Constitution Scheduled Castes (Union Territories) Order, as applicable to Chandigarh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JEGADEESAN): (a) to (c) The requisite information is being collected from Chandigarh Administration.

**Establishment of Asian Bank for Energy
Development**

577. SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH:
SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:
SHRI VIJOY KRISHNA:
SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to establish an exclusive financial institution *viz.* Asian Bank for Energy Development;

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

(c) whether the issue of setting up the institution has been discussed in the recently concluded meeting of Asian Region; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (d) In the first Round Table of Asian Ministers on regional cooperation in the oil & gas economy, held in New Delhi on 6th January 2005, the Minister of Petroleum of Iran *inter alia* stated that the establishment of financial institutions like an Asian Bank for Energy Development can effectively back-up energy projects. The details of proposal have been sought from the Iranian side so that these could be further considered by the International Energy Forum Secretariat in preparation for the second Round Table to be held in Saudi Arabia.

Revival of sick CPSEs

578. SHRI B. VINOD KUMAR:
SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY:
SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA:
SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL:
SHRI SANTASRI CHATTERJEE:
PROF. M. RAMADASS:

Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has taken/propose to take any steps for revival of sick Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs);

(b) if so, the details stating *inter-alia* the criteria and other parameters fixed for revival of a sick CPSE;

(c) the total amount sanctioned and spent for revival of CPSEs during each of the last three years;

(d) the details of sick CPSEs referred to the Board for Reconstruction of the Public Sector Enterprises (BRPSE) for revival/restructuring; and

(e) the present position of the units of West Bengal with particular reference to Braithwaite & Co., Burn Standard Company Limited etc.?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) to (c) The National Common Minimum Programme (NCMP) provide that the UPA Government is committed to a strong and effective public sector. While every effort will be made to modernize and restructure public sector companies and revive sick industry, chronically loss making companies will either be sold of, or closed after all workers have got their legitimate dues and compensation. The UPA Government will induct private industries to turn around companies that have potential to revive. In pursuance of this policy a Board for Reconstruction of Public Sector Enterprises (BRPSE) has been set up in December, 2004 to examine the proposals of the Administrative Ministries for revival/restructuring of sick/loss making CPSEs for their turn around and to make suitable recommendations related thereto. Further, as per the provisions of the Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1985 (SICA), Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) also takes up cases of sick PSEs and approves revival/rehabilitation schemes under its statutory jurisdiction. In view of these provisions, enterprise specific measures are taken by the concerned administrative Ministries/Departments. All such Departments and Ministries have been addressed to put the revival package or other suitable proposals in respect of their PSEs for the consideration of Board for Reconstruction of PSEs.

(d) and (e) The Board for Reconstruction of Public Sector Enterprises (BRPSE) has made its recommendations in case of following 4 Central Public Sector Enterprises:—

- (1) Hindustan Salts Limited
- (2) Bridge & Roof Company Limited

- (3) BBJ Construction Company Limited
 (4) Tyre Corporation of India Limited

Out of which last three are located in West Bengal. CPSEs like Braithwaite & Company Limited and Bum Standard Company Limited in West Bengal have not yet been placed before the BRPSE.

[*Translation*]

Economic Condition of Railways

579. SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN:
 SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR CHOUDHARY:
 SHRIMATI ANURADHA CHOUDHARY:
 DR. CHINTA MOHAN:
 SHRI MUNSHI RAM:
 SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY:
 SHRI MOHD. TAHIR:
 SHRI DANVE RAOSAHEB PATIL:
 SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Planning Commission has given various recommendations to improve economic condition of the Railways as reported in the *Rashtriya Sahara* dated January 10, 2005;

(b) if so, the details of the recommendations given by the Planning Commission; and

(c) the action taken/to be taken by the Railways on each recommendation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) Out of the various items reported in the *Rashtriya Sahara* dated January 10, 2005, Planning Commission has only recommended setting up of Rail Tariff Regulatory Authority.

(c) Ministry of Railways is of the view that Rail Tariff Regulatory Authority is not required.

Economical/Budget Hotels

580. SHRI V.K. THUMMAR:
 SHRI SUNIL KUMAR MAHATO:
 SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of economical/budget hotels constructed by the Railways during the last three years, location-wise;

(b) whether the Railways has decided to set up more economical/budget hotels in the country;

(c) if so, the details of the plans prepared alongwith the participation of private sector therein;

(d) the details of locations identified for the purpose and the time by which the plan is likely to be implemented; and

(e) the likely rent charges of these hotels *vis-a-vis* the market rent?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No economical/budget hotels have been constructed during the last three years.

(b) to (d) Yes, Sir. In the first phase, Chandigarh, Habibganj (Bhopal), Secunderabad, Bangalore, Madurai and Sealdah (Kolkata) have been identified for setting up Budget Hotels on Railway land with public-private participation. However, the project is in initial stage and tendering for the purpose is likely to take some time.

(e) Rent charges have not been decided yet.

[*English*]

Revival of CCI

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

Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Cement Corporation of India (CCI) has been incurring losses;

(b) if so, the amount of losses incurred during each of the last three years alongwith the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government propose to revive Cement Corporation of India;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the amount earmarked for revival of the company; and

(e) the time by which the revival of the company is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The net losses for each of the last three years are given thereunder:—

(Rs. in crores)	
Year	Net Loss
2001-02	(-)215.33
2002-03	(-)215.36
2003-04	(-)80.95*

(*After prior period adjustment of Rs. 126.27 crore mainly on account of lower interest provisioning.)

The main reasons for losses are obsolete plants and technology, high cost of production and stiff competition being faced by the company.

(c) to (e) CCI has been declared sick on 8th August 1996 by the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR). BIFR *vide* its letter dated 11.11.2004 has directed Industrial Finance Corporation of India (IFCI), the Operating Agency (OA) to prepare and submit Draft Rehabilitation Scheme (DRS) in respect of CCI. The decision regarding revival of CCI is dependent on receipt of the DRS from the IFCI.

Production of Ethanol

582. SHRI TUKARAM GANPATRAO RENGE
PATIL:
SHRI KASHIRAM RANA:
SHRI DINSHA PATEL:
SHRI PRAKASHBAPU V. PATIL:
SHRI KIRIP CHALIHA:
SHRI KULDEEP BISHNOI:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of progress made on conservation of petrol by introducing ethanol-doped petrol all over the country;

(b) whether the pilot project set up for production of ethanol have shown any positive results;

(c) if so, whether the Government would consider mandating the Sugar Industry to increase the production of ethanol; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (d) The Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas had set up three pilot projects in the year 2001 with a view to examining the operational, financial, environmental, logistic and other related aspects of blending of ethanol with petrol. After their success, the Government implemented the 5% ethanol-blended petrol programme in notified sugar producing States/adjointing States and Union territories. According to the revised parameters of the programme, if the price at which ethanol is offered for the programme is comparable to the price of ethanol for alternative uses, and is comparable to the delivery price of petrol at the notified locations, and if the supply of ethanol can be maintained at such prices, supply of 5% ethanol-blended-petrol in notified areas is mandatory. Since, molasses, a derivative of sugar used for the manufacture of ethanol, is a decontrolled item and ethanol manufacture is a de-licensed activity, entrepreneurs are free to take independent commercial decisions regarding the manufacture of ethanol.

Oil and Gas Fields

583. SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU:
SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of oil wells operating in Rajasthan and the quantity of oil extracted therefrom so far;

(b) whether oil and gas fields have been discovered in the Southern parts of Rajasthan; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (c) No oil wells are under commercial operation in the State of Rajasthan. However, during the testing of exploration wells in the block RJ-

ON-90/1, about 16,990 Metric Tonnes of pit oil was produced and sold by the operator during 2004.

So far, 9 oil discoveries have been made in the pre-NELP Block RJ-ON-90/1 located in the south west part of Rajasthan. Out of this, 4 discoveries have been declared commercial on 15.10.2004.

3 gas fields have been discovered in the Western part of Rajasthan by Oil India Limited (OIL). The produced gas (around 0.72 MMSCMD) is supplied to Rajasthan Rajya Vidyut Utpadan Nigam Limited (RRVUNL) through GAIL.

[Translation]

Construction of Overbridge at Manmad Junction

584. SHRI DEVIDAS PINGLE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received any representation for construction of a new overbridge at Manmad Junction;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Two representations, one from Shri Sashikant S. Sutar, Vice-President of Lions Club, Manmad and another from Dr. Rajendra Suryavanshi, Secretary, Manmad City Judges forwarded through Shri Harishchandra Chavan, Hon'ble Member Parliament has been received.

(c) The existing Foot-over-Bridge at Manmad is sufficient to cater to the present level of traffic.

[English]

Bids to Oil and Gas Blocks

585. SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPAN:
SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA:
SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has invited bids for 20 oil and gas blocks in the fifth round under the New Exploration Licensing Policy;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the response of the bidders; and

(d) the decision taken for allotment of oil and gas blocks in the said round?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Government have invited bids for exploration and production of oil & gas in 20 blocks *i.e.* 12 onland, 2 shallow offshore and 6 deep water blocks under the fifth round of the New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP).

(c) The response of the bidders can be known only after the bid closure date on 31.05.05. However, several companies have been visiting the data rooms set up for the purpose.

(d) The NELP, approved in 1997, provides a level playing field for both Private and Public Sector Undertakings for award of exploration acreages through global competitive bidding. The bids are decided by the Government on the basis of a transparent quantitative bid evaluation criteria. We expect to announce the award by the end of July, 2005 and sign the contracts towards the end of September or early October.

Throwing out of Passengers from Farrakka Express

586. SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY:
SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI:
SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of the incident of throwing out of passengers from Farrakka Express at Shikohabad station;

(b) if so, the details of the incident alongwith the number of persons died/injured and compensation provided to the victims/their family;

(c) the action taken by the Government against those found guilty for this inhuman act;

(d) the details of such inhuman incidents that took place during the last two years including number of persons died/injured, compensation provided to them and action taken against the guilty persons, incident-wise;

(e) whether the Government is taking serious note of the growing incidents of the innocent passengers being thrown out of the running trains; and

(f) if so, the measures the Railways is taking to avert such incidents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. On 23.1.2005, some persons were pushed out by military and Border Security Force (BSF) personnel from Train No. 3483 Farrakka Express at Shikohabad Railway Station from General Coach No. 83740 AB. At that moment Train No. 2393 Up Sampurna Kranti Express passed through and 5 of these passengers were run over by the train. A case under Crime No. 4/2005 under Section 323, 304 and 504 IPC and section 145 of the Railways Act, 1989 has been registered on 23.1.2005 by the Government Railway Police, Shikohabad. The Police have arrested

3 military personnel and one BSF Constable. Military personnel were handed over to the military authorities for further action and the BSF Constable was sent to judicial custody.

As regards compensation paid to the victims/their families, compensation is paid after a claim is filed in the Railway Claims Tribunal and a decree is awarded. Since no compensation claim has yet been filed by the victims' families, no compensation has been paid to them.

(d) A statement is attached.

(e) and (f) The maintenance of law and order and control of crime on Railways including in running trains is the responsibility of the State Government concerned. The Railways, however, in order to improve safety and security of passengers travelling by trains, have amended the Railway Protection Force (RPF) Act, 1957 and the Railways Act, 1989 to enable Railway Protection Force to effectively supplement the efforts of the Government Railway Police (GRP) of the State Governments in controlling Crime against the passengers. The Railway Protection Force staffs are deployed on many trains and station premises for this purpose.

Statement

Railways	Years	No. of Cases	No. of Persons		Compensation Paid	Action taken against the guilty persons
			Died	Injured		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
CR	2003-04	1	—	1	—	On 26.11.2004, a passenger was thrown out of train No. 5220 Up for sitting arrangement when train was passing through Bhusawal to Mumbai due to a scuffle held between two groups of passengers. GRP/Bhusawal has registered a case <i>vide</i> crime No. 150/03 u/s 143, 147, 149, 307, 302, 427, 504 & 106 IPC dated 30.11.2004. After investigation the case was filed on "A final report" dated 29.4.2004.
	2004-05	—	—	—	—	(1) on 17.9.2004, one passenger threw out his wife while travelling by train No. 2621 Dn (Lashkar Exp.) in S-7 coach, in between Igarpuri and Ghoti railway stations. GRP/Igarpuri has registered the case <i>vide</i> crime No. 25/04 u/s 302, 498(a) and 34 IPC and arrested the accused passenger.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
						(2) On 28.9.2004, one passenger was thrown out by his brother-in-law while travelling in train No. 1093 Dn in between Jalgaon-Shirsoli stations following a scuffle. GRP/Jalgaon registered a case under crime No. 122/04 u/s 302 IPC and arrested the accused.
ER	2003-04	1	—	1	—	On 22.7.04, one boy aged 14 years was thrown out from the ladies compartment of Train No. K-8 Dn (Katwa local) by a lady passenger at Kuntighat Rly. Station over Howrah Division. GRPS/Bandel has registered a case No. 30/2004 dated 22.7.04 u/s 325 IPC against the lady passenger and arrested her. The case ended with charge sheet <i>vide</i> No. 25/04 dated 6.10.04 u/s 325/307 IPC.
	2004-05	1	—	1	—	On 2.1.05, one lady passenger pushed down from train No. SL-266 Dn (Sealdah-Lakhikantapur Local) over Sealdah Division. A case under crime No. 1/2005 dated 3.1.05 u/s 341, 323, 354, 307 IPC was registered by GRPS/Baruipur and arrested one person. The case ended with charge sheet <i>vide</i> No. 04/2005 dated 31.1.05 u/s 341, 323, 354 IPC.
ECR	2003-04	—	—	—	—	—
	2004-05	2	—	2	—	(1) On 21.2.2004, one person was thrown out from Train No. 6264 Dn in between Sugauli-Motihari in Samastipur Division by GRP. GRP/Narkatiaganj registered a case No. 48/04 dated 24.7.2004 u/s 302, 323, 379, 34 IPC. (2) On 02.10.2004, one lady passenger was thrown out from Train No. 280 Dn at Sitamarhi Railway Station by GRP/Stiamarhi. GRP/Darbhanga registered a case No. 83/04 dated 02.10.2004 u/s 341, 323, 324, 325, 387 against guilty GRP staff.
ECoR	2003-04	—	—	—	—	—
	2004-05	—	—	—	—	—
NR	2003-04	2	—	1	—	(1) One TTE/Ghaziabad on ticket checking duty was thrown out from train No. 2 HHD (Delhi-Hathras-Quila Passenger) on 3.9.03 by milk vendors. A case was registered under case file No. 4/03 u/s 332, 504, 506, 533 IPC &

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
						146 Rly. Act against three persons. All 03 accused surrendered in the court and were later bailed out.
						(2) One foreigner passenger was thrown out of 2GDK EMU at Faridabad by unknown miscreant after snatching Rs. 8000/- & other belongings. A case under crime No. 26/04 u/s 356 was registered by GRP/Faridabad.
	2004-05	3	2	1	—	(1) One military personnel was thrown outside from Train No. 2404 (Pooja Exp.) by his colleagues/fellow passengers in between Bhatia and Gorawan stations on 10.7.04. GRP/Ludhiana has registered a case under crime No. 92/04 u/s 302, 34 IPC dt. 11.7.04 and arrested of 2 accused persons.
						(2) One passenger thrown out from Train No. 4673 (Shadeed Exp.) at Platform No. 3 Delhi-Shahadara Rly. Station by unknown miscreants on 9.11.04 after looting Rs. 6000/- in cash. A case was registered by GRP/Delhi Main under crime No. 450/04 u/s 302, 392 IPC against unknown miscreants.
						(2) One beggar was thrown out from S-10 coach of Train No. 4648 (Shalimar Exp.) on 11.1.05 in between Budhi-Khatua station by a drunken military personnel. A case on crime No. 1/05 u/s 307 IPC was registered by GRP/Khatua.
NCR	2003-04	2	2	—	—	(1) On 24.1.04, one person was pushed out by some unknown persons from the general coach of train No. 8237 Dn in between Ajahi & Chhata stations. GRP/Mathura has registered a case crime No. 23/04 u/s 147, 302, 307, 323, 504 & 34 IPC and 145 Rly. Act and arrested one miscreant.
						(2) On 25.1.04, one person was thrown out from train No. 5664 at Bhadan Rly. station by unknown miscreant. A case under crime No. 15/04 u/s 147, 302 & 34 IPC was registered at GRP/FZC and arrested one person.
	2004-05	2	5	—	—	(1) On 23.1.2005, some persons were pushed out by military and Border Security Force personnel from Train No. 3483 Farrakka

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
						Express at Shikohabad Railway Station from General Coach No. 83740 AB and at that moment Train No. 2393 Up Sampurna Kranti Express passed through and 5 of these passengers were run over by the train. A case under crime No. 4/2005 u/s 323, 304 and 504 IPC and 145 Railway Act has been registered on 23.1.2005 by Govt. Railway Police, Shikohabad. They arrested 3 military personnel and one BSF Constable. Military personnel were handed over to military authorities for further action and the BSF Constable was sent to judicial custody.
						(2) On 27.7.2004, one military personnel was thrown out by unknown passengers from general coach of Train No. 2780 near Jakhora Railway Station and looted cash Rs. 50,000/- with suitcase. A case crime No. 54/04 u/s 394 IPC was registered at S.O. GRP LAR on 28.7.2004
NER	2003-04	—	—	—	—	—
	2004-05	1	1	—	—	On 30.11.2004, one passenger was thrown out from Train No. 9165 'Jp by RPF escort party a case <i>vide</i> crime No. 111/04 u/s 393, 302 IPC dated 30.11.2004 was registered against the RPF escort party. In this regard RPF escort party had been placed under suspension and Department proceedings are under process.
NFR	2003-04	—	—	—	—	—
	2004-05	—	—	—	—	—
NWR	2003-04	—	—	—	—	—
	2004-05	1	—	1	—	On 8.12.2004, one child aged 13 years was thrown out between Degawara-Rajgarh stations by one passenger from Train No. 188 HSR-JP Passenger. A case was registered under crime No. 113/2004 u/s 307 IPC dated 8.12.2004 by GRP/Alwar and arrested the accused person.
SR	2003-04	—	—	—	—	—
	2004-05	—	—	—	—	—
SCR	2003-04	—	—	—	—	—

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	2004-05	—	—	—	—	—
SER	2003-04	—	—	—	—	—
	2004-05	—	—	—	—	—
SECR	2003-04	—	—	—	—	—
	2004-05	—	—	—	—	—
SWR	2003-04	—	—	—	—	—
	2004-05	—	—	—	—	—
WR	2003-04	—	—	—	—	—
	2004-05	1	—	1	—	On 23.1.2004, one passenger was pushed out by local Train No. 252 Up between Borivalli-Kandivali by unknown miscreant. GRP/Borivalli registered a case <i>vide</i> crime No. 17/04 u/s 307 & 34 IPC dated 30.1.2004. Case was closed <i>vide</i> 'A' summary dated 3.8.2004
WCR	2003-04	—	—	—	—	—
	2004-05	—	—	—	—	—

[Translation]

Interim Report on Mukeria Rail Accident

587. SHRI RAGHURAJ SINGH SHAKYA:
SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR CHOUDHARY:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Interim Investigation Report on Mukeria rail accident has been submitted to the Government;

(b) if so, the findings thereof; and

(c) the follow up action taken/to be taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Yes, Sir. Preliminary report of the Chief Commissioner of Railway Safety, who is inquiring into this accident has been received.

(b) The preliminary report indicates that this unfortunate accident appears to have occurred due to despatch of 9112 Down Jammu Tawi-Ahmedabad Express from Mirthal station and 1 JMP (DMU) Passenger from

Bhangala station simultaneously towards each other in the same block section by the respective Station Masters.

(c) Action has been initiated on the recommendations made in the Preliminary report.

[English]

Supply of Gas by GAIL

588. SHRI JASHUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the salient features of the agreement signed by Gas Authority of India Ltd. for supply of gas to Pipavao-Sourashtra Gas Power Plant;

(b) whether GAIL has supplied the gas according to the agreement; and

(c) if not, the total gas supplied by the Gas Authority of India Ltd. (GAIL) to Pipavao-Sourashtra Gas Power Plant and the reasons for short supply of gas?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI

SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) GAIL has not signed any agreement for Pipavavo Power Project.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Agreement between ONGC Videsh and Russian Oil Company

589. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:
SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:
SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether ONGC Videsh Limited and Russian oil major have agreed to jointly bid for blocks belong to the Russian Government;

(b) if so, the salient features of the agreement signed in this regard; and

(c) the time by which the production from such blocks is likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) ONGC Videsh Limited (OVL) and Rosneft are already partners in Sakhalin-I project in Russia, in which OVL has 20% stake.

Further discussions about possible areas of collaboration have been held at Ministerial, official and commercial level on this subject, and encouraging progress has been made in this regard, but no commercial agreements have as yet been concluded for joint bidding by ONGC Videsh Ltd. and any Russian oil major for oil and gas blocks in Russia.

(b) and (c) In respect of Sakhalin-I project, OVL will get a share in production as per the formula given in the Production Sharing Agreement (PSA). Limited production of oil and gas from the project is expected from 2005-06 and full production is expected from the last quarter of 2006-07.

Discontinuation of Grants to NGOs

590. SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether many Non-Government Organisations engaged in development of dis-advantaged sections of people are facing serious problems due to discontinuation of grants-in-aids by the Union Government in West Bengal and Orissa;

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

(c) whether the Government has received representations from such organisations; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JEGADEESAN): (a) and (b) Grant-in-aid to only 31 NGOs in Orissa & West Bengal has not been released due to non-receipt of recommendations/inspection reports of the State Governments. In addition, 12 NGOs have not been given grant-in-aid due to adverse inspection reports.

(c) and (d) Representation from NGOs is an ongoing process wherein they either provide explanation/clarification or additional information to the Ministry as the case may be.

[Translation]

Multi-Signal Coloured Light Singalling System

591. PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR:
SHRI MUNSHI RAM:
SHRI SARBANANDA SONOWAL:
SHRIMATI ANURADHA CHOUDHARY:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has introduced multi-signal coloured light signalling system at railway stations for accident free operation of trains keeping in view the increasing rail accidents in the country;

(b) if so, the States in which this system is likely to be installed and the time by which installation work is likely to be completed; and

(c) to what extent the new system is helpful in averting accidents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) Yes Sir, Multi Aspect Colour Light Signalling (MACLS) system has been provided at 3308 stations on Indian Railways as on 31.3.2004. This system is further being provided on Indian Railways at about 1250 stations as a part of replacement of overaged signalling assets at stations as well as at stations where Doubling or Railway Electrification works are in progress. These works are being carried out in almost all the States having Railway network. Sanctioned works charged to Special Railway Safety Fund (SRSF) are likely to be completed by 31.3.2007 and other sanctioned works in next 4-5 years depending on availability of funds.

(c) In MACLS system all signals are prewarned, which give the driver advance information about the aspect of signal ahead. Further, these signals have better visibility than semaphore signals. This leads to safer train operations. Further at a station provided with Centralized operation of Signals and Points, track circuiting of station yard is also carried out along with MACLS. This prevents reception of a train on an occupied line, thereby improving safety further.

[English]

Underweight Cylinders

592. PROF. CHANDER KUMAR:
SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR:
SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that LPG is transferred from filled in cylinders to empty cylinders by the gas agencies and supplying less weight cylinders to the consumers;

(b) if so, the number of such cases reported during the last one year, State-wise; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken against the gas agencies found involved in such activities?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) Public Sector Oil Marketing

Companies (OMCs) have received 48 established complaints of supply of underweight cylinders to consumers during the year 2004. The State-wise details are given in the statement.

(c) Action has been taken against erring distributors in terms of the Marketing Discipline Guidelines (MDG)/ Distributorship Agreement. OMCs carry out periodic inspections at all distributorships.

Statement

Details of Established Complaints of Supply of Underweight Cylinders by LPG Distributors

Sl.No.	States/UTs	Number of distributors found indulging in supply of under-weight cylinders
1.	Gujarat	5
2.	Haryana	2
3.	Punjab	5
4.	Rajasthan	4
5.	Uttar Pradesh	18
6.	Delhi	14
Total		48

[Translation]

Installation of VLPT in Ransar Valley

593. SHRI CHANDRA DEV PRASAD RAJBHAR: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the VLPT towers in Lowerkoti and Chadghaon areas of Shimla is not effective enough to cover the Ransar Valley;

(b) whether the Government proposes to install a VLPT tower in Ransar Valley in the interest of the people there which would enable the people of 5 Panchayats to watch T.V. Programmes properly;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) Prasar Bharati has informed that the VLPTs at Rohru (Lowerkoti) and Chirgaon do not cover the Chansal Valley; and that there is no place by the name of Ransar Valley in Shimla District.

(b) to (d) No, Sir. The signals of DD Direct Plus, the Free-to-Air DTH service of Doordarshan with the bouquet of 33 TV Channels and 12 Radio Channels are available through out the country including Himachal Pradesh. The signals can be received with the help of a small sized dish receive unit. Under the circumstances, no new transmitters are proposed to be set up.

[English]

Performance of CPSUs

594. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI:
SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO:

Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to incorporate a set of fresh parameters in the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Central Public Sector Enterprises;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the ad hoc Group of Experts has made recommendations to improve overall performance in Central Public Sector Enterprises;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government for implementation of recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) and (b) The MoU Guidelines for the year 2005-06 have already been modified. Common parameters have been set in the MoU guidelines for all PSEs other than Social, Financial, Trading and Consultancy PSEs. In order to address the

specific nature of these PSEs, special provisions have been incorporated in the MoU guidelines for the year 2005-06. 'Added Value' has also been redefined to capture productivity improvement in real terms, which may be computed as gross margin minus returns on capital, which in turn may be computed as capital recovery factor @4% of the capital employed for social sector PSEs and @10% for all other PSEs.

(c) to (e) The ad hoc Group of Experts has not yet made any recommendations.

Production of Bio-Diesel

595. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of countries using the bio-diesel and what was the experience of those countries on production and usage of bio-diesel in their countries;

(b) whether the Government has taken any initiatives for introduction and commercial production of bio-diesel in the country;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken for setting up of bio-diesel industries in the country?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (d) The European Union (EU), the United States of America (USA), Canada and some other countries have undertaken bio-diesel programmes with a variety of feed-stocks being used. The feed-stock for the production of bio-diesel in EU and USA are vegetable oils which are mainly edible oils. Bio-diesel is being blended at 5 to 20% levels in USA, Canada and EU, and is being used commercially. India is short of edible oils; hence non-edible oils like *Jatropha Curcas* and *Pangomia* can be considered as feed-stocks for the manufacture of bio-diesel in India.

The Planning Commission has set up a Committee on Development of Bio-fuel which recommended the launching of a National Mission on Bio-diesel with a special focus on the plantation of *Jatropha curcas*. The Ministry of Rural Development has been made the nodal Ministry for the National Mission on Bio-diesel and that Ministry has recently got a Detailed Project Report prepared by the Energy and Research Institute (TERI).

Tatkal Reservation Scheme

596. SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH:
SHRIMATI KALPNA RAMESH NARHIRE:
SHRI TUKARAM GANGADHAR GADAKH:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that due to hike in tatkal reservation charges, poor people are facing difficulty to avail this facility;

(b) whether the Government is considering to reduce or withdraw increased tatkal reservation charges to make it attractive and affordable to the passengers; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Some representations have been received for reducing the Tatkal reservation charges.

(b) and (c) The revised Tatkal scheme has been launched with several passenger friendly features *e.g.* elimination of Identity card provision while booking and travelling, making this facility available in all Mail/Express trains and in all classes (except 1st Class, 1st AC and 1st Sitting) etc. There is no proposal to reduce these charges.

Self-Reliance in Petroleum Products

597. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has launched any initiatives to create energy secure environment;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to become self-reliance in the field of petroleum products?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) Energy Security is a priority issue in the National Common Minimum Programme and to this end a number of oil diplomacy initiatives have been taken to both encourage Foreign Direct Investment in exploration and production of

domestic hydrocarbon resources, as well as to facilitate access to hydrocarbon resources abroad. Two Advisory Committees, on oil diplomacy for Energy Security and Synergy in Energy, have also been constituted.

(c) The Government have taken the following steps to meet the growing demand for hydrocarbons:—

- (i) improve the recovery factor from existing major fields by implementing Enhanced Oil Recovery (EOR)/Improved Oil Recovery (IOR) schemes, in particular Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) has taken up 15 fields for this purpose at an estimated investment of Rs. 10,000 crore, which would also help in accelerating oil production from these fields.
- (ii) increase exploration efforts through the New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP); under the four rounds of NELP, Production Sharing Contracts (PSCs) have been signed for 90 blocks. Bids for 20 exploration blocks have now been invited under NELP-V.
- (iii) speed up exploration efforts by ONGC and OIL in the blocks allocated to them on nomination basis.
- (iv) explore in new areas, specially in the deep water and difficult frontier areas, as also explore in the deeper layers of already producing fields.
- (v) develop faster newly discovered fields and to step up the use of new technologies for seismic surveys, work over, stimulation operations, drilling of wells etc. in producing areas.
- (vi) acquire acreages abroad. ONGC-Videsh Ltd. (OVL), Indian Oil Corporation Ltd. (IOCL), Gas Authority (India) Ltd. (GAIL) and Oil India Ltd. (OIL) have participation interest in acreages abroad.
- (vii) make efforts to import natural gas in the form of Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) as well as through trans-national pipelines from gas rich regions such as the Middle-East including Iran, Central Asia and South East Asia.
- (viii) It has been decided to set up strategic crude oil storage of 5 Million Metric Tonne (MMT) capacity as an emergency response mechanism against short term oil supply disruptions.

**Interest of Foreign Oil Companies In
Indian Retail Markets**

598. SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether some Foreign Oil Companies have evinced interest in the Indian Petro-products retail markets;

(b) whether any specific proposals have come from such Foreign Oil Companies; and

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

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (c) Government have granted authorisation to market transportation fuels to M/s. Shell India Marketing Private Limited (SIMPL), a foreign oil company as per Government's Resolution dated 8th March, 2002. As per this Resolution authorisation to market transportation fuels may be given to any company investing, or proposing to invest, Rs. 2,000 crore in exploration and production, refining, pipelines or terminals.

[Translation]

Pending Railway Projects

599. SHRI HEMMAL MURMU: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the latest position of pending railway projects as on January 31, 2005;

(b) whether the Government has recently decided to start new railway projects in various States particularly in Jharkhand and Bihar;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government has received any proposal from the State Government or from the Members of Parliament for the development of railway in Jharkhand;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the action taken by the Government so far in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Pending projects are those projects which have been included in the budget without obtaining requisite prior clearances. At present there are five such projects. There are 240 ongoing projects which include 5 pending projects. These are in various stages of progress.

(b) and (c) Following projects have been included in the Budget 2005-06:

New Lines

1. Deoria Sadar to Hathua (Bihar/UP)

GAUGE CONVERSION

1. Pratapnagar-Chhota Udepur (Gujarat)
2. Chhindwara-Nagpur (Madhya Pradesh/Maharashtra)

DOUBLING

1. Jharsuguda-Rengali (Orissa)
2. Kursela-Seemapur (Bihar)
3. Maheshkunt-Thanaibirpur (Bihar)
4. Bhimsen-Juhi (Uttar Pradesh)
5. Sahjanwa-Munderwa (Uttar Pradesh)
6. Babhnan-Mankapur (Uttar Pradesh)
7. Ekma-Jiradei (Bihar)
8. Jaipur-Dausa (Rajasthan)
9. Saika Road-Khongsara (Chhattisgarh)
10. Chinpain-Sainthia (West Bengal)
11. Panki-Bhaupur-3rd line (Uttar Pradesh)
12. Bhilai-Durg-3rd line (Chhattisgarh)
13. Allahabad-Subedarganj-3rd line (Uttar Pradesh)

ELECTRIFICATION

1. Moradabad-Lucknow-Utratia (338 Route Kms)

(d) to (f) The details of each and every demand received is not maintained. However, some of the recent requests received regarding development of railway alongwith their status in Jharkhand are as under:—

Demand	Status
New Line between Korba-Lohardaga	A survey for Korba-Lohardaga new line was conducted in 2001-02. As per results of the survey, cost of the 326 km long line had been assessed as Rs. 621.67 crore with a rate of return of 7.25%. In view of heavy throw forward of ongoing projects and acute constraint of resources, proposal could not be taken up for consideration.
New rail line between Barwadih and Chirmiri	Chirmiri-Bishrampur <i>via</i> Boridand, Karonji is already an existing Broad Gauge (BG) line, Bishrampur-Ambikarpur new BG line is an approved work which is in progress. As per results of the survey conducted in 2001-02, cost of 182 km long new line between Chirmiri and Barwadih had been assessed as Rs. 406.86 crore with a rate of return of 4.85%. In view of heavy throw-forward of ongoing projects and acute constraint of resources, proposal could not be taken up for consideration.
New rail line between Tata Nagar to Ranchi <i>via</i> Chandil-Namkon	Survey for the new line from Ranchi to Kandra has been completed. Survey for a new Broad Gauge line from Kandra to Namkom is in progress.
New Line between Chatra-Gaya	An updating survey has recently been completed.
New Line from Nawada to Giridish	Survey proposed in Budget 2005-2006.
New Line from Gaya to Daltonganj <i>via</i> Immamganj	Survey proposed in Budget 2005-2006.

[Translation]

Increase in Security Deposit of Domestic LPG Cylinder

600. SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether security deposit of LPG domestic cylinder has been increased from Rs. 650 to Rs. 850;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government have increased the price of LPG; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor and the number of times it has been increased during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI

SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) Consequent upon the increase in procurement price of LPG cylinders by the Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) due to increase in steel prices, the rate of security deposit on 14.2 kg domestic LPG cylinders was increased effective 19th January 2005 from Rs. 650 per cylinder to Rs. 850 per cylinder for new connections. However, the rate of security deposit for North-Eastern States including Sikkim has not been increased and the same remains at Rs. 500 per cylinder.

(c) and (d) The revisions in the retail selling prices (RSP) of 14.2 kg domestic LPG cylinder at Delhi during the last three years are as under:—

Effective Date	RSP (Rs./Cylinder) at Delhi
01.03.02	259.95
17.03.02	240.45
16.06.04	261.60
05.11.04	281.60

The increases on 16.06.04 and 05.11.04 were effected with a view to passing on a small portion of the increase in international prices of LPG to domestic consumers. Despite this marginal increase, OMCs had under-recoveries of around Rs. 6403 crore on domestic LPG during April-December, 2004.

[English]

ONGC MoU with Russian Institute of Mining

601. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVARAO: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether State owned Oil and Natural Gas Corporation has signed a MoU with Russian Institute of Mining for technical collaboration to turn coal into gas;

(b) if so, the details of agreement and to what extent Government has been able to implement agreement;

(c) whether the gas could be available from coal in Mehsana-Ahmedabad block and Patan Tharad Block;

(d) if so, whether ONGC has already completed its preliminary work on this project; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC) have signed an Agreement of Collaboration (AOC) with the Skochinsky Institute of Mining-National Mining Research Centre (SIM-NMRC), Moscow, on 25.11.2004 for Underground Coal Gasification (UCG).

(b) and (c) The AOC envisages cooperation in the following areas:—

- Sharing technical know-how and technologies related to UCG.
- Development and application of expertise in UCG technologies.
- Establishing technical feasibility through field demonstrations for different geological, hydrological and environmental conditions.
- Establishing the commercial feasibility of the process through a pilot.

The AOC having been signed, the areas for undertaking UCG pilots would be firmed up in consultation with the SIM-NMRC. Mehsana-Ahmedabad Block and Patan Tharad Block are both probable locations for the pilot project.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Commissioning of DD/AIR station in Kerala

602. SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the number of AIR stations and Doordarshan Kendras in Kerala, which have been technically completed but not commissioned;

(b) the reasons for not commissioning them;

(c) the number of posts in various categories of staff lying vacant in AIR stations and Doordarshan Kendras in Kerala alongwith the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to fill up the vacant posts?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) and (b) Prasar Bharati has informed that the work at one AIR station and one DD Studio Centre has been completed but are awaiting commissioning due to non-availability of staff.

(c) 43 posts in Doordarshan and 140 posts in AIR are lying vacant due to administrative reasons.

(d) Filling up of posts and occurrence of vacancies is a continuous process. All steps to fill up the vacant posts, wherever possible, are being taken.

Reduction of Equity of CPSEs

603. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE:
SHRI PRABODH PANDA:
SHRI SUGRIB SINGH:

Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to reduce equity of various Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs);

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

(c) the reasons for reducing the Government equity;

(d) whether the Government has finalised the guidelines for such reduction of equity of the Central Public Sector Enterprises; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) to (e) The proposals regarding change in equity structure, including reduction of equity of Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) are need-based, enterprise-specific and dependent on prevailing business environment. Such proposals are mooted by concerned CPSEs through their administrative ministry in consultation with Ministry of Finance and decided on case-to-case basis as per the policy on CPSEs stipulated in the National Common Minimum Programme (NCMP).

Construction of Over Bridges at Jhargram

604. SHRI RUPCHAND MURMU: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal for construction of a overbridge at Jhargram of South Eastern Railway is pending with the Railway Ministry;

(b) if so, since when it is pending; and

(c) the time by which the decision is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (c) No, Sir. No fresh proposal is pending with Railway. However, the work for construction of Road Over Bridge (ROB) in lieu of an existing level crossing at Km. 153/31-154/1 at Jhargram was sanctioned in 2001-02, on cost sharing basis with State Government. Railway portion of work (Bridge proper across the Railway track) shall be executed by Railway and approaches by State Government. General Arrangement Drawing has been approved by Railway. Estimate for approach portion and acceptance of some

standard stipulations are still awaited from State Government.

Objections for Construction of Basic Civic Amenities along Road

605. SHRI D.V. SADANAND GOWDA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry of Defence is objecting to the proposal of Bangalore Mahanagar Palika to the construction of basic civic amenities in main roads along side Defence land;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Ministry will look into this request afresh and allow Bangalore Mahanagar Palika to take construction of these civic facilities; and

(d) if so, the time by which the said project is likely to be allowed?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) No, Sir. A Government sanction was issued in 1997 regarding transfer of Defence land for infrastructure development of Bangalore and 11.10 acres land was to be given to Bangalore City Corporation. 9.0547 acres of land has already been transferred and air force authorities have been requested to take action for transfer of the remaining land.

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

Storage of Natural Gas

606. SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT "BACHDA": Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to undertake and develop any project for storing underground natural gas;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the likely cost involved *vis-a-vis* benefits of the project; and

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

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI

SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (c) Many developed countries have created underground storage facilities to meet the eventuality of disruption in gas supplies and to meet the requirements of seasonal demand variation. In India also, it has been decided to develop underground natural gas storage facilities. The proposal is at a conceptual stage. Abandoned gas wells and salt caverns are generally used for this purpose. The gas consuming industries will be the beneficiaries of these facilities.

[*Translation*]

**Permission to Foreign Companies for DD
Telecasting Service**

607. SHRI M. ANJAN KUMAR YADAV:
SHRI GIRIDHARI YADAV:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the details of foreign companies to whom permission has been accorded for Dourdarshan telecasting services in india at present;

(b) the details of conditions on which permission has been accorded to these companies for telecasting;

(c) the details of the companies telecasting in Indian languages along with names of Indian languages, company-wise and the status of telecast in English by these companies;

(d) the names of the channels alongwith the duration of average telecast by these companies, day-wise;

(e) whether any amount or royalty has been fixed by these companies in this regard; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) Prasar Bharati has stated that no foreign company has been allocated time slots on any Doordarshan channel.

(b) to (f) Do not arise.

[*English*]

Asian Petroleum Market

608. SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether at recent Petroleum importing countries meeting in New Delhi on January 6, 2005, India called for development of an Asian Petroleum Market to ensure supply stability and reduce petroleum price volatility;

(b) if so, the broad features of the contemplated Asian Petroleum Market; and

(c) the response of the other Asian Member-countries thereto?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (c) The scope for improving Asian markets for petroleum and petroleum products was *inter alia* discussed during the first Round Table of Asian Ministers on regional cooperation in the oil & gas economy held in New Delhi on 6th January, 2005 and attended by Ministers from India, Iran, Japan, Malaysia, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, UAE and Kuwait, besides representation from China and Korea. The issue requires careful study and detailed consideration with a view to identifying broad policy parameters that might require further inter-Governmental deliberation. The inaugural address of the Chairman and the statement by the Chairman setting out the draft conclusions of the conference, which, *inter alia*, deals with the question of a well-prepared Asian Oil and petroleum products market in detail, are attached.

Annexure

***The Inaugural Address of Chairman of
Round Table Conference***

Your Excellency, the co-host of this conclave, the distinguished Head of Delegation of the Emirate of Kuwait,

Your Excellencies, Ministers and Heads of Delegation from the principal Asian suppliers and consumers of petroleum,

Your Excellencies, Ambassadors to New Delhi of these countries,

Distinguished representatives of the Governments of participating countries,

Distinguished representatives of National Oil Companies and the Asian Oil Industry,

Distinguished delegates of the principal international organizations here present, our co-sponsor, the Secretary-

General of the International Energy Forum, the distinguished representative of the International Energy Agency, and the distinguished Acting Secretary-General of OPEC—the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries,

My fellow-Minister, the distinguished Minister of State for External Affairs of India, Shri E. Ahamed, Ladies and Gentlemen, Fellow Asians,

We meet in the shadow of the terrible Tsunami tragedy that has struck our shared continent of Asia. Might I request you to please stand and observe a minute's silence in memory of the 1,25,000 or more who have been snatched so cruelly from our midst? ... Thank you.

This is a moment that might yet be recorded as "historic" in the annals of regional cooperation in Asia. For this is the first gathering together of the principal Asian ministers charged with responsibility for the most crucial sector of the economy—petroleum and natural gas. Whether our meeting today does get recorded as "historic" does, of course, depend on the outcome of our deliberations and of our resolves to persist on the path of such dialogue. I have little doubt, however, that it will—for in the very act of journeying to our capital you have registered your commitment to our shared destiny. Through almost all of the advancement of human civilization, it is Asia that has been in the vanguard. For the last few centuries, we fell to the sway of others. Now, once again, are we the captains of our ship and the masters of our fate. I thank you most warmly and sincerely, on behalf of our Government and all our one billion people, for having done us the unforgettable honour of being present here at the creation. Thank you, indeed.

Excellencies, in the sector of our concern, hydrocarbons, the dawn of the 21st century heralds an unprecedented, dare I say revolutionary change in international oil and gas relations. In the last quarter of the last century, Asian oil producers came into their own when OPEC secured fair and just remuneration for the most vital element of growth of prosperity—oil. Now has come Asia's turn to consume that oil—and thus fuel the resurgence of Asia as the harbinger of the further advancement of human civilization. The total consumption of the Asian countries here present almost equals the total production of the Asian countries here present. No longer are we labouring so that others might profit. We have already emerged as the world's principal source of

supply; we are emerging as the world's principal destination for the consumption of that supply. Already, some two-thirds of the fossil fuel that principal producers around this table extract from the bosom of Mother Nature is bought by the principal consumers represented at this very table. That trends will only accelerate as we traverse the 21st century—the Asian Century. We are gathered here to rise to that challenge and to avail of that opportunity.

The Challenge, Your Excellencies, lies in eschewing the errors of the past. The opportunity, Your Excellencies, lies in fashioning a more fair, more just and more remunerative oil order for all of us in Asia—in which the Asian producer is ensured a stable, secure and sustainable return for a most precious but depleting natural resource, and the Asian consumer is assured a stable, secure and sustainable regime within which to promote progress and prosperity for that deprived one-half of humankind that inhabits our shared continent of Asia. We commence have a dialogue to meet that challenge and rise to that opportunity.

How do we do so?

First let me deal with stability. Last year has seen the worst roller-coaster ride in oil prices for the better part of a generation. OPEC has behaved most responsibly through this period of turmoil and turbulence. Instead of pursuing short-term advance, OPEC, led by its Asian members, has persistently striven for moderating volatility and dampening speculation. For this, OPEC and its membership have earned the world's gratitude. Moreover, OPEC's production plans give the world the reassurance that global oil supply will keep pace with booming global demand, and that over the next twenty years at least there will be no market disequilibrium to warrant and wild fluctuation in prices. If, nevertheless, volatility rather than stability has marked international prices in the last twelve months that is largely because of speculation and apprehensions—that have been mostly belied-of the fallout on oil production of exogenous political developments. The fact is that however uncertain developments in the world political order have been, the underlying global oil economy has held a steady course.

For us in Asia to convert that underlying stability in production (and the prognosis for production) into stability in oil markets, it is essential that we develop a sophisticated Asian market for petroleum and petroleum products. That is how the West converted their abundance of natural resources into abundance of production and consumption.

Unfortunately, we in Asia continue to behave as if we were still a residual consumer of Asian oil production when, in fact, we are the principal consumer.

Your Excellencies, for Asia to be the residual consumer made some economic sense when there was large and growing production on both sides of the Atlantic, on-land in the Americas and off-shore in Europe. It was in that era that Western Texas Intermediate (WTI) and Brent emerged as markers. But as the world wheels into the 21st century, WTI output is down by three-quarter compared to two decades ago and Brent output is down by two-third compared to just a decade ago—and both are set decline even further, and to decline quite precipitately at that. Meanwhile, it is Asia, from Eastern Siberia through the Caspian, Central Asia and China to South-East Asia and to some extent even South Asia, and, of course, above all, Iran and West Asia, that is booming in both the output and throughput of oil. Yet, Asia has little in terms of global market. And even less in terms of a well-prepared oil and oil products market.

With a view to bringing about greater stability in Asian trade in petroleum and petroleum products, can we think in term of an Asian market:—

- where long-term contracts become longer,
- where price discovery through the market is more transparent,
- where such transparency facilitates greater stability in formulate for pricing in long-term contracts,
- where spot purchases occupy a progressively larger share of market transactions,
- where petroleum exchanges are established and used,
- where derivatives are integrated into market practice,
- where, in short, an Asian market emerges

Which reflects Asian realities and the real role in the global oil economy of Asian production, Asian consumption and Asian trade?

To pose the problem, Your Excellencies, is easier than to find the answers. But I do submit, Your Excellencies, that through sustained dialogue among

ourselves, buttressed by dialogue among our experts and market operators, we might be able to find an Asian solution to the imperatives of Asian stability.

As for the second theme of our meeting—security—the answer there too lies in promoting mutual interdependence. Security has two aspects. One is security against unexpected disruption of supplies. As a joint emergency response mechanism, perhaps we should consider jointly building storages which would enable consumers to enjoy an uninterrupted flow of supplies and producers to enjoy an uninterrupted flow of oil revenue till normalcy is restored.

The second aspect of security relates to assurance of markets for producers and assurance of supplies for consumers. This calls for mutual interdependence through mutual investments in each other's countries by producer and consumer nations of the Asian Oil community. Hitherto, we have looked West for much of the investment in Asian petroleum exploration and production, Asian petroleum refining, and Asian petroleum marketing—and in saying so I include gas as well. Now, increasingly, Asia itself is merging as a significant source of investment in Asia. Japan is, of course, a long-established Asian investor in other Asian countries. China in the last decade, as also Malaysia, have become key players in E&P in Asia and, indeed, the world over. So has India. We are already in E&P, refining and marketing projects in more than ten countries and much of our overseas investment is in Asia. Reciprocally, in refining, we in India have been the beneficiary of investments by Iran in the Chennai Petroleum Corporation and of Qatar in LNG. These are but illustrative examples. A future beckons in which Asian countries can become major participants in the massive investments which need to be made in the Asian countries represented at this table, running to an estimated 1580 billion dollars over the next 25 years in upstream, midstream and downstream oil and gas development in all our countries put together. Investment on this humungous scale, to the extent possible mutual and reciprocal intra-Asia investment, would hugely enhance security of production and consumption for all of us around this table, for all our fellow-Asians and, indeed, for all the humankind the world over. The oil and gas sector in India welcomes the world with open arms, and reserves a particular welcome for Asian investors. Equally, we stand ready to do our share for the promotion of the global oil economy in general and the Asian oil economy in particular. We believe we should continue and intensify this dialogue in the interests of facilitating mutual investments to ensure mutual security.

The third great theme of our meeting today is sustainability. It has taken millions of years, indeed, hundreds of millions of years for Nature to create and store what we have substantially exhausted in a mere one hundred years or so. What remains we can use only if used with great care. That calls for conservation, on the one hand, and technology, on the other. Japan shown the way to both conservation and the technology for conservation, as perhaps no other country in the world has. India has had no alternative but to conserve and innovate, although we still have a long, long way to go. China has taken significant initiatives. So has the Republic of Korea. Asian oil exporting countries have demonstrated a commendable awareness of the importance of sustainability. The time now is for us to pool together our experience, forge them into a shared, common experience, and build on that experience in concert. Sustainability in Asia calls for sustained dialogue among Asians. We stand ready and willing to place our Petroleum Conservation Research Association, the Indian Institute of Petroleum, the University of Petroleum Studies, The Energy and Research Institute of India (TERI), our Centre for High Technology, our Oil Industry Safety, Directorate, Indian Oil's R&D Centre, and all our other scientific and technological research and development institutions at the service of all Asia. It is said that one in every three Information Technologies in the world is an Indian. Our achievement in petroleum technology is perhaps less spectacular. But we would be more than happy to share what we know with our fellow-Asians and even more to learn from others, above all to learn from our fellow-Asians.

As we embark on this historic initiative which will, I hope, bring us together frequently, even up to once or preferably twice a year, perhaps alternately in a net oil exporting and a net oil importing country of Asia, and perhaps progressively expanding our ambit while keeping our core intact, I welcome all you once again to our national capital and wish you all a pleasant and fruitful stay in our midst.

Your Excellencies, I thank you, one and all.

Chairman's Statement on the conclusion of the first Round Table of Asian Ministers on Regional Cooperation in the Oil and Gas Economy, New Delhi on 6th January, 2006

A. GENERAL

1. The Asian oil economy is integral to, and inseparable from, the global oil economy.

2. With Asian destinations emerging as the principal consumers for Asian production, and the share of Asia in global production and consumption likely to progressively increase, cooperation between Asian producers and Asian consumers is crucial to ensuring

Stability,
Security and
Sustainability
through
mutual interdependence
in the Asian oil and gas economy.

3. The fundamentals of such cooperation must include moderation, dialogue, mutual understanding and respect, security of international supplies, demand-supply equilibrium, and strategic partnerships based on a reciprocity of interests.

4. To this end, an Asian dialogue is both welcome and indispensable aimed at evolving and elaborating an Asian consensus.

5. It is, therefore, agreed that the instrumentality of Round Tables of Asian Ministers on Regional Cooperation in the Oil and Gas Economy, initiated here in New Delhi, must be maintained. The following countries have kindly agreed to host/co-host subsequent Round Tables:—

Second Round Table	Saudi Arabia, Co-host: Japan
Third Round Table	Japan, Co-Host: Qatar
Fourth Round Table	Kuwait, Co-host: Republic of Korea

The Round Tables may follow the pattern of alternating between net importing and net exporting countries.

6. For the preparation of Ministerial Round Tables, the Secretariat of the International Energy Forum might convene experts, operators and officials to prepare position papers and agenda documents.

7. To reinforce Ministerial-level discussions at the Round Tables, a parallel effort may be initiated to bring together Asian business operators belonging to the countries represented at the Round Table.

B. STABILITY AND SECURITY

1. There is scope for improving Asian markets for petroleum and petroleum products. The issue requires careful study and detailed consideration, primarily among experts and operators with a view to identifying broad policy parameters that might require further consideration.

2. Prices should be sustained at levels which encourage Asian consumers to increase their purchases of Asian produce; at the same time, prices should be such as to encourage Asian producers to promote investment in oil and gas for Asian consumer destinations as an economic priority.

3. Crisscross investments all along the entire oil and gas products chain through reciprocal investment interlocking of producers and consumers will guarantee security of both supply and demand, thus contributing to stability of prices and thereby security of both supply and demand. Thus stability of prices would encourage domestic and cross-country investment in all streams of the petroleum sector and other energy-related projects.

4. Caution must be exercised in promoting balanced investment so that over-investment does not lead to excess capacity nor under-investment to shortage of supplies.

5. Strategic storage and stockpiling contribute to security, and in this regard the valuable experience of Japan might hold significant lessons for other major consumers. However, there must be no abuse for illegitimate commercial purposes of such strategic storage and stockpiles.

6. The exchange of information and knowledge is the key to increasing confidence on the part of both buyers and sellers.

7. The Sustainable and Flexible Energy system ("SAFE") proposed by Japan constitutes a useful framework for further consideration of issues of energy security.

8. The Iranian proposal for an Asian Bank for Energy Development merits deeper consideration.

C. SUSTAINABILITY

1. Endorsing the importance of energy conservation for the protection of the environment and issues of climate

change, the need for technological cooperation in the pursuit of cleaner and more environmentally-sound fossil fuel technologies was emphasized.

2. To this end, cooperation among Asian research and development centers and the promotion of conservation awareness among the general public were recognized a key instrumentalities.

Airport at Kargil

609. SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether an Airport for small Aircraft was constructed at Kargil some years back;

(b) if so, whether this Airport is lying idle despite the huge investment made on it;

(c) if so, whether the Government has a proposal to expand the airstrip in order to make Boeing aircraft landing possible;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir. Indian Air Force (IAF) is operating scheduled services for Defence and civil requirements.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) There is no scope for further expansion of runway due to hilly terrain to make it suitable for Boeing aircraft.

[Translation]

Implementation of PCR Act, 1995 and SCs & STs (PoA) Act, 1989

610. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has received any suggestion from the Hon'ble Members of Parliament or Social Organisations to ensure the role of people's

representatives in strict implementation of the Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1995 and Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989 and fixing the responsibility and taking action against the concerned District officials in the matter of harassment and large scale loss of life and properties of the people belonging to such communities;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereon; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JEGADEESAN): (a) to (c) No specific suggestion appears to have been received. However, Rule 17 of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Rules, 1995 already provides for representation of elected Members of Parliament, State Legislature and Legislative Council in the State level and District level Committees to review the implementation of the provisions of the Act.

[Translation]

Functioning of PIB

611. SHRI TUKARAM GANPATRAO RENGE PATIL:
SHRI M. ANJAN KUMAR YADAV:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the functions of Press Information Bureau and the mechanism available to monitor its functioning;

(b) the expenditure incurred by the Government on PIB during each of the last three years;

(c) whether the work relating to drafting messages of the Union Ministers is handled by PIB;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the efforts made by the Government to draw full work from the officers and staff of PIB?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) PIB is the nodal agency of the

Government of India to disseminate information to the print and electronic media on government policies, programme initiatives and achievements through different modes of communications such as Press Releases, Press Notes, Feature Articles, Backgrounds, Press Briefings, Photographs, Press Conferences, interviews, Data base available on PIB's website, Press Tours etc. PIB functions as an interface between the Govt. and the media and also provides feedback to the Govt. with the peoples reaction as reflected in the media. There is a system in place for reviewing its performance based on regular and periodical reports.

(b)

	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05 (upto January, 2005)
Plan	45.13	150.44	76.33 (Rs. in lakhs)
Non Plan	1710.64	1787.14	1716.79 (Rs. in lakhs)

(c) and (d) In addition to dissemination of information to the print and electronic media, the Departmental Publicity Officers (DPOs) help the personal staff of the concerned Ministers with the drafting of messages and greetings for the Union and State Ministers concerning the Government Departments.

(e) The work allocated to PIB as mentioned in (a) above is carried out with the support of the DPOs and the staff. DPOs are attached to various Ministries and Departments for assisting them in dissemination of information. They also provide feedback to their respective Ministries/Departments.

[English]

Coastal Special Economic Zone, Mangalore

612. SHRI M. SHIVANNA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether ONGC has made any consultancy study on the investment in the proposed Coastal Special Economic Zone (CSEZ) at Mangalore;

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

(c) whether any notification has been issued in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) if not, by when it is likely to be issued;

(f) whether the land for the purpose has been identified; and

(g) if so, the time by which the process of acquisition of land is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) In addition to concentrating on its areas of core competence, Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) are exploring various options for diversification of their activities by forward and backward integration including power generation. In this context ONGC signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Government of Karnataka for setting up a Special Economic Zone at Mangalore, to facilitate the development of the required infrastructure for ONGC's value addition projects for which the required feasibility studies are at a preliminary stage.

(c) to (g) The information is being collected from the State Government and others concerned and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[*Translation*]

Pre-examination Coaching Facilities for SC Students

613. SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether some State Governments have forwarded proposals to initiate free pre-examination coaching/tutorial classes for the S.C. students preparing for the Civil Service Examination;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of proposal accepted by the Union Government and the funds allocated thereunder, State-wise; and

(d) the details of the free coaching classes being conducted in different places specially in backward areas of Uttar Pradesh from Central assistance for preparation of different All India level competitive examinations for S.C. students?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JEGADEESAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Proposals have been received from the State Governments of Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Gujarat, Haryana, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh and Punjab seeking Central assistance under the Scheme of coaching and allied assistance for weaker sections including SCs, OBCs and Minorities during the year 2004-05.

(c) the details of proposals accepted by the Union Government and the funds released under the scheme during the year 2004-05 (till 28.2.2005), State-wise are as under:—

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl.No.	Name of the State	Funds released
1.	Haryana	20.00
2.	Madhya Pradesh	82.89

(d) The details of free coaching classes being conducted in different places specially in backward areas of Uttar Pradesh from Central assistance for preparation of different competitive examinations including All India level examinations for the SC, OBC and Minority Students are given in the enclosed Statement.

Statement

Sl.No.	Name of the States/Universities/NGOs	Location	State	Course for which coaching classes being conducted	No. of students
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Haryana	Under the supervision of Education Department, Haryana, Chandigarh at various places in Haryana	Haryana	Group-A and Group-B	780

1	2	3	4	5	6
2.	Madhya Pradesh	At Departmental Senior Secondary Schools and through M.P. Bhoj (Open) University, Bhoj at various places.	Madhya Pradesh	Group-A, Group-B and Entrance	2100
3.	Punjabi University	Patiala	Punjab	Group-A, Group-B and Entrance	250
4.	Vikas Seva Samiti	Tirupati	Andhra Pradesh	Entrance	20
5.	Raju Educational Society	Nellore	Andhra Pradesh	Entrance	120
6.	Educational Foundation	Nagon	Assam	Group-B	40
7.	Rural Industries Development Association	Thoubal	Manipur	Entrance	80
8.	Manipur Rural Service Association	Imphal East	Manipur	Entrance	40
9.	Social Development and Rehabilitation Council	Thoubal	Manipur	Entrance	40
10.	Women's Economic Development Society	Imphal	Manipur	Other Examination	100
11.	N.S.A. Krishi Samiti	Jaipur	Rajasthan	Entrance	160
12.	Social Science Sudha Research Institute	Kanpur	Uttar Pradesh	Group-A and Group-B	80
13.	Dr. Ram Manohar Lohiya Vyavsaik Prasikshan Sansthan	Mathura	Uttar Pradesh	Group-A and Group-B	80

(English)

Development of Non-Metro Airports to Boost Tourism

614. SHRI DINSHA PATEL:
MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has decided to develop some Non-metro airports in the country to boost tourism;

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

(c) the details of financial allocation made for the purpose and target date of completion of these projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Airports Authority of India (AAI) has decided to modernize 25 tentatively selected non-metro airports to world class standards in phases with focus on airside and city side development and enhancement of non-aeronautical revenue. Indian Financial Consultants

(IFCs) and Global Technical Advisors (GTAs) have already been appointed to conduct techno-economic feasibility study of 10 identified airports to evolve an appropriate model based on viability of the project. The action for appointment of these consultants for remaining 15 airports in phase-II is in hand.

Reorganisation of Petroleum Sector

615. SHRI UDAY SINGH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has been actively considering for complete reorganisation of petroleum and natural gas sector including private sector participation;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the revamp of petroleum sector will increase production of petroleum products in the country; and

(d) if so, the what extent?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (d) The Government has set up an Advisory Committee on 17.1.2005 with the following terms of reference:—

(i) Examining the core competence of the public sector undertakings in the petroleum and natural gas sector of India to assess their competitiveness in the evolving domestic and international scenario;

(ii) Analyzing the various options of leveraging their strengths to optimally fulfil their required contribution to the national objectives of:

(i) Energy security;

(ii) Accelerated growth;

(iii) Sustained development; and

(iv) Social objectives of Government policy.

(iii) Identifying the most appropriate structure of the oil public sector undertakings to secure these ends.

The Advisory Committee is holding deliberations.

Import of Crude Oil

616. SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government's crude oil import bill during the current year has increased in comparison to the previous year;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) whether the Government have formulated any strategy to bring down the oil import bill and to increase indigenous production of crude oil; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) The import bill during the current year (April-December, 2004) was Rs. 85,541 crore against Rs. 60,450 crore of the previous year (April-December, 2003).

(c) and (d) Government have taken the following steps to meet the growing demand for oil:—

(i) to improve the recovery factor from existing major fields by implementing Enhanced Oil Recovery (EOR)/Improved Oil Recovery (IOR) schemes; in particular Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) has taken up 15 fields for this purpose at an estimated investment of Rs. 10,000 crore, which would also help in accelerating oil production from these fields.

(ii) to increase exploration efforts through the New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP); under the four rounds of NELP, Production Sharing Contracts (PSCs) have been signed for 90 blocks.

(iii) exploration by ONGC and OIL in the blocks allocated to them on nomination basis.

(iv) to explore in new areas, specially in the deep water and difficult frontier areas, as also explore in deeper layers of already producing fields.

(v) to develop faster newly discovered fields and to step up the use of new technologies for seismic surveys, work over, stimulation operations, drilling of wells etc. in producing areas.

(vi) to acquire acreages abroad. ONGC-Videsh Ltd. (OVL), Indian Oil Corporation Ltd. (IOCL), Gas Authority (India) Ltd. (GAIL) and Oil India Ltd. (OIL) have participation in acreages abroad. OVL has presence in 10 countries.

Voluntary Retirement by HPCL Employees

617. SHRI JUAL ORAM: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of employees of Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) have opted for voluntary retirement;

(b) if so, the number of employees of HPCL taken VRS during 2003-2004 and 2004-05 separately; and

(c) the details of the VRS package announced by HPCL for them?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) Out of 11,351 employees, 530 employees opted for the Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS) when it was introduced for the first time in 2004-05 in Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL).

(c) The Scheme was in line with the guidelines of the Department of Public Enterprises (DPE) on VRS. Employees opting for VRS are entitled to *ex-gratia* payment equivalent to 60 days emoluments (Basic Pay+DA) for each completed year of service or salary for the balance number of months of service, whichever is less. Besides, they are eligible for other separation benefits as applicable for normal superannuation like encashment of earned leave/half pay leave, Gratuity, Provident Fund, availing or encashing of Leave Fare Allowance, Medical Benefits etc.

Joining of UN Peacekeeping Mission in Congo

618. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY:
SHRI SUGRIB SINGH:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Armed Forces have joined UN Peacekeeping Mission in Congo;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the criteria adopted for selection of such team; and

(d) the number of troops joined UN Peacekeeping Mission in Congo so far?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) An Infantry Brigade Group, two Indian Aviation contingents and one Airfield Support Unit contingent are stationed in Congo.

(c) Infantry battalions of all regiments are given a chance to be deployed in UN Missions by rotation. A roster to this effect have already been prepared and is being followed. Units who fare exceedingly well in operational and in overall performance are normally preferred over others.

The team composition in respect of Air Force is worked out on the basis of the organisational structure of an operational unit capable of carrying out independent operations.

(d) The number of troops who have joined UN Peacekeeping Mission in Congo so far, is 3529.

Withdrawal of Assistance by HPCL from Panipat Refinery

619. SHRI SUGRIB SINGH:
SHRI JAI PRAKASH (MOHANLAL GANJ):

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited has withdrawn their assistance from Panipat Refinery;

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

(c) the manner in which the refining capacity work of Panipat Refinery is to be completed and who has been assigned the task?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (c) The project for expansion of the refining capacity of Panipat Refinery from 6 MMTPA to 12 MMTPA at a cost of Rs. 4165 crore is being implemented by IOCL with Engineers India Limited as Project Management Consultants. Some preliminary discussions on sharing of capacity in the Panipat Refinery

were held between IOCL and HPCL, but no agreement could be reached.

[Translation]

Coach Rehabilitation Workshop In Bhopal

620. SHRI KRISHNA MURARI MOGHE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Madhya Pradesh has sent a proposal to convert coach rehabilitation workshop, Bhopal into rail coach factory;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Union Government on the proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Yes, Sir. A letter has been received from the Government of Madhya Pradesh addressed to Hon'ble Minister of Railways on the subject.

(b) In the aforesaid letter, the Government of Madhya Pradesh have mentioned the need for conversion of Coach rehabilitation workshop, Bhopal into rail coach factory.

(c) Coach manufacturing facilities are available with Indian Railways at Integral Coach Factory, Chennai and Rail Coach Factory, Kapurthalla. In addition, Bharat Earthmovers Ltd., Bangalore and Jessops, Calcutta are also manufacturing coaches. At this stage, it is not the intention of the Govt. of India to set up a new rail coach factory at Bhopal or anywhere else as the existing capacity of the coach manufacturing units with ongoing plans for expansion is considered sufficient for the present need.

Development of Closing Terminal

621. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Madhya Pradesh has sent any proposal for the development of Closing Terminal in view of movement facility regarding Habibganj station in Bhopal which is emerging as a main station now;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (c) No, Sir. However, a proposal of West Central Railway for development of Habibganj as second coaching terminal of Bhopal at a cost of Rs. 4.95 Crore has been included in the Budget 2005-06.

[English]

Renovation of Ballard Bunder Gate

622. SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Ballard Bunder Gate of Mumbai Naval Dockyard is being reshaped/renovated;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it will be opened for the public;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Only the area surrounding the Gate is being cleared.

(c) to (e) In view of the heritage status of the Ballard Bunder Gate, limited access for its public viewing will be permitted, with prior security clearance.

[Translation]

Allocation of Funds under Welfare Schemes

623. SHRI MUNAWAR HASSAN: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Governments of Uttar Pradesh and Delhi have sent some Schemes related to the welfare of destitute children, old people, widows, destitutes and physically handicapped people to the Union Government for allocation of fund;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has allocated funds under these Schemes during the current year; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JEGADEESAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Only four proposals have been received from State Governments of Uttar Pradesh and NCT of Delhi out of which two proposals are under the Scheme of Upgradation/establishment of Special Employment Exchange for Physically Handicapped Persons and other two are under the Scheme "A Programme for Juvenile Justice".

(c) and (d) During the current financial year Rs. 1,45,521/- has been released to the State Government of Uttar Pradesh and Rs. 4,00,478/- has been released to Government of NCT of Delhi under the scheme of Upgradation/establishment of Special Employment Exchange for Physically Handicapped Persons.

[English]

Film Festival of India

624. SHRI ALEMAO CHURCHILL: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state the amount sanctioned and spent in the recently held Film Festival of India in Goa?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Government of India in collaboration with the Government of Goa had organized the 35th International Film Festival of India at Goa, during the period 29th November, 2004 to 9th December, 2004. While the expenditure on infrastructure etc. were incurred by the Government of Goa, the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting had sanctioned Rs. 157.25 lakhs in connection with organization of the festival. Few bills in connection with the festival expenditure are in the process of settlement and the expenditure is expected to be within the sanctioned amount of Rs. 157.25 lakhs.

Tout Menace at IGI Airport

625. SHRI D. VITTAL RAO: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that despite taking the steps, nuisance of touts continues to plague the Indira Gandhi International Airport in Delhi as reported in "The Hindu" of February 2, 2005;

(b) if so, the number of such cases reported during the last one year; and

(c) the corrective measures being taken by the Government to stop the tout menace at the airports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir. However, tout menace has been brought under control to a great extent with the help of Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) and Delhi Police.

(b) A total of 3428 touts were apprehended out of which 1255 were fined by Airports Authority of India, 1788 were fined by Traffic Police and 385 were handed over to the police.

(c) The following steps have been taken to curb such activities: increase in surveillance through Close Circuit Television (CCTV) and on-foot patrolling in the tout prone areas, increase in fine amount, checking of movement of unauthorised taxis by Traffic Police, providing Tourist Police to guide the tourists and adequate number of pre-paid taxis, verification of antecedents of the taxi drivers by the Special Branch of Delhi Police and taking immediate legal action against persons found involved in touting activities.

[Translation]

Gauge Conversion between Mudkhed-Kinwat and Purnia-Akola Rail Routes

626. SHRI D.B. PATIL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether due to funds constraints gauge conversion between Mudkhed-Kinwat and Purnia-Akola rail route under Nanded Railway division has been delayed;

(b) if so, the steps taken to provide adequate funds for the project; and

(c) the time by which gauge conversion is likely to be completed and trains introduced on this route?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (c) Gauge conversion of Mudkhed-Adilabad *via* Kinwat (162 kms) and Purnia-Akola (210 kms.) sections are ongoing works which are in progress. Adilabad-Kinwat section (45 kms) has been completed and commissioned for passenger traffic during

the current year. Work on rest of the section is in progress. On Purnia-Akola section, earthwork and bridge works are in progress. Outlays of Rs. 30.00 crore and Rs. 25.00 crore respectively have been proposed for the works in Budget 2005-06. Target date for completion of the works has not yet been fixed.

[*English*]

Night Viewing of Monuments

627. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to open more monuments in the country including Qutab Minar for night viewing on the lines of Taj Mahal;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefore?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) to (c) There is no such proposal under consideration. However, a part of the Qutab Complex is proposed to be opened for night viewing keeping the security aspect in view.

[*Translation*]

FM Transmission by Private Companies

628. SHRI BAPU HARI CHAURE: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has given permission for FM transmission to private companies;

(b) if so, the details of the private companies which have been permitted;

(c) whether complaints have been received regarding transmission against these companies; and

(d) if so, the action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Sixteen Private Companies signed License Agreements for 37 FM radio channels in 19 cities. However, only 22 FM channels were operationalised by nine companies in 12 cities. One of the company has since closed down its only radio station at Mumbai. A statement showing details of the companies and locations for which they signed license Agreement is enclosed.

(c) and (d) A complaint from Prasar Bharati was received in June, 2002 regarding broadcasting of news & current affairs on a Private FM channel in Mumbai. The matter was taken up with the broadcaster, who had responded that it had happened inadvertently and that they have taken measures to ensure that this is not repeated. Other broadcasters were also asked to ensure the same. No further complaint regarding transmission of FM radio channel of any Licensee has been received.

Statement

Details of Private Companies which have signed License Agreement for FM Private Radio Stations

Sl.No.	Name of Companies	Locations
1	2	3
1.	M/s. Entertainment Network (India) Ltd.	Mumbai, Delhi, Kolkata, Chennai, Indore, Ahemdabad, Pune, Bhubaneswar*, Cuttack*, Jabalpur*, Lucknow* and Hyderabad*
2.	Vertex Broadcasting Co. Ltd.	Kolkata*, Bhopal*, Indore* & and Vishakhapatnam*
3.	India FM Radio Pvt. Ltd.	Kolkata
4.	Radio Today (Mumbai) Broadcasting Pvt. Ltd.	Mumbai

1	2	3
5.	Radio Today (Delhi)	Delhi
6.	Radio Today (Calcutta)	Kolkata
7.	Music Broadcast Pvt. Ltd.	Bangalore, Lucknow, Mumbai, Nagpur*, Patna*, Delhi
8.	Sun TV Pvt. Ltd.	Coimbatore, Tirunvelveli, Chennai
9.	Millennium Mumbai	Mumbai@
10.	Millennium Delhi	Delhi*
11.	Millennium Chennai	Chennai*
12.	Udaya TV	Visakhapatnam
13.	Hitz Fm Radio India Pvt. Ltd.	Kolkata
14.	Radio Mid-day West (India) Pvt. Ltd.	Mumbai
15.	Mid-day Radio North (India)	Delhi*
16.	Mid-day Broadcasting South (India) Ltd.	Chennai*

*Not Operationalised

@Closed down on 29.04.2004

[English]

Conversion of LPG Gas Pipeline into Natural Gas Pipeline

629. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Gas Authority of India Limited (GAIL) is planning to convert its LPC pipeline into a Natural Gas Transportation pipeline which runs from Visakhapatnam to Hyderabad and Secunderabad; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

TV Coverage in Uttaranchal

630. MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be

pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 377 dated December 2, 2004 regarding Radio TV connectivity in Uttaranchal and state:

(a) the methodology of working out the population coming under the 'TV Coverage' in Hilly and Mountainous areas like those of Uttaranchal; and

(b) the TV Coverage in Districts of Garhwal, Pauri, Chamoli and Rudraprayag of Uttaranchal, separately for each district?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) Methodology adopted by Prasar Bharati for computing coverage of any TV transmitter is as under:

(i) Maximum coverage range of the transmitter is determined taking into account power of the transmitter, type of antenna and height of the tower on which antenna is mounted.

(ii) Population in the coverage zone of the transmitter is estimated on the basis of population density as indicated in the census book.

In the hilly areas, there is likelihood of shadow pockets in the coverage zone of the transmitter due to terrain conditions. Reception surveys are not conducted for estimate of coverage data.

(b) District-wise TV coverage figures are as given below:—

District	Percentage of district area covered
Garhwal Pauri	60
Chamoli	30
Rudraprayag	32

Doubling of Ahmedabad-Delhi Line

631. SHRI VIKRAMBHAI ARJANBHAI MADAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal for broadgauge double line from Ahmedabad to Delhi *via* Abu road and Ahmedabad to Hapa; and

(b) if so, when the work is likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) On Delhi-Ahmedabad section, doubling of Jaipur-Phulera and Delhi-Rewari section by gauge conversion of existing Metre Gauge line have already been taken up. Doubling of Jaipur-Dausa has also been included in the Budget 2005-06. Further, a survey for doubling of Delhi-Ahmedabad is also in progress.

On Ahmedabad-Hapa section, double broad gauge line already exists on Ahmedabad-Viramgam section. There is no proposal to double the balance section from Viramgam to Hapa.

[*Translation*]

Security Arrangements for Flights to Gulf countries

632. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Airlines has demanded in flight security arrangement for its flights to Gulf countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[*English*]

Demand of Liquefied Natural Gas

633. SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of present demand of Liquefied Natural Gas quantity being supplied through indigenous production and quantity being imported, project-wise;

(b) whether the Government has proposed for import of huge quantity of LNG through pipelines from different countries;

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

(d) whether the Government has also taken steps to increase indigenous production of LNG; and

(e) if so, details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) As against an allocation of 120 Million Standard Cubic Metres Per Day (MMSCMD), the availability of Natural Gas is only around 84 MMSCMD, including 9 MMSCMD of Re-gasified Liquefied Natural Gas (RLNG) available from Petronet LNG Limited (PLL)'s Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) Terminal at Dahej in Gujarat.

(b) and (c) To meet the current and projected shortfall in supply, Government propose to import natural gas in the form of Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) as well as through transitional pipelines from gas rich countries in West Asia (including Iran), Central Asia and South East Asia. Government is particularly pursuing gas imports through pipelines from Iran through Pakistan and from Myanmar through Bangladesh. The negotiations with Iran are at an initial stage. For the pipeline from Myanmar through Bangladesh, following tripartite Ministerial-level discussions at Yangon on 12-13 January 2005, a draft MoU was prepared at the technical level in Yangon on 24-25 February 2005, and is likely to be signed shortly in Dhaka by the Ministers of the three countries concerned. PLL had signed an agreement with Ras Gas, Qatar in July 1999 for import of 7.5 Million Metric Tonnes Per Annum (MMTPA) of LNG. Recently, an understanding has been reached with Iran for import of 5 MMTPA of LNG with a provision for later adding 2.5 MMTPA. Import

of 2.5 MMTPA of LNG from Qatar has already commenced.

(d) and (e) In order to augment domestic gas supplies, the following initiatives have been taken:

- (i) Intensification in the exploration and production through New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP) bidding rounds.
- (ii) Intensification in exploitation of Coal Bed Methane (CBM) resources through competitive bidding rounds.

Installation of HPT/LPT/VLPTs

634. SHRI RAJESH VERMA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the HPT/LPT/VLPTs set up so far in the country particularly in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) whether there is any proposal to set up more number of HPT/LPT/VLPTs in the country particularly in Uttar Pradesh in the coming years;

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

(d) whether necessary funds have been allocated for this purpose;

(e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reason for delay; and

(f) the time by which the proposed transmitters are likely to be commissioned?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) The details of HPT/LPT/VLPTs set up in the country and Uttar Pradesh in particular is given below:—

	In the country	In Uttar Pradesh
HPT	195	18
LPT	827	63
VLPT	359	4
Transposters	19	0
Total	1400	85

(b) to (f) At present, 20 new TV Transmitter projects are under implementation as per Statement. However, no project is located in Uttar Pradesh. These are expected to be completed in a phased manner by the end of 10th Five Year plan for which adequate funds are available.

Statement

Transmitter Projects under Implementation

HPTs	Bhatinda (DD News)
	Bikaner
	Bilaspur
	Chhatarpur
	Dharamshala
	Dharmapuri
	Hissar
	Hsisar (DD News)
	Karnal
	Kurseond (DD News)
	Radhanpur
	Sagar
	Sahasra
	Tirunelveli
	Vadodara
	Vadodara (DD News)
	Srinagar (DD News-upgr.)
	Srinagar (Kashir Ch.-upgr.)
LPT	Ambassa
VLPT	Devbhog

Identification of Tracks for Electrification

635. SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH:
SHRI S.D. MANDLIK:
SHRI VIJOY KRISHNA:
SHRI KUNWAR JITIN PRASADA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways has identified tracks for electrification during the next ten years as reported in the Business Standards, dated January 3, 2005;

(b) if so, the details of the routes identified for electrification; and

(c) the estimated expenditure likely to be incurred on such electrification plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Indian Railways have drawn a Blue Print for electrification of 2652 Route Kilometres (RKM) for the next 10 years, which include the following railway routes:—

Sl.No.	Name of Route	Railway	RKM
1.	Nandalur-Guntakal	South Central	222
2.	Pune-Wadi-Guntakal	South Central & Central	641
3.	Mughalsarai-Utraitia-Moradabad via Sultanpur & Unchahar	Northern	896
4.	Bina-Kota	West Central	303
5.	Shakurbasti-Bhatinda-Suratgarh	Northern & North Western	429
6.	Lingampalli-Wadi	South Central	161
Total			2652

(c) The estimated expenditure involved in electrification of these sections is about Rs. 1600 crore.

Financial Assistance under 'Programme for Juvenile Justice'

636. SHRI B. VINOD KUMAR: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the total financial assistance allocated/released to States/UTs under "Programme for Juvenile Justice" for maintaining mandatory homes for Juvenile delinquents during 2004-05 State/UT-wise;

(b) the number of mandatory homes set-up and number of Juvenile inmates assisted under the scheme, State/UT-wise;

(c) whether there is any proposal to enhance Central assistance under the scheme; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JEGADEESAN): (a) and (b) There is no State/UT-wise allocation. Releases are made as per

requirements of the States/UT Administrations and as per the extant norms. A statement-I showing number of homes set up and inmates assisted as on 31.03.2004 is enclosed. A Statement-II indicating the releases made to the State Governments/UT Administrations under the said scheme till 28.02.2005 during the financial year 2004-05 is enclosed.

(c) and (d) No, Sir.

Statement I

Sl.No.	States/UTs	No. of inmates assisted during 2003-04 (till 31.03.2004)	No. of Homes assisted during 2003-04 (till 31.03.2004)
1	2	3	4
1.	Bihar	836	14
2.	Chhattisgarh	—	16
3.	Goa	104	2
4.	Gujarat	955	31
5.	Haryana	326	7

1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
6.	Karnataka	2766	62	15.	Rajasthan	338	4
7.	Kerala	765	22	16.	Sikkim	25	1
8.	Madhya Pradesh	4072	26	17.	Tamil Nadu	1630	19
9.	Maharashtra	19629	266	18.	Tripura	4	1
10.	Meghalaya	76	3	19.	Uttar Pradesh	1723	92
11.	Mizoram	225	4	20.	West Bengal	2735	29
12.	Nagaland	100	2	21.	Delhi	1655	13
13.	Orissa	120	5				
14.	Punjab	465	13		Total	38749	622

*Construction of new building

Statement II

SL.No.	States/UTs	Amount (in Rs.) released during 2004-05 (till 28.2.2005)	No. of Homes assisted during 2004-05 (till 28.2.2005)	No. of Inmates assisted during 2004-05 (till 28.2.2005)
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Tamil Nadu	1,38,17,803	19	1780
2.	Orissa	5,73,310	5	143
3.	Rajasthan	11,94,829	4	284
4.	Sikkim	2,32,750	1	25
5.	Haryana	23,59,092	7	354
6.	Meghalaya	9,92,465	3	76
7.	Chhattisgarh	90,10,580	12	528
8.	Goa	4,95,140	2	74
9.	Karnataka	50,31,333	62	2764
10.	Nagaland	5,76,000	2	100
11.	Gujarat	70,00,000	55	2381
12.	Kerala	26,95,515	22	700
13.	Madhya Pradesh	1,24,89,000	24	4298
14.	Assam	50,00,000	7	400

1	2	3	4	5
15.	Maharashtra	7,52,27,851	154	19859
16.	Andhra Pradesh	4,07,92,840	16	1062
17.	Punjab	64,95,780	13	398
18.	Mizoram	15,77,791	4	225
20.	Chandigarh	6,00,000	*1	—
Total		18,61,62,079	413	35,451

*Sanctioned for Construction of new building.

Mumbai Local Train Network

637. SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to revamp Mumbai local train network;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) The Rail Component of Mumbai Urban Transport Project (MUTP) Phase-I is already sanctioned and under execution.

(b) The details alongwith the estimated cost of works being executed under MUTP Phase-I are enclosed in Statement.

(c) MUTP Phase-I is targeted for completion in the June, 2008.

Statement

Rail Projects being executed under MUTP Phase-I

Sl.No.	Projects	Cost (Rs. in crore)
1	2	3
1.	Provision of 5th line western Railway	59.00
2.	5th & 6th line between Kurla-Thane	186.00
3.	Borivali-Virar Quadrupling	436.00
4.	Optimization of Western Railway	50.00
5.	Optimization of Central Railway	100.00
6.	Optimization of Harbour line	20.00
7.	Direct Current to Alternating Current Conversion	380.00
8.	Virar Car Shed	73.00
9.	Electric Multiple Unit Procurement/manufacture/retrofitment	1359.00

1	2	3
10.	EMU Maintenance facilities	64.00
11.	Stabling lines for EMUs	49.00
12.	Procurement of Track Machines	31.00
13.	Technical Assistance	40.00
14.	Resettlement & Rehabilitation	290.00
15.	Capital Expenditure for setting up of Mumbai Rail Vikas Corporation	8.00
Total		3125.00

Rail Projects proposed for sanction under MUTP Phase-II

Sl.No.	Sub-Component	Cost (Rs. in crore)
1.	5th & 6th lines Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminal-Kurla	464.00
2.	5th & 6th lines Thane-Dlva	99.00
3.	6th line Mumbai Central-Borivali	372.00
4.	Extension of Harbour line from Andheri to Goregaon	76.00
5.	EMU procurement & manufacture	2009.00
6.	Maintenance facilities for EMUs	144.00
7.	Stabling lines for EMUs	96.00
8.	DC to AC Conversion	205.00
9.	Technical Assistant & institutional strengthening	45.00
10.	Station improvement & Trespassing Control	96.00
11.	Resettlement & Rehabilitation of Project Affected Households	94.00
Grand Total		3700.00

Oil and Gas Blocks to Foreign Firms

638. SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has offered 20 oil and gas blocks to foreign firms for exploration;

(b) if so, the details of the firms to whom these have been offered; and

(c) the extent to which India's surging demand would be fulfilled after exploration of these blocks?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) The Government of India have offered 20 blocks for exploration & production of oil & gas under the fifth round of the New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP-V). NELP provides level playing field for both private (Indian as well as foreign) companies and Public Sector Undertakings for the award of

exploration acreages through Global Competitive Bidding. The bids will close on 31.05.2005.

(c) Since these are exploration blocks, the hydrocarbon potential in these blocks cannot be assessed at this stage. Commercial production resulting from any discovery will certainly help in reducing the import of hydrocarbons to that extent.

[Translation]

Misuse of Fuel

639. SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN:
SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether massive misuse of fuel is depleting power resources especially petroleum products of the country;

(b) if so, the estimated additional consumption of diesel and petrol in the country as compared to international consumption of these products;

(c) whether the Government has identified the areas which are misusing these products and causing loss to the country; and

(d) if so, the details alongwith the share of public sector and private sector in it, separately?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) For a developing economy like India, increase in Gross Domestic Production (GDP) is normally associated with increased consumption of all sources of energy, including of petroleum products. However, while there is always scope for better energy efficiency and better energy conservation, there are no indications of any massive misuse of petro-based fuels in India, although, as in the case of most consumer products, there is some possibility that lower value petroleum products are mixed with, or are substituted for higher value petroleum products.

(b) to (d) Such substitution of fuels does not affect the consumption of petroleum products in any significant manner. According to the Energy Information

Administration (EIA), for 2002, per capita primary energy consumption in India was 330 kg of oil equivalent (kgoe) as against 8480 kgoe in USA, 4310 kgoe in Japan and 830 kgoe in China, with the world average being 1650 kgoe.

In order to promote conservation of petroleum products and improve efficiency in use of petroleum products in India, the Government created the Petroleum Conservation Research Association (PCRA) in 1978. Since its inception, PCRA had been tendering advice to energy consuming industries and other stake-holders about good energy practices. It is estimated that the adoption of good energy practices has provided national savings of about 3372 thousand metric tonnes of petroleum products, on a cumulative basis, from 1985 onward, valued at Rs. 2600 crore.

[English]

National Advisory Council

640. SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is considering to appoint a National Advisory Council to discover the possibilities of exploring new oil wells with a view to improve the fuel position in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) when it is likely to be appointed?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) No, Sir.

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

[Translation]

Circulation of Old Gas Cylinders

641. SHRI DEVIDAS PINGLE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that a large number of very old and outlived cooking gas cylinders

are in circulation in the market which are responsible for deaths of consumers and Government is suffering a lot of revenue loss as a result thereof;

(b) if so, the number of such cases noticed by the Government during the last year; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to stop circulation of such cylinders?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) are procuring LPG cylinders from cylinder manufacturers who are approved by the Oil Industry Technical Committee (OITC) and have valid manufacturing licences from the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) and the Chief Controller of Explosives (CCOE). Strict control is exercised by BIS over the manufactured process. LPG cylinders procured by OMCs meet the required quality standards.

LPG cylinders received from distributors/transporters at the bottling plants are mandatorily checked for their quality and genuineness to avoid the entry of fake and outlived cylinders in circulation. On detection of sub-standard/spurious cylinders, these are confiscated and thereafter de-shaped/crushed to prevent their re-entry into circulation.

(b) and (c) OMCs have not reported any accident on account of old and outlived cylinders supplied by their distributors during the last year.

[English]

Implementation of Rail Budget Announcement

642. SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPA:
SHRI CHENGARA SURENDRAN:
SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA:
SHRI MOHAN SINGH:
DR. CHINTA MOHAN:
SHRI SHRINIWAS DADASAHEB PATIL:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has announced to introduce new trains in the Railway Budget 2004-05;

(b) if so, whether the said trains has since been introduced as per announcement;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) if not, the name of the trains have not been introduced so far and the reasons therefor; and

(e) the time by which the remaining trains are likely to be introduced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (e) Of the 32 pairs of trains announced in the Rail Budget 2004-05, 19 pairs of trains could not be introduced due to operational and resource constraints and enforcement of model code of conduct in the States of Bihar, Jharkhand and Haryana. The details of the new trains, which are proposed to be introduced during the current financial year, are given in the enclosed Statement except Saharsa-Mansi Passenger, which will be introduced as soon as gauge conversion between Saharsa and Mansi is over.

Statement

1.	Mysore	Dharwar	Express
2.	Chennai Central	Hubli	Express
3.	Jaipur	Agra Fort	Express
4.	Delhi	Faizabad	Express
5.	Mansi	Saharsa	Passenger
6.	New delhi	Darbhanga	Sampark Kranti Express
7.	Nizamuddin	Secunderabad	Sampark Kranti Express
8.	Nizamuddin	Durg	Sampark Kranti Express

9.	New Delhi	Ahmedabad	Sampark Kranti Express
10.	New Delhi	Ranchi	Sampark Kranti Express
11.	Nizamuddin	Kochuveli	Sampark Kranti Express
12.	Nizamuddin	Jabalpur	Sampark Kranti Express
13.	New Delhi	Bhubaneswar	Sampark Kranti Express
14.	New Delhi	Guwahati	Sampark Kranti Express
15.	Delhi Sarai Rohilla	Jodhpur	Sampark Kranti Express
16.	New Delhi	Chitrakoot	Sampark Kranti Express
17.	Delhi	Udhampur	Sampark Kranti Express
18.	Delhi	Sealdah	Sampark Kranti Express
19.	Churaru Takrala	Ambala Cantt.	Diesel Multiple Units

Supply of Crude Oil to Bhatinda

643. SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the upcoming Oil Refinery facility at Bhatinda in Punjab will be fed with Crude Oil available from the oil wells from Rajasthan Oil Fields;

(b) if so, whether some quarters are raising objection to this supply; and

(c) if so, the measures being taken by the Government to tackle this problem?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) Crude inputs for Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL)'s proposed oil refinery at Bathinda (Punjab) will be transported from Mundra port (Gujarat) through a cross-country pipeline. HPCL has not yet tied up any crude oil from oil fields in Rajasthan for this refinery.

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

Reopening of Airport in Keshod

644. SHRI JASHUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that airport in Keshod City in Junagarh District is lying closed for long;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Union Government is considering to reopen this airport;

(d) if so, the time by which the air services from this airport is likely to be started; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) The airport at Keshod in Junagarh District is operational with non-scheduled operations.

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

Permission for Exploration and Production of Oil and Natural Gas

645. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to give permission to the private parties for exploration and production of oil and natural gas from some new blocks;

(b) if so, the number of blocks proposed to be offered; and

(c) the estimated quantum of oil and natural gas from each of such blocks is likely to be extracted?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) The Government of India have offered 20 blocks for exploration and production of oil & gas under the fifth round of the New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP-V). The NELP provides a level playing field for both private (including foreign and Indian) companies as well as Public Sector Undertakings for the award of exploration acreages through global competitive bidding.

(c) Since, these are exploration blocks, the hydrocarbon potential in the above blocks can be assessed only after discoveries are made through exploration.

[Translation]

Role of Private Companies In Exploration Activities

646. SHRI HASNRAJ G. AHIR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the efforts being made by the Government in order to ensure supply of oil and natural gas in future;

(b) whether new sources for the same are being explored;

(c) the role of the private companies in exploring new sources; and

(d) the, State-wise, details of exploration of new sources during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) The Government is taking the following steps to meet the growing demand of oil and natural gas.

(i) To improve the recovery factor from existing major fields by implementing Enhanced Oil Recovery (EOR)/Improved Oil Recovery (IOR) schemes; in particular Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) has taken up 15 fields for this purpose at an estimated investment of Rs. 10,000 crore, which would also help in accelerating oil production from these fields.

(ii) To increase exploration efforts through the New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP); under the

first four rounds of NELP, Production Sharing Contracts (PSCs) have been signed for 90 blocks; the fifth round is underway.

(iii) To explore in new areas, specially in the deep water and difficult frontier areas, as also explore in deeper layers of already producing fields.

(iv) To develop faster newly discovered fields and to step up the use of new technologies for seismic surveys, work over, stimulation operations, drilling of wells etc. in producing areas.

(v) To acquire acreages abroad.

(vi) To explore alternative sources of hydrocarbon such as Coal Bed Methane. 16 PSCs for Coal Bed Methane exploration have been signed to date.

(vii) To tap alternate resources like Gas Hydrate, and Underground Coal Gasification.

(c) To attract more investments in the Exploration and Production (E&P) sector and expedite the exploration of Indian sedimentary basins, exploration blocks under NELP are awarded based on international competitive bidding. Private companies bring in additional investments as well as advanced technologies and management practices in the E&P sector.

(d) During the last three years, 59 oil and gas discoveries were made by Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC), Oil India Ltd. (OIL) and private/joint venture companies. In the State of Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Assam, Rajasthan, Tripura and of the coast of Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh.

Defence Departmental Quota in Trains

647. PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether additional coaches and trains have been provided by the Government under the railways amenities being provided to Indian soldiers during the current year as reported in *Hindustan* dated February 01, 2005;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Defence Departmental (DD) Quota has been increased by the Government;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) the total quota on daily basis in trains under Defence Departmental is provided by the Railways to the soldiers;

(f) the time by which this fixed quota is being provided and whether the Government is contemplating to increase it;

(g) if so, the details thereof and time by which it is likely to be increased; and

(h) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) Military trains in normal time (other than war time) are run by Ministry of Defence with their own stock. Safety and amenity maintenance is given to Military trains as is given to other trains.

(c) to (h) Defence Department accommodation, both reserved and unreserved, is earmarked in trains based on the availability and demand pattern. This is reviewed from time to time and adjustments where required are made. No statistics of total Defence accommodation earmarked on different zonal railway on daily basis is, however, maintained.

Discussion with US Defence Secretary

648. SHRI BALESHWAR YADAV: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether US Defence Secretary visited India in December, 2004;

(b) if so, the outcome of the issues discussed with the US Defence Secretary;

(c) whether India has raised objection with the US Defence Secretary against future supply of arms to Pakistan; and

(d) if so, the reaction of US Defence Secretary thereto?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Mr. Donald Rumsfeld, US Secretary for Defence, visited New Delhi on December 8-9, 2004. The meeting reviewed ongoing defence relations and initiatives within the framework of evolving relations between India and the US. Views were

exchanged on the global and regional security situation, including the situation in Iraq and Afghanistan.

(c) and (d) The issue of sophisticated arms sales to Pakistan was raised during meetings with the US Defence Secretary. India's position on such sales and the possible impact it could have on the positive sentiment and goodwill for the United States in India, and on the dialogue process with Pakistan, as also in promoting an arms race in the region, was made clear. The US response was to acknowledge Indian sensitivity on this subject and clarify that it was their desire to have rapidly growing good relations with both the countries.

[English]

Co-Production of Defence Equipments with Britain

649. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Defence Secretary of UK visited India in October, 2004;

(b) if so, the issues discussed and outcome thereof; and

(c) whether India and Britain have decided to rejuvenate erstwhile co-production of Defence equipments that were existing before 1960; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) The Secretary of State for Defence of the United Kingdom (UK), Mr. Geoffrey Hoon, MP, visited New Delhi as part of a tour of the region, for official talks on October 6, 2004. Issues discussed during the visit covered ongoing bilateral defence relations between India and the UK and their further development, and topical international and regional security issues, such as the situation in Iraq and Afghanistan and India-Pakistan relations, amongst others.

(c) and (d) Cooperation in the defence industries was discussed in general, and in the context of the licensed manufacture of the Hawk Advanced Jet Trainer in India.

Changes in Defence Purchase Policy

650. SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether most of the Defence Public Sector Undertakings having surplus capacity are exporting their products;

(b) if so, whether the Defence Public Sector Undertakings are not getting timely clearance from the Government with regard to export of their products;

(c) if so, the action taken by the Government in this regard;

(d) whether the Government is considering to make changes in the Defence Purchase Policy to make the purchase of imported equipments through the buy and make mode with transfer of technology instead of resorting to the buy mode only; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI BIJOY HANDIQUE): (a) to (c) The Defence Public Sector Undertakings (DPSUs) under the Ministry of Defence by their very strategic nature have certain inherent surge capacities to meet wartime exigencies. The capacity utilization of the DPSUs also depends on the peaks and troughs of domestic defence acquisition. For certain military stores listed by the Directorate General of Foreign Trade, as is revised from time to time no clearance is required. Prior clearance for export is required only for Military Stores, which are of strategic importance for our defence forces. Excess capacities as and when they arise, are utilized for the civil sector and exports.

(d) and (e) The scope of Defence Procurement Procedure-2002 (Version June, 2003) includes a provision for the procurement of equipment through imports alongwith transfer of technology, whenever the requirement is large and spread over a long period of time.

Development of Airports by Private Sector

651. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL:
SHRI G.M. SIDDESWARA:
SHRI AJIT JOGI:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Foreign and Indian Joint Venture Corporates are being entrusted the development of six Metro and upgradation of 25 major airports in India;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the cost involved in each project, target date of completion and the composition of JV?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (c) The metro airports of Delhi and Mumbai are being modernised and restructured through Joint Venture route with Airports Authority of India (AAI) holding 26% share and the balance 74% share held by Joint Venture Company (JVC). In the JVC, Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) is capped at 49%. It is estimated on preliminary basis that the cost of modernisation of these two airports will be Rs. 8720 crores and Rs. 6400 crores respectively.

Greenfield airports at Bangalore and Hyderabad are being constructed by Joint Venture Companies (JVC), wherein 13% share each is held by AAI and concerned State Governments and balance 74% participation by the selected JVC. Estimated cost of each project is Rs. 1400 crores approximately. AAI has decided to modernize 25 tentatively selected non-metro airports to world class standards in phases with focus on airside and city side development and enhancement of non-aeronautical revenue. Indian Financial Consultant (IFC) and Global Technical Advisor (GTA) have been appointed to conduct techno-economic feasibility study of 10 identified airports to evolve an appropriate model based on viability of the project.

Setting up of Refineries in States

652. SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH:
SHRIMATI KIRAN MAHESHWARI:
DR. KARAN SINGH YADAV:
SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA:
SRHI AJIT JOGI:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether some State Governments have sent proposals to the Union Government for the setting up refinery in their State;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the decision taken by the Union Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (c) The Refineries sector has been delicensed since June, 1998 and a refinery can be set up anywhere in India by private or public sector enterprises depending on the promoters' assessment of its viability. It is not the Central Government but public and private sector enterprises who consider proposals for setting up refineries. Public Sector Undertakings may consider setting up a refinery in accordance with the decision-making authority delegated to them by Government *vide* Department of Public Enterprises' Office Memorandum No. DPE/11(2)/97-Fin dated 22.7.1997.

[*Translation*]

Crude Oil Production

653. SHRI HEMMAL MURMU: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there was a downfall in the production of crude oil during April-June 2004;

(b) if so, the details of the production *vis-a-vis* the targets during the above said period;

(c) the percentage of downfall and the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the downfall in production of crude oil adversely affects the economy of the country; and

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

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) No, Sir. As against the crude oil production target of 8.304 MMT during April-June, 2004, the actual production was 8.485 MMT, which is 102% of the target.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

(e) Although, crude oil production was more than the target during the period April-June, 2004, efforts are continuously made to optimize oil production by way of Improved Oil Recovery (IOR), Enhanced Oil Recovery (EOR), workover of sick wells, implementation of artificial lift, better reservoir management of existing fields, and other practices, besides exploring and developing new fields.

[*English*]

Fake Advertisement Regarding Vacancies

654. SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that a fake advertisement regarding vacancies in the Railways appeared in the *Employment News*;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) the action taken/proposed to be taken against the persons found guilty; and

(d) the steps taken to prevent such incidents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. However, the fake advertisement appeared in an English newspaper "The Hitwada" published from Nagpur and not in the Employment News. The said advertisement contained mistakes of various kinds and appear to have been issued by someone to mislead the people.

(c) The matter has been brought to the notice of Central Bureau of Investigation.

(d) Instructions have been given to South East Central Railway for issuing rejoinder in that newspaper.

Implementation of Recommendations of Ajai Vikram Singh Committee

655. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE:
SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA:
SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE:
SHRI K.C. PALANISAMY:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Ajai Vikram Singh Committee appointed by the Government to examine the service conditions and other related matters of Army Officials has submitted its report;

(b) if so, the salient features of the recommendations made by the Committee;

(c) whether the recommendations of the Report has been implemented for Army Officials;

(d) if so, the number of officials benefited as a result thereof;

(e) whether there is discontentment amongst the Navy and IAF Officers over the delay in implementation of the Ajai Vikram Singh Committee Report for them; and

(f) if so, the decision taken by the Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Ajai Vikram Singh Committee addresses the twin problems of reducing the age profile of field commanders and cadre stagnation. Based on the recommendations of the Committee, the following orders pertaining to the Non-Select Ranks and restructuring of officers cadre of the Army have been issued by the Government:—

- (i) Grant of substantive ranks of Captain at 2 years, Major at 6 years and Lieutenant Colonel at 13 years of service.
- (ii) Grant of rank of Colonel (Time Scale) on completion of 26 years of service.
- (iii) Upgradation of 750 posts/appointments of Lieutenant Colonels in a phased manner with 400 posts having been upgraded in the first year *i.e.* 2004 and 350 posts are proposed to be upgraded in the second year *i.e.* 2005.

(d) 19,642 officers have been benefited.

(e) and (f) Similar proposals for the Navy and Air Force are under the consideration of the Government.

Transfer of Defence Land to Karnataka

656. SHRI D.V. SADNAND GOWDA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether on the request of the Government of Karnataka, the Ministry of Defence had agreed to hand over 65.20 acres of Defence land at total cost of Rs. 37 crores to the State for infrastructural development in Bangalore in 1997;

(b) if so, the details of the land handed over so far; and

(c) the time by which the remaining land is likely to be handed over to BMP?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) A Government sanction for transfer of defence land to the Government of Karnataka, measuring 85.10 acres having a cost of Rs. 43.37 crores, was issued in 1997.

(b) An area of 17 acres to the Bangalore Development Authority (BDA) and 9.0547 acres to Bangalore Mahanagar Palika (BMP) has already been handed over.

(c) The remaining defence land measuring 2.0453 acres yet to be handed over to BMP is under the management of Air Force. They have been requested to take action to hand over the same.

Vacancies in Central Wakf Council

657. SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government had given an undertaking to the Delhi High Court on December 16, 2004 that vacancies in the Central Wakf Council will be filled up within a period of six weeks;

(b) if so, whether the Government had filled up the vacancies in the Central Wakf Council as per the Undertaking given in the Delhi High Court;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor and the time by which the vacancies are likely to be filled up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JEGADEESAN): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. Additional time was sought from the Hon'ble Court for reconstituting the Central Wakf Council. The process of reconstitution is in the final stages and a notification will be issued soon.

[Translation]

Scholarship Schemes for SCs and OBCs Students

658. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE:
DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA:

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the scholarship provided to students of Scheduled Castes and OBCs is inadequate;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the corrective measures taken in this regard;

(c) the financial assistance allocated and released under pre and post matric scholarship to the students of scheduled castes and OBCs during 2004-05, State/Union Territory-wise;

(d) the number of students of SCs and OBCs benefited during the said period; and

(e) the details of schemes implemented for the meritorious students of SCs and OBCs and financial assistance allocated/released thereunder during the said period, State/Union Territory-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JEGADEESAN): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Funds are released on the anticipated requirements of the State Governments/UT Administrations. The State/UT-wise financial assistance released and number of students anticipated to be covered during 2004-05 under the scholarship schemes for SCs and OBCs is enclosed in the Statement.

(e) Under 'Dr. Ambedkar National Scholarship Scheme' implemented by Dr. Ambedkar Foundation, scholarship is, *inter alia*, given to first three Scheduled Caste students scoring highest marks in the regular Class 10th level examinations conducted by the Education Board/Council of each State/UT. The amount of scholarship is Rs. 60,000, Rs. 50,000 and Rs. 40,000 for 1st, 2nd and 3rd position holder respectively. In case, there is no girl student in the first three position, then one Scheduled Caste girl student scoring highest marks is given a scholarship of Rs. 40,000. In addition, there are 167 special merit scholarships of Rs. 10,000 per annum each to be given to Scheduled Caste meritorious students securing next higher marks after third position. These special scholarships are distributed to various States in proportion to the Scheduled Caste population in the State.

The Government is also awarding 20 scholarships (17 for Scheduled Castes) for pursuing higher studies abroad in the specified field of Engineering, Technology and Science. The scheme is administered directly by the

Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment on all India basis. An allocation of Rs. 1 crore has been made under the scheme for the financial year 2004-05 against which an expenditure of Rs. 65.27 lakh has been made so far.

Statement

Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Post Matric Scholarship for SC students-Central assistance released during the financial year 2004-05 as on 28.2.2005 and anticipated number of students covered

Sl.No.	State	Central assistance released (Rs. in Lakh)	No. of students covered (Anticipated)
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	8034.74	299030
2.	Assam	228.28	21600
3.	Bihar	1000.00	94965
4.	Chhattisgarh	1567.79	36877
5.	Goa	1.93	115
6.	Gujarat	412.11	86332
7.	Haryana	301.66	22097
8.	Himachal Pradesh	3.55	NA
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	28.80	11491
10.	Jharkhand	84.31	13705
11.	Karnataka	1369.58	165645
12.	Kerala	800.97	83633
13.	Madhya Pradesh	1366.60	91076
14.	Maharashtra	4220.47	317008
15.	Manipur	84.13	3018
16.	Meghalaya	4.67	1464
17.	Orissa	Nil	NA
18.	Punjab	Nil	38583
19.	Rajasthan	750.90	95527
20.	Sikkim	No Due	294

1	2	3	4
21.	Tamil Nadu	2291.78	275369
22.	Tripura	195.84	8501
23.	Uttar Pradesh	4957.16	512612
24.	Uttaranchal	302.25	31092
25.	West Bengal	649.74	190922
26.	Daman & Diu	0.89	79
27.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	Nil	NA
28.	Delhi	6.65	NA
29.	Pondicherry	43.35	3936
Total		28708.15	2404971

Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Pre-Matric Scholarship to the children of those engaged in unclean occupations-Central assistance released during the financial year 2004-05 as on 28.2.2005 and anticipated number of students covered

Sl.No.	State	Central assistance released (Rs. in Lakh)	No. of students covered (Anticipated)
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	275.34	35676
2.	Assam	4.215	3148
3.	Bihar	Nil	4833
4.	Chhattisgarh	Nil	17241
5.	Delhi	Nil	Nil
6.	Goa	0.3295	220
7.	Gujarat	103.67	227764
8.	Haryana	Nil	19700
9.	Himachal Pradesh	Nil	NA
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	Nil	NA
11.	Jharkhand	Nil	988

1	2	3	4
12.	Karnataka	Nil	4711
13.	Kerala	Nil	539
14.	Madhya Pradesh	126.56	58413
15.	Maharashtra	47.32	69482
16.	Orissa	Nil	NA
17.	Pondicherry	5.00	1780
18.	Punjab	5.55	8472
19.	Rajasthan	63.88	31652
20.	Sikkim	Nil	NA
21.	Tamil Nadu	27.31	44452
22.	Tripura	5.9805	4198
23.	Uttar Pradesh	88.32	62853
24.	Uttaranchal	Nil	2531
25.	West Bengal	2.05	NA
Total		755.53	598653

Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Pre-Matric Scholarship for OBC students-Central assistance released during the financial year 2004-05 as on 28.2.2005 and anticipated number of students covered

Sl.No.	State	Central assistance released (Rs. in Lakh)	No. of students covered (Anticipated)
1.	Andhra Pradesh	457.87	16229
6.	Gujarat	260.30	46000
15.	Manipur	75.00	20790
21.	Tamil Nadu	132.75	60000
22.	Tripura	120.67	54889
23.	Uttar Pradesh	217.91	850439
Total		1264.50	1048347

Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Post-Matric Scholarship for OBC students-Central assistance released during the financial year 2004-05 as on 28.2.2005 and anticipated number of students covered

Sl.No.	State	Central assistance released (Rs. in Lakh)	No. of students covered (Anticipated)
1.	Andhra Pradesh	299.02	15454
2.	Assam	100.02	8580
3.	Goa	5.96	285
4.	Gujarat	323.25	13000
5.	Karnataka	248.45	18439
6.	Manipur	108.51	8840
7.	Maharashtra	13.76	1
8.	Punjab	109.53	8266
9.	Sikkim	6.55	1028
10.	Tamil Nadu	266.63	25120
11.	Tripura	94.51	6611
12.	Uttar Pradesh	625.89	146787
13.	Uttaranchal	62.32	7458
14.	Pondicherry	10.00	2137
Total		2274.4	262006

[English]

Another Fencing on LoC

659. SHRI M. SHIVANNA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the army is laying another fence along the LoC and check the infiltration attempts by the terrorists from PoK;

(b) if so, the estimated cost thereof;

(c) the time by which the fencing is likely to be completed; and

(d) the expenditure incurred on the first fencing line along LoC?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) No, Sir. There is no proposal under consideration for the construction of another fence along the Line of Control;

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

(d) The expenditure incurred on the first fencing line along LoC was Rs. 315 crores.

[Translation]

Declaration of Head Post Office, Lucknow as National Monument

660. SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has received representation/request to declare the Head Post Office, Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh as a National Monument in memory of the Martyrs of the Kakori case;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

[English]

Withdrawal of Centrally Sponsored Schemes

661. SHRI DINSHA PATEL: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government proposes to withdraw some Centrally sponsored schemes and transfer them to the State/Union Territories;

(b) if so, the rationale behind such a move; and

(c) the manner in which the Union Government proposes to contain misuse/diversion of funds of Centrally

sponsored schemes by the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JEGADEESAN): (a) to (c) The entire issue of transfer of certain Centrally sponsored schemes to States/UTs is under consideration.

Exploration of Hydrocarbon Reserves

662. SHRI UDAY SINGH:
SHRI ADHIR CHOUDHURY:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has assessed quantum of unexplored hydrocarbon reserves in the country;

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

(c) whether the Government has been actively considering to invite international firms to explore oil and gas in the country;

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

(e) whether indigenous exploration of gas and oil would be boosted to minimise imports; and

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

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) Prognosticated hydrocarbon resources of India are estimated to be about 28085 Million Metric Tonne (MMT), out of which about 7886 MMT in-place reserves have been established till 1.4.2004, leaving about 20199 MMT of hydrocarbon resources yet to be established through extensive exploration.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Exploration blocks are being awarded to foreign companies to explore oil and gas in the country since 1991 through exploration bidding rounds and at present under the New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP). So far, Production Sharing Contracts (PSCs) for 41 exploration blocks have been signed with foreign companies either alone or in partnership with other companies.

(e) and (f) Yes Sir. As per Hydrocarbon Vision 2025, appraisal of all sedimentary basins of India is envisaged to be completed by the year 2025 and appraisal of 35% of Indian Sedimentary basins by the end of 10th Plan (2006-07). To achieve this objective, Government of India has taken the following steps:—

- (i) Opening of new areas for further exploration.
- (ii) Under NELP, 90 exploration blocks have been awarded to various companies in four rounds of exploratory bidding held till now. The exploration work in NELP blocks has led to 19 oil/gas discoveries so far. 20 more exploration blocks have been offered for international competitive bidding under the fifth round of NELP.
- (iii) Enhanced exploration by National Oil Companies (NOCs) in areas awarded to them on a nomination basis.

Expansion of BHEL

663. SHRI JUAL ORAM: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL) has a proposal for expansion of its plants;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the total amount required for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. BHEL is gearing up to enhance its power plant equipment manufacturing capacity to 10,000 MW by March 2007 in order to be in readiness to meet the emerging demands of Indian Power Sector during 11th plan and beyond period.

(c) An investment of up to Rs. 1,000 crore is needed over a period of three years.

[Translation]

Computerised Reservation Centres

664. SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT:
SHRIMATI KALPNA RAMESH NARHIRE:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the railway stations for which approval was given to set up PRS Computerised Reservation Centres and Booking Offices during 2003-2004 and 2004-2005 in the country;

(b) the railway stations out of these approved stations, where P.R.S. scheme has started functioning; and

(c) the time by which the work of P.R.S. Scheme approved during the said years is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) List of locations sanctioned by the Ministry of Railways for providing Computerised Reservation Facilities during the years 2003-2004 and 2004-2005 is given in enclosed Statement-I and Statement-II respectively.

(b) List of Passenger Reservation Centres commissioned out of as sanctioned above is given in Statement-III.

(c) Fixation of time frame for commissioning of Passenger Reservation System (PRS) is not possible since it depends on various external factors such as obtaining communication channels from Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited, providing necessary infrastructure and providing free of cost accommodation by the State Government for housing the PRS terminal in case of non-railhead District Head Quarter.

Statement I

List of Computerized Reservation Centres approved during 2003-04

Sl.No.	Name of Location
1	2
1.	Indi Road Railways Station
2.	Dalsinghsarai
3.	Parmarth Niketan
4.	Desari Railway Station
5.	Cossipore
6.	Shahpur Patoree
7.	Okha
8.	Hathua Railway Station

1	2
9.	Karppoorigram
10.	Mecheda
11.	Bansthali Niwai
12.	Thakurganj
13.	Shujalpur
14.	Marhaura
15.	Bhandup
16.	Patna High Court
17.	Jalalabad Railway Station
18.	Anugraha Narayan Road
19.	Mahabalipuram
20.	Srikakulam Town
21.	Medak
22.	Washim
23.	Hingloi Deccan
24.	Sangareddy
25.	Patan
26.	Dhar
27.	Sathyanarayanapuram
28.	Tumsar Road
29.	Alamnagar
30.	Chitradurg Railway Station
31.	Koppal
32.	Ratansarai
33.	Kota City
34.	Rangiya
35.	Hindupur
36.	Jorhat
37.	Patna University
38.	Vindhyanchal
39.	Daliganj Railway Station

1	2
40.	Ranikhet
41.	Dumra Court
42.	Anandnagar
43.	Chanchal
44.	Burra Bazar Circular Railway Station
45.	Bageshwar
46.	Tezapore
47.	Begumpet Airport
48.	Bajpatti
49.	SSPN Railway Station
50.	Mansi
51.	Sarnath
52.	Dighwa Dubauli
53.	Kantabanji
54.	Tumluk
55.	Shegaon
56.	Shri Mahabir Ji
57.	Banaras Town
58.	Harnaut
59.	Karimnagar
60.	Diu
61.	Khargone
62.	Banswara
63.	Navagadh
64.	Bijapur City
65.	Golaghat
66.	Moulali ZTC
67.	Jharia
68.	Mahe
69.	Tiruvallur
70.	Tiruvannamalai

1	2
71.	Perambalur
72.	Hailakandi
73.	Chirimiri
74.	Bagalkot
75.	Mahendergarh
76.	Bishrampur
77.	Udhampur Railway Station
78.	Mahoba
79.	Nathdwara Railway Station
80.	Old City (Badi Chaupar)
81.	Rajasthan Vidhan Sabha
82.	Chanderpura
83.	Dausa
84.	Tori
85.	Simri Bakhtiarpur
86.	Dildamagar
87.	Bihia
88.	Bihta
89.	Katras
90.	Siliguri Jn. (2nd Location)
91.	Ringas
92.	Ulhasnagar
93.	Ranaghat
94.	Katwa
95.	Sultanganj
96.	Latehar
97.	Chatra
98.	Barpeta
99.	Vartak Nagar, Thane
100.	Batala
101.	Khopoli

1	2
102.	Chalisgaon
103.	Baripada
104.	Rajgangpur
105.	Bistupur CBA
106.	Ghatsila
107.	Siuri
108.	Gurgaon IInd Location
109.	Sibsagar Town
110.	Kokrajhar
111.	Fatehgarh
112.	Mathura Cantt.
113.	Kannauj
114.	Budaun
115.	Barakar
116.	Palwal
117.	Dhuri
118.	Rohini
119.	Sitapur City
120.	Nawan Shahr
121.	Fazilka
122.	Kotkapura
123.	Shivpuri
124.	Padrauna
125.	Mairwa Railway Station
126.	Dr. Pt. Ravi Shukla Univ. Camp.
127.	Akhnoor
128.	Dinjan
129.	Narangi
130.	Rangapahar
131.	Muradnagar
132.	Pattukkottai

1	2
133.	Thawe
134.	Pirpainti
135.	Dharmanagar Railway Station
136.	Mukerian
137.	Degana
138.	Chakia Railway Station
139.	Manendragarh
140.	Along
141.	Madhuban
142.	Champavat
143.	Pithoragarh
144.	Madikeri
145.	Kalol
146.	Shertalai
147.	Shantikunj
148.	Mohiuddin Nagar Railway Station
149.	Mankhurd
150.	Maharajanj
151.	Bargenia
152.	Yusufpur
153.	Suraimanpur
154.	Fatehpur Sikri
155.	Sidhwalia Railway Station
156.	Achalpur
157.	Budge Budge Railway Station
158.	Jeypur
159.	Kargil
160.	Dahanu Road
161.	Shajapur
162.	Adityapur
163.	Begumpet Railway Station

1	2
164.	Srinagar
165.	Sanchi
166.	Bargarh
167.	Panchmarhi
168.	Balaghat
169.	Chatrapur
170.	Chilka
171.	Haveri
172.	Meracara
173.	Pandra Road
174.	AIIMS Campus
175.	Brajrajnagar
176.	Raison
177.	Balotra
178.	Krishnagri
179.	Bangalore Airport
180.	Roberts Ganj Railway Station
181.	Dighwara Railway Station
182.	Keylong
183.	Chamba
184.	Dindori
185.	Nahar

Statement II

List of Computerized Reservation Centres approved during 2004-05

Sl.No.	Name of Location
1	2
1.	Vikarabad
2.	Salempur Railway Station
3.	Kotma

1	2
4.	Patna GM Office
5.	Jamtara
6.	Patna CCM Office
7.	Bhuli ZTI
8.	Sakri
9.	Kashmere Gate CAO/C
10.	Sattenpalli
11.	Kopargaon
12.	Mankapur
13.	Goalpara
14.	Etah
15.	Dadri
16.	Datia
17.	Kausani
18.	Gyanpur Road
19.	Gorakhpur Cantt.
20.	Golagokarannath
21.	Morappur
22.	IIT/Guwahati
23.	Phaphund
24.	Dhubri
25.	Nalbari
26.	Binnaguri
27.	Tonk
28.	Kishangarh Railway Station
29.	Dungarpur
30.	Namchi
31.	Tiruttani
32.	Domingarh
33.	Uttarkashi
34.	Sirohi Road

1	2
35.	Dalhousie
36.	Balugaon
37.	Canning
38.	Kanchrapara
39.	Sainthia
40.	Barharwa
41.	Nimtita
42.	Mainpuri
43.	Shaktinagar
44.	Panki
45.	Jawalapur
46.	Seohara
47.	Roopnagar
48.	Barnala
49.	Manaknagar
50.	Hazratganj
51.	Allahabad University
52.	Sullurpetta
53.	Baruipur
54.	Wadi
55.	Kosamba
56.	Rahasamand
57.	Athwalines (Surat City)
58.	Bodeli
59.	Rewa City
60.	Duvvada
61.	Amla
62.	Roha
63.	Payyanur

1	2
64.	Bhiwandi
65.	Amalner
66.	Tata Memorial Hospital, Mumbai
67.	Liluah
68.	Chandanngore
69.	Tehri Garhwal
70.	Ahwa
71.	Sagauli
72.	Seram
73.	Aishbagh
74.	Shahabad
75.	Torangallu
76.	Jangaon
77.	Kakinada Port
78.	Dornakal
79.	Mehdipatnam
80.	Dronachalam
81.	Morvi
82.	Bolsar
83.	Sathur
84.	Wadsa
85.	Santragachi
86.	Kadur
87.	Dakor
88.	Electronic City, Bangalore
89.	Arsikere
90.	K.R. Market, Bangalore
91.	Londa
92.	Jaleswar

Statement III**List of Computerized Reservation Centres
Commissioned**

Sl.No.	Name of Location
1	2
1.	Achalpur
2.	AIIMS Campus
3.	Aishbagh Railway Station
4.	Akhnoor
5.	Alamnagar
6.	Anandnagar
7.	Anugraha Narayan Road Railway Station
8.	Bageshwar
9.	Bajpatti
10.	Balaghat
11.	Balotra
12.	Balugaon
13.	Banaras Town
14.	Bangalore Aiport
15.	Bansthali Niwai Railway Station
16.	Barakar
17.	Bargarh
18.	Barpeta
19.	Batala
20.	Begumpet Airport
21.	Begumpet Railway Station
22.	Bhandup
23.	Bhiwandi
24.	Bihia
25.	Bihta
26.	Bishrampur
27.	Boisar

1	2
28.	Brajrajnagar
29.	Budaun
30.	Budge Budge Railway Station
31.	Burra Bazar Circular Railway Station
32.	Chakia Railway Station
33.	Chalisgaon
34.	Champavat
35.	Chanchal
36.	Chanderpura
37.	Chatra
38.	Chatrapur
39.	Chilka
40.	Chirimiri
41.	Chitradurg Railway Station
42.	Cossipore
43.	Dahanu Road
44.	Daliganj Railway Station
45.	Dalsinghsarai
46.	Dausa
47.	Degana
48.	Desari Railway Station
49.	Dhar
50.	Dharmanagar Railway Station
51.	Dhuri
52.	Dighwa Dubauli
53.	Dighwara Railway Station
54.	Dildamagar
55.	Dindori
56.	Dr. PT. Ravi Shukla Univ. Camp.
57.	Dronachalam
58.	Dumra Court

1	2
59.	Duvvada
60.	Fatehgarh
61.	Fatehpur Sikri
62.	Fazilka
63.	Gorakhpur Cantt.
64.	Harnaut
65.	Haveri
66.	Hindupur
67.	Hingloi Deccan
68.	Jharia
69.	Jorhat
70.	K.R. Market, Bangalore
71.	Kakinada Port
72.	Kalol
73.	Kannauj
74.	Kantabanji
75.	Kargil
76.	Karimnagar
77.	Karpoorigram
78.	Kashmere Gate CAO/C
79.	Katras
80.	Katwa
81.	Khopoli
82.	Kishangarh Railway Station
83.	Kokarjhar
84.	Koppal
85.	Kota City
86.	Krishnagri
87.	Madikeri
88.	Mahabalipuram
89.	Maharajanj

1	2
90.	Mahendergarh
91.	Mahoba
92.	Manendragarh
93.	Mankhurd
94.	Mansi
95.	Mathura Cantt.
96.	Mecheda
97.	Medak
98.	Mohiuddin Nagar Railway Station
99.	Moulali ZTC
100.	Muradnagar
101.	Nahar
102.	Nathdwara Railway Station
103.	Navagadh
104.	Okha
105.	Old City (Badi Chauper)
106.	Padrauna
107.	Pacnharhi
108.	Pandra Road
109.	Patan
110.	Patna CCM Office
111.	Patna GM Office
112.	Patna High Court
113.	Patna University
114.	Pattukkottai
115.	Perambalur
116.	Pithoragarh
117.	Raison
118.	Rajasthan Vidhan Sabha
119.	Ranaghat
120.	Rangapahar

1	2
121.	Rangiya
122.	Ratansarai
123.	Rewa City
124.	Ringas
125.	Roha
126.	Rohini
127.	Sagauli
128.	Sanchi
129.	Sangareddy
130.	Sarnath
131.	Sathyanarayanapuram
132.	Shahpur Patoree
133.	Shajapur
134.	Shantikunj
135.	Shegaon
136.	Shertalai
137.	Shivpuri
138.	Shri Mahabir Ji
139.	Simri Bakhtiarpur
140.	Siuri
141.	Srikakulam Town
142.	Srinagar
143.	Tata Mem. Hospital, Mumbai
144.	Tezpore
145.	Thakurganj
146.	Thawe
147.	Tiruttani
148.	Tiruvallur
149.	Tiruvannamalai
150.	Tumluk
151.	Tumsar Road

1	2
152.	Udhampur Railway Station
153.	Ulhasnagar
154.	Vartak Nagar, Thane
155.	Vindhyanchal
156.	Wadi
157.	Wadea
158.	Washim

Alleged Irregularities in Railway Freight

665. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases registered in connection with the alleged irregularities detected in the railway freight at the instance of Minister of Railways during the recent past;

(b) the amount recovered in the form of Penalty; and

(c) the action being taken against the officials found guilty?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Special checks to detect overloading is a continuous ongoing process. During a month long drive conducted at the instance of the Minister of Railways, about 2031 cases of overloading were detected.

(b) A total amount of Rs. 69,20,343/- has been recovered as penalty.

(c) Weigh bridges are not available at many loading points and sender's weight is accepted. In such cases, Railway staff is generally not held responsible for overloading. Disciplinary action under Discipline and Appeal Rules is taken whenever staff are found responsible for any irregularity.

Gauge Conversion between Indore and Khandwa

666. SHRI KRISHNA MURARI MOGHE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Madhya Pradesh has sent any proposal for gauge conversion between Indore and Khandwa; and

(b) if so, the action taken by the Government thereon and the time by which it is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

[English]

Utilisation of Bilateral Entitlements In Operation of Flights

667. SHRI V.K. THUMMAR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the private airlines have proposed to start operations to any country to which Air India or Indian Airlines do not operate except Belgium;

(b) if so, whether the Government's policy was based on the expectation that the Indian side's entitlements under various bilateral would be better utilised;

(c) if so, with how many countries bilateral entitlements were being utilised by Air India and Indian Airlines prior to the recent permission granted to Jet Airways and Air Sahara to operate to international flights;

(d) how many countries of the bilateral entitlements are now going to be utilised by the Indian carriers; and

(e) the policy guidelines that have been put in place to divert the private airlines capacity on routes to countries not served by Indian Airlines and Air India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) No, sir.

(b) The main thrust of the new policy is optimal utilisation of our bilateral rights on the existing as well as new routes and enhancement of direct connectivity on these foreign routes, which are largely served by the indirect carriers at present.

(c) and (d) Currently, Air India and Indian Airlines are together operating to 25 countries. Besides, in some cases, they are also utilizing the traffic rights available through code share services. The number of countries to

be served by Indian carrier would increase to 26 for the Summer 2005 schedule.

(e) While the Gulf routes have been kept reserved for Air India and Indian Airlines for a period of three years, operations on all other routes will be determined on the operational plans of the carriers and availability of traffic rights and slots at airports.

Loss to IOCL

668. SHRI D. VITTAL RAO: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Oil Corporation Limited had lost Rs. 2,131 crores on sales of LPG, Kerosene and Diesel in the October-December 2004 period as reported in the *Hindu* dated 1 February, 2005; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) International oil prices have ruled high during 2004-05. As compared to the average Indian basket crude price of US\$ 27.98 per barrel during 2003-04, the average price during 2004-05 (April 2004-February 2005) has been US \$38.24 per barrel. With a view to promoting equitable burden sharing of the increase in international prices amongst various stakeholders, namely, Government, Oil Companies and Consumers, Government modified excise duties and customs duties on PDS Kerosene, Domestic LPG, Diesel and Petrol during the course of the year; and Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) did not pass the full increase in the international prices on to the domestic consumer prices. OMCs' under-recoveries on PDS Kerosene and Domestic LPG were partly shared by the upstream companies. The net under-recoveries of IOC (including IBP Co. Ltd., a subsidiary of IOC) on PDS Kerosene and Domestic LPG during October—December 2004, after taking into account burden sharing by upstream companies, are estimated to be Rs. 2239 crore. In addition to these under-recoveries, IOC also had under-recoveries on Diesel during this period.

Unigauge Rail Line from Sabarmati to Khodiyar

669. SHRI VIKRAMBHAI ARJANBHAI MADAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the work of BG/unigauge rail line between Sabarmati and Khodiyar (Western Railways) has started;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith target fixed for its completion; and

(c) if not, the reasons for delay and the time by which the work is likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Yes, Sir. Gauge conversion of Sabarmati-Khodiyar MG line has been taken up as a part of Phulera-Marwar-Ahmedabad gauge conversion project.

(b) Formation and ballast supply works are in progress. This work will be completed in the coming years as per availability of resources.

(c) Does not arise.

Rail Projects

670. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned, 'Rebels throw Railway projects off track' appearing in *Statesman* dated January 2, 2005;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) whether internal security is one of the prime reasons for delay in completion of projects;

(d) whether Railways have taken up the matter with the concerned authorities for providing adequate security so that the projects are not further delayed; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The news article mentioned about slowing down of progress on some projects due to militant and Naxalite activities in Jammu & Kashmir, North East Region and some other parts of the country.

(c) to (e) The progress of some of the projects has suffered due to adverse law and order conditions in some parts of the country. Security aspect is gone into while reviewing the progress of projects and matters are taken up with the concerned State Government authorities for providing adequate security from time to time. For project

in Jammu & Kashmir, matter has been taken up with the Ministry of Home Affairs.

Showing Obscene Film at IGI Airport

671. SHRI RAGHURAJ SINGH SHAKYA:
SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR CHOUDHARY:
SHRI DANVE RAOSAHEB PATIL:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether an incident of showing obscene film at the Indira Gandhi International Airport occurred on January 7, 2005;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the action taken against the persons held responsible for this incident; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to prevent recurrence of such incidents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. It was informed to the office of the Airport Manager on 7.1.2005 that an obscene film was being shown in one of the entertainment TV in the arrival visitor's lounge at Terminal-II. On verification it was found that one of the news channels had been changed at source to "Trinity Channel" which was showing the obscene film. The TV was immediately switched off and the matter was taken up with the Cable Operator and an F.I.R. has also been lodged at Terminal-II Police Station.

(d) Following steps have been taken to prevent likely recurrence of such incidents:

- i. Manual selection of channel on the TV in public area has been blocked.
- ii. Only News Channels are displayed in public area.

It has also been decided to provide Plasma TV with jamming facility to display only News Channels and to debar the delinquent Cable Operator.

Demolition in Mhow Cantonment Area

672. SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the authorities of the Mhow Cantonment Area had issued demolition notices to some of the Bungalow holders;

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

(c) whether any order to stop demolition has been issued by the Government in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the elections to Cantonment Board in Mhow are being held regularly; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. The Defence Estate Officer, Mhow Cantonment had issued notices for demolition of unauthorized structures/constructions in bungalows held on Old Grant Terms wherever required under the law. The Government had directed the Cantonment authorities on 4.2.2004 not to take any further action to demolish till a decision is taken regarding land disputes. The Defence Estate Officer, thereafter, suspended action to demolish the unauthorized structures/constructions.

(e) and (f) Yes, Sir. Elections have been held regularly till 1997. The last term of the Board, as extended, expired on 2.3.2003. Meanwhile, as Cantonments Bill, 2003 has been introduced in Parliament and the same is under consideration of Standing Committee, no elections have been held in any of the Cantonments. The Boards of all the Cantonments, where the terms have expired, including Mhow Cantonment have been varied under Section 13 of the Cantonments Act, 1924.

[*Translation*]

SIDBI

673. SHRIMATI KALPNA RAMESH NARHIRE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of SIDBI branches in the country, State-wise;

(b) the number of new branches of SIDBI opened during 2004-05 till date;

(c) whether the small scale industrial entrepreneurs are able to get appropriate loans from the said banks; and

(d) if so, the criteria adopted in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) has 43 branches all over the country. The State-wise break-up is given in the Statement enclosed.

(b) SIDBI has opened one new branch at Baddi, Himachal Pradesh in February, 2005.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) SIDBI has been extending assistance to SSI units directly and under the refinance route through state level institutions and banks. SIDBI has been operating a number of tailor made schemes with varied criteria.

Statement

Sl.No.	Name of the State	No. of Branches
1	2	3
1.	Arunachal Pradesh	1
2.	Andhra Pradesh	2
3.	Bihar	1
4.	Chandigarh	1
5.	Chhattisgarh	1
6.	Delhi	1
7.	Gujarat	3
8.	Goa	1
9.	Haryana	2
10.	Himachal Pradesh	1
11.	Jharkhand	2
12.	Jammu and Kashmir	1

1	2	3
13.	Karnataka	1
14.	Kerala	1
15.	Manipur	1
16.	Maharashtra	5
17.	Madhya Pradesh	2
18.	Mizoram	1
19.	Meghalaya	1
20.	Nagaland	1
21.	Orissa	1
22.	Punjab	1
23.	Rajasthan	1
24.	Sikkim	1
25.	Tamil Nadu	3
26.	Tripura	1
27.	Uttaranchal	1
28.	Uttar Pradesh	3
29.	West Bengal	1
Total		43

[English]

Specialised Tribunals on Economic Offences

674. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have been actively considering for adequate laws and specialized tribunals to effectively deal with economic offences;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the economic offences are posing threat to the economy of the country; and

(d) if so, the concrete steps taken by Government to deal with economic offences in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) An Act, called the Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002, has been enacted to prevent money-laundering and to provide for confiscation of property derived from, or involved in, money-laundering and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto. The Act, in *inter alia*, provides for establishment of an Appellate Tribunal to hear appeals against the orders of the Adjudicating Authority and the authorities under this Act.

(c) and (d) There is no doubt that the economic offences pose threat to the economy of any country. To obviate this threat in India, in addition to other legislations, such as Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967, the Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999, Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act, 1976, Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985 etc., the Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002 has been enacted.

External Loan for Power Sector

675. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a serious mismatch in generation capacities and transmission of power in the country;

(b) if so, whether the Centre has asked the States to step up investment in intra-state transmission system and take measures to make the sector attractive for private sector;

(c) if so, the response of the State Governments thereon;

(d) whether Central PSUs and Power Grid Corporation has sought loan from the World Bank and Asian Development Bank for their expansion plan in the country, particularly in Maharashtra; and

(e) if so, the details thereof along with the broad features of the plan?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.M. SAYEED):

(a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Government of India has requested some State Governments for augmentation of investment in

transmission in a planned and proper manner to pass on the progress made in generation and distribution to the consumers and to submit a list of projects where they plan to avail external borrowings for this purpose.

(d) and (e) Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd. (PGCIL) has sought an assistance of US\$ 400 million each from World Bank and Asian Development Bank (ADB) for implementation of certain inter-regional and intra-regional transmission projects. A portion of the loan from the World Bank will be utilised for implementation of Sipat-II Supplementary Transmission System which includes Seoni-Wardha 765 kV S/C line, Wardha-Akola 400 kV D/C line, Akola-Aurangabad 400 kV D/C line and establishment of new substation at Wardha along with extensions of existing substations at Akola and Aurangabad in the State of Maharashtra.

ADB has provided an assistance of US\$ 150 million to Power Finance Corporation for State Power Sector Distribution Project for improvement in transmission and distribution network and renovation and modernization of thermal power stations in the States. Out of this loan, schemes for ADB assistance of about US\$ 77 million have been identified for the State of Maharashtra.

Urban/Rural Co-Operative Banks in Andhra Pradesh

676. SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether urban/rural co-operative banks in Andhra Pradesh approached Reserve Bank of India for help to overcome their difficulties; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) The Government of Andhra Pradesh had submitted scheme of reconstruction and revival of two banks *viz.* The Prudential Co-operative Bank Limited (PCBL) and The Vasavi Co-operative Urban Bank Limited (VCUBL) to Reserve Bank of India (RBI) demanding claims of Rs. 373.02 crore and Rs. 127.00 crore respectively to be

paid by Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation (DICGC) towards discharge of the obligation to the depositors of the Banks under DICGC Act, 1961. As the proposed Reconstruction Scheme did not envisage any financial support by the State Government, the same was found unrealistic and non-workable by RBI and were rejected on 31st March, 2004. RBI advised Govt. of Andhra Pradesh to take all required measures to recover the Non-Performing Assets (NPAs) and infuse capital funds into the banks within the stipulated time frame.

[Translation]

Video Conferencing in Courts

677. SHRI JAI PRAKASH (Mohan Lal Ganj): Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to make arrangements for video conferencing for hearing of cases in place of setting up of Bench of Allahabad High Court in Western Uttar Pradesh; and

(b) if so, the present status thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. VENKATAPATHY): (a) and (b) It is the primary responsibility of the State Government to provide infrastructure facilities for the judiciary including facilities for Video Conferencing. At present there is no proposal under consideration of the Government regarding setting up of a Bench of Allahabad High Court in Western Uttar Pradesh.

[English]

Karbilangpi Power Project

678. SHRI M.K. SUBBA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the progress made so far in the implementation of the Karbilangpi power project in Assam;

(b) the estimated cost, the scheduled date of the completion and the total expenditure incurred thereon so far till date; and

(c) the reasons for delay if any along with the time by which it is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.M. SAYEED):

(a) The works on the project earlier held up have now resumed since October, 2004 and the dam works are presently in progress. 92% of excavation and 56% concreting have been completed till mid February, 2005.

(b) According to Assam State Electricity Board, the estimated cost at December, 2002 Price Level is Rs. 485.90 crore and of this, Rs. 165 crore has been incurred upto January, 2005.

(c) The project was delayed mainly due to its shifting from the State Sector to the Private Sector and then back to the State Sector and also due to failure of various contracts during the initial stage and funds constraints at later stage. The project is now likely to be completed by end of 10th Plan.

Family Courts

679. SHRI RUPCHAND MURMU: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Family Courts set up in various parts of the country so far, State-wise;

(b) the number of cases disposed off by the Family Courts in the country during the last three years;

(c) the number of cases pending in the Family Courts of the country till date; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government for speedy settlement of disputes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. VENKATAPATHY): (a) to (c) Statements I, II & III respectively are enclosed.

(d) The main thrust of the Family Courts is to settle cases through reconciliation. This Department regularly monitors the pendency and disposal of cases by the Family Courts.

Statement I

No. of Family Courts established in the Country

Sl.No.	Name of the State	Total number of Family Courts
1.	Andhra Pradesh	8
2.	Assam	5
3.	Bihar	4
4.	Chhattisgarh	2
5.	Delhi	15
6.	Gujarat	7
7.	Jammu & Kashmir	1
8.	Jharkhand	6
9.	Karnataka	12
10.	Kerala	16
11.	Madhya Pradesh	7
12.	Maharashtra	18
13.	Manipur	2
14.	Nagaland	2
15.	Orissa	2
16.	Pondicherry	1
17.	Punjab	2
18.	Rajasthan	6
19.	Sikkim	1
20.	Tamil Nadu	6
21.	Tripura	1
22.	Uttar Pradesh	14
23.	Uttaranchal	7
24.	West Bengal	3
Total		148

*Statement II**State-wise details of number of Cases disposed off by the Family Courts*

Name of the State	Disposal		
	During 2002	During 2003	During 2004
Andhra Pradesh	4715	4736	3025 (30.9.2004)
Assam	688	733	700 (30.9.2004)
Bihar	537	1026	1322 (30.9.2004)
Chhattisgarh	*	*	69
Gujarat	4399	4548	4428
Jharkhand	1281	2082	**
Karnataka	5983	6132	5825
Kerala	11636	17240	18810
Madhya Pradesh	*	2463	1985 (30.6.2004)
Maharashtra	15103	15488	5099 (31.3.2004)
Manipur	276	186 (30.6.2003)	**
Orissa	1890	2280	1816
Rajasthan	**	3539 (31.12.2003)	**
Sikkim	188	117	30 (31.3.2004)
Tamil Nadu	6956	9827	11628
Uttar Pradesh	19723	20042	17115 (30.9.2004)
Uttaranchal	1212	3497	2392 (30.9.2004)
West Bengal	471	418	**
Pondicherry	691	528	558 (30.9.2004)
Total	75749	94842	74802

*Not started functioning during this period.

**Not received.

Statement III*Pendency of Cases in the Family Courts*

Name of the State	Number of Cases pending	As on
Andhra Pradesh	4257	30.09.2004
Assam	1012	30.09.2004
Bihar	2403	30.09.2004
Chhattisgarh	1279	31.12.2004
Gujarat	6368	31.12.2004
Jharkhand	4424	31.12.2004
Karnataka	10672	31.12.2004
Kerala	30114	31.12.2004
Madhya Pradesh	8101	30.06.2004
Maharashtra	17583	31.06.2004
Manipur	743	30.06.2003
Orissa	5260	31.12.2004
Pondicherry	765	30.09.2004
Rajasthan	9488	31.12.2003
Sikkim	35	31.03.2004
Tamil Nadu	6940	31.12.2004
Tripura	514	31.12.2004
Uttar Pradesh	49078	30.09.2004
Uttaranchal	3365	30.09.2004
West Bengal	647	31.12.2003

*[Translation]***Corruption in Insurance Companies**

680. SHRI BALESHWAR YADAV: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of case of corruption, malpractices and scams in the offices of public sector insurance companies in the country particularly in Bihar and Uttar Pradesh during the last three years, State-wise; and

(b) the action taken by the Government in this regard and the details of the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

HDFC Branches In Maharashtra

681. SHRI BAPU HARI CHAURE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of branches of HDFC Bank in Maharashtra;

(b) whether HDFC Bank has opened a new branch in Maharashtra during the last three years;

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

(d) whether the Government proposes to open new branches of HDFC Bank during the year 2005-06 in the State; and

(e) if so, the when these branches are likely to be opened?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) to (c) As reported by the Housing Development Finance Corporation Bank, the number of branches in Maharashtra as on 25.02.2005 is 97, of which, 51 branches were opened during the last three years. The details of branches is given in the Statements enclosed.

(d) and (e) Government does not hold any share in HDFC Bank, hence the question does not arise.

Statement

Boisar	Boisar	Boisar, Maharashtra Shivkala Arcade, Boisar-Tarapur Road, Boisar Maharashtra-401501	16-Apr. 02
Dombivali	Dombivali	Dombivali Maharashtra Madan Thakre Chowk Dombivali-E Thane District-Dombivali Maharashtra-421201	23-May-02
Dahanu	Dahanu	Dahanu, Maharashtra Irani Road Dhanu, Thane District Dahanu Maharashtra-401602	28-May-02

Kandivali	Mumbai	Kandivali, Mumbai Thakur Enclave Sankle, Thakur Complex Kandivali-East Mumbai Maharashtra-400101	08-Jul-02
Ahmedagar	Ahmednagar	Ahmednagar Maharashtra Building-A St Stand Road Ahmednagar Maharashtra-414001	10-Jul-02
Nigdi	Nigdi	Nigdi, Pune Pradhikaran Nigdi Pune Maharashtra-411044	24-Jul-02
Jalgaon	Jalgaon	Jalgaon Maharashtra TPS 3 DSP Chowk Omkareshwar Road Jalgaon Maharashtra-425001	30-Jul-02
Kaiyan	Kalyan	Kalyan, Maharashtra Saraswati Building Santoshimata Road, Rambaug, Kalyan W. Mumbai Maharashtra-421301	07-Oct-02
Kandivali EC	Mumbai	Kandivali Ext. Mumbai Shyam Narayan, Thakur Marg, Thakur Village Mumbai Maharashtra-400101	27-Dec-02
Goregaon	Mumbai	Goregaon, Mumbai Yashodham General A.K. Vadya Marg, Mumbai Maharashtra-400063	14-Jan-03
Sangli	Sangli	Sangli, Maharashtra 640, Karmaveer Bhaurao Patil Chowk, Sangli Miraj Road Sangli Maharashtra-416416	24-Mar-03
Akola	Akola	Akola, Maharashtra Opp. Zilla Parishad Akola Maharashtra-444001	31-Mar-03
CASP EC	Pune	Pashan, Pune 132/2 Plot No. 3 Pashan Baner Link Road Pashan Pune Maharashtra-411021	31-Mar-03
Vileparle East	Mumbai	Vileparle E. Mumbai TPS J. Nehru Road, Vileparele-East Mumbai Maharashtra-400057	08-May-03
Reliance Infocom EC	Koer Khairne	Reliance Extn. Mumbai Ground Floor, Thane Belapur Road, Koper Khairne Navi Mumbai Maharashtra-400709	17-June-03
Powai	Mumbai	Powai, Mumbai Ground Floor Hiranandani Business Park, Powai Mumbai Maharashtra-400076	30-Jun-03
Amravati	Amravati	Amravati, Maharashtra Jay Stambh Square, Morshi Road, Amravati Maharashtra-444001	28-Oct-03
Panvel	New Panvel	Panvel, Navi Mumbai Plot 92/93, Sector 1F New Panvel (East) Navi Mumbai Maharashtra-410206	01-Nov-03
Nerul	Navi Mumbai	Nerul, Navi Mumbai Plot No. 3, Sector 23, Near Nerul Station, Navi Mumbai Maharashtra-400706	01-Nov-03
Nagpur EC	Nagpur	Nagpur Ext. Counter Near Telephone Exchange Square, Central Avenue, Nagpur Maharashtra-440008	04-Dec-03
Vasant Vihar, Thane	Thane	Thane Vasant Vihar Siddhachal Phase Near Vasant Vihar Pokhran Road 2, Thane West Thane Maharashtra-400601	05-Feb-04
Kandivali (West)	Mumbai	Kandivali W. Mumbai Shop No. 8/9/10/17 Mahavir Nagar, Kandivali West Mumbai Maharashtra-400067	04-Mar-04
JVPD	Mumbai	JVPD, Mumbai Krishna Kunj, V.L. Mehta Road, Opp. Sunflower Hospital, JVPD Scheme Mumbai Maharashtra-400056	31-Mar-04

Goregaon (West)	Mumbai	Goregaon West, Mumbai Jawahar Nagar, S.V. Road, Goregaon West Mumbai Maharashtra-400062	28-Apr-04
Mira Road	Mumbai	Mira Road, Mumbai Opp. Asmita House, Mira Road East Near Railway Station, Distt.-Thane Mumbai Maharashtra-401107	30-Jul-04
Parel	Mumbai	Parel, Mumbai Dr. Shirockar Marg, Near Kem Hospital Opp Tata Showroom Mumbai Maharashtra-400012	09-Aug-04
Latur	Latur	Latur, Maharashtra 31-1 M.G. Road, Near Nagar Parishad, Opp. Town Hall, Latur Maharashtra-413512	11-Aug-04
Express Towers	Mumbai	Express Tower, Mumbai Nariman Point Mumbai Maharashtra-400021	24-Aug-04
Airport Authority of India EC	Mumbai	Airport A.I. Mumbai International Air Cargo Complex, Airport Auth. of India Andheri-East Mumbai Maharashtra-400099	25-Aug-04
CST (VT)	Mumbai	Fort-Near CST, Mumbai 17 Murzban Road, Near CST-VT Mumbai Maharashtra-400001	28-Aug-04
Tardeo	Mumbai	Tardeo, Mumbai Gamadia Colony, Tardeo Mumbai Maharashtra-400034	31-Aug-04
Sahakar Nagar	Pune	Sahakar Nagar, Pune 49-1 Pune-Satara Road, Aranyeshwar Corner, Sahakar Nagar Pune Maharashtra-411009	01-Sep-04
Mulund (E)	Mumbai	Mulund East, Mumbai Near Tata Colony, Mulund East Mumbai Maharashtra-400081	16-Sep-04
Charni Road	Mumbai	Chami Road, Mumbai Maharshi Karve, Marg, Opp. Chami Road Station, Chami Road Mumbai Maharashtra-400004	25-Sep-04
IHM Extn Ctr	Aurangabad	IHM Extn Ctr, Maha Maulana Azad Edu. Society Campus, Rauza Baugh Nr. Taj Residency, Aurangabad Maharashtra-431001	27-Sep-04
Malad (E)	Mumbai	Malad East, Mumbai Subhash Lane Off Daftary Road Malad East Mumbai Maharashtra-400097	30-Sep-04
Aditya Birla Centre	Mumbai	Aditya Birla, Mumbai S.K. Ahire Marg, Worli Mumbai Maharashtra-400025	18-Oct-04
Mindspace Malad (West)	Mumbai	Malad (West), Mumbai Opp. Goregaon Sport Club, Link Road, Malad West Mumbai Maharashtra-400064	06-Nov-04
Vasai (West)	Vasai	Vasai, Mumbai Guru Nanak Nagar, Ambadi Road, Vasai (West) Vasai Maharashtra-401202	19-Nov-04
I.C. Colony, Borivali (West)	Mumbai	I.C. Colony, Mumbai I.C. Colony, Borivali (West) Mumbai Maharashtra-400103	19-Nov-04
Krishna Nagar, Borivali (East)	Mumbai	Borivali, Mumbai Shantivan, Shreekrishna Nagar Borivali (East) Mumbai Maharashtra-400066	19-Nov-04
Ghatkopar (West)	Mumbai	Ghatkopar, Mumbai Kailas Esplande, Opp. Shreyas Talkies LBS Marg, Ghatkopar (West) Mumbai Maharashtra-400086	24-Nov-04

Kandivali (West)	Mumbai	Kandivali, Mumbai Opp. Shoppers Stop S.V. Road, Kandivali (West) Mumbai Maharashtra-400067	25-Nov-04
Laxmi Road, Pune	Pune	Pune, Laxmi Road Aditi Apartments, 344/1 Narayan Peth Near Modi Ganapati, Off. Laxmi Road Pune Maharashtra-411030	14-Dec-04
Grant Road, Mumbai	Mumbai	Mumbai, Grant Road Moulana Shaukat Ali Road, Grant Road Mumbai Maharashtra-400007	24-Dec-04
Ratnagiri	Ratnagiri	Ratnagiri, Maharash Ratnagiri-Kolhapur Highway, Near Maruti Mandir, Ratnagiri Maharashtra-415639	07-Jan-05
Matunga (East)	Mumbai	Mumbai, Matunga (E) Bhandarkar Road, Opp. Ram Temple, Matunga (Cr) Mumbai Maharashtra-400019	14-Jan-05
Sion Trombay Road, Chembur	Mumbai	Mumbai Sion Trombay Rd. Opp. Akbaral Ys. 609 V N Purav Marg, Sion Trombay Road Chembur Mumbai Maharashtra-400071	14-Jan-05
Bandra (West)	Mumbai	Mumbai, Bandra (W) Next Mehboob Studio, Hill Road, Bandra West Mumbai Maharashtra-400050	20-Jan-05
Dahisar	Mumbai	Mumbai, Dahisar Anand Nagar, Dahisar (E) Mumbai Maharashtra-400068	20 Jan-05
Jogeshwari	Mumbai	Jogeshwari-Mumbai S.V. Road, Jogeshwari (West) Mumbai Maharashtra-400102	23-Feb-05

*[English]***IB Thermal Power Project**

682. SHRI JUAL ORAM: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to refer to Unstarred Question number 3410 dated 21.12.2004 and state:

(a) the present status of the expansion of the IB Thermal Power plant in Orissa;

(b) whether the funds has already been allocated for the purpose; and

(c) if so, the time by which the commercial production in the plant is likely to start?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.M. SAYEED):
(a) and (b) The Orissa Power Generation Company Ltd. (OPGC) is managed privately by AES Corporation, USA. The company has neither taken any effective steps for implementation of setting up of Units 3&4 (2x210 MW) as IB Valley Thermal Power Station Expansion, nor, has it attempted to tie up the requisite funds.

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

*[Translation]***Complaint regarding Water Shed Construction**

683. SHRI V.K. THUMMAR: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the complaints received by the Government regarding ongoing watershed construction in Gujarat;

(b) whether similar complaints have been received from other State Governments;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the action taken thereon, as on date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI A. NARENDRA):
(a) Government of Gujarat has received a few complaints related to ongoing watershed projects and the State Govt. has taken action as per details enclosed as Statement.

(b) to (d) The Department occasionally receives complaints on watershed projects in other States also.

These complaints mainly relate to poor quality of works, misappropriation of funds, corruption etc. These complaints are forwarded to the State Government for detailed reports. In case, the complaints are serious, National Level Monitors are asked to evaluate the watershed projects

for appropriate action. Vigilance and Monitoring Committees at State and District level are also constituted with a view to fulfil the objective of ensuring quality of expenditure under all the programmes of the Ministry.

Statement

List of Pending Inquiry Cases of Watershed Project as on 28.02.2005.

Sl.No.	District	Letter No. and Date	Subject	Action Taken by State Govt.
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Ahmedabad	CRD/VNK/17/2001/(12)/304 Dt. 18.1.01	Irregularity of works under Watershed Project in village of Vasevella, Khengaria, Limad, Thori Thamba and Jalampura at Virangam Taluka	Under Process
2.	Ahmedabad	CRD/VNK/2/131/04/(12)/Dt. 26.2.01	Irregularity of works under Watershed Project in village of Sundariyana at Taluka-Dhandhuka	State level MDT had visited & report under consideration.
3.	Ahmedabad	CRD/VNK/2/17/2004/(35)/4980 Dt. 7.10.04	Irregularity of work under watershed project in village of Shapur—1&2, at Virangam Taluka	State level MDT had visited & report under consideration.
4.	Kutch-Bhuj	DO Letter CRD/VNK/17/2003/967/6942 Dt. 24.12.03	Irregularity in work in watershed in District Kutch, Taluka Rapar	Inquiry pending at DRDA level. Reminder on 27.10.04.
5.	Kutch-Bhuj	CRD/VNK/18/200/(1)/4106 Dt. 18.9.2000	In Kutch Jilla-regarding the Project being implemented by NGO Gramya Shilpi Swaichik Sanstha.	MTR completed and matter is on final stage.
6.	Banaskantha	CRD/VNK/2/134/04 Dt. 26.2.04	Justify the villagers of Diodar under the watershed project implemented under DDP-8	GOG had directed DRDA to follow the guideline.
7.	Banaskantha	CRD/VNK/1899(6)/5248/99 Dt. 20.8.1999	To stop corruption activities in Watershed project in Navapura Taluka Bhabhar.	Matter is sub judicial. Latest Status report is invited.
8.	Banaskantha	CRD/VNK/2/114/04 Dt. 17.2.2004	Misappropriation activity in Watershed project carried out in Boru, Taluka Vav.	Inquiry pending at DRDA level
9.	Banaskantha	CRD/VNK/17/2002(25)/43 83 Dt. 1.9.04	Complaint against Shri P.I. Patel, Ex. Dy. Director (Watershed)-DRDA, B.K. Palanpur	The report has been received from the DRDA Committee. DRDA has to furnish details which is reminded on 27.12.04

1	2	3	4	5
10.	Panchmahal	CRD/VNK/12/2002 (8)/5324 Dt. 13.11.02	The Committee of Sehera Taluka Watershed is not registered. The persons of Committee are outsiders and involved in corruption.	Inquiry pending at DRDA level.
11.	Sabarkantha	CRD/VNK/2/408/04 Dt. 13.4.04	Misappropriation of fund made by NGO-Universal Welfare Rural Development Housing Organization	Rs. 4.00 lacs had recovered from NGO and further procedure is under process.
12.	Sabarkantha	CRD/VNK/17/2002/(33)/4258 Dt. 1.9.03	Irregularities of works under watershed project allotted to Gram Vikas Mandal—Dabaran	Under Process of inquiry.
13.	Rajkot	CRD/VNK/16/2003/4346 Dt. 13.10.2003	Misappropriation of work carried out in Ghoghavadar	State level MDT had visited & report awaited.
14.	Rajkot	CRD/VNK/17/2002(22)/1641 Dt. 22.04.02	Complaint regarding poor works in Watershed project at Jaadan Taluka, Village Bhandana	District vigilance and monitoring committee had taken the decision to recover 10% of total expenditure further procedure under process.
15.	Amreli	CRD/VNK/17/2001/67/3262 Dt. 18.8.02	Complaint against PIA, NGO-Usthan Trust.	State Government had received the report, no such irregularities was find out so Government decided to close the matter.
16.	Junagadh	CRD/VNK/16/2003/(07)/5669 Dt. 12.11.03	To inquire poor works under watershed project in village Gando, Taluka-Vanthali	Inquiry pending at DRDA level. Reminder on 27.10.04
17.	Junagadh	CRD/LMU/16/2003/5221/03 Dt. 13.10.03	Irregularities in Watershed project	Inquiry pending at DRDA level. Reminder on 27.10.04
18.	Junagadh	CRD/VNK/16/2002/(05)/40/42/02 Dt. 28.8.02	Irregularities in watershed project at Village Bhat Simrol	Inquiry pending at DRDA level. Reminder on 26.10.04
19.	Surendemagar	CRD/WSD/17/2003/(32)/1290 Dt. 7.3.03	Complaint regarding constitute of Village Watershed Committee, Olak Village, Distt. Surendemagar.	GOG had directed Surendemagar to constitute the Committee as per the Guideline.
20.	Surendemagar	CRD/VNK/17/2001/(14)/306 Dt. 18.1.01	Proper utilize the fund of watershed project in District Surendemagar, Taluka Dhangadhra, Village Kankavati	Pending with DRDA
21.	Surendemagar	CRD/WSD/02/16/2004/(4)	Work taken under watershed project in Mool-Taluka	Report awaited from Chairman, DRDA.
22.	Surendemagar	CRD/WSD/WS/SNR/2380 Dt. 16.10.01	Complaint against NGO Nana Kerala Krishi Utkarsh Mandal	WAPCOS had completed inquiry and report submitted to GOG

Note: Out of 22 inquiries mention above State Government has disposed off 10 inquiries and the remaining 12 inquiries will be completed very soon through State MDT.

*[English]***National Saving Certificate**

684. SHRI KULDEEP BISHNOI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to make available the National Saving Certificates (NSCs) and Kisan Vikas Patra in Demat form;

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

(c) the time by which this scheme is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) to (c) A pilot project on dematerialisation of the National Savings Certificate (VIII Issue) and Kisan Vikas Patra has been taken up at 35 post offices in Mumbai. An amount of rupees 136569/-has been paid as on 31.01.2005, to National Securities Depository Limited which is implementing the pilot project. The pilot project will provide inputs for wider adoption of the system.

Apparel Parks

685. SHRI SANTASRI CHATTERJEE:
SHRI VIKRAMBHAI ARJANBHAI MADAM:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is considering to establish new apparel parks in the country; and

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

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) and (b) Government had invited project proposals from all State Governments/Union Territories for consideration under the 'Apparel Parks for Exports' Scheme. Since the inception of Scheme in March 2002, twelve Project Proposals have been sanctioned for setting up Apparel Parks at Tronica City & Kanpur (U.P.), Surat (Gujarat), Thiruvananthapuram (Kerala), Visakhapatnam (Andhra Pradesh), Ludhiana (Punjab), Bangalore (Karnataka), Tirupur & Kanchipuram (Tamil Nadu), SEZ, Indore (Madhya Pradesh), Mahal, Jaipur, (Rajasthan) and Butibori-Nagpur (Maharashtra). Netaji Apparel Park at Tirupur has become operational, and the other sanctioned

Apparel Park projects are at different stages of implementation.

*[Translation]***Deficiency in Power Generation Capacity**

686. SHRI RAGHUVVEER SINGH KOSHAL: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has come to the notice of the Government that the balance between thermal and hydro power generation has tilted against hydro-electricity in the previous years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is any difference in per unit power generation based on various sources viz. Hydro, Gas, Coal, Atomic power and other sources of power generation;

(d) if so, the comparative details thereof;

(e) whether there is a vast potential of hydro power generation in the river linking scheme of the country; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.M. SAYEED): (a) and (b) Hydro power has experienced a steady rise from 508 MW in 1947 to 30135 MW now (as on 1.02.2005). The share of hydro power in the total installed capacity rose up to 50.62% in 1963 but thereafter experienced a steady decline and at the beginning of the 10th Plan it stood at 25.40%. Since then it has marginally improved and at present accounts for 26.65% of the total capacity.

The National Electricity Policy envisages the full development of the feasible hydro power potential of the country.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. In the case of hydro power, there is no fuel cost whereas for thermal stations based on coal and gas as well as nuclear, there is a cost of fuel required for generation. Further, the capital cost also varies for different categories of projects. The average tariff for the year 2003-04 in the case of operating projects works out to be Rs. 1.47/Kwh for thermal projects of NTPC, Rs. 1.03/Kwh in case of hydro projects of NHPC. In case of Atomic power generation, the current average tariff is Rs. 2.33/kwh.

(e) and (f) Ministry of Water Resources and Central Water Commission have formulated the National Perspective Plan for Inter Linking of Rivers. Under the Plan, power generation potential is estimated at 34,000 MW.

[English]

Removal of Disparity in Sales Tax Exemption in Daman

687. SHRI DAHYABHAI VALLABHBHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have received representation from Daman Industries Association for removal of disparity in Sales Tax Exemption as also exemption of Central Excise; and

(b) if so, the action taken thereon and the present status in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Action relating to removal of disparity in Sales Tax exemption can only be taken by the Administration of the Union Territory of Daman and Diu. The request of the Association for Central Excise duty exemption to Industries in Daman has not been accepted.

Amendments in the Hindu Succession Act

688. SHRI K.C. PALANISAMY: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under the consideration of the Government for amending the Hindu Succession Act;

(b) if so, the details of the amendments proposed to be made and reasons therefor; and

(c) the time by when these amendments are likely to be made in the Act?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. VENKATAPATHY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) A Bill titled the Hindu Succession (Amendment) Bill, 2004 was introduced in Rajya Sabha on 20th December, 2004 with a view to implement the 174th Report of the Law Commission of India on "Property Rights of Women: Proposed Reforms under the Hindu Law" for bringing gender equality to women. The said Bill stands referred to the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Personnel, Public Grievances, Law and Justice for examination and report. The Bill is currently under examination of the said Standing Committee.

Consumption of Coal & Oil

689. SHRI LAKSHMAN SETH: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the yearly consumption of Coal, Oil and Natural Gas and such other energy sources in the field of generation of power at present; and

(b) the policy of the Government to derive alternative energy sources in the face of diminishing trend of the conventional areas?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.M. SAYEED): (a) The yearly consumption of various types of fuels used for generation of power during the year 2003-04 as compiled by Central Electricity Authority, is as follows:

Type of Fuel	Quantity
1	2
1. Steam Station	
i. Coal	265.357 Million Metric Tonne
ii. Furnace Oil	1365309 Kilo Litres
iii. Light Diesel Oil/High Speed Diesel (HSD)	469488 Kilo Litres
iv. Low Sulphur Heavy Stock (LSHS)/Hot Heavy Stock (HHS)	431484 Kilo Litres
v. Gas	33884 Metric Tonne

1	2
vi. Corex Gas	1932274 Kilo Normal Cubic Metres
vii. Lignite	23.315 Million Metric Tonne
2. Gas Stations	
i. Natural Gas	9539 Million Cubic Metres
ii. HSD	472937 Kilo Litres
iii. Naphtha	1991111 Kilo Litres
3. Diesel Stations	
i. LSHS	647451 Kilo Litres
ii. Diesel	57215 Kilo Litres

(b) The National Electricity Policy finalized by the Government stipulates exploitation of feasible potential of non-conventional energy sources, mainly small hydro, wind and bio-mass to relate additional power generation capacity.

According to Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources, the potential for renewable power in the country from wind, solar, small hydro and biomass has been estimated at around 80,000 MW. Against this estimated potential, around 5500 MW grid interactive renewable power installed capacity has been set up as on 31.12.04. Further, the Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources aims to deploy around 10 percent of the additional grid interactive power installed capacity from renewable during the 10th and 11th Plan periods.

Raising Resources from Capital Market

690. PROF. M. RAMADASS: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the alternate trading platform if any, created by the Government to enable small and medium enterprises to raise equity and debts from the capital market;

(b) the quantum of resources raised by these enterprises State-wise from the capital market;

(c) whether there are practical difficulties for these enterprises to raise resources from the capital market; and

(d) if so, the measures taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) Pursuant to the announcements made in Budget 2004-05, Stock Exchange, Mumbai, (BSE) and Federation of Indian Stock Exchanges (FISE) have implemented a project for creation of a trading platform for Small And Medium Enterprises (SMEs). This platform *i.e.* BSE Indo Next is envisaged to provide single order book for SME securities listed across BSE and all Regional Stock Exchanges (RSEs) of India.

(b) to (d) The trading platform has only recently been set up. All companies desirous of raising funds from the primary market are required to comply with the provisions of SEBI (Disclosure & Investor Protection) Guidelines, 2000 (DIP Guidelines), *inter-alia*, including eligibility norms, disclosures and other requirements as laid down therein. Any company, irrespective of it being big or small, can raise money through primary issue of securities provided it meets the eligibility criteria and complies with the provisions of the DIP Guidelines. Apart from complying with the DIP Guidelines, the companies are also required to satisfy the listing conditions of the stock exchanges where they propose to list their shares.

From the data available so far the daily average turnover in Indo Next is Rs. 66.76 crores.

[Translation]

Norms for Notary Public

691. SHRI RAJENDER KUMAR: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any time limit has been stipulated for the appointment of notary public;

(b) if so, the time taken to appoint Notary Public after the receipt of application by his Ministry;

(c) the documents required for applying to the above said post;

(d) the details thereof;

(e) the number of Members who have made recommendations for appointment of Notary Public during the last year, 2004 till date in his Ministry; and

(f) the number of cases disposed of till date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. VENKATAPATHY): (a) and (b) No, Sir. No time has been stipulated for appointment of Notary Public in the Notaries Act, 1952 and the Notaries Rules, 1956.

(c) and (d) The following documents are required:

1. Attested photocopies of the educational qualifications.
2. Attested photocopy of the enrolment certificate.
3. In case of Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribes & Other Backward Classes attested copy of the Caste certificate.

(e) 150 Members made recommendations for appointment of Notary Public during the last year 2004 till date.

(f) 373 advocates have been appointed as Notary during the 2004 till date.

[English]

Announcement of Concessional Scheme by NHB

692. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Housing Bank (NHB) has announced a concessional scheme for the Tsunami affected people;

(b) if so, the details of the financial assistance likely to be provided to them;

(c) the details of the conditions imposed on these schemes;

(d) whether all the eligible victims are likely to utilize these funds; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) to (c) The details of National House Bank's refinance concessional scheme for the Tsunami affected people are indicated at Statement enclosed.

(d) and (e) NHB has not specified any eligibility criteria for the Primary borrowers under this scheme. NHB is extending assistance through the refinancing route. The Primary Lending institutions availing refinance from NHB are free to identify the affected people and extend concessional finance as per their procedures.

Statement

The National Housing Bank has launched a financial assistance scheme for housing on 31.12.2004 for the Tsunami affected victims. The financial assistance through refinance extended to Housing Finance Companies and scheduled Commercial Banks in respect of their housing loans in the affected areas and through project assistance to public agencies. The salient feature of refinance assistance for housing by NHB are as under:—

- | | |
|---------------------------|---|
| 1. Objective | Refinance assistance to Scheduled Banks (SBs)/Housing Finance Companies (HFCs) to encourage construction of new houses/flats as also major repairs (including extension and upgradation) of the existing housing stock in the Tsunami affected areas as notified by States/Union Territories and to assist such persons to have a shelter of their own by extending need-based housing loans to them. |
| 2. Date of Implementation | <i>w.e.f.</i> 1.1.2005 to 30.6.2007. |
| 3. Eligibility criteria | HFCs already availing refinance from NHB are eligible for refinance under this special dispensation. |

4.	scale of refinance	Purpose of loan	Maximum loan Size	Interest rate (% per annum) NHB to HFCs/SBs HFCs/SBs to beneficiaries
		Construction/ Purchase	Rs. 2,00,000/-	5.00 6.5
		Repairs & Upgradation	Rs. 50,000/-	5.00 6.5
		The refinance assistance under special dispensation on fixed rate of interest.		
5.	Time limit and minimum size of claim	Within 12 months of the date from the disbursal of the loan by HFCs. Minimum amount of refinance claim should be Rs. 5.00 lakh.		
6.	Security	Mortgage of property or Government guarantee from the borrower in favour of HFCs/Scheduled Banks or such other security, at the discretion of HFCs/SBs with the charge properly created in its favour.		
7.	Security for refinance	As per existing arrangements with HFCs as may be decided by NHB from to time.		
8.	Period of refinance	Repayable not exceeding 15 years including the moratorium period.		
9.	Moratorium	2 years for NHB to HFCs and HFCs to borrowers.		
10.	The details of project finance by NHB are:—			
	(a) Project Finance will be provided to Agencies undertaking construction of houses/repairs of houses.			
	(b) The cost of individual unit shall not exceed Rs. 2.00 lakh for new construction and Rs. 50,000 for repairs.			
	(c) Rate of interest to the implementing agencies (Public Housing Agencies or any agency notified for the purpose) will be 5.5% per annum.			
	(d) The loan is repayable in a maximum period of 20 years.			
	(e) The bank will provide loan upto 100% of the project cost.			

[Translation]

Import of Readymade Garments

693. SHRI PRADEEP GANDHI:
SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH:
SHRI BAPU HARI CHAURE:
SHRI HARIBHAU RATHOD:
SHRIMATI KIRAN MAHESHWARI:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the countries which are importing Readymade Garments from India at present;

(b) the total value of the export of Readymade Garments including knitwear and shawls to those countries during last three years;

(c) whether Government has explored any possibility to increase the export of the Readymade Garments;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the achievements made thereon?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) India's readymade garments are exported to more than hundred countries of the world. However, the USA, EU Member States, U.A.E., Japan, Saudi Arabia, Canada, Hong Kong, Switzerland, Australia etc. have been the major importing countries of our readymade garments.

(b) As per available Directorate General of Commerce Intelligence & Statistics (DGCI&S) data, the readymade garments exports during the last three years *i.e.* 2001-02, 2002-03 and 2003-04 has been as given below:

(Value in US\$ Million)

Year	Readymade garment including Knitwears	Handicrafts including shawls
April 2001-March 2002	4618.7	1059.2
April 2002-March 2003	5334.3	1317.9
April 2003-March 2004	5625.8	1011.8

(c) and (d) Government has been taking a number of steps from time to time a boost exports of textiles, including readymade garments, from the country. Some of the important initiatives taken are:—

- (i) The Government has de-reserved the woven segment of readymade garment from the SSI sector. It has also raised the SSI investment limit for knitted segment to Rs. 5 crores. In the Union Budget 2005-06, an announcement has been made for de-reservation of 30 hosiery items from the SSI.
- (ii) National Institute for Fashion Technology (NIFT), its six branches and Apparel Training & Design Centres (ATDCs) are running various courses/programmes to meet skilled manpower requirements of textile industry especially apparel in the field of design, merchandising and marketing.
- (iii) Facilities by way of eco-testing laboratories have been created to enable exporters to get the garments/textiles pre-tested for conforming to the requirements of importing countries.
- (iv) The Government has launched a centrally sponsored scheme titled "Apparel Park for Export Scheme" for imparting focused thrust for setting up of apparel manufacturing units of international standards at potential growth centres to give fillip to exports.
- (v) The imports of specified textiles and garment machinery items has been allowed at concessional rate of customs duty to encourage investments and to make our textile products competitive in the global market. The cost of machinery has also been reduced through fiscal policy measures.

- (vi) Duty-free imports of 21 items of trimmings and embellishment items are allowed to the garment exporters, upto 3% of their actual export performance during the previous year.
- (vii) The Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS) has been made operational from 1-4-1999 to facilitate the modernisation and upgradation of the sector.
- (viii) To improve the productivity and quality of cotton, Government has launched Technology Mission on Cotton (TMC). The mission comprises four mini-missions, which are being jointly implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture and Ministry of Textiles. One of the important ingredients of the Mission is to cotton processing facilities by upgrading/modernizing the existing ginning and pressing facilities and setting up of new market yards/improvement of existing market yards.
- (ix) For upgrading infrastructure facilities at important textile centres, a scheme titled "Textile Centre Infrastructure Development Scheme" (TCIDS) has been launched.
- (x) The fiscal duty structure has been generally rationalised to achieve growth and maximum value addition. Except for mandatory excise duty on polyester filament yarn, synthetic and artificial fibres and synthetic and artificial filament yarns, the whole value addition chain including cotton textile and cotton clothing items have been given excise exemption option. Additional Excise Duty on Textiles & Textile Articles (AT&T) and Additional Excise Duty (Goods of Special Importance) Act have been abolished.
- (xi) The Export Promotion Councils have been undertaking export promotion events like participation in overseas exhibitions/fairs, organizing BSMs abroad, sponsoring trade delegations in consultation with Indian Mission at abroad.

(e) As per available DGCI&S data, readymade garment exports during the period April-October, 2004, have amounted to US\$ 3119.8 million as compared to export of US\$ 2994.3 million during the corresponding period of 2003.

*[English]***Service Tax**

694. SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether traders have launched a nationwide strike to protest against service tax imposed by the centre;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the traders all over the country are miffed with the decision of the Government; and

(d) if so, the steps Government proposes to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) Traders have been protesting against the shifting of liability of payment of service tax in certain situations, from Service Provider to the Service Receiver, in case of Goods Transport Agency Services.

(d) A Committee comprising representatives of department, transport agencies and traders has been constituted to look into the matter and suggest remedial measures.

*[Translation]***Expenditure on Foreign Travel**

695. SHRI BHUPENDRASINH SOLANKI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Ministers and the officials of their respective Ministries have visited several foreign countries during the last six months;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the expenditure incurred on the foreign visits of the Ministers and the officials during this period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The information is not maintained centrally.

(c) Information regarding allocation of funds for foreign travel and actual expenditure on foreign travel on an annual basis is available in the Detailed Demands for Grants of respective Ministries/Departments, placed annually on the Table of the House.

*[English]***Export of Jute Products**

696. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the demand and supply of jute products during last three years.

(b) whether the jute products are being exported from the Country.

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government is providing any Minimum Export Price;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(g) the steps taken by the Government to promote the Jute Industry in the country?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) The Demand and supply of jute goods during the last three years are as under:—

Qty: 000'M.Ton.		
Year	Demand	Supply
2001-02	1609.0	1600.8
2002-03	1599.7	1621.8
2003-04	1652.9	1571.3

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. Jute products are being exported from the country, details are as below:—

Qty: 000' M.Ton. Value: Rs. Million

Products	2001-02		2002-03		2003-04	
	Qty.	Value	Qty.	Value	Qty.	Value
Hessian	51.6	1873.59	100.8	3533.01	157.1	4145.90
Sacking	2.1	73.55	6.1	187.35	33.4	846.70
Carpet backing Cloth	2.9	98.64	2.8	105.01	5.2	156.28
Yarn	77.0	2212.36	77.1	2237.7	90.6	2469.15
Food grade jute Products	5.1	179.58	23.6	673.5	.	.
Soil Saver	4.0	61.14	9.3	126.46	10.47	130.81
Jute Diversified products	—	1355.07	—	2031.65	—	2232.72
Others	5.6	279.32	6.3	238.58	13.6	537.21
Total	148.2	6133.22	226.0	9133.21	310.4	10518.77

*Included in statistics of hessian and sacking.

(d) to (f) The Government of India has no such scheme to provide minimum export price as the need for this has not been felt. However, Government is implementing the External Market Assistance and the Duty Entitlement Pass Book Schemes in order to boost the export of jute products.

(g) The following schemes are in operation by the Government to promote the jute industry in the country.

- (i) The Incentive Scheme for Modernisation of Jute Industry being implemented by Jute Manufactures Development Council.
- (ii) The Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme.
- (iii) The Jute Entrepreneurs Assistance (JEA) Scheme being implemented by National Centre for Jute Diversification (NCJD).

[Translation]

Insurance for National Calamity Affected People

697. SHRI GIRIDHARI YADAV:
SHRI V.K. THUMMAR:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether insurance cover is provided to the poor people for the reconstruction of their houses damaged due to natural calamities like fire, floods, cyclone, earthquake etc.;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, whether the Government proposes to launch such scheme;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The General Insurance Companies, both in public sector and private sector, are marketing insurance policies for coverage of risk of loss/damage of houses due to natural calamities like fire, floods, cyclone, earthquake etc. These insurance policies could be purchased by anybody by payment of requisite premium.

(c) to (e) A Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) for each State is in operation to provide immediate relief to the people affected by natural calamities for repair and restoration of their damaged houses. Central Government contributes 75% to the CRF of each State and the

balance 25% is met by the State Governments. In case of a calamity of server nature, Central Government provides additional assistance to State Governments from National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF) depending upon the requirement. In view of this, there is no proposal to launch a separate scheme for relief to people effected by natural calamity.

[English]

Duty Evasion on Import of Foreign Cars

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

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether cases were reported on tax evasion by individuals while importing foreign made cars into the country;

(b) if so, the details of the cases registered in this regard for the last three years;

(c) whether any such cases were reported from Kerala;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action taken by the concerned authorities to recover the tax dues from these persons?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) 71 cases involving tax evasion of Rs. 9,05,27,286.00 on importation of foreign cars have been registered during last three years.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) 20 cases of fraudulent importation of foreign cars involving tax evasion of Rs. 4,21,24,482.00 have been reported from Kerala.

(e) The tax dues have been realized in 14 cases. However, dues are yet to be recovered in 6 cases.

Training for Rural Unemployed Youth

699. SHRI J.M. AARON RASHID:
SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI:
SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has decided to launch a massive training programme for rural unemployed

involving Non-Government Organisations under the World Bank Programme;

(b) if so, whether there is a proposal to form rural NGO's forum at the State level and a confederation of NGOs for rural India at the national level;

(c) if so, whether a massive training programme in different parts of the country will be done by utilizing the vehicle of rural NGOs already working in close coordination with GANGOTRI; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) the Council for Advancement of People's Action and Rural Technology (CAPART) proposes to organize a series of training programmes for rural unemployed during the next one year by involving a number of Non-Government Organisations in different parts of the country.

(b) Formation of rural NGOs fora at the State level and a Confederation of NGOs of Rural India at National Level was discussed at various Regional level and National level meetings of NGOs organized by CAPART. Accordingly, some State NGOs fora and National level Confederation of NGOs of Rural India have been set up by the NGOs themselves.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) While the details of the Scheme are being worked out, to begin with, training will cover one lakh rural youth in different skills through 50 NGOs in 50 districts.

[Translation]

Funds under Swajaldhara Scheme

700. SHRIMATI KIRAN MAHESHWARI:
SHRI ANANTH KUMAR:
DR. COL. (RETD.) DHANI RAM SHANDIL:
SHRI TAPIR GAO:
SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN:
SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA:
SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK:
SHRI D.V. SADANANDA GOWDA:
SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP:
SHRI M. ANJAN KUMAR YADAV:
SHRI ATIQ AHAMAD:
SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO:
DR. KARAN SINGH YADAV:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the funds allocated under Swajaldhara Yojana and other Centrally Sponsored Schemes launched during the last three years and in the current year, State-wise;

(b) the progress report of the said schemes received as on date including utilization of funds from States;

(c) the villages covered with proper drinking/sanitation facilities. State-wise;

(d) the guidelines for implementation of the above schemes, and

(e) the State-wise proposals received by the Union Government for 2004-05 and 2005-06?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI A. NARENDRA): (a) and (d) During the last three years, no new centrally sponsored scheme was launched in rural drinking water and sanitation sector. Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP) introduced in 1972-73 and Central Rural Sanitation Programme, launched in 1986 and restructured as Total Sanitation Campaign in 1999, are the only Centrally sponsored schemes in the rural drinking water & sanitation sector. The Government of India in 1999 approved earmarking up to 20% of the annual outlay under ARWSP for implementing projects to institutionalize

community participation in rural drinking water supply schemes. Sector Reforms Projects taken up in 67 districts were scaled up as Swajaldhara in December 2002. Swajaldhara is, therefore, a component of Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme. The State-wise position of the funds released and expenditure reported under Swajaldhara 2002-2003, 2003-2004 and 2004-2005 are given in the Statement-I enclosed. As per the reports received from States, 1349 schemes under Swajaldhara 2002-03, 1145 schemes under 2003-04 and 6 schemes under Swajaldhara 2004-05 have been completed.

(c) The status of the coverage of rural habitations with drinking water facilities based on comprehensive Action Plan 1999 and the subsequent coverage position reported by the States/UTs, is given in the Statement-II enclosed. Total Sanitation Projects are at present being implemented in 452 districts.

(d) The Guidelines for implementation of Rural Water Supply and rural sanitation schemes have been issued to the State Governments. Guidelines are also available at web site '<http://ddws.nic.in>'.

(e) State Governments are competent to plan, sanction, implement and execute rural drinking water supply schemes from the funds provided under ARWSP. Proposals in this regard need no clearance from Central level.

Statement I

Sl.No.	Name of the States	Swajaldhara 2002-03		Swajaldhara 2003-04		Swajaldhara 2004-05	
		Amount Released (Rs. in Lakh)	Expenditure reported (Rs. in Lakh)	Amount Released (Rs. in Lakh)	Expenditure reported (Rs. in Lakh)	Amount Released (Rs. in Lakh)	Expenditure reported (Rs. in Lakh)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	7656.83	4453.21	1170.50	615.40	1224.49	0.00
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	—	—	223.71	0.00	—	—
3.	Assam	480.37	244.48	377.30	281.49	—	—
4.	Bihar	—	—	—	—	587.12	0.00
5.	Chhattisgarh	211.41	115.85	—	—	247.12	0.00
6.	DNH	4.74	0.00	4.00	0.00	—	—
7.	Gujarat	162.54	92.92	765.56	604.85	619.81	423.81
8.	Haryana	10.98	7.85	117.12	0.00	184.86	0.00

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9.	Himachal Pradesh	335.79	118.15	340.11	0.00	—	—
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	—	—	748.95	59.38	1170.02	0.00
11.	Jharkhand	—	—	178.01	0.00	—	—
12.	Karnataka	161.01	40.68	899.77	175.80	940.15	0.00
13.	Kerala	279.54	128.88	349.57	158.53	366.93	0.00
14.	Madhya Pradesh	285.38	222.85	520.27	305.19	—	—
15.	Maharashtra	5802.19	3020.53	1086.07	113.06	1494.60	0.00
16.	Meghalaya	—	—	—	—	13.59	0.00
17.	Mizoram	—	—	—	—	84.92	0.00
18.	Nagaland	—	—	65.11	57.80	216.76	0.00
19.	Orissa	336.79	95.58	387.45	187.60	648.92	2.00
20.	Punjab	—	—	168.76	11.33	263.33	0.00
21.	Rajasthan	374.52	205.68	1334.59	543.23	1902.91	0.00
22.	Tamil Nadu	1394.63	856.38	673.20	530.95	666.83	0.00
23.	Tripura	—	—	104.36	0.00	123.73	0.00
24.	Uttar Pradesh	654.16	3.10	766.46	0.00	1215.80	0.00
25.	Uttaranchal	—	—	182.00	0.00	—	—
26.	West Bengal	33.73	9.96	471.50	0.00	511.93	0.00
Total		17984.61	9616.10	10934.37	3644.61	12609.94	425.81

Statement II

Status of Coverage of Habitations as on 1-11-2004 based on Cap, 99 and Coverage Reported there after by States/UTs under Rural Water Supply Programme (Provisional)

Sl.No.	State/UT	Status of Habitations as on 1-11-2004			
		NC	PC	FC	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	0	0	69732	69732
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	245	656	3397	4298
3.	Assam	301	10691	59563	70555
4.	Bihar	0	0	105340	105340

1	2	3	4	5	6
5.	Chhattisgarh	0	0	50379	50379
6.	Goa	0	7	388	395
7.	Gujarat	0	52	30217	30269
8.	Haryana	0	0	6745	6745
9.	Himachal Pradesh	0	6891	38476	45367
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	678	2640	7866	11184
11.	Jharkhand	0	0	100096	100096
12.	Karnataka	0	5618	51064	56682
13.	Kerala	0	7573	2190	9763
14.	Madhya Pradesh	0	0	109489	109489
15.	Maharashtra	346	23743	61841	85930
16.	Manipur	0	0	2791	2791
17.	Meghalaya	13	404	8219	8636
18.	Mizoram	0	112	695	807
19.	Nagaland	41	690	794	1525
20.	Orissa	0	0	114099	114099
21.	Punjab	906	1198	11345	13449
22.	Rajasthan	2785	0	91161	93946
23.	Sikkim	0	74	1605	1679
24.	Tamil Nadu	0	0	66631	66631
25.	Tripura	0	0	7412	7412
26.	Uttar Pradesh	0	0	243508	243508
27.	Uttaranchal	34	274	30666	30974
28.	West Bengal	0	0	79036	79036
29.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0	102	402	504
30.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	19	41	456	516
31.	Daman and Diu	0	0	32	32
32.	Delhi	0	0	219	219
33.	Lakshadweep	0	10	0	10
34.	Pondicherry	0	108	159	267
35.	Chandigarh	0	0	18	18
Total		5368	60664	1356031	1422283
Percentage		0.38	4.28	95.34	100.00
Number of habitations uninhabited/unpopulated/migrated/urbanised					381
Grand Total					1422664

NC: Not covered,

PC: Partially Covered,

FC: Fully Covered.

SIDBI

701. SHRI ATIQ AHAMAD: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has turned down the proposal for converting the Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) into a commercial bank;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the fresh steps taken by the Government to achieve the target fixed for disbursement of funds from the Small Industries Fund amounting Rs. 10,000 crores by 2006?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) Government has not received any proposal for converting Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIBI) into a commercial bank.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The cumulative sanctions out of SME fund up to 31st January, 2005 are Rs. 2082 crore. Steps taken to achieve the target for disbursement of SME fund by 2006 are as under:—

- (i) Apart from direct lending by SIDBI, SME fund is being deployed through other intermediaries at 6.25% to 7.25% p.a. rate for all Scheduled Commercial Banks and at 7.5% to 7% p.a. rate for SFCs and SIDCs
- (ii) To encourage credit deployment under SME fund, assistance is being dovetailed with Government sponsored schemes of Credit Linked Capital Subsidy Scheme and Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme.

[English]

**Reduction in Revenue Collection
under "Other Taxes"**

702. SHRI HARIBHAU RATHOD: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether collection of revenues under 'Other Taxes' category has been reduced to insignificance;

(b) how does this compare with other developed and developing countries; and

(c) the innovative steps proposed to raise the tax resources of the country in keeping with the changed economic scenario?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) Collection under other direct taxes has been decreasing over last five years due to abolition of various other tax enactments including Gift Tax, Interest Tax, Hotel Receipts Tax and Expenditure Tax.

(b) Information relating to trends of collection under other direct taxes in other countries is not available.

(c) Some of the innovative steps already initiated and proposed in the Budget for 2005-06 to raise the tax resources of the country keeping with the changed economic scenario are as follows:—

- (i) Administrative reforms in the Revenue Department and comprehensive computerisation.
- (ii) Introduction of Securities Transaction Tax.
- (iii) Introduction of education cess.
- (iv) Proposed major overhaul of income tax bracket and rationalisation of exemptions, deductions and rebate etc.
- (v) Proposed introduction of Fringe Benefit Tax.
- (vi) Proposed introduction of Banking Cash Transaction Tax.
- (vii) Simplification and taxpayer friendly measures for encouraging voluntary compliance. Proposal for setting up of Large Taxpayer Units (LTU) in major cities.

**Kelkar Committee Recommendation on
Import Duty Structure**

703. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Kelkar Committee had recommended a duty structure on import of raw materials, intermediate products and finished goods;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the purpose of the differential in customs duty between the raw material and the manufactured/processed goods was to encourage and promote the Indian industry;

(d) whether the recommended differential has been effected in the duty structure on all materials; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) In the 'Report of the Task Force on Indirect Taxes' submitted in December, 2002, the Task Force headed by Dr. Vijay Kelkar, has recommended, that by 2004-2005, the rate of customs duty (a) on raw materials, inputs and intermediate goods be brought down to 10%, and (b) on consumer durables to 20%. For 2006-07, the recommended rates of customs duty are (a) 5% on basic raw materials, (b) 8% on intermediate goods, (c) 10% on finished goods other than consumer durables, and (d) 20% on consumer durable. In the 'Report of the Task Force on implementation of the Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management Act, 2003 submitted in July, 2004 the Task Force headed by Dr. Vijay Kelkar has recommended a similar four-tier structure consisting 5%, 8%, 10% and 20%.

(c) the purposes of these recommendations, as stated in the reports, are to minimize the number of duty rates to make economy competitive and to have lower duty on goods which are used for further manufacture, as distinct from finished consumption goods.

(d) and (e) The customs duty rates announced in Budget 2005 are in line with the policy of bringing the customs duty rates to the levels prevailing in ASEAN countries and to avoid inversion in duty rates to the extent possible. While the peak rate for non-agricultural products have been brought down to 15% (with a few exceptions), the duty rates on industrial raw materials and intermediates such as, crude petroleum, primary and semi-finished forms of metals, (other than seconds and defectives), refractoriness and their raw materials, catalysts, plastic intermediates etc. have been prescribed at lower rates than the said peak rate.

National Investment Fund

704. SHRI PRABODH PANDA:
SHRI PRAKASH BAPU V. PATIL:
SHRI B. VINOD KUMAR:
SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH:
SHRI HEMLAL MURMU:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have decided to set up a National Investment Fund;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the source of such fund;

(c) whether the funds collected from disinvestment would cater to the need of social sector and revival of sick Public Sector Undertakings; and

(d) if so, whether detailed action plan has been worked out and sick PSUs identified?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Government decided on 27th January 2005 to constitute a "National Investment Fund" into which the realisation from sale of minority shareholding of the Government in profitable PSEs would be channelised. The Fund would be maintained outside the Consolidated Fund of India and would be professionally managed by selected Public Sector Financial entities, which have the requisite experience to provide sustainable returns to the Government without affecting the corpus.

(c) Yes, Sir. The income from the Fund would be used for the following broad investment objectives:—

(i) Investment in social sector projects which promote education, health care and employment;

(ii) Capital investment in selected profitable and revivable Public Sector Enterprises that yield adequate returns, in order to enlarge their capital base to finance expansion/diversification.

(d) The Board for Reconstruction of Public Sector Enterprises has been constituted by the Government, which is located in the Department of Public Enterprises (DPE), to take up the cases of strengthening, modernizing, reviving and restructuring of Public Sector Enterprises.

Autonomy to Forward Markets Commission

705. SHRI B. VINOD KUMAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to make Forward Markets Commission an autonomous body;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also proposed to bestow more powers on the Commission so as to enable it to function as an effective regulator; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and would be placed on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

Senior Citizen Scheme

706. SHRI HEMMAL MURMU: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the LIC, various nationalised banks and Post Offices have a provision to pay interest @ 9% on the deposits made by senior citizens;

(b) if so, the total number of persons who are availing the interest @ 9% on the deposits made by senior citizens, State-wise;

(c) whether the Government has made arrangements to encourage senior citizens for making deposits and to make them aware of higher interest rates being provided by the Government; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) A Senior Citizens Savings Scheme, bearing interest at the rate of nine per cent per annum, has been introduced by the Government through designated post offices and branches of public sector banks. All senior citizens of 60 years of age and above and retired persons of 55 years of age and above but less than 60 years, can subscribe to the scheme. The total number of accounts in post offices as on 31.01.2005, Circle-wise is given in the Statement enclosed.

(c) and (d) The scheme received wide publicity through the Budget Speech on 8th July, 2004, and subsequent press releases. The scheme is displayed on the official web-site of the Ministry of Finance, and is promoted through the National Savings Institute, Nagpur, State Governments and agents of various small savings schemes of the Central Government.

Statement

Circle-wise Number of Accounts in Post Offices under Senior Citizens Savings Scheme as on 31st January, 2005

Sl.No.	Name of Circle	Number of Accounts
1.	Andhra Pradesh	10611
2.	Assam	515
3.	Bihar	1224
4.	Chhattisgarh	2221
5.	Delhi	39792
6.	Gujarat	22614
7.	Haryana	5137
8.	Himachal Pradesh	1621
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	672
10.	Jharkhand	1416
11.	Karnataka	19262
12.	Kerala	10954
13.	Madhya Pradesh	4701
14.	Maharashtra	51281
15.	North-East	162
16.	Orissa	1893
17.	Punjab	10852
18.	Rajasthan	9793
19.	Tamil Nadu	30540
20.	Uttar Pradesh	24319
21.	Uttaranchal	2345
22.	West Bengal	24085
23.	Army Postal Service	73
	Total	276083

*[English]***Tackling Drought**

707. SHRI HARIBHAU RATHOD:
SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has received any representation/request from State Governments for financial and other assistance to tackle drought;

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

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI A. NARENDRA): (a) and (c) Drought Prone Areas Programme (DPAP) is being implemented in 16 programme states with the objective of drought proofing by rejuvenating the natural resource based on long term basis. Under DPAP, Ministry of Rural Development sanctions new projects, each of 500 hectares, as per the guidelines of Watershed Development and funds are released to ZPs/DRDAs in instalments over the project period of five years. The first instalment of central funds is released with the sanction of new projects and the programme being demand driven, subsequent instalments are released on receipt of specific proposals from the State Government/ZP/DRDA along with Utilisation Certificate, Audited Statement of Accounts etc. The Ministry routinely receives proposals seeking fund release against on-going projects from the States/District Agencies. While releasing the central instalments, it is ensured that ZP/DRDA has utilised more than 50% of funds released to it earlier. Accordingly, an amount of about Rs. 280.00 crore has been released to the programme states during the year 2004-05 till date.

Making Cotton Chain Excise Free

708. SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:
SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD:
SHRI VIJOY KRISHNA:
SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has fixed any target for export of textiles by 2010 after post quota regime;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to lower the custom and excise duty on the entire cotton chain;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether India has missed the opportunities of new capacities earlier during quota regime;

(f) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(g) the steps taken by the Government to meet the challenges in textile sector from other countries?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) and (b) The National Textile Policy-2000 makes a vision statement to achieve textile and apparel exports of US \$ 50 billion by 2010. However, the textile export targets are fixed on year to year basis, keeping in view the most recent export trends and potential for future growth in different textiles sub-sectors. For the year 2004-05, the textile export target has been fixed at US\$ 15.2 billion.

(c) and (d) The excise duty structure for cotton textile items has already been rationalised considerably. All textile goods, except for mandatory excise duty on polyester filament yarn, synthetic and artificial fibres and synthetic and artificial filament yarns, have been exempted from excise duty subject to non avilment of CENVAT credit. This exemption is optional. For those opting for to pay duty, the rates of excise duty are: (i) 4% for all textile goods made of pure cotton, not containing any other textile materials; (ii) 8% in respect of all other textile goods.

(e) and (f) India's textile exports to the major importing countries (United States, European Union, Canada) had been circumscribed by the annual quota limits placed by these countries under the erstwhile quota regime, which has had an adverse impact on flow of investments in India's textile sector. As the date for the final integration of quota restrictions started approaching, encouraged with the Government's initiatives, the industry has taken definitive steps by making considerable investments to restructure the industry through modernisation and expansion of capacities.

(g) Government has been taking a number of steps from time to time to strengthen the Indian textile industry

to meet the emerging global competition. Some of the important initiatives taken are:—

- (i) The Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS) has been made operational from 1-4-1999 to facilitate the modernisation and upgradation of the sector.
- (ii) The imports of specified textiles and garment machinery items has been allowed at concessional rate of customs duty to encourage investments and to make our textile products competitive in the global market. The cost of machinery has also been reduced through fiscal policy measures.
- (iii) To improve the productivity and quality of cotton, Government has launched Technology Mission on Cotton (TMC). The mission comprises four mini-missions, which are being jointly implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture and Ministry of Textiles. One of the important ingredients of the Mission is to cotton processing facilities by upgrading/modernizing the existing ginning and pressing facilities and setting up of new market yards/improvement of existing market yards.
- (iv) The Government has launched a centrally sponsored scheme titled "Apparel Park for Export Scheme" for imparting focused thrust for setting up of apparel manufacturing units of international standards at potential growth centres to give fillip to exports.
- (v) For upgrading infrastructure facilities at important textile centres, a scheme titled "Textile Centre Infrastructure Development Scheme" (TCIDS) has been launched.
- (vi) The fiscal duty structure has been rationalised to achieve growth and maximum value addition. Except for mandatory excise duty on polyester filament yarn, synthetic and artificial fibres and synthetic and artificial filament yarns, the whole value addition chain including cotton textile and cotton clothing items have been given excise exemption option. Additional Excise Duty on Textiles & Textile Articles (AT&T) and Additional Excise Duty (Goods of Special Importance) Act have been abolished.
- (vii) The Government has de-reserved the woven segment of readymade garment from the SSI

sector. It has also raised the SSI investment limit for knitted segment to Rs. 5 crores. In the Union Budget 2005-06, an announcement has been made for de-reservation of 30 hosiery items from the SSI.

- (viii) National Institute for Fashion Technology (NIFT), its six branches and Apparel Training & Design Centres (ATDCs) are running various courses/programmes to meet skilled manpower requirements to textile industry especially apparel in the field of design, merchandising and marketing.
- (ix) Facilities by way of eco-testing laboratories have been created to enable exporters to get the garments/textiles pre-tested for conforming to the requirements of importing countries.

[Translation]

Funds for Rural Development

709. SHRI DEVIDAS PINGLE:
SHRI JASHUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD:
DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA:
SHRI SARBANANDA SONOWAL:
SHRI ILYAS AZMI:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Budget for Rural Development has been reduced by 26 per cent as compared to last year;
- (b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reasons therefor;
- (c) the names of the new schemes launched and the amount allocated therefor, State-wise during last year and the current year;
- (d) whether States have demanded more funds for different schemes;
- (e) if so, the details thereof;
- (f) whether North-Eastern States have demanded revision of funding pattern for Centrally sponsored rural development schemes; and
- (g) if so, the details thereof alongwith the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) No Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) In November, 2004, a new scheme National Food for Work Programme (NFFWP) has been launched in selected 150 backward districts of the country. The State-wise allocation is given at Statement enclosed.

(d) and (e) Some States have been raising the demand for more funds from time to time. The

Programmes implemented by the Ministry of Rural Development are broadly allocation based and as enhanced allocations have been made for these programmes in the past, States also get their enhanced share. Any specific demand of the States for more funds is considered on the basis of availability of funds and their eligibility.

(f) and (g) The States of North Eastern Region have requested for changing the funding pattern of the Rural Development Schemes from the ratio 75:25 to 90:10 between the Centre and the States. The matter is under consideration.

Statement

State-wise allocation of Resources under NFFWP during 2004-05

Sl.No.	States	No. of Districts	Allocation of funds (Rs. in lakhs)	Allocation of Foodgrains (in MTs)
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	8	12214.72	125413
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	1	190.80	1249
3.	Assam	5	16645.79	108984
4.	Bihar	15	26411.54	271183
5.	Chhattisgarh	10	10410.19	109045
6.	Gujarat	6	3994.69	41042
7.	Haryana	1	281.85	2894
8.	Himachal Pradesh	1	303.91	3121
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	2	494.26	5074
10.	Jharkhand	14	22595.70	232004
11.	Karnataka	3	2925.38	30038
12.	Kerala	1	547.14	5618
13.	Madhya Pradesh	15	15808.32	162310
14.	Maharashtra	11	15495.26	158998
15.	Manipur	1	399.22	2614
16.	Meghalaya	1	543.85	3562

1	2	3	4	5
17.	Mizoram	1	95.52	626
18.	Nagaland	1	455.72	2984
19.	Orissa	18	22283.67	228863
20.	Punjab	1	716.32	7356
21.	Rajasthan	5	3532.69	36269
22.	Sikkim	1	315.73	2068
23.	Tamil Nadu	4	4851.58	49815
24.	Tripura	1	1543.37	10105
25.	Uttaranchal	2	1014.86	10418
26.	Uttar Pradesh	15	26378.11	270779
27.	West Bengal	6	11449.81	117568
	Total	150	201900.00	2000000

[English]

Subsidy to Small Powerlooms

710. SHRI JASHUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD:
SHRI AJIT JOGI:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is contemplating to provide subsidy for technical advancement of small powerlooms;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the total quantum of textile produced annually by powerloom in the country particularly in Gujarat;

(d) extent to which this subsidy for technical advancement of small powerlooms will be helpful;

(e) whether Government propose to implement any special safety scheme for handloom and powerloom sectors; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) and (b) The Government of India has

already implemented w.e.f. 6.11.2003, a 20% credit linked capital subsidy scheme for the banchmarked technology pertaining to weaving and preparatory machinery in the powerloom sector. The investment limit on this machinery has been raised to Rs. 100 crore w.e.f. 13.01.05. from the previous limit of Rs. 60.00 lakhs. The powerloom sector is free to choose between benefits under this scheme or the 5% interest subsidy under Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS).

(c) The production of textiles for the last 3 years in respect of the decentralised powerloom sector along with the estimated production figures of Gujarat state is as follows:

Year	Production of textiles (in million sq. meters)	
	All India	Gujarat State
2001-02	25192	4812
2002-03	25954	4880
2003-04	26947	4985

(d) The decentralised powerloom sector suffers from technological obsolescence, low level of technical skills,

poor productivity, poor product quality and low unit value realization from exports. The above Scheme is aimed at helping rapid modernisation and technology upgradation so that the powerloom sector reaps the benefits of cost-competitiveness in the international market.

(e) & (f) For the handloom sector, Finance Minister, in his budget speech 2005-06, has announced the following two social safety schemes:

- Coverage of additional 18 lakh weavers under the Bunkar Bima Yojana, an Insurance Scheme for the handloom weavers which would cost Rs. 30.00 crores per year when fully rolled out.
- To cover around 2 lakh (as against the present level of 25,000) weavers at a recurring cost of Rs. 30.00 crores per year under the Health Insurance Scheme.

For Powerloom Weavers, a Group Insurance Scheme has been introduced in association with the Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) since July 2003. Under this Scheme, the annual premium of Rs. 200.00 is shared by the Central Government, the beneficiary and the LIC in the ratio of 30:20:50 respectively. It covers accidental/natural death and partial/permanent disability.

Government has also announced, since July 2003, a Scheme for assistance for construction of group workshops for powerloom to create a better working environment for the powerloom weavers and thus enhance their productivity.

[Translation]

Sahastrakund Power Project

711. SHRI D.B. PATIL: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the proposal of Shahastrakund Power Project to be set up in Nanded district of Maharashtra is pending with the Union Government for clearance;

(b) if so, the present status thereof along with the reasons for delay;

(c) the role of the Ministry in the above project; and

(d) the time by which the project is likely to be cleared and become functional?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.M. SAYEED):
(a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

(d) Hydro Electric schemes upto 25 MW capacity are under the preview of the Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources.

Agriculture Loan

712. SHRI MUNAWAR HASSAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of Branches of SBI and Union Bank of India in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) whether State Bank of India and Union Bank of India are providing agriculture loan; and

(c) if so, the amount of credit provided by State Bank of India and Union Bank of India through Kissan Credit Cards and direct help to farmers to Self-help Groups during the current financial year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) The Reserve Bank of India has reported that the State Bank of India (SBI) and the Union Bank of India (UBI) have 1130 and 440 bank branches respectively in Uttar Pradesh as on September 30, 2004.

(b) and (c) The amount of credit disbursed by the SBI & the UBI through Kisan Credit Cards (KCCs) and to Self Help Groups (SHGs) in Uttar Pradesh during the current financial year is as under:

Name of the Bank	(Amount Rupees in crores)	
	Credit provided through (as on 31.1.2005)	
	KCCs	SHGs
SBI	387.05	37.42
UBI	90.82	9.93

Power from Wastes

713. SHRI RAKESH SINGH: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the government propose to encourage making of power from waste in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether several States in Northern India i.e. Punjab, Chandigarh, Haryana, Delhi etc. have tremendous potential for making power from waste; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken to financially help these States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources has been implementing a National Programme, which provides Central Financial Assistance and other incentives to promote the setting up of projects for recovery of energy from urban and industrial wastes. Financial assistance is also provided to State Nodal Agencies, urban Local Bodies, NGOs, etc. for organizing seminars, workshops and training courses in this sector.

(c) and (d) A total potential of about 2700 MW has been estimated in the country, including the States in Northern India, for generating power from urban and industrial wastes. A National Conference on Renewable Energy for Urban Areas was organized by the Ministry wherein the need to adopt scientific disposal systems with energy recovery to keep the cities clean and pollution free was highlighted. The States and Municipal Corporations were requested to provide greater thrust to the development of waste to energy projects, which could be considered for financial support by the Ministry.

[English]

Implementation of SGRY

714. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether subsidised rice for implementation of SGRY remains undelivered against work component of stream-I & II in many districts of Assam since 2001;

(b) if so, the district-wise details thereof alongwith allocated and delivered quantity;

(c) whether special component has been sanctioned for some districts;

(d) if so, the list of such districts with the amount sanctioned; and

(e) the status of undelivered amount and action taken to ensure efficient functioning of the scheme in Assam?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) No Sir. Lifting of foodgrains against the authorized quantity under SGRY is satisfactory in the State.

(b) the district-wise statement for the period 2001-02 to 2004-05 (up to December) showing authorization and lifting (delivered) of rice by the implementing agencies is given in the Statement-I enclosed.

(c) and (d) Yes Sir. Foodgrains under Special Component were sanctioned to 14 districts in the year 2003-2004 and to all Districts during December 2004. District-wise authorization of rice for such district is given in the Statement-II enclosed.

(e) 21.10% of authorized quantity in SGRY could not be lifted during authorized period from 2001-2002 to 2003-2004, & 1.5% of authorized quantity in Special Component could not be lifted during authorization period 2003-2004 due to non-availability of rice at designated FCI godowns. During the current year, foodgrains were authorized in December 2004 under Special Component and the lifting of foodgrains is under progress. Whenever there is a problem of supply, the Ministry is in touch with the FCI to improve the situation.

Statement I

Districtwise Foodgrains Authorised and Lifted under SGRY during 2001-2002, 2002-2003, 2003-2004 and 2004-2005 (upto Dec. 04)

Foodgrains in MT (Rice)

Sl.No.	District	2001-2002		2002-2003		2003-2004		2004-2005	
		Authorised	Lifted	Authorised	Lifted	Authorised	Lifted	Authorised	Lifted
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1.	Barpeta	13869	13869	15816	15816	16854	15854	11874	7265
2.	Bongaigaon	20162	20082	22982	22982	21757	21757	17252	3169

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
3.	Cachar	14914	14826	17007	13911	15952	12758	12771	10567
4.	Darrang	16761	12167	19109	18394	20213	10830	14344	—
5.	Dhemaji	13869	10715	15828	14756	17476	3104	11876	7448
6.	Dhubri	14149	14149	16088	16088	17487	8000	12075	15891
7.	Dibrugarh	8293	8293	9468	9468	10771	10351	7107	6971
8.	Goalpara	9083	9083	10365	10365	11188	7773	7780	2641
9.	Golaghat	11064	10100	8188	8188	11757	8408	9480	11412
10.	Hailakandi	9994	9994	11405	10905	12213	2000	8562	1944
11.	Jorhat	12401	10816	14123	14123	16689	5900	10607	100
12.	K. Anglong	19430	19360	17618	17618	22246	10002	16637	2693
13.	Kamrup	15428	15397	14343	14343	17940	7098	13205	18524
14.	Karimganj	12288	8472	10525	10525	14776	1767	10527	7184
15.	Kokrajhar	24970	24970	28479	28479	30237	25788	21380	24289
16.	Lakhimpur	13632	12228	15542	11587	14671	2000	11666	6945
17.	Morigaon	12088	11957	10326	10325	14527	1740	10345	11257
18.	N.C. Hills	11857	11857	13531	13531	13601	5070	10158	5988
19.	Nagaon	14343	11544	16355	16355	16867	5762	12279	13064
20.	Nalbari	16801	16801	19163	19163	19973	15517	14389	13161
21.	Sibsagar	5911	4209	7724	6789	6207	4050	5053	6656
22.	Sonitpur	17312	17270	19748	19748	19418	9679	14819	16270
23.	Tinsukia	6822	6822	9712	9712	8263	6207	5834	3000
Total		315441	294981	343445	333171	371483	201415	270020	196439

Statement II

District-wise foodgrains authorised under Special Component of SGRY

In MT (Rice)

Sl.No.	District	Authorised during	
		2003-2004	2004-2005
1	2	3	4
1.	Barpeta	1900	9246
2.	Bongaigaon	Nil	5777

1	2	3	4
3.	Cachar	Nil	6769
4.	Darrang	1700	4412
5.	Dhemaji	4200	2998
6.	Dhubri	10300	9910
7.	Dibrugarh	1300	1198
8.	Goalpara	7000	6541

1	2	3	4
9.	Golaghat	Nil	1690
10.	Hailakandi	4450	2314
11.	Jorhat	3600	2406
12.	Kamrup	4200	9301
13.	Karbi-Anglong	Nil	1476
14.	Karimganj	1350	4029
15.	Kokrajhar	Nil	982
16.	Morigaon	1800	6154
17.	N.C. Hills	Nil	456
18.	N. Lakhimpur	Nil	2233
19.	Nagaon	2800	10770
20.	Nalbari	3300	4429
21.	Sivasgar	Nil	1410
22.	Sonitpur	2100	4108
23.	Tinukia	Nil	1391
Total		50000	100000

Shortfall in Collection of Corporate Tax

715. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a shortfall of about 40 percent in the collection of corporate and personal income tax during the year;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the steps taken to ensure to achieve targets fixed; and

(c) the steps taken to recover tax dues from corporate houses?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) The collections under Corporate Income Tax and Personal Income Tax up to 15th February of the current year are 27.11% higher as compared to collections under these Heads during the corresponding period of preceding year.

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

(c) Apart from legal action for recovery of tax dues as prescribed under the Income Tax Act, the government has taken the following special measures in the current year for recovery of outstanding taxes:

1. Constitution of a Task Force for monitoring and facilitating the efforts of the Income-tax Department towards recovery of arrears.
2. Identification of cases involving substantial amount of arrears which are pending before Commissioners (Appeals) and asking the Commissioners (Appeals) concerned to dispose of such appeals early so that the resultant demand can be collected during the current financial year itself.
3. Requesting ITAT Benches to dispose of high-demand appeals.
4. No. adjournment to be sought by the Departmental Representatives in high-demand appeals and in appeals where stay of demand has been granted, without the prior approval of the Chief Commissioner.
5. Requesting the President of ITAT not to allow stay of demand beyond 180 days as prescribed in section 254 (2A) of the Income-tax Act.
6. Requesting Settlement Commission to dispose off high-demand cases expeditiously.

[Translation]

Reinstatement of Colliery Employees

716. SHRI TEK LAL MAHTO: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to reinstate thousands of those colliery employees who were dismissed due to long absence from duty;

(b) whether the BCCL, CCL, ECL and other companies have given any suggestions to the Government in this regard;

(c) if so, the time by which the above employees are likely to be reinstated;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the Government propose to provide jobs on compassionate ground to the dependents of the deceased employees of various coal companies including those who got employment in lieu of their land; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO): (a) No, Sir. As reported by Coal India Limited there is no such proposal. Disciplinary action is taken as per standing orders of the company and review of such action is done at the time of appeal depending upon the merits of the case.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Does not arise in view of reply given to part (b) above.

(e) and (f) No, Sir. This is a matter for coal companies to decide.

[English]

BPL Families

717. SHRI ANANTH KUMAR:
SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of families living below poverty line in the country, State-wise;

(b) whether all those families have been issued Yellow Cards;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the quantity of foodgrains provided to these families during the last three years, State-wise;

(e) whether the quantity of foodgrains meant for such families has been reduced;

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

(g) whether the Government has set the target to uplift all the poor people by 2009; and

(h) if so, the details thereof alongwith the steps taken/proposed in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) A statement-I indicatir number of families living below poverty line in the country, State-wise as identified on the basis of BPL Census, 1997 is enclosed.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Question does not arise.

(d) The foodgrains is released by the Ministry under the Sampooma Gramin Rozgar Yojana for all rural poor who are provided wage employment, quantity of foodgrains released under SGRY is given in the Statement-II enclosed.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Question does not arise.

(g) No, Sir.

(h) Question does not arise.

Statement I

Results of the BPL Census-1997

Sl.No.	State/UT	Total No. of Rural Families	No. of BPL Rural Families	% of BPL Families
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	10484028	4184628	39.91
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	102852	80627	78.39
3.	Assam	3607241	2164416	60.00

1	2	3	4	5
4.	Bihar	18933813	9399281	49.64
5.	Goa	135816	23101	17.01
6.	Gujarat	5587768	1980879	35.45
7.	Haryana	2074615	503019	24.25
8.	Himachal Pradesh	1036996	286112	27.59
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	1047251	606545	57.92
10.	Karnataka	6479832	2202756	33.99
11.	Kerala	4714295	1723558	36.56
12.	Madhya Pradesh	11651082	5111874	43.87
13.	Maharashtra	11010022	3860675	35.07
14.	Manipur	365670	246980	67.54
15.	Meghalaya	282362	156646	55.48
16.	Mizoram	110570	74154	67.07
17.	Nagaland \$\$	146615	88541	60.39
18.	Orissa \$\$	6790202	4445736	65.47
19.	Punjab	2330725	850209	27.90
20.	Rajasthan	6768541	2097560	30.99
21.	Sikkim	NR	NR	NR
22.	Tamil Nadu	9388118	2737921	29.16
23.	Tripura	595397	397798	66.81
24.	Uttar Pradesh	20430204	7541494	36.91
25.	West Bengal	11076686	4918296	44.40
26.	Andaman & Nicobar Island	30221	6421	21.25
27.	Dadar & Nagar Haveli	26237	17231	65.67
28.	Daman & Diu	10735	395	3.68
29.	Lakshadweep	8625	885	10.26
30.	Pondicherry	133555	63262	47.37
Total		135360074	55570998	41.05

Source: Ministry of Rural Development

NR-Not Reported

\$\$-Rural Households.

*Statement II**Foodgrains Released under Main SGRY and Special Component of SGRY During 2001-02 to 2003-04*

Sl.No.	States/UTs	Foodgrains Released under Main SGRY Scheme			Foodgrains Released under Special Component Plan of SGRY		
		2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2001-02*	2002-03	2003-04
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	232431	285972	258617	0	0	1820000
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	7015	5033	5196	1650000	2000000	24800
3.	Assam	315462	343445	371484	0	0	50000
4.	Bihar	228487	253388	377859	100000	0	0
5.	Chhattisgarh	124289	146422	208689	419007	329116	238000
6.	Goa	999	665	129	0	0	0
7.	Gujarat	92442	75652	156512	58105	148000	158000
8.	Haryana	88818	68495	60752	0	25000	0
9.	Himachal Pradesh	16241	23813	26859	0	10000	0
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	35257	25198	28480	0	0	0
11.	Jharkhand	172483	146377	283853	0	40000	0
12.	Karnataka	181522	272218	346261	100000	530000	679750
13.	Kerala	41518	120948	94235	5000	52000	61000
14.	Madhya Pradesh	355600	333920	385152	188665	417500	477760
15.	Maharashtra	235750	279014	363638	140000	115800	515800
16.	Manipur	8379	8218	18883	0	0	0
17.	Meghalaya	11974	25102	26338	0	0	0
18.	Mizoram	6423	7794	9189	0	0	0
19.	Nagaland	10956	6559	17253	0	0	0
20.	Orissa	188815	335023	277998	150000	400000	522000
21.	Punjab	23723	47103	50266	0	0	0
22.	Rajasthan	137586	183856	224972	621360	1898420	1357630
23.	Sikkim	4593	4819	8534	0	0	0
24.	Tamil Nadu	149616	260011	244627	0	125000	679000

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
25.	Tripura	32670	53912	50210	0	0	0
26.	Uttaranchal	29873	51329	57984	0	50000	0
27.	Uttar Pradesh	501449	908014	776170	0	200000	0
28.	West Bengal	214122	251184	262879	0	0	0
29.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	569	379	1315	0	0	0
30.	Dadar & Nagar Haveli	686	560	555	0	0	0
31.	Daman & Diu	0	0	0	0	0	0
32.	Lakshadweep	305	0	421	0	0	0
33.	Pondicherry	978	1401	1591	0	0	0
All-India		3451230	4525824	4996901	3432137	6340836	6583740

SGRY = Sampurna Gramin Rozgar Yojana* = Under Food For Works Programme.

Demand and Supply of Coal

718. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry of Power has asked the Ministry of Coal and Mines to allocate 150 Million ton captive coal reserve in three mining blocks in Damodar Valley Corporation;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the decision taken by the Ministry of coal & Mines thereon;

(c) the extent of shortage of coal likely to be fulfilled therefrom;

(d) whether the Ministry has prepared an action plan for the years 2004-05 and 2005-06 to meet the requirement of power projects; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.M. SAYEED):

(a) and (b) Damodar Valley Corporation (DVC) was allotted coal blocks viz. Khagra-Jaydev, Bajrora (North) and Kasta (East) having mineable reserve of 150 million tones for captive mining at source of supply of coal for their Maithon Left Bank Thermal Power Project. However, Ministry of Power has requested Ministry of Coal for

allowing captive mining of the said three coal blocks for end use at Mejia Thermal Power Station (MTPs) Extn. Units 4, 5 and 6 and the Durgapur Steel Thermal Power Station.

(c) While Coal requirement of Mejia Thermal Power Station Extn. is likely to be met from these coal blocks fully, Damodar Valley Corporation proposes to meet requirement of coal for Durgapur Steel Thermal Power Station to be sourced from Captive Coal Mine Blocks of Kasta (West) and Pachhwara (South) in Eastern coalfields Ltd. command area with total mineable reserve of 185-190 million tones. Accordingly a proposal has been made by Damodar Valley Corporation to the Ministry of Coal.

(d) and (e) Ministry of Power had prepared an action plan to bridge the gap of coal requirement of power projects for the year 2004-05 and 2005-06 by way of getting adequate production of domestic coal for Thermal Power Stations of Damodar Valley Corporation.

[Translation]

Co-Operative Financial Institutions

719. SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA:
SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN':

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether an Action Group has been constituted during last year by the Government for giving suggestions for revival and smooth functioning of cooperative financial institutions;

(b) if so, whether this Action Group has submitted its report to the Government in January, 2005;

(c) if so, the details of the suggestions given by the Action Group; and

(d) the details of the suggestions on which decision has been taken by the Government to implement them and the time by which these are likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) The Government had constituted a Task Force under the Chairmanship of Prof. A. Vaidyanathan for revival of co-operative credit institutions in August 2004. The Task Force has submitted its Report on 15th February, 2005.

(c) The Task Force has recommended a financial package of Rs. 14,839 crore for the credit co-operative institutions. The package covers accumulated losses, unpaid invoked guarantees, receivables from State Governments, return of share capital to State Governments, Human Resource Development, conduct of special audits, computerization, implementation costs etc. Provision of financial assistance is linked to reforms in co-operative sector.

(d) Recommendation of the Task Force has been accepted by the Government in principle for implementation.

Loan to Farmers

720. SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL:
SHRI BHANWAR SINGH DANGAWAS:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received any Memoranda and indent for ameliorating standard of living, helping in getting economic-sufficiency and prosperity to farmers and to sanction loan facility for various items and to raise the present limit of loan from banks under the control of Reserve Bank of India;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action being taken thereon;

(c) whether the Government has also received complaints regarding creating hindrances in distribution of loans;

(d) if so, the details thereof and action taken by the Government thereon; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) Government receives Memoranda and Indent from various quarters wherein suggestions are made to augment the standard of living and bring prosperity to farmers including easy procedure for sanctioning of loan to the farmers. However, the Government have taken a number of initiatives to overcome the problems being faced by the farmers. Moreover, it is an ongoing process and all possible efforts are made to ease the difficulties of farmers from time to time. Some of the steps taken by the Government in this regard are:

- (i) formulation of Special Agriculture Credit Plan by Public Sector Banks in 1994. Now this plan has been extended to Private Sector Banks also from the year 2005-06;
- (ii) Introduction of Kisan Credit Card in 1998;
- (iii) Relief measures for farmers affected by natural calamities and farmers indebted to non-institutional lenders;
- (iv) One Time Settlement Scheme for small and marginal farmers;
- (v) Waiver of margin/security norms for agricultural loans upto Rs. 50,000/-etc.

(c) to (e) Specific complaints received regarding hindrances in distribution of loans are redressed in consultation with agencies like Reserve Bank of India, NABARD and concerned Head Offices of the Banks/ Institutions. Prompt action is taken by the Government/ programme implementing agencies as and when such complaints are received.

[English]

Outsourcing Government Work

721. SHRI SURESH KURUP: Will the Minister of COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has taken any decision to outsource Government work to digitize paper based corporate filings;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government regarding improving public sector efficiency?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA): (a) to (c) The Ministry of Company Affairs (MCA) has launched an ambitious e-Governance and modernization programme called 'MCA 21 e-Governance Project' on 09.02.2005. The Project aims at transforming MCA into a paper less, modern, service-oriented, quality conscious and customer centric organization, envisages availability of all the MCA services online through Internet. After implementation, services such as registration of new companies, filing of annual returns and balance sheets, filing of event based documents and also viewing of documents etc. would be available to public online through Internet.

In this regard, 6 crore pages of legacy records of Company's documents under possession of MCA would need to be digitized and migrated in to e-records for the online process to be operated. Since the adequate high-end technology competency is locally available within the Indian private sectors, it has been outsourced as a part of the e-governance project.

The efficiency of the MCA services would improve substantially with the implementation of the project.

Expansion of NTPC

722. SHRI ARJUN SETHI: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to implement expansion programme of NTPC in the coming fiscal year;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the expansion programme of the company is being delayed due to inadequate financial assistance from the Government; and

(d) if so, the facts thereof?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.M. SAYEED): (a) and (b) NTPC's target for capacity addition during the

next fiscal, i.e., 2005-06 was 2000 MW (comprising 500 MW from Ramagundam Stage-III (1x500 MW); 500 MW first unit of Rihand STPP Stage-II (2x500 MW) and 1000 MW from two units (Nos. 5 & 6) of Talcher Stage-II (4x500 MW). However, these units have already been commissioned ahead of schedule in the year 2004-05. NTPC, therefore, plans to add 500 MW capacity in the next fiscal, i.e. 2005-06 by commissioning 2nd unit of Rihand Stage-II (2x500 MW) ahead of the schedule of May, 2006.

(c) and (d) NTPC has planned to finance all its expansion programmes through internal resources and therefore, not sought any budgetary support for its ongoing projects.

World Bank and ADB Loan to States

723. SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether in order to curtail the interest burden on State Governments, the Union Government has decided to allow them to resort to loans extended by multilateral agencies like the World Bank and ADB to the States;

(b) if so, the present interest burden on Madhya Pradesh and other State Governments; and

(c) the manner in which this decision is likely to reduce their interest burden?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) No, Sir. The States are constitutionally not permitted to borrow outside the territory of India.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Non-Completion of Power Projects

724. SHRI CHANDRA MANI TRIPATHI:
DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that some power projects are still pending or some ongoing projects have not been completed for the last 20 years as reported in Danik Jagaran, dated 27th January, 2005;

- (b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto:
- (c) the reasons behind the non-completion of the projects for such a long time;
- (d) the extra financial burden on the Central due to pendency of the said projects;
- (e) whether the Government propose to hand over some of these projects to the private sector; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.M. SAYEED):
 (a) to (c) Yes Sir. Due to constraints, such as natural calamities, geological surprises, delays in land acquisition, resettlement and rehabilitation problems, legal disputes, delays in clearances, non-availability of funds, etc.

considerable time and cost overruns have occurred in hydro power projects referred to in the news item. The monitoring mechanism has been strengthened to gradually eliminate time and cost overruns in power projects and specially hydro power projects.

The Central Electricity Authority has a nodal officer for each project, both at the conception stage as well as during execution. In addition, regular in depth review meetings are being organized in the Ministry of Power.

(d) The information in respect of projects mentioned in the newspaper item is given in the Statement enclosed.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

Statement

Details of costs in respect of projects mentioned in the Dainik Jagran, dated 27.1.2005

Name of Project	Original cost (Rs. Crore)	Year of investment approval	Cost now anticipated (Rs. Crore) (year)	Anticipated Year of commissioning
Dulhasti HEP, 390 MW, NHPC, J&K	183.45	1982	4804.93	2005-06
Dhauliganga HEP, 280MW, NHPC, Uttaranchal	601.98	1991	1578.31	2005-06
Tehri HEP-1, 1000 MW, THDC, Uttaranchal	3391.40	1994	6621.32	2005-06
Ramagundam STPP ST III (U-7), NTPC, A.P.	1818.45	2001	1818.45	Unit 7 commissioned), Unit 8 expected in 2005-06
Talcher STPP St. II, NTPC, Orissa	6648.83	1999	6648.83	Completed
Tehri Transmission Line (800 KV S/C)	421.00	1994	702.29	Line I completed. Line II expected in 2005-06
Gazu Transmission HVDC Augmentation	769.25	2002	739.27	2005-06
Tala Siliguri Transmission System	231.53	2002	231.53	2005-06

*(English)***Fiscal Position of Punjab**

725. SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH DHINDSA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government is aware that the present fiscal position of the State of Punjab is in jeopardy; and

(b) if so, the manner in which the Government propose to help the Punjab Government to meet the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) Revenue Deficit of Punjab in 2003-04 (RE) is 25.88% of Total Revenue Receipt. The outstanding liabilities of Punjab at Rs. 42187 Crs. is 308% of Total Revenue Receipts in 2003-04 (RE). Punjab is a debt stressed state. Twelfth Finance Commission (TFC) has also assessed Punjab as revenue deficit state.

(b) The estimated transfers recommended by TFC to Govt. of Punjab for its award period, is likely to increase by 131% compared to that of EFC. Punjab can also benefit from the debt re-schedulement, interest rate reduction and debt write off scheme based on the TFC's recommendations.

Rural Electrification

726. SHRI B. MAHTAB: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of villages in the country is yet to be electrified;

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

(c) whether this work is not being completed in many States due to financial constraints;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.M. SAYEED):

(a) Yes, sir.

(b) Details of un-electrified villages in the country are given in the Statement enclosed.

(c) to (e) The work of extending rural electrification had generally been slowing down in quite a few States due to the increasing financial difficulties of the State Electricity Boards combined with the poor realization of revenue from supply of electricity to rural areas.

In order to achieve the goal of providing access to electricity to all households in five years as envisaged in the National Common Minimum Programme, a new scheme "Rural Electricity Infrastructure and Household Electrification" has been approved which *inter alia* provides for creation of rural electricity distribution backbone and village electrification infrastructure to cover all rural habitations. Under the scheme there is provision of 90% Capital Subsidy.

Statement**Status of Village electrification as on 31.3.2004**

Sl.No.	State	Total No. of inhabited villages as per 1991 census	Total No. of villages electrified	Balance unelectrified villages
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	26586	26565	\$
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	3649	2335	1314
3.	Assam	24685	19081	5604
4.	Bihar	38475	19251	19224
5.	Jharkhand	29336	7641	21695

1	2	3	4	5
6.	Goa	360	360	—
7.	Gujarat	18028	17940	\$
8.	Haryana	6759	6759	—
9.	Himachal Pradesh	16997	16891	106
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	6477	6301	176
11.	Karnataka	27066	26771	295
12.	Kerala	1384	1384	—
13.	Madhya Pradesh	51806	50474	1332
14.	Chhattisgarh	19720	18532	1188
15.	Maharashtra	40412	40351	\$
16.	Manipur	2182	2043	139
17.	Meghalaya	5484	3016	2468
18.	Mizoram	698	691	7
19.	Nagaland	1216	1216	—
20.	Orissa	46989	37663	9326
21.	Punjab	12428	12428	—
22.	Rajasthan	37889	37276	613
23.	Sikkim	447	405	42
24.	Tamil Nadu	15822	15822	—
25.	Tripura	855	818	37
26.	Uttar Pradesh	97122	57042	40080
27.	Uttaranchal	15681	13131	2550
28.	West Bengal	37910	31705	6205
Total (States)		586463	473692	112401
Total UTs		1093	1090	\$
All India		587556	474982	112401*

*Balance villages are not feasible for electrification.

As per the new definition of village electrification (effect from 2004-05) total number of unelectrified villages is estimated to be around 1,25,000.

Losses to State Electricity Boards

727. SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD:
SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY:
SHRI UDAY SINGH:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the annual income and expenditure of each State Electricity Board in the country;

(b) whether losses of SEBs have come down significantly, but the deficit is still one per cent of India's gross domestic product;

(c) if so, the facts and the details thereof;

(d) whether the Union Government has contemplated any further steps to bring down the losses of SEBs; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.M. SAYEED):

(a) A statement giving State-wise annual income and expenditure of power utilities of the States is enclosed.

(b) and (c) According to a study conducted by Power Finance Corporation the excess of expenditure over income of the power utilities of States without taking into account subsidy and taxes has reduced from Rs. 26,596 crores in 2001-02 to Rs. 20,231 crores in 2003-04.

(d) and (e) The Government of India has initiated various steps to revive the poor financial health of SEBs/ Power Utilities. The Ministry of Power has signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)/Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) with States on power sector reform envisaging support of Central Government subject to States progressing satisfactorily on agreed reform agenda. The Union Government, in order to help the State Utilities is providing funds to States under Accelerated Power Development and Reforms Programme (APDRP) for investment in identified distribution areas for, *inter alia*, reducing technical losses and improving the quality of supply and also for incentivising, through grants, reduction of cash losses. Past debts of SEBs due to Central Public Sector Undertakings have been securitised under tripartite agreements.

Six States have been provided incentive under APDRP for actual reduction in losses. State-wise details are as under:

Sl.No.	States	Incentive released (Rs. Crores)
1.	Andhra Pradesh	265.11
2.	Gujarat	236.38
3.	Haryana	105.49
4.	Maharashtra	137.89
5.	Rajasthan	137.71
6.	West Bengal	73.00
Total		955.58

Statement

Income and expenditure of Power Utilities of States for the year 2003-04.

(Rs. in crores)

Sl.No.	State	Total Income	Expenditure
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	22498	23897
2.	Assam	888	1543
3.	Bihar	1266	2246
4.	Jharkhand	1233	1755
5.	Goa	592	439
6.	Gujarat	9379	12400
7.	Haryana	8829	9598
8.	Himachal Pradesh	1052	1098
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	421	1650
10.	Karnataka	15445	16681
11.	Kerala	3061	3976
12.	Madhya Pradesh	5474	6704
13.	Chhattisgarh	2784	2197
14.	Maharashtra	14454	15003
15.	Meghalaya	197	133

1	2	3	4
16.	Punjab	6283	6946
17.	Rajasthan	13519	15296
18.	Sikkim	64	79
19.	Tamil Nadu	11431	12848
20.	Uttar Pradesh	14471	17319
21.	Uttaranchal	1153	1188
22.	West Bengal	6631	6927
23.	Arunachal Pradesh	33	115
24.	Manipur	32	157
25.	Mizoram	26	75
26.	Nagaland	37	79
27.	Tripura	122	127
28.	Orissa	3289	2707
29.	Delhi	4988	6738
30.	Pondicherry	497	459
Grand Total		150149	170380

Source: Power Finance Corporation

[*Translation*]

ARWSP

728. SHRIMATI PRATIBHA SINGH: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received any proposal from State Governments under Accelerated Rural Water Supply Scheme;

(b) if so, the State-wise details thereof alongwith the action taken/proposed to be taken in this regard, and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI A. NARENDRA): (a) to (c) Under Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP), funds are allocated to the State/Union Territories as per a fixed criterion based on:

- Rural population,
- States under Desert Development Programme (DDP), Drought Prone Area Programme (DPAP), Hill Area Development Programme (HADP) & special category hill States in terms of rural areas of the State,
- Not Covered/partially Covered villages and
- Quality affected villages.

The State Governments are empowered to plan, sanction, implement and execute rural water supply projects from the funds provided under ARWSP. The proposals for sanctioning rural water supply projects do not require clearance from the Central Government.

[*English*]

Implementation of Sanitation Campaign

729. SHRI G.M. SIDDESWARA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has received any proposal and Project Report from the State Governments regarding implementation of total sanitation campaign;

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

(c) whether the Union Government has considered their proposals;

(d) if so, by what time the approval is likely to be given; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI A. NARENDRA): (a) to (e) Yes Sir. Government of India has so far received 552 proposals for sanction of Total Sanitation Campaign (TSC) out of which 452 proposals have already been sanctioned. In remaining 100 districts, funds @ Rs 10.00 lakhs each have been sanctioned for conducting Base Line Survey and preparing detailed Project Report. Out of these, project reports in respect of 6 districts of Kamataka, 4 districts of Rajasthan, 1 district each of Assam, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat and Jharkhand, have been received recently and are being scrutinized. If these proposals conform to the total Sanitation Campaign (TSC) guidelines, they would be taken up for sanction. State-wise list of proposals received and sanctioned is given in the enclosed statement.

Statement**State-wise list of proposals received and sanctioned**

Sl.No.	State	No. of TSC Proposals Received	No. of TSC Project Reports Received	No. of TSC Proposals Sanctioned
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	22	22	22
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	13	4	4
3.	Assam	23	15	14
4.	Bihar	28	16	16
5.	Chhattisgarh	16	7	6
6.	Dadar & Nagar Haveli	1	1	1
7.	Goa	2	1	1
8.	Gujarat	25	25	24
9.	Haryana	19	19	19
10.	Himachal Pradesh	12	7	7
11.	Jammu & Kashmir	14	14	14
12.	Jharkhand	22	22	21
13.	Karnataka	27	9	3
14.	Kerala	13	13	13
15.	Madhya Pradesh	45	45	45
16.	Maharashtra	33	33	33
17.	Manipur	4	4	4
18.	Meghalaya	2	2	2
19.	Mizoram	8	2	2
20.	Nagaland	5	4	4
21.	Orissa	30	30	30
22.	Pondicherry	1	1	1
23.	Punjab	17	14	14
24.	Rajasthan	32	18	14
25.	Sikkim	4	4	4
26.	Tamilnadu	29	29	29

1	2	3	4	5
27.	Tripura	4	4	4
28.	Uttar Pradesh	70	70	70
29.	Uttaranchal	13	13	13
30.	West Bengal	18	18	18
Total		552	466	452

*[Translation]***Shares Purchased by FII**

730. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN':
SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether foreign institutional investors purchased the shares of good profit earning companies of India during the financial year 2003-2004;

(b) if so, whether by December, 2004, these foreign institutional investors purchased upto 20 per cent shares of most of the companies of the country; and

(c) if so, the names of those Government and non-Government companies whose 20 per cent of more shares are with FIIs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) According to the information furnished by the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) can invest in securities in the primary and secondary markets including shares of companies listed, unlisted or to be listed on a recognised stock exchange in India under the provisions of SEBI (FII) Regulations, 1995. During the financial year 2003-04, net FII investment in equity was Rs. 39,960 crores invested across 587 companies, most of which are listed in major stock exchanges. Many of these companies may have earned profits in the financial year 2003-04.

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

*[English]***Foreign Investors in Private Banks**

731. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Foreign investors in private banks are insisting on voting rights beyond 10%;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has taken any view on the demand of foreign investors and its impact on the functioning of banks; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) With a view to encourage foreign banks to set up their subsidiaries and also to attract large investments in the banking sector, for making it more competitive, 'The Banking Regulation (Amendment) Bill' was introduced in the Lok Sabha on 21.04.2003 to delete sub-section (2) of Section 12 of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949. However, till date no amendment has been done on this account.

Assistance from NABARD for Irrigation Scheme

732. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that National Bank for Agricultural and Rural Development (NABARD) has been providing loan assistance to the States for irrigation

schemes under Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF);

(b) if so, the details of loan assistance provided by NABARD to Karnataka during the last three years;

(c) the irrigation schemes undertaken by the Karnataka Government during the said period;

(d) whether the Karnataka Government have utilized the loan assistance provided by NABARD fully; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The details of loan assistance provided by NABARD to the Government of Karnataka during the year 2002-03, 2003-04 and 2004-05 are as under:

(Amount Rs. in Crore)

Tranche/Year	No. of Projects Sanctioned	Sanctioned Amount
RIDF-VII (2001-02)	70	21.40
RIDF-VIII (2002-03)	63	51.09
RIDF-IX 2003-04	224	96.39

(c) A total of 357 irrigation projects have been undertaken by the Government of Karnataka with assistance from NABARD.

(d) Details of utilization of loan assistance provided by NABARD under RIDF to Government of Karnataka are as under:

(Amount Rs. in Crore)

Tranche/Year	Sanctioned Amount	Availed by the State Govt.
RIDF-VII (2001-02)	21.4	13.91
RIDF-VIII (2002-03)	51.09	27.06
RIDF-IX 2003-04	96.39	28.77

(e) Major reasons for non-utilisation of the amount fully are as under:

(i) The project implementation period under RIDF VII and VIII is upto March, 2005, under RIDF IX the same is upto 31.03.2006 and under RIDF X it is upto 31.03.2007. Hence, the sanctioned amount can be utilized within the stipulated period of the concerned project; and

(ii) Due to savings during implementation against estimated cost of the projects.

LIC Service Tax

733. SHRIMATI P. SATHEEDEVI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount spent by LIC for service tax; and

(b) the effect on the bonus of the policy holders as a result of service tax?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) Amount of Service Tax paid by LIC is as under:

Year	Amount (Rs. in Crores)
2002-03	56.66
2003-04	543.89
1.4.2004} to Feb., 2005}	383.76

(b) As a result of payment of Service Tax by LIC, the surplus available for distribution to policyholders gets reduced and hence the bonus payable to them.

Protection of Investors Fund

734. SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN: Will the Minister of COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the amount deposited by companies during the last three years under Section 205(A)(5) of the Companies Act, 1956 in the protection of Investors Fund;

(b) the expenditure incurred for the objects & purpose of protection of investors during each of the above period;

(c) whether the expenditure incurred is not commensurate with the object of investors protection; and

(d) if so, the reasons for the inadequate expenditure?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA): (a) During the last three years (01.10.2001 to 31.03.2004) an amount of Rs. 241.59 crores has been credited to the Investor Education and Protection Fund (IEPF) under section 205-C of the Companies Act, 1956. The amount is maintained in the Consolidated Fund of India.

(b) the expenditure incurred for the objects and purpose of protection of investors during each of the above period is as under:

Financial Year	Expenditure (Amount in Rupees)
2001-2002	67,00,000
2002-2003	1,79,40,000
2003-2004	2,83,55,000

(c) As the activities under IEPF are evolving over the period of time, it cannot be said for the present that the expenditure incurred is not commensurate with the objects of Investor's protection. The expenditure is expected to increase substantially now with expansion of activities under IEPF.

(d) The question does not arise.

PMGSY

735. SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to refer to the reply given to USQ, No. 473 dated December 3, 2004 and state:

(a) whether proposals for construction of roads under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) are received from very few States since 2003-04;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether all the villages in these States are covered by roads; and

(d) if not, the steps proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Since 2003-04, proposals for construction of roads under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) were

received from all the States except Arunachal Pradesh, Bihar, Goa, Manipur, Meghalaya and Tripura.

(c) and (d) Under PMGSY the unit for coverage is 'Habitation' and not 'Village.' The details of eligible unconnected habitations still to be covered under PMGSY in these States are given in the Statement enclosed. All the eligible unconnected habitations in these States are to be provided connectivity through good all weather roads in accordance with the PMGSY guidelines.

Statement

Eligible Unconnected habitations still to be covered under PMGSY

#	States/UTs	Number of eligible habitations still to be connected
1.	Arunachal Pradesh	525
2.	Bihar*	16127
3.	Goa (Partial)	35
4.	Manipur*	515
5.	Meghalaya	384
6.	Tripura	1831
Total		19417

*Figures shown are provisional.

Electronic PAN Book System

736. DR. M. JAGANNATH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has explored the possibility of introducing an electronic PAN book System enabling individual Income Tax assesses to scan their tax filing record;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when the Government plan to introduce this new system?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) the taxpayers shall be allowed limited online access to information relating to their tax payments, refunds, refunds and processing of returns through Tax Information Network.

(c) This new system shall be introduced by the end of Financial Year 2005-2006.

Opening up of Pension Funds to Private Operators

737: SHRI BADIGA RAMAKRISHNA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to open up pension funds to private operators;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and guidelines drawn in this regard; and

(c) the steps taken to protect the pension funds and safeguard the interest of pensioners?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) to (b) Yes, Sir. The Government proposes to open up pension funds to competing operators, including private operators. These pension funds would be regulated by the Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority.

(c) A number of measures are envisaged in the legal framework for safety of the funds, including, *inter-alia*, penalties of upto Rs. 25 crore and/or imprisonment upto ten years for non-compliance with the regulatory provisions.

[*Translation*]

Loan to Farmers

738. SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN:
DR. CHINTA MOHAN:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether loan requirement of the rural people is mainly fulfilled by cooperative banks in the country;

(b) if so, the average amount of loan sanctioned to the farmers and business annually by these banks;

(c) whether there has been progressive appreciation in loan disbursement by the cooperative banks during the preceding three years;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the different cooperatives banks are charging different rate of interest on loan; and

(f) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) Loans by Co-operative Banks form a significant part of institutional credit disbursal in rural areas.

(b) The data generating system of NABARD does not generate the information in the manner asked for.

(c) and (d) Loan disbursed by the Co-operative Credit Institutions viz. SCBs, DCCBs, PACS, PACRDBs, SCARDBs during the year 2000-01, 2001-02 and 2002-03 are Rs. 88681 crore, Rs. 95369 crore and Rs. 108421 crore respectively which show a progressive appreciation.

(e) and (f) The rate of interest charged on the loan assistance by banks varies due to the deregulated interest regime. NABARD, on its part, has impressed upon the co-operative banks to review their structure of interest rates. Some banks have responded by reducing their lending rates and some banks could not do so on account of the high cost of funds and high level of NPAs.

[*English*]

Loan Under PMRY

739. SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI:
SHRI LAKSHMAN SETH:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of proposals received by various banks from concerned District Industry Centres of various States under Pradhan Mantri Rojgar Yojana (PMRY) Scheme and the number of proposals accepted and rejected by them during 2003-04, State-wise;

(b) the success rate of the banks in terms of the number of proposals accepted by them under PMRY and actual sanctioning the loans to respective applicants with special reference to Karnataka, State-wise;

(c) whether the Government is aware about the general complaints by the people that the banks are not enthusiastic and in many cases are reluctant about seriously implementing PMRY scheme in providing self-employment to the rural and urban unemployed youths; and

(d) if so, the action the Government proposes to take in inducing the banks to achieve the targets given to them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) According to the information furnished by Reserve Bank of India, as per the extant instructions under PMRY, the District Industries Centre (DIC) sponsors the cases under PMRY to the implementing banks in the district up to the extent of 125% of the target allocated. The data generating system of RBI does not provide information in respect of the number of proposals received by various banks from DIC separately. The State-wise (including Karnataka) details of targets, total applications received, amount sanctioned and disbursed under PMRY during 2003-04 are indicated in the Statement enclosed.

(c) RBI/Government is not aware of any specific complaint as regards to allegation of implementing banks being reluctant and un-enthusiastic in implementation of the PMRY scheme. Whenever complaints are received in respect of implementation of PMRY they are investigated and necessary action is initiated as per extant instructions.

(d) RBI/Ministry of Small Scale Industries and Agro Rural Industries (SSI & ARI) and Ministry of Finance have initiated the following steps for improvement of performance under the PMRY including achievement of targets.

1. Banks have been advised to carry out scrutiny of rejected applications by a higher authority from their controlling/Head Office.
2. Banks have been instructed to dispose of applications for loans upto Rs. 25,000/- within 2 weeks and upto Rs. 2 lakh within 4 weeks, provided the loan applications are complete in all respects.

3. Time frames have been laid down for receipt of applications from the DICs to banks and thereafter sanction and disbursements of loans by banks.
4. Banks have been asked to issue 'No dues certificate' whenever required, within 15 days, other-wise it is deemed to have been issued.
5. Banks have been instructed to set up training institutes jointly with the State Governments by utilizing the existing infrastructure of the Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) and Small Industries Service Institutes (SISIs).
6. State Government have been advised to identify viable activities jointly with banks at the district level.

In addition to have, following amendments have been carried out in the eligibility criteria/norms under the scheme by the Ministry of SSI & ARI, (and advised to the implementing banks by RBI) in order to improve performance under PMRY.

1. Relaxation in age (Upto 40 years), margin money criteria and higher subsidy component (Rs. 15,000/-) on the lines of North Eastern States (including Sikkim) has been extended to the States of Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal and Uttaranchal under PMRY.
2. The residency criteria for married men in Meghalaya is relaxed in line with married women in rest of the country.
3. Self-Help Groups (SHG) could be considered for financing under the PMRY provided all the members of the SHG individually satisfy the eligibility criteria under the scheme. Membership of the Group would consist of 5-20 educated unemployed youth. Maximum loan limit for the Group is Rs. 10 lakh.

Statement

State-wise details of targets, applications received, amount sanctioned and disbursed under Scheme during 2003-04

Name of the Bank: ALL SCHEDULED COMMERCIAL BANKS
Report showing cumulative position in respect of PMRY for the quarter ended March, 2004

Name of the State/ Union Territories	Target	No. of applns. recd.	Total Loans sanctioned		Total Loans disbursed	
			No.	Amt.	No.	Amt.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Haryana	8100	15099	8520	5052.36	7115	4134.38
Himachal Pradesh	3200	4170	3035	2381.22	2817	2174.75

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Jammu & Kashmir	3000	1889	791	787.9	655	620.27
Punjab	8200	13317	8405	5467.99	7279	4546.32
Rajasthan	16200	28480	15626	8706.13	11897	6296.62
Chandigarh	100	156	100	67.98	68	41.49
Delhi	4400	3528	1077	755.94	850	599
North Eastern Region						
Assam	10000	13608	7401	4777.05	3772	2567.24
Manipur	1200	812	595	422.48	503	350.82
Meghalaya	1350	529	447	377.16	350	267.48
Nagaland	1000	604	90	109.19	42	40.09
Tripura	3000	5100	2477	1776.56	2026	1424.95
Arunachal Pradesh	700	740	685	619.65	464	412.86
Mizoram	200	801	788	833.9	775	824.5
Eastern Region						
Bihar	14400	17255	11334	10074.11	8979	7393.24
Jharkhand	9000	8990	5550	4740.71	4382	3405.97
Orissa	16300	19571	11616	8133.27	5504	3144.96
West Bengal	20000	8798	3539	2220.68	2242	1557.7
Andaman & Nicobar	200	296	186	173.1	162	119.72
Sikkim	100	89	31	21.83	29	21.83
Central Region						
Chhattisgarh	4600	8087	3985	2598.3	2870	1722.75
Madhya Pradesh	23500	45857	25776	16914.13	17097	10577.1
Uttaranchal	6000	9121	5724	3987.26	5255	3583.88
Uttar Pradesh	50900	73222	44295	30345.72	37379	25036.37
Western Region						
Gujarat	13000	11384	6487	3036	5959	2871.71
Maharashtra	22800	41267	20910	12040.24	16522	9258.42
Daman & Diu	50	6	4	3.1	4	3.1

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Goa	400	220	126	99.31	117	91.26
Dadar & Nagar Haveli	50	0	0	0	0	0
Southern Region						
Andhra Pradesh	36800	24503	23114	14352.25	17438	10403.36
Karnataka	20000	24603	15211	9097.05	11769	7040.69
Kerala	20350	23198	16755	9092.48	13044	7053.51
Tamil Nadu	20000	20913	13081	5138.11	10497	4366.25
Lakshadweep	50	31	17	11.21	17	11.21
Pondicherry	750	548	349	153.6	273	121.07
Not Specified	1866	2633	1074	1098.63	808	796.29
All India	341766	429425	259201	165456.60	198950	122889.16

[*Translation*]

Funds to Power Plants

740. SHRI MOHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount proposed to be spent by the Union Government to set up new power plants during the Tenth-Five Year Plan and the quantum of power in megawatt to be generated as a result thereof;

(b) the demand of power the country by the end of this year;

(c) the extent to which the demand of power likely to be met through the power generated by the new power plants; and

(d) the per capita consumption of electricity in the country and how does it compare with the advanced countries?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.M. SAYEED):

(a) The Tenth Plan outlay for Power Sector in the Public Sector is Rs. 2,70,276.36 crore comprising of Rs. 1,77,050.64 crore for the Central Sector schemes and Rs. 93,225.72 crore for the State Sector schemes. the Tenth Plan capacity addition target is 41,110 MW, of

which 22,832 MW is in the Central Sector, 11,157 MW in the State Sector and 7,121 MW in Private Sector.

(b) and (c) According to Load Generation Balance Report of Regional Electricity Boards the anticipated Peak demand and availability at the end of year 2004-05 would be 87518 MW and 81188 MW respectively.

(d) The per capita consumption of the electricity in the country was 592 KWh in respect of year 2003-04. The latest data on per capita electricity consumption in the advanced countries, as given in "Key world Energy Statistics", (edition-2004) of International Energy Agency is as under:

Name of the country	Per capita electricity consumption in KWh.
Australia	10502
France	7366
Germany	6742
Russia	5350
U.K.	6158
USA	13228

*[English]***Rural Electrification**

741. SHRI AVTAR SINGH BHADANA:
SHRI SURENDRA PRAKASH GOYAL:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether rural electrification has been included in basic minimum services under Pradhan Mantri Gramodaya Yojana (PMGY) from the year 2001-04;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the achievements made in this regard during the period, State-wise; and

(c) the number of villages proposed to be electrified in the country under PMGY during the current year?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.M. SAYEED):

(a) Yes, sir.

(b) to (c) Information is being collected from the States.

Investigation of Fraudulent Companies

742. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Will the Minister of COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the investigation into the fraudulent practices of Modi Xerox and other companies have been completed;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons for the delay in completion of the investigation and measures taken to expedite the investigation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Investigation was ordered on 8th August, 2002 and investigation completed and report received on 8th June, 2004. The investigation was carried out by an Inspector appointed by the Central Government under section 237 of the Companies Act, 1956.

(c) Does not arise.

Power Generation Through Renewable Energy Sources

743. SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether generation of power through renewable sources of energy is much less than the potential in the country;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps being taken to increase the renewable energy sources to meet the required potential?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR): (a) to (c) the potential for renewable energy in the country from wind, small hydro and biomass has been estimated at around 80,000 MW. Against this estimated potential, around 5500 MW grid interactive renewable power installed capacity has been set up as on 31-12-2004. The aim is to deploy around 10 percent of the additional grid interactive power installed capacity from renewables during the 10th and 11th Plan periods. During the first two years of the 10th Plan, 10 and 2 percentage points of grid interactive power installed capacity has come from wind and small hydro power respectively, apart from 3 percentage points from bio energy thereby making it a total of 15 percentage points of grid interactive renewable power installed capacity. Hence, the rate of deployment of these renewable technologies is highly satisfactory. Financial incentives apart from fiscal incentives such as accelerated depreciation, relief in taxes and duties and term loans from financial institutions are being provided. In addition, preferential tariff to grid interactive renewable power is available in several potential states.

*[Translation]***Designed Garments Exhibition**

744. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of exhibitions on designed garments held in the country especially in tribal areas during the last three years;

(b) the details of the export purchasing orders received through these exhibitions till date;

(c) whether the Government propose to organise more such exhibitions in the country in future; and

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

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) Ministry of Textiles has not organized any international exhibition exclusively for designer garments in the tribal areas of the country during the last three years.

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

(c) There is no proposal to hold any such exhibition at this stage.

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

VRS Scheme

745. SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to offer VRS facility to the employees of Ganesh Sugar Mills

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has received requests from employees/associations/public representatives in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The Government has received representations from various Worker Union representing the workers of the Ganesh Sugar Mills demanding reopening of the mill or the implementation of Modified Voluntary Retirement Scheme (MVRS) at par with the Scheme implemented in National Textile Corporation (UP) Ltd. and British India Corporation Ltd., Kanpur.

(e) Ganesh Sugar Mills is a unit under the Swadeshi Mining and Manufacturing Ltd. (SMMC), a subsidiary of NTC (UP) Ltd. BIFR ordered winding up of SMMC vide its order dated 1.7.1996. The High Court of Allahabad confirmed the winding up orders and directed liquidation of the Company. As per provisions of Section 445 (3) of the Companies Act, 1956, winding up orders of the

Company shall be deemed to be notice of discharge to the officers and employees of the Company. Any further action as regards liabilities of workmen is to be taken by the official liquidator.

Safety from Tsunami

746. SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Geological Survey of India has conducted any study regarding the safety of life and property of the people living along the coastal areas as result of Tsunami waves;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the amount made available to Geological Survey of India for this purpose;

(d) whether the Geological Survey of India proposes to consult the specialists in this field; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO): (a) and (b) Geological Survey of India (GSI) is not directly involved in the safety aspects of the people living in the coastal areas. However, GSI is one of the members in the Department of Science and Technology (DST) Committee on resettlement issues as a sequel to the Tsunami in Andaman and Nicobar region.

GSI has taken immediate action for carrying out multifarious geoscientific studies on the aftermath of the devastating earthquake and Tsunami of 26th December 2004 as detailed below—

(i) A team of scientists led by the Director General, GSI visited South Andaman and Bratang Islands to study the effects of earthquake and Tsunami. Preliminary results of this study has already been communicated to Andaman and Nicobar Administration and other organizations involved in similar studies.

(ii) Several teams from GSI have carried out detailed scientific studies in the Andaman group of islands after the earthquake. These include Macro-seismic (post earthquake damage survey

to constrain earthquake intensity) survey, Global Positioning System (GPS) survey in campaign mode for constraining ground deformation study of aftershocks with five digital seismographs deployed in the islands at Port Blair, Car Nicobar, Hut Bay (Little Andaman), Rangat (Middle Andaman) and Diglipur (North Andaman). Nearly 6500 aftershocks have been recorded by GSI, which show a trend of continuous release of stress energy.

- (iii) Teams of Geoscientists from GSI have carried out studies on the effects of Tsunami (post-tsunami survey) in the coastal tract of Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Kerala.
- (iv) To study the changes in the offshore domain, GSI has undertaken Bathymetry and magnetic surveys out in the sea around Andaman and Nicobar Islands to study the submarine geomorphological changes.
- (v) GSI has posted all relevant information and data on its Website i.e. www.gsi.gov.in and this website is being continuously updated.
- (vi) During 25th to 27th January, 2005, GSI members alongwith other DST Committee Members visited Port Blair in connection with collection of data on submergence/re-settlement issues in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. The expert team studied run up/submergence/inundation problem in the area.

(c) No, Sir. No specific amount is made available to Geological Survey of India for this purpose. However, GSI utilized its own budgetary allocation for the said studies.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. Geological Survey of India has consulted the specialists in this field. GSI representatives have participated in the brainstorming session organized by DST in New Delhi during 21st to 22nd January 2005 and had discussions with foreign experts. GSI attended an international conference on Tsunami at Phuket, Thailand during 28th to 31st January 2005. The Geological Survey of Japan approached GSI on 23rd January 2005 for a collaborative project to study the details of the Tsunami in Andaman & Nicobar Islands. The Earth Science Sector, Natural Resources, Canada has proposed a collaborative programme between India and Canada on an overall disaster mitigation efforts which include Tsunamis.

Transmission and Distribution System

747. SHRI CHANDRABHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any schemes pertaining to Indore-Ujjain-Bhopal and Gwalior region transmission and distribution system under the accelerated energy development programme has been forwarded to the Union Government by Madhya Pradesh;

(b) if so, the action taken/being taken by the Union Government on these schemes; and

(c) the time by which these schemes are likely to be sanctioned?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.M. SAYEED):

(a) Yes, Sir. National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC), the Advisor-cum-Consultant (AcC) for Madhya Pradesh has received the schemes under Accelerated Power Development and Reforms Programme (APDRP) for Indore-Ujjain-Bhopal and Gwalior regions for development of distribution systems.

(b) and (c) These schemes have been examined by NTPC and found deficient in terms of technical and commercial data. The same has been communicated to the respective regions of Madhya Pradesh State Electricity Board (MPSEB) for remedial action.

[English]

Closure of Kayamkulam Power Project

748. DR. K.S. MANOJ: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the NTPC, Kayamkulam Unit is shut down for the past eight months for want of demand of power from KSEB;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor along with measures taken so far to solve the problem;

(c) whether the power purchase agreement between KSEB and NTPC has expired recently;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether any request has been received by the Government of Kerala or KSEB to review the fixed cost to be paid to NTPC for the restructuring of loans; and

(f) if so, the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.M. SAYEED):

(a) and (b) NTPC's Kayamkulam Plant was shut down from July, 2004 till December, 2004 for want of schedule from Kerala State Electricity Board (KSEB) and Tamil Nadu State Electricity Board (TNEB) who have been allocated 50% capacity each. The station was restarted from 6.1.2005 when the schedule of 160 MW was given by TNEB.

(c) and (d) The Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) with Kerala State electricity Board (KSEB) for supply of power from NTPC's Kayamkulam Station (360 MW) has

been valid till 28th February, 2005. As per the provisions of PPA, the terms and conditions of the PPA shall continue to be valid even after 28.2.2005, if power is availed by KSEB from Kayamkulam. However, NTPC has already taken up with KSEB for extension of PPA beyond 28.2.2005.

(e) and (f) Request was received from Government of Kerala/KSEB for review of fixed cost on account of restructuring of loans.

In this regard, the details of interest on loan component of fixed charges of Kayamkulam considered in Central Electricity Regulatory Commissions' (CERC)'s approval tariff for the period 2001-04 are as under:

Sl.No.	Particulars	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04
1.	Rate of Interest as per CERC tariff order	7.07%	7.05%	6.98%	7.12%
2.	Revised rate after considering impact of floating rate (as charged to KSEB)	—	7.05%	6.87%	6.75%

In the tariff petition filed with CERC for determination of tariff for the period 2004-09 as per the CERC Regulation 2004 after giving due benefits of the reduced

interest rate on loan, the rates of interest considered for working out interest on loan component for fixation of tariff of Kayamkulam for the period 2004-09 are as under:

Sl.No.	Particulars	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
1.	Rate of Interest on loan	6.49%	6.21%	6.02%	5.99%	5.99%

Thus, it may be observed that the rate of interest, which is 6.49% during 2004-05, will be reducing gradually and become 5.99% during the years 2007-08 and 2008-09 respectively.

The approval of tariff of central generating companies like NTPC is with the CERC, and therefore the appropriateness of the fixed cost and variable cost is determined by CERC.

Sixth Pay Commission

749. SHRI SURENDRA PRAKASH GOYAL:
SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether several Central Government employees through their association are demanding setting up of Sixth Pay Commission;

(b) if so, details thereof;

(c) the exact date when Fifth Pay Commission was set up and when the report was presented;

(d) whether after a lapse of ten years, Sixth Pay Commission is due; and

(e) the time by which the Sixth Pay Commission is likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) Ministry of Finance has received demands from Central Government Employees Associations seeking immediate constitution of the Sixth Pay Commission.

(c) The Notification constituting the Fifth Central Pay Commission was issued on 9th April, 1994. The Commission presented the Report on 30.1.1997.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) No such proposal is presently under consideration.

Vyas Committee on Credit Flow

750. SHRI RAVICHANDRAN SIPPAPARAI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the V.S. Vyas Committee on flow of credit to agriculture and related activities from the banking system had submitted its report;

(b) if so, whether Ministry of Finance/RBI has accepted all the recommendations of the Committee in toto;

(c) whether RBI had advised all banks public sector, cooperative and private banks to implement the recommendations;

(d) if so, the date from which the implementation had come into effect;

(e) whether certain recommendations of the Vyas Committee are still under examination by RBI in consultation with NABARD and Indian Banks Association (IBA);

(f) if so, the details thereof;

(g) the time-frame by which the said recommendations would be accepted and implemented;

(h) whether any specific targets have been fixed by RBI regarding quantum of credit flow; and

(i) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) Yes, sir.

(b) to (d) Several recommendations made by V.S. Vyas Committee have been accepted by RBI and communicated to all scheduled commercial banks and where applicable, to state/district central cooperative banks by RBI/NABARD. Implementation of the state/district central cooperative banks by RBI/NABARD. Implementation of the recommendation concerned would be from the date of issue of the circular/dates indicated in the circulars.

(e) to (g) Government of India/NABARD are examining other recommendations. No time frame has been stipulated for implementation of the recommendations and as and when the issues are examined and a view taken in respect thereof, necessary instructions, if required, will be issued to banks for implementing them.

(h) and (i) Under the system of priority sector lending, a target of 18 per cent of net bank credit has been stipulated for lending to agriculture by the domestic scheduled commercial banks. Public Sector Banks have been formulating Special Agricultural Credit Plan (SACP) since 1994-95 to improve the flow of credit to agriculture under instructions from the RBI. The Government announced a package on 18 June, 2004 for doubling the flow of credit to agriculture in three years. For the year 2004-05 this was Rs. 105,000 crore.

[Translation]

Direct External Assistance to States

751. SHRI ALOK KUMAR MEHTA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to formulate a scheme under which the loans provided by foreign financial institutions to the State Governments would be handed over to them directly; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the role of the Union Government in monitoring such loans?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) No, Sir. Under the Constitution, States cannot borrow funds from external sources directly.

(b) Does not arise.

[English]

Merger of Textiles Schemes

752. SHRI NAVJOT SINGH SIDHU:
SHRI D. VITHAL RAO:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to merge the two textile schemes i.e. Apparel Parks for Export and TCID;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the National Institute of Design has tied up with NGOs to produce high quality and cost competitive garments; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) and (b) In view of the experience gained during the last three years of the operation of 'Apparel Parks for Exports' and 'Textile Centre Infrastructure Development' Schemes, Government has undertaken a mid-course review of the two Schemes with the basic objective of bringing in urgency in implementation of the Schemes. Extensive discussions have been held in the Inter-Ministerial meetings with the stake holders/State Governments, wherein it was proposed to effect modifications in the Schemes to bring in proper targeting, aggressive marketing, involvement of private sector and to increase the level of assistance under the two Schemes.

(c) and (d) The National Institute of Design (NID) has one of the disciplines viz. Apparel & Textile Design and this Department has worked with varied Government/ Non-Government Organisations and other organisations including Khadi & Village Industries Commission (KVIC) for providing design inputs to products. NID has also assisted Self Employed Women's Association (SEWA) with

design inputs for setting up a centre which also has activities related to garment production. NID's contribution is limited to providing design inputs and is not related to production or manufacturing of garments.

Anti-Terrorism Loan Outstanding in Punjab

753. SHRIMATI PRENEET KAUR: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any amount/special term loan granted to the State of Punjab for combating insurgency and militancy, is outstanding;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether the Union Government considers to waive the outstanding special term loan of Punjab in view of supreme Sacrifices made by the people to combat terrorism?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Outstanding loan (principal) as on 31.3.2004 was Rs. 3772 crores.

(c) Government of India has accepted the recommendation of Twelfth Finance Commission in this regard.

[Translation]

Identification of Low Power Generation Capacity Power Projects

754. SHRI AJIT JOGI: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has identified the power units which are generating less power than their installed capacity;

(b) the State Electricity Boards and the institutions of the Union Government and also the private sector to which these units are affiliated;

(c) the extent to which their power generation is less as compared to their average installed power capacity; and

(d) the number of institutions out of such institutions proposed to be revived in the Tenth Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.M. SAYEED):

(a) to (c) The details of Utility-wise coal based power plants which have generated below the national average Plant Load Factor (PLF) i.e. 73.9% during the period April 04' January 05' are given in the Statement-I enclosed. Gas/liquid fuel and hydro power stations which have generated less than the targets during the same period are given in the Statement-II and Statement-III respectively.

(d) Government of India have identified 106 old thermal units having capacity of 10413 MW for Life Extension (LE) works during the 10th Plan at an estimated cost of Rs. 9200.00 Crores. After implementation of the LE Scheme, the economical life of the units would get

extended by another 15-20 years and the generating capacity would increase to 10747 MW besides overall improvement in the performance of the units. In addition, 57 thermal units having capacity of 14270 MW, which are comparatively new units and are performing well, have also been identified for Renovation & Modernization (R&M) works to sustain their performance at an estimated cost of Rs. 977.00 Crores.

Government of India have also identified a programme to renovate 62 existing hydroelectric power projects having installed capacity of 9977.5 MW for implementation during the 10th Plan at an estimated cost of Rs. 2227.062 Crores. After implementation of the Programme, benefit in the form of 1516.31 MW would accrue.

Statement I

*List of Power Stations Having Plant Load Factor (PLF) Less than National Average
PLF i.e. 73.9% (Apr.04 to Jan.-05)*

Utility	Sector	Stations	Capacity (MW)	Target MU	Actual Generation (MU)	PLF %	Short Fall In PLF**
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
APGENCO	State	Nellore	30	121	131	59.5	14.4
ASEB	State	Bongaigaon	240	0	0	0	73.9
AŞEB	State	Chandrapur	60	0	0	0	73.9
ASEB	State	Namrup ST	30	43	0.13	0.1	73.8
BSEB	State	Barauni	310	265	124	5.4	68.5
BSEB	State	Muzaffarpur	220	0	0	0	73.9
CESC	Private	Newcossipore	130	408	402	42.1	31.8
CSEB	State	Korba-III	240	834	717	40.7	33.2
DPL	State	D.P.L.	390	1570	1703	59.5	14.4
DVC	Central	Bokaro A	175	0	0	0	73.9
DVC	Central	Bokaro B	630	2457	2007	43.4	30.5
DVC	Central	Chandrapura	750	1241	1569	28.5	45.4
DVC	Central	Durgapur	350	1508	1194	46.5	27.4
GEB	State	Dhuvaran	534	1396	1709	43.6	30.3

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
GEB	State	Gandhi Nagar	660	3262	2757	56.9	17
GEB	State	Kutch LIG.	215	815	714	45.2	28.7
GEB	State	Şikka Rep.	240	1150	1158	65.7	8.2
GEB	State	Ukai	850	4154	4126	66.1	7.8
GMDCL	State	Akrimota LIG	125	135	0	0	73.9
GNDTP	State	GNDTP (Bhatinda)	440	1775	1692	52.4	21.5
HPGC	State	F. Bad Extn.	165	769	742	61.2	12.7
IPGPCL	State	I.P. Station	247.5	680	787	43.3	30.6
IPGPCL	State	Rajghat	135	706	578	58.3	15.6
JSEB	State	Patratu	770	1041	609	10.8	63.1
MPGPCL	State	Amar Kantik	50	166	141	38.5	35.4
MPGPCL	State	Amar Kantik Ext.	240	952	840	47.6	26.3
MSEB	State	Koradi	1080	5776	5556	70.1	3.8
MSEB	State	Nasik	910	5148	4827	72.2	1.7
NLC	Central	Neyveli St II	1470	8045	7274	67.4	6.5
NTPC	Central	Farakka Stps	1600	9008	7954	67.7	6.2
TNEB	State	Ennore	450	1163	995	30.1	43.8
TNEB	State	North Chennai	630	3720	3333	72	1.9
TVNL	State	Tenughat	420	1255	1094	35.5	38.4
UPRVUNL	State	H Ganj B	425	613	565	20	53.9
UPRVUNL	State	Obra	1482	4978	4483	42.3	31.6
UPRVUNL	State	Panki	242	761	855	48.1	25.8
UPRVUNL	State	Paricha	220	810	846	52.4	21.5
WBPDCCL	State	Bakreswar	630	3350	3379	73	0.9
WBPDCCL	State	Kolaghat	1260	5830	6170	66.7	7.2
WBPDCCL	State	Bandel	530	1975	1829	47	26.9
WBPDCCL	State	Santalidih	480	1095	1114	31.6	42.3

**Short Fall in PLF as Compared to National Average PLF i.e. 73.9%.

Statement II

List of Gas/Liquid fuel based Stations which have generated less power than their target generation during April-04 to January-05

System Diesel	Capacity MW	Target MU	Actual Generation MU
Bellary	25.2	156	32.93
KSEB	235.3	526	225.21
Lakshadweep	10	0	19.26
LVS Power	36.8	205	0
Madurai	106	410	270.28
Mizoram	22.8	8	0
MPDC	36	8	0
RPG	21.9	119	13.77
Samalapatti	105.7	415	282.85
Tata	81.3	446	155.65
Vasavi	200	902	617.59
VVNL	120	293	171.35

System Diesel	Capacity MW	Target MU	Actual Generation MU
1	2	3	4
AECO	100	219	436.97
ASEB	244.5	694	613.01
BSES	394	2240	1060.66
DLF Assam	24.5	160	114.78
GMR E	220	1374	423.3
GSEGL	156.1	963	949.73
GTEC	655	3719	2973.01
GVK Industries	235.4	1337	1177.29
KEPS	119.8	65	0
Konda Palli	350	2093	1854.4
NEEPCO	375	1759	1757.21
NTPC	3954	20679	19190.5

1	2	3	4
PPNPG	330.5	1001	429.92
RRVUN	113.8	210	281.14
SPECTRUM	208	1250	1160.25
TNEB	432	1793	1634.89
Valantharvi	52.8	178	0

Statement III

List of Hydro Power Stations which have generated less power than their target generation during April-04 to January-05

System	Capacity MW	Target MU	Actual Generation MU
1	2	3	4
APGEN	3643.7	5675	5013.58
ARUNA	10.5	17	2
BASPA	300	1290	1141.47
BBMB	2755	8862	7424.41
BHORU	36.6	120	102.48
BSEB	44.9	92	43.72
CSEB	125	424	356.86
DVC	144	275	234.73
GEB	545	858	691.44
HEGL	13.5	53	28.15
HPGC	62.4	266	248.32
HPSEB	312.6	1238	1136.86
JKEB	301.8	671	621.71
JSEB	138	206	146.25
KLPVT	31	87	60.68
KPCL	2804.4	7561	6634.71
MALAN	86	340	251.19
MPGPC	835	2200	2027.5

1	2	3	4
NAGAL	16	53	0
NHPC	2475	9755	9530.22
PSEB	1141	3393	3017.13
SIKKIM	32.9	35	53.3
SJVNL	1500	5744	4709.11
SSVNL	400	278	148.39
THDC	500	50	0
UPHPC	516.6	1523	1074.56
USEB	983.9	3044	2653.8

[English]

Growth Projection for the Next 10 Years

755. SHRI D. VITTAL RAO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government propose to pursue an investment led growth policy in the coming years to sustain 7-8 per cent economic growth, following a 26.9 per cent jump in investment proposals till October, 2005;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the efforts made by the Government to achieve the high growth by brining investment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) to (c) The Tenth Five Year Plan (2002-07) which aims at achieving an average GDP growth of 8 percent per annum has put the average investment requirement at 28.4 percent of GDP involving a sharp acceleration in the investment rate from 24.4 percent in the base year to 32.3 percent in the terminal year of the Plan. According to the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, the industrial investment proposals comprising Industrial Entrepreneurs' Memorandum, Letters of Intent and Direct Industrial Licences during 2004 (January to October) amounted to Rs. 2,22,071 crore compared to Rs. 66,005 crore during same period in 2003. This suggests a perceptible improvement in the overall investment climate.

The Government has initiated various measures for increased investment in agriculture, operationalisation of Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management Act, enhanced public investment, promotion of public-private partnership for infrastructure development and liberalisation of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) policy. Budget 2005-06 has proposed enhanced investment for agriculture infrastructure, providing and facilitating investment in public goods such as roads, railways, power, sports and airports and providing a supportive policy environment and stable tax policies for investment in services sectors. These measures are expected to result in increased investment to achieve higher growth.

Prevention of Money Laundering Act

756. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the administrative set up to implement the Prevention of Money Laundering Act;

(b) the steps taken by the Union Government to investigate offences under the Act;

(c) whether the Financial Intelligence Unit has been set up under the Act; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) to (d) In

order to implement the provisions contained in Chapter-IV of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002, sanction has been accorded for setting up of a Financial Intelligence Unit, India (FIU-IND), as a multi-disciplinary unit headed by an officer of the rank of Joint Secretary designated as director, FIU-IND, to be assisted by a trained technical group of financial sector experts, analysts and I.T. Specialists.

In addition, the work relating to investigation etc. of crimes relating to scheduled offences under the said Act is also proposed to be assigned to an existing agency of the Government.

[Translation]

"Investment in Small Savings"

757. SHRI PARAS NATH YADAV: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a committee set up under the chairmanship of Deputy Governor of Reserve Bank of India has made any recommendations regarding investments in small savings;

(b) whether there is any proposal for increasing the interest rates of Kisan Vikas Patra, National Saving

Certificates, Postal Deposit Scheme and Public Provident Schemes which come under the small savings;

(c) the total deposit in the small savings fund till the year 1999 and the total investments made in non-commercial securities; and

(d) the total amount which was withdrawn from the high interest yielding securities and has invested in the securities yielding 5.96% to 7% interest between March, 2003 to December, 2004 and the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir. There is no proposal for increasing the interest rates on various small savings schemes.

(c) Total outstanding balances (deposits) under various small savings schemes at the commencement of the National Small Savings Fund (NSSF), on 1st April, 1999 was rupees 1,76,220.92 crore (approximately). This amount was invested in special Government of India securities on the same day.

(d) The amounts of special Government of India (GOI) securities redeemed during March, 2003 to December, 2004 and reinvestments made are as under:

In Crores of rupees

Date of Redemption	Amount of 10.5% special GOI securities redeemed	Particulars	Reinvestments made	
			Date of investment	Amount
31.03.2003	13765.58	7% special GOI securities	01.04.2003	13765.58
30.09.2003	32602.28	6% special GOI securities	30.09.2003	32602.28
31.03.2004	13608.87	5.95% special GOI securities	31.03.2004	13608.87
31.12.2004	22665.00	6.96% special GOI securities	31.12.2004	22665.00

These redemptions and reinvestments have impacted upon the interest income of the NSSF.

PMGSY

758. SHRIMATI KALPANA RAMESH NARHIRE: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the allocation made for connecting the villages having population of more than one thousand in all the States including Maharashtra with main roads under PMGSY;

(b) the criteria fixed for it; and

(c) the number of villages connected with main roads so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) The unit for coverage under PMGSY is 'Habitation and not 'Village'. The basic objective of the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) is to provide good all-weather road connectivity, to unconnected rural habitations with a population of 500 persons and above (250 persons and above in the case of Hill States, Desert and Tribal (Schedule-V) Areas). State-wise allocation funds for 2004-05 under PMGSY, including Maharashtra, is given in the Statement enclosed.

(b) The allocation to the States/Union Territories is based, on, *inter-alia*, weightage of 75% for Need (share of Unconnected Habitations in the total unconnected Habitations of the country) and 25% on Coverage (share of connected Habitations in the total connected Habitations of the country).

(c) 20,288 habitations of 1000+, 10,228 habitations of 500+ and 3456 habitations of 250+population are covered as a result of proposals cleared till February, 2005 under PMGSY.

Statement

Allocation of funds under the PMGSY for 2004-05

#	States/UTs	Annual Allocation (Rs. in crores)
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	90.00
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	35.00
3.	Assam	75.00
4.	Bihar	150.00
5.	Chhattisgarh	87.00
6.	Goa	5.00
7.	Gujarat	50.00
8.	Haryana	20.00
9.	Himachal Pradesh	60.00
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	20.00
11.	Jharkhand	110.00

1	2	3
12.	Karnataka	95.00
13.	Kerala	20.00
14.	Madhya Pradesh	213.00
15.	Maharashtra	130.00
16.	Manipur	20.00
17.	Meghalaya	35.00
18.	Mizoram	20.00
19.	Nagaland	20.00
20.	Orissa	175.00
21.	Punjab	25.00
22.	Rajasthan	130.00
23.	Sikkim	20.00
24.	Tamil Nadu	80.00
25.	Tripura	25.00
26.	Uttar Pradesh	315.00
27.	Uttaranchal	60.00
28.	West Bengal	135.00
29.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	5.00
30.	Dadar & Nagar Haveli	5.00
31.	Daman & Diu	5.00
32.	Delhi	5.00
33.	Lakshdweep	5.00
34.	Pondicherry	5.00
Total		2250.00

[English]

Investment In Power and Civil Aviation

759. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has taken major decisions on building infrastructure, power and civil aviation sectors;

(b) if so, whether industry bodies have come up with similar proposals for specific sectors before the newly set up investment commission;

(c) if so, whether the Government has taken any steps to spur investment in these sectors; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) In addition to liberalising the investment regime and conferring tax benefits to investments made in these sectors, GOI, in recent times, has taken various other initiatives to spur investment in these sectors. Such initiatives include constitution and promotion of Inter Institutional Groups in various infrastructure sectors to ensure financial close of infrastructure projects provision of viability gap support to public private partnership projects of infrastructure; construction of Committee on Infrastructure to oversee the policy, implementational and regulatory issues facing the sector. In civil aviation, the Airport Authority of India Act was amended to provide for long-term lease of existing airports and exempting private airports from the purview of the Act except for ATC and security consideration while in case of power, National Electricity Policy has since been announced.

Muga Silk of Assam

760. SHRI M.K. SUBBA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Muga silk of Assam is loosing its popularity because of its coarseness and stiffness;

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to improve its quality and to make it more popular and acceptable;

(c) the total production of such silk in Assam and other North-Eastern States during last three years, year-wise; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to promote the production and export of Muga silk?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Steps being taken by Central Silk board for improving the quality of muga silk and making it more popular and acceptable include the following:

- Under the Plan Schemes of sericulture sector financial and technical support is being provided to the beneficiaries for development and maintenance of house plants, production and supply of quality seed, rearing of healthy and disease resistant silkworms;
- Reeling cum twisting devices developed by Central Silk Board for reeling muga cocoons for production of high quality muga yarn are being supplied to reelers in Assam and other muga producing States at 50% subsidy;
- To encourage weavers and dyers to adopt modern, efficient and eco-friendly practices for processing and dyeing of silk yarn, Government sponsored agencies/registered societies/cooperatives/NGOs/exporters/master weavers/entrepreneurs are eligible for financial assistance under the Catalytic Development Programme of CSB for installation of Common Facility Centres (CFCs).

(c) Year-wise production of muga raw silk in Assam and other North Eastern States during the last three years is given below:

(Qty in MT)

State	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04
Assam	93	96	99
Arunachal Pradesh	0.5	0.5	0.2
Mizoram	Negligible	Negligible	—
Meghalaya	5	5	6
Nagaland	Negligible	Negligible	—
Manipur	0.5	Negligible	Negligible

Negligible: less than 50 kgs;

(d) Steps taken by the Central Silk Board to promote the production and export of muga silk include the following:

- Under the Plan Schemes of sericulture sector financial and technical assistance is provided to beneficiaries as mentioned in reply to part (b) above;
- Various projects are being implemented with financial assistance under the Swarnjayanti Gram Swarajgar Yojana (SGSY) of Ministry of Rural Development for development of muga silk in Assam and other North Eastern States;
- Training and extension support is provided to the State Governments;
- CSB has established the following infrastructural units in the North-Eastern States for promotion of muga silk industry:

- (1) Central Muga Eri Research & Training Institute, Ladoigarh, Assam (1 No.)
- (2) Regional Muga Research Station, Boko, Assam (1 No.)
- (3) Research Extension Centre, North Lakhimpur, Assam (1 No.)
- (4) Research Extension Centre, Tura, Meghalaya (1 No.)
- (5) Muga Silkworm Seed Organisation, Guwahati. (1 No.)
- (6) Muga Silkworm Seed Production Centre, Kaliabari, Assam (1 No.)
- (7) P4/P3 Muga Basic Seed Station (8 Nos., 5 In Meghalaya, 2 In Assam and 1 in Arunachal Pradesh)
- (8) Muga Raw Material Bank, Sibsagar, Assam (1 No.)
- (9) Regional Development Office, Guwahati (1 No.) (for coordination).

Self-Help Group

761. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAIŞI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether multiple agencies like public sector banks, NABARD, NGOs, State and Central Governments are involved in credit delivery to self-help groups;

(b) if so, whether such system of credit delivery to self-help group creates duplication of lending facilities to such groups;

(c) if so, whether there is an urgent need to adopt a single window system of credit facilities in the rural areas; and

(d) if so, the steps taken or being taken by the Government to ensure that the concerned person or group is not part of more than one group or scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) Yes, sir. However, NABARD only provides refinance to banks, which in turn finance SHGs.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) In order to avoid duplication, banks normally ensure that the SHGs do not have any borrowings outstanding from the other bank branches in the neighborhood.

(d) As per NABARD/RBI guidelines, only one member of a family is eligible to become a member of a particular SGHG. The SHGs are promoted and nurtured by self-help promoting institutions like NGOs, banks, individual volunteers, anganwadi workers and development field staff of State Governments. The same bank, which normally provides the saving facilities, also meets the requirement of the SHG. Further all SHGs do have a specific name (sometime pre-fixed with the name of the promoting institution) and a separate account number which precludes them being financed twice by different institutions.

Production of Mica Mines

762. SHRI JUAL ORAM: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the location of mica mines in the country;

(b) whether all these mica mines are managed by the Government or any private company has been given licences to extract mica from these mines;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the total quantum of mica produced in those mines annually during last three years, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO): (a) As per information available with Indian Bureau of Mines (IBM) a subordinate office under Ministry of Mines, mica mines in the country are located in Nellore, Khammam and Vishakhapatnam districts of Andhra Pradesh, Kodarma and Giridih districts of Jharkhand, Nawada district of Bihar, Bhilwara & Rajasamand district of Rajasthan.

(b) and (c) Mica mines are managed both by public and private sector as per details given below:

Sl.No.	Name of the State	Operated by	
		Public Sector	Private Sector
1.	Andhra Pradesh	—	19
2.	Rajasthan	—	8
3.	Jharkhand	3	2
4.	Bihar	—	1

(d) The quantum of mica produced during last three years is as under:

(In tonnes)

Sl.No.	Name of the State	Year		
		2001-02	2002-03	2003-04
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1586.00	907.00	958.00
2.	Rajasthan	113.00	181.00	69.00
3.	Jharkhand	288.00	133.00	59.00
4.	Bihar	39.00	11.00	5.00

Closure of Powerloom

763. SHRI KIRIP CHALIHA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that about 2500 power looms have been closed down in Assam;

(b) if so the reasons therefor; and

(c) steps taken by the Government for revival of these powerlooms and also to check further closure of power looms in the State?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) As per the survey report of the Textile Committee, Mumbai out of the total 54 registered powerloom units with 846 looms only 7 units with 85 looms are in operation at present.

(b) The reasons for the closure of the powerlooms include non-availability of working capital/raw materials, lack of entrepreneurial expertise and business management skills.

(c) The Government of India has introduced, w.e.f. 6.11.2003, a 20% credit linked capital subsidy scheme for the benchmarked technology pertaining to weaving and preparatory machinery in the powerloom sector. The investment limit on this machinery has been raised to Rs. 1.00 crore w.e.f. 13.01.05 from the previous limit of Rs. 60.00 lakhs. The powerloom sector is free to choose between benefits under this scheme or avail 5% interest reimbursement under Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS). The Government has also introduced a Scheme called the "Group Workshed Scheme" for the Powerloom Sector w.e.f. July, 2003. Presently, the Government of India encourages establishment of High-tech Weaving Parks in and around traditional powerloom clusters, by offering combined benefits under the Textile Center Infrastructure Development Scheme, the Group Workshed Scheme and the Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme.

Benefits to Employees of RRBs

764. SHRI SANTASRI CHATTERJEE:
SHRI LAKSHMAN SETH:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Hon'ble High Court of Andhra Pradesh has directed to revise benefits and allowances of the employees of Regional Rural Banks in 2004;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has implemented the direction of Hon'ble High Court; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) to (d) The decision of Hon'ble High Court of Andhra Pradesh is regarding the enhancement of festival advance, transfer grants, grant of facility of leased accommodation to the employees of Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) and to include Rs. 100/-special pay while re-fixing the pay of officers without any discrimination, modification or disadvantage to RRBs officers. The festival advance to RRBs staff has already been brought at par with that of the employees of sponsor banks in 2004. As regards including Rs. 100/- of special pay while re-fixing the pay of officers, the court has observed that it is being paid and there is no dispute about this. So far as facility of leased accommodation and transfer grant are concerned, the same are being processed in consultation with NABARD.

NCES

765. SHRI LAKSHMAN SETH: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of non-conventional energy sources water and wind energy sources undertaken so far;

(b) the reasons restricting development of these alternative energy sources; and

(c) the policy of the Central Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR): (a) and (b) Around 2980 MW and 1690 MW grid interactive wind and small hydro power installed capacity respectively have been set up in the country as on 31-12-2004. The aim is to deploy around 10 percent of the additional grid interactive power installed capacity from renewables during the 10th and 11th Plan periods. During the first two years of the 10th Plan, 10 and 2 percentage points of grid interactive power installed capacity has come from wind and small hydro power respectively, apart from 3 percentage points from bio energy thereby making it a total of 15 percentage points of grid interactive renewable power installed capacity. Hence, the rate of deployment of these renewable technologies is highly satisfactory.

(c) Financial incentives apart from fiscal incentives such as accelerated depreciation, relief in taxes and duties

and term loans from financial institutions are being provided. In addition, preferential tariff to grid interactive renewable power is available in several potential states.

Amendments In Criminal Procedure Code

766. PROF M. RAMADASS: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to amend the Criminal Procedure Code;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government proposes to introduce the concept of Plea Bargaining so as to reduce the number of pending cases in various courts of India; and

(d) if so, the measures being taken to reduce the number of pending cases in various courts in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. VENKATAPATHY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Code of Criminal Procedure (Amendment) Bill, 1994 containing 49 clauses and proposing amendment to various provisions of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973, was introduced in the Rajya Sabha on 9th May, 1994. The Government intends to get the Bill considered and passed in both the Houses of Parliament during the ongoing Budget Session after moving official amendments to the Bill on the basis of suggestions made by the Parliamentary Standing Committee. Similarly, Government introduced another Bill namely the Criminal Law (Amendment) bill, 2003 on 22nd August, 2003 which, inter-alia, proposes to amend various provisions of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973, including introduction of a new chapter on 'Plea Bargaining'. The Chairman, Rajya Sabha has referred the Bill to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Home Affairs for examination and report. Their report is awaited.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The Government has already introduced Criminal Law (Amendment) Bill, 2003 in Parliament with a view to reduce the number of pending cases in various courts in the country. However, other steps taken to reduce pendency in courts include periodical monitoring of the pendency position in various courts, timely filling the vacancies of judges, increasing the judge strength, grouping of cases involving common questions of law, constitution of specialized benches, organizing Lok Adalats

at regular intervals, encouraging alternative modes of dispute resolution like negotiation, mediation and arbitration and setting up of special tribunals like Central Administrative Tribunals, State Administrative Tribunals, Income Tax Appellate Tribunals, Family Courts, Labour Courts etc..

Funds Raised by PNB through Public Issue

767. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:
SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Punjab National Bank has chalked out any plan to diversify its overseas operations;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) whether PNB also propose to raise funds through a public issue;

(d) if so, the number of banks propose to raise their funds; and

(e) the time by which these issues are likely to be finalized by the Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Punjab National Bank has been expanding its operations overseas on a regular basis. It plans to open a Representative office in Dubai, Foreign Currency Banking Unit in Srilanka, Subsidiaries at Almaty in Kazakhstan and at London, UK. The Bank is also exploring the possibility of opening offices of the bank in Hong Kong, Thailand, Poland and Canada.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) and (e) Apart from Punjab National Bank following four nationalised banks are also scheduled to come out with public issue in next few months:

1. Allahabad Bank
2. Bank of Baroda

3. Oriental Bank of Commerce

4. Syndicate Bank

Families living below Poverty Line

768. SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the guidelines/norms laid down for identifying people living below poverty line and the time since these guidelines/norms are in existence;

(b) whether there is any proposal to revise such norms in the near future; and

(c) the number of persons living below poverty line in the country as on date, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) The Planning Commission estimates poverty based on per capita consumption expenditure needed to attain a minimum calorie intake out of food consumption along with a minimum amount of non-food expenditure in order to meet the requirements of clothing, shelter, transport etc.

The per capita consumption norm has been fixed at Rs. 49.09 per month in rural areas and Rs. 56.64 per month in urban areas at 1973-74 prices at national level corresponding to a basket of goods and services anchored on a norm of per capita daily calorie requirement of 2400 kcal in rural areas and 2100 kcal in urban areas. The National poverty line at 1999-2000 prices is Rs. 327.56 per capita per month in rural areas and Rs. 454.11 per capita per month in urban areas. The state-specific poverty lines are derived from the national level poverty lines, using state-specific price indices and inter-state price differentials, according to the Expert Group Methodology.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) The number of persons living below poverty line, State-wise as estimated by the Planning Commission is given in the Statement enclosed.

Statement

*No. of persons living Below Poverty Line in 1999-2000, State-wise
(As per Planning Commission Estimates)*

Sl.No.	States	Rural No. of Persons (Lakhs)	Urban No. of Persons (Lakhs)	Combined No. of Persons Lakhs)
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	58.13	60.88	119.01
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	3.80	0.18	3.98

1	2	3	4	5
3.	Assam	92.17	2.38	94.55
4.	Bihar	376.51	49.13	425.65
5.	Goa	0.11	0.59	0.70
6.	Gujarat	39.80	28.09	67.89
7.	Haryana	11.94	5.39	17.34
8.	Himachal Pradesh	4.84	0.29	5.12
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	2.97	0.49	3.46
10.	Karnataka	59.91	44.49	104.40
11.	Kerala	20.97	20.07	41.04
12.	Madhya Pradesh	217.32	81.22	298.54
13.	Maharashtra	125.12	102.87	227.99
14.	Manipur	6.53	0.66	7.19
15.	Meghalaya	7.89	0.34	8.23
16.	Mizoram	1.40	0.45	1.85
17.	Nagaland	5.21	0.28	5.49
18.	Orissa	143.69	25.40	169.09
19.	Punjab	10.20	4.29	14.49
20.	Rajasthan	55.06	26.78	81.83
21.	Sikkim	2.00	0.04	2.05
22.	Tamil Nadu	80.51	49.97	130.48
23.	Tripura	12.53	0.49	13.02
24.	Uttar Pradesh	412.01	117.88	529.89
25.	West Bengal	180.11	33.38	213.49
26.	Andaman & Nicobar Island	0.58	0.24	0.82
27.	Chandigarh	0.06	0.45	0.51
28.	Dadar & Nagar Haveli	0.30	0.03	0.33
29.	Daman & Diu	0.01	0.05	0.06

1	2	3	4	5
30.	Delhi	0.07	11.42	11.49
31.	Lakshadweep	0.03	0.08	0.11
32.	Pondicherry	0.64	1.77	2.41
Total		1932.42	670.07	2602.50

[*Translation*]

Power from Waste

769. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has embarked upon a project of generating power from municipal waste;

(b) if so, the names of municipal corporations identified in the country for setting up of such power projects and the present status of the projects;

(c) whether the Government proposes to extend the projects to all the municipal corporations particularly in big metropolitan cities; and

(d) if so, the quantum of power likely to be generated therefrom during the current financial year and 2005-06?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources is implementing a National Programme for recovery of energy from urban and industrial wastes. Three projects for power generation from municipal wastes have been set up at Hyderabad, Lucknow and Vijayawada. The projects at Hyderabad and Vijayawada are supplying power to the grid; however, some operational problems are at present being faced in the project at Lucknow.

(c) The National Programme is applicable to all the States and Union Territories in the country. All State Governments and Urban Local Bodies have been requested to provide a greater thrust to the development of such projects.

(d) About 60 million units are estimated to be generated per annum from the two projects currently in operation.

Private Sector In Rural Development

770. SHRI RAJNARAYAN BUDHOLIA:
SHRIMATI KIRAN MAHESHWARI:
SHRIMATI KARUNA SHUKLA:
SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR:
SHRI Y.G. MAHAJAN:
SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is considering including private sector for the development of rural areas;

(b) whether the Government has formulated any action plan for it;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the areas in which private sector is proposed to be included in the first phase;

(e) whether the Government has received any suggestions in this regard;

(f) if so, the details thereof;

(g) whether the Government proposes to set up a national rural development fund; and

(h) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) to (h) A Scheme

of Public-Private Partnership for Rural Development is under consideration of the Government of India.

[English]

Nationalization of RRBs

771. SHRI RAJESH VERMA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any demands have been made by the regional rural banks employees to nationalize the rural banks functioning in the country;

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

(c) whether the Government has taken any steps in this matter;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the time by which the regional rural banks would be nationalised; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) Employees Associations/Unions of Regional Rural banks have been suggesting the following for restructuring/reorganization of Regional Rural Banks (RRBs).

- (i) Recapitalisation of RRBs.
- (ii) Delinking of RRBs from Sponsor Banks.
- (iii) Amalgamation of RRBs at State/Zonal level under National Rural Bank or NABARD.
- (iv) Majority share holding in RRBs by the Central Government.
- (v) Implementation of the Government sponsored programmes, credit to SHGs and credit for farm sector and other rural infrastructure programmes through RRBs.

(c) to (e) As a step towards the consolidation of RRBs, the Government has presently initiated the process of amalgamation of contiguous RRBs sponsored by the same bank within a State in consultation with the respective State Government and NABARD.

[Translation]

Gangotri Vikas Yojana

772. SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR KUSHAWAHA:
 PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR:
 SHRI MOHD. TAHIR:
 SHRI MUNAWAR HASSAN:
 SHRI RAKESH SINGH:
 SHRI MUNSHI RAM:
 SHRI RUPCHAND MURMU:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has approved the implementation of GONGOTRI;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether GANGOTRI has been introduced to replace CAPART;

(d) if so, the details and purpose thereof;

(e) the total number of schemes approved/launched under CAPART during the last three years, State-wise;

(f) the scheme-wise details of funds allocated, released and utilised alongwith the achievements made as on date;

(g) whether the said schemes under CAPART are proposed to be discontinued or merged with GANGOTRI; and

(h) if so, details and reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) to (h) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Master Plan for Rural Areas

773. SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government propose to prepare a master plan for the rural areas of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the plan is likely to be ready?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[English]

Shortage of Cotton

774. SHRI TUKARAM GANPATRAO RENGE PATIL:
SHRI V.K. THUMMAR:
SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI:
SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the country is going to face severe shortage of cotton by 2007 affecting the textiles industry badly;

(b) if so, the reasons thereof;

(c) the State-wise details of the cotton production and consumption in the last three years;

(d) the steps being taken to face the ensuring cotton crisis in the country;

(e) whether government has allowed export/import of the cotton; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) and (b) The Working Group on Textiles and Jute Industry for the Xth Five Year Plan has projected a consumption of 215 lakh bales in the terminal year of the Xth Plan viz. 2006-07. The production of cotton during the current cotton year 2004-05 is estimated at 213 lakh bales. Therefore, the country may not face shortage of cotton by 2007, affecting the textile industry.

(c) State-wise production of cotton for the last three years is as under:

(In lakh Bales of 170 Kgs. each)

State	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04
Punjab	9.25	7.50	11.00
Haryana	5.50	8.75	11.50
Rajasthan	7.00	5.00	8.50
Gujarat	32.50	30.50	50.00
Maharashtra	34.25	26.00	31.00
Madhya Pradesh	20.00	18.00	19.50
Andhra Pradesh	26.75	19.75	26.00
Karnataka	7.00	5.00	4.00
Tamil Nadu	5.50	3.00	3.50
Others	0.75	1.00	1.00
Loose cotton consumed but not accounted for in state-wise production	10.00	11.50	11.00
Total Production	158.00	136.00	177.00

Source: Cotton Advisory Board

The information on state-wise consumption of cotton is not maintained by the Government. However, the all India consumption of cotton for the last three years is as under:

(In Lakh Bales of 170 kg. each)

Cotton year	Total Consumption
2001-02	171.76
2002-03	168.83
2003-04	173.25

Source: Cotton Advisory Board

(d) As mentioned above, there will not be any cotton crisis in the country. However the Government of India has launched the Technology Mission on Cotton to augment the availability of quality cotton at competitive prices to the user industry.

(e) and (f) The international trade of cotton, from and into the country is free of any restriction. At present, the import of cotton is subject to the customs duty of 10%.

[Translation]

Interest Rate of Small Saving Schemes

775. SHRIMATI ANURADHA CHOUDHARY:
PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR:
SHRI MOHD. TAHIR:
SHRI MUNSHI RAM:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are contemplating on reducing interest rates on small saving schemes introduced an year before as reported in the "Hindustan" dated January 14, 2005;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the small saving schemes on which the Government propose to reduce the interest rates;

(d) the extent of estimated savings after reduction of interest rates on the said schemes;

(e) whether the Government proposes to reduce the interest rates on the small saving schemes to meet the fiscal deficit and increase its income;

(f) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(g) the number of small saving schemes introduced by the Government during the current year alongwith the number of times the rates of interest thereon have been revised?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (f) Do not arise.

(g) One scheme, namely, the Senior Citizens Savings Scheme has been introduced during the current financial year. No revision in the rate of the interest applicable to the deposits under this scheme has been made.

[English]

Integrated Surveillance System

776. SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH:
SHRI VIJOY KRISHNA:
SHRI S.D. MANDLIK:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Securities and Exchange Board of India has a new integrated surveillance system;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the above system has started functioning; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has informed that it is in the process of putting in place a world class integrated market surveillance system across stock exchanges and across cash and derivative markets. The system is expected to be in place in about nine months.

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

Setting up of Power Exchanges

777. SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up nation-wise power exchanges;

(b) the details of the agencies proposed to be involved in the development of such power exchanges; and

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

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.M. SAYEED):

(a) to (c) In accordance with the National Electricity Policy notified by the Government, development of power market would need to be undertaken by the appropriate Electricity Regulatory Commission in consultation with all concerned. Enabling regulations for inter and intra State trading and also regulations on power exchange shall be notified by the appropriate Electricity Regulatory Commission.

In order to examine various issues relating to feasibility of wholesale Power Exchange at national level in India and to develop a Detailed Project Report for the same, NTPC Vidyut Vyapar Nigam has engaged a consortium of consultants, namely M/s. CRISIL Ltd. and M/s. Nord Pool Consulting, Norway.

[*Translation*]

Special Loan Scheme for Passengers

778. SHRI BAPU HARI CHAURE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Bank of India in cooperation with the Singapore Tourism Board and Air India have formulated any special loan scheme for the passengers;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which this scheme is likely to be launched?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. State Bank of India's Hyderabad Local Head Office has locally launched a travel loan product on 5th January, 2005 by entering into a local tie-up with Singapore Tourism Board (STB) and Air India (AI), covering the state of Andhra Pradesh. The Product is christened as "SBI Travel Scheme to Singapore". The details of the

Product are as follows:

- AI will provide special concessional fare for Hyderabad-Singapore-Hyderabad sector. The fare will be available from 1st January 2005 to 31st March 2005.
- STB shall provide the ground arrangement in Singapore, comprising hotel stay, airport transfers, city tours and select meals.
- SBI will provide a loan, at its sole discretion to the travellers at an interest rate of 12.75% p.a. on a daily reducing balance basis.

[*English*]

Urban Amenities to Rural Areas

779. SHRI SHRINIWAS DADASAHEB PATIL: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the scheme "Provision of Urban Amenities to Rural Areas" popularly known as 'Provision of Urban Amenities in Rural Areas (PURA)';

(b) the areas identified in India where Provision of Urban Amenities in Rural Areas (PURA) is to be implemented; and

(c) the period set for implementation of this programme along with the funds allocated to each one of them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) The Ministry of Rural Development in consultation with Planning Commission has decided to initially launch a pilot phase for implementation of the scheme Provision of Urban Amenities in Rural Areas (PURA). Under the pilot phase provision of 7 facilities namely power, road, transportation, health, education, water supply and marketing are envisaged to be provided in the selected clusters.

(b) The pilot phase is being launched in the 7 States with one cluster in each State comprising of 10-15 villages. The States selected for pilot phase are Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Maharashtra, Orissa, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh.

(c) The pilot phase is likely to be completed in 2 to 3 years time period with an estimated cost of Rs. 4 to 5 crore per cluster under PURA.

*[Translation]***Training Programmes Abroad**780. SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO:
SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a huge amount is spent on training programmes abroad;

(b) if so, the amount spent on the foreign training programmes of the officers of the Ministries and undertakings during the last three years; and

(c) the outcome of the training programmes and the reaction of the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) to (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

Setting up of Hydro Electric Projects

781. SHRI KHIREN RIJIJU: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Hydro-electric Projects in the country sanctioned during the last three years, State-wise;

(b) the funds allocated for the setting up of these Hydro-electric Projects; and

(c) the time by which the projects are likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.M. SAYEED): (a) to (c) In the last three years (2001-02, 2002-03 and 2003-04) and in 2004-05 (upto January, 2005), nine Hydel Power Projects with an aggregate installed capacity of 6,092 MW have been accorded investment approval in the Central Sector and six projects with an installed capacity of 968 MW have been sanctioned by the State Governments. In addition, four projects in the Private Sector with an installed capacity of 1280 MW have been accorded Techno-Economic Clearance by the Central Electricity Authority. The investments in these project will be above Rs. 35,000 crores.

The details of these projects and the likely time schedule by which the projects are likely to be completed is given in the Statement enclosed.

Statement*State-wise Hydel Power Projects sanctioned by Government of India a Central Sector, State Governments in State Sector, Techno-Economic Clearance accorded by Central Electricity Authority for Private Sector and National Thermal Power Corporation Projects during last three years and from April, 2004 to 25th February, 2005.*

Sl.No.	Name of the Schemes/ No. X MW	Sector	Installed Capacity (MW)	Date of Sanction/ TEC	Cost of the Project	Likely Commissioning Schedule
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Jammu & Kashmir						
1.	Sewa Stage-II 3x40	Central/ NHPC	120	09.09.2003	Rs. 665.46 crs. at 9/2002 P.L.	2006-07
Himachal Pradesh						
2.	Parbati-II 4x200	Central/ NHPC	800	11.09.2002	Rs. 3919.59 crs. at 12/2001 P.L.	2009-10
3.	Uhi-III 2x50	State	100	19.09.2002	Rs. 431.56 crs. at 9/2002 P.L.	2007-08

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
4.	Kol Dam H.E. Project (4x200 MW)	Central/ NTPC	800	30.06.2002	Rs. 4,572 crs. at 1/2001 P.L.	2008-10
5.	Dhamwari Sunda 2x35	Private	70	06.07.2001	Rs. 439.95 crs. (Completion) at 1/1999 P.L.	60 months from the date of financial closure
6.	Allain Duhangan (2 x 96)	Private	192	20.08.2002	Rs. 922.36 crs. (Completion) at 3/2001 P.L.	66 months from the date of financial closure
7.	Karcham Wangtoo (4 x 250)	Private	1000	31.03.2003	Rs. 5909.59 crs. (Completion) at 12/2002 P.L.	72 months from the date of financial closure
Uttaranchal						
8.	Loharing Pala 4x150	Central/ NTPC	600	11.08.2004	Rs. 2417.78 crs. at 3/2004 P.L.	2010-11
9.	Tapovan Vishnugad 4x130	Central/ NTPC	520	11.08.2004	Rs. 2545.53 crs. at 3/2004 P.L.	2011-12
Madhya Pradesh						
10.	Omkareshwar 8x65	Joint/ NHDC	520	29.05.2003	Rs. 2224.73 crs. at 11/2002 P.L.	2006-07
Andhra Pradesh						
11.	Priyadarishini Jurala 6x39	State	234	24.07.2002	Rs. 547 crs. at 2002 P.L.	1 Unit 2006-07 5 units 2007-09
Karnataka						
12.	Almatti Dam 1x15+5x55	State	290	08.03.2002	Rs. 874.38 crs. at 2/2002 P.L.	Unit 1 Commissioned 28.06.04 unit-2 Commissioned 04.11.04 Unit-3 (55 MW) Commissioned 13.01.05 Unit-4 Expected in March, 2005 Unit 5&6 Expected in 2005-06

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
13.	Varahi Extension 2x115 Tamil Nadu	State	230	28.10.2003	Rs. 280.55 crs.	2007-08
14.	Bhavani Kattalai Barrage-III 2x15 Orissa/Andhra Pradesh	State	30	27.03.2002	Rs. 99.75 crs. at 1999 P.L.	2006-07
15.	Jalapat Dam Toe 3x6 West Bengal	Private	18	31.01.2003	Rs. 69.68 crs. (Completion) at 5/2002 P.L.	24 months from the date of financial closure
16.	Teesta LD St-III 4x33 Arunachal Pradesh	Central/ NHPC	132	30.10.2003	Rs. 768.92 crs. at 12/2002 P.L.	2006-07
17.	Subansiri Lower 8x250	Central/ NHPC	2000	09.09.2003	Rs. 6285.33 crs. at 12/2002 P.L.	2010-11
18.	Kameng 4x150 Meghalaya	Central/ NEEPCO	600	02.12.2004	Rs. 2496.90 crs. at 3/2004 P.L.	2009-10
19.	Myntdu 2x42	State	84	09.06.2003	Rs. 363.10 crs. at 1/99 P.L.	2007-08
Total			8340		35634.15 Crs.	

[English]

Reward for Information on Tax Evasion

782. SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases pending for payment of final rewards to the informants who give information of tax evasion by individuals;

(b) the amount of award disbursed as a percentage of the evasion intimated, as on date (case-wise);

(c) whether the Government has contemplated revision

of Policy with regard to rewards to informants in order to increase its efficacy;

(d) which are the areas of evasion usually intimated by informants;

(e) which are the States/Districts/cities more prone to tax evasion; and

(f) the action taken for prevention and control of such evasion?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) to (f) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Handloom Export Promotion Council

783. SHRI KASHIRAM RANA:
SHRI DHANSINGH RAWAT:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of handloom weavers and artisans who are the members of the Handloom Export Promotion Council;

(b) the expenditure details of the Handloom Export Promotion Council during each of the last three years;

(c) whether the Council has achieved its target;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the Government has set up Handloom Development Centres in the country for the development of handloom sector; and

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

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) The Council does not have a segregated list of weavers and artisans in its membership roll. Only the exporters, both merchant as well as manufacturers, enroll themselves as members of the Council. Presently, the total number of the members of the Council stands at 2,079.

(b) Expenditure details of the Handloom Export Promotion Council during each of the last three years on various heads are as under:

Various heads	Expenditure incurred in Rupees		
	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04
Administrative Expenses	91,54,894.60	91,11,816.65	1,01,46,833.65
Promotional Expenses	1,35,78,667.50	3,37,29,128.70	5,15,25,091.90
Miscellaneous Expenses	12,33,862.25	8,03,319.05	9,54,281.05
Total	2,49,67,424.35	4,36,44,264.40	6,26,26,206.60

(c) and (d) Annual target for handloom exports had been fixed at US\$ 550 million during the year 2002-03. Against this, the Council had achieved US\$ 544 million. However, from 1.4.2003 onwards, segregated export data is not available in the absence of separate ITC (HS) Codes for the handloom products. The matter has been taken up with the Ministry of Finance, Department of Revenue and the Director General of Foreign Trade for allotment of separate ITC (HS) Codes for handloom products.

(e) and (f) The Government of India had sanctioned 1711 Handloom Development Centres under Handloom Development Center & Quality Dying Unit Scheme to be set up in various districts of as many as 19 States during the currency of the scheme.

Inflation Rate

784. SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:
SHRIMATI MINATI SEN:
SHRI JOACHIM BAXLA:
SHRI SUBRATA BOSE:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the inflation rate has come down to 5.6% at the end of first week of January, 2005;

(b) if so, the month-wise inflation rate for the last one year;

(c) whether surge in prices of essential items has prevented further fall in wholesale price index based inflation;

(d) if so, the reasons for surge prices of essential items; and

(e) the steps taken or being taken by the Government to bring down the inflation rate and to check the price rise of essential commodities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) Yes, Sir, the annual point-to-point inflation in terms of the Wholesale Price Index (WPI), after reaching a peak at 8.7 per cent on 28th August 2004 in the current financial year,

witnessed gradual fall and reached 5.6 per cent as on January 8, 2005 and declined further to 5 per cent as on February 12, 2005.

(b) and (c) The month-wise overall WPI inflation and inflation rate for 30 essential items since January 2004 are given in the following table:

WPI Annual Inflation (Per cent)

Year/Month	WPI (overall)	30 Essential items
2004		
Jan.	6.5	3.8
Feb.	6.1	5.3
Mar.	4.8	5.3
Apr.	4.5	4.5
May	5.0	4.9
June	6.7	4.9
Jul.	7.6	4.8
Aug.	8.5	4.8
Sep.	7.9	5.9
Oct.	7.2	5.2
Nov.	7.5	5.1
Dec.*	6.7	5.0
2005		
Jan.*	5.5	5.9
Feb. 12*	5.0	4.0

*Provisional

(d) As observed in the above table, inflation rate of essential items, in general, remained moderate. As on February 12, 2005, out of 30 essential items, 14 items witnessed decline in absolute prices over the last year and 7 items registered inflation between zero to five per cent. However, there was high inflation for potato (50.7%), sugar (20.7%), salt (31.7%), bajra (22.7%), gur (37.6%) and cooking coal (36.9%).

(e) Anti-inflationary policies of the government include strict fiscal and monetary discipline, reduction of excise and import duties of selected essential commodities so that there is no undue burden on the poor, effective supply-demand management of essential items through

liberal trade policies, and strengthening the public distribution system.

Interim Dividend by PSUs

785. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY:
SHRI SARBANANDA SONOWAL:
SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has asked the public sector units to pay an interim dividend;

(b) if so, the number of PSUs paid interim dividend till December, 2004;

(c) the revenue received by the Government in the current fiscal year on account of corporation tax and excise duty when compared to earlier estimates in this regard; and

(d) the reasons for imposing interim dividend on such PSUs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) to (d) In accordance with the guidelines issued by Government from time to time, all profit making Central Public Sector Undertakings are required to pay dividend to the Government as they would to any shareholder. The dividend received by Government upto 31st December, 2004 is Rs. 14558.33 crore including interim dividend which is not accounted for separately.

(e) The Revised Estimates for Corporation Tax and Expose duty for 2004-05 are Rs. 83000 crore and Rs. 100720 crore, respectively as against the Budget Estimates for 2004-05 of Rs. 88436 crore and Rs. 109199 crore, respectively.

Review of Disinvestment Policy

786. SHRI PRABODH PANDA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has decided to review the existing Disinvestment Policy and proposes to announce a new policy on disinvestment;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time by which the new policy is likely to be announced;

(d) whether the new policy would adequately address the problems and difficulties faced by the affected sections of the Public sector units under the process of disinvestment; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) No, Sir. Disinvestment of Government equity in Public Sector Enterprises (PSEs) is governed by the policy stated in National Common Minimum Programme. There is no proposal to review the existing policy.

(b) to (e) do not arise in view of the reply to part (a) above.

National Bio-Fuel Policy

787. SHRI B. VINOD KUMAR:
SHRI RAVICHANDRAN SIPPAPARAI:

Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to formulate a "National Bio-fuel Policy" in view of huge potential for generation of fuel from various trees such as Pongamia, Jatropha and other crops;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons, therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR): (a) to (c) The Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources supports research and development projects on the production and use of bio-diesel from plants, such as Pongamia, Jatropha, etc. Four Bio-fuel Pilot Demonstration Projects have been sanctioned for implementation in one village, each in the States of Jharkhand, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh. Besides, the Ministry of Rural Development is in the process of setting up a National Mission on Bio-diesel.

World Bank Aided Projects

788. SHRI MADHU GOUD YASKHI:
SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:
SHRI K.S. RAO:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a high level team from the World Bank visited India recently to discuss the progress of bank funded projects and future funding requirement;

(b) if so, the details of the meetings held and issued taken with the team of World Bank; and

(c) the details thereof alongwith the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) to (c) A group of Executive Directors (EDs) and Alternate Executive Directors from the World Bank visited India from 3-8 February 2005 to acquaint themselves with World Bank programmes in India. During their visit they attended briefings by key policy makers in India on matters relating to poverty reduction, education, health, rural development infrastructure, private sector development, improving public service delivery and investment climate. The group met the Prime Minister, Minister for Road Transport & Highways and other senior government officials from the Ministries of Finance, Power and Water Resources and the Planning Commission. The group also visited a few development projects in education, health and infrastructure sector in the states of Rajasthan and Maharashtra. Since the visit was part of the regular programme of the World Bank in which the EDs visit a number of countries to acquaint themselves with the functioning of the World Bank, no issues relating to future funding requirements were discussed.

[Translation]

Facilities Provided by Private/Foreign Banks

789. SHRI HEMMAL MURMU: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether private banks and foreign banks are providing better facilities to customers than our nationalised banks;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) Each Bank group has its own strengths and weaknesses. In view of this, it is not factually true to state that one group is providing better services as compared to any other bank group.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[English]

Review of Rural Development Schemes

790. SHRI RAJESH VERMA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has recently reviewed certain development schemes for their effective implementation;

(b) if so, outcome thereof; and

(c) the targets fixed for those rural development schemes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) to (c) The Ministry of Rural Development regularly reviews the performance of the Rural Development programmes through a comprehensive monitoring and evaluation mechanism. The outcome of such reviews revealed that the Schemes are being implemented as per guidelines by and large, and wherever shortcomings are noticed appropriate follow up action is taken. The Ministry does not ordinarily fix target for the major rural development schemes.

[Translation]

Rules for Defunct Companies

791. SHRI HARIBHAU RATHOD:
SHRI HARISHCHANDRA CHAVAN:

Will the Minister of COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to frame new rules for defunct companies;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of the instructions issued earlier for these companies;

(d) the final decision likely to be taken for issue of new guidelines; and

(e) the benefits likely to be accrued to Government and companies from these new instructions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA): (a) and (b) No, Sir. there is no proposal to frame the rules under the Companies Act, 1956 for defunct companies.

(c) In addition to the procedures prescribed in Section 560 of the Companies Act, 1956, the Government has been formulating and implementing special schemes for simplified exit of defunct companies from time to time, for specified time periods. The previous schemes implemented to provide for simplified Exit to defunct companies announced during the last 10 years were (i) from 28-09-2001 extended for Gujarat upto 31-03-2001 and (ii) from 25-03-2003 to 31-03-2004.

(d) The Government has put in operation a new Simplified Exit Scheme effective from 01-02-2005 to 31-07-2005 for removal of names of defunct companies from the Register of Companies.

(e) Removal of defunct companies from the Register of Companies will benefit the government in (i) weeding out the defunct companies; (ii) Reducing the number of companies defaulting in complying with the provisions of the companies Act, 1956, (iii) saving the Government expenditure in preserving their document files, (iv) reducing the cost of project of computerisation. On the other hand, the new instructions enable the defunct companies to get their names struck off the register, easily.

[English]

Non-Banking Finance Companies

792. SHRI RUPCHAND MURMU:
SHRI TUKARAM GANGADHAR GADAKH:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has initiated action against major defaulting Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFC);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of major NBFCs having mobilised deposit of more than Rs. 20 crores from the public and the present status of these NBFCs; and

(d) the action taken by RBI/Company Law Board against CEAT Financial, Indian Seamless Financial and other such NBFCs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) Comprehensive regulatory framework has been put in place empowering Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to take various actions against errant Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs) for various defaults and contravention of provisions of RBI Act and directions issued thereunder.

RBI has rejected applications for Certificate of Registration (CoR) in the case of 4819 deposit taking/holding companies while, CoRs have been cancelled in the case of 140 such companies as on December 31, 2004.

RBI has filed winding up petition against 73 NBFCs and criminal complaints in 58 cases. Besides, police complaints have also been filed in 24 cases.

(c) RBI have further reported that there are 26 companies having public deposits of Rs. 20 crores and above involving an aggregate deposit of Rs. 17,772.16 crores as on December 31, 2004 out of which 10 companies are problem companies i.e. defaulting in repaying of deposits involving a sum of Rs. 1222.06 crores.

(d) CEAT Financial Services Ltd.: RBI have reported that considering the weak financial position of CEAT Financial Services Ltd., renamed as CFL Capital Financial Services Ltd., the CoR of the company has been cancelled on May 18, 2004. Prohibitory Orders have also

been issued against acceptance of deposits and alienation of assets on May 18, 2004. The Company Law Board (CLB) has passed a revised Order dated April 30, 2004 rescheduling repayment of deposits over a period upto March 2008. So far the company has been complying with the above CLB Orders.

Indian Seamless Financial Services Ltd.: The Company was merged with Indian Seamless Securities Ltd. (since renamed as Indseam Services Ltd.) vide the Hon'ble Bombay High Court's orders dated November 23, 2003. The company was holding public deposits of Rs. 5.95 crore as on March 31, 2003. Consequently, the CoR issued to the above company was cancelled. As per the Hon'ble Bombay High Court's approved scheme of merger, the transferee company, viz. Indseam Securities Ltd. has taken over the deposit liability of the transferor company and as such is responsible for repayment of deposits.

[Translation]

World Bank Aid for UP

793. SHRI MUNAWAR HASSAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of UP has received any financial aid from World Bank recently for development of social infrastructure i.e. health, education and road-construction areas during the current year;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the sectors where this aid is likely to be used?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) to (c) A statement showing the details of World Bank assisted projects being implemented in Uttar Pradesh including details of disbursement made by World Bank during the current year is enclosed.

Statement

World Bank Projects in Uttar Pradesh

Sl.No.	Name of the Project/Loan Credit no.	Date of Signing/ closing	Area of implementation	credit amount in US\$ m	Disbursement up to 31-1-05 US \$ m	Disbursement during current year in US \$m
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Central Sector						
1.	Immunisation Strengthening Project- Cr 3340-IN	19.5.00 31.12.05	12 states including UP	227.10	220.35	50.02

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
2.	ICDS III Cr 42-IN	6.7.99 30.6.05	5 states including U.P	300.00	171.14	50.59
3.	Up Third District Primary Education Project Cr 3307-In	23.2.00 31.3.05	U.P & Uttaranchal	182.40	131.37	7.27
4.	Tuberculosis Control Project Cr 2936 IN	14.3.97 30.9.05	Nation-wide	142.40	81.99	12.98
5.	II HIV/AIDS Control Cr 3242-IN	14.9.99 31.3.06	Nation-wide	194.75	146.99	12.68
6.	Food & Drugs Capacity Building Project Cr 3777-In	29.9.03 31.7.08	Nation-wide	54.03	2.50	2.50
7.	Integrated Disease Control Programme Cr 3952-IN	23.9.04 30.9.09	Nation-wide	68.00	6.80	6.80
8.	Sarva Siksha Abhiyan (SSA) Cr 3882-IN	3.6.04 30.6.07	Nation-wide	500.00	75.00	75.00
9.	3rd National Highway Project Ln 4559-IN	11.8.00 30.06.06	UP & Bihar	516.00	212.17	61.80
10.	Grand Trunk Road Improvement Project Ln 4622 IN	27.7.01 31.12.06	UP & Bihar	589.00	196.32	86.01
11.	Allahabad Bypass Project Ln 4719-IN	16.12.03 30.06.09	Uttar Pradesh	240.00	20.204	11.07
State Sector						
1.	Uttar Pradesh Health System Development Project Cr 3338-IN	19.5.00 31.12.05	UP & Uttaranchal	110.00	36.01	4.97
2.	Technical Education Quality Improvement Programme Cr 3718-IN	4.2.03 30.6.08	13 States including U.P.	250.00	6.90	0.69
3.	Uttar Pradesh State Road Project Ln 4684	19.02.03 31.12.08	Uttar Pradesh	488.00	60.050	24.82

*[English]***Construction of Houses**

794. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL:
SHRI SUBRATA BOSE:
SHRI SUNIL KUMAR MAHATO:
SHRI HITEN BARMAN:
DR. DHIRENDRA AGARWAL:
SHRI JOACHIM BAXLA:
SHRI RANEN BARMAN:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of number of houses constructed and distributed in various parts of the country, district-wise/State-wise under the Rural Housing Scheme for the poor people during the last three years;

(b) the number of houses proposed to be constructed under the scheme during the Tenth Plan;

(c) the total assistance given by the Government and the expenditure incurred on the said scheme during the last three years and the current year;

(d) whether the Government has received requests from State Governments to increase assistance under the said scheme;

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

(f) the reaction of Government thereto alongwith the present status thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) to (c) Details of State-wise number of houses constructed, Central release and utilization under the Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY) during the last three years and current year are given in the Statement enclosed. Under IAY, targets for construction of houses are fixed on year-to-year basis depending on the availability of funds.

(d) to (f) The ceiling on construction assistance under the Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY) has been enhanced from Rs. 20,000/- to Rs. 25,000/- per unit for the plain areas and from Rs. 22,000/- to Rs. 27,500/- for the hilly difficult areas with effect from 1.4.2004. the upper limit in respect of upgradation of unserviceable kutcha house has also been increased from Rs. 10,000/- to Rs. 12,500/- for all areas.

Statement

Year-wise/state-wise releases (Central plus State), Utilisation of funds and number of houses constructed/upgraded under the Indira Awaas Yojana during last three years and current year i.e. 2004-05

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl.No.	Name of the States/UTs	2001-02			2002-03			2003-04			2004-05'		
		Releases (C+S)	Utilisation	Number of houses Constructed	Releases (C+S)	Utilisation	Number of houses Constructed	Releases (C+S)	Utilisation	Number of houses Constructed	Releases (C+S)	Utilisation	Number of houses Constructed
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
1.	Andhra Pradesh	24115.19	15553.62	82228	16476.20	20122.58	126837	17262.21	19453.50	105295	24683.80	14067.70	63781
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	703.41	822.02	4542	984.57	665.38	3423	1062.81	1215.89	6646	816.57	589.76	2459
3.	Assam	11494.84	10974.00	46817	13316.44	10433.62	65587	19603.67	14318.35	78752	21833.43	17120.73	70844
4.	Bihar	26630.72	30940.08	167979	26306.53	29339.43	172524	34464.13	37422.41	183792	109768.87	32686.55	156542
5.	Chhattisgarh	2756.71	2796.40	22996	2703.80	2923.19	16255	3360.51	3068.27	18302	4127.79	2093.52	5799
6.	Goa	70.71	56.88	317	52.00	49.80	269	92.75	83.26	233	120.23	95.41	284

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
7.	Gujarat	8166.59	4364.16	27497	7357.34	5330.60	27053	4992.84	5817.24	31159	6574.91	4257.07	19518
8.	Haryana	1856.39	1677.30	9814	1586.35	1927.66	9840	1821.12	1833.58	9175	2329.43	1140.64	4509
9.	Himachal Pradesh	1137.56	706.68	3852	1143.45	626.66	3413	765.55	696.12	3841	963.56	811.95	3352
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	1364.36	1143.06	7632	611.53	911.35	5749	930.89	1253.69	8412	1199.89	612.74	2304
11.	Jharkhand	5136.68	7723.47	50136	7274.45	8064.81	40482	11591.52	11033.91	60290	14998.48	9458.68	36986
12.	Karnataka	7038.59	7261.22	43824	6469.63	7502.49	42452	8773.55	8516.22	49833	10122.77	7028.38	29799
13.	Kerala	5087.91	4618.14	21372	3960.40	4517.33	32107	5697	5767.37	39825	7582.75	4341.80	21167
14.	Madhya Pradesh	9959.45	9534.23	64962	9357.35	10206.99	63691	11111.39	10734.48	65768	13461.12	6939.33	24637
15.	Maharashtra	14524.60	18346.48	88773	13479.60	22637.13	85970	16420.84	22767.55	103135	19559.31	12198.87	52305
16.	Manipur	445.81	293.45	1538	346.68	551.34	2571	594.73	286.30	1686	705.72	590.09	4594
17.	Meghalaya	588.60	754.91	3953	1208.20	741.83	3305	641.57	1147.50	6465	867.81	773.47	3355
18.	Mizoram	232.45	223.78	1275	232.77	231.06	1305	426.55	390.72	2202	373.79	170.21	782
19.	Nagaland	778.41	648.52	4473	388.56	666.73	6898	698.59	826.19	5906	630.53	492.70	3852
20.	Orissa	61984.05	32576.78	169488	43391.26	80678.23	444669	36974.73	35728.08	154205	16676.29	12601.49	45836
21.	Punjab	1149.51	919.92	5317	798.06	1028.10	5651	1070.29	1059.94	6050	1119.48	573.48	2711
22.	Rajasthan	4421.28	4635.03	30471	4199.08	4715.54	37592	4997.33	5274.69	41888	6501.43	5176.95	23610
23.	Sikkim	178.43	237.31	1754	199.83	155.17	1149	215.61	308.97	2041	273.12	149.22	492
24.	Tamilnadu	9439.27	12065.45	43540	8273.91	14446.87	62988	9230.65	11988.64	57089	12035.31	13272.63	46371
25.	Tripura	2225.35	1713.38	10382	2636.51	2050.88	10321	1787.95	2749.89	15003	2547.31	2093.77	4611
26.	Uttar Pradesh	31371.17	29346.45	171944	27995.78	31225.28	177190	32897.09	34628.98	190950	33819.25	26414.01	122031
27.	Uttaranchal	1819.51	2464.75	11245	2682.12	2297.13	11799	4350.72	3977.92	21686	4087.73	3114.66	16001
28.	West Bengal	14272.62	12293.36	71553	13548.11	15188.82	86709	17189.89	15478.41	90601	23248.76	19272.03	106937
29.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	171.55	187.99	858	40.32	188.68	532	110.44	108.52	671	352.93	18.73	60
30.	Dadar & Nagar Haveli	49.70	22.38	202	0.00	3.48	54	33.35	23.98	14	33.35	0.00	0
31.	Daman & Diu	15.58	9.12	66	0.00	8.24	48	0	0.72	7	0.00	0.99	1
32.	Lakshadweep	1.62	3.10	15	2.50	2.75	5	2.84	2.76	14	3.72	3.32	14
33.	Pondicherry	23.31	42.09	266	74.83	57.31	403	41.28	45.64	284	108.49	5.75	72
Total		249211.93	214956.51	1171081	217097.96	279496.46	1548641	249414.39	258009.69	1361200	341525.83	198166.72	8756716

*Provisional.

C+S—Central plus State matching share.

**Effects of Constraints Imposed by WTO
on Textile Industry**

795. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI:
SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA:
SHRI RAGHURAJ SINGH SHAKYA:
SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR CHOUDHARY:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether China and Pakistan poses threat to Indian Textile Industry after lifting of quantitative restrictions on Textiles and readymade garments amongst the member countries of world Trade Organisation;

(b) if so, whether any concrete action plan has been formulated by the Government for Indian Textile Industry to compete in the International market;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) The free global trading regime would result in increased international trade in textiles thus providing greater export opportunities for the indigenous textile industry. According to recent international studies, the foreign buyers who are heavily dependent on China are also keen to find alternate reliable source of supply in the region (India followed by Pakistan) to ensure growth of their business.

India's exports in the post quota regime would be driven by value added made-ups & apparels as India has comparative advantages over its competitors in relation to: (i) availability of relatively inexpensive and skilled workforce (ii) design expertise (iii) presence across the entire value chain and (iv) large production base of basic raw materials.

(b) to (d) government has been taking a number of steps from time to time to strengthen the Indian textile industry to meet the emerging global competition. Some of the important initiatives taken are:

(i) The Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS) has been made operational from 1-4-1999 to facilitate the modernisation and upgradation of the sector.

(ii) The imports of specified textiles and garment machinery items has been allowed at

concessional rate of customs duty to encourage investments and to make our textile products competitive in the global market. The cost of machinery has also been reduced through fiscal policy measures.

(iii) Improve the productivity and quality of cotton, Government has launched Technology Mission on Cotton (TMC). The Mission comprises four mini-missions, which are being jointly implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture and Ministry of Textiles. One of the important ingredients of the Mission is to cotton processing facilities by upgrading/modernizing the existing ginning and pressing facilities and setting up of new market yards/improvement of existing market yards.

(iv) The Government has launched a centrally sponsored scheme titled "Apparel Park for Export Scheme" for imparting focused thrust for setting up of apparel manufacturing units of international standards at potential growth centres to give fillip to exports.

(v) For upgrading infrastructure facilities at important textile centres, a scheme titled "Textile Centre Infrastructure Development Scheme" (TCIDS) has been launched.

(vi) The fiscal duty structure has been rationalised to achieve growth and maximum value addition. Except for mandatory excise duty on polyester filament yarn, synthetic and artificial fibres and synthetic and artificial filament yarns, the whole value addition chain including cotton textile and cotton clothing items have been given excise exemption option. Additional Excise Duty on Textiles & Textile Articles (AT&T) and Additional Excise Duty (Goods of Special Importance) Act have been abolished.

(vii) The Government has de-reserved the woven segment of readymade garment from the SSI sector. It has also raised the SSI investment limit for knitted segment to Rs. 5 crores. In the Union Budget 2005-06, an announcement has been made for de-reservation of 30 hosiery items from the SSI.

(viii) National Institute for Fashion Technology (NIFT), its six branches and Apparel Training & Design Centres (ATDCs) are running various courses/

programmes to meet skilled manpower requirements of textile industry especially apparel in the field of design, merchandising and marketing.

- (ix) Facilities by way of eco-testing laboratories have been created to enable exporters to get the garments/textiles pre-tested for conforming to the requirements of importing countries.

[Translation]

Dabhol Power Project

796. SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA:
SHRI SURESH PRABHAKAR PRABHU:
SHRI CHANDRA MANI TRIPATHI:
SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL:
SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA:
DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY:
DR. CHINTA MOHAN:
SHRI HARISHCHANDRA CHAVAN:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 1140 on 7.12.2004 and state:

(a) whether the Empowered Group of Ministers constituted to examine and decide all issues related to Dabhol Power Project has submitted its report to the Union Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the recommendations made by the EGOM;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the time by which the power project is likely to be re-started?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.M. SAYEED):

(a) No, Sir.

(b) does not arise.

(c) and (d) the Empowered Group of Ministers (EGOM) has met on several occasions and is considering various alternate options for restructuring the Dabhol project. the EGOM will decide on the details of the restructuring of the project keeping all relevant aspects in view.

[English]

Dividends Paid by Power Companies

797. SHRI ARJUN SETHI: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the total interim dividends paid by the State owned power companies to the Government during the current fiscal year till December, 2004;

(b) whether dividend paid by NTPC during the period is quite inadequate as compared to its income; and

(c) if so, facts thereof?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.M. SAYEED):

(a) No, Sir. State owned Power companies have not paid any interim dividend to the Government during the current fiscal year, till December, 2004.

(b) and (c) As per the extant guidelines of the Ministry of Finance, Government of India, infrastructure PSUs are required to pay 30% of Profit After Tax (PAT) as dividend. The dividend paid by NTPC was Rs. 1082.30 crores, which is 20% of PAT in the current fiscal year till December, 2004.

[Translation]

Bogus Housing Finance Companies

798. SHRI MANSUKHBHAI D. VASAVA:
SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of housing finance companies of doubtful credibility operating in the country and are defrauding people;

(b) if so, whether the Government has conducted any inquiry in this regard;

(c) if so, the action taken against such companies; and

(d) the success achieved by the Government as a result of the steps so taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) According to the information available from National Housing Bank (NHB), no housing Finance company, of doubtful credibility operating in the country and defrauding the people, has come to the notice of NHB. In case of such instance coming to the notice of NHB, suitable action will be taken as prescribed under the provisions of the NHB Act.

(b) to (d) Question do not arise.

(c) the share of States, State-wise?

[English]

Additional Excise Duty on various Items

799. SHRI MADAN LAL SHARMA:
SHRI ANANT GUDHE:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government is collecting Additional Excise Duty (AED) in lieu of Sales Tax in respect of items such as sugar, tobacco, textiles etc.

(b) if so, the details of Additional Excise Duty collected by the Government for last three years, year-wise; and

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The collection of Additional Excise Duty in lieu of Sales Tax for last three years is as under:

(in Rs. Crore)

Year	Additional Excise Duty in lieu of Sales Tax Collected.
2001-2002	2960.01
2002-2003	2610.45
2003-2004 (Prov.)	2514.60

(c) The distribution of Additional Excise Duty in lieu of Sales Tax among States is enclosed as Statement.

Statement

State-wise Share of Additional Excise Duty in lieu of Sales Tax for the period 2001-02 to 2003-04

(In crore of Rupees)

Sl.No.	State	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	206.52	219.45	257.72
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	5.78	6.19	8.17
3.	Assam	86.74	92.26	109.94
4.	Bihar	314.07	333.53	387.84
5.	Chhattisgarh	64.63	68.64	79.82
6.	Goa	5.48	5.83	6.89
7.	Gujarat	76.45	81.19	94.41
8.	Haryana	25.58	27.17	31.59
9.	Himachal Pradesh	16.53	17.68	22.86
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	31.00	32.89	41.54
11.	Jharkhand	81.52	86.57	100.66
12.	Karnataka	133.39	141.67	164.99

1	2	3	4	5
13.	Kerala	82.08	87.21	102.31
14.	Madhya Pradesh	174.88	185.72	215.96
15.	Maharashtra	125.53	133.31	155.02
16.	Manipur	8.95	9.57	12.25
17.	Meghalaya	8.38	8.95	11.44
18.	Mizoram	4.48	4.81	6.63
19.	Nagaland	4.62	4.99	7.36
20.	Orissa	134.17	142.66	169.20
21.	Punjab	31.08	33.01	38.39
22.	Rajasthan	146.56	155.75	183.16
23.	Sikkim	4.63	4.94	6.16
24.	Tamil Nadu	146.94	164.98	180.21
25.	Tripura	11.88	12.70	16.30
26.	Uttar Pradesh	518.82	550.76	640.44
27.	Uttaranchal	17.91	19.02	22.12
28.	West Bengal	219.60	233.22	271.61
	Total	2686.99	2854.64	3344.97

Mining Companies in Karnataka

800. SHRI G.M. SIDDESWARA: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of mines of various minerals operating under public and private sector in the country, State-wise;

(b) whether these mining companies are functioning according to the rules and regulations laid down by the Government;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor and the action taken against these companies;

(e) the precautionary measures being taken for environment and pollution control;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the total quantum of mineral produced in these mines during last three years?

THE MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI SISH RAM OLA):

(a) The State wise reporting mines both in Public and private sectors are as under:

State	2001-02	2002-03 (P)
1	2	3
All States	3172	3108
Andhra Pradesh	395	400

1	2	3
Assam	10	10
Bihar	9	7
Chhattisgarh	123	124
Goa	75	74
Gujarat	421	411
Haryana	28	18
Himachal Pradesh	32	31
Jammu & Kashmir	9	8
Jharkhand	299	293
Karnataka	193	199
Kerala	37	34
Madhya Pradesh	369	332
Maharashtra	139	139
Meghalaya	2	2
Nagaland	0	0

1	2	3
Orissa	232	234
Rajasthan	460	460
Sikkim	2	2
Tamil Nadu	166	168
Uttar Pradesh	35	25
Uttaranchal	20	24
West Bengal	116	113

(b) to (d) All lease holders have to comply with the terms and conditions laid down while granting mining lease and as provided in Mines and Minerals (Development & Regulation) Act 1957 and Rules made thereunder. To ensure compliance with these terms and conditions appropriate provisions including relating to levy of penalty have been made in the said Act and Rules.

Indian Bureau of Mines (IBM), a subordinate office under the control of Ministry of Mines carries out inspection for implementation of Mineral Conservation and Development Rules, 1988. the violations detected & follow up action taken in the matter during last three years by IBM is given below:

Year	No. of mines inspected	No. of violations pointed out	No. of violations rectified	No. of show cause notices issued	Number of violations rectified After issue of show cause notices	Number of prosecution cases launched
2001-02	2219	3857	1186	394	219	114
2002-03	2719	4180	1319	785	588	207
2003-04	2462	2994	1200	534	695	134

(e) and (f) The lease holders are also required to obtain Environment clearance as per provisions in the Environment (Protection) Act 1986, which is administered

by Ministry of Environment and Forest.

(g) The value of mineral production during the last three years is given below:

Year	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05 (P)
Value	67029	69583	73945

(Rs. in crore)

P: Provisional

*[Translation]***Sick Co-operative Banks**

801. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN':
DR. CHINTA MOHAN:
SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of cooperative banks in the country as on date;

(b) the number of banks which have become sick;

(c) the amount of loss likely to be incurred due to sickness of the these banks;

(d) the number of cooperative banks failed to return the investor deposits;

(e) the scheme of the Government for revival of such banks;

(f) whether insurance companies have paid money to the cooperative banks; and

(g) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Government to safeguard the interest of small investors and revival of cooperative banks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) There were 30 States Co-operative Banks (SCBs) and 366 District Central Co-operative Banks (DCCBs) in the country as on 31.12.2004. The number of Urban Co-operative Banks (UCBs) were 2105 as on 30.09.2004.

(b) and (c) As on 31st December, 2004, 6 SCBs and 140 DCCBs were not complying with the minimum capital requirement as required under Section 11(1) of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 (As applicable to Co-operative Societies). The accumulated losses of 6 SCBs and 140 DCCBs are Rs. 169 crore and Rs. 3748 crore

respectively. With regard to UCBs, 220 UCBs are under liquidation and the accumulated losses incurred by the 55 Scheduled UCBs is 2320 crore as per their balance sheet for the year 2003-04.

(d) to (g) In case of failed banks, payment of deposits upto Rs. 1 lakh is insured by the Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation (DICGC). No other company/organization provides insurance to depositors. A total of Rs. 1151.02 crore in respect of claims made by 107 Co-operative Banks have been settled by DICGC. Deposits over and above Rs. 1.00 lakh are repaid as and when the assets of the liquidated banks are realized, depending upon the right of subrogation exercised by DICGC. Claims made by the defaulting banks with DICGC are settled as per the stipulated norms prescribed by the DICGC. The recommendations of the Task Force to examine reforms in co-operative banking system have been accepted by the Government in principle for implementation.

*[English]***Norms for Private Sector Banks**

802. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to enforce stringent norms on private sector banks in the country as reported in the 'Pioneer' dated February 7, 2005;

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

(c) whether the private sector banks in the country are violating the norms and guidelines of the Reserve Bank of India; and

(d) if so, the facts thereof and the action Government proposes to take against them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) to (d) all public sector, private sector, foreign banks and financial institutions are already under the supervision of Reserve Bank of India. The working of these entities is reviewed on a continued basis by RBI and all cases of irregularities, diversion and non-implementation of norms/guidelines of RBI are examined and taken up with the management of respective banks for corrective actions, if any.

*[Translation]***Shares of Private/Public Sector Banks**

803. SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN:
DR. CHINTA MOHAN:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether purchase of shares of private and public sector banks of the country by the foreign institutional investors is continuously increasing for the last one year;

(b) if so the quantum of shares of the public sector banks of the country purchased by the foreign institutional investors during the said period; and

(c) the number of shares of each of the public sector bank with their total value held by private Indian investors during the said period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) the quantum of shares held by the FIs increased from 78,93,40,406 shares in 25 banks as on 31.1.2004 to 122,83,85,672 shares in 25 banks as on 31.01.2005. The bank-wise details are given in the Statement enclosed.

(c) As per Reserve Bank of India, data on individual resident shareholders is not maintained.

Statement

Sl.No.	Name of Bank	No. of shares held by FIs as on 31-01-2004	% to Paid-up Capital	No. of shares held by FIs as on 31-01-2005	% to paid-up Capital
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	ICICI Bank	28,33,78,082	38.63	35,94,61,244	49.00
2.	HDFC Bank	7,67,38,812	27.02	8,46,76,332	29.82
3.	Kotak Mahindra Bank	94,35,947	7.92	2,34,22,188	19.67
4.	UTI Bank	3,31,63,474	14.27	4,74,99,688	20.44
5.	Centurion Bank	76,73,437	5.37	11,27,84,717	14.19
6.	Federal Bank	10,65,637	4.80	28,65,617	12.92
7.	Indusland Bank	1,36,76,792	4.70	1,96,45,682	6.75
8.	IDBI Bank	49,47,733	2.35	2,54,89,653	12.12
9.	Jammu and Kashmir Bank	77,12,696	15.90	1,05,28,321	21.70
10.	Karur Vysya Bank	9,19,613	5.10	26,08,246	14.49
11.	ING Vysya Bank	46,45,021	20.53	40,24,690	17.79
12.	Karnataka Bank	18,98,653	4.68	23,95,656	5.91
13.	Punjab National Bank	2,96,25,795	11.16	3,87,78,317	14.61
14.	Canara Bank	4,36,00,569	10.63	6,39,23,680	15.59

1	2	3	4	5	6
15.	Indian Overseas Bank	11,31,795	0.20	2,62,76,074	4.82
16.	Vijaya Bank	2,19,71,273	5.06	5,58,77,896	12.88
17.	Union Bank	5,39,07,074	11.71	7,74,47,887	16.83
18.	Syndicate Bank	36,83,407	0.78	1,06,04,713	2.24
19.	Bank of Baroda	4,75,40,615	16.14	5,59,88,957	19.01
20.	Corporation Bank	1,10,83,135	7.72	1,51,28,945	10.54
21.	Andhra Bank	2,15,77,223	5.39	4,93,23,336	12.33
22.	Oriental Bank of Commerce	2,53,75,968	13.17	2,66,71,319	13.85
23.	Bank of India	2,37,64,900	4.86	4,10,56,728	8.40
24.	State Bank of India	6,01,97,755	11.43*	6,25,24,821	11.88*
25.	UCO Bank	6,25,000	0.07	73,80,865	0.92
Total		78,93,40,406		1,22,63,85,672	

*Excludes ADR/GDR

Connecting of courts with Internet

804. SHRI BHUPENDRASINH SOLANKI:
SHRI P. RAJENDRAN:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is contemplating to connect/link all the courts of the country through the Internet;

(b) if so, whether the Government has taken any steps in this regard; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. VENKATAPATHY): (a) to (c) Supreme Court and High Courts have already been computerized through National Informatics Centre (NIC). In addition, the Central Government has already provided funds for computerisation of 1600 subordinate courts

covering four major metropolitan cities, and all the state capitals or places where the High Courts are located. Steps have been taken to initiate a proposal for computerisation of the remaining 13,348 District and Subordinate Courts in the country in phases. Once the project is completed, there will be a linkage among all the layers of the judiciary through internet.

[English]

Merger of IDBI and IDBI Bank

805. SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has taken steps to merge IDBI with IDBI Bank to strengthen IDBI;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether a number of companies who have taken loan from IDBI have not paid back;

(d) if so, the company-wise details and amount of outstanding dues to be paid to IDBI by such companies;

(e) whether the Government has also taken steps to recover such huge amount from these companies to strengthen the financial position of IDBI; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) The Board of Directors of IDBI and IDBI Bank have taken 'in principle' decision to merge IDBI Bank Ltd. with IDBI. The Board of both the Banks independently approved the draft scheme of amalgamation.

(c) and (d) IDBI reported Non-Performing Assets of 103 units with principal outstanding dues of Rs. 451.67 crores as on September 30, 2004. Company-wise details cannot be divulged in accordance with the practice and usages customary amongst the bank and in conformity with the provisions of statutes governing the financial institutions as also the provisions of Public Financial Institutions (Obligations as to Fidelity and Secrecy) Act, 1983.

(e) and (f) Government had introduced several enabling measures to deal with growing incidence of Non-Performing Assets (NPAs) such as strengthening of Debt Recovery Tribunals (DRTs), introduction of Corporate Debt Restructuring (CDR) mechanism, enactment of Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (SARFAESI), passing of the Amendment Bill of SARFAESI Act in the Winter Session of the Parliament, 2004, setting up of Asset Reconstruction Companies (ARCs), One Time Settlement Schemes and creation of Stress Assets Stabilization Fund.

Urban Cooperative Banks

806. SHRI SUGRIB SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the RBI has triggered the Urban Cooperative Banks move to expand their footprint;

(b) if so, the names of UCBs requested for licenses to open fresh branches, bank-wise;

(c) the names of UCBs to whom permission has been granted, bank-wise;

(d) whether the Government is considering to bring cooperative banks under the control of Reserve Bank of India;

(e) if so, the details thereof and the time by which financial decision is likely to be taken;

(f) whether any survey has been undertaken by leading consultants to evaluate the health of UCBs in the country;

(g) if so, the finding thereof; and

(h) the steps taken by the Government to improve the functioning of such banks in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) As per announcement in RBI's Annual Policy Statement for the year 2004-05 the Registrar of Cooperative Society of all States and Union Territories and regional office of the RBI were advised that no fresh proposal for organization of new urban cooperative banks or for conversion of cooperative credit society into Urban Cooperative Banks (UCBs) will be considered till a proper legislative frame work is brought about. However, the banks have been allowed to open branches where in-principle approval were given earlier.

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

(d) and (e) The UCBs come under the dual control of respective State Governments and RBI.

(f) and (g) The Government has not engaged any such organization to evaluate the health of UCBs.

(h) With a view to improving the functioning of UCBs in the country the RBI has taken a number of regulatory and supervisory initiatives. As a part of prudential regulation, UCBs have been advised to implement the guidelines regarding Income recognition, assets classification and provisioning norms. For better risk management the UCBs have been advised to fix limits on their exposure to individual borrowers and group borrowers. UCBs have also been given guidelines regarding declaration of dividend, advances against security of real estate avoiding systemic risk, management and control and others.

World Bank Assistance

807. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the World Bank has focused on poverty ridden States in India and to collaborate with Indian Government to achieve the poverty alleviation targets under the millennium development goals;

(b) if so, whether the World Bank has also identified the poverty ridden States in India; and

(c) if so, the States for which World Bank agreed to provide help and assistance alongwith the amount to be provided to these States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) to (c) The World Bank strategy retains an essentially reform and performance-based approach to the states and it also intends to open up new opportunities for engagement with the largest and poorest states. The World Bank also aims to build a productive development relationship with four states where poverty is increasingly concentrated— Bihar, Jharkhand, Orissa and Uttar Pradesh.

Increase in Taxes, Duties, NPAs

808. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the arrears of wealth tax, income tax, central excise duty and NPAs have increased over the years;

(b) if so, please give the figures separately for each of the last three years;

(c) the reasons thereof together with steps taken to bring down the arrears;

(d) whether many of the projects undertaken by the Union Government have either been scrapped or not taken in hand because of paucity of funds; and

(e) the details of steps taken by the Union Government to bring economy in Government expenditure?

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

[Translation]

Complaints Received by Investor Grievance Cell

809. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of complaints received by Investors Grievance Cell during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) the number of complaints pending final disposal;

(c) whether the Union Government proposes to make reforms in the cell; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) The complaints received by Investors Grievance Cell during the last three years are as follows:

Year	Total
2002	2620
2003	2439
2004	2698

(b) Grievances are received regularly and sent to the different agencies for redressal and final disposal by them. There are at present 46 such receipts pending.

(c) and (d) Since all the grievances are to be disposed off under Act/Regulations of different Regulators or rules of the agencies/institutions, government have decided to close down the cell and send all the grievances to the concerned Regulators/agencies. The cell has been discontinued with effect from August 2004.

Irregularities in LIC

810. SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to USQ No. 647 dated December 3, 2004 regarding Irregularities in LIC and to state:

(a) whether information sought in the above question has been collected;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the time by which the information is likely to be collected and will be laid on the Table of the House?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[*English*]

Revenue Collection in UP

811. SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of revenue collected directly and indirectly from Uttar Pradesh during the last three years;

(b) the share of Uttar Pradesh out of this revenue collected during the said period; and

(c) the funds allocated to Uttar Pradesh by the Government during the said period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) The details of revenue collected on account of direct taxes from Uttar Pradesh during the last three years is as under:

(Rs. in crores)

Year	Amount collected
2001-02	1569.65
2002-03	1884.32
2003-04	2186.21

So far as indirect taxes are concerned, state-wise figures are not maintained separately.

(b) and (c) The share of Uttar Pradesh out of the direct and indirect tax revenue collected by the Central Government and the Central assistance allocated to Uttar Pradesh during 2001-02, 2002-03 and 2003-04 is as under:

(Rs. in crores)

Sl.No.	Item	2001-02 Allocation	2002-03 Allocation	2003-04 Allocation
A.	Finance Commission Grants			
(i)	Share in Central Taxes (BE)	11797.17	11807.09	12207.23
(ii)	Calamity Relief Fund (CRF)	115.19	120.95	127.00
(iii)	Upgradation/special problems	108.03	105.21	160.19
(iv)	Local bodies grants	279.00	279.00	279.00
B.	Share in Central Taxes (Released)	10199.59	10831.55	12595.30
C.	Total Central Assistance (allocated by Planning Commission)	5962.23	6101.07	5807.54

[*Translation*]

Clearance to NTPC Power Projects

812. SHRI CHANDRABHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received any proposal from Madhya Pradesh to set up a Thermal Power Station with 1000 MW capacity in Malva district which is under the consideration of Ministry of Environment and Forests for clearance;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time by which the sanction is likely to be accorded;

(d) whether the power generating capacity of thermal power stations in the State has been adversely affected due to non-supply of required quantity of coal; and

(e) if so, the action taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.M. SAYEED):

(a) No, sir.

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

(d) and (e) Presently, there is no shortage of coal supply to Madhya Pradesh. No power station of Madhya Pradesh has reported generation loss due to shortage of coal.

[English]

Energy Security Through Bio Mass

813. SHRI RAVICHANDRAN SIPPAPARAI: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to formulate a national programme for providing "Energy security to all villages through Bio mass";

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the programmes is likely to come into effect?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR): (a) to (c) An Outline Plan has been prepared by the Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources for creating energy security in villages using locally available biomass resources with participation of

the local community and potential for employment generation and environment friendly sustainable development. To begin with, it has been decided to implement test projects on village energy security with a view to demonstrate the techno-economic parameters, test the implementation strategy and firm up the institutional arrangements. Proposals are being firmed up by the potential States for implementation of the test projects during next financial year.

[Translation]

NCES Power Plants

814. SHRI AJIT JOGI:
SHRI GANESH SINGH:
DR. SATAYANARAYAN JATIYA:

Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of non-conventional energy sources power plants are working in the country at present, State-wise;

(b) the number of applications received for introducing non-conventional energy sources plants in the country during the year 2004-05 and the number out of them cleared during the period, State-wise; and

(c) the total funds earmarked and released for the purpose to each State during the current financial year and proposed to be released during 2005-06?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR): (a) to (c) The State-wise details of cumulative grid interactive renewable power capacity installed, capacity addition and funds provided during 2004-05, as on 31.12.2004 are given in Statement enclosed. Licenses for getting up renewable power plants are not required under the Electricity Act, 2003, subject to certain conditions. State-wise funds are not allocated for setting up renewable power projects.

Statement

Cumulative grid interactive renewable power installed capacity, capacity added during 2004-05 and funds provided under various programmes for grid interactive renewable power during 2004-05 as on 31-12-2004.

Sl.No.	State/UT	Cumulative installed capacity as on 31.12.2004 (MW)	Capacity Addition during 2004-05 as on 31.12.2005 (MW)	Funds provided during 2004-05 as on 31.12.2005 (Rs. in crore)
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	563.02	67.55	4.40
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	32.68	0.00	0.00

1	2	3	4	5
3.	Assam	2.23	0.00	0.00
4.	Bihar	45.92	0.00	0.06
5.	Chhattisgarh	25.01	7.51	0.00
6.	Goa	0.07	0.00	0.00
7.	Gujarat	243.70	18.33	0.19
8.	Haryana	69.76	2.10	0.08
9.	Himachal Pradesh	108.05	6.00	10.71
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	102.36	0.00	0.10
11.	Jharkhand	4.13	0.08	0.05
12.	Karnataka	701.34	138.85	4.21
13.	Kerala	88.37	0.00	0.00
14.	Madhya Pradesh	77.10	7.40	0.15
15.	Maharashtra	660.24	15.25	0.97
16.	Manipur	5.45	0.00	0.00
17.	Meghalaya	30.71	0.00	0.00
18.	Mizoram	14.96	0.00	2.74
19.	Nagaland	20.47	0.00	0.67
20.	Orissa	7.40	0.00	0.00
21.	Punjab	136.18	4.00	0.14
22.	Rajasthan	295.18	84.66	0.04
23.	Sikkim	35.60	0.00	0.00
24.	Tamil Nadu	1934.12	340.92	1.79
25.	Tripura	17.01	0.00	0.00
26.	Uttar Pradesh	107.32	15.72	0.30
27.	Uttaranchal	72.50	0.00	0.11
28.	West Bengal	99.84	0.20	1.45
29.	Andaman and Nicobar	5.52	0.00	0.00
30.	Chandigarh	0.00	0.00	0.00
31.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0.00	0.00	0.00

1	2	3	4	5
32.	Daman & Diu	0.00	0.00	0.00
33.	Delhi	0.07	0.00	0.21
34.	Lakshadweep	0.65	0.00	0.00
35.	Pondicherry	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total		5506.95	708.56	28.36

[English]

Micro Insurance Scheme

815. SHRI D. VITTAL RAO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority proposes to bring forward a comprehensive micro insurance scheme in life and non-life product for poor to cover all types of risks at a nominal cost;

(b) if so, the details of the scheme and time by which the said scheme is likely to be launched; and

(c) the main features of the scheme and total customers targeted by IRDA under this scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) to (c) Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (IRDA) proposes to notify separate regulations on micro insurance for the benefit of rural population and vulnerable sections of the society. The regulations will define "Micro insurance products", "micro insurance agents" and also will address the issue of waiver of certain pre-requisites for licence to micro-insurance agents.

SIDBI Stake in Banks

816. SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD:
SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) has submitted a proposal to the Government for taking a strategic stake in a bank in order to provide comprehensive range of services to the small and medium enterprises (SMEs);

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

(c) the action taken by the Government on the proposal of SIDBI?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

ADB Loan for Fiscal Reforms

817. SHRI M.K. SUBBA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Asian Development Bank has identified Assam as the focal state for external aid for reform and agreed to extend a financial aid of 150 million US dollars for fiscal reforms;

(b) if so, the details of the schemes laid for the fiscal reforms contemplated indicating the broad features of the reforms and cost of the scheme; and

(c) the steps being taken for carrying out the reforms and appropriating the aid offered?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) to (c) The Asian Development Bank Board approved Assam Governance and Public Resource Management Sector Development Programme Loan for US \$ 125 million and development loan for US\$ 25 million on 16.12.2004. The Program will support reform measures of state finances, fiscal governance and reorientation of the role of the state in order to have (i) enhanced fiscal responsibility (ii) broaden tax base and enhanced tax collection and non-tax revenues (iii) restructured state debt (iv) containment of state pension liabilities; (v) improved state budgeting; (vi) enhanced poverty-focused and growth oriented expenditure; (vii) PSE reforms; (viii) strengthening

of public private partnership; and (ix) public administration review. The Programme loan is to be released in three tranches with conditions attached to the release of tranche, mutually agreed upon by Government of India, Government of Assam and ADB. The first tranche of US\$ 45 million was released on 18.12.2004. The rest of the two tranches of US\$ 45 million and US\$ 35 million are to be released within two years after the Government of Assam fulfills the conditions attached to these tranche release. The Government of India is closely monitoring the fulfillment of conditions by Government of Assam. The development loan is to build institutional capacity of the public financial management institution and support programme implementation.

Modernisation of Mining Sector

818. SHRI JUAL ORAM: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has a proposal to modernise/upgrade mining and allied activities alongwith transport of minerals to ports in the country;

(b) whether any action plan has been formulated in the matter;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to implement such action plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO): (a) to (d) The Ministry of Mines is responsible for survey and exploration of all minerals, other than Natural gases, Petroleum and Atomic minerals, for mining and metallurgy of Non-ferrous metals like Aluminium, Copper, Zinc, Lead, Gold, Nickel etc. and for administration of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 in respect of all mines and minerals other than Coal, Natural gas and Petroleum.

The Ministry of Mines, at present has three Public Sector Undertakings namely, National Aluminium Company Limited (NALCO), Hindustan Copper Limited (HCL), Mineral Exploration Corporation Limited (MECL) and the mines are being operated by NALCO and HCL.

With regard to modernisation/upgrading of mining and allied activities the Panchpatmali Bauxite Mine situated at

Damanjodi is a fully mechanised under NALCO which serves feed stock to the Alumina Refinery located on the foothills and the ore is transported through a single flight cable belt system. Minor modifications and upgradation of mining activities are being carried out on regular basis. The surplus alumina, meant for export is being transported to Vishakhapatnam, port through Railways Network.

Rs. 125 crore has been allocated to HCL under 10th Plan (upto 2005-2006) for upgradation of equipment in the open cast copper mine at Malanjhand and for procurement of new machinery and equipment in the two underground mines at Khetri Copper Complex in the State of Rajasthan. Khetri copper mine is proposed to be upgraded further by construction of an alternate ore pass and sinking of a production shaft in Khetri Copper Mine after carrying out the necessary studies on techno-economic viability next financial year. The entire quantity of Copper is being used by HCL and there is no export of Copper ore by HCL.

Task Force for Cooperative Banking System

819. PROF. M. RAMADASS: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Task Force set up to examine the reforms required in the cooperative banking system has submitted its report;

(b) if so, the salient recommendations made by the Task Force to restructure the cooperative banking system;

(c) whether the Government proposes to implement the action plan suggested by the Task Force; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the time by which it is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) The Task Force constituted by the Government under the Chairmanship of Prof. A. Vaidyanathan to examine the reforms required in the co-operative banking system has submitted its Report on 15th February, 2005.

(b) The Task Force has recommended a financial package of Rs. 14,839 crore for the credit co-operative institutions. The package covers accumulated losses, unpaid invoked guarantees, receivables from State Governments, return of share capital to State Governments, Human Resources Development, conduct

of special audits, computerization, implementation costs etc. Provision of financial assistance is linked to reforms in co-operative sector.

(c) and (d) Recommendations of the Task Force has been accepted by the Government in principle for implementation.

Austerity Measures

820. SHRI KIRIP CHALIHA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has recently issued directives to Central Government Departments to adopt austerity measures;

(b) if so, the details thereof together with details of annual savings the Government is likely to make;

(c) whether the government has also devised some monitoring mechanism to achieve the desired level of savings; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) Orders in this regard were issued vide Office Memorandum No. 7(5)/E. Coord/2004 dated 24.09.2004. These orders prescribed guidelines on expenditure management—fiscal prudence and austerity which, inter-alia, include ban on the creation of posts, reduction in the number of sanctioned posts, restrictions on the filling up of vacant posts, reduction in office expenses, restrictions on purchase of vehicles, restrictions on foreign travel and on entertainment/hospitality expenses, mandatory 10% cut in the budgetary allocation for non-plan, non-salary expenditure. These measures are expected to yield savings of approximately Rs. 2000 crores per annum. Ministries/Department are to ensure strict compliance of these austerity instructions.

Performance of LIC

821. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the annual receipt of premium income of LIC during the last three years;

(b) whether the premium income of LIC during the current financial year fell sharply due to the presence of private operators in the field;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to enhance the premium income and to improve its services to attract more policy holders?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) The total annual premium income of Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC), both for Individual and Group business for the last 3 years is as under:

Year	Total Premium Income (Rs. In Crore)
2001-02	49805.93
2002-03	54602.37
2003-04	63130.66

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) The steps taken by LIC to enhance premium income include launching of new products, marketing of Unit Linked Scheme, Individual Pension Plans and introduction of new growth oriented scheme of incentive bonus for the Development Officers. LIC also has taken a number of steps for improving services to its policyholders. These include capability enhancement programmes for sharpening marketing skills of field staff, computerization of all the branches and connectivity its branches under Wide Area Network (WAN), premium collection through internet etc.

[Translation]

Smuggling at Borders

822. SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR KUSHAWAHA:
PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR:
SHRI MOHD. TAHIR:
SHRI MUNSHI RAM:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some big traders are involved in illegal import and export of goods along the bordering areas of the country as reported in the *Dainik Jagaran* dated January 06, 2005;

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating the names of the States from where these traders operate and the estimated amount of loss of customs duty therefrom so far;

(c) whether the Government has received any information about involvement of income tax officials in this scam;

(d) whether such cases from other borders of the country have also been reported;

(e) if so, the number of cases of excise duty evasion detected from the borders in the name of import-export since 2003; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Thirty one cases of fraudulent export have been detected at Indo-Bangladesh border since 2003.

(e) No case of excise duty evasion has been detected from the borders in the name of import-export since 2003.

(f) In each of these 31 fraudulent cases (without physical export of goods), departmental investigation is completed/under process. Director General of Foreign Trade has been approached for denial of DEPB licence and similar action has been taken by the Department for denial of drawback. In cases where departmental investigation has been completed and forgery of documents has been revealed, such cases have been referred to CBI for necessary action under IPC.

Transfer Policy for Judges

823. SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR:
SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI:
PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is contemplating to formulate a new transfer policy for judges;

(b) if so, whether the Standing Committee related to the Ministry has pleaded for the role of Government in appointment and transfer of judges;

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

(d) whether the Government has received any suggestions in this regard; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. VENKATAPATHY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Pursuant to the Supreme Court Judgment of October 06, 1993 read with their Advisory Opinion of October 28, 1998, the process of initiation of proposal for appointment of Judges of a High Court lies with the Chief Justice of that High Court. The Government has, however, been requesting the Chief Justice of the High Courts, Chief Ministers and the Governors of the States, from time to time, to initiate proposals for filling up of the present and vacancies anticipated during the next six months.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

[English]

PSB Affected by Tsunami Disaster

824. SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP:
SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH:
KUNWAR JITIN PRASAD:
SHRI S.D. MANDLIK:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some branches of public sector banks have been badly affected by recent Tsunami disaster;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the total loss suffered by these banks, bank-wise;

(c) the manner in which such banks would deal with their customers in the absence of records; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government for safeguarding the interest of depositors?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) According to the information furnished by State Bank of India, the convenor, State level Banker's Committee for Andaman

& Nicobar Islands, there are 32 Public Sector Bank Branches in the Union Territory of Andaman & Nicobar Islands, of which 5 branches have been affected by the Tsunami disaster.

(b) The details alongwith the total loss suffered by Tsunami affected branches bank-wise is given below.

State Bank of India (Hut Bay, Port Blair and Bambooflat branches)

Particulars	Quantum of loss
(i) Loss of building/premises (Hut Bay & Port Blair Branches)	Yet to be ascertained
(ii) Computer System at Hut Bay Branch	Rs. 5.00 lakhs
(iii) Office furniture/electrical installations (Hut Bay & Bambooflat Branch)	Rs. 4.20 lakhs
(iv) Stationery & other consumable (Hut Bay Branch)	Rs. 2.00 lakhs

Syndicate Bank (Campbellbay & Long Island Branches)

Loss to Building/Premises, Computer system, Office Furniture/Electrical installations and Stationery & other consumable

Details of loss are yet to be assessed by the Bank concerned.

(c) and (d) The State Bank of India and Syndicate Bank Branches had their computerized data preserved at alternative sits from where they were retrieved after the Tsunami disaster. The customers are being serviced on the basis of data and particulars available. The interest of the depositors has been taken care of.

reported by RBI that most of the Public Sector Banks have achieved their target fixed for the year 2003-04. The figures for the year 2004-05 have not been reported so far

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The guidelines issued by the Government/RBI to enhance loans to SSI Sector are given in the Statement enclosed.

[*Translation*]

Loan to SSI

825. SHRI TUKARAM GANPAT RAO RENGE PATIL:
SHRI V.K. THUMMAR:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the banks and financial institutions have extended lesser loans to the small scale units in comparison to the targeted amount during the year 2004-05;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) It has been

Statement

Guidelines Issued by RBI for Granting Loans to SSI Units—Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 825 for 4th March, 2005

(i) Banks to ensure that out of their total funds lent to SSI sector, at least 40% should be made available to units with investment in plant and machinery up to Rs. 5 lakh and Rs. 25 lakh. Thus 60% of the funds earmarked for SSI sector should go to small units in tiny sector.

(ii) Increase in the exemption limit for all SSI borrowal accounts for obtention of collateral

security for loans from the existing Rs. 15 lakh to Rs. 25 lakh based on good track record and financial position of the units.

- (iii) Composite loan limit has been increased from Rs. 50 lakh to Rs. 1 crore as announced in the Mid-Term Review of Annual Policy Statement for the year 2004-05.
- (iv) Introduction of new Credit Guarantee Scheme for Small Industries by SIDBI. A collateral free loan up to Rs. 25 lakh is covered for guarantee under the scheme.
- (v) Banks have been advised to set the interest rate on advances keeping in view prevailing general southward movement in interest rates.
- (vi) As per the announcement made by the Honble Finance Minister in the Union Budget 2003-2004, IBA have already advised the banks to adopt the interest rate band of 2 percent above and below its prime lending rate (LLR) for secured advances. All the public sector banks have advised having issued necessary instructions to their controlling offices/branches in this regard.
- (vii) Banks have been advised to open at least one Specialised SSI branch in each district.
- (viii) Banks have been advised to develop schemes to encourage investment by SSI Units in technology up-gradation. Government have also introduce the scheme of Credit Linked Capital Subsidy for the up-gradation of the Small Scale Industries.
- (ix) The individual credit limit to artisans, village and cottage industries for reckoning under advances to weaker sections is increased to Rs. 50000/- from the Rs. 25000/-.
- (x) To make available timely credit to the sector a timeframe has been fixed for disposal of loan applications i.e. up to Rs. 25000/- within 2 weeks and up to Rs. 5 lakh, within 4 weeks.
- (xi) As per the Monetary and Credit Policy Statement 2004-05, RBI has constituted a Special Group to formulate a mechanism for debt restructuring for medium enterprises. The group has submitted its report and the same is under examination.

[English]

Incentives to Textile Sector

826. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWASI:
SHRI JASHUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD:
SHRI BADIGA RAMAKRISHNA:
SHRI ALOK KUMAR MEHTA:
SHRI GIRIDHARI YADAV:
SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the textile and clothing industry is providing highest number of jobs next to farming;

(b) if so, whether Indian Textile makers are expecting to strike a big deal in world trade in textile and garments sectors after the dismantling of import curbs;

(c) if so, whether India is likely to touch a target of \$50 million in annual textile exports by 2010;

(d) if so, whether the Government propose to give some special incentives to the textile and garment exports in view of lifting of barriers in this sector;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by Government to improve the condition of the textile sector?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir.

(d) to (f) The steps taken by the Government to improve condition of the textile sector in view of lifting of barriers from 2005 are as follows:

(ii) To improve the productivity and quality of cotton, Government has launched the Technology Mission on Cotton (TMC).

(iii) The Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS) has been launched to facilitate the modernisation and upgradation of the textile industry both in the organized and in the unorganized sector. The Finance Minister, in his Budget speech 2005-06, has announced an allocation of Rs. 435.00 crore for this scheme for financial year 2005-06. He has also announced introduction of a 10% Capital Subsidy Scheme for the textile processing sector.

- (iv) The Government has also launched centrally sponsored schemes titled "Apparel Parks for Export Scheme" for setting up apparel manufacturing units of international standards and the "Textile Centre Infrastructure Development Scheme" for upgrading the infrastructure facilities at old textile centers.
- (v) The bold and imaginative fiscal duty regime announced in the Budget 2004-05 has provided a level playing field to both the organized and the unorganized sector; has brought down the cost of production and has helped in consolidation and expansion of capacities. These incentives have been further enhanced during the Budget 2005-06.
- (vi) The cost of textile machinery has been brought down by reducing the customs duty on imports.
- (vii) Government has launched a Debt Restructuring Scheme with the principal objective to permit banks to restructure high-cost debts of textile units.

[Translation]

Scheme for Handloom Industry

827. SHRIMATI ANURADHA CHOUDHARY:
SHRI J.M. AARON RASHID:
DR. RAJESH MISHRA:
PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR:
SHRI MOHD. TAHIR:
SHRI MUNSHI RAM:
SHRI SURENDRA PRAKASH GOYAL:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government proposes to formulate new schemes to promote Handloom Industry in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the number of persons employed in Handloom Industry; State-wise;
- (d) the quantum of cloth produced by Handloom sector during each of the last three years;
- (e) whether the Government has provided any financial assistance/subsidy to the Handloom Industries during each of the last three years; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) Yes, Sir, the Government proposes a new scheme for integrated cluster development.

(b) Broadly the proposed scheme aims at integrated development of handlooms with a cluster based approach.

(c) As per Joint Census of Handlooms and Powerlooms 1995-96, there were 65.51 lakh persons engaged in weaving and associated activities in the handloom sector in the country. The State-wise details are given in the Statement enclosed.

(d) The estimated cloth production in handloom sector during the last three years is as under:

Sl.No.	Year	Production (in million Sq. Mtrs.)
1.	2001-02	7585
2.	2002-03	5980
3.	2003-04	5518 (P)

(e) and (f) Details of financial assistance provided by the Government of India to the Handloom Industry during each of the last three years are given below

Year	Amount (Rs. in Crore)
2001-02	116.05
2002-03	150.83
2003-04	185.20

Statement

State-wise Details of Number of Persons Engaged in Weaving and Associated Activities

Sl.No.	Name of the State	No. of persons engaged in Weaving and associated Activities
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	490616
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	53473
3.	Assam	2322268

1	2	3
4.	Bihar	110732
5.	Chhattisgarh	28362
6.	Delhi	6708
7.	Goa	25
8.	Gujarat	57936
9.	Haryana	22810
10.	Himachal Pradesh	65099
11.	Jammu and Kashmir	51847
12.	Jharkhand	56975
13.	Karnataka	177562
14.	Kerala	63153
15.	Madhya Pradesh	27744
16.	Maharashtra	80901
17.	Manipur	462087
18.	Meghalaya#	#
19.	Mizoram#	#
20.	Nagaland	126228
21.	Orissa	246782
22.	Pondicherry	7369
23.	Punjab	13160
24.	Rajasthan	71915
25.	Sikkim	1228
26.	Tamil Nadu	607675
27.	Tripura	291761
28.	Uttar Pradesh	401362
29.	Uttaranchal	19322
30.	West Bengal	686254
Total All India		6551354

#Data not received from Meghalaya and Mizoram.

[English]

Registration of Dealers under VAT

828. SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH:
KUNWAR JITIN PRASAD:
SHRI S.D. MANDLIK:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is mandatory for dealers with turnover of over Rs. 5 lakh to register themselves;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the criteria for registration of dealers under VAT;

(d) the names of the items that will be kept outside VAT; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government so that the prices of goods may not increase after the implementation of VAT in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) to (c) VAT is a State level tax reform measure. As per the decision of the Empowered Committee of State Finance Ministers, registration of dealers with gross annual turnover above Rs. 5 lakh will be compulsory under the Value Added Tax (VAT) regime. There will be provisions for voluntary registration also. All existing dealers will be automatically registered under VAT Act. A new dealer will be allowed 30 days time from the date of liability to get registered.

(d) The goods which will be outside VAT will be liquor, lottery tickets, petrol, diesel, Aviation Turbine Fuel and other motor spirits.

(e) Under the VAT regime, cascading of taxes is eliminated by providing input tax credit leading to less tax burden, which means VAT should not lead to increase in prices. This is also corroborated by the international experience. Moreover, the Empowered Committee of State Finance Ministers has also decided that after the introduction of VAT, each State should set up a VAT Cell, *inter-alia*, to monitor price movements of goods.

*[Translation]***Corruption in Handloom and Handicraft Sector**

829. SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO:
SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the schemes being implemented by the handloom and handicraft boards are adequately monitored or reviewed so that the workers/artisans get the benefits because of rampant corruption in this sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) and (b) The schemes being implemented for promotion and development of the handloom and handicraft sectors are regularly monitored at various levels by the field units of the Offices of the Development Commissioner for Handlooms and Handicrafts so that the benefits of these schemes accrue to the handloom weavers and artisans. These schemes are also reviewed periodically through the mechanism prevailing in the State Governments.

(c) Does not arise.

White Paper on VAT

830. SHRI KHIREN RIJJU: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government is contemplating to issue White Paper on the Value Added Tax (VAT) System;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which VAT system is likely to be made operative?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) The Union Government is not contemplating to issue White Paper on Value Added Tax (VAT). However, the Empowered Committee of State Finance Ministers has released White Paper on VAT on 17th January, 2005.

(c) In the meeting of the Empowered Committee of State Finance Ministers held on 18th June, 2004, States and Union Territories have arrived at broad consensus to introduce VAT w.e.f. 1st April, 2005.

*[English]***Luxury Tax**

831. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Governments levy luxury tax on goods which amounts to double taxation;

(b) if so, the details of such States;

(c) whether the State Governments are competent to levy luxury tax on goods; and

(d) if not, the instructions issued by the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) to (d) Luxury Tax on goods was levied by many State Governments. Recently, Hon'ble Supreme Court has ruled that State Governments are not competent to levy luxury tax on goods.

*[Translation]***State Electricity Boards**

832. SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that the condition of State Electricity Boards is deteriorating day by day;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the measures taken by the Government to improve the condition of the State electricity Boards;

(d) whether some concrete directions have been issued to the State Governments in this regard; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.M. SAYEED): (a) to (e) As per the latest annual report of the Planning

Commission on the working of State Electricity Boards the commercial losses (without subsidy) of the SEBs increased from Rs. 4560 crore in 1992-93 to Rs. 25259 crore in 2000-01 and were projected to increase to Rs. 33177 crore in 2001-02. This ever increasing trend of commercial has been arrested. Some of the State Utilities have reported improved financial performance.

Power shortages, weak financial position of the utilities due to high Aggregate Technical & Commercial (AT&C) losses and distortion in the tariff structure are major reasons for poor condition of utilities.

The Government of India has initiated various steps to revive the poor financial health of SEBs/Power Utilities. The Ministry of Power has signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)/Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) with States on power sector reform envisaging support of Central Government subject to States progressing satisfactorily on agreed reform agenda. The Union Government, in order to help the State Utilities is providing funds to States under Accelerated Power Development and Reforms Programme (APDRP) for investment in identified distribution areas for, *inter alia*, reducing technical losses and improving the quality of supply and also for incentivising, through grants, reduction of cash losses. Past debts of SEBs due to Central Public Sector Undertakings have been securitised under tripartite agreements.

Six States have been provided incentive under APDRP for actual reduction in losses. State-wise details are as under:

Sl.No.	States	Incentive released (Rs. Crores)
1.	Andhra Pradesh	265.11
2.	Gujarat	236.38
3.	Haryana	105.49
4.	Maharashtra	137.89
5.	Rajasthan	137.71
6.	West Bengal	73.00
Total		955.58

[English]

Setting up of Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority

833. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY:
SHRI PRABODH PANDA:
SHRI BADIGA RAMAKRISHNA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has set up Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA);

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith composition and powers enjoyed by the regulatory body;

(c) the time by which the same would start functioning;

(d) whether the Government has mapped the profile of the Indian Household and their investment appetite; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) to (c) The Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority Ordinance, 2004, promulgated on 29th December, 2004, enables the Government to set up a statutory regulator for the pension sector called the Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA). The Authority would have the power to register and regulate pension funds, the central record keeping agency and other intermediaries, to impose stringent penalties for any violation of the law and to protect the interests of subscribers. The Authority would be established from the date of notification by Central Government. The Authority comprises a Chairperson and five members, with at least three whole-time members.

(d) and (e) As part of a technical assistance agreement, a national survey has been conducted to, *inter-alia*, study the income, expenditure and savings behaviour of the Indian labour force. The report on the survey has yet not been submitted to the Government.

Power Grid

834. SHRI HEMMAL MURMU: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to formulate a scheme to inter-link all the power grids with one another in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the estimated expenditure likely to be incurred thereon;

(d) the sources of funds proposed to be mobilized; and

(e) the time by which the scheme is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.M. SAYEED):

(a) and (b) A plan has been chalked out for development of a National Power Grid through integration of all the regional transmission systems in the country. The present inter-regional transmission capacity in the country is 9,500

MW which is likely to increase to over 30,000 MW by 2012. A list of the existing inter-regional transmission lines and those under construction/planned for completion by 2012 is given in the Statement enclosed.

(c) and (d) An investment of around Rs. 70,000 crore has been envisaged in the Central sector in 10th and 11th Plans on intra-regional and inter-regional transmission lines for development of the National Power Grid. The required funds will be mobilized through internal resources of PGCIL, domestic loans and external commercial borrowings by PGCIL, budgetary support to PGCIL and investment from private sector.

(e) Integration of regional grids is a continuing process. In addition to the inter-regional transmission lines which have been planned for completion upto 2012, more inter-regional and intra-regional links may be required depending upon the generation addition and power flow requirement.

Statement

Existing/Proposed Inter-Regional Transmission Capacity (MW)

	Existing	By 2011-12	Total
	1	2	3
East-North			
Dehri-Sahupuri 220 kV S/c	150		150
Sasaram HVDC back-to-back	500		500
Muzaffarpur-Gorakhpur 400 kV D/c		2000	2000
Patna-Balia 400 kV D/c		2000	2000
Biharshariff-Balia 400 kV D/c		2000	2000
Barh-Balia 400 kV D/c		2000	2000
		2000	2000
North Karanpura-Balia 765 kV S/c		2250	2250
132 KV inter-regional capacity	50		50
-Rihand-Sonenagar 132 kV D/c			
Sub-total	700	10250	10950

	1	2	3
East-West			
Budhipadar-Korba 220 kV 3 cks.	450		450
Rourkela-Raipur 400 kV D/c	1400		1400
Rourkela-Raipur 400 kV D/c (2nd)		1400	1400
Ranchi-Sipat 400 kV D/c		1400	1400
N' Karanpura—WR Pooling point 765 kV S/c		2250	2250
Sub-total	1850	5050	6900
West-North			
Vindhyachal HVDC back-to-back	500		500
Auriya-Malanpur 220 KV D/c	200		200
Gwalier-Agra 765 kV S/c		1000	1000
Zerda-Kankroli 400 kV D/c		1000	1000
RAPP-Nagda 400 kV D/c		1000	1000
Gwalior-Agra 765 kV 2nd S/c		1000	1000
Ujjain—Kota 220 kV D/c	200		200
Sub-total	900	4000	4900
East-South			
Gazuwaka HVDC back-to-back	500		500
Balimela-Upper Sileru 220 kV S/c	150		150
Talcher-Kolar HVDC bipole	2000		2000
Augmentation of Gazuwaka HVDC Back to Back	500		500
Upgradation of Talcher-Kolar HVDC Bipole		500	500
Sub-total	3150	500	3650
West-South			
Chandrapur HVDC back-to-back	1000		1000
Kolhapur-Belgaum 220 kV D/c	200		200
Barsur-L. Sileru 220 kV HVDC Monopole	200		200
Ponda-Nagajhari 200 kV D/c	200		200
Sub-total	1600		1600

	1	2	3
East-North East			
Bongaigaon-Siliguri 400 kV D/c	1000		1000
Birpara-Salakati 220 kV D/c	300		300
Transmission lines for New Projects in North		700	700
Eastern Region			
Sub-total	1300	700	2000
Total	9,500	≅ 20,500	≅ 30,000

Scheme for Handloom Weavers

835. SHRI RAJESH VERMA:
SHRI DEVIDAS PINGLE:
SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL:
SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN:
SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE:
SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT:
SHRI BAPU HARI CHAURE:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) number of handloom weavers in various States of the country as on date;

(b) the facilities provided by the Government to these handloom weavers during the last three years;

(c) the subsidy provided to handloom weavers in order to assist them to shift to the powerloom;

(d) whether Government has formulated any scheme to train handloom workers/artisans;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether Government has conducted any study to explore the potential of handloom in the country;

(g) if so, the details thereof;

(h) whether Government is formulating any new scheme for the promotion of handloom sector; and

(i) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) As per Joint Census of Handlooms and

Powerlooms 1995-96 conducted by National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER), there were 65.51 lakh persons engaged in weaving and associated activities in handloom sector in various States of the country.

(b) The Government of India has been implementing following schemes for the development and welfare of handloom weavers in the country:

1. Deen Dayal Hathkargha Protsahan Yojana.
2. Marketing Promotion Programme.
3. Mill Gate Price Scheme.
4. Workshed-cum-Housing Scheme.
5. Weavers Welfare Scheme.
6. Handloom Export Scheme
7. Integrated Handloom Training Project
8. Bunker Bima Yojana
9. Scheme for reimbursement of one time rebate @ 10% given by the handloom agencies on the sale of handloom cloth.
10. Implementation of Handloom (Reservation of Articles for Production) Act 1985.

The funds released during the last three years are as under:

Year	(Rs. in crore)
2001-02	112.37
2002-03	150.38
2003-04	184.65

(c) The Office of the Development Commissioner for Handlooms is not implementing any scheme to provide subsidy to handloom weavers in order to assist them to shift to the powerloom.

(d) and (e) Yes Sir. An Integrated Handloom Training Project has been introduced in December 2003 in the handloom sector for skill up-gradation of handloom weavers and workers. This project envisages comprehensive training and upgrading of technical & managerial skills of handloom weavers and workers providing them with superior equipment to enable them to produce and market a diversified range of quality products in keeping with current trends in the domestic and international markets.

To upgrade the skill of artisans with a view to enlarge production base and generate employment in the handicrafts sector, training is imparted as one of the components of Baba Saheb Ambedkar Hastshilp Vikas Yojana (AHVY) for integrated development of Craft Cluster in the country and Special Handicrafts Training Project. In addition, under the scheme of Training of Extension, training is imparted in carpet weaving and cane & bamboo craft through the departmental training centers.

(f) No, Sir.

(g) Does not arise.

(h) and (i) Yes Sir, the Government proposes a new scheme for Integrated Cluster Development.

ADB Loan

836. SHRI RUPCHAND MURMU: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of loan taken by the Government from Asian Development Bank (ADB) during each of the last three years;

(b) the States which have been benefited by the ADB loan during those years;

(c) whether the ADB loan assistance for the coming four years has been finalized; and

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the States which are going to be benefited from the ADB loan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) The total amount of ADB loans to India during Calendar Years (CY) 2002, 2003 and 2004 was USD 1.16, 1.43 and 1.2 billion respectively. The States in which projects were taken up with ADB loan financing during these years were West Bengal, Kerala, Assam, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Jammu and Kashmir, in addition to Central projects.

(c) and (d) The Country Strategy and Programme Mission (CSP) of the Asian Development Bank finalized the tentative assistance programme of the CY 2005-07. The loans likely to be taken up will include the States of Madhya Pradesh, Uttaranchal, North Eastern States, Karnataka, Jammu and Kashmir, Assam, West Bengal and Kerala.

Jobs under SGSY/SGRY

837. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL:
SHRI SURESH PRABHAKAR PRABHU:
SHRI SURESH CHANDEL:
SHRI TAPIR GAO:
SHRI G.M. SIDDESWARA:
SHRI ALOK KUMAR MEHTA:
DR. COL. (RETD). DHANI RAM SHANDIL:
SHRI HARISHCHANDRA CHAVAN:
SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR:
SHRI NARAYAN CHANDRA BORKATAKY:
SHRI Y.G. MAHAJAN:
DR. KARAN SINGH YADAV:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of projects sanctioned under different rural development schemes during 2004-05 and till date; scheme-wise and State-wise;

(b) the total amount allocated and utilized therefor alongwith the beneficiaries;

(c) whether the State-Governments have requested the Union Government to assign jobs under SGRY and SGSY to labour cooperative societies;

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

(e) whether funds meant for the said schemes have been diverted;

(f) if so, the steps proposed/taken in this regard; and

(g) the details of proposals received by the Union Government from different States, State-wise, year-wise and scheme-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) and (b) The projects are sanctioned under various Rural Development Programmes namely, Swarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY), Drought Prone Areas Programme (DPAP), Desert Development Programme (DDP), Integrated Wastelands Development Programme (IWDP) and Total Sanitation Campaign (TSC) of the Ministry of Rural Development. The State-wise allocation is not done for the projects under the schemes, as these are demand driven schemes. A statement showing number of projects sanctioned and funds released is enclosed.

(c) and (d) A request was made by Government of Maharashtra for permission to award works to labour cooperatives societies under Sampoorna Gramin Rozgar

Yojana (SGRY). Under the SGRY Guidelines, it is not permissible to award works to labour cooperative societies.

(e) and (f) Some complaints regarding misappropriation/missutilisation of funds including irregularities have been received under the Sampoorna Gramin Rozgar Yojana (SGRY) for the State of Assam, Kerala, Chhattisgarh, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh. The complaints about irregularities have been received from the States of Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Orissa and Uttar Pradesh. Such cases of diversion of Funds are immediately brought to the notice of the concerned State Governments for corrective measures and to implement the programme as per the programme guidelines. The Ministry have evolved a comprehensive system of Monitoring and Evaluation of the implementation of its programmes through Monthly Progress Report, Review Meetings with State Ministers/State Officials, Utilisation Certificate & Audit Reports, intensive field inspections by the officials of Centre and State Governments, District Level Monitoring & Vigilance Committees and Social Audit by Gram Sabha.

(g) The Government receive proposals under various programmes on a continuous basis throughout the year.

Statement

Scheme-wise and State-wise Status of the Projects Sanctioned/funds released during 2004-05

(Rs. in Lakhs)

Sl.No.	Name of State/UT	IWDP		DPAP		DDP		ARWSP		Special Projects under SGSY	
		Projects (in Nos.)	Released	Projects (in Nos.)	Released	Projects (in Nos.)	Released	Projects (in Nos.)	Released	Projects (in Nos.)	Released
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
1.	Andhra Pradesh	10	495.00	287	3459.68	110	1609.61	0	0	3	251.26
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
3.	Assam	20	825.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
4.	Bihar	9	371.25	68	311.21	0	0	0	0	1	22.78
5.	Chhattisgarh	9	359.50	116	150.75	0	0	0	0	0	0
6.	Goa	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
7.	Gujarat	9	371.25	250	1999.47	298	4147.88	19	3680.44	1	162
8.	Haryana	4	123.75	0	0	118	1329.58	0	0	0	0

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
9.	Himachal Pradesh	2	123.75	40	400.34	38	128.25	0	0	0	0
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	4	156.75	66	222.75	40	135.00	0	0	0	0
11.	Jharkhand	4	165.00	200	1065.02	0	0	15	150.00	0	0
12.	Karnataka	10	412.50	227	1840.15	166	2076.35	0	0	0	0
13.	Kerala	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
14.	Madhya Pradesh	14	495.00	269	5287.91	0	0	0	0	0	0
15.	Maharashtra	10	412.50	303	2325.76	0	0	0	0	3	273.09
16.	Manipur	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
17.	Meghalaya	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
18.	Mizoram	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
19.	Nagaland	5	330.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
20.	Orissa	9	371.25	146	914.18	0	0	15	3777.85	0	0
21.	Punjab	4	127.05	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
22.	Rajasthan	9	371.25	96	1227.08	830	8458.54	4	424.53	2	110.27
23.	Sikkim	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
24.	Tamil Nadu	10	420.96	160	1580.33	0	0	1	0.00	0	0
25.	Tripura	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
26.	Uttar Pradesh	13	536.25	160	1456.69	0	0	0	0	0	0
27.	Uttaranchal	6	283.80	90	1126.49	0	0	0	0	1	46.52
28.	West Bengal	4	114.02	72	243.00	0	0	0	0	0	0
29.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
30.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
31.	Daman and Diu	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
32.	Delhi	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
33.	Lakshdweep	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
34.	Podicherry	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total		165	6865.83	2550	25010.81	1600	17885.21	54	8032.82	11	865.92

*[Translation]***VRS in Insurance Companies**

838. SHRIMATI KALPANA RAMESH NARHIRE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether insurance companies have started a new Voluntary Retirement Scheme.

(b) if so, the main purpose of the same;

(c) the number of employees who have opted for VRS during last 3 years, year-wise; company-wise;

(d) whether full payment has been made to these employees;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the time by which payments are likely to be made to the retired employees?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) to (f) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

*[English]***Assistance to Handicraft Corporations**

839. SHRI MADAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government provides financial assistance to Handicraft Corporations and other organizations in the States for development of handicrafts;

(b) if so the details of financial assistance provided to various States including Jammu and Kashmir during the last three years;

(c) whether Government also propose to provide special relief to craftsmen in Jammu and Kashmir and other States for the purpose;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the other measures Government propose to take for development of handicrafts in the country including Jammu and Kashmir; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The details of financial assistance provided to various implementing agencies State-wise, including the State of Jammu and Kashmir for the promotion and development of Handicrafts during the last three years is as per the Statement enclosed.

(c) and (d) As per existing provision, TA/DA/Transportation charges are payable to the eligible draftspersons from the North Eastern Region, Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Lakshdweep, Laddakh region of J&K, KBK district of Orissa and States/UTs affected by Natural calamities for participation in Craft Bazaars and Handicraft Expose. In addition, PM's special package is also being implemented in J&K for integrated development for export of carpet and other handicrafts; strengthening of infrastructure support for promotion of handicrafts and revival of Kani Shawal. No other special relief is proposed at present.

(e) and (f) The schemes currently under implementation for development and promotion of handicraft sector include: Baba Saheb Ambedkar Hastshilp Vikas Yojana (AHVY); Design & Technology Upgradation; Marketing & Support Services; Export Promotion; Training & Extension; Research and Development; Bima Yojana & Special Handicrafts Training Project. The other measures proposed include extension of Workshed and Credit Guarantee Schemes to rest of India besides J&K; introduction of 'Shilpi Swasthya Bima Yojana'.

Statement

State-wise, funds released to various implementing agencies under Handicraft Schemes during the last three years.

(Rs. in Lakhs)

Sl.No.	State	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	116.28	136.94	212.04
2.	Andaman & Nicobar Island	2.84	0.00	0

1	2	3	4	5
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	197.84	13.65	28.12
4.	Assam	133.60	212.36	267.29
5.	Bihar	82.31	11.80	9.64
6.	Delhi	516.24	10.09	22.58
7.	Goa	0.98	6.44	15.10
8.	Gujarat	84.20	759.84	1147.67
9.	Haryana	34.45	128.15	2.77
10.	Himachal Pradesh	96.05	35.42	108.8
11.	Jharkhand	62.81	40.24	57.24
12.	Jammu and Kashmir	42.04	116.32	130.9
13.	Karnataka	95.62	107.58	292.98
14.	Kerala	20.79	8.87	11.98
15.	Madhya Pradesh	138.70	32.74	72.08
16.	Maharashtra	54.68	24.68	89.28
17.	Manipur	34.55	146.88	144.07
18.	Meghalaya	4.42	56.66	124.11
19.	Mizoram	20.42	40.21	33.61
20.	Nagaland	63.55	16.60	7.70
21.	Orissa	77.42	17.67	33.63
22.	Punjab	30.33	128.33	93.24
23.	Pondicherry	5.89	90.43	140.5
24.	Rajasthan	48.48	20.58	44.86
25.	Sikkim	10.81	1.10	0.48
26.	Tamil Nadu	35.08	68.93	196.64
27.	Tripura	46.60	0.00	0.00
28.	Uttar Pradesh	262.94	33.75	74.55
29.	Uttaranchal	50.98	32.46	39.51
30.	West Bengal	62.65	329.87	321.37
31.	Chhattisgarh	185.18	38.75	111.63
32.	—	—	74.88	195.86
Total		2618.73	2742.22	4030.03

*[Translation]***Demand Draft on Sponsored Banks of RRBs**

840. SHRI BHUPENDRASINH SOLANKI:
SHRI MAHESH KANODIA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has issued orders to issue demand drafts payable at sponsored bank branches of Regional Rural Banks;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government proposes to take any step to implement the orders; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

(d) Reserve Bank of India has reported that issue of drafts by Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) on the branches of their sponsor banks is an operational matter and modalities for this arrangement are decided by RRBs and sponsor banks concerned.

*[English]***Allocation of Coal Block**

841. SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of huge requirement of coal for thermal power generating company to meet the demand of power to all by 2012;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government is considering to give priority of allotment of captive coal blocks of Public Sector Generating Company to achieve the target;

(d) if so, the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard; and

(e) the details of allotment of block made so far and details of blocks for which PSUs (Power Units) have applied?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Working Group on Coal & Lignite formed in the Ministry of Coal has assessed the demand for coal by the power sector at 469 million tones by the terminal year of 11th Plan (2011-12) as against an assessment of all India coal demand of 620 million tonne. The indigenous availability of coal in the country has been assessed at 525 million tonne thereby leaving a gap of 95 million tonne.

(c) to (e) Yes, Sir. 20 coal blocks have been allocated to the public sector power generating companies such as West Bengal Power Development Corporation, Domodar Valley Corporation, Neyveli Lignite Corporation, Tenughat Vidyut Nigam Limited, an undertaking of Government of Jharkhand, Karnataka Power Corporation Limited, Punjab State Electricity Board and Chhattisgarh State Electricity Board have been allotted coal blocks for captive mining for power generation. Also the National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) has been allocated a big block, having a geological reserve of about 1600 million tonnes under the government dispensation to do mining of coal. The coal will be used by M/s NTPC in their power plants. Further, M/s Gujarat electricity Board, M/s Maharashtra State Electricity Board, Andhra Pradesh Power generation Company (APGENCO) and Madhya Pradesh State Electricity Board have also expressed interest in taking coal blocks to sustain power generation. NTPC, DVC and TVNL have also sought further blocks. The blocks applied for include Chattibariatu, Kerandari A, B, C, Mahan, Radhikapur, Utkal-A, Utkal-F, Takli Jena Bellora (North) & (South), Machhakata East and West, Aunli, Patrapara, Brahmini, Amelia, Amelia (North), Bistrar, Kosar-dongargaon, Tedicherla etc.

Power Grid Corporation of India

842. SHRI SUGRIB SINGH: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Power Grid Corporation of India has secured on overseas consultancy assignment from Bhutan;

(b) if so, the terms and conditions thereof along with the revenue earned therefrom so far;

(c) the details of existing transmission network across the length and breadth of the country as on date; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government for the expansion of business of Power Grid Corporation?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.M. SAYEED):

(a) Yes, Sir. Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd. (PGCIL) has secured a consultancy assignment valued at Rs. 96.86 lakh from the Bhutan Power Corporation Ltd. in December, 2004.

(b) Details of major terms & conditions and the revenue earned so far by PGCIL in this regard are given in the Statement enclosed.

(c) As on December 31, 2004, PGCIL is operating around 49,250 ckt. kms. of transmission lines at 800 kV, 500 kV HVDC, 400 kV, 220 kV, 132 kV and 66 kV level along with 84 substations with a transformation capacity of 47,621 MVA.

(d) Government of India has planned additional generation capacity of 1,00,000 MW by 2012. PGCIL has taken up implementation of new transmission schemes commensurate with generation capacity addition and power flow requirement. PGCIL has also been entrusted with assignments relating to distribution reforms in some States. PGCIL has also undertaken implementation of sub-transmission, distribution and rural electrification on behalf of some State Power Utilities. PGCIL has ventured into telecom business through synergetic convergence between transmission and telecom technologies.

Statement

Details of major terms & conditions

(1) Contract Agreement:

Contract Agreement signed with Bhutan Power Corporation Ltd. (BPC) on 24.12.2004.

(2) Scope of Work:

Deputation of PGCIL experts at intervals to Bhutan to provide Consultancy to BPC for construction of 220/66 kV substation at Pasakha Industrial Estate near Phuentsholing.

(3) Scope of Services:

Phase-I—Detailed engineering & Design for Substation

Phase-II—Construction Supervision

(4) Consultancy Fee:

Phase-I—Detailed engineering & Design	-Rs. 9,56,235/-
Phase-II—Construction Supervision	-Rs. 87,29,958/-
Total	-Rs. 96,86,191/-

(5) Schedule for completion of work:

June, 2006

(6) Revenue received till date:

15% advance payment for Phase-I amounting to Rs. 1,38,958/- has been received and work for Phase-I has just begun.

[Translation]

Reserved Vacancies in REC

843. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of officers and employees working in Rural Electrification Corporation as on date and the number of officers and employees appointed out of them during the last three years under the reservation quota meant for Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and OBCs;

(b) whether some reserved posts are still lying vacant in the Corporation; and

(c) if so, the action being taken by the Corporation to fill these vacancies?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.M. SAYEED):

(a)

(i) Total number of officers and employees in REC as on 01.03.2005 is 668.

(ii) Number of officers and employees appointed during the last three years under reservation quota vacant for SC, ST and OBCs-NIL.

(b) Three reserved posts in Group 'A' and 2 in Group 'D' are lying vacant in REC.

(c) **Group 'A'**

One posts each of Finance Executive Gr. I, Finance Executive Gr. III and Asstt. Project Engineer is lying vacant due to diversification in the field of sanctions of loans. The REC is contemplating some changes in the qualification for recruitment to these posts so as to be able to fill up these posts.

Group 'D'

Recruitment process for filling up of 2 posts of Group 'D' category has already been completed and the letter for verification of their character and antecedents have also been issued.

NPA of IDBI

844. SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian FIs particularly IDBI had advanced large amount of money in various companies promoted by major industrial houses and it had been written off by declaring as Non-performing Assets (NPA);

(b) if so, whether the Government proposes to take essential steps after conducting a high level enquiry or CBI enquiry in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) IDBI reports Gross NPA of Rs. 98.13 crores out of the aggregate outstanding dues of Rs. 13,858 crores in respect of major industrial houses as on September 30, 2004. IFCI reports NPA of Rs. 3264.71 crores out of the total exposure of Rs. 9147.62 crores in major industrial houses as on 31.12.2004.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Solar Energy

845. SHRI CHANDRABHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal regarding implementing a ten-point energy action plan in the cities of various States of the country under which the solar energy based traffic light propose to be used, is under the consideration of the union Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the time by which the above work is likely to be completed;

(c) whether the Government propose to make it mandatory to install solar water heaters on the roofs of newly constructed hotels, hospitals, guest houses and community centers etc.;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the solar energy action plan has been implemented in some States; and

(f) if so, whether expert committee has been constituted in order to construct solar energy friendly buildings?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR): (a) and (b) A National Conference on 'Renewable Energy for Urban Areas' was organized by the Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources with a view to promote renewable energy use and reduce energy consumption in cities. Measures to encourage the generation of energy from municipal wastes and the use of solar thermal and photovoltaic technologies for various applications in urban areas were discussed in the

Conference. Among other measures, it was suggested that State Governments may take up progressive replacement of conventional traffic signal lighting systems with solar assisted light emitting diodes (LED) based systems in urban areas. The Report of the Conference has been circulated to the States for taking necessary action and submitting proposals in this regard.

(c) and (d) A model regulation/building bylaws for making installation of solar assisted water heating systems mandatory in certain categories of buildings such as hotels, hospitals, guest houses, community centers etc. has been circulated by the Ministry of Urban Development to all States for incorporation by the local bodies in their building byelaws.

(e) and (f) Various Programmes for promotion of Solar Thermal and Solar Photovoltaic devices and systems such as solar water heaters, solar cookers, solar air heating and steam cooking systems, solar lanterns, solar home systems, solar street lights, SPV power plants, etc. are being implemented by the Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources. A Programme on Solar buildings is also being implemented to promote energy efficient and environment friendly building designs in the country. In the National Conference on Renewable Energy for Urban Areas, the State Governments were requested to constitute expert committees to examine the feasibility of adopting solar passive designs and other measures to promote energy efficiency in government, commercial and institutional buildings.

[English]

Computerisation of Land Records

846. SHRI B. VINOD KUMAR: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has launched a Centrally sponsored scheme for Computerisation of Land Records (CLR) in 544 districts in the country;

(b) if so, the number of States in which the scheme has been implemented;

(c) whether several States have not yet taken up computerisation of their land records;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the Government has prescribed any uniform software for computerisation of land records; and

(f) if so, the total amount sanctioned and spent under the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI A. NARENDRA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A Centrally sponsored scheme for Computerisation of Land Records (CLR) was started in the year 1988-1989 with 100% financial support from Government of India. At present, the scheme is being implemented in 582 districts of 32 States/Union Territories in the country.

(c) and (d) The scheme of Computerisation of Land Records has not yet been taken in the State of Meghalaya and Union Territories of Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Diu and Lakshadweep as these State/Union Territories have no proper land records.

(e) Since the maintenance of land records varies from State to State, therefore, Government of India has not prescribed any uniform software of the Scheme. However, NIC has designed and developed application software for computerisation of land records in consultation with the State concerned as per their requirements.

(f) Since inception (i.e. 1988-89) of the scheme of Computerisation of Land Records, the Government of India has sanctioned Rs. 341.86 crore and utilization reported by States/Union Territories is Rs. 220.47 crore.

Modernization of NTPC Power Plants

847. SHRI HARIBHAU RATHOD: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the NTPC propose to renovate and modernize the decaying power plants in the country;

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

(c) the other steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government for the revamping power plants in the country particularly in Maharashtra?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.M. SAYEED): (a) and (b) NTPC has undertaken Renovation and Modernization (R&M) activities for its own power plants and also providing consultancy services for R&M to the other power plants under Accelerated Power Development and Reforms Programme (APDRP), which can be broadly categorized under three heads:

(i) State-wise and Station-wise details of R&M for power stations implemented by NTPC,

(ii) R&M of power stations taken over from State Electricity Boards (SEBs) by NTPC,

(iii) Consultancy assignments under Accelerated Power Development and Reforms Programme (APDRP-R&M) for SEB stations.

- (i) State-wise and Station-wise details of R&M for power stations implemented by NTPC are as under:

Station	State	Capacity under R&M (MW)
Singrauli	Uttar Pradesh	2000
Korba	Chhattisgarh	2100
Ramagundam	Andhra Pradesh	2100
Vindhyachal Stage-I	Madhya Pradesh	1260
Farakka Stage-I	West Bengal	600
Anta Gas	Rajasthan	413

- (ii) R&M undertaken by NTPC in its power stations acquired from SEBs, as per details given below:

Station	State	Capacity under R&M (MW)
Tanda	Uttar Pradesh	440
Talcher Thermal	Orissa	460

- (iii) NTPC is rendering consultancy services for R&M to the following stations under APDRP scheme of the Ministry of Power:

1. Damodar Valley Corporation (DVC)'s Chandrapura TPS (3x140 MW + 3x120 MW), Jharkhand.
2. DVC's Durgapur TPS (1x140 MW), West Bengal.

3. Gandhinagar TPS (2x120 MW) of Gujarat Electricity Board, Gujarat.

(c) Central Electricity Authority (CEA)/Ministry of Power in consultation with SEBs/Utilities has identified 106 old thermal units for revamping i.e. Life Extension (LE) works during the 10th plan period, with a total capacity of about 10413 MW at an estimated cost of Rs. 9,200 crores. After implementation of Life Extension (LE) schemes, the economical operating life of the units will get extended by another 15-20 years and the generating capacity of these units is expected to increase from 10413 MW to 10747 MW besides the overall improvement in the performance of the units. Out of 106 units identified for LE works, 10 units of 5 thermal power stations of Maharashtra are planned to be completed during 10th Plan period, the details of these units are given in the Statement-I enclosed.

In addition, 57 thermal units (14270 MW) which are comparatively new and are performing well, have also been identified for Renovation & Modernization (R&M) works at an estimated cost of Rs. 977 crores to sustain their performance. Out of 57 units identified for R&M works, 19 units of 6 thermal power stations of Maharashtra are planned to be completed during 10th plan period, the details are given in the Statement-I enclosed.

A total of 62 schemes of existing hydroelectric power projects (11 in Central Sector and 51 in State Sector) have also been identified for Renovation during the 10th plan period. Out of 62 schemes hydroelectric power projects identified, 7 schemes of hydroelectric power projects are in Maharashtra as detailed given in the Statement-II enclosed.

Statement I

Sl.No.	Name of the Station	Unit No.	Year of Commissioning	Present Rated Capacity (MW)	Capacity Expected after LEP/ R&M (MW)	Estimated Cost (Rs. in Crores)	Remarks
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
<i>Life Extension Works</i>							
1.	Nasik	1	1970	140	140	140	Currently NTPC is not involved in Maharashtra
2.		2	1971	140	140	140	
3.	Paras	2	1967	58	62.5	60	
4.	Bhusawal	1	1968	58	62.5	60	

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
5.	Koradi	1	1974	115	120	120	
6.		2	1975	115	120	120	
7.		3	1976	115	120	120	
8.		4	1976	115	120	120	
9.	Parli	1	1971	30	30	30	
10.		2	1972	30	30	30	
<i>R&M Works</i>							
1.	Nasik	3	1979	210	210		
2.		4	1980	210	210	48.47	
3.		5	1981	210	210		
4.	Koradi	5	1978	200	200		
5.		6	1982	210	210	54.35	
6.		7	1983	210	210		
7.	Chandrapur	1	1983	210	210		
8.		2	1984	210	210		
9.		3	1985	210	210	62.21	Currently NTPC is not involved in Maharashtra
10.		4	1986	210	210		
11.		5	1991	500	500		
12.		6	1992	500	500		
13.	Parli	3	1980	210	210		
14.		4	1985	210	210	29.92	
15.		5	1987	210	210		
16.	Khaperkheda	1	1989	210	210	6.47	
17.		2	1990	210	210		
18.	Bhusawal	2	1979	210	210	24.03	
19.		3	1992	210	210		

Statement II

Sl.No.	Name of the Scheme	Unit	Year of No.	Present Rated Capacity (MW)	Estimated Cost (Rs. in Crores)	Remarks
<i>Renovation, Modernisation & Up-rating</i>						
1.	Tillari	1	1986	60	4.50	Scheme already Completed
2.	Vaitarna	1	1976	60	7.00	
3.	Koyna Dam PH	1	1980	18	20.00	
		2	1981	18		
<i>Renovation & Modernization</i>						
4.	Bhira Tail Race	1	1988	40	1.60	Scheme already Completed
		2	1987	40		
5.	Koyna Gen. Complex (Stage I, II & III)	1	1962	70		Scheme already Completed
		2	1962	70		
		3	1963	70		
		4	1963	70		
		5	1967	80		
		6	1966	80		
		7	1966	80	12.00	
		8	1966	80		
		9	1975	80		
		10	1975	80		
		11	1977	80		
		12	1978	80		
6.	Koyna (Stage-I & II)	1	1988	40		
		2	1987	40		
		1	1962	70		
		2	1962	70	88 (Incl. 25.00 swyd)	
		3	1963	70		
		4	1963	70		
		5	1967	80		
		6	1966	80		
		7	1966	80		
		8	1966	80		
7.	Koyna (Stage-III)	9	1975	80		
		10	1975	80		
		11	1977	80	25.00	
		12	1978	80		

*[Translation]***Loan to SC/ST Under Self Employment Scheme**

848. SHRI AJIT JOGI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether loan is being provided to unemployed graduates belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes for self-employment; and

(b) if so, the number of youths belonging to Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes provided loan during the last three years, State-wise and bank-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) The RBI has reported that loans are granted to unemployed graduates belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes for self employment under various Government Sponsored Schemes.

(b) The RBI has reported that it does not collected the State-wise and bank-wise data exclusively for unemployed graduates belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes for self employment. However, the total number of beneficiaries belonging to SC/ST categories under Govt. Sponsored Schemes viz. Swarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY), Swarnjayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY) and Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana (PMRY) during the last three years as reported by RBI, are as under:

Sl.No.	Name of the Scheme	Year 2001-02	Year 2002-03	Year 2003-04
1.	SGSY	34,859	1,55,642	2,49,740
2.	SJSRY	15,889	18,572	17,631
3.	PMRY	31,565	32,686	34,046

*[English]***Amendments in the Commission of Enquiry Act**

849. SHRI D. VITTAL RAO: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has noticed some shortcomings in the Commission of Inquiry act as reported in the Hindu dated January 1, 2005;

(b) if so, the steps taken/being taken by the Government to amend the Commission of Inquiry Act;

(c) whether the Government has received any suggestions to clear the pending cases in the court; and

(d) if so, the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. VENKATAPATHY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No such proposal is under examination.

(c) and (d) The Law Commission & Committees like Malimath Committee have suggested a number of measures for speedy disposal of pending cases. The steps taken for speedy disposal include timely filling the vacancies of judges, increasing the judge strength, grouping of cases involving common questions of law, constitution of specialized benches, organizing Lok Adalats at regular intervals, encouraging alternative modes of dispute resolution like negotiation, mediation and arbitration, and setting up of special tribunals like Central Administrative Tribunals, State Administrative Tribunals, Income Tax Appellate Tribunals, Family Courts, Labour Courts etc.

Taking Over of Swadeshi Cotton Textile Mills

850. PROF. M. RAMADASS: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by the Government to take over Swadeshi Cotton Textile Mill in Pondicherry;

(b) whether there is a proposal to take over Barathi Cotton Mill and merge with Swadeshi Cotton Mill and the Pondicherry Textile Corporation;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the time by which this merger will take place?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) to (c) The Government of Pondicherry proposes to take over the Swadeshi Cotton Mills and the Bharathi Cotton Mills in Pondicherry, presently under the management of National Textile Corporation subject to approval by Competent Authority.

(d) It is proposed to transfer these mills to Government of Pondicherry with effect from 1st April, 2005.

Mineral Based Industry

851. SHRI JUAL ORAM: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has a proposal to set up some mineral based industries in the country;

(b) if so, the places indentified for the establishment of such units; and

(c) the separate brake up of public, private and joint sector companies among them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO): (a) At present no proposal for setting up mineral based industries is under consideration of the Ministry of Mines.

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

Health Insurance

852. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN:
SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE:
SHRI KULDEEP BISHNOI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the percentage of persons covered by health insurance is less than 50% in the country

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the number of persons benefited so far, State-wise;

(c) the names of diseases included under the Health Insurance Scheme;

(d) whether Delhi High Court has also given their verdict in regard to medical insurance and Joint Insurance Policies;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the steps taken by the Government to bring more people under health insurance in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (IRDA) has informed that the percentage of people currently covered under health insurance in the country is around 1.5%. State-wise information is not maintained by IRDA.

(c) Standard Medclaim Policy which is the main health insurance product in India, generally covers hospitalisation treatment of all diseases except those existing before inception or contracted during the first 30 days of inception of the cover.

(d) and (e) In the CWP No. 2866/2002 pending in the Hon'ble High Court between Social Jurists (a lawyers group) Vs. Government of NCT of Delhi and others on the issue of failure of compliance of conditions of free treatment by private hospitals to whom land was allotted at concessional rates, the Hon'ble Delhi High Court has ordered that, in the interim period, land owning agencies should ensure compliance with the free treatment conditions.

(f) Apart from conventional Medclaim Policy which caters to the health insurance needs of middle class and richer sections of the society, Government has been implementing Universal Health Insurance Scheme under which BPL families are extended health insurance coverage with subsidised annual premium of Rs. 165/-for individual, Rs. 248/-for a family of five and Rs. 330/-for a family of seven. Another, health insurance scheme has been introduced for the members of Self-help Groups and Credit Linked Groups who are extended insurance coverage of Rs. 10,000/-for a premium of Rs. 120/-per person per annum.

FII Investment

853. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether due to the dollar regaining strength and hardening of US interest rates, there is a possibility of slowing down of FII investment in early 2005 as reported in the *Times of India* dated January 27, 2005 under caption "FII money will slow down in early 2005: CEOs.";

(b) if so, whether the Government has assessed the FII investment in the first quarter of 2005;

(c) if so the details thereof;

(d) whether some factors like inflation, high interest rates, rising crude oil prices and high fiscal deficit are responsible for slow down in FII investment; and

(e) if so, the steps taken or being taken by Government to ensure that FII investment is kept intact during the year 2005?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) to (c) The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has informed that as per the data available, during the first quarter of 2005, the FI investments till February 28, 2005 itself is Rs. 8892 crores (USD 2026 millions) compared to Rs. 6542 crores (USD 1436 million) for the same period in the previous year. The inflow trends during the period do not indicate the slow down mentioned in the news article referred to in the question.

(d) and (e) In view of reply to (a) to (c) above, do not arise.

[Translation]

Under Utilization of Funds

854. SHRIMATI ANURADHA CHOUDHARY:
SHRI MUNSHI RAM:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has not utilized the full amount allocated by the Planning Commission for the energy sector for the current financial year;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government has completed the work on all the projects announced during 2003-04; and

(d) if so, the reasons for not carrying out the work of power projects in a time bound manner?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.M. SAYEED):

(a) and (b) The utilization of budgetary allocation of Ministry of Power is expected to be Rs. 14,681 crores out of Rs. 15,630 crores which comprises of Gross Budgetary Support (GBS) as well as and Internal & Extra Budgetary Resources (IEBR). This is nearly 94% of the budgeted allocation for the Ministry of Power. The reason for reduced utilization is non-approval of projects/schemes of Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd. (PGCIL), National Hydroelectric Power Corporation (NHPC), North Eastern Electric Power Corporation (NEEPCO) and Central Electricity Authority (CEA).

(c) and (d) The target for capacity addition of power projects during the year 2003-04 was 5202.3 MW. Projects totaling to 3951.02 MW were commissioned. The main reason for shortfall in achievement of the target is delay

in commissioning of two large Hydro projects namely Dulhasti Hydro Electric Project (HEP) in Jammu & Kashmir and Tehri HEP in Uttaranchal. While the delay in the case of Dulhasti HEP is on account of extreme working conditions arising out of the law and order problems, Tehri HEP was delayed due to complex technical issues.

Tehri Dam Project

855. SHRI KHIREN RIJUJ:
SHRI CHANDRA MANI TRIPATHI:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether financial burden on the Government is increasing due to non-completion of work on Tehri Dam in time;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time by when the work on Tehri Dam Project is expected to be completed; and

(d) the power likely to be generated from this project along with details of its beneficiary States?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.M. SAYEED):

(a) and (b) The estimated cost of Tehri Dam & HPP Stage-I (1000 MW) including essential works of Tehri PSP has increased from Rs. 2963.66 crore (at March, 1993 Price Level) to Rs. 6621.32 crore (at March, 2003 Price Level).

(c) The project works are at an advanced stage of completion and all the four units of 250 MW each are likely to be commissioned progressively from February, 2006 onwards.

(d) All the States of Northern Region namely Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Punjab, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Uttaranchal, NCT of Delhi and the Union Territory of Chandigarh are expected to be beneficiaries of the 1000 MW power generated from Stage-I of this project.

[English]

Foreign Assistance In Textile Sector

856. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes foreign investments/assistance in textile sector after the scrapping of import quota;

(b) if so, the details thereof including names of the countries;

(c) the names of the competing countries in Textile sector;

(d) the strategy by which the Government proposes to protect the textile sector keeping in view of tough competition in international market; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) and (b) Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) is already permitted through automatic route in textile sector. Considering the intrinsic strength of the textile industry in terms of large multi-fibre raw material base, availability of abundant low cost skilled work force and presence across the entire value chain of the textiles and apparel industry, the foreign companies/individuals are expected to invest more in the textile industry in quota free regime.

(c) The major competitor countries of India in the global textile market are China, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Turkey, South Korea, Hong Kong and Brazil.

(d) and (e) Government has been taking a number of steps from time to time to strengthen the Indian textile industry to meet the emerging global competition. Some of the important initiatives taken are:

(i) The Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS) has been made operational from 1-4-1999 to facilitate the modernisation and upgradation of the sector.

(ii) The imports of specified textiles and garment machinery items has been allowed at concessional rate of customs duty to encourage investments and to make our textile products competitive in the global market. The cost of machinery has also been reduced through fiscal policy measures.

(iii) To improve the productivity and quality of cotton, Government has launched Technology Mission on Cotton (TMC). The mission comprises four

mini-missions, which are being jointly implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture and Ministry of Textiles. One of the important ingredients of the Mission is to cotton processing facilities by upgrading/modernizing the existing ginning and pressing facilities and setting up of new market yards/improvement of existing market yards.

(iv) The Government has launched a centrally sponsored scheme titled "Apparel Park for Export Scheme" for imparting focused thrust for setting up of apparel manufacturing units of international standards at potential growth centres to give fillip to exports.

(v) For upgrading infrastructure facilities at important textile centres, a scheme titled "Textile Centre Infrastructure Development Scheme" (TCIDS) has been launched.

(vi) The fiscal duty structure has been generally rationalised to achieve growth and maximum value addition. Except for mandatory excise duty on polyester filament yarn, synthetic and artificial fibres and synthetic and artificial filament yarns, the whole value addition chain including cotton textile and cotton clothing items have been given excise exemption option. Additional Excise Duty on Textiles & Textile Articles (AT&T) and Additional Excise Duty (Goods of Special Importance) Act have been abolished.

(vii) The Government has de-reserved the woven segment of readymade garment from the SSI sector. It has also raised the SSI investment limit for knitted segment to Rs. 5 crores. In the Union Budget 2005-06, an announcement has been made for de-reservation of 30 hosiery items from the SSI.

(viii) National Institute for Fashion Technology (NIFT), its six branches and Apparel Training & Design Centres (ATDCs) are running various courses/programmes to meet skilled manpower requirements of textile industry especially apparel in the field of design, merchandising and marketing.

(ix) Facilities by way of eco-testing laboratories have been created to enable exporters to get the garments/textiles pre-tested for conforming to the requirements of importing countries.

Gross Tax Collection in 2004-05

857. SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the gross tax collection in the first three quarters and the last quarter of 2004-05 as against the target fixed by the Government in this regard;

(b) whether the tax collection during the said period has recorded increase as compared to corresponding quarters of the previous year;

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

(d) the steps taken by the Government to achieve the targets fixed for tax collection in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) The details of revenue collection for the period from April-December 2004 in respect of Customs, Central Excise, Service Tax, Corporation Tax and Income Tax vis-a-vis the BE and RE fixed for the year 2004-05 is as under:

(Rs. in crores)

	BE 2004-05	RE 2004-05	Revenue realized during April-Dec., 2004 (Prov.)	% of BE achieved	% of RE achieved
Customs	54250	56250	41207	75.96	73.26
Excise*	108500	100000	68504	63.14	68.50
Service Tax	14150	14150	8332	58.88	58.88
Corporation Tax	86436	83000	49868	56.38	60.08
Income Tax	50929	50929	30145	59.19	59.19

*Excluding cess administered by other departments.

(b) and (c) The details of revenue collected in 2004-05 (upto December 2004) in respect of Customs, Central Excise, Service Tax, Corporation Tax and Income Tax

vis-a-vis the revenue collected during the corresponding quarters of the previous year is as under:

(Rs. in crores)

	Revenue collected during April-December, 2004 (Prov.)	Revenue collected during April-December, 2003 (Prov.)	% Growth over previous year
Customs	41207	36300	13.52
Excise*	68504	63616	7.68
Service Tax	8332	5084	63.89
Corporation Tax	49868	38100	30.88
Income Tax	30145	28171	15.18

*Excluding cess administered by other departments.

(d) The Government has constituted Task Forces to develop and implement multi-pronged strategy for effecting substantial recovery from arrears of direct and indirect taxes.

So far as direct taxes are concerned, the steps taken to augment direct tax collections so as to achieve the targets fixed include monitoring of advance tax payments in respect of top taxpayers, emphasis on collection out of arrears of taxes and monitoring of the cases of top defaulters, computerization of the Departmental business processes and databases for linking of information and reporting of high value transactions, increased efforts for widening of the tax base, etc.

So far as indirect taxes are concerned, a number of steps have been taken to realize greater revenue which include rationalization of tariff structure, review and withdrawal of tax exemptions, wherever necessary, plugging leakage of revenue through anti-smuggling and anti evasion measures, monitoring and disseminating international prices of imported commodities, simplification of tax collection procedures to improve tax compliance, etc.

[Translation]

Amendment in the Representation of People Act

858. SHRI HEMMAL MURMU:
SHRIMATI PRATIBHA SINGH:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is contemplating to formulate a policy to introduce comprehensive changes in the Representation of People's Act in view of the corruption prevailing in politics and increasing trend of criminalization of politics;

(b) whether the Government propose to prepare code of conduct for the elected people's representatives;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. VENKATAPATHY): (a) to (d) The process of reforms/changes of electoral laws and other related matters is a continuous and ongoing process

and can be carried out only through consensus among political parties. Since it is a long drawn process, it is not possible to indicate any timeframe.

[English]

Issue of PAN Cards

859. SHRI RAJESH VARMA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of PAN cards issued in the country as on date especially in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) whether acquiring and possession of PAN cards become a problem for small income groups;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken to reduce the harassment meted out to small income groups?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) The number of PAN cards issued in the country as on date is 3,73,00,171 including 31,44,688 cards in respect of Uttar Pradesh.

(b) to (d) A number of steps have been taken to facilitate the process of obtaining PAN Cards by small income groups. The Income Tax Department has outsourced a part of the activities of UTI Investor Services Ltd. (UTIISL) and National Securities Depository Ltd. (NSDL). Application forms for PAN can now be obtained from the 1343 PAN collection centres of UTIISL and NSDL and can also be downloaded from the websites of the Income Tax Department, UTIISL and NSDL. Besides, facilities for filling PAN application on internet have been provided under Tatkal Scheme. If PAN application is made on internet and processing fee is paid through a credit card, PAN is communicated through e-mail in 5 working days. Even in case of Paper applications, PAN card is normally dispatched in 15 working days.

Both UTIISL and NSDL have set up grievance redressal mechanisms. Income Tax Department has also set up a PAN complaint resolution mechanism through a call centre called "Aayakar Sampark Kendra" where the PAN applicants can make telephonic enquiries to know the current status of their PAN applications.

VAT

860. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL:
SHRI MITRASEN YADAV:
SHRI NAVJOT SINGH SIDHU:
SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the extent of benefit that could accrue to consumers as well as traders once Value Added Tax (VAT) is implemented in the country;

(b) whether there are protests from State Governments and commercial establishments;

(c) if so, the details thereof alongwith reaction of the Union Government;

(d) whether compensation in this regard is restricted to complying States only;

(e) the details of States that have so far opted for VAT; and

(f) the details of items covered under VAT system?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) VAT is a simple, transparent, multi-stage tax with input tax credit which eliminates cascading of taxes. This means less tax burden leading to decreases in prices of commodities. Moreover, under the VAT system, many other State level taxes/levies such as turn-over tax, additional turn-over tax, special additional tax etc., would be subsumed in VAT. Hence, instead of multiplicity of taxes, there would only be a single tax. In addition, under VAT the procedures would be simplified and dealers can avail of the facility of self-assessment.

(b) and (c) There are some protests from the trading community regarding increased tax burden, increased record keeping, very stringent penal provisions etc. The Empowered Committee of State Finance Ministers has started a publicity campaign to educate the traders about VAT and dispel their misgivings.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) In the meeting of the Empowered Committee of States Finance Ministers held on 18th June, 2004, States and Union Territories have arrived at broad consensus to introduce VAT w.e.f 1st April, 2005.

(f) Under the VAT system, about 550 goods shall be covered and there will be only two basic VAT rates of 4% and 12.5% plus a specific category of tax exempted goods and a special VAT rate of 1%. Under the exempted category, there will be about 46 commodities comprising natural and unprocessed products in unorganized sector. Under 4% VAT rate category, there will be about 270 goods comprising items of basic necessities and declared goods. Gold, silver, bullion, precious stones etc., shall be taxed under 1% VAT rate category. The remaining commodities shall attract 12.5% rate of VAT.

[*Translation*]

Haryali Yojana

861. SHRIMATI KALPANA RAMESH NARHIRE:
SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR CHOUDHARY:
SHRI RAOSAHEB DANVE PATIL:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has sanctioned Watershed Development Projects for some districts of Bihar in the year 2003-04 under the Haryali Yojana;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the agency appointed/proposed to be appointed to execute the said scheme;

(d) the details of the action taken so far by the Government for the successful implementation of these projects; and

(e) the role of Gram Pradhan under the said scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI A. NARENDRA): (a) and (b) During the year 2003-2004, nine IWDP projects to the districts of Saran, Purnea, Kishanganj, Vaishali, Siwan, Darbhanga, Gaya, Munger & Nalanda were sanctioned for development of 45000 hectares of wastelands at a total cost of Rs. 27.00 crores. An amount of Rs. 371.25 lakh was released as first instalment of Central share towards the implementation of these projects.

Under DPAP 60 projects were sanctioned. Out of which, 10 projects in Bhabua, 14 projects in Jamui, 8 project in Madhubani, 18 projects in Nawadah, 4 projects in Rohtas & 6 projects in Sitamarhi were sanctioned for

30,000 hectares of wastelands at a total cost of Rs. 18.00 crores. An amount of Rs. 202.50 lakh was released as Central share towards the implementation of these projects.

(c) An Intermediate Panchayat may be the Project Implementing Agency (PIA) for all the projects sanctioned to a particular Block/Taluka. In case, these Panchayats are not adequately empowered, then the Zilla Parishad/DRDA may appoint a suitable Line Department like Agriculture, Forestry/Social Forestry, Soil Conservation etc. as PIA.

(d) The State Government has arranged various watershed training programmes for Panchayat Raj Institutions (PRIs) for different Zones of the State in consultation with the National Institute of Rural Development and various other linked State Institutes. On the initiative of the Government of India, State Government in November, 2004 organized two days work shop for the representatives of DRDAs and Project Implementing Agencies.

(e) At the field level, the Gram Panchayats shall implement the projects under the overall supervision and guidance of PIAs.

Regional Rural Banks

862. SHRI BHUPENDRASINH SOLANKI:
SHRI MAHESH KANODIA:
SHRI SURESH CHANDEL:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total deposits in the Regional Rural Banks in the country as on March 31, 2004;

(b) the total funds disbursed as loan and the manner in which the balance amount are being utilized; and

(c) the total amount deposited in sponsoring banks during the last three years and the manner in which these funds are being utilized?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) to (c) National Bank for Agriculture & Rural Development (NABARD) has reported that the total deposits of Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) are Rs. 56350.00 crore and the funds disbursed as loan are Rs. 15579 crore as on 31st March 2004. NABARD has further reported that the balance amount has been kept by the RRBs as balance with Reserve Bank of India by way of Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR), deposits with sponsor banks/other banks and investment in SLR/Non SLR securities. The amount kept as deposits by the RRBs with the sponsor banks/other banks during the last three years is as under.

(Rs. Crore)

	As on 31-3-2002	As on 31-3-2003	As on 31-3-2004
Total Amount of Deposits	21048.46	15729.09	14832.77

[English]

Power Generation

863. SHRI SUGRIB SINGH: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether power generation in the country during the last six months has decreased as compared to corresponding period during last year;

(b) if so, the total power generated in each State during the said period from various types of power projects/plants;

(c) whether the inadequate supply of coal in one of the major factor for less power generation in the country; and

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

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.M. SAYEED):

(a) No, sir. The total electricity generation in the country during the last 6 months i.e. August 04' to January 05' has increased by 4.8% as compared to the corresponding period of last year.

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

(c) Inadequate supply of coal has been a reason for less generation from coal based power stations. Generation loss of 1451.16 MU has been reported during the last six months i.e. August 04' to January 05'.

(d) The following steps are being taken to overcome the shortage of coal to the thermal power stations:

- (i) The Infrastructure Constraints Committee, headed by Secretary (Co-ordination), Cabinet Secretariat, reviews monthly the coal supply to the thermal power stations in the country.
- (ii) A Sub-group (constituted) by the Infrastructure Constraints Committee) headed by the Joint Secretary (Coal), Ministry of Coal and members from the Ministry of Power, Central Electricity Authority, Ministry of Railways and Coal India Limited reviews and take corrective measures to ensure smooth supply of coal to thermal power stations.
- (iii) Import of coal by certain power stations.
- (iv) According to Ministry of Coal, Coal India Limited has revised its overall coal production target from existing 314 million tonnes to 331 million tonnes and for power sector from 240 million tonnes to 248 million tonnes for the current year 2004-05.

[*Translation*]

Energy from Waste

864. SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of the energy projects set up in Uttar Pradesh with assistance of the Union Government for generation of energy from waste and the wind;

(b) the quantum of energy generated by these projects at present;

(c) whether the potential for generation of energy through waste and the wind has been explored in Uttar Pradesh;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the amount of assistance provided to each State for generation of energy through waste and the wind during the last two years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR): (a) Three projects aggregating to 8 MW

capacity have been set up in Uttar Pradesh for generation of power from urban and industrial wastes. No wind power projects have so far been set up in the State.

(b) about 1.5 million units of electricity are being generated per month from the three projects in the State.

(c) and (d) The potential for generation of power from urban wastes in Uttar Pradesh is estimated to be about 176 MW. Preliminary wind assessment studies have not revealed any potential for wind power in the State.

(e) Waste-wise assistance provided for generation of energy through waste and wind during the last two years is given in the Statement enclosed:

Statement

State-wise Assistance Provided for Generation of Energy from Waste & Wind During 2002-03 and 2003-04

(Rupees in lakh)

Sl.No.	Name of the State	Wind Energy	Energy from Wastes
1.	Andhra Pradesh	105.00	251.13
2.	Delhi	—	33.09
3.	Gujarat	—	4.66
4.	Jharkhand	—	5.45
5.	Karnataka	520.94	—
6.	Maharashtra	284.60	—
7.	Tamil Nadu	—	56.35
8.	Uttar Pradesh	—	829.77
9.	West Bengal	156.46	—

[*English*]

I.T. Payee in Maharashtra

865. SHRI HARIBHAU RATHOD: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of income tax payee in Maharashtra;

(b) the number of persons applied and received PAN from the various Income Tax Offices in Maharashtra;

(c) whether the Income Tax Act provides for interest to the tax payees for delayed refunds; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) The number of assessees in Maharashtra as on 31st March, 2004 was 51.57 lakhs.

(b) Total number of PAN allotted in Maharashtra as on 31st January 2005 is 71.14 lakhs. PAN applications can be filed for any jurisdiction anywhere in India including over the internet from anywhere in World. Therefore, the data of the number of PAN applicants for a particular state is not available.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Income Tax Act provides for interest to the tax payer for delayed refund under Section 244A. The present rate of interest is 6% per annum.

"World Bank Aid to Tsunami Hit Areas"

866. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN:
SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN:
SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT "BACHDA":
SHRI RUPCHAND MURMU:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the World Bank team visited the Tsunami affected States in the country;

(b) if so, whether any talks were held by the World Bank with Central and State Governments on the issue;

(c) if so, the details thereof and whether any report has been presented by the World Bank team in this regard;

(d) whether the World Bank and other FFIs have agreed to provide any financial assistance to Indian Government in the form of soft loan to recover from the damages due to Tsunami; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) to (e) A Joint Assessment Mission of the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) had visited the affected states of Andhra Pradesh, Kerala and Tamil Nadu, and the Union Territory of Pondicherry during Feb. 1-15, 2005 to define the quantum of assistance required for post Tsunami reconstruction activities from the World Bank, the ADB and the UNDP. International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) has also confirmed its willingness to provide assistance towards rehabilitation of Tsunami affected communities.

Proposals under Housing Schemes

867. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI:
SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of proposals received by the Union Government in regard to innovative Housing Schemes from the State Government alongwith the details thereof, State-wise and district-wise indicating the position in this regard as on date;

(b) the number of proposals cleared, under consideration and funds released for these proposals to the State Governments, State-wise;

(c) whether the public representatives have been involved in monitoring and implementation of these projects;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the number of proposals pending or under process with the Union Government in regard to Andhra Pradesh;

(f) the time by which these proposals are likely to be cleared;

(g) whether certain housing programmes have been discontinued; and

(h) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) and (b) Details of

State-wise number of project received, sanctioned and funds released under the Innovative Stream for Rural Housing & Habitat Development are given in the Statement enclosed. The Scheme has been discontinued with effect from 1.4.2004; hence no proposal is under consideration.

(c) and (d) No, Sir.

(e) and (f) Since the Scheme has been discontinued

with effect from 1.4.2004, no proposal is under consideration with regard to Andhra Pradesh.

(g) and (h) Yes, Sir. Small Rural Housing Schemes namely Innovative Stream for Rural Development & Habitat Development, Rural building Centres (RBCs), Samagra Awaas Yojana (SAY) have been discontinued with effect from 1.4.2004 and merged with the main scheme i.e. Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY) to give more thrust for construction of maximum IAY houses for eligible Below the Poverty Line (BPL) families in rural areas.

Statement

State wise number of projects received, sanctioned, amount released under Innovative Stream for Rural Housing and Habitat Development since inception to till date

(Rs. in lakh)

Sl.No.	Name of the state/UT	Number of projects received	Number of projects sanctioned	Amount Released
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	9	7	148.35
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	20	14	525.64
3.	Assam	6	6	247.79
4.	Bihar	2	2	65.68
5.	Chhattisgarh	1	0	0.00
6.	Haryana	2	1	25.00
7.	Himahal Pradesh	7	5	59.41
8.	Jammu & Kashmir	2	1	41.34
9.	Karnataka	2	1	23.00
10.	Kerala	11	1	25.00
11.	Madhya Pradesh	4	2	50.00
12.	Maharashtra	25	8	211.10
13.	Manipur	9	7	323.89
14.	Meghalaya	7	6	235.33
15.	Mizoram	3	2	50.00
16.	Nagaland	13	6	274.12

1	2	3	4	5
17.	Punjab	1	1	14.50
18.	Rajasthan	6	5	90.30
19.	Tamil Nadu	21	19	655.00
20.	Tripura	1	0	0.00
21.	Uttar Pradesh	34	29	745.95
22.	Uttaranchal	1	0	0.00
Total		187	123	3811.40

[Translation]

Foreign Exchange Reserve

868. SMT. ANURADHA CHOUDHARY:
SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL:
SHRI BALESHWAR YADAV:
SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the present status for foreign exchange reserves in the country as on February 28, 2005;

(b) whether the foreign exchange reserves have come down during the month of January, 2005;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the value of dollar is falling continuously in the world trade;

(e) if so, the details thereof including the reasons;

(f) whether IMF has warned India towards the rising of foreign exchange reserve of the country;

(g) if so, the reasons therefor alongwith the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(h) the steps taken by the Government to maintain the foreign exchange reserve?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) India's foreign exchange reserves stood at US\$ 135.66 billion as on February 25, 2005.

(b) and (c) The foreign exchange reserves declined by US\$ 1.7 billion during January 2005, mainly on account of valuation losses arising from strengthening of the US Dollar against other major non-Dollar global currencies during the month.

(d) and (e) the US Dollar has been depreciating against some major international currencies since 2002. The movement of the US Dollar vis-a-vis other currencies is shown below:

US Dollar per national currency unit

	2002	2003	2004
Euro	1.05	1.26	1.25*
Pound Sterling	1.50	1.63	1.83
Japanese Yen	0.01	0.01	0.01
Swiss Franc	0.64	0.74	0.81

*Till November 2004

(f) No, Sir.

(g) and (h) Does not arise.

[English]

Decline in Collection of Direct Tax

869. SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a dip in revenue collection of direct taxes;

(b) if so, the comparative figures of tax collected from various sectors till date as compared to corresponding period of previous year;

(c) whether the Government has found out the reasons for such steep decline in the collection of direct taxes;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to meet the targets fixed during the year 2004-05?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) No Sir. Revenue collection of direct taxes has grown by 27.11% up to 15th February of the current year over the collections made during the corresponding period of preceding year. The comparative figures of tax collected are as follows:

(In Rs. Crore)

Head of Tax	Collection up to 15.2.2005	Collection up to 15.2.2004	%age growth
Corporation Tax	54,436	40,034	35.97%
Income Tax	35,297	30,559	15.51%
Total	89,733	70,593	27.11%

(c) and (d) Does not arise in view of reply to part (a) and part (b) above.

(e) the Government has taken the following steps for meeting the Budget Target of direct taxes:

1. Constitution of a Task Force to develop and implement multi-pronged strategy for effecting substantial recovery from arrears of direct taxes.
2. Monitoring of advance tax payments by top taxpayers by the senior officers of the Department.
3. Emphasis on collection out of arrears of taxes and monitoring of the cases of top defaulters by the senior officers of the Department.
4. Review of assessment orders by the supervisory authorities to ensure proper and fair determination of taxes.
5. Selection of cases under scrutiny based on objective financial indicators.
6. Computerization of the Departmental business and databases for linking of information and reporting of high value transactions.
7. Encouragement to voluntary tax-compliance through better taxpayers service through—

- time-bound refunds including electronic credit of refund in the taxpayer's bank account (ECS),
- quick grievance-redressal system including call-center support for PAN related grievances,
- e-filing of PAN application, on line preparation of return, e-filing of return, etc.
- simplification of TDS returns, forms and procedures.
- Dematerialization of tax-payment challans and simplification of procedure for payment for tax through implementation of Online Tax Accounting System (OLTAS).
- 8. Multi-media campaign to encourage voluntary compliance of tax laws.
- 9. Increased efforts for widening of the tax base.

Construction of Ash Pond

870. SHRI JUAL ORAM: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of farmers are affected due to construction of ash pond by National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) at Khanha near Talcher in Orissa;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps taken by the NTPC to prevent any further damage of agricultural land by that ash pond;

(d) whether any compensation has been paid to the affected farmers; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.M. SAYEED):

(a) to (c) The ash pond has been constructed to contain the ash generated at NTPC Talcher Kaniha within the dyke without affecting the surrounding land or the farmers in the surrounding area.

For both stage-I (2x500 MW) and stage-II (4x500 MW) units, multi lagoons have been provided. After settlement of ash particles in these lagoons, the supernatant water falls into other 'overflow lagoons'. Most part of water from overflow lagoon is recycled back to the plant for reuse and whatever water is discharged outside is monitored regularly and its quality is maintained within prescribed standards.

The ash ponds have been provided with garlanding arrangement for evenly feeding the ash slurry to the pond. Water blanket is maintained throughout the ash pond to avoid dry patches in the ponds. In the ash lagoons of both stage-I and stage-II, sprinkling arrangement has been provided to control fugitive dust emission from the ash pond area.

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

Maharashtra's Proposal for Raising Bonds

871. SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Maharashtra had lately sought Central Government's approval to raise Rs. 5,492 crore through bonds, to fulfil its plan and non-plan obligation for 2004-05;

(b) if so, whether but for want of such approval the State had been compelled to curtail the obligatory plan and non-plan expenditure, including the social obligations for education health and social justice;

(c) if so, the reasons for the delay in approval;

(d) whether similar permission to raise funds by floating of bonds was sought this year by different other State Governments;

(e) if so, the details thereof indicating the extent of deficit faced by them; and

(f) the Central Government's response thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) As per the communication received on 15.02.2005, the State Government of Maharashtra has sought approval for Rs. 3400 crores through bonds.

(b) and (c) The proceeds of these bonds are meant for specific plan expenditure only.

(d) to (f) The State of Himachal Pradesh also requested for consent of Government of India for bonds to the tune of Rs. 1195 crores during this year. Fiscal deficit of the State in 2003-04 (RE) was Rs. 2272.70 crores. Consent of Government of India was agreed to for Rs. 700 crores only.

Increase in Interest Rate of Provident Fund

872. SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH:
SHRI PRABODH PANDA:
SHRI MADHU GOUD YASKHI:
SHRI K.S. RAO:
SHRI P. MOHAN:
SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN:
SHRI S.D. MANDLIK:
SHRI TUKARAM GANGADHAR GADAKH:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have recently increased the interest rate of Employees Provident Fund (EPF);

(b) if so, whether the government is also going to increase the interest rate of General Provident Fund (GPF);

(c) if so, the details in this regard and if not, the reasons for the same; and

(d) the number of employees likely to be benefited by this decision?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) No, Sir. The rate of interest on Employees' Provident Fund (EPF) accumulations is fixed by Government on the basis of the recommendation of the Central Board of Trustees of EPF (CBT). CBT has recommended an interim rate of 8.5% for the year 2004-05. The CBT has not recommended a final rate of interest for 2004-05 to the Government.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Disinvestment of PSU

873. SHRI ANANT KUMAR HEGDE:
SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA:
SHRI PRAKASH BAPU V. PATIL:
SHRI P.K. VASUDEVAN NAIR:
DR. RAM CHANDRA DOME:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to sell the shares of the public sector companies including Bharat Heavy Electrical Ltd;

(b) if so, the separate details thereof alongwith present Government holding in the existing PSUs; and

(c) the sectors on which the proceeds from the disinvestment of PSUs is proposed to be spent?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) Government has decided, in principle, to list large, profitable Public Sector Enterprises (PSEs) on domestic stock exchanges and to selectively sell a minority stake in listed, profitable PSEs while retaining atleast 51% of the shares alongwith full management control so as not to disturb the Public Sector character of the companies. No specific decision has, however, been taken with respect to BHEL or any other Public Sector Enterprise.

(c) Government decided on 27th January 2005 to constitute a "National Investment Fund" into which the realisation from sale of minority shareholding of the Government in profitable PSEs would be channelised. The Fund would be maintained outside the Consolidated Fund of India and would be professionally managed by selected Public Sector Financial entities, which have the requisite experience to provide sustainable returns to the Government without affecting the corpus. The income from the Fund would be used for the following broad investment objectives:

- (i) Investment in social sector projects which promote education health care and employment;
- (ii) Capital investment in selected profitable and revisable Public Sector Enterprises that yield adequate returns, in order to enlarge their capital base to finance expansion/diversification.

Investment by Banks/Fis

874. SHRI V.K. THUMMAR:
SHRI SUNIL KUMAR MAHATO:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether banks/financial institutions invest in private companies and public companies through equities or loans as a policy matter; and

(b) if so, the total investment made by the banks and financial institutions in companies particularly in Reliance group Industries through equities and loan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The information is being collected and will be laid down on the Table of the House to the extent available.

[English]

Merger of Co-operative Banks

875. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY:
SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the RBI has been actively considering to issue guidelines for the merger and acquisition in the cooperative banking sector;

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

(c) whether it is also a fact that many cooperative banks have shown interest for their merger to ensure better protection to depositors;

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

(e) the reaction of the Government in this regard and the steps taken by the Government to ensure that small investors in cooperative banks are fully protected?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has issued guidelines on

merger and amalgamation for urban co-operative banks on February 2, 2005.

(c) and (d) RBI has received expression of interest from some banks and concerned banks have been advised to submit concrete proposals in accordance with the new guidelines issued by the RBI.

(e) While considering the merger/amalgamation proposals, the RBI will confine its approval to the financial aspects of the merger taking into consideration the interests of the depositors and financial stability. In case of merger/amalgamation of a weak bank into strong bank, the deposits of the weak bank get transferred to the strong bank and in this process the weak bank's deposits get better protection providing a better and non-disruptive option for exit of weak banks as compared to their liquidation.

Motor Insurance

876. SHRI SUGRIB SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to de-tariffing of motor insurance;

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

(c) the deadline fixed for de-tariffing of motor insurance; and

(d) the reasons for de-tariffing motor insurance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) to (c) Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (IRDA) had proposed de-tariffing of motor Own Damage (OD) portfolio w.e.f. 1st April, 2005 based on the recommendations of Justice Rangarajan Committee. However, since there was not much of progress made in the implementation of other related recommendations of the Committee, the de-tariffing has been postponed by IRDA.

(d) Some of the main reasons for de-tariffing are as under:

- (i) de-tariffing would enable the insurers to rate the risks in accordance with proper risk assessment.
- (ii) unlimited third party liability coupled with fixed tariffs is making it un-economical for the insurers to underwrite motor (TP) business.

"Utilisation of Education Cess"

877. SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI:
PROF. M. RAMADASS:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total resources raised by levying education cess;

(b) whether the fund has been utilised for the purpose for which it has been raised;

(c) if so, the details of expenditure made, State-wise;

(d) whether the Government has used this revenue for reducing its revenue deficit this year; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) to (c) The revised estimates for 2004-05 for receipts on account of Education Cess are Rs. 5010 crore and for expenditure on Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan and Mid Day Meal Scheme are Rs. 4753.63 crore and Rs. 2739.50 crore respectively. State-wise details of actual expenditure incurred are being ascertained.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Enquiry Commission

878. SHRI D.V. SADANANDA GOWDA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Commissions (Enquiry & Welfare) appointed since 2001;

(b) the amount spent on such Commissions annually; and

(c) the reports submitted to the Union Government and considered for implementation so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. VENKATAPATHY): (a) to (c) Under the Commission of Inquiry Act, 1952, Commissions are set up by various administrative Ministries of the Government of India, and the information is not centrally maintained. Commissions of Inquiry are set up by the Government for the purpose of making an inquiry into any definite matter of public importance, and also for performing such functions as may be specified in the notification, only after a resolution to this effect is passed by each House of the Parliament. Similarly, the report of Commission of Inquiry together with a memorandum of action taken thereon is also required to be laid by the Government before each House of the Parliament. As such, relevant information is placed by the Government before each House of the Parliament from time to time.

Comments on VAT by Maharashtra and Other States

879. SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether many States have now at the last moment shown their inability of implement Value Added Tax from April, 2005 as reported in the 'Times of India', dated, 21.2.2005;

(b) if so, the names of those States;

(c) the comments sent by the Government of Maharashtra and others in this regard;

(d) the stand of the Union Government on the issue; and

(e) the names of States, if any, which have already made legislation for implementation of VAT?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) No, Sir.

(b) does not arise.

(c) No comments have been sent by the State of Maharashtra and others in this regard.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Information is given in the Statement enclosed.

Statement

*Status of VAT Legislations of States/UTs
(As on 28 February, 2005)*

Sl.No.	Present Status	Name(s) of States/UTs
1.	VAT Legislations enacted, without Presidential Assent.	Jammu & Kashmir, Haryana, Rajasthan and Tripura (4 States)
2.	VAT Legislations, on which the Presidential Assent has already been communicated to the States/UTs.	Madhya Pradesh, West Bengal, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Gujarat, Assam, Meghalaya and NCT of Delhi (9 States/UTs)
3.	VAT Legislations prepared by the States/UTs and sent to Government of India for Presidential Assent and under consideration.	Chhattisgarh, Maharashtra, Daman & Diu, Dadra & Nagar Haveli, Manipur and Orissa (6 States/UTs)
4.	VAT Legislations approved by the State Legislatures, but not yet sent to Government of India for Presidential Assent.	Arunachal Pradesh and Goa (2 States).
5.	VAT Legislations yet to be approved by the State Legislatures/UT Administrations.	Bihar, Jharkhand, UP, Uttaranchal, Tamil Nadu, Mizoram, Sikkim, Nagaland, Himachal Pradesh, Pondicherry, Punjab and Chandigarh (12 States/UTs)
6.	UTs not having sales tax/VAT.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands and Lakshadweep (2 UTs)

*[English]***Detaining of Indian Flag Ships**

880. SHRI BALESHWAR YADAV: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of flag ships detained abroad during 2004 on the basis of not fulfilling the guidelines set by the Port State Control (PSC) inspection authorities; and

(b) the remedial measures on the card to come out from the black list in the medium risk category under Paris MoU?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD, TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) 15 Indian ships were detained abroad under Port State Control (PSC) during the year 2004. Most of detentions were caused due to poor house keeping and maintenance.

(b) Several steps have been taken to ensure that the maintenance and house keeping standards of Indian ships are substantially enhanced. A few of such measures are given below:

- (i) Increased number of Flag State Implementation (FSI) inspections to ensure proper inspection by the Classification Societies and after class inspection proper maintenance by the ship owners.
- (ii) A though FSI inspection of the ship subjected to PSC detention.
- (iii) Frequent interaction with the ship owners and the Classification Societies to discuss each and every detention case in detail and issuance of follow up instructions.
- (iv) More frequent inspection by the ship owners' shore based technical officers to identify and rectify the deficiencies immediately.
- (v) Classification Societies to report immediately, if a ship is sailing with large number of deficiencies.
- (vi) Special FSI campaign on all the bulk carrier which are more than twenty years in age.

Release of Philatelic Stamps

881. SHRI VIKRAMBHAI ARJANBHAI MADAM: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the government has any proposal to release Philatelic stamps in memory of S/Shri U.N. Dhebar, Pushpaben Mehta and Narsinh Mehta; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) (i) Yes, Sir. In respect of Shri U.N. Dhebar only.

(ii) No proposal has been received by the Department to release a commemorative postage stamp in the name of Pushpaben Mehta.

(iii) A commemorative postage stamp in honour of Late Shri Narsinh Mehta has already been released by the Department on 30.5.1967. As per existing guidelines not more than one stamp may be issued on the same personality.

(b) Proposals received by the Department of Posts for issue of commemorative postage stamps are examined by the Philatelic Advisory Committee (PAC) in the light of certain guidelines meant to ensure the philatelic value of the stamps issued. The proposal for issue of a commemorative postage stamp on late Shri U.N. Dhebar has been received and will be placed before the Philatelic Advisory Committee for consideration at its next meeting for issue in 2005.

*[Translation]***Telephone Adalats In UP**

882. SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD:
SHRI ILYAS AZMI:

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

(a) the dates on which telephone adalats were held in each of the districts of UP during the last two years;

(b) the district-wise number of cases filed with these adalats during the aforesaid period;

(c) the district-wise number of cases disposed out of them;

(d) the details regarding relaxations provided to the telephone subscribers and the rules laid down to hold telephone adalats;

(e) whether these rules are being violated; and

(f) if so, the reaction of the government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) to (c) The details are given in Statement I and II.

(d) The details are given in statement I, II and III.

(e) Periodicity of holding telephone adalat is being generally observed.

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

Statement I

Status of Telephone Adalat from 1st January 2003 to December 2004 in Uttar Pradesh (East) Circle

Sl. No.	Date of Telephone Adalat	Cases Received	Cases Settled	Rebate Given
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Allahabad			
	15.2.2003	12	12	250.00
	12.04.2003	17	17	1991.00
	05.07.2003	19	19	1483.00
	27.9.2003	17	17	1197.00
	6.12.2003	15	15	9572.00
	27.12.2003	24	24	2610.00
	28.2.2004	14	14	56141.00
	01.05.2004	8	8	8395.00
	26.6.2004	45	45	466799.00
	4.9.2004	29	29	8395.00
	18.12.2004	5	5	589.00
	Dec. 2004	112	112	47911.00
2.	Azamgarh			
	12.1.2003	10	10	—
	4.12.2003	30	30	61300
	30.12.2003	36	36	59922
	27.1.2004	28	28	54894

1	2	3	4	5
	26.5.2004	34	34	53675
	29.6.2004	40	40	39100
	19.10.2004	70	70	48033
3.	Bahraich			
	30.1.2003	12	12	
	27.2.2003	16	16	
	26.3.2003	7	7	
	29.4.2003	13	13	
	26.6.2003	6	6	
	28.8.2003	11	11	
	6.11.2003	13	13	
	19.12.2003	7	7	480.00
	26.2.2004	6	6	3300.00
	29.4.2004	8	8	
	4.8.2004	12	12	3510.00
	4.12.2004	17	17	
4.	Ballia			
	10.9.2003	65	65	125120
	14.7.2004	150	150	655450
	18.10.2004	140	140	195940
5.	Banda			
	7.2.2003	18	18	—
	21.3.2003	18	18	—
	28.5.2003	15	15	—
	29.8.2003	33	33	—
	9.9.2004	7	7	11174
	15.12.2004	14	14	21560
6.	Barabanki			
	17.1.2003	3	14	4371L. Calls
	20.2.2003, 27/3	16	16	2218L. Calls

1	2	3	4	5
	17.4.2003	4	4	Ni
	20.5.2003	29	29	2232L. Calls
	19.6.2003	14	14	900L. Calls
	17.7.2003	19	19	12300L. Calls
	21.8.2003	27	27	21187L. Calls
	18.9.2003	54	54	10720L. Calls
	16.10.2003	25	25	—
	20.11.2003	28	28	10371
	18.12.2003	32	32	3071L. Calls
	15.1.2004	25	25	5100 L. Calls
	19.2.2004	27	27	—
	18.3.2004	19	19	2003 L. Calls
	15.4.2004	11	11	—
	20.5.2004	11	11	1160 L. Calls
	24.6.2004	18	18	13325 L. Calls
	15.7.2004	9	9	—
	19.8.2004	25	25	8064 L. Calls
	16.9.2004	11	11	15363 L. Calls
	21.10.2004	14	14	5000 L. Calls
	25.11.2004	11	11	—
	16.12.2004	11	11	—
7.	Basti			
	7.2.2003	59	59	91512
	11.2.2003	71	71	148302
	17.6.2003	176	176	161006
	6.9.2003	53	53	152463
	15.12.2003	93	93	202777
	21.7.2004	65	65	132816
	25.11.2004	74	74	259239

1	2	3	4	5
8.	Deoria			
	30.1.2003	55	55	19375 Calls
	29.3.2003	41	41	70272 Calls
	27.6.2003	37	37	74008 Calls
	22.8.2003	36	36	83382 Calls
	29.11.2003	13	13	3755 Calls
	21.1.2004	12	12	53345 Calls
	25.3.2004	17	17	40476 Calls
	9.6.2004	12	12	69912 Calls
	16.9.2004	39	23	17600 Calls
	24.11.2004	39	18	24211 Calls
9.	Etawah			
	13.2.2003	8	8	15651
	25.3.2003	9	9	4500
	21.5.2003	7	7	5120
	13.7.2003	9	9	13090
	18.9.2003	15	15	1480
	5.12.2003	6	6	1844
	13.2.2004	12	12	1152
	28.7.2004	10	10	4023
	2.9.2004	13	13	2628
	29.9.2004	10	10	2500
	30.11.2001	3	3	642
10.	Faizabad			
	10.1.2003	76	76	2,28,352.00
	13.3.2003	147	147	2,56,846.00
	29.5.2003	136	136	222553.00
	29.12.2003	143	143	1,08,199.00
	28.4.2004	161	161	3,32,840.00

1	2	3	4	5
	24.6.2004	30	30	46,290.00
	24.9.2004	210	210	1,95,054.00
11.	Farrukhabad			
	10.7.2003	41	41	
	5.2.2004	14	14	11,292 Calls
				56,656 calls
12.	Fatehpur			
	18.2.2003	12	12	
	27.6.2003	2	2	
	30.7.2003	3	3	
	4.12.2003	7	7	
	28.1.2004	14	14	
	3.3.2004	20	20	
	31.8.2004	24	24	1400.00
13.	Ghaziipur			
	12.3.2003	26	26	458810
	11.11.2003	10	10	
	8.12.2003	14	14	
	11.12.2003	11	11	
	3.12.2003	9	9	
	5.12.2003	10	10	
	29.10.2004	23	23	24853
	14.5.2004	14	14	6430
14.	Gonda			
	28.5.2003	40	40	32684.00
	30.7.2003	27	27	32503.00
	30.9.2003	41	41	31718.00
	19.12.2003	15	15	17308.00
	22.12.2003	136	136	110578.00

1	2	3	4	5
	7.1.2004	46	46	35339.00
	27.3.2004	101	101	103978.00
	25.5.2004	33	33	38769.00
	31.8.2004	50	50	49163.00
	27.12.2004	26	26	34476.00
15.	Gorakhpur			
	6.3.2003	28	28	323605
	26.3.2003	5	5	Nil
	23.4.2003	15	15	18558
	7.8.2003	20	20	20405
	9.8.2003	11	11	4335
	14.8.2003	8	8	12545
	4.3.2004	8	8	9355
	11.3.2004	14	14	22525
	19.10.2004	13	13	18290
	7.12.2004	19	19	141457
	8.12.2004	27	27	10753
16.	Hamirpur			
	13.3.2003	130	130	
	24.3.2003	78	78	
	10.7.2003	55	55	
	21.10.2003	30	30	
	18.12.2003	23	23	
	22.10.2003	27	27	
	30.12.2003	39	39	
	17.2.2004	113	104	
	28.5.2004	76	71	
	14.7.2004	41	38	
	7.10.2004	25	23	

1	2	3	4	5
17.	Hardol			
	13.5.2003	7	7	1760
	5.8.2003	5	5	480
	21.10.2003	16	16	6449
	30.12.2003	13	13	3773
	16.3.2004	3	3	8971
	31.5.2004	4	4	510
	5.8.2004	5	5	1641
	5.10.2004	9	9	635
	21.12.2004	5	5	1660
18.	Jaunpur			
	28.1.2003	6	6	3000
	24.3.2003	6	6	—
	29.5.2003	5	5	—
	24.7.2003	9	9	6000
	27.11.2003	5	5	—
	29.1.2004	7	7	—
	31.3.2004	6	6	1850
	28.5.2004	6	6	3193
	29.7.2004	20	20	12698
	28.9.2004	7	7	1000
	29.11.2004	18	18	—
19.	Jhansi			
	16.1.2003	6	6	—
	23.3.2003	4	4	—
	28.10.2003	12	12	
	23.4.2004	5	5	1078
	2.8.2004	4	4	15,000.00
	25.2.2004	4	4	1548.00

1	2	3	4	5
20.	Kanpur			
	27.1.2003	65	65	6089.00
	17.3.2003	74	74	3940.00
	27.8.2003	58	58	3017.00
	13.2.2004	69	69	18451.00
	1.10.2004	78	78	18106.00
21.	Lakhimpur			
	21.1.2003	4	4	Nii
	12.3.2003	5	5	Nii
	7.8.2003	8	8	Nii
	6.9.2003	6	6	Nii
	13.9.2003	2	2	Nii
	20.9.2003	3	3	
	15.7.2004	1	1	Nii
	8.11.2004	0	0	Nii
22.	Lucknow			
	12.3.2003	12	12	—
	28.5.2003	48	48	—
	31.7.2003	13	13	—
	10.10.2003	41	41	—
	16.1.2004	19	19	—
	20.2.2004	14	14	—
	19.3.2004	38	38	—
	21.5.2004	15	15	—
	24.7.2004	15	15	—
	25.9.2004	40	40	—
	25.11.2004	11	11	—
23.	Mainpuri			
	22.8.2003	10	10	Nii

1	2	3	4	5
	26.8.2003	5	5	NII
	27.8.2003	3	3	NII
	28.8.2003	4	4	NII
	29.8.2003	12	12	NII
	21.6.2004	2	2	NII
	22.6.2004	—	—	NII
	23.6.2004	3	3	NII
	24.6.2004	—	—	NII
	25.6.2004	2	2	NII
24.	Mali			
	20.2.2003	26	26	32807
	17.7.2003	8	8	12021
	30.12.2003	12	12	8831
	12.2.2004	17	17	45052
	5.3.2004	9	9	34266
	24.3.2004	22	22	40258
	18.6.2004	10	10	56891
	26.8.2004	22	22	26211
	29.10.2004	16	16	7748
	29.12.2004	11	11	56283
25.	Mirzapur			
	13.7.2003	5	5	—
	25.9.2003	3	3	—
	7.11.2003	2	2	—
	25.11.2003	1	1	—
	10.12.2003	2	2	—
	17.3.2003	4	4	600
	9.6.2004	6	6	9000
	25.8.2004	7	7	11000

1	2	3	4	5
	25.10.2004	13	13	7000
	28.12.2004	14	14	17000
26.	Oral			
	8.1.2003	4	4	Nil
	13.3.2003	4	4	Nil
	20.5.2003	3	3	Nil
	7.7.2003	5	5	Nil
	23.10.2003	4	4	Nil
	23.12.2003	3	3	Nil
	27.1.2004	3	3	Nil
	9.3.2004	3	3	Nil
	29.6.2004	2	2	Nil
	10.8.2004	2	2	Nil
	17.9.2004	3	3	Nil
	24.11.2004	1	1	Nil
27.	Pratapgarh			
	15.1.2003	9	9	21023
	18.2.2003	5	5	1902
	30.6.2003	6	6	42622
	30.12.2003	24	24	19573
	13.1.2004	35	35	18372
	8.7.2004	9	9	9256
	17.11.2004	7	7	17790
28.	Raebarell			
	16.1.2003	2	2	—
	25.2.2003	2	2	—
	6.5.2003	2	2	—
	27.6.2003	2	2	—
	11.9.2003	2	2	—

1	2	3	4	5
	11.11.2003	2	2	—
	29.1.2004	2	2	—
	26.3.2004	3	3	—
	28.5.2004	1	1	—
	26.8.2004	1	1	—
	5.10.2004	2	2	—
	24.11.2004	2	2	—
29.	Shahjahanpur			
	21.2.2003	18	18	0
	22.3.2003	15	15	0
	30.5.2003	25	25	0
	29.9.2003	21	21	0
	13.12.2003	19	19	0
	7.2.2004	21	21	0
	17.3.2004	18	18	0
	6.7.2004	20	20	12090
	10.12.2004	24	24	0
30.	Sitapur			
	25.2.2003	22	22	
	28.5.2003	23	23	
	29.11.2003	28	28	
	27.12.2003	3131		
	29.1.2004	17	17	
	25.2.2004	25	25	
	25.5.2004	3030		
	22.7.2004	28	28	
	26.8.2004	16	16	
	24.9.2004	21	21	
	14.12.2004	27	27	

1	2	3	4	5
31.	Sultanpur			
	16.1.2003	7	7	1560
	17.3.2003	10	10	2050
	22.5.2003	32	32	1608
	14.7.2003	6	6	3007
	24.9.2003	21	21	4200
	12.11.2003	3	3	
	14.1.2004	23	23	660
	17.3.2004	19	19	5843
	19.5.2004	11	11	14229
	15.7.2004	3	3	610
	17.9.2004	14	14	751
	17.11.2004	16	16	11148
32.	Unnao			
	16.2.2003	6	6	
	9.3.2003	10	10	
	29.3.2003	12	12	
	13.5.2003	8	8	
	19.8.2003	12	12	
	25.11.2003	17	17	
	4.6.2004	3	3	
	22.9.2004	12	12	
	26.10.2004	5	5	
	21.12.2004	17	17	
	4.2.2004	3	3	
	23.3.2004	Proposed		
33.	Varanasi			
	13.5.2003	25	25	
	19.5.2003	32	32	
	19.6.2003	17	17	

1	2	3	4	5
	20.6.2003	40	40	Total Rs. 911591
	21.10.2003	41	41	
	28.10.2003	14	14	
	11.11.2003	33	33	Total Rs. 1815984.7
	11.12.2003	37	37	
	16.1.2004	33	33	
	20.1.2004	92	92	
	24.1.2004	108	108	
	20.2.2004	19	19	
	26.2.2004	108	108	
	28.5.2004	168	168	
	5.6.2004	128	128	
	13.7.2004	84	84	
	20.8.2004	38	38	
	28.8.2004	125	125	
	18.9.2004	39	39	
	25.9.2004	190	190	
	25.10.2004	130	130	
	29.10.2004	54	54	

Statement II*Status of Telephone Adalat from 1st January 2003 to December 2004 in Uttar Pradesh (West) Circle*

Name of the SSA	Year	Date of Telephone Adalat	Cases received	Cases Settled	Rebate given in Rs.
1	2	3	4	5	6
Agra	01.01.03 to 31.12.03	21.1.03	21	21	Rs. 11,568
		15.2.2003	21	21	Rs. 3,044
		4.3.2003	63	63	Nil
		29.4.2003	40	40	Rs. 2,01,068
		29.5.2003	39	39	Rs. 71,657

1	2	3	4	5	6
		18.6.2003	2	2	Rs. 4,748
		8/7/2003	20	20	Rs. 16,029
		8/8/2003	48	48	Rs. 1,04,920
		10/9/2003	62	62	Rs. 52,380
		17/9/2003	23	23	Rs. 6,120
		19/11/2003	43	43	Rs. 91,170
		28/11/03	568	568	Rs. 1,50,206
Agra	01/01/04 to 31/12/04	29/12/2003	8	8	Rs. 1,33,753
		28/1/2004	25	25	Rs. 22,328
		20/2/04	40	40	Rs. 30,104
		26/3/2004	38	38	Rs. 23,729
		23/4/04	23	23	Rs. 21,399
		24/05/04	200	200	Rs. 60,318
		9/7/2004	24	24	Rs. 21,232
		23/8/04	50	50	Rs. 45,612
		20/09/04	41	41	Rs. 83,897
		26/10/04	46	46	Rs. 38,858
		22/12/04	23	23	Rs. 43,154
		Total (23)	1468	1468	Rs. 12,37,194
Aligarh	01/01/03 to 31/12/03	26/6/03	32	32	Rs. 1,098
		26/09/03	32	32	Rs. 1,680
	01/01/04 to 31/12/04	16/01/04	21	21	Nil
		26/03/04	9	9	Nil
		14/07/04	19	19	Rs. 4,480
		27/08/04	13	13	Rs. 324
		24/09/04	19	19	Rs. 390
		4/11/2004	17	17	Rs. 4,356
		Total (8)	162	162	Rs. 12,328
Bareilly	01/01/03 to 31/12/03	20/05/03	14	14	Rs. 59,180
		17/10/03	26	26	Rs. 1,18,355

1	2	3	4	5	6
	01/01/04 to 31/12/04	4/3/2004	23	23	Rs. 24,064
		15/06/04	24	24	Rs. 34,512
		21/12/04	32	32	Rs. 8,184
		Total (5)	119	119	Rs. 2,44,295
Bjnor	01/01/03 to 31/12/03	26/02/03	3	3	Nil
		9/4/2003	5	5	Nil
		18/04/03	15	15	Rs. 2,488
		22/08/03	13	13	Nil
		12/11/2003	11	11	Nil
	01/01/04 to 31/12/04	11.02.04	8	8	Nil
Bijnor		28/04/04	0	0	Nil
		23/6/04	1	1	Nil
		25/08/04	7	6	Nil
		Total (9)	63	62	Rs. 2,488
Bulandshahar	01/01/03 to 31/12/03	12/11/2003	25	17	Rs. 1,560
		19/11/03	9	8	Rs. 270
		24/11/2003	18	13	Rs. 7,748
	01/01/04 to 31/12/04	15/09/04	11	9	Nil
		29.09/04	Nil	Nil	Nil
		Total (5)	63	47	Rs. 9,578
Ghaziabad	01/01/03 to 31/12/03	25/02/03	34	34	Rs. 3,700
		4/9/2003	10	10	Nil
		11/12/2003	16	16	Rs. 4,500
	01/01/04 to 31/12/04	15/01/04	11	11	Rs. 9,370
		11/2/2004	10	10	Rs. 10,441
		18/03/04	7	7	Rs. 10,522
		20/05/04	8	8	Rs. 28,254
		20/07/04	3	3	Rs. 1,814
		16/09/04	30	30	Rs. 34,563

1	2	3	4	5	6
		18/11/04	16	16	Rs. 64,000
		Total (10)	145	145	Rs. 1,67,164
Mathura	01/01/03 to 31/12/03	13/5/2003	5	5	Rs. 200
		3/9/2003	4	4	Rs. 789/00
		10/12/2003	1	Nil	
	01/01/04 to 31/12/03	29/4/04	4	3	Rs. 1,800
		4/10/2004	4	4	
		Total (5)	18	16	Rs. 2,789
Meerut	01/01/03 to 31/12/03	24/02/03	19	19	Rs. 12,552
		2/5/2003	6	6	
		6/10/2003	29	29	
		30/12/03	18	18	
	01/01/04 to 31/12/04	28/04/04	9	9	Rs. 11,151
		18/08/04	20	20	
		29/12/04	6	6	
		Total (7)	107	107	Rs. 23,703
Moradabad	01/01/03 to 31/12/03	18/02/03 & 19/02/03	33	21	Rs. 3,73,164
		30/12/03	42	31	Rs. 27,371
	01/01/04 to 31/12/04	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
		Total (2)	75	52	Rs. 4,00,535
Muzaffarnagar	01/01/03 to 31/12/03	27/01/03	18	18	Rs. 3,120
		24/03/03	15	15	Rs. 605
		27/05/03	4	4	Rs. 200
		30/07/03	7	7	Rs. 5,085
		25/09/03	15	15	Rs. 1,19,772
		28/11/03	9	9	Rs. 24,144
	01/01/04 to 31/12/04	28/01/04	14	14	Rs. 5,708
		16/04/04	14	14	Rs. 3000
		25/06/04	13	13	Rs. 9,480
		9/9/2004	12	12	Rs. 26,392

1	2	3	4	5	6
		23/11/04	5	5	Rs. 2,164
		Total (11)	126	126	Rs. 1,99,670
Noida	01/01/03 to 31/12/03	21/01/03	7	7	Rs. 12,442
		26/03/03	6	6	Rs. 680
		10/6/2003	6	6	Rs. 1,828
		9/8/2003	10	10	Rs. 6,200
		24/12/2003	10	10	Rs. 15,529
	01/01/04 to 31/12/04	20/02/04	8	8	Rs. 23,658
		23/04/04	9	9	Rs. 6,400
		26/04/04	26	26	Rs. 9,608
		27/08/04	6	6	Rs. 21,135
		29/10/04	12	12	Rs. 54,807
		29/12/04	15	15	Rs. 43,755
		Total (11)	115	115	Rs. 1,96,042
Saharanpur	01/01/03 to 31/12/03	20/03/03	11	11	Rs. 2,240
		30/06/03	Nil	Nil	
	01/01/04 to 31/12/04	6/1/2004	13	13	Rs. 1,000
		31/03/04	3	3	Rs. 40,800/-
		10/8/2004	1	1	
		Total (5)	28	28	Rs. 44,040
Badaun	01/01/03 to 31/12/03	27/1/03	21	21	Nil
		28/03/03	24	24	Nil
		30/04/03	8	8	Nil
		1/7/2003	29	29	Nil
		29/8/03	18	18	Nil
		28/11/03	25	25	Nil
	01/01/04 to 31/12/04	26/02/04	11	11	Nil
		26/05/04	9	9	Nil
		30/06/04	7	7	Nil

1	2	3	4	5	6
		31/8/04	8	8	Nil
		29/9/04	16	16	Nil
		22/12/04	10	10	Nil
		Total (12)	186	186	
Etah	01/01/03 to 31/12/03	27/06/03	20	20	Nil
		7/10/2003	17	17	Rs. 850/-
	01/01/04 to 31/12/04	16/03/04	14	12	Nil
		10/8/2003	7	7	Rs. 16,640
		23/12/04	29	27	Rs. 750
		Total (5)	87	83	Rs. 18,240
Pilibhit	01/01/03 to 31/12/03	5/9/2003	20	20	Rs. 75,177
		18/12/03	18	18	
	01/01/04 to 31/12/04	5/2/2004	15	15	Rs. 62,128
		7/5/2004	10	10	
		Total (4)	63	63	Rs. 1,37,305
Rampur	01/01/03 to 31/12/03	25/02/03	17	17	Rs. 36,322
		12/3/2003	8	8	Rs. 1,200
		17/06/03	4	4	Nil
		24/07/03	12	12	Rs. 37,148
		4/11/2003	17	17	Rs. 9,372
	01/01/04 to 31/12/04	29/01/04	5	5	Rs. 6,693
		25/03/04	3	3	Rs. 37,992
		24/06/04	11	11	Rs. 33,409
		24/08/04	3	3	Nil
		24/11/04	4	4	Rs. 17,997
		Total (10)	84	84	Rs. 1,80,133
		Grand Total (132)	2909	2817	Rs. 28,75,504

Statement III

No. 12/1/2001-(PG)
 Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited
 (A Government of India Enterprise)
 10th floor, Chandralok Building
 Janpath, New Delhi-110 001

Dated : 22.6.2001

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 problems 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 | — | One |

Sr. DDGs/DDGs can depute their joint DDGs 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 GM 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 or 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

Copy to:

Senior Deputy Managing Director/Deputy Managing Director (as per enclosed statement I) for necessary action.

*[English]***VRS In MTNL**

883. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:
SHRI MUNAWAR HASSAN:

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

- (a) whether MTNL has introduced VRS to its Group 'C' and 'D' employees;
- (b) if so, whether the Government has given its approval to the said voluntary retirement scheme;
- (c) whether the Government has issued the notification regarding their pensionary benefits as is issued for the regular employees;
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor and the time by when it is likely to be issued;
- (e) the number of employees who opted for this scheme;
- (f) whether the Government proposes to introduce this scheme to the Group 'A' and 'B' officers; and
- (g) if so, the time by when it is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Yes, Sir. The scheme was in operation from 6th December, 2004 to 31st January, 2005.

(b) Since MTNL is a Navratna Public Sector Undertaking, the VR Scheme was approved by MTNL's Board of Directors.

(c) There is no difference in the pensionary benefits of the VRS optees and normal cases of superannuation.

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

(e) Total number of 2017 employees have opted for the scheme.

(f) and (g) Presented the Group 'A' officers are on deemed deputation and hence, MTNL cannot come out

with VRS for them. As regards Group 'B' officers, MTNL has not yet come out with a VRS scheme.

Condom Sale

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

- (a) whether the Government has conducted survey regarding performance and the number of sales of condoms in the urban and rural areas during the last three years, year-wise and State-wise;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has noticed a drop in condom sale and the slogan 'yahi hai sahi' campaign launched with US AIDS to curb the spread of HIV and population;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether the Government has acknowledged a decline in condom sale; and
- (f) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) The sale of condoms is undertaken by the Government through 13 Social Marketing Organizations (SMOS), working in different parts of the country. Government as such, has not conducted any survey. However, sales as reported by these SMOS, State-wise in the urban and rural areas during last three years is given in the enclosed statement.

(c) It has been confirmed by USAID that they have launched 'yahi hai sahi' campaign for the sale of condoms in June 2004 under a bilateral project named, Programme for Advancement for Commercial Technology—Child and Reproductive Health (PACT-CRH).

(d) The campaign aimed at dual protection from unwanted pregnancies as well as HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted infections. It revealed that awareness about condom in India is high but usage remains low. It is attributed to the factors like socio-cultural barriers like embarrassment at the time of purchase and the association of condom use with high-risk behavior.

(e) No, Sir.

marketing Programme has increased by 3.81%, 37.43% & 2.13% in last three years. Moreover, USAID campaign has also claimed that since August 2004, there is an upward swing in the sale of condoms.

(f) The Government of India's procurement of condoms both under Free Supply Scheme and Social

Statement

Sale of Condoms under Social Marketing Programme during 2001-02 to 2003-04

State/UT	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04
1	2	3	4
Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0.02	0.02	0.02
Andhra Pradesh	27.11	34.49	39.22
Arunachal Pradesh	0.00	0.00	3.18
Assam	5.73	16.35	6.63
Bihar	26.41	10.02	20.88
Chandigarh	0.00	0.00	0.00
Chhattisgarh	2.45	4.37	10.85
Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0.00	0.00	0.00
Daman and Diu	0.00	0.00	1.12
Delhi	21.66	9.10	24.21
Goa	0.20	0.78	3.73
Gujarat	14.70	7.20	19.46
Haryana	10.44	11.31	13.80
Himachal Pradesh	8.55	16.12	23.51
Jammu and Kashmir	6.13	5.86	6.20
Jharkhand	2.19	4.55	9.68
Karnataka	4.43	9.15	10.93
Kerala	2.94	3.54	5.60
Lakshadweep	0.00	0.00	0.22
Madhya Pradesh	30.94	18.51	35.76
Maharashtra	42.25	51.01	54.64
Manipur	0.15	0.40	1.81

1	2	3	4
Meghalaya	0.12	0.24	3.82
Mizoram	0.06	0.19	2.97
Nagaland	0.15	0.83	3.85
Orissa	23.57	17.58	12.92
Pondicherry	0.00	0.00	0.00
Punjab	15.84	20.29	23.01
Rajasthan	24.99	24.24	32.93
Sikkim	0.03	0.00	0.00
Tamil Nadu	4.13	3.75	5.44
Tripura	0.26	0.73	1.75
Uttar Pradesh	121.50	148.52	169.22
Uttaranchal	0.00	0.96	1.81
West Bengal	42.03	55.95	82.24
Others	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total	438.78	525.67	629.76

Post Offices in Assam

885. SHRI NARAYAN CHANDRA BORKATAKY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- the number of posts offices in Assam;
- whether the Government proposes to increase their number;
- if so, the details thereof; and
- if no, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) There are 4006 post offices in Assam.

(b) to (d) Opening of post offices are subject to fulfilment of norms and availability of resources under

plan. It is an ongoing process. Hence exact number of post offices proposed to be increased cannot be indicated at this juncture. However, postal facilities for delivery of dak and sale of stamps and stationery are available to all village.

[Translation]

Titanium Deposit

886. SHRI RAGHUVVEER SINGH KOSHAL:
SHRI BADIGA RAMAKRISHNA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Tsunami has proved a blessing in disguise for Tamil Nadu and Kerala as reported in the Rashtrdoot dated January 15, 2005;

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

(c) whether the valuable Titanium metal is very useful for nuclear and Aeroplane industries and a huge amount has been deposited on the surface as a result of Tsunami;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether any survey has been conducted by the Government in this regard;

(f) if so, the details thereof;

(g) whether the Government has any plan for commercial production of the above metal; and

(h) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) and (b) The coastal tracts of the country in the States of Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and Orissa contain reserves of beach and minerals such as ilmenite, rutile, zircon, monazite, garnet and sillimanite. Of these, ilmenite and rutile are titanium bearing minerals. Following the tsunami, a number of newspapers had reported that the tsunami has caused huge quantum of heavy mineral deposition in the eastern and western coasts. Scientists of the Atomic Minerals Directorate for Exploration & Research (AMD) under the Department of Atomic Energy have carried out studies on these coastal stretches and the highlights of these studies are as under;

- Along the coastal stretches of Tamil Nadu and Pondicherry, the deposition of heavy minerals due to tsunami is patchy, inconsistent and with a maximum thickness of 30-40 cm. In some instances the tsunami waves have destroyed the existing concentrations in dunes and deposited them inland, thereby relocating the existing deposits. Thus there is no substantial enhancement of heavy mineral deposits in these areas.
- In the Kerala coast, the effect of tsunami around the known beach sand deposits of Charava is significant. Preliminary studies indicated an enhancement of nearly 0.46 million tonnes of ilmenite and 0.03 million tonnes of rutile spread over 0.58 sq. km. area.

(c) and (d) Because of its exceptionally high strength to weight ratio, titanium metal has diverse applications in aerospace industries. It has also applications in the nuclear and other sectors.

(e) and (f) As detailed in replies to parts (a) and (b) of the Question.

(g) and (h) Beach sand mineral deposits with ilmenite being the major constituent, are under exploitation in the country for several years now. While bulk of the ilmenite produced is exported, some portion is also converted into value added products like synthetic rutile, titanium dioxide pigment etc. within the country. The Government of India has in October 1998 notified a new policy on Beach Sand Minerals with a view to increase the rate of exploitation of the minerals and also to attract more investment in this sector, both private and foreign along with latest technology for value addition within the country.

Telecom Service in Gujarat

887. SHRI V.K. THUMMAR:
SHRI KASHIRAM RANA:

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

(a) the details of the works done with regard to the development expansion and upgradation of telecommunications in the rural and urban areas of Gujarat during the last three years;

(b) whether the progress of telecom related aforesaid works is very slow in the rural areas;

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

(d) 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) The details of the works done with regard to the development expansion and upgradation of telecommunications in the rural and urban areas of Gujarat during the last three years are given below:

Year	Capacity Added			New Exchanges Set up	Direct Exchange Lines (DELs) Added		
	Fixed	WLL*	CMTS#		Rural	Urban	Total
2001-02	5,87,966	Nil	Nil	150	2,04,825	2,46,529	4,51,354
2002-03	2,79,488	24,000	2,10,000	28	1,40,541	2,63,611	4,04,152
2003-04	6,528	90,250	2,49,750	2	28,040	(-)24,734	3,306

*WLL—Wireless in Local Loop.

#CMTS—Cellular Mobile Telephone Service

(b) No, Sir. The work is progressing as per plan.

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

[English]

Launching of Rashtriya Sam Vikas Yojana

888. SHRI SUGRIB SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has launched a Rashtriya Sam Vikas Yojana;

(b) if so, the names of the districts other than KBK districts of Orissa included under the Yojana;

(c) whether the Government is aware that Khandmal District of Orissa is one of the most backward districts;

(d) if so, the reasons for not inclusion of Khandmal district under the Yojana; and

(e) the time by which Rashtriya Sam Vikas Yojana is likely to be implemented in the district?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In addition to the Special Plan for the eight KBK districts, the Rashtriya Sam Vikas Yojana also covers five districts of Orissa, two backward districts namely, Keonjhar and Sundargarh and three extremist affected districts namely, Ganjam, Gajapati and Mayurbhanj.

(c) to (e) Khandmal district did not qualify as per the criteria for the selection of the districts for coverage under the scheme.

Bangalore Express Way

889. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has made some remark over the Bangalore express way project;

(b) if so, whether the State Government has started the said project on Hosur Road;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether this four lane express way is expected the case the traffic on Hosur Road;

(e) if so, the total amount allocated for the project;

(f) whether the State Government is also taking another five k.m. elevated express way between Yaswantpur and Peenya Industrial Estate; and

(g) if so, the time by when the work on the project is likely to begin and the estimated cost of this project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (c) The Government has proposed to take up the work of construction of an elevated Highway between Silk Board Junction to Electronic City Junction on Bangalore-Hosur road on NH-7 in Karnataka with equal participation of Government of Karnataka, Electronic City Association and National Highways Authority of India under Build, Operate & Transfer (BOT) Scheme.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) The estimated cost of the work is about Rs. 450 crore.

(f) No, Sir.

(g) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Setting up of Business Rural India

890. SHRI MOHD. TAHIR:
SHRIMATI ANURADHA CHOUDHARY:
PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR:
SHRI MUNSHI RAM:

Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to launch any scheme to promote industries in rural areas as reported in the *Rashtriya Sahara* dated January 15, 2005;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the time by which it will be finalized;

(c) whether the Government proposes to set up an organisation namely 'Business Saral India' for rural entrepreneurs;

(d) if so, whether the Government proposes to provide any financial package to the said organisation for setting up of industries in rural areas; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND MINISTER OF RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHAVIR PRASAD): (a) No, Sir.

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

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) In view of the reply to part (c) above, the question do not arise.

Post Offices in Rural Areas

891. SHRI M. ANJAN KUMAR YADAV:
SHRI TUKARAM GANPAT RAO RENGE PATIL:

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

(a) the number of post offices functioning in rural areas of Andhra Pradesh/Maharashtra;

(b) the number of villages in which this facility has not been provided so far; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) The number of post offices functioning in the rural areas of Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra are 14845 and 11294 respectively.

(b) The number of villages in which post office facility has not been provided so far in Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra are 11571 and 24943 respectively.

(c) The opening of post offices is an ongoing process. Post Offices are opened subject to fulfilment of population, distance and income norms and availability of resources. However, postal facilities for delivery of mails, collection of mails and sale of stamps and postal stationery are available to all the villages.

[English]

Bad Condition of National Highways

892. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Highway No. 24 from Hapur to Garh Mukteshwar (UP) is heavily damaged and a number of speed breakers of great height constructed there are damaging the small vehicles;

(b) if so, the reasons for the highway not being kept in proper condition and the violation of the provisions contained in the motor Vehicles Act;

(c) whether the condition of the National Highway No. 2 from Badarpur to Ballabgarh is very poor causing damage to small vehicles; and

(d) if so, the time by when the highways will be brought in proper condition all through upto Agra?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) Pot hole filling and patch

repair work on Hapur to Garhmukteshwar section of National Highway No. 24 has recently been carried out and at present the road is in traffic worthy condition. Further, agreement for the work of widening to four lanes and strengthening of existing two lanes of Hapur—Garhmukteshwar section of National Highway No. 24 including bridge over river Ganga has been signed.

In some densely populated areas local residents have constructed a few speed-breakers, which are not of great height. Instructions are issued from time to time for removal of the speed-breakers.

(c) Routine maintenance including patch repair and pot-hole filling is being done. For the work of rehabilitation and overlaying of this section tendering process has already been initiated. As such the condition of the National Highway No. 2 from Badarpur to Ballabgarh is satisfactory.

(d) The stretch from Delhi to Agra of National Highway No. 2 is generally in good condition. The proposed work of improvement of pavement will be completed by December 2005.

[Translation]

IAS/IPS Quitting Services

893. SHRIMATI KIRAN MAHESHWARI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a rise in quitting of services by the IAS/IPS Officers during the last few years;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether this has affected the administrative system of the country; 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) As per information available with the Central Government, 79 IAS/IPS officers have taken voluntary retirement or resigned from the service during the last three years. This number does not include voluntary retirement of IAS/IPS officers who retired from the service after giving 3 months' notice to the State Government

concerned under Rule 16(2) of the All India Services (Death Cum Retirement Benefits) Rules, 1958.

(b) Generally, officers take voluntary retirement or resign from the service to take up appointments on other statutory posts under the Government or sometimes for personal reasons.

(c) and (d) No, Sir.

[English]

Ports Damaged due to Tsunami

894. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAI: SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD: SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE: SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK: SHRI S.D. MANDLIK:

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

(a) whether Southern Ports have suffered damage due to Tsunami;

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

(c) the details of business lost by the ports as a result thereof;

(d) whether the Government has formulated any scheme for reconstruction of these ports;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the steps taken by the Government to check recurrence of damages caused due to such incidents?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (e) Damage to ports in southern parts of the country and in Andaman & Nicobar Islands has occurred due to Tsunami. Ports other than major ports are under the administrative control of the State Governments concerned. In case of major ports, damages have occurred in Chennai, Visakhapatnam and Tuticorin Ports. In the case of major ports, a loss of business of Rs. 3.0 crores took place in Chennai Port. Damage to port and harbour infrastructure in Andaman & Nicobar Islands have also taken place. Repair/construction of temporary jetties/ramps have been carried out in almost all the Islands of Andaman & Nicobar and in the major

ports of Chennai, Visakhapatnam and Tuticorin. An amount of Rs. 492.76 crores has been estimated for repair/restoration/renovation/replacement of infrastructure damaged. In addition, a sum of approx. Rs. 1270 crores has tentatively been estimated for creation of additional facilities.

(f) Expert from IIT Chennai and Roorkee, Water and Power Consultancy Services (WAPCOS), New Delhi and Central Water and Power Research Station, (CWPRS), Pune are being consulted for the repair/restoration/reconstruction/replacement works.

Setting up of new Scientific institutions

895. SHRI A.K. MOORTHY: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to set up more centres of scientific institutions of excellence as demanded by several quarters;

(b) if so, the details thereof; 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) to (c) Yes Sir. Government has already set up many centres of excellence in key and strategic areas of Science & Technology. Action has been initiated to establish more such centres and are in various stages of processing.

[Translation]

Supply of Pen-fill-Insulin

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

(a) whether the Government has studied the report of the Committee constituted for withdrawal of ban on supply of pen-fill-insulin to the beneficiaries of the Central Government Health Scheme and the diabetic patients;

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government on the basis of the recommendations made by the Committee; 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) The report of the Expert Committee is under examination.

[English]

Indira Gandhi Regional Institute of Medical Sciences

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

(a) whether the Government is aware that the setting up of the North-Eastern Indira Gandhi Regional Institute of Medical Sciences at Shillong has been inordinately delayed;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the time by when it was originally scheduled to be functional;

(d) the estimated cost of and cost of escalation suffered due to delay;

(e) the salient features of the proposed Institute; and

(f) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to expedite completion of it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (f) The Government has approved the revised project in 2001 on setting up of the North Eastern Indira Gandhi Regional Institute of Health & Medical Sciences at Shillong at a cost of Rs. 422.60 crore. The project provides for a Post-graduate Institute with 500 bedded referral hospital with 35 specialities/super-specialities teaching departments and a Nursing College with annual intake of 50 students. The project was originally scheduled to be completed by March, 2005. The construction activities which have been divided into packages are under progress. The project has been slightly delayed vis-a-vis the target completion date due to delay in some packages of construction activities and on procurement of equipment. However, through regular monitoring at various levels, it is being ensured that the project is completed during this year. The project is not likely to have any cost escalation as there is no anticipated inordinate delay.

Amount for proposed AIIMS at Rishikesh

898. MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to refer to the reply given on the floor of the House on the establishment of AIIMS dated December 21, 2004 and state:

(a) whether the Government has sanctioned and released funds as stated in the reply; and

(b) if so, the amount of money sanctioned and spent since December, 2004 for AIIMS at Rishikesh (Uttaranchal)?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) The approval of the competent authority to the scheme for establishment of AIIMS like institutions is yet to be obtained. The funds have, therefore been released only for start up activities like construction of boundary wall etc. at the sites. The construction of boundary wall at Rishikesh has been completed.

(b) In view of (a) above, there has been no sanction/ release of funds for AIIMS, Rishikesh (Uttaranchal) since December, 2004.

Electronic Telephone Exchanges

899. SHRI RAJESH VERMA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of electronic telephone exchanges set up in Uttar Pradesh during the last three years;

(b) the details of the electronic telephone exchanges proposed to be set up during 2004-05; and

(c) the details of other steps being taken to improve the communication facility in Uttar Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) 366 electronic telephone exchanges were set up during the last three years in Uttar Pradesh as per the details mentioned below:

Year	UP (East)	UP (West)	Total
2001-02	131	102	233
2002-03	49	52	101
2003-04	20	12	32
	200	166	366

(b) 16 electronic telephone exchanges are proposed to be set up in Uttar Pradesh during 2004-05 as per the details given in the enclosed statement.

(c) The details of other steps being taken to improve the communication facility in Uttar Pradesh are given below:

- (i) Enhancing the customers base for Mobile as well as WLL by increasing capacity as well as coverage.
- (ii) Providing the new services like Intelligent Network (IN), Broad Band and High Speed Data etc.
- (iii) Computerisation of fault repair service & customer care service.

Statement

Details of electronic exchanges proposed to be set up in Uttar Pradesh during 2004-05

Sl.No.	Name of Station	District
<i>UP (East) Telecom Circle</i>		
1.	UP Tech. Institute	Allahabad
2.	Medical Chowk	Allahabad
3.	Hindi Sahitya Kendra	Allahabad
4.	Jopling Ganj	Ballia
5.	Kushinagar	Deoria
6.	Rath Bus Stand	Hamirpur
7.	Laplace Building	Lucknow
8.	Bhagwa Chungi	Pratapgarh
9.	Awass Vikas	Sitapur
10.	Barauna	Azamgarh
11.	Gorahara	Azamgarh
12.	Baragaon	Banda
<i>UP (West) Telecom Circle</i>		
13.	Shalimar Garden	Ghaziabad
14.	Brij Vihar	Ghaziabad
15.	Dehradun Road	Saharanpur
16.	Jarcha	Noida

Direct journey between Agartala and Kolkata

900. SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government is aware that the present double entry system of passports for the passengers travelling between Agartala and Kolkata through Bangladesh is causing longer time for completion of the journey;

(b) if so, whether the Government is contemplating any proposal for direct journey between Agartala and Kolkata through Bangladesh without any break in the journey and change of vehicles; and

(c) if so, the steps to be initiated by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) and (c) The Kolkata-Dhaka bus service has been operational since June 1999 while the Agartala-Dhaka bus service started in September 2003. Government of India is currently examining a proposal to start a direct bus service between Agartala and Kolkata via Dhaka. The matter has not yet been taken up with the Government of Bangladesh.

Cellular Telephone Capacity in Tamil Nadu

901. SHRI K.C. PALANISAMY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the BSNL has any plans to increase the cellular telephone capacity in Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the present cellular telephone capacity in the State;

(d) the number of people currently in the waiting list for connections;

(e) whether the BSNL proposes to establish more cellular telephone towers in Tamil Nadu; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. As on 31.1.2005, Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) is having Cellular Network Capacity of 10,69,502 lines in the State of Tamil Nadu and additional capacity of 13,84,800 lines is under implementation.

(d) As a policy, no waiting list is being maintained for cellular connections particularly in a highly competitive environment in the State of Tamil Nadu. However, about 65,000 enquiries have been received for new cellular connections in Tamil Nadu.

(e) and (f) Yes, Sir. BSNL is in the process of installing around 1375 Radio Base Station (Cellular tower) in Tamil Nadu during the current year.

[Translation]

Special Package for Maharashtra

902. SHRI BAPU HARI CHAURE: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any special package for Maharashtra has been provided in the Tenth Five Year Plan to strengthen small scale industries;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHAVIR PRASAD): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The development of small scale industries is primarily the responsibility of the respective State/Union Territory (UT) Government/Administration. The Central Government, however, supports and supplements the efforts of the State/UT Governments/Administration through various schemes/programmes relating to credit, infrastructural development, technology upgradation, marketing, entrepreneurial development, etc. These are implemented across the country, including the State of Maharashtra.

*[English]***Bridges on N.Hs in West Bengal**

903. SHRI HITEN BARMAN: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of bridges on the various National highways constructed in West Bengal during the last three years and till date;

(b) the details of bridges proposed to be constructed during the next three years in the State; and

(c) the details of funds allocated and proposed to be allocated for the same during this period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) 74 bridges have been constructed on the various National Highways in West Bengal during the last three years and till date. The details are given in the enclosed statement.

(b) and (c) the development of National Highways (NHs) including construction of bridges is a continuous process. 104 bridges have been identified for construction on the various National Highways in the State (vide details at Annexure) in a phased manner in the subsequent Annual Plans depending upon inter-se priority and the availability of funds. Funds are allocated State-wise and no separate allocation is made for bridges.

Statement

Sl. No.	NH No.	No. of bridges constructed on the various National Highways during the last three years and till date	No. of bridges identified for construction on the various National Highways
1.	2	31	4
2.	6	15	3
3.	31	12	19
4.	31C	4	20
5.	34	5	31
6.	35	1	—
7.	41	—	13
8.	55	1	—
9.	60	5	14
NHs		74	104

Ship Passenger Service from Jamnagar to Mumbai

904. SHRI VIKRAMBHAI ARJANBHAI MADAM: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to introduce ship passenger service from Jamnagar to Mumbai;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by when it is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Incentives to Backward Areas

905. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY:
PROF. M. RAMADASS:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government proposes to withdraw various incentives being provided to backward areas in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the relative spread of population in various backward areas of the country and the financial and auxiliary incentives being provided to these areas;

(d) the features of backward districts facility created in the Planning Commission;

(e) the number of backward districts which availed this facility since its inception;

(f) whether the Government proposes to extend this facility to tackle the backwardness in the country; and

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

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) The population of 147 districts covered under the Backward Districts Initiative of the Rashtriya Sam Vikas Yojana accounts for 26 per cent of the total population of the country. A sum of Rs. 45 crore is to be provided for each district over a period of three years to fill critical gaps in physical and social infrastructure and livelihood support.

(e) Out of 147 districts covered under the scheme, the District Plans of 129 districts have so far been approved and funds have started flowing to the districts.

(f) and (g) The Union Finance Minister in his Budget Speech for 2005-06 has announced the establishment of a Backward Regions Grant Fund to tackle the problem of backwardness in the country.

[Translation]

Implementation of Reservation Policy

906. SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that the Ministries/Departments and Undertakings are not implementing the reservation policy in appointments effectively;

(b) If so, the details thereof;

(c) the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to fill up the vacant posts in view of the recommendations of the National Commission for Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes;

(d) whether the Government proposes to bring a Bill in this regard;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether any request/memoranda have been received from the Members of Parliament in this regard; and

(g) if so, the action taken or proposed to be taken 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) A Special Recruitment Drive has been launched to fill up the backlog reserved vacancies of SCs and STs.

(d) and (e) The Government has already introduced the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Classes (Reservation in Posts and Services) Bill, 2004 in the Rajya Sabha.

(f) Yes, Sir.

(g) As stated in reply to para (d) the Bill has already been introduced in the Parliament.

*[English]***Suspension of Officers**

907. SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the policy of the Government towards suspension of officers;

(b) the number of officers under suspension and since when;

(c) the steps taken to ensure that disciplinary action is taken in a time-bound manner; and

(d) the amount disbursed as suspension allowance every year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SURESH PACHAURI): (a) In accordance with the provisions of rule 10 of the CCS (CCA) Rules, 1965, the competent authority may place a Government servant under suspension:

- (i) Where a disciplinary proceeding against him is contemplated or is pending; or
- (ii) where, in the opinion of the authority aforesaid, he has engaged himself in activities prejudicial to the interest of the security of the State; or
- (iii) where a case against him in respect of any criminal offence is under investigation, inquiry or trial.

(b) and (c) Suspension of officers as and when required, is made by various disciplinary/appointing authorities spread over the various Ministries/Departments/Offices of the Government of India. Such information is not centrally monitored/available.

(c) Government have issued instructions prescribing various measures to reduce delays in disposal of disciplinary cases.

Unwanted Calls in Mobile Phones

908. SHRI SURESH KURUP: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has been issued notice by the Supreme Court regarding a petition pertaining to 'uncalled for' calls in mobile phones; and

(b) if so, the response of the Government in this regard?

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

(b) In the petition filed in Supreme Court of India, the petitioner has raised a question of passing on the subscriber information by the Mobile Service Providers to Telemarketing service providers/bank etc. In this respect, the relevant extracts of the 'Licence Agreement for provision of Cellular Mobile Telephone Service' an Indian Telegraph Rule pertaining to subscriber information and publication of Telephone Directory are given below:

(I) Extract of Licence Agreement for provision of Cellular Mobile Telephone Service**Schedule-II, Part-II**

18.1 Determination of TRAI with regard to publication of telephone service directory containing information of subscribers of Cellular Mobile Telephone Service shall be applicable and binding.

29.3 The Licensee shall be responsive to the complaints lodged by his subscribers

Schedule-II, Part-V

31.5 Any dispute, with regard to the provision of Service shall be a matter only between the aggrieved party and the Licensee, who shall duly notify this to all before providing the Service. And in no case the Licensor shall bear any liability or responsibility in the matter.

Schedule-II, Part-VI

42.2 Subject to conditions contained in these terms and conditions, the Licensee shall take all necessary steps to safeguard the privacy and confidentiality of any information about a third party and its business to whom it provides the service and from whom it has acquired such information by virtue of the Service provided and shall use its best endeavours to secure that:

- (a) No person acting on behalf of the Licensee or the Licensee divulges or uses any such information except as may be necessary in the course of providing such Service to the Third Party; and
- (b) No such person seeks such information other than is necessary for the purpose of providing Service to the Third Party.

Provided the above para shall not apply where

- (a) The information relates to a specific party and that party has consented in writing to such information being divulged or used, and such information is divulged or used in accordance with the terms of that consent; or
- (b) The information is already open to the public and otherwise known.
- 42.3 The licensee shall take necessary steps to ensure that the Licensee and any person(s) acting on its behalf observe confidentiality of customer information.

(ii) Rule 458 of Indian telegraph Rules, 1951:

Except with the permission of the Telegraph Authority no person shall publish any list of telephone subscribers.

From the above provisions of Licence Agreement and Rule 458 of ITR, 1951, it is evident that sufficient safeguard has been provided for the subscribers so that their information is not passed on by the Licensed Mobile Operators to the Tele Marketing Service providers/banks etc.

Lok Pal Bill

909. SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is likely to bring forward the Lok Pal Bill in the current session of Parliament;
- (b) if so, the major provisions made in the Bill;
- (c) whether there will be Lok Pal at the Centre;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) 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) to (e) Action to bring forward the Lok Pal Bill in the Parliament is under process.

[Translation]

Diversion of PMRY Funds

910. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is aware of the fact that funds earmarked for PMRY are being used for other purposes especially in tribal areas;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHAVIR PRASAD): (a) No, Sir

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

(c) Proper utilisation of the funds released under the Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana (PMRY) is ensured by laying down clear guidelines and norms for the use of these funds, linking of fund release to the 'Utilisation Certificate' for the funds already released, back-ended disbursement of subsidy by banks, disbursement of loan by way of third party cheque to the supplier of goods rather than to the borrower directly, strict dealing of cases of misappropriation of funds, etc.

[English]

Amount earmarked for By-Passes

911. SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the amount earmarked for by-passes on the National Highways passing through Kerala; and

(b) the details thereof the present status of each of them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) The construction of bypasses on National Highways in Kerala has been taken up in a phased manner due to high cost of land acquisition and construction. Government has formulated a comprehensive annual plan for the year 2004-05 for

development of National Highways, including construction of bypasses. Funds are allocated State-wise for the development works and no separate allocation is made for bypasses. The allocation for the State of Kerala for the year 2004-05 is Rs.71.00 crore.

The details of on going bypasses on National Highways in Kerala along with the status are given in the enclosed statement.

Statement

Sl. No.	Name of Bypass	NH No.	Total Length (km)	No. of Phases	Status
1.	Kozhikode bypass	17	28.124	4	Phase I (7.254 km) completed. Phase III (6.37 Km) work in progress. Phase II (11.760 km) LA completed. Phase IV (2.74 km) LA completed. Construction included in Annual Plan 2004-05.
2.	Kollam bypass	47	13.141	4	Phase-I (3.266 km) completed. Phase-II (1.475 km) completed. Phase III & IV (8.4 km) LA completed
3.	Allapuzha bypass	47	7.58	2	Phase-I (3.73 km) completed. Phase-II (3.85 km) work in progress except two ROBs.
4.	Thiruvananthapuram-Neyyattinkara bypass	47	44.253	2	Phase-I (22.6 km) completed. Phase-II (21.9 km) LA in 3.27 km completed and in progress in another 5.47 km.
5.	Thalassery-Mahe bypass	17	18.031	2	Phase I (7.14 km) LA completed. Phase II (10.89 km) LA completed in 2 km
6.	Kollandy deviation bypass	17	11.213	2	Phase I (5 km) LA in progress. Phase II (6.213 km) LA in progress.
7.	Tripunithura bypass	49	9.00	3	Phase I (3.75 km) LA in progress

Biotech Parks

912. SHRI MAHESH KANODIA:
SHRI BHUPENDRASINH SOLANKI:
SHRI P.S. GADHAVI:
SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA:

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

(a) whether the Government of Gujarat has sent a proposal for setting up a Biotech Park at Vadodara in the State;

(b) whether the Government has finalized the project report and also earmarked an amount of Rs. 27 crores for the purpose;

(c) if so, the present status of the proposal; and

(d) the details of other Bio-tech Parks approved by the Central Government?

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) Department of Biotechnology did receive a proposal from Government of Gujarat for setting up of Biotechnology Park at Vadodara. As per the approved Expenditure Finance Committee (EFC) provisions of Department of Biotechnology for 10th Five Year Plan there is a provision to set up only two Biotech Parks. Till now, this department has already supported two Biotech Parks in the country and at present there is no provision in the EFC to support any other project on the Biotechnology Park. Hence, department has requested Planning Commission to provide the funds to Government of Gujarat directly. Science and Technology Department of Government of Gujarat has informed the Department of Biotechnology that Planning Commission has already provided a grant of Rs. 15.00 crores directly to the Gujarat Government for the proposed park.

(d) Department of Biotechnology has approved two Biotechnology Parks at Lucknow in UP and at Hyderabad (Biotechnology Incubation Centre) in A.P.

[Translation]

Mobile Service in the Country

913. SHRI HEMMAL MURMU: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of mobile connections provided by the BSNL and the MTNL in each States as on date;

(b) the total number of BTS or mobile service equipments installed in each State;

(c) whether the existing mobile equipments are enough in number to cater to the mobile connections already provided;

(d) whether the Government proposes to provide better mobile service in the country; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) The total number of mobile connections provided by Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) and Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) as on 31.1.2005 are 86,99,352 and 6,89,521 respectively. The State-wise details are given in the enclosed statement.

(b) The total number of BTS installed by BSNL and MTNL as on 31.1.2005 are 8407 and 611 respectively. The State-wise details are given in the enclosed statement.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) and (e) MTNL is providing mobile service in Delhi and Mumbai metros only. MTNL is making continuous efforts to improve its quality of service and enhance progressively the capacity of its mobile network. MTNL is offering WAP, GPRS (General Packet Radio Service), MMS (Multi Media Messaging Service) and other value added services at par with private operators.

BSNL launched its cellular mobile service in October, 2002 and within a short span of two years and 4 months, it has already covered 583 District Headquarters out of 596 District Headquarters and 3483 cities/towns in the country including Tehsil Headquarters, National Highways, important Pilgrimage centers, tourist places etc. with GSM Mobile Service. BSNL is providing Voice and SMS over its GSM network in all its licensed Service Areas. Further, it has launched GPRS and MMS in all Service Areas except West Zone (Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat Telecom Circle Service Areas) where action has been taken for launch of the said services in 2005. BSNL has also taken action for launching of EDGE (Enhanced Data Rates for GSM Evolution) for provision of high data rate, over its mobile network in 2005. BSNL is further augmenting existing mobile telephone capacity by 12 million lines during 2005-06.

Thus BSNL and MTNL are keeping pace with the advancement in technology and providing better services to their subscribers.

Statement*Circle-wise Number of Cellular connections and BTS installed by BSNL and MTNL as on 31.1.2005*

Sl.No.	Circle	Working Connections	No. of BTS
1.	Andaman and Nicobar	8846	8
2.	Andhra Pradesh	805290	697
3.	Assam	149800	207
4.	Bihar	237752	277
5.	Chattisgarh	32843	55
6.	Chennai Telephone District	316668	298
7.	Delhi (MTNL)	318127	296
8.	Gujarat	520505	507
9.	Himachal Pradesh	101883	121
10.	Haryana	286750	248
11.	Jammu and Kashmir	146033	122
12.	Jharkhand	164331	200
13.	Karnataka	682159	768
14.	Kerala	739091	703
15.	Kolkata Telephones (Excluding West Bengal)	248699	157
16.	Madhya Pradesh	125644	197
17.	Maharashtra (Including Goa excluding Mumbai)	690277	550
18.	Mumbai (MTNL)	371394	315
19.	NE I (Mizoram, Meghalaya, Tripura)	46246	63
20.	NE II (Nagaland, Manipur, Arunachal Pradesh)	33597	63
21.	Orissa	291233	238
22.	Punjab	342928	410
23.	Rajasthan	370527	366
24.	Tamil Nadu (Including Pondicherry and excluding Chennai TD)	822977	795
25.	Uttar Pradesh (E)	714664	633
26.	Uttar Pradesh (W)	407545	314
27.	Uttaranchal	131069	109
28.	West Bengal (Including Sikkim and excluding Kolkata)	281995	301
	Total	9388873	9018

*[English]***Special Grant to Tamil Nadu**

914. SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Tamil Nadu Government has requested for special grants from the Union Government;

(b) if so, the fund from which the said grant was provided;

(c) whether the Union Government has issued

guidelines to Tamil Nadu Government regarding the use of the Special grant provided to it; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. An outlay of Rs. 8001 crores has been approved for the Annual Plan 2004-05 of Tamil Nadu which includes one-time additional Central assistance of Rs. 86.72 crores for priority schemes of special importance to the State Government.

(d) A copy of the guidelines (Form GFR 19-A) is enclosed as statement.

Statement**FORMS****FORM GFR 19-A**

[See Government of India's Decision (1) below Rule 150]

Form of Utilisation Certificate

Sl. No.	Letter No. & Date	Amount
	Total	

Certified that out of Rs. of Rs. of grant-in-aid & Loans approved by Planning Commission as ACA vide Letter No. date and sanctioned by the Ministry of Finance vide letter No. given in the margin during the year and Rs. on account of unspent balance of the previous year, a sum of Rs. has been utilised for the purpose for which it was sanctioned and that the balance of Rs. remaining unutilised at the end of the year has been surrendered to Government (vide no. ... date ...)/will be adjusted towards the grant-in-aid & loan payable during the next year.

2. Certified that I have satisfied myself that the conditions on which the ACA was sanctioned have been duly fulfilled/are being fulfilled and that I have exercised the following checks to see that the money was actually utilized for the purpose for which it was sanctioned.

Kinds of Checks exercised*

1. Vouchers and Books of Accounts.
2. Measurement Books.
3. Grants-in-aid/Loan Register
4. Expenditure Register

Signature ...
Designation...
Date ...

Give details applicable.

[GM., MF., O.M. No. F. 14(1)-E II (A)/73, dated the 23rd April, 1975]

*[Translation]***Progress of Telecom Sector**

915. SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA:
SHRI RAMJILAL SUMAN:

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

(a) whether the overwhelming progress in providing telephone connections in the country in recent years has increased their number to 8.37 per cent at present;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of mobile and fixed line telephone connections provided in the years 2002-03 and 2003-04 and by December 2004, State-wise;

(d) the number of each of the said connections provided in the rural and urban areas respectively; and

(e) the number of the said connections provided in the metro cities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) It is fact due to overwhelming progress in providing telephone connections in the country in recent years, the telephones per 100 of population has risen to 8.59 as on 31.12.2004. As on this date, the total number of phones were 9,28,91,737.

(b) to (e) The details are given in the enclosed statement.

Statement***Details of State-wise Number of Mobile and Fixed Line Telephone Connections***

Sl.No.	Name of State	Net Achievement during 2002-03				Achievement in 2003-04				Achievement up to 31.12.2004			
		Fixed + WLL	Mobile	Rural	Urban	Fixed + WLL	Mobile	Rural	Urban	Fixed + WLL	Mobile	Rural	Urban
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
1.	Andaman and Nicobar	2362	2083	2125	2320	2810	4004	1912	4902	972	1693	1035	1630
2.	Andhra Pradesh	220390	387484	123212	484662	784395	1018179	183602	1618972	-601876	1633291	28599	1002816
3.	Assam	55555	18620	26827	47348	33855	39099	15370	57584	13894	146837	10353	150378
4.	Bihar	45961	104963	85944	64880	233460	184303	21139	396624	-68275	350278	12868	269135
5.	Chhattisgarh	19275	15493	21200	13568	47696	16579	12626	51849	11771	1207	7823	5155
6.	Gujarat	217838	577778	140541	655075	360725	1027809	28040	1360494	-344804	1318189	32323	941062
7.	Haryana	133615	144408	57026	220997	233543	299515	21602	511456	-103781	466862	33587	329494
8.	Himachal Pradesh	29108	38675	25830	41953	11707	108218	9212	110713	7890	135382	64274	78998
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	38019	0	23422	14597	27820	40100	8753	59167	17712	170922	8031	180803
10.	Jharkhand	32350	31753	24148	39955	57036	70725	12163	115598	11007	60961	4252	67716
11.	Karnataka	205466	421279	90596	536149	684822	940002	22772	1602052	-315167	1554307	13317	1225823
12.	Kerala	302097	292500	308738	265859	615196	606301	202788	1018709	-74238	1079641	224898	780505
13.	Madhya Pradesh	136587	212569	33859	315297	337072	352834	61067	629839	-107353	638007	-17056	547710

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
14.	Maharashtra—Mumbai	399296	524348	181294	742350	441035	1334589	105031	1670593	-315180	1469248	118505	1035563
15.	North East	35151	4180	11524	27807	36815	21939	19285	39489	8330	61431	-52676	122437
16.	Orissa	59679	82162	51320	90521	161409	139257	29805	270861	-35697	294342	17570	241075
17.	Punjab	166743	568804	86310	649237	407363	1139974	43952	1603385	-243826	1380665	72810	1064029
18.	Rajasthan	185244	127961	59501	253704	328411	364527	48574	644364	-87217	823968	43164	693587
19.	Tamil Nadu—Chennai	192851	319721	564686	-52114	386975	1012777	69753	1329999	-143340	1518204	89990	1284874
20.	Uttaranchal	24434	26425	11774	39085	33633	59007	13101	79539	9967	44538	7636	46869
21.	Uttar Pradesh	90247	380743	237029	233961	586765	1049679	-110535	1746979	-418578	2018752	18108	1582066
22.	West Bengal—Kolkatta	125411	104484	88832	141063	147019	133026	45190	234855	-2100	406645	25805	378740
METRO-CITIES													
1.	Kolkatta	26674	228413	0	255087	414320	7242	0	421562	-284653	1303630	0	1018977
2.	Chennai	36225	189916	0	226141	575516	535332	0	1110848	-442042	995928	0	553886
3.	Delhi	143147	738483	0	881830	990301	1434081	0	2424382	-764950	1912375	0	1147425
4.	Mumbai	4134485	714955	0	4849440	1119743	1141105	0	2260848	-618311	1840603	0	1222292
Total		4341631	1871767	0	6212298	3099880	3117760	0	6217640	-2109956	6052536	0	3942580

Patients to Purchase Medicines from Outside

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

916. SHRIMATI KALPNA RAMESH NARHIRE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that patients in the Government hospitals located in NCT are asked to purchase medicines and other items necessary for their treatment from outside the hospitals despite availability of such items in hospitals;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to check it;

(d) whether the Government proposes to constitute any Committee to find out the facts;

(e) if so, the time by which it is likely to be constituted; and

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (f) In so far as Central Government Hospitals in Delhi, namely, Dr. R.M.L. Hospital, Safdarjung Hospital and LHMC & its associated hospitals are concerned, all the medicines as per hospital formulary, are provided to the patients free of cost.

So far as the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) is concerned, all life saving emergency medicines and surgical items as per Institute's formulary, are issued to all patients irrespective of their social and economic status. Certain essential drugs which are stocked in the Institute in limited quantity are issued only to those patients who cannot afford to buy such medicines. Patients admitted in private wards are however required to buy the medicines (other than life saving/emergency medicines) themselves. Further, costly medicines and essential drugs (such as anti-cancer drugs, higher antibiotics) nutritional supplement and high cost surgical disposable etc. are

required to be procured by the patients from their sources. For poor and indigent patient there is provision for financial help from Hospital Poor Patient's Fund; and National Illness Assistance Fund etc.

[*English*]

Akola by Pass on N.H. 6

917. SHRI SANJAY DHOTRE: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Akola (Maharashtra) by pass on National Highway No. 6 was included in the Annual Plan of 2003-04;

(b) if so, whether it was also included in the Annual Plan of 2004-05;

(c) whether the work has been sanctioned;

(d) if not, the time by when the work is likely to be sanctioned; and

(e) the time frame in which work is likely to start and the target fixed for its completion?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) The proposal for construction of Akola bypass is required to be approved by the Expenditure Finance Committee (EFC) as a pre-requisite before the sanction of the estimate. EFC meeting has not yet been held. It is, therefore, premature to indicate likely date of sanction, dates of start and completion of the work.

Downsizing in Postal Sector

918. SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether any decision has been taken by the Ministry to downsize staff in the Postal Sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government is aware that several posts are being abolished in several post offices; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) As per the policy of the Government, the vacancies under the Annual Direct Recruitment Plans are required to be cleared by the Screening Committee. This Committee is required to ensure that 1/3rd vacancies against direct recruitment quota are filled up in a year and the remaining 2/3rd vacancies abolished, with a further ceiling that the total recruitment in a recruitment year does not exceed 1% of the total sanctioned strength of the Department.

(c) and (d) As per the policy of the Government, during the recruitment years, 2000, 2001, 2002 and 2003 the following posts were abolished.

Year	No. of posts abolished
2000	4237
2001	6460
2002	5872
2003	5870

[*Translation*]

Multitude of Taxes Hampering Transport Sector

919. SHRIMATI ANURADHA CHOUDHARY:
SHRI MUNSHI RAM:
SHRI MOHD. TAHIR:
PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR:
SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR KUSHAWAHA:
SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:
SHRI KULDEEP BISHNOI:

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

(a) whether the Government is aware that multitude of taxes, viz. Road Tax, Cess, Toll Tax, Service Tax and TDS are hampering the growth of the transport sector;

(b) whether the Government has taken any steps to streamline the taxation system for the transport sector;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the fresh steps taken by the Government for simplification of tax regime in transport sector besides changes in the legal framework governing the road transport sector;

(e) whether the Confederation of Indian Industries has requested the Government to formulate an integrated transport policy in order to secure maximum capacity at low cost;

(f) if so, the reaction of the Union Government thereto;

(g) whether any scheme for private sector participation in the transport sector has been formulated by the Government;

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

(i) the time by when a final decision in this regard is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) Levies/recoveries like Road Tax, Cess, Toll, Service Tax and TDS are levied and collected by different authorities in Central/State Governments and have different objectives. The growth of road transport has outpaced that of other modes in the country in the post independence period.

(b) to (d) Road transport falls under the purview of the State Government and any mechanism to streamline the taxes requires consensus among the States. The issue of rationalisation of road tax had been discussed in the earlier meetings of Transport Development Council but has not made any progress due to lack of unanimity among the States.

(e) and (f) Planning Commission has formulated an Integrated Transport Policy in the year 2001.

(g) to (i) Private operators play a dominant role in provision of both freight and passenger services in the road transport sector.

Telephone Connections in Uttar Pradesh

920. SHRI RAJARAM PAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the country has made progress in the field of communications during the last three years;

(b) if so, the State-wise number of telephone and mobile phone connections per 100 persons

(c) whether the percentage of telephone and mobile phone connections is the lowest in Uttar Pradesh as on date despite its being the largest State in terms of area and population;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the time by which the Government is likely to be in a position to provide telephone and mobile phone connections to the maximum number of people in Uttar Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Yes, Sir. During the last three years the number of phones have increased at the rate of 28.6%.

(b) State-wise number of telephone and mobile phone connections per 100 persons as on 31.12.2004 are given in enclosed statement.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. The teledensity of landline telephone and mobile phones as on 31.12.2004 is 1.758% and 2.124% respectively for U.P., which is higher than Bihar, Jharkhand and J&K.

(e) BSNL has already placed Purchase Orders to increase the Mobile network in Uttar Pradesh by 12.2 lakh lines with the aim of providing Mobile phones. The network is expected to be completed during 2005-06. Allotment of 75000 lines Wireless in Local Loop (WLL) equipments have been made to Uttar Pradesh out of 10.5 lakh lines tender. The supply of equipments is likely to commence from August/September 2005 onwards. After installation of these equipments, BSNL will be in a position to provide telephone connections to much large number of people in Uttar Pradesh. Apart from BSNL, there are four private operators which are also providing telephone connections in the State.

Statement**Details of State-wise number of Telephones
including Mobile Phones**

(As on December 31, 2004)

Sl. No.	Name of State	Mobile Teledensity	Overall Teledensity
1.	Andaman and Nicobar	2.058	12.423
2.	Andhra Pradesh	4.497	9.185
3.	Assam	0.830	2.706
4.	Bihar	0.868	2.014
5.	Chhattisgarh	0.151	1.679
6.	Gujarat	6.319	12.065
7.	Haryana	4.528	10.163
8.	Himachal Pradesh	4.831	12.520
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	1.925	4.720
10.	Jharkhand	0.577	2.282
11.	Karnataka	6.042	11.803
12.	Kerala	7.120	17.846
13.	Madhya Pradesh	2.199	4.830
14.	Maharashtra-Mumbai	4.469	9.498
15.	North East	0.74	3.722
16.	Orissa	1.480	3.646
17.	Punjab	13.058	21.861
18.	Rajasthan	2.383	5.777
19.	Tamilnadu-Chennai	5.394	10.911
20.	Uttaranchal	1.454	5.715
21.	Uttar Pradesh	2.124	3.882
22.	West Bengal-Kolkata	0.977	2.776
Metro Cities			
1.	Kolkata	12.918	23.455
2.	Chennai	29.281	46.994
3.	Delhi	33.975	50.181
4.	Mumbai	26.347	42.969

[English]**National Highways in North-East**

921. DR. ARUN KUMAR SHARMA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of newly declared National Highways in the North East during the last three years showing the progress of work and target set for improvement of each road upto NH standard;

(b) the status of the construction of the Stillwell road beyond NH 38 after taking over as National Highway, showing sectoral progress and target set for the same; and

(c) the list of roads implemented from CRF in Assam during the last three financial years showing sanction and utilization thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) Two National Highways viz. NH-155 from Mokokchung to Jessami via Tuesang-Samppure-Meluri falling in Nagaland and Manipur and NH-44 (Extension) from Shillong to Nongstoin in Meghalaya have been declared during the last three years. Whereas, NH-44 (Extension) has been entrusted to the State Government of Meghalaya for development and maintenance, NH-155 has not yet been entrusted. No work on above National Highways has been carried out so far. It is premature to indicate any time frame for development of these National Highways.

(b) Stillwell road (NH-153) passes through Assam (24 kms) and Arunachal Pradesh (32.5 kms). Whole of the portion of this NH passing through Assam has already been improved and the same in Arunachal Pradesh is under improvement at various stages except the last stretch of 6.5 kms, which is proposed to be taken up during 2005-06.

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

Statement*Works sanctioned during last three years under Central Road Fund in Assam*

(Amount in Rs. Lakhs)

Sl. No.	Name of Work	Length (Kms.)	Sanctioned Amount	Physical progress	Financial progress
1	2	3	4	5	6
A. 2001-02					
1.	Improvement of Met. Moran-Naharkatia Road from km 1st to 19th.	19.00	201.55	98%	196.47
2.	Improvement of Met. D.R.T. Road from Ch. 52850.00 to 46850.	6.00	203.91	100%	203.91
Total		25.00	405.46		400.38
B. 2002-03					
1.	Improvement by strengthening of Lanka Khari-Khan Road in the State of Assam	6.80	100.00	100%	100.00
2.	Improvement of Hojal-Trumpreng Road in the State of Assam	9.21	123.50	100%	123.50
3.	North Guwahati-Mandakata road and Singimari-Bansor Sualkuchi road in Assam	12.00	696.26	100%	696.26
4.	Improvement of Tillain Rajnagar Katigora Road & Conversion of SPT Bridge No. 11/1 & 3/1 by low cost RCC Bridge	21.07	450.00	98%	440.00
5.	Improvement of unmetalled Michajan Road	3.70	122.50	98%	122.50
6.	Imp. of Silchar Kubhigram Road for Silchar Road	24.00	183.45	100%	183.45
7.	Improvement of unmetalled Khumatai Ali Road	7.25	242.91	98%	235.00
8.	Imp. of M&B of Palashari Laharghat Rajapara PWD Road	10.00	350.00	99%	345.00
9.	Imp. of Met Tinsukia Gellapukhuri Road (Town Portion) in Tinsukia Road Sub-Divn. under Tinsukia Road	3.00	50.00	100%	50.00
10.	Garali Tiniali to Chakimukh Nabodoi Asalabari Harkikoar Road	6.00	67.00	100%	67.00

1	2	3	4	5	6
11.	Khanamukh via Jamuguri Tamulichiga Road and Majgaon Bhitoreal Road	4.00	101.00	96%	95.00
12.	Conversion of flood effected S.B.G. road to State road standard	10.00	460.00	85%	380.00
13.	Imp. of Silchar Hailakandi Road	20.00	277.00	95%	260.00
14.	Imp. of Daloo-Massimpur Road	2.00	54.00	100%	54.00
15.	Imp. of Tihu Bongaon Road, Barpeta	3.00	100.00	99%	95.00
Total		142.03	3377.62		3246.71
C. 2003-04					
1.	Impt. of Nahar Ali under ACA for 2001-2002 in Charaideo Rd. Division	17.00	201.66	99%	196.00
2.	Met. & Bt. of Borka Bomizera road (Ch. 0.0 n to 4000.00 m)	4.00	101.57	100%	108.50
3.	Impt. of Barbaruakhat Rd. from Dhodar Ali under ACA for 2001-02 in Charaideo Rd. Divn.	8.93	101.58	99%	96.00
4.	Improvement of U/M Moran Saleguri Road	4.23	108.07	100%	108.07
5.	Imp. of U/M Chyang Ali (North) in Dibrugarh Rd. Divn.	7.66	188.19	25%	45.00
6.	Imp. of Metd. Joypur Rd. under Dibrugarh Rd.	7.00	220.14	0%	0.00
7.	Impt. of Borkhat Bomi road for 2001-02 under from 5 th km. to 15 th km. under Guwahati road division	11.00	98.16	100%	98.16
8.	M & Bt of Bagta Simalutal Bhome Akadi Road for 2001-2002 under Guwahati Road Division	4.41	98.12	100%	98.12
9.	Impt. of Mahatma Gandhi Rd. under Guwahati City Division-I for 2001-2002	2.63	148.18	100%	148.18
10.	Impt. of Charali Ramgaon Nagrijuli road by strengthening from 1st to 19th in Rangia Road Division	20.00	190.55	100%	190.55
Total		86.85	1456.22		1088.58
Grand Total		253.88	5239.30		4736.87

**Brahma Committee Recommendations for
Restructuring CSS/CSCS**

922. SHRIMATI P. SATHEEDEV: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has accepted the recommendation of the Brahma Committee regarding restructuring of the Central Secretariat Services/Central Secretariat Clerical Services (CSS/CSCS);

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of other recommendations implemented by the Government?

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

(a) to (c) The recommendations contained in the Report of the Committee on Cadre Restructuring of the Central Secretariat Service (CSS) have been duly considered and several decisions taken by the Government in October, 2003. The highlights of the Government decisions on Cadre Restructuring of CSS are enclosed in statement I. Most of the decisions have already been implemented. Details of order issued in this regard are enclosed in statement-II.

Statement I

- (i) Creation of a new Senior Selection Grade (Rs. 14300-18300) to be designated as Director, and fixing the cadre strength of Directors in the CSS at 110.
- (ii) Fixing the cadre strength of Deputy Secretaries and Under Secretaries in the CSS at 330 and 1400 respectively.
- (iii) Consequent amendment of the Central Staffing Scheme Rules such that posts of Director, Deputy Secretary and Under Secretary are no longer available to the CSS officers under the Central staffing Scheme;
- (iv) Modification of the Central Staffing Scheme to change the eligibility criteria for the CSS officers

for the posts of Joint Secretary and Additional Secretary, to bring these in line with the eligibility conditions for other services;

- (v) Fixing the Cadre strength of Section Officers (SO) in the CSS at 3000.
- (vi) To provide non-functional scale of Rs. 8000-13500 to the SOs, prospectively;
- (vii) To discontinue the Direct recruitment to the post of SO;
- (viii) To change the mode of recruitment for the post of SO by way of 50% through Limited Departmental Competitive Examination (LDCE) and 50% by seniority;
- (ix) To discontinue the Scheme of *in situ* upgradation of posts in the CSS;
- (x) To change the mode of recruitment for the post of Assistant by way of 75% through direct recruitment of graduates possessing Computer proficiency, 15% by promotion of UDCs and 10% through LDCE for UDCs. As a one time exception, resultant vacancies of Assistants arising from the cadre restructuring of CSs will be filled up from UDCs by way of 50% through LDCE and 50% by seniority;
- (xi) To provide inter cadre transferability at the level of SO and Assistant;
- (xii) To centralize the cadre management, including postings of the CSS personnel in the CS Division of DOPT;
- (xiii) To discontinue direct recruitment to the post of LDC;
- (xiv) To abolish vacant posts of LDC which are filled up through direct recruitment;
- (xv) To change mode of recruitment for the post of LDC by way of 70% by promotion of Group 'D' staff and 30% through LDCE;
- (xvi) To defer, for the present, a decision regarding the lateral entry of CSSS officers;
- (xvii) To undertake the cadre review of CSS after three years to remove distortions, if any, due to downsizing of the Government.

Statement II

Sl. No.	Order No. & Date	Subject	Government's decisions on Cadre Restructuring of CSS, covered under the order
1.	No. 21/37/03- CS.I dated 28 th October, 2003	Cadre Restructure of Central Secretariat Service (CSS).	(i) Creation of a new Senior Selection Grade (Rs. 14300-18300) to be designated as Director, and fixing the cadre strength of Directors in the CSS at 110. (ii) Fixing the cadre strength of Deputy Secretaries and Under Secretaries in the CSS at 330 and 1400 respectively. (iii) To discontinue the Scheme of in situ upgradation of posts in the CSS. (iv) Fixing the Cadre strength of Section Officers (SO) in the CSS at 3000. (v) To undertake the cadre review of CSS after three years to remove distortions, if any, due to downsizing of the Government.
2.	No. 21/39/03- CS.I dated 28 th October, 2003	Change in mode of recruitment in the Section Officer's (SO) Grade of Central Secretariat Service (CSS).	(i) To discontinue the Direct recruitment to the grade of Section Officer (SO). (ii) To change the mode of recruitment for the post of SO by way of 50% through Limited Departmental Competitive Examination (LDCE) and 50% by seniority.
3.	No. 21/36/03- CS.I dated 13 th November, 2003	Introduction of Non Functional scale of Rs. 8000-275-13500 to Section Officers of Central Secretariat Service (CSS).	To provide non-functional scale of Rs. 8000-13500/- to the SOs of CSS, prospectively.
4.	No. 21/42/2003- CS.I dated 6 th January, 2004	Change in the mode of appointment/recruitment in the Assistant Grade of Central Secretariat Service (CSS)	To change the mode of recruitment for the post of Assistant by way of 75% through direct recruitment of graduates possessing Computer proficiency, 15% by promotion of UDCs and 10% through LDCE for UDCs. As a one time exception, resultant vacancies of Assistants arising from the cadre restructuring of CSS will be filled up from UDCs by way of 50% through LDCE and 50% by seniority.

It may be stated that in order to meet the immediate aspirations of the CSS personnel, *ad hoc* promotions have also been made in various grades of CSS.

[*Translation*]

Vacant Posts in Govt. Hospitals

923. SHRI BHUPENDRASINH SOLANKI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Central Government hospitals in the country at present, State-wise;

(b) whether it is a fact that the posts of Specialists and Doctors in some hospitals are lying vacant;

(c) if so, the details therefore;

(d) the number of hospitals attached to medical colleges?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (d) The details of the major Central Government Hospitals, State-wise in the country as under:

1. Delhi: All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Safdarjung Hospital, Dr. R.M.L. Hospital, Lady Harding Medical College & Associated Hospitals.
2. Pondicherry (UT): Jawaharlal Institute of Post Graduate Medical Education and Research (JIPMER), Pondicherry.
3. Jharkhand : Central Institute of Psychiatry, (CIP) Ranchi.

4. Chandigarh (UT): Post Graduate Institute of Medical Sciences.

5. Karnataka: National Institute of Mental Health and Neuro Sciences (NIMHANS) Bangalore.

Due to the instructions of Government, the Department of Personnel and Training vide their O.M. no. 2/8/2001-PIC dated 16.5.2001, prescribing a limit that the 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 posts. Now, the Government has decided to exempt the posts of specialists, doctors and other technical posts from the purview of the said instructions. Action has been initiated for filling up the vacant posts of specialists and other doctors.

(English)

Computerisation of Post Offices

924. SHRI MUNAWAR HASSAN:
SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY:
SHRI VIKRAMBHAI ARJANBHAI MADAM:

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

(a) the number of posts offices where computers have been installed and registration through computers started during each of the last three years in Uttar Pradesh, Karnataka and Gujarat;

(b) the name of the computerised post offices, district-wise, State-wise, location-wise; and

(c) the number of post offices proposed to be computerised during the current financial year in these States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) The number of Post Offices where computers have been installed and registration through computers has been started during the last 3 years *i.e.* 2001-02, 2002-03 & 2003-04 in U.P., Karnataka and Gujarat are indicated below:

Sl.No.	State	No. of Post Offices		
		2001-02	2002-03	2003-04
1.	U.P.	16	NII	NII
2.	Karnataka	09	NII	NII
3.	Gujarat	07	Nil	NII

(b) The names of computerized Post Offices, District-wise, location-wise for all the three states of U.P., Karnataka and Gujarat are given in the enclosed statement.

(c) The number of post offices that are proposed to be computerised during the current financial year *i.e.* 2004-05 in U.P., Karnataka and Gujarat are indicated below:

Sl.No.	State	No. of Post Offices
1.	U.P.	98
2.	Karnataka	99
3.	Guajrat	124

Statement

*Names of the Computerised Post Offices
(District-wise, State-wise & Location-wise)*

Sl.No.	Name/Location of Post Office	District
1	2	3
1.	UTTAR PRADESH	
1.	Alligarh HO	Alligarh
2.	Jhansi HO	Jhansi
3.	Meerut Cantt. HO	Meerut
4.	Azamgarh HO	Azamgarh
5.	Ballia HO	Ballia
6.	Deoria HO	Deoria
7.	Gonda HO	Gonda
8.	Kanpur Cantt. HO	Kanpur

1	2	3
9.	Kanpur HO	Kanpur
10.	Faizabad HO	Faizabad
11.	Lucknow Chowk HO	Lucknow
12.	Allahabad HO	Allahabad
13.	Bareilly HO	Bareilly
14.	Ghaziabad HO	Ghaziabad
15.	Lucknow GPO	Lucknow GPO
16.	Saharanpur HO	Saharanpur
II.	KARNATAKA	
1.	Rajajinagar HO	Bangalore
2.	Belgaum HO	Belgaon
3.	Bijapur HO	Bijapur
4.	Gulbarga HO	Gulbarga
5.	Karwar HO	Uttar Kannada
6.	Raichur HO	Raichur
7.	Channapatna HO	Bangalore (Rural)
8.	Devangere HO	Devangere
9.	Mandya HO	Mandya
III.	GUJARAT	
1.	Ravdibazar HO	Ahmedabad City
2.	Nadlad HO	Kheda
3.	Surat HO	Surat
4.	Baruch HO	Baruch
5.	Palanpur HO	Banaskantha
6.	Patan HO	Patan
7.	Porbandar HO	Porbandar

Toll Fee Collected on NH-1

925. SHRIMATI PRENEET KAUR: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount collected from the toll by National Highways Authority on NH-1, year-wise during each of the last three years;

(b) the specific purpose for which the toll fee is collected;

(c) whether the toll fee has been imposed for a limited period;

(d) if so, the time frame decided for the said purpose;

(e) whether the Government has noticed any violation of rule 3(2) of National Highways (Rate of fee) Rules, 1997 regarding charging toll fee on NH-1; and

(f) if so, the corrective measures taken/proposed to be taken in this regard alongwith the action proposed to be taken against the erring officials?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) The amount of toll collected on Panipat—Jalandhar Section of NH-1 by NHAI during the last three years are as under:

2001-02	Rs. Nil
2002-03	Rs. 70.51 crores
2003-04	Rs. 89.58 crores
2004-05 (upto Jan'2005)	Rs. 81.24 crores

(b) The toll fee recovered is used for the purpose of meeting expenditure on maintenance and provision of user services [like ambulances, patrol vehicles, etc.] on the sections of highways and for meeting 20% of debt service obligation in respect of debts from multilateral agencies.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

Human Trial of HIV Vaccines

926. SHRI P.K. VASUDEVAN NAIR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has allowed human trial of a US-made HIV vaccine in India;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether the Indian Scientist at the National Institute of Cholera and Enteric Diseases (NICED) in Kolkata had developed a HIV Vaccine in the year 2003 but its human trial has not been allowed yet;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

Phase I vaccine trial was launched at National Institute of Research (NARI) Pune, on 7th February, 2005.

The vaccine undergoing the clinical trial is called Adeno-Associated Virus (AAV) vaccine. The trial has been undertaken as a joint programme of partnership between the National AIDS Control Organisation (NACO) and the Indian Council for Medical Research (ICMR) and International AIDS Vaccine Initiative (IAVI). The vaccine is based on HIV-1, Subtype C, the most common variant of the virus found in India. The vaccine has been manufactured by Targeted Genetics Corporation, Seattle, USA.

(c) and (d) A Scientist working at the Indian Council for Medical Research (ICMR) National Institute of Cholera and Enteric Diseases (NICED), Kolkata has in collaboration with scientists in USA developed a prototype HIV-C vaccine. The prototype vaccine is not ready for human trial as necessary approval from Government's regulatory authorities are being obtained.

It is planned to initiate Phase I trial of this candidate vaccine at one of the ICMR's institute *i.e.* Tuberculosis Research Center (TRC) at Chennai. Capacity building activities have already been initiated at this site. It should be fully operational by mid-2005.

(e) Question does not arise.

Funds for Heart Patients

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

(a) whether the funds released by the Government to heart patients living below the poverty line amount to a maximum of rupees Thirty thousand;

(b) if so, whether the cost of a heart operation these days is over Rs. one Lakh; and

(c) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken to increase the amount?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) Under the Rashtriya Arogya Nidhi scheme there is no upper limit for giving financial assistance to patients living below the poverty line who are suffering from various life-threatening diseases, including heart ailments. The cost of procedures for the treatment of heart diseases depends on the nature of the heart ailment. The question of increasing the limit of financial assistance in such cases, therefore, does not arise.

[Translation]

Projects under Implementation

928. SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA:
DR. CHINTA MOHAN:

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

(a) whether nearly 315 projects at an estimated cost of rupees 100 crore are under implementation in the country;

(b) if not, the number thereof till December, 2004;

(c) whether the Government has put these projects under three categories;

(d) if so, the basis therefor;

(e) the number of projects put under each category alongwith the amount already incurred on each such project, category-wise; and

(f) the estimated cost of each project, category-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) and (b) As on

December 2004, there are 327 projects costing more than Rs. 100 crore each which are under implementation in the country;

(c) and (d) There are two categories of projects, namely major projects costing between Rs. 100 crore to Rs. 1000 crore and mega projects costing Rs. 1000 crore and above. These are being monitored on a monthly basis through the Flash Report system.

(e) There are 46 mega, and 281 major projects. The expenditure incurred under each category is as under:

Category	No. of Projects	Expenditure incurred as on 31.12.2004 (Rs. in crore)
Major	281	36297.3
Mega	46	60814.91
Total	327	97112.21

(f) The estimated cost of projects in each category under implementation is given below:

Category	No. of Projects	Original Cost (Rs. crore)	Anticipated Cost (Rs. crore)	Cumulative Expenditure (Rs. crore)
Mega	46	134112.16	159829.16	60814.91
Major	281	75876.52	87247.53	36297.30
Total	327	209988.68	247076.69	97112.21

[English]

High Security Number Plates

929. KUNWAR JITIN PRASADA:
SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH:
SHRI S.D. MANDLIK:

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

(a) whether the Government pushed back the implementation date of high security number plates in new automobiles;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Government has taken steps for procuring the high security number plates;

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

(f) the main features of high security number plates?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (c) The date of implementation

of High Security Number Plates has been shifted from 1st January, 2005 to 31st May, 2005 or any earlier date as may be specified by a State Govt. for that said State. This has been done on requests made by a number of States who wanted more time to complete the process regarding selection of vendors to undertake the job.

(d) and (e) The new Number Plates are not to be procured by Central Government. These Plates are to be supplied in a State by vendor(s) who is authorised by the particular State Govt.

(f) The main features of the Plates are as under:

(i) Chromium hologram which is not easily replicable.

(ii) A Retro-reflective film, bearing a verification inscription 'India' at 45 degree inclination, which cannot be easily replicated.

(iii) Laser Numbering, which is unique in nature containing alpha-numeric identification of both Testing Agencies and the manufacturers.

(iv) The registration numbers to be embossed on the plates making it difficult to be replicated.

- (v) In case of rear registration plate, same is to be fitted with a non-reusable snap lock to make it tamper proof.
- (vi) A Chromium based third registration plate in form of sticker is to be attached to the wind shield, wherein the number of engine and chassis are indicated alongwith the name of registering authority. If tampered with, itself destructs.
- (vii) In front and rear registration plates, letter IND in blue color is hot stamped.
- (viii) Letters 'IND' in blue colour on extreme left centre of the plates.

New National Highways In Backward and Tribal Areas of Assam

930. SHRI SANSUMA KHUNGGUR BWISMUTHIARY: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has contemplated to sanction and construct some new National Highways in the backward and tribal areas of Assam to improve the road connectivity within the areas in question and also to improve the riding quality and standard of the existing national Highway *e.g.* NH 31 (C), NH 31, NH 52 and NH 37 etc.;

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

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Government have contemplated to provide adequate amount of Central Fund from the Non-Lapsable Central Pool Resources to renovate existing link roads connecting Indo-Bhutan borders on the northern bank of the river Brahmaputra;

(e) if so, the steps taken so far in this regard;

(f) if not, the reasons therefor;

(g) whether the Government has given the required amount of Central Fund regularly to the State Government of Assam over the past 5 years for the improvement and maintenance of all the National Highways existing within the State;

(h) if so, the amount given so far, year-wise; and

(i) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (c) At present, due to paucity of funds, there is no proposal for the declaration of new National Highways (NHs) including those in the backward and tribal areas of Assam. Out of about 2029 kms. of NHs in Assam with State Government and the Border Roads Organization (BRO), about 1400 kms. have already been improved or are being improved. The remaining length requiring improvement is likely to be covered in the next one to two years depending on the availability of funds. A length of 731 kms. of NHs in Assam is included for four-laning under East-West corridor, which is targeted for completion by 2007. In addition, double-laning of all single-lane stretches of NHs is included in the "Special Accelerated Road Development Programme in the North Eastern Region" prepared by this Ministry. This programme is under finalization.

(d) to (f) There is no specific proposal to renovate the existing link roads connecting Indo-Bhutan borders on the northern bank of the river Brahmaputra from the funding under Non-Lapsable Central Pool Resources.

(g) to (i) Yes, Sir. The details are as under:

Year	Improvement works under Plan Head (5054)	Maintenance Works under Non-plan Head (3054)
1999-00	Rs. 6496.32 lakhs	Rs. 3677.46 lakhs
2000-01	Rs. 7954.00 lakhs	Rs 3131.03 lakhs
2001-02	Rs. 14262.19 lakhs	Rs. 4284.97 lakhs
2002-03	Rs. 15737.00 lakhs	Rs. 6025.00 lakhs
2003-04	Rs. 17985.00 lakhs	Rs. 5953.00 lakhs

New Biotech Policy

931. SHRI RAVICHANDRAN SIPPIPARAI: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has formulated a "New Biotechnology Policy";

(b) if so, the salient features of the policy; and

(c) if not, the time frame by which the new policy is likely to be formulated?

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) The Department of Biotechnology is preparing the Biotechnology Development Strategy, a comprehensive road map for addressing cross-cutting issues related to human resource development, infrastructure strengthening, promotions of industry and trade, setting up of biotech parks, regulatory mechanism and public awareness, and an action plan for specific sub-sectors. The strategic action plan will direct the future priorities and activities in different sectors of biotechnology. The draft document is ready and is at present being discussed with experts before finalisation. A public announcement would be made shortly.

Research In Pharma Sector

932. SHRI ARJUN SETHI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the discussions the Pharma scientists had at the Indian Science Congress held on January 5, 2005 at New Delhi;

(b) whether most of the participating delegates have recommended that the India is quite capable of leading the research in Pharma sector;

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

(d) 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) to (d) The Indian Science Congress held at Ahmedabad between 3rd-7th January, 2005 discussed topics related to Pharmaceuticals and Biotechnology. The discussions of pharma scientists in one of the plenary sessions was titled, "Could India be a global pharmaceutical giant". The discussions of eminent scientists from both public and private sectors emphasized the role and importance of R&D in the growth of pharmaceutical sector.

Most of the scientists attending the session felt that India with its enormous scientific knowledge base and growing industry could provide leadership in the pharmaceutical sector.

Efforts are on in the country to develop drugs by using synthetic, herbal and biotechnology modes and taking them through pre-clinical and clinical trials to enable these to reach the market at the earliest to benefit the suffering humanity.

Stopping Medicines Supply to CGHS Dispensaries

933. SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPAN:
SHRI REWATI RAMAN SINGH:
SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA:

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

(a) whether the Government is aware that authorised chemists in Delhi have stopped supply of medicines to CGHS during the month of February, 2005 compelling the beneficiaries to purchase medicines and asks for reimbursement later;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reasons for not resolving the matter with them;

(d) the number of times medicines suppliers of CGHS dispensaries gone on strike or stopped supplying medicines to these dispensaries in the last two years;

(e) whether the pensioners had to purchase medicines on their own, dispensary-wise;

(f) if so, the number of medicine bills received by CGHS dispensaries during each strike;

(g) the number of bills not reimbursed as yet and the reasons therefor;

(h) whether the concerned Parliamentary Standing Committee have made any recommendation or observation in this regard in the last years; and

(i) if so, the reasons for not taking any action in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) 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 reason 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 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. During the period of stoppage of medicines by the Authorised Local Chemists, the CMO in-charges of the CGHS dispensaries were directed to allow 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 of the pensioner cardholders.

(d) Authorised local chemists of CGHS had gone on strike on four occasions in the last two years during the period:

- (i) 1.11.2002 to 15.1.2003
- (ii) 1.3.2003 to 5.3.2003
- (iii) 8.3.2004 to 4.4.2004
- (iv) 17.2.2005 to 28.2.2005

(e) to (g) Yes, Sir. The Zone-wise information of medicine bills received by dispensaries under CGHS Delhi during the period when the Authorised local chemists were on strike are as under:

Year	Zone	No. of disp.	No. of bills
2003	Central Zone	20	527
2003	South Zone	29	7578
2003	North/East Zones	37	64172
2004	Central Zone	20	9454
2004	South Zone	29	14726
2004	North/East Zones	37	31409

All the above bills have been cleared by CGHS Delhi.

(h) and (i) Yes, Sir. In para 3.7 of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on HRD's 135th Report on the Demands for Grants 2003-2004 of the Department of Health, the Committee had observed that reimbursement of medical expenses incurred by the CGHS beneficiaries by their concerned office during the currency of the chemist's strike was an unprecedented situation and with their limited manpower, such offices were not geared up for disposing of ever increasing reimbursement cases expeditiously thus resulting in lot of inconvenience to the beneficiaries. The Committee also failed to understand as to why the Department didn't sort out the matter in the month of January 2002 itself when the chemists went on strike for the first time. The Committee felt that had the matter been settled early, the amount of sufferings that the CGHS employees underwent could have been easily avoided.

In this connection, it is stated that the bills of Authorised local chemists in respect of serving beneficiaries received up to 14th September, 2004 and the bills in respect of pensioner beneficiaries received upto 10th January, 2005 for pensioners have already been cleared by CGHS Delhi.

Development of Coir Industry

934. DR. K.S. MANOJ: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Kerala has submitted any proposal for the development of the traditional coir industry;

(b) if so, the details of the proposal for Coir Cluster Development Project;

(c) whether the Government has any proposal for the strengthening of Coir Cooperative Societies; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHAVIR PRASAD): (a) The Alappuzha Coir Cluster Development Project (ACCDP) was submitted jointly by the Coir Board of the Central Government, the Kerala State Coir Corporation, Kerala State Coir Marketing Federation and Foam Mattings India Limited to the Government of India in the Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion, Ministry of Commerce & Industry.

(b) The Government of India has approved the project with an outlay of Rs. 56.8 crore under the Industrial Infrastructure Upgradation Scheme (IIUS), with Central Grant of 75 per cent of the total outlay, *i.e.*, Rs. 42.6 crore. The project includes creation of infrastructure facilities to modernize the spinning sector by introducing motorized traditional ratts, setting up of Common Facility Centres for the benefit of small scale manufacturers in the wet processing and finishing operations of the coir products, setting up of Common Effluent Treatment Plants for the exporters to treat the effluents arising out of the wet processing of coir in their units in the Alappuzha cluster, etc.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The ACCDP includes upgradation and modernization of 29 cooperative units established by the Government of Kerala under the Integrated Coir Development Project (ICDP) at an estimated expenditure of Rs. 1.45 crore. The ACCDP also included distribution of motorized traditional ratts to 7000 women spinners through primary coir cooperatives, self-help groups, etc., working in the Alappuzha cluster at an estimated expenditure of Rs. 12.45 crore.

Crimes and Accidents on N.H.

935. SHRI G.M. SIDDESWARA:
SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that crimes and accidents on National Highways and Expressways have increased in the past few months in the country, especially in Karnataka;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether in the absence of basic facilities at National Highways and Expressways, the crime rate has increased;

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

(e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Union Government to ensure safe journey on the National Highways and Expressways?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) Incidents of crime on National Highways and Expressways are not reported to the Central Government by the State Governments/Union Territories. However, accident data compiled by the States/Union Territories are forwarded annually to the Government of India, which shows an increasing trend including Karnataka.

(c) to (e) There could be a number of reasons for crimes on National Highways and Expressways and these may not be directly correlated with the basic facilities there. However, the Government has taken a number of steps to ensure safe journey on National Highways and Expressways, some of which are as under:

- (i) Providing of ambulances, cranes, etc. to State Government and Non-Government Organisations under National Highway Accident Relief Service Scheme and highway patrolling;
- (ii) Widening of existing pavement;
- (iii) Strengthening of existing pavement;
- (iv) Improvement of road geometrics;
- (v) Augmentation of retro-reflective signages, thermo-plastic road markings;
- (vi) Funding of training to drivers of heavy motor vehicles; and
- (vii) Tightening of fitness norms for transport vehicles.

Sea Corridor in Mumbai

936. SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal for a 22 km. sea corridor in Mumbai to connect the Western Free Sea Link, from Bandra to Worli, Worli to Nariman Point and Cuffee Parade and a harbour link to connect Mumbai with Navi Mumbai;

(b) if so, the details and the estimated cost thereof; and

(c) the response of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Two proposals viz. Mumbai-Trans Harbour Link for Rs. 4000 Crores and Western Freeway Sea Link Project for Rs. 3960 Crores have been received from Maharashtra State Road Development Corporation (MSRDC) through the Prime Minister's Office. In these two proposals MSRDC has requested for grant of Rs. 1600 Crores and Rs. 790 Crores respectively from the Central Government. There is no provision with this Department for financial assistance to these projects.

Traffic Jam on N.H. in UP

937. SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of the traffic jam occurring every day at the Maniram Railway Crossing on Gorakhpur-Sonauli National Highway leading to Nepal;

(b) if so, whether the Government proposes to build an overbridge at the Maniram Railway Crossing;

(c) if so, the time by which it is proposed to be completed; and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The work for preparation of Detailed Project Report (DPR) for

rehabilitation and upgradation to 2-lane of Gorakhpur-Sonauli section of NH-29 is in progress. The scope of DPR work also includes the study of feasibility to construct an over-bridge at the Maniram Railway Crossing on Gorakhpur-Sonauli road.

(c) and (d) It is too early to indicate the time for completion of above over-bridge.

[Translation]

Allocation of Funds under CRF

938. SHRI DEVIDAS PINGLE:
SHRI CHANDRABHAN SINGH:
SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN:

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

(a) the State-wise details of the allocations made under the Central Road Fund in the country during 2004-2005;

(b) the criteria fixed for allocation of funds to the States;

(c) the State-wise number of proposals received from various States for approval under the Central Road Fund by the Union Government during 2004-2005; and

(d) the time by which the Union Government is likely to clear these proposals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) The details are given in the enclosed statement-I.

(b) On receipt of the total allocation for the year from the Ministry of Finance under Central Road Fund (CRF), State-wise allocation is decided on the basis of 60% fuel consumption and 40% of geographical area of the State.

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

(d) The sanctions of proposals under CRF are accorded against the utilization certificate received from State Governments ~~vis-à-vis~~ accruals under CRF. Sanction of CRF works is a continuous process and it depends upon the pace at which utilization certificates are furnished by the concerned State Governments.

Statement I

*State-wise allocation of funds under CRF
for the year 2004-2005*

(Rs. in Crore)

SI.No.	Name of States/UTs	Allocation of funds under CRF
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	74.70
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	9.25
3.	Assam	13.57
4.	Bihar	21.91
5.	Chhattisgarh	20.28
6.	Goa	4.02
7.	Gujarat	55.21
8.	Haryana	32.09
9.	Himachal Pradesh	9.75
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	27.43
11.	Jharkhand	17.44
12.	Karnataka	52.76
13.	Kerala	25.20
14.	Madhya Pradesh	52.01
15.	Maharashtra	91.60
16.	Manipur	3.06
17.	Meghalaya	3.96
18.	Mizoram	2.55
19.	Nagaland	2.13
20.	Orissa	27.27
21.	Punjab	37.36
22.	Rajasthan	67.87
23.	Sikkim	1.06
24.	Tamil Nadu	57.98

1	2	3
25.	Tripura	1.74
26.	Uttar Pradesh	80.61
27.	Uttaranchal	10.13
28.	West Bengal	32.59
29.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	1.69
30.	Chandigarh	2.04
31.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0.99
32.	Daman and Diu	0.70
33.	Delhi	24.98
34.	Lakshadweep	0.05
35.	Pondicherry	2.02

Statement II

*State-wise proposals received under CRF during
the year 2004-2005*

SI.No.	Name of States/UTs	Number of proposals received
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	57
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	3
3.	Assam	11
4.	Bihar	0
5.	Chhattisgarh	2
6.	Goa	0
7.	Gujarat	43
8.	Haryana	13
9.	Himachal Pradesh	1
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	37
11.	Jharkhand	0
12.	Karnataka	464

1	2	3
13.	Kerala	20
14.	Madhya Pradesh	9
15.	Maharashtra	42
16.	Manipur	2
17.	Meghalaya	1
18.	Mizoram	0
19.	Nagaland	3
20.	Orissa	35
21.	Punjab	38
22.	Rajasthan	112
23.	Sikkim	1
24.	Tamil Nadu	107
25.	Tripura	0
26.	Uttar Pradesh	42
27.	Uttaranchal	5
28.	West Bengal	4
29.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0
30.	Chandigarh	2
31.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0
32.	Daman and Diu	0
33.	Delhi	1
34.	Lakshadweep	0
35.	Pondicherry	1

[English]

Illegal Telephone Exchanges

939. SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether some unscrupulous people are running parallel telephone exchanges throughout the country causing huge loss of revenue to the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the guilty has been brought to book in these cases;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) As soon as any such illegal setup comes to light, immediate action is taken against the illegal operator.

(b) 257 cases till date have come to the notice of DOT and notional loss of more than 400 crores have occurred due to these illegal setups, to the nation.

Year-wise breakup of case as below:

1998-1999	—	09
1999-2000	—	10
2000-2001	—	29
2001-2002	—	56
2002-2003	—	46
2003-2004	—	32
2004 till date	—	75

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) More than 150 persons have been arrested till date in such illegal grey market cases.

(e) FIR is registered with the law enforcing agencies, under various sections (main), as mentioned below in addition to any new sections as applicable based on case to case basis.

- 420, 120B & 379 of IPC 1860
- 4, 20, 20(A), 25 of the IT Act 1885
- 3, 6 of the IWT At 1933

Preventive action taken by Government

- All the High Tech Equipment used in the illegal setup is seized by the security agency.

- Surveillance has been increased to detect the frauds by inspecting bulk booking of telephones and monitoring the calls traffic.
- Department of Telecom has issued Instructions/Guidelines to all service providers for effective monitoring, detection and prevention of such illegal set ups/fraud.
- Training and presentations are being given to the Senior Telecom Officers for better awareness regarding effective detection and prevention of such illegal setups.
- A close coordination between the service providers and investigating agencies is maintained to book the offenders.
- Dedicated CBI cells have been setup in four metros for exclusively detecting and checking telecom related frauds.
- The loss caused in such cases is also raised for recovery from the negligent service providers.
- Vigilance and Telecom Monitoring Cell created in October 2004, in four places namely Delhi, Mumbai, Hyderabad and Chennai for curbing such grey market operations.
- Toll free number 1600-110-420 and 011-23731100 have been opened so that general public can help in detection such cases. Advertisement given in leading newspapers for creating awareness among public.

**Free Medical Facilities and Drugs in
HIV/AIDS Patients**

940. SHRI JASHUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government provides free medical facilities and drugs to HIV/AIDS patients in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of financial assistance granted/released during each of the last three years, State-wise;

(d) whether Japan and America have offered assistance for the AIDS treatment;

(e) if so, the time by which the assistance is likely to be received;

(f) whether some of the State Governments have misused the financial assistance provided by the World Bank for the AIDS control programme;

(g) if so, whether any inquiry has been conducted in this regard; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

The Union Government initiated free ARV drugs in 8 centers w.e.f. 1st April, 2004. Additional 8 centers were sanctioned for providing ART from September, 2004 and additional 9 centers were sanctioned for providing free ART from January, 2005. Report received from 21 centers indicate that a total of 4285 AIDS cases are currently getting free ART from these centers.

(c) A statement regarding grants released to States/UTs during the last three is enclosed.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

(f) No, Sir. No such matter has been reported to NACO.

(g) and (h) Do not arise.

Statement

*National AIDS Control Project—Phase II
Release of Funds*

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl.No.	State/UT	Release during 2001-02	Release during 2002-03	Release during 2003-04
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	850.00	1290.00	1075.00
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	214.88	130.50	150.00

1	2	3	4	5
3.	Assam	653.80	614.50	475.00
4.	Bihar	809.50	600.50	700.00
5.	Goa	99.00	170.50	200.00
6.	Gujarat	450.00	136.00	550.00
7.	Haryana	266.00	315.00	300.00
8.	Himachal Pradesh	308.50	236.50	250.00
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	244.50	295.50	150.00
10.	Karnataka	785.15	975.00	950.00
11.	Kerala	368.00	470.00	450.00
12.	Madhya Pradesh	780.50	521.50	490.00
13.	Maharashtra	550.00	1025.50	1000.00
14.	Manipur	708.15	787.50	1100.00
15.	Meghalaya	224.93	90.50	50.00
16.	Mizoram	246.70	311.50	450.00
17.	Nagaland	635.50	626.50	675.00
18.	Orissa	200.00	148.00	300.00
19.	Punjab	266.50	403.50	250.00
20.	Rajasthan	317.50	358.50	250.00
21.	Sikkim	120.02	64.00	75.00
22.	Tamil Nadu	1393.50	1295.50	1150.00
23.	Tripura	196.67	71.00	75.00
24.	Uttar Pradesh	1465.65	1674.50	700.00
25.	West Bengal	1059.50	1503.00	1200.00
26.	Delhi	334.00	431.00	500.00
27.	Pondicherry	54.00	74.00	100.00
28.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	95.50	89.50	100.00
29.	Chandigarh	152.65	156.50	225.00
30.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	26.00	17.00	67.00
31.	Daman & Diu	31.00	36.00	100.00
32.	Lakshadweep	29.50	25.50	50.00

1	2	3	4	5
33.	MDACS	585.65	603.00	520.00
34.	Ahmedabad MC	58.30	129.55	150.00
35.	Chennai MC	62.45	186.45	300.00
36.	Uttaranchal	98.00	162.00	200.00
37.	Chhattisgarh	129.50	243.50	250.00
38.	Jharkhand	156.00	193.00	200.00
Total		15027.00	16462.00	15777.00

Ban on Mobile Phones

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

(a) whether the Government is contemplating to formulate a law to ban the use of mobile phones in Hospitals and Nursing Homes;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the frequent use of mobile phones is dangerous to health;

(d) if so, whether the Government will set up an expert committee to look into the matter; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (e) According to Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), the World Health Organization (WHO) is conducting research through international agency to identify links between use of mobile phones & its ill effects. However, according to published literature of WHO & other agencies, there is no conclusive evidence of adverse health effect of use of mobile phones on human beings. At present there is no proposal to formulate a law banning the use of mobile phones in hospitals and Nursing Homes.

CSS Assistant Grade Pay Scale

942. SHRI AJAY MAKEN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 3070 on 18.8.2004 and to state:

(a) whether the DOP&T had sent a proposal to the Ministry of Finance in July-August, 2004 recommending upgradation of pay-scales of CSS Assistants to Rs. 6500-10500 for examination;

(b) if so, the details of the comments by the Ministry of Finance including the financial implication of the proposal;

(c) whether the Government has accepted the comments; and

(d) if not, the proposals to resolve the pay anomaly of the CSS Assistant vis-a-vis Central Excise and Income Tax Inspectors?

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) The matter regarding upgradation of pay scale of Assistants of Central Secretariat Services (CSS) to Rs. 6500-10500 has been examined by the Government in accordance with the laid down rules. It is the considered view of Government that the existing pay scale in the Assistant's grade is adequate. Moreover, the CSS has been restructured in October, 2003 comprehensively and the promotional prospects of various grades of CSS, including the grade of Assistant have improved.

(d) The nature of duties and responsibilities attached to the post of Assistants of Central Secretariat Service (CSS) are distinct from those of Income Tax Inspector and Inspector (Central Excise) and are, therefore, not comparable. As such, no anomaly can be stated to have been created on account of upgradation of pay scale of

the post of Income Tax Inspector and Inspector (Central Excise).

[Translation]

National Road Safety Policy

943. SHRI MAHAVIR BHAGORA:
SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY:

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

(a) whether a draft National Road Safety Policy was formulated in 1992 and no decision has been taken in this regard so far;

(b) if so, the time by when this policy is likely to be implemented keeping in view the increasing incidents of road accidents;

(c) whether there is no adequate mobile medical facility to provide relief to the victims of road accidents and no proper arrangement to set in order the damaged vehicles; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) The National Road Safety Policy drafted in 1992 was endorsed by National Road Safety Council in its meeting held on 22.12.1994.

(c) and (d) Evacuating accidents victims to the nearest medical aid centre and removal of accidental vehicles is primarily responsibility of concerned State/UT governments. However, this Ministry provides Cranes and Ambulances under National Highway Accident Relief Service Scheme to States UTs Government/Non Governmental Organisations for clearing accident sites and evacuating accidents victims to the nearest medical aid centre.

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.

[English]

Bharat Stage-III Emission Norms

944. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Tractor Manufacturers Association has been given time upto April, 2005 for the implementation of Bharat Stage-III emission norms;

(b) if so, the basis for the New Bharat Stage-III norms at such short notice; and

(c) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (c) Bharat Stage-III emission norms for tractors were notified vide notification number G.S.R. 83(E) dated 5th February, 2003. These norms were to come into force from 1st April, 2005. However, following receipt of representations from different sources including Tractor Manufacturers Association, a draft notification to extend the date of applicability of these norms to 1st October, 2005 has been issued vide notification number G.S.R. 41(E) dated 25th January, 2005, inviting suggestions/comments from all concerned within 30 days.

Suspension/Termination of Officers

945. SHRIMATI BHAVANA PUNDLIKRAO GAWALI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of IAS, IFS, IRS and IPS officers suspended or terminated on charges of corruption during the last three years;

(b) the action taken against them;

(c) the policy of the Government to prevent corruption in high places;

(d) the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government proposes to bring any changes in the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988; and

(f) 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) During the years 2002, 2003 and 2004—14 officers of IAS; 16 officers of IFS; 24 officers of IRS and 7 officers of IPS were suspended and 3 officers of IAS awarded the penalty of compulsory retirement on charges of corruption.

(b) to (f) The All India Services (Discipline and Appeal) Rules, 1969 as well as the Central Civil Services (Classification, Control and Appeal) Rules provide for suspension when departmental proceedings are pending or contemplated or when criminal cases are under investigations or trial. According to the recommendations of the Investigating Agency, cases are sent for prosecution or departmental proceedings initiated. Further action against such officers is dependent on the outcome of the trial/departmental enquiry.

The Government is fully alive to the need for corruption free administration and the fight against corruption is a continuing process. The policies on anti-corruption are modified from time to time to make them more responsive to the changing environment. The Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988, the All India Services (Discipline & Appeal) Rules, 1969 as well as the Central Civil Services (Classification, Control and Appeal) Rules are the provisions under which action is taken against officers found to be guilty of corruption. The provisions of the above mentioned Act/Rules are amended from time to time to take care of any loop-holes therein.

Short Route to Kailash-Mansarovar

946. SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to construct/ explore any short route for the Kailash Mansarovar Yatra;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the measures taken/proposed to be taken for the safety of the pilgrims?

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

(b) Government has proposed to the Chinese side on several occasions in recent years opening of an alternative route to Kailash Mansarovar through Demchok in Jammu & Kashmir or Shipki La in Himachal Pradesh. The Chinese have cited difficulty in opening these routes on the ground that it would involve travel over longer distances on their side through difficult terrain, with poor road conditions and lack of proper infrastructure for accommodation and communications.

(c) The selection of *yatris* for Kailash Mansarovar Yatra is done after an elaborate medical check-up so that only those who are found physically and medically fit are allowed to undertake the Yatra. During the course of the Yatra, facilities provided by the Government to the *yatris* include free medical assistance, security and escort cover by the Indo-Tibetan Border Police till the Lipulekh Pass on the Indian side, communication links with China, and provision of satellite phone to the Liaison Officer for each batch of *yatris* for use during emergency throughout the Yatra. A Liaison Officer is attached by the Government with each batch of *yatris*, who is responsible for their general welfare.

Early Information about Tsunami

947. DR. RAJESH MISHRA:
SHRI D.V. SADANAND GOWDA:
SHRI M. APPADURAI:
SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD:
SHRI P.C. THOMAS:
SHRI RAKESH SINGH:
SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:
SHRIMATI C.S. SUJATHA:
SHRI VIJOY KRISHNA:
SHRI P. MOHAN:
SHRI MOHAN SINGH:
SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH:
SHRI S.D. MANDLIK:

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

(a) the exact time of the earthquake which hit Indonesia leading to tsunami on the coasts of India;

(b) whether Indian scientists or Government got information regarding this;

(c) if so, by what time;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether our Government or scientists apprehended the consequences of it;

(f) if so, the details thereof;

(g) whether there was negligence on the part of Government of India or its concerned departments/institutes to get the information and pass it on to public for precautionary measures; and

(h) if so, the officials and the departments responsible for it and the action taken against them?

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 exact time of the occurrence of the earthquake on 26.12.2004 is 0629 Hrs. IST.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. Information about the occurrence of the earthquake was known by 0700 Hrs. IST.

(d) Does not arise;

(e) As the phenomena of Tsunami occurrence in the Indian Ocean is not frequent, the Government/scientists could not apprehend the consequences.

(f) Does not arise.

(g) and (h) No, Sir. The earthquake monitoring systems alone are not sufficient to provide prior information about the Tsunamis. As there is no specific Tsunami Warning System in place for the Indian Ocean region, prior information was not possible.

LIC Policy for HIV Infected Women

948. SHRI TUKARAM GANGADHAR GADAKH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has launched a LIC Policy for HIV women;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether NACO has interacted with IC for evolving this policy;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) 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) No Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Labelling of Medicines

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

(a) whether the Government is aware of the fact that due to absence of strict provision for labelling of medicines in the country, the consumers are not able to get correct information about them;

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

(c) whether the Government proposes to enforce Standardised Labelling Format Obligation on the medicines available for sale in the market; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (d) No, Sir. Adequate provisions are laid down under the Drugs and Cosmetics Rules, 1945, in respect of labelling of drugs in order to ensure that the consumer gets adequate information about the source, date of manufacture/expiry, batch no, ingredients and special precautions, if any, required for a particular drug. It is mandatory for the manufacturers to comply with these provisions. In view of this, it is not considered necessary to enforce any separate labelling formation obligations in regard to the labelling of medicines.

*[English]***Health Cards to all Families**

950. PROF. CHANDER KUMAR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government proposes to issue Health Cards to all families;
- (b) if so, the time by which all the families will be covered; and
- (c) the amount required for the purpose?

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

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

*[Translation]***Co-operation between India and Canada in Health Sector**

951. SHRI RAJNARAYAN BUDHOLIA:
SHRI HARISHCHANDRA CHAVAN:

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

- (a) whether the Government is proposes to enhance co-operation in the health sector between India and Canada;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the time by which the decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) A joint statement has been signed between India and Canada during the visit of Canadian Prime Minister to India on January 17-18, 2005 to strengthen cooperation in the field of health research. The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) and Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) have also signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on 13th January, 2005 for cooperation in biomedical sciences to

strengthen mutual understanding and collaboration in medical/health research. The cooperation will focus especially on Life Style Diseases, Public Health, Disease Surveillance and any other area of mutual interest. The ICMR and CIHR shall promote direct cooperation likely to be advantageous to both organisations through exchange of scientists; exchange of scientific information, technical data, publications, documents etc.; joint research proposals/projects in mutually identified areas including research, training and the application of knowledge.

Inter-State Roads in Rajasthan

952. SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether 23 proposals of inter-state roads of Rajasthan are lying pending with the Government of India;
- (b) whether 4 estimates of inter-state roads are lying pending with the Government of India for technical approval and financial clearance;
- (c) if so, the time by which these proposals and estimates are likely to be approved by the Government of India; 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. Only 9 proposals under Inter State Road connectivity were received from Rajasthan Government for the year 2004-05 out of which 6 proposals have been selected for in principle approval keeping in view the availability of funds and inter-se-priority.

(b) to (d) Yes, Sir. Out of these four estimates of Inter State roads received, one estimate has been returned to State Government for modification as per Ministry's guidelines. Remaining three estimates have been taken for technical scrutiny.

AIDS Cases in Kashmir

953. SHRI HARISHCHANDRA CHAVAN:
SHRI ANNASAHEB M.K. PATIL:

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

(a) whether the Government is aware that the foreign terrorists are spreading AIDS in the valley of Kashmir;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

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

(d) the amount allocated for AIDS prevention by the Government during the current year, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) No Sir, Government (NACO) has not received any information that the foreign terrorists are spreading AIDS in the Valley of Kashmir.

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

- Preventive interventions for high-risk populations through targeted interventions adopting a multi-pronged strategy including peer counseling and behaviour change communication.
- Preventive interventions for the general population through programmes for blood safety, voluntary counseling and testing services, Prevention of Parent to Child Transmission (PPTCT), Information Education and Communication (IEC) & awareness building among adolescents and sensitization for the AIDS Vaccine Initiative.
- Provision of low cost care and support services by providing community care services, treatment of opportunistic infections and prevention of occupational exposure.
- Collaborative efforts to promote inter-sectoral programme activities including workplace interventions and public-private partnerships.
- Build technical and managerial capacities for programme implementation through Surveillance, Training, Monitoring and Evaluation, Technical resource groups, operational research and Programme management.

(d) A statement is enclosed.

Statement

(Rs. in Lakhs)

Sl.No.	State/UT	Release during 2004-05 (as on 1.3.05)
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	750.00
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	105.00
3.	Assam	400.00
4.	Bihar	475.00
5.	Goa	50.00
6.	Gujarat	175.00
7.	Haryana	200.00
8.	Himachal Pradesh	125.00
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	165.00
10.	Karnataka	850.00
11.	Kerala	200.00
12.	Madhya Pradesh	300.00
13.	Maharashtra	550.00
14.	Manipur	300.00
15.	Meghalaya	0.00
16.	Mizoram	100.00
17.	Nagaland	305.00
18.	Orissa	65.00
19.	Punjab	300.00
20.	Rajasthan	250.00
21.	Sikkim	125.00
22.	Tamil Nadu	1000.00
23.	Tripura	125.00
24.	Uttar Pradesh	600.00
25.	West Bengal	1025.00
26.	Delhi	450.00

1	2	3
27.	Pondichery	35.00
26.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	75.00
29.	Chandigarh	100.00
30.	Dadra and Nagar Havell	50.00
31.	Daman and Diu	50.00
32.	Lakshadweep	25.00
33.	MDACS	400.00
34.	Ahmedabad MC	50.00
35.	Chennai MC	75.00
36.	Uttaranchal	150.00
37.	Chhattisgarh	200.00
38.	Jharkhand	150.00
Total		10350.00

Improving Telecom Service In Jharkhand

954. SHRI TEK LAL MAHTO: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether any action is being taken by the Government to bring improvement in the networks of BSNL or to enlarge the network thereof in Jharkhand;

(b) if so, the number of districts of the State likely to be benefited by it; and

(c) the district-wise details of SIM Card Connection released in the State by the BSNL during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Yes, Sir. The action taken by BSNL to improve the telecom network in Jharkhand are detailed below:

(i) Fixed Line Network—At Dumka and Hazaribag New Technology exchanges have been commissioned. At Giridih, Daltonganj, Deoghar, Ramgarh and Dhanbad New Technology

exchanges are planned to be opened by June, 2005. Conversion of CDOT Rural Automatic Exchanges (RAXs) to AN RAX and CDOT SBM to RSU is being carried out progressively to provide very reliable Internet facility and seamless connectivity.

(ii) Cellular Mobile Network—BSNL has launched its Mobile Service in October, 2002 in Jharkhand State and since then BSNL has been augmenting its Mobile network continuously and action is being taken to expand the network by 3.38 lakh lines in the current year to cover all the District Head Quarters of Jharkhand.

(iii) Wireless in Local Loop (WLL) Network—103 WLL BTS (Basic Terminal Station) have been installed for providing umbrella coverage to provide scattered telephone demand in State. Capacities have been augmented in 23 WLL BTS.

Additional WLL equipment of 25000 lines has been planned for deployment during 2005 to cover all districts of Jharkhand.

(iv) Trunk Automatic Exchange (TAX), and Broadband Network—New Technology Trunk Automatic Exchange (TAX) has been installed at Dumka for better STD/ISD connectivity to Santhalpargana and work is in progress for New Technology TAX in Daltonganj.

Expansion of TAX at Jamshedpur (1000 lines), Dhanbad (2000 lines) and Ranchi (3000 lines) has been carried out during 2003-04. Additional expansion at Daltonganj (5000 lines), Hazaribagh (3000 lines) and Dumka (2000 lines) are expected by March, 2005. Further more expansion of equipped capacity at Dhanbad (5000 lines), Ranchi (8000 lines), Hazaribagh (3000 lines) and Dumka (2000 lines) are likely to be commissioned by September, 2005.

(v) Broadband services have been planned and equipment is under installation at Ranchi, Jamshedpur, Dhanbad and Bokaro.

(c) The District wise details of SIM Cards released for cellular connections in the State of Jharkhand by BSNL during the last three years are as under:

Sl.No.	Name of the District	SIM cards Released from 2002 to till date
1.	Garhwa	2209
2.	Latehar	1025
3.	Palamu	6624
4.	Deoghar	6928
5.	Dumka	5450
6.	Godda	2893
7.	Pakur	2574
8.	Jamtara	1291
9.	Sahibganj	3279
10.	Hazaribagh	13871
11.	Giridih	4911
12.	Chatra	2264
13.	Kodarama	2965
14.	Purbi Singhbhum	30249
15.	Pashchimi Singhbhum	6026
16.	Saraikela	912
17.	Dhanbad	20865
18.	Bokaro	11088
19.	Ranchi	36687
20.	Gumla	1610
21.	Lohardaga	1013
22.	Simdega	1014
Total		165748

Writing of Confidential Report

955. SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL:
SHRI BHANWAR SINGH DANGAWAS:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a tradition of writing of annual confidential report regarding the performance of the officers and staff working under the Central and the State

Governments and their Subordinate Institutions and the Offices in the country;

(b) if so, since when it is continuing and the basis thereof;

(c) whether controversies have erupted from time to time regarding justification of confidential reports;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether any qualitative and objective changes have been brought about in independent India as compared to the characteristics and nature of the administrative system prevailing in the country during the British rule;

(f) if so, the relevance of confidential report in the present context;

(g) whether there is any proposal under the consideration to amend or scrap the system of confidential report; and

(h) 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) Yes, Sir.

(b) It is being continued for a long time to assess the performance of Government servants for use as a tool for human resource development.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) and (f) Yes, Sir. It is relevant in the present context as it is aimed to meet the goal of optimising the achievement of Government policies and programmes.

(g) and (h) Yes, Sir. S. Nath Committee has recommended to replace the Annual Confidential Report by a Performance Appraisal Report to be used as a tool for career planning and training rather than a mere judgment exercise.

Cellular Service in Nagpur Zone

956. PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 981 on July, 14th 2004 and state:

(a) whether cellular service has been provided in all the areas of the city in Nagpur Zone;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) to (c) The cellular mobile service has been provided in all the District Headquarters and some of the cities in Nagpur zone. This service has been planned in large number of other cities in Nagpur zone. The details are given in the enclosed statement.

Statement**1. List of Towns of Nagpur Zone where BSNL has provided Cellular Service**

Distt. H.Q.	Other Towns covered
1	2
Nagpur	Butibori, Umred, Kalmeshwar, Katol, Ramtek, Kondhali, Bazargaon, Kanhan, Mouda, Deolapar
Bhandara	Tumsar, Sakoli
Gondia	Deoli
Gadchiroli	Desaiganj
Chandrapur	Ballapur, Mul, Khambada, Chichpalli, Bharawati
Amrawati	Achalpur, Warud, Tiwasa, Badnera
Akola Washim	Murtizapur, Balapur, Borgeon Manju
Baldhana	Khamgaon, Malkapur, Nandura
Yeotmal	Pusad, Wani, Arni, Mahegaon, Digrus, Kalamb, Padarkawada Darwa, Umerkhed, Ghatarji
Nanded	Degloor, Ardhapur, Sonkhed

1	2
Parbhani Hingoli	Sellu, Jintoor, Gangakhed, Basmat, Aunda, Waranga
Wardha	Hingaghat, Arvi, Samudrapur, Wadner, Karanja

2. List of Towns of Nagpur Zone where BSNL has planned Cellular Service during current year i.e. 2005

Distt. H.Q. covered	Towns Planned in 2005
1	2
Nagpur	Saoner, Narkhed, Kapsee, Khapardheda, Hingna City, Bhivapur, Parseoni, Kuhl, Kampte, Khapri, Ramtek
Bhandara	Pauni, Mohada, Lakhundur, Bhandara MIDC, Jawaharnagar
Gondia	Aamgaon, Tiroda, Goregaon, Arjuni Moregaon, Sadak Arjuni, Gondia MIDC, Salekasa
Gadchiroli	Chamorshi, Armori, Aheri, Sironcha, Patagudem, Dhanora, Kurkheda, Itapalli, Mulchera, Bhamragadh, Korchu
Chandrapur	Gadchandur, Rajura, Warora, Cement Nagar, Brahmapur, Chimpur, Nagbhid, Sindewahi, Godpipri, Korpana, Maujre, Sawli, Pombhurna, Jeewti
Amrawati	Dariyapur, Dhamangaon Rly, Nandgaonpur, Chandur Rly, Chikaldhara, Dharni, Batkui, Morshi, Anjangaon Surji, Chandur Bazar
Akola Washim	Akot, Patur, Telhara, Barsitakli, Karanja, Risod, Malegaon, Manora Manglurpir
Baldhana	Chikhil, Lajgaon Jamod, Mehkar, Deulgaon Raja, Lonar, Motala, Sangrampur, Sindkhed Raja
Yeotmal	Ner, Babulgaon, Ralegaon, Maregaon, Bholar, Zarizamni

1	2
Nanded	Hadgaon, Mukhed, Dharmabad, Naigaon, Billoli, Mahur, Bhokar, Loha, Kinwat, Mukhed, Himayatnagar, Umri, Delhitanda, Kandhar
Parbhani Hingoli	Manwat, Purna, Kalamnuri, Shengaoon, Palam, Patri, Sonpeth
Wardha	Wardha MIDC, Pulgaon, Seloo, Talegaon Ashti

*[English]***WHO on Measles Vaccine**

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

(a) whether the Government is aware of the news-item captioned "WHO : Measles Vaccine must for kids upto 14" as reported in the 'Times of India' dated January 11, 2005;

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

(c) whether the Government is considering to take action in this regard; and

(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 news item captioned in the newspaper "Times of India" was referring to joint statement of World Health Organization (WHO) and UNICEF on reducing measles mortality in emergencies. It urged the Government to vaccinate all children against measles from 6 month through 14 years of age. It also added that at a minimum, children from 6 months through 4 years of age must be immunized. The choice of age covered will be influenced by vaccine availability, funding, human resources and local measles epidemiology.

(c) and (d) Government had already taken action by vaccinating all children between 6 month to 5 year of age in the Tsunami affected areas irrespective of their previous immunization status. The upper limit of 5 years of the age group of children was decided by the committee after taking into consideration local measles epidemiology.

Violation of Indus Water Treaty

958. SHRI SUKHDEO PASWAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any violation of the Indus Water Treaty has come to the notice of the Government;

(b) if so, the details and the steps proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Coinbox to Mobile Connectivity at Tehsil HQs

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

(a) whether the Government is aware that coinbox to mobile connectivity is available only at District headquarters thus denying tehsil headquarters to have this facility;

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

(c) whether the Government proposes to set up national nodes at tehsil headquarters to enhance the rural connectivity;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) Sir, in Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL), the local Public Calls Office (PCO) policy has been reviewed with a view to allow termination of calls on mobile network also from Local PCOs including Coin Collection Box (CCB) PCOs with some modification in tariff and call duration. The revised policy in respect of CCB POs is planned to be implemented after making necessary modifications in the CCB instruments. In Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL), mobile phones of all operators are accessible from CCB PCOs in both MTNL, Delhi and Mumbai.

(c) to (e) In BSNL, the national nodes are by and large at State capitals. There is no need to have national nodes for rural connectivity as rural connectivity is already provided via Short Distance Charging Centre (SDCC) which is normally located at Sub Divisional headquarter/ Tehsil Headquarter/Block Headquarter.

Expansion of Fleet of SCI

960. SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH:
SHRI BADIGA RAMAKRISHNA:
SHRI SUGRIB SINGH:

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

(a) whether the Shipping Corporation of India (SCI) has not been able to expand its fleet during the last two years;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether SCI has any plan to expand its fleet during 2005-06 and also during the coming years;

(d) if so, the programme drawn up by SCI in this regard;

(e) the details of reasons behind the disinvestment of SCI; and

(f) the time required for the completion of the said process?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Yes, sir.

(d) The Shipping Corporation of India (SCI) has planned to acquire 37 vessels during the remaining period of 10th Plan.

(e) Strategic sale of SCI is not being pursued any longer.

(f) Does not arise.

[*Translation*]

Performance of Meteorological Department

961. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that due to shortage of trained employees regarding forecasting and inadequate computing, the meteorological department of the country is lagging behind by ten years compared with Western Countries;

(b) if so, the steps being taken by the Government to meet the requirement of trained employees and computing machine system in order to include India in the list of leading weather forecasting countries of the world;

(c) whether the Government is reviewing this fact that 70 per cent investment is made on trained labour in developed countries whereas this figure is only 20 per cent in our country; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken by the Government to bring expenditure on trained labour at par with developed countries?

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) No, Sir. India Meteorological Department (IMD) is one of the oldest National Weather Service of the world. It has completed more than 125 years of dedicated service to the nation. IMD has a well organized training institute imparting training to its officers and staff and also to the officers from Indian Navy, Coast-Guard, Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology etc. and developing countries of southeast Asia and Africa. IMD's Central Training Institute at Pune is functioning as one of the Regional Meteorological Training Centers of the World Meteorological Organisation, Geneva.

IMD's forecast are at par with the forecasts issued by other countries in the tropics. Water development in the extratropics (north of 30° N latitude) are more systematic and hence forecast in those countries are comparatively better.

IMD introduced computers in weather analysis and forecasting as early as 1973 and has been upgrading its

computing facilities from time to time. Computing facilities have also been provided in observing systems. Upper Air and Radar observations are now fully automated. A dedicated computer system is working for reception and processing satellite data at Delhi and for data archival at National Data Centre, Pune. Upgradation of computing facilities is an ongoing exercise and will be taken up as and when required.

(c) and (d) The Government do not have data on investment by the government on trained labour vis-a-vis the figures in developed countries.

[English]

Modern Equipment at Ports

962. SHRI RUPCHAND MURMU: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has decided to install modern equipment at the ports for quick loading and unloading of ships;

(b) if so, the fund allocated for that, port-wise; and

(c) the time by which it will be completed?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) Modern equipments for loading and unloading of ships are installed in major ports as part of a continuous process for replacement, up-gradation and augmentation of cargo handling facilities.

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

Blood Banks

963. SHRI D.V. SADANAND GOWDA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has fixed any norms and criteria for starting of Blood Banks by the NGOs;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the Government/Private Blood Banks operating in the country during the last three years, State-wise; and

(c) the total quantity of blood collected from the donors and utilized during the above period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) The Drugs & Cosmetics Rules under Schedule F of Part XII B Rule prescribes the requirement and criteria for starting a Blood Bank whether by NGO or by any other agency.

(b) Statement I to III in respect of last three years as regard to number of Blood Banks in Government/Private sector, state-wise is enclosed.

(c) Statement IV containing reported collection of blood units by the blood banks for last 3 years is enclosed.

Statement I

State-wise List of licensed Blood Banks as on 31 March, 2002

Sl.No.	State	Govt.	Voluntary	Pvt. Hosp.	Pvt. Commercial	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	2	—	—	—	2
2.	Andhra Pradesh	63	14	43	48	168
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	2	1	—	—	3
4.	Assam	30	3	10	5	48

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
5.	Bihar	16	5	3	17	41
6.	Chandigarh	3	—	—	—	3
7.	Chhatisgarh	4	1	2	10	17
8.	Daman & Diu	1	—	—	—	1
9.	Delhi	17	2	15	8	42
10.	Goa	4	—	1	2	7
11.	Gujarat	20	60	2	58	140
12.	Haryana	17	2	6	10	35
13.	Himachal Pradesh	12	—	—	—	12
14.	Jammu and Kashmir	13	—	—	1	14
15.	Karnataka	38	12	45	38	131
16.	Kerala	31	3	80	9	123
17.	Madhya Pradesh	44	19	8	33	104
18.	Maharashtra	81	24	55	86	245
19.	Manipur	3	—	—	—	3
20.	Meghalaya	2	—	2	—	4
21.	Mizoram	3	—	2	—	5
22.	Nagaland	3	—	—	—	3
23.	Orissa	9	54	7	2	72
24.	Pondichery	5	—	6	—	11
25.	Punjab	40	4	23	2	69
26.	Rajasthan	45	1	9	6	61
27.	Sikkim	3	—	—	—	3
28.	Tamil Nadu	81	8	49	47	185
29.	Tripura	3	—	3	—	6
30.	Uttar Pradesh	71	2	17	40	130
31.	Uttaranchal	13	—	3	1	17
32.	West Bengal	67	7	19	33	126
Total		746	222	410	454	1832

*Statement II**State-wise List of Licensed Blood Banks as on 31 March, 2003*

Sl.No.	State	Govt.	Voluntary	Pvt. Hosp.	Pvt. Commercial	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	2	—	—	—	2
2.	Andhra Pradesh	64	16	46	48	174
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	2	1	—	—	3
4.	Assam	31	3	9	5	48
5.	Bihar	27	4	10	21	62
6.	Chandigarh	3	—	—	—	3
7.	Chhattisgarh	9	1	4	10	24
8.	Daman & Diu	1	—	—	—	1
9.	Delhi	18	2	15	7	42
10.	Goa	5	—	—	3	8
11.	Gujarat	24	62	2	62	150
12.	Haryana	17	2	9	10	38
13.	Himachal Pradesh	12	—	—	—	12
14.	Jammu and Kashmir	13	—	1	—	14
15.	Karnataka	38	12	46	37	133
16.	Kerala	32	3	82	9	126
17.	Madhya Pradesh	39	14	14	28	95
18.	Maharashtra	82	24	59	89	254
19.	Manipur	3	—	—	—	3
20.	Meghalaya	2	—	2	—	4
21.	Mizoram	3	—	2	—	5
22.	Nagaland	3	—	—	—	3
23.	Orissa	4	45	8	2	59
24.	Pondichery	5	—	6	—	11
25.	Punjab	40	4	24	2	70
26.	Rajasthan	44	1	9	6	60

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
27.	Sikkim	3	—	—	—	3
28.	Tamil Nadu	83	8	49	49	189
29.	Tripura	3	—	3	—	6
30.	Uttar Pradesh	69	2	17	42	130
31.	Uttaranchal	13	—	3	1	17
32.	West Bengal	69	5	10	19	103
Total		763	209	430	450	1852

Statement III*State-wise List of Licensed Blood Banks as on Dec. 2004*

Sl.No.	State	Govt.	Voluntary	Pvt. Hosp.	Pvt. Commercial	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	2	—	—	—	2
2.	Andhra Pradesh	66	25	65	48	204
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	2	1	—	—	3
4.	Assam	35	3	14	6	58
5.	Bihar	42	4	10	22	78
6.	Chandigarh	3	1	—	—	4
7.	Chhattisgarh	12	1	5	11	29
	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	—	1	—	—	1
8.	Daman & Diu	1	—	—	—	1
9.	Delhi	18	3	17	7	45
10.	Goa	5	—	—	3	8
11.	Gujarat	30	70	4	63	167
12.	Haryana	17	5	16	12	50
13.	Himachal Pradesh	14	1	—	—	15
14.	Jammu and Kashmir	14	—	1	—	15
15.	Jharkhand	4	—	3	2	9

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
16.	Karnataka	39	16	54	37	146
17.	Kerala	34	5	86	9	134
18.	Madhya Pradesh	42	17	15	30	104
19.	Maharashtra	82	29	63	90	264
20.	Manipur	3				3
21.	Meghalaya	3		2		5
22.	Mizoram	3		2		5
23.	Nagaland	3				3
24.	Orissa	46	10	2	62	62
25.	Pondichery	5		6		11
26.	Punjab	41	5	28	2	76
27.	Rajasthan	44	5	12	6	67
28.	Sikkim	3				3
29.	Tamil Nadu	98	10	61	52	221
30.	Tripura	3		3		6
31.	Uttar Pradesh	69	4	25	43	141
32.	Uttaranchal	14		3	1	18
33.	West Bengal	71	5	10	19	105
	Total	826	257	515	465	2063

Statement IV*Total quantity of Blood collected from donors during last three years*

States/UTs	2002			2003			2004		
	Voluntary	Replacement	Total	Voluntary	Replacement	Total	Voluntary	Replacement	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Ahmedabad MACS	55049	38227	93276	63944	44409	108353	58565	41813	100378
Andaman & Nicobar Islands	2387	1156	3543	2756	1022	3778	1256	494	1750
Andhra Pradesh	109702	159112	268814	138393	157400	295793	159234	173496	332730
Arunachal Pradesh	608	30	638	1370	54	1424	1221	18	1239

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Assam	8090	19066	27156	19981	26780	46761	18900	20111	39011
Bihar	6592	13412	20004	14056	32740	46796	8204	35318	43522
Chandigarh	22720	24823	47543	26560	21230	47790	24690	15832	40522
Chennai MACS	162	104	266	65190	25332	90522	57675	18424	76299
Chhattisgarh	0	0	0	7266	19742	27008	4532	11281	15813
Daman & Diu	107	49	156	155	68	223	281	98	379
Delhi	63641	249101	312752	60422	185451	245873	57642	236827	294469
Goa	3321	5902	9223	6032	10702	16734	16456	60734	77190
Gujarat	201696	179251	380947	239840	171369	411209	266789	175084	441883
Haryana	19347	55147	74494	25984	67220	93204	28924	78424	107348
Himachal Pradesh	6075	4526	10601	8521	6987	15508	9697	5960	15657
Jammu & Kashmir	1927	13022	14949	1276	3977	5253	52	692	744
Jharkhand	0	0	0	356	4209	4565	799	10582	11381
Karnataka	131800	155993	287793	165285	169754	335039	159017	144484	303501
Kerala	59105	90808	149913	56957	90958	147915	32741	58234	90975
Lakshadweep	14	0	14	10	0	10	0	0	0
Madhya Pradesh	12083	39277	51360	22554	51727	74281	35169	72784	107953
Maharashtra	190048	50429	240477	250373	56027	306400	575779	204822	780601
Manipur	1349	15498	16847	3919	39167	43086	3500	58230	61730
Meghalaya	119	2305	2424	102	3062	3164	362	3448	3810
Mizoram	3994	6754	10748	5956	6319	12275	7381	5197	12578
Mumbai MACS	61127	73223	134350	100674	94843	195517	106031	92749	198780
Nagaland	921	1060	1981	934	699	1633	0	0	0
Orissa	20807	90473	111280	25160	60383	85543	24829	59645	84474
Pondicherry	5166	9845	15011	6654	10907	17561	2934	3877	6811
Punjab	13225	81291	94516	19886	114060	133946	8848	57604	66452
Rajasthan	492	6982	7474	20131	99491	119622	13158	77337	90495
Sikkim	74	1098	1172	188	1228	1416	207	1344	1551
Tamil Nadu	101153	75472	176625	166443	105658	272101	196511	91211	287722

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Tripura	1715	2825	4540	7515	7908	15423	4627	3600	8227
Uttar Pradesh	57242	182340	239582	77076	219769	296845	66539	188725	255264
Uttaranchal	1304	8071	9375	2419	13522	15941	2900	17271	20171
West Bengal	299204	78503	377707	386781	76465	463245	357221	72797	430018
Total	1462366	1735175	3197541	2001119	200060	4001739	2312871	2098557	4411428

Opening Consulates in State Capitals

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

(a) whether the Government has a proposal to open consulates of foreign countries, especially the Gulf Countries in the State capitals;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by when a final decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

HIV/AIDS in Myanmar

965. SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that the International Crisis Group located in Brussels on December 16, 2004 stated that Myanmar has one of the highest rate of adults infected with the HIV/AIDS;

(b) if so, whether the Government is aware that the International Crisis Group has warned that among other things, this presents serious risks to Myanmar's neighbours; and

(c) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to deal with this situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) Yes Sir. According to International Crisis

Group (ICG) a Brussels based NGO report dated 16th December, 2004 has mentioned that Myanmar has HIV prevalence of 1.31% by end of 2003 and it is next to the prevalence in Cambodia and Thailand.

(b) In the report they have mentioned that HIV continues to present serious risks to the population (of Myanmar), to security and to Myanmar neighbours.

(c) Government of India initiated strong intervention programme in Manipur, Nagaland which are high prevalence states bordering Myanmar. Intervention includes Information, Education & Communication (IEC), Behavioural Change Communication (BCC) and Harm reduction programme. Besides governmental agencies, several NGOs are involved in implementation of the intervention activities.

Ferry Services between Coastal Cities

966. SHRI M. APPADURAI: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that the passenger ferry services between the coastal cities all over the world especially in developed countries are operating successfully;

(b) if so, whether there is any proposal to introduce ferry services between the coastal cities in Tamil Nadu between Tuticorin and Chennai;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the time by which these services are likely to be introduced?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. However, there is no proposal to run passenger ferry

service between the coastal cities of Tuticorin and Chennai in Tamil Nadu under consideration.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Indo-Pak Cooperation in IT Sector

967 SHRI M. SHIVANNA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a huge potential for cooperation between India and Pakistan in the field of Information Technology and related areas; 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.

(b) In the Indo-Pak Bilateral Talks on Economic and Commercial Cooperation held at Islamabad during 11-12 August, 2004, India made a special offer for full cooperation in any area of importance to Pakistan in IT sector, e-governance, e-commerce, IT enabled services.

Hepatitis-B Injection for CGHS Beneficiaries

968. SHRI BADIGA RAMAKRISHNA:
SHRI SUGRIB SINGH:
SHRI B. VINOD KUMAR:

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

(a) whether the Government is aware that the cases of Hepatitis have been increasing day-by-day;

(b) if so, the details of the cases reported, State-wise during 2004 and 2005 till date;

(c) whether the Government has received any proposals from the State Governments for the financial assistance to the Hepatitis-B programme;

(d) if so, the details of the financial assistance sanctioned, State-wise;

(e) whether the Government has any proposal to provide Hepatitis-B injection to CGHS beneficiaries;

(f) if so, the time by which the injection will be given to CGHS beneficiaries; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (g) Hepatitis-B spread through unsafe sex, unsafe blood transfusion, unsafe injection etc. and also from mother to child. State-wise number of cases due to Viral Hepatitis including Hepatitis-B as reported by Central Bureau of Health Intelligence during the year 2004 is indicated in the statement. The data for the year 2005 is not available.

The Government has launched pilot project of Hepatitis-B vaccination in 15 cities during 2002-03 and 33 districts during 2003-04.

Hepatitis-B vaccine is provided to CGHS beneficiaries on prescription of the Head of Department of any Government Hospital in cases where there is danger of exposure to Hepatitis-B.

Statement

Reported Cases and Deaths due to Communicable Diseases in India-2004

Viral Hepatitis

Sl.No.	State/UT	Male		Female		Total		Reference Period
		Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1.	Andhra Pradesh	15936	54	12286	18	28222	72	Dec. 2004
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	..	..	..	..	..	..

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
3.	Assam							
4.	Bihar					..		
5.	Chattisgarh		..			..	..
6.	Goa	64	0	29	0	93	0	Nov. Except Oct.
7.	Gujarat	3427	13	2433	13	5860	26	Dec. 2004
8.	Haryana	1146	1	699	2	1845	9	Nov. 2004
9.	Himachal Pradesh	1036	0	836	0	1872	0	Nov. Except. July
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	0	0	0	0	6959	0	Oct. 2004
11.	Jharkhand				..			
12.	Karnataka	19802	115	13338	51	33140	166	Sept. 2004
13.	Kerala	3226	2	2179	0	5405	2	Dec. Excpt Sept. Nov.
14.	Madhya Pradesh	7848	18	8011	10	15859	28	Dec. 2004
15.	Maharashtra	32327	92	16462	58	48789	150	Oct. Except. July
16.	Manipur	77	1	59	0	136	1	Oct. 2004
17.	Meghalaya	338	0	350	1	688	1	Sept. 2004
18.	Mizoram	363	1	354	1	717	2	Dec. Excpt. Oct.
19.	Nagaland	21	0	6	0	27	0	Oct. 2004
20.	Orissa	1007	28	482	4	1489	32	Oct. Excpt. Aug.
21.	Punjab	806	4	817	1	1423	5	Sept. Excpt. Apr.
22.	Rajasthan	1266	29	812	17	2078	46	Nov. 2004
23.	Sikkim	220	5	152	0	372	5	Dec. 2004
24.	Tamil Nadu					8971	1	Aug. 2004
25.	Tripura	615	0	276	0	891	0	Oct. 2004
26.	Uttaranchal							
27.	Uttar Pradesh	..	..		..	2	1	Jan. 2004
28.	West Bengal	3290	111	2184	49	5484	160	Sept. 2004
29.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	175	1	83	1	258	2	Sept. 2004
30.	Chandigarh					300	1	May. 2004

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
31.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	489	2	186	2	675	3	Dec. Excpt. Apr. 2004
32.	Daman & Diu	6	0	0	0	6	0	Oct. Excpt Aug. Sept.
33.	Delhi	6311	74	4345	69	10656	143	Dec. 2004
34.	Lakshadweep	16	1	4	0	20	1	Dec. 2004
35.	Pondicherry	386	2	350	0	736	2	Nov. 2004
Total		100198	554	66533	297	182963	853	

NR-Not Reported

..-Not received.

The sum of male & female may not tally with the total as some States/UTs. have not reported genderwise information separately.

Source: Monthly Health Condition Reports of States/UTs., Directorate of Health Services.

Upgradation of ED Post Offices in Lakshadweep

969. DR. P.P. KOYA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any proposal for upgradation of ED post offices at Kadmath, Kiltan and Chetlat Islands of Lakshadweep;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Postal Department proposes to introduce VSAT money order facility at Minicoy Island where the service is in high demand; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

Four Laning of Roads in Punjab

970. SHRI SUKHBIR SINGH BADAL: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the progress made regarding four laning of major roads in Punjab *i.e.* Jalandhar-Amritsar, Amritsar-Pathankot and Chandigarh-Ambala National Highways;

(b) whether any assistance has been received from the World Bank in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and by when it is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) Bids have been invited for four laning of Jalandhar-Amritsar Section (km 407/100 to 456/100) of NH-1 and Chandigarh-Ambala Section of NH-22 under Build-Operate-Transfer (BOT) basis. Bids for km. 387/100 to 407/100 of Jalandhar-Amritsar section of NH-1 have already been opened but the matter is subjudice. Detailed Project Report for Amritsar-Pathankot Section of NH-15 is under preparation by NHAI.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Conversion of Medical Colleges Into Hospitals

971. SHRI KIRIP CHALIHA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has taken a policy decision to convert all medical colleges located at State Capitals into hospitals;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the policy is likely to be implemented particularly in respect of medical colleges in North Eastern States?

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

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

PNDT Act

972. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY:
SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:

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

(a) whether the Government is aware that the Preconception and Pre-natal Diagnostics Technique (Prohibition of Sex Selection) Act, 1994 has been in force for the last 10 years but the malpractices of sex determination have not stopped;

(b) if so, whether the National and State level NGOs expressed concern over the adverse sex ratio;

(c) whether the said NGOs have also expressed concern over the poor implementation of PNDT Act; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) Yes Sir. The Government is aware of the situation and there are 24 ongoing cases of sex determination/communication of sex of the foetus as reported by States and Union Territories.

(b) to (d) The Government, National Commission for Women as well as the NGOs are concerned over the adverse sex ratio and a number of steps have been taken by the Government to remedy the situation.

The implementation of the Act rests with the States and Union Territories through the Appropriate Authorities appointed at State, district as well as at sub-district levels. The States and Union Territories have been requested to ensure wide publicity to the provisions of the Act and Rules and to effectively implement the same in letter and spirit. As per the reports received from the States and Union Territories as on 28.2.2005, 25770 Units have been

registered in the country, 300 Court/Police cases ongoing and 33 Ultra sound machines seized/sealed as part of implementation of the PNDT Act.

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 been 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 the view to lesson son preference by highlighting achievements of young girls.

A National Monitoring Committee has been constituted at the Centre to take stock of the ground realities by field visits to the problem States. Constant inspection and survey of the Centres using ultrasound machines are being undertaken by most of the States.

Empowered Action Group on Population Stabilisation

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

(a) The initiatives taken by the Empowered Action Group (EAG) for population stabilization;

(b) The number of externally-aided project assisted by EAG for population stabilization; and

(c) The details thereof, Statewise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) An Empowered Action Group (EAG) was constituted on 20th March 2001 in the Department of Family Welfare to focus on eight States namely Bihar, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Orissa, Rajasthan, Uttaranchal and Uttar Pradesh. Special focus was given in these States for strengthening of rural health infrastructure especially operationalisation of 2 FRUs per district; strengthening Training Institutions; Maintenance of cold chain equipments, Maternal health initiatives, IEC activities and supply of contraceptives.

(b) and (c) No externally-aided project has been assisted by EAG for population stabilization.

[*Translation*]

Cases of Spurious Drugs

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

(a) whether the Government is aware of the increasing number of cases of spurious drugs in the country;

(b) if so, the details of the number of such cases detected during each of the last three years, State-wise;

(c) whether the guidelines issued in this regard earlier by the Government to the State Governments are not proving effective; and

(d) if so, the strategy formulated by the Government to put a check on such cases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) As per the feed back available from the State Drug Controllers, 38824, 43138 and 40862 drugs samples were tested during the periods 2001-02, 2002-03 and 2003-04 out of which 96, 129 and 118 samples were declared spurious.

(b) to (d) Under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940, the responsibility for regulating manufacture and sale of drugs including taking legal action against the guilty persons rests with the State Governments. As per feed back available from the State Drug Controllers 84 (eighty four) persons were arrested in relation to spurious drugs cases and prosecuted in the appropriate court during the period 1.4.2002 to 30.6.2004. Details of cases detected year-wise and state-wise are not maintained centrally. Manufacture of spurious/counterfeit/fake drugs is primarily a clandestine activity. Trading in counterfeit products including drugs is reported world over. However, keeping in view the serious implications of spurious drugs on public health as well as the loss to genuine industry, the Government has taken the following measures to combat this menace:

(i) The State Governments have been advised from time to time to undertake focused surveillance over possible movement of spurious drugs and detailed guidelines have been provided for this purpose.

(ii) A Capacity Building Project through World Bank assistance has been taken up to provide substantial assistance to State Governments to upgrade drug testing facilities or to establish new drug testing laboratories. It is expected to increase the number of samples tested in the country from about 36000 samples to 1,00,000 samples per year and to reduce the reporting time to less than a month as against the present period from 3 to 6 months.

(iii) Training programmes for regulatory officials of State Governments on logistics of intelligence work, prosecutions etc. have been conducted with the assistance of FDA, Maharashtra.

(iv) In order to ensure efficient information exchange between drug regulatory officers in the country, a countrywide computer-networking project has been undertaken by the Central Government.

(v) Pharma industry and trade has been motivated to fight menace of spurious drugs as a shared responsibility.

(vi) Government of India had constituted a committee of experts on 27th January, 2003 under the Chairmanship of Dr. R.A. Mashelkar, D.G., CSIR to undertake a comprehensive view of the drug regulatory system in the country including evaluation of the extent of spurious and sub-standard drugs and recommended remedial measures to deal with this problem effectively.

The expert committee submitted its final report to the Government in November, 2003. Based on the recommendations given by the committee in its report, Central Government had initiated steps to bring legislation for amending the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940 on the lines suggested by the committee. A bill was introduced in the Lok Sabha in December, 2003 to amend the said Act to provide strict penalties to the offenders including a maximum penalty of capital punishment. It was further recommended to make the offences non-bailable and cognizable and to provide for designated courts for speedy trial of cases. The Cabinet has now accorded approval for the introduction of Drugs and Cosmetics (Amendment) Bill 2005 in the Parliament subject to certain modifications. The Bill is likely to be introduced in the budget session of Parliament.

Setting up of Regional I.T. Centres

975. SHRI ALOK KUMAR MEHTA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to set up Regional I.T. Centres in America and other countries to showcase India's skill of Information Technology; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the objectives thereof?

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

(b) Does not arise.

[English]

Mobile Telephone Services in West Bengal

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

(a) whether the coverage of the mobile telephone services is very limited and their standard is very poor in most of the districts of West Bengal;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken to improve the mobile service in the State; and

(c) the number of new towers installed for the purpose in West Bengal so far, district-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) The mobile telephone service has been provided in all the District Headquarters in West Bengal Telecom Circle. The details are given below. A total of 148 cities/towns have been provided with satisfactory mobile telephone services.

Sl. No.	Name of District	No. of Towers
1	2	3
1.	Bankura	14
2.	Birbhum	10

1	2	3
3.	Burdman	48
4.	Coochbehar	8
5.	Dakshin Dinajpur	6
6.	Darjeeling	35
7.	Hooghly	28
8.	Howrah	27
9.	Jalpaiguri	17
10.	Malda	13
11.	Midnapore (including Midnapore East)	34
12.	Murshidabad	24
13.	Nadia	15
14.	North 24 Paraganas	49
15.	Purulia	9
16.	South 24 Paraganas	67
17.	Uttar Dinajpur	11
18.	Kolkata	34
Total		449

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

(c) The number of towers installed by Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited, M/s Bharti Cellular Ltd. and M/s Infocom Ltd. are 449, 199 and 245 respectively. The details of towers installed district-wise by BSNL are given above.

[Translation]

Cardiac Surgery in Government Hospitals

977. SHRI AJIT JOGI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that Cardiac surgery treatment in Safdarjung Hospital is comparatively cheaper than All India Institute of Medical Sciences;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the percentage of successful Cardiac surgery treatment in Safdarjung Hospital is less than that of All India Institute of Medical Sciences;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the Government is taking any steps for the appointment of specialist Cardiac surgery team in order to improve the quality of Cardiac treatment in Safdarjung; 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) The treatment of cardiac surgery in the Safdarjung Hospital is cheaper than in the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) because a number of components of medical health care including certain medicines and disposable items are provided free of cost to the patients. The percentage of success of cardiac surgery in Safdarjung Hospital is as good as in any good cardiac centre in the country including AIIMS.

(e) and (f) All the four sanctioned posts of Cardio-thoracic Surgeons are duly filled and as such there is no proposal to appoint any special team of Cardio-thoracic surgeons.

Quality Service by Telephone Companies

978. SHRI PARAS NATH YADAV: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether all telephone companies are not able to provide quality service to their customers specially in the case of Cellular Mobile Service;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India

(TRAI) has issued any guidelines regarding providing quality service to its customers;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government is aware that telephone companies are not following the above guidelines; and

(f) if so, the steps taken or proposed to be taken to provide quality service to the customers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) The performance monitoring reports of the mobile service providers for the quarter ended December, 2004, showed that some of the operators have not met the benchmarks prescribed for certain parameters. The quality of service performance report of the mobile operators for quarter ended December, 2004 is given in enclosed statement.

(c) and (d) TRAI, through a regulation has prescribed the quality of service benchmarks for a number of key parameters for basic and cellular services in the year 2000 and the same has been published in the Gazette of India on 14.7.2000.

(e) and (f) TRAI has been continuously monitoring the performance of the Basic and Cellular mobile service providers *vis-a-vis* the benchmarks for various parameters. TRAI also had meetings with the Senior Management of mobile operators with regard to deficiency in quality of service noticed in the reports for quarter ending June and September, 2004. The operators reported that due to rapid growth in the subscriber base, there were some deficiency in their network and they are in the process of augmenting their networks. TRAI is currently reviewing the Qos parameters for which, a consultation paper has already been released. The paper has suggested to include certain new parameters for measuring the quality of service. Government telecom operators viz. BSNL and MTNL are constantly optimizing their mobile network and continuously striving to ensure performance as per the Quality of Service parameters prescribed by TRAI.

Statement*Details QoS Parameters for Cellular Services as reported by CMSPs for the quarter ending 31st Dec., 2004*

Sl. No.	Name of the Service providers with their service areas	Fault Incident & Repair			Network Performance				Billing Complaints		
		(i)	(ii)	(iii)	(i)	(ii)	(iii)	(iv)	(i)	(ii)	(iii)
		No. of faults (per 100 subscribers)	Faults cleared within 24 hrs.	Accumulated down time of community isolation	Call Success Rate (within licensee's own network)	Service Access Delay	Call Drop Rate	% of connection with good voice quality	Complaints per 100 bills issued	% of complaints resolved within 4 weeks	Period of all refunds/ payment due to customers from the date of resolution of complaints as in (ii) above
Benchmarks											
		<1%	100%	<24 hrs.	>98%	9 to 20 sec.	<3%	>95%	<1%	100%	<4 weeks
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12

(i) 'A' Circle

1.	BPL, MH	1.16%	98.11%	28.29	98.31%	11.43 sec	1.30%	98.82%	0.100%	100.00%	30 days
2.	IDEA Cellular, MH	0.02%	100.00%	85.10	95.33%	13.41 sec	1.82%	97.58%	1.080%	98.00%	30 days
3.	Tata, MH	0.92%	98.34%	2.08	99.82%	12 sec	0.57%	97.55%	0.830%	100.00%	30 days
4.	BSNL, MH	0.10%	99.00%	25	98.00%	2 sec	1.30%	98.00%	1.700%	100.00%	30 days
5.	Bharti Cellular, MH & Goa	0.45%	100.00%	27.27	99.37%	9.32 sec	1.48%	98.00%	0.100%	100.00%	30 days
6.	Fascel-Hutch GJ	0.04%	100.00%	16.23	99.99%	15.04 sec	1.11%	97.80%	0.030%	100.00%	7 days
7.	Tata, GJ	0.50%	100.00%	1.19	99.58%	1.21	0.56%	98.17%	0.020%	100.00%	30 days
8.	IDEA Cellular, GJ	0.01%	100.00%	3.13	98.41%	14.74	1.25%	96.56%	0.074%	100.00%	35 days
9.	BSNL, GJ	1.00%	100.00%	Nil	99.00%	2 sec	1.00%	N.A.	0.09%	100.00%	15 days
10.	Bharti Cellular, GJ	0.08%	100.00%	16.67	99.39%	13 sec	1.08%	98.02%	0.050%	100.00%	15 days
11.	Tata, AP	1.89%	79.00%	6.92	99.59%	5.37 sec	0.59%	98.48%	0.240%	100.00%	30 days
12.	IDEA Cellular, AP	0.29%	100.00%	14.2	99.98%	9.84 sec	0.54%	98.78%	0.250%	100.00%	30 days
13.	Bharti Mobile, AP	0.03%	100.00%	40	98.61%	12 sec	1.10%	99.21%	0.080%	100.00%	30 days
14.	BSNL, AP	0.20%	99.00%	Nil	98.00%	6 sec	1.80%	98.00%	0.000%	100.00%	30 days
15.	Hutchison Essar, AP	1.00%	98.32%	24	93.40%	5 sec	1.45%	98.00%	0.120%	100.00%	30 days

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
16.	Bharti Mobile, KTK	0.07%	100.00%	78	99.04%	7 sec	1.60%	98.70%	0.065%	100.00%	30 days
17.	Spice Comm., KTK	0.09%	100.00%	1.5	99.80%	9 sec	1.34%	99.57%	0.029%	100.00%	7 days
18.	BSNL, KTK	0.50%	100.00%	19	88.00%	9 sec	1.20%	95.00%	0.080%	100.00%	30 days
19.	Huchison Essar, KTK	0.50%	100.00%	13.6	99.90%	14.56 sec	1.0%	99.10%	0.024%	100.00%	30 days
20.	Tata, KTK	3.06%	98.33%	19.4	99.27%	10 sec	0.97%	96.50%	0.010%	100.00%	30 days
21.	Tata, TN	0.02%	100.00%	16.32	99.52%	5.31 sec	1.29%	96.49%	0.020%	100.00%	30 days
22.	BPL Cellular, TN	0.69%	100.00%	84.07	99.11%	9 sec	1.29%	99.89%	0.350%	100.00%	30 days
23.	Aircel, TN	0.00%	100.00%	21.37	99.01%	11.07 sec	1.61%	95.70%	0.090%	100.00%	27 days
24.	BSNL, TN	1.40%	98.00%	Nil	89.00%	9 sec	1.10%	95.00%	0.000%	100.00%	Nil
25.	Bharti Cellular, TN	0.07%	98.13%	20	98.84%	12.38 sec	1.11%	98.20%	0.070%	100.00%	30 days
B. Circle											
26.	IDEA-Escotel Mobile, KR	0.24%	100.00%	12.34	99.81%	12.3 sec	1.90%	96.70%	0.190%	100.00%	30 days
27.	BPL Cellular, KR	0.00%	100.00%	14.18	99.42%	9 sec	1.28%	100.00%	0.000%	100.00%	30 days
28.	BSNL, KR	1.00%	100.00%	NA	88.00%	14 sec	1.80%	95.00%	0.100%	100.00%	30 days
29.	Bharti Cellular, KR	0.05%	98.78%	21.00	99.09%	15.14 sec	1.89%	99.01%	0.070%	100.00%	30 days
30.	Spice Comm., PB	0.31%	100.00%	12.41	99.54%	4.1 sec	0.69%	99.49%	0.057%	100.00%	30 days
31.	Bharti Mobile, PB	0.03%	100.00%	4.8	99.70%	8 sec	1.16%	99.78%	0.065%	100.00%	1 day
32.	BSNL, PB	0.00%	99.00%	24	99.00%	4 sec	1.10%	91.00%	0.700%	98.00%	21 days
33.	IDEA-Escotel Mobile, HR	0.13%	100.00%	8.49	99.94%	14.2 sec	0.78%	99.39%	0.70%	100.00%	35 days
34.	Hutch-Aircel Digilink, HR	0.80%	100.00%	5.2	99.95%	10 sec	1.28%	97.20%	0.090%	100.00%	21 days
35.	BSNL, HR	0.10%	100.00%	15	97.00%	9 sec	2.90%	97.00%	0.080%	100.00%	30 day
36.	Bharti Cellular, HR	0.09%	100.00%	1	99.56%	8.5 sec	1.32%	99.86%	0.040%	100.00%	1 day
37.	IDEA-Escotel Mobile, UP(W)	0.07%	100.00%	8.39	99.87%	11.24 sec	1.58%	95.83%	0.480%	100.00%	35 days
38.	BSNL, UP (W)	0.60%	100.00%	NA	100.00%	18 sec	2.90%	98.00%	0.080%	100.00%	NA
39.	Bharti Cellular UP (E)	0.18%	100.00%	0	98.86%	10 sec	1.78%	96.00%	0.200%	NA	30 days
40.	Hutch, UP (W)	0.60%	100.00%	0	99.30%	10 sec	1.40%	96.00%	0.090%	100.00%	0 days
41.	Bharti Cellular, UP (W)	0.44%	100.00%	18.17	99.24%	9 sec	1.88%	95.99%	0.071%	100.00%	30 days
42.	Hutch-Aircel Digilink, UP(E)	0.52%	100.00%	0	99.21%	8.5 sec	1.57%	97.50%	0.090%	100.00%	21 days
43.	BSNL, UP(E)	1.90%	99.00%	3	95.00%	12 sec	2.80%	95.00%	0.100%	100.00%	35 days

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
44.	Hutch-Aircel Diglink, RJ	0.27%	100.00%	1.92	100.00%	10.74 sec	1.41%	95.20%	0.090%	100.00%	21 days
45.	Bharti-Hexacom, RJ	0.69%	100.00%	2.6	99.76%	8 sec	1.30%	99.87%	0.065%	100.00%	1 day
46.	BSNL, RJ	0.80%	94.00%	39	92.00%	6 sec	1.00%	92.00%	0.400%	99.00%	30 days
47.	Hutch-PB	0.54%	100.00%	0	99.99%	10 sec	1.27%	97.85%	0.090%	100.00%	immediate
48.	IDEA Cellular, MP	0.28%	100.00%	5.95	99.06%	12.47 sec	1.29%	99.27%	0.350%	100.00%	30 days
49.	Reliance, MP	0.01%	100.00%	80.08	100.00%	8.29 sec	2.50%	95.66%	0.050%	100.00%	1 day
50.	BSNL, MP	1.10%	98.00%	Nil	98.00%	2 sec	1.40%	95.00%	0.030%	100.00%	30 days
51.	Bharti Cellular, MP & Chhatt.	0.01%	100.00%	95.61	99.58%	8 sec	0.56%	98.60%	0.090%	100.00%	NA
52.	Reliance, WB	0.09%	100.00%	5	99.00%	9.37 sec	2.69%	99.72%	0.000%	NA	NA
53.	Bharti Cellular, WB	0.01%	100.00%	0	99.79%	16.9 sec	1.61%	95.56%	0.090%	100.00%	30 days
54.	BSNL, WB	0.60%	100.00%	Nil	99.00%	7 sec	2.50%	99.00%	0.000%	100.00%	Nil
C Circle											
55.	Bharti Telenet, HP	0.07%	100.00%	2.5	99.54%	9.5 sec	1.34%	99.90%	0.060%	100.00%	1 day
56.	Reliance, HP	0.05%	100.00%	3.53	100.00%	6.61 sec	2.27%	99.64%	0.000%	100.00%	10 days
57.	BSNL, HP	0.40%	91.00%	0.01	97.00%	6 sec	2.97%	90.00%	0.090%	100.00%	30 days
58.	Reliance, BR & Jharkhand	0.10%	100.00%	19.15	99.00%	8.34 sec	2.28%	98.01%	0.000%	100.00%	7 days
59.	BSNL, NE-I & II	1.50%	100.00%	10	99.00%	12 sec	2.10%	97.00%	0.000%	100.00%	21 days
60.	BSNL, BR	2.90%	95.00%	7	98.00%	7 sec	2.70%	92.00%	0.100%	100.00%	30 days
61.	Reliance, Orissa	0.06%	100.00%	18.23	99.17%	7.46 sec	2.34%	97.86%	0.010%	100.00%	NA
62.	BSNL, Orissa	0.10%	99.00%	25	89.00%	8 sec	2.00%	93.00%	0.200%	100.00%	Nil
63.	Reliance, AS	0.03%	100.00%	0	99.00%	9.80 sec	1.19%	96.09%	0.030%	100.00%	Nil
64.	Bharti Cellular, J&K	2.50%	99.50%	5	98.60%	8.5 sec	2.90%	98.00%	0.100%	100.00%	1 day
65.	BSNL J&K	0.90%	100.00%	23	99.00%	11 sec	2.00%	98.00%	0.100%	100.00%	30 days
66.	Reliance, NE	0.00%	0.00%	Nil	99.00%	9.76 sec	2.05%	98.16%	0.000%	Nil	Nil
67.	BSNL, Assam	2.00%	99.00%	Nil	97.00%	13 sec	1.20%	97.00%	0.150%	100.00%	30 days
Metro											
68.	Bharti Cellular, Delhi	0.64%	100.00%	Nil	99.09%	12 sec	1.86%	96.25%	0.063%	100.00%	30 days
69.	Hutchison Essar, Delhi	0.20%	100.00%	0	99.90%	10 sec	1.22%	95.95%	0.001%	100.00%	30 days
70.	MTNL, Delhi	0.64%	100.00%	0	99.10%	12.11 sec	0.94%	95.01%	0.080%	100.00%	30 days

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
71.	IDEA Cellular, Delhi	0.38%	100.00%	Nil	99.98%	7 sec	0.48%	97.13%	0.120%	100.00%	45 days
72.	Tata, Delhi	0.03%	100.00%	0	99.86%	2.6 sec	0.56%	95.80%	0.240%	100.00%	1 day
73.	BPL Mobile, Mumbai	0.25%	100.00%	3.45	99.43%	12.60 sec	1.88%	98.34%	0.100%	100.00%	40 days
74.	Hutchison Max, Mumbai	0.65%	100.00%	0	99.23%	8 sec	1.58%	97.01%	0.005%	100.00%	3 days
75.	MTNL, Mumbai	0.01%	100.00%	Nil	99.10%	14 sec	2.32%	96.80%	0.080%	100.00%	30 days
76.	Bharti Cellular, Mumbai	0.03%	97.92%	0	99.68%	9 sec	1.44%	97.00%	0.080%	100.00%	7 days
77.	Tata, Mumbai	0.44%	98.92%	0.73	99.85%	12 sec	0.27%	97.08%	1.220%	99.04%	30 days
78.	Aircel Cellular Ltd., Chennai	0.15%	99.00%	8.5	100.00%	12 sec	0.91%	95.20%	0.20%	100.00%	30 days
79.	Bharti Mbinet, Chennai	0.05%	98.01%	0	99.68%	12.6 sec	0.62%	97.10%	0.090%	100.00%	30 days
80.	Hutchison Essar, Chennai	0.07%	100.00%	Nil	99.55%	9 sec	0.72%	98.00%	0.100%	100.00%	30 days
81.	Tata, Chennai	0.03%	99.00%	6.44	99.27%	5.19 sec	0.82%	96.73%	0.020%	100.00%	30 days
82.	Bharti Mobinet, Kolkata	0.00%	97.82%	0	99.82%	15.6 sec	1.30%	97.85%	0.080%	100.00%	NA
83.	Hutchison, Kolkata	0.12%	100.00%	0	99.93%	19 sec	0.87%	96.35%	0.080%	100.00%	35 days
84.	BSNL, Kolkata	2.40%	72.00%	Nil	94.00%	7 sec	2.40%	96.00%	2.40%	100.00%	30 days
85.	BSNL, Chennai	0.00%	100.00%	Nil	98.00%	12 sec	1.00%	100.00%	0.800%	100.00%	Immediate

NA — Not Available

Operators not meeting the bench mark.

[English]

Restrictions on Medical Practitioners

979. SHRI VINOD KHANNA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that the State Governments impose restrictions on medical practitioners of Indians System of Medicine and Homoeopathy including registration and practice;

(b) whether the Government is aware that these medical practitioners/researchers of Indian System of Medicine are not being allowed to do research in medical colleges/institutions run by the Government/Private bodies;

(c) whether the Government has received any complaints in this regard so far, 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) Government has no information about restrictions being imposed on the institutionally qualified medical practitioners of Indian Systems of Medicine and Homoeopathy in any State.

(b) There are no restrictions on the medical practitioners/researchers of Indian Systems of Medicine for undertaking research in medical colleges/institutions.

(c) No Sir.

(d) Question does not arise.

BPL Population in Jammu and Kashmir

980. SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Tenth Five Year Plan document has shown the steep decline in terms of percentage in BPL population in Jammu and Kashmir.

(b) if so the details thereof;

(c) whether the exponential growth rate of J&K has been less than some of the North East States for the past decade; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) and (b) No Sir, the Tenth Five Plan document does not indicate any decline in percentage of BPL population for Jammu and Kashmir, however, the document clearly specifies a monitorable target for reduction of percentage of BPL population at all India level by 5 percentage points by 2007.

(c) and (d) Based on the available data for J&K and North Eastern States in the Population Census 2001, the decadal growth rate (exponential) of population is given below in the table for the time period 1991-2001 for comparison.

Decadal Growth Rate of population, 1991-2001

Sl.No.	State/UT	Decadal Growth Rate (1991-2001) Percent per annum
1.	Jammu and Kashmir	29.43
	North Eastern States	
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	27.00
3.	Assam	18.92
4.	Manipur	24.86
5.	Meghalaya	30.65
6.	Mizoram	28.82
6.	Nagaland	64.53
8.	Tripura	16.03

Fund for Traditional Industries

981. SHRI B. VINOD KUMAR: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has set up a fund for the regeneration of Traditional Industries as announced in the Budget 2004-2005;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the corpus of the Fund; and

(c) if not, the time-frame by which the Fund would be set up?

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND MINISTER OF RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHAVIR PRASAD): (a) to (c) Based on the announcement of the Finance Minister in his Budget Speech for 2004-05, the Government has drafted the Scheme of Fund for Regeneration of Traditional Industries (SFRUTI) like coir, handloom, handicrafts, sericulture, leather, pottery, etc. The draft scheme, with projected commencement in 2005-06, is based on a "cluster approach" and has been circulated to the Central Ministries/Departments concerned for their comments. Implementation of the Scheme depends on receipt of requisite approvals. A provision of Rs. 30 crore has been proposed in the budget estimates 2005-06 for this Scheme.

Coin Pay Phone

982. SHRI P. MOHAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any change in the usage of coin phone;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) whether two one rupee coins have to be inserted even for local calls; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) In BSNL, there is a change in usage of coin pay phone.

(b) In BSNL, in order to provide access to mobile service from Local Public Call Offices (located at places other than Point of Interconnect with mobile services) a uniform pulse of 120 second with a charge of Rs. 2 is prescribed for Coin Collection Box (CCB) type PCOs.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) 2 one rupee coin will be required for all type of calls including local calls. The new system required certain modification in the CB type PCOs. So new scheme of 2 one rupee coin would apply to CCB type PCOs from the date necessary changes are made.

[*Translation*]

Telecom Services in M.P.

983. DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the various services provided in the telecommunication services sector by the BSNL, State-wise;

(b) the details of the telecommunication service in regard to which Madhya Pradesh lags behind in matter of expansion as compared to other States alongwith the reasons thereof and the measures taken to rectify it; and

(c) the outline of the prospective programme to be followed in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) The following Telecommunication services are being provided by BSNL in all the States except Delhi and Mumbai:

1. Fixed Line Services
2. GSM Cellular Services
3. WLL Services
4. ISDN Lines
5. Leased Lines
6. IN Services
7. Internet Services
8. 1 Net Services
9. Web Fone Services
10. Voice Mail Service in Mobile Phones

(b) In expansion of GSM Mobile services, there has been some delay in MP Circle due to Vendor problems.

(c) Expansion of GSM capacity by 1.5 lakh lines for the year 2004-05 is under implementation by June, 2005.

Expansion of GSM capacity by 2.5 lakh lines has been planned for the year 2005-06.

[*English*]

Restoring Telephone Exchanges in Tsunami Hit Areas

984. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the BSNL proposes to connect the major islands of Andaman and Nicobar with the mainland;

(b) if so, the names of islands connected with the mainland;

(c) the amount spent for restoring the exchanges in Tsunami hit areas; and

(d) the time by which all the exchanges which have been dislocated become operational?

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

(b) (i) Port Blair (South Andaman) and Car Nicobar are connected directly with main land through satellite media.

(ii) The following Islands are connected with the mainland through Port Blair:—North Andaman, Middle Andaman, South Andaman, Little Andaman, Havelock, Neil, Katchal, Long Island, Teresa Island, Great Nicobar, Kamorta & Champion.

(iii) It is also proposed to connect Hutbay, Campbelbay, Havelock, Kamorta, Neil, Katchal, Teresa and Long Island directly with mainland using satellite media during 2005-06.

(c) An amount of Rs. 20,17,41,400 (Rupees Twenty Crore Seventeen Lakh Forty One Thousand Four Hundred only) has been spent for restoring the Exchanges in Tsunami hit areas of Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

(d) All the Exchanges which have been dislocated are likely to be operational by 30th June, 2005 as on date 18 Exchanges out of 23 have been restored.

[Translation]

Modernisation of Hospital

985. SHRI KASHIRAM RANA:
SHRI TUKARAM GANPAT RAO RENGE
PATIL:

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

(a) whether the Government has formulated any scheme for the expansion and modernization of Central Government Hospitals situated in Delhi;

(b) if so the details thereof;

(c) the amount spent by the Government for this purpose during the last three years; and

(d) the amount spent for this purpose during the current financial year?

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]

Economic Advisory Council

986. SHRI HARIBHAU RATHOD: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Economic Advisory Council has recently met to chalk out strategies on taxation, inflation and employment guarantee schemes; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and outcome of the meeting?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) and (b) Prime Minister's Economic Advisory Council have met three times & discussions on various economic issues

were held. The Council had a preliminary meeting with the Hon'ble Prime Minister regarding the functioning of the Council. Prime Minister has asked the Council to look into the Finances of the special category States in the North East and Jammu & Kashmir and to prepare a comprehensive report analyzing the problems with specific suggestions regarding improvement for consideration of the Prime Minister.

The Prime Minister has also referred to the Economic Advisory Council the report entitled "India FDI Initiative for examination and to come up with its suggestions for incorporation in Government policy.

Fund Relief to BSNL

987. SHRI D. VITTAL RAO: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to provide fund relief in the form of reimbursements to BSNL for 2004-05 and 2005-06 to facilitate its working as a healthy public sector undertaking as reported in the *Pioneer* dated February 3, 2005; 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) Government has approved reimbursement of Rs. 1408.9 crore to Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) which is 2/3rd of Licence Fee (excluding USO levy) and Spectrum Charges payable by BSNL in the year 2004-05 and reimbursement of backlog of Rs. 591.02 crore on account of shortfall in reimbursement of Licence Fee and Spectrum Charges paid by BSNL for the years 2001-02 to 2003-04. In addition to the above, the Government shall reimburse last and final installment during next financial year, one third of Licence Fee (excluding USO levy) and Spectrum Charges payable by BSNL in the year 2005-06.

Review of Health Sector

988. SHRI SITA RAM YADAV :
SHRI ALOK KUMAR MEHTA:

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

(a) whether the Government is aware that according to the latest review of India's health sector there is one doctor for 1800 people and one bed for 1,123 population in Government Hospitals and also there is a need of 42,000 doctors in Government-run-Hospitals;

(b) If so, whether the Government proposes to invite the private sector participation in medical profession to fill-up this gap; and

(c) If so, the details of the Government plan in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) According to the Health Information of India, 2003, there are 60 medical practitioner per lakh population and 89 beds per lakh population.

The total number of allopathic doctors registered in the country upto 31.3.2003 are 6,04,489. If the practitioners of Indian Systems of Medicines and Homoeopathy 4.6 lakhs are taken into account, the ratio of availability of doctors to the population will work out much favourably.

The participation of the private sector in all areas of health activities primary, secondary or tertiary is envisaged in the National Health Policy 2002.

Unani CGHS Dispensaries

989. SHRI KULDEEP BISHNOI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of CGHS dispensaries based on Unani System;

(b) whether the Government has any plan to increase the number of Unani CGHS dispensaries; and

(c) if so the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) The number of CGHS Unani dispensaries/Units in the country are as under;:

CGHS Delhi	Five
CGHS Bangalore	One
CGHS Hyderabad	Two
CGHS Kolkata	One
CGHS Lucknow	One

(b) and (c) A proposal for opening a Unani dispensary under CGHS Jaipur has been included in the 10th Five Year Plan but due to constraints of resource and manpower, it will not be possible at present to open any new CGHS Unani dispensary/Unit.

Claiming Treatment Expenses

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

(a) whether the Government is aware of the Delhi High Court Direction that a Government Officer is entitled to claim the expenses of treatment from the Government as well as private hospitals or the hospitals which are in panel allowing retired and serving employees of Government as reported in Hindi daily the *Nav Bharat* dated January 24, 2005;

(b) if so, whether the Central Government Employees are also allowed to claim the expenses of their treatment in any above mentioned hospitals;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether Senior Citizens are also entitled to visit the above hospitals without any prior permission; and

(e) if so, the details of the procedures in their regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (e) Information is being collected and would be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Additional Central Assistance to Khandamal District

991. SHRI SUGRIB SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has allocated Additional Central Assistance to Khandamal district of Orissa during 2003-04;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the criteria for allocation of such assistance;

(d) the names of the projects undertaken by such assistance during 2003-04 and the cost of each of such projects;

(e) the status of each of such projects as on date;

(f) whether the Government has received requests for additional funds for providing support to the ongoing developmental projects in Khandamal District;

(g) if so, the details thereof; and

(h) the action taken by the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Additional Central Assistance of Rs. 10 crore was provided to Khandamal district of Orissa during 2003-04.

(c) This Additional Central Assistance was provided for addressing the developmental problems of the district.

(d) and (e) Sector-wise details of the allocations made for the district and the progress of expenditure against these allocations, as reported by the State Government, up to December, 2004 are as under;

Sl.No.	Sector	Funds Allocated (Rs. in lakh)	Reported Expenditure (Rs. in lakh)
1.	Livelihood Support	327.798	192.500
2.	Drought Proofing	382.230	382.230
3.	Social Security	158.102	81.000
4.	Infrastructure Development	131.870	131.870
Total		1000.00	787.600

(f) and (g) Yes, Sir. The State Government requested for additional support of Rs. 10.00 crore for Khandamal district.

(h) A sum of Rs. 10 crore has been provided in 2004-05 for this district.

[Translation]

Post and Telegraph Facilities

S.2 DR. DHIRENDRA AGARWAL:
SHRI TUKARAM GANPAT RAO RENGE PATIL:
SHRI SUNIL KUMAR MAHATO:

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

(a) the number of Gram Panchayats in Jharkhand and Maharashtra not having post and telegraph facilities; district-wise;

(b) the number of Panchayat Sanchar Services and telegraph offices set up during the last two years or propose to be set up in Jharkhand and Maharashtra by the Government, district-wise;

(c) the details of the time-bound programme formulated by the Government in this regard;

(d) whether the said programme is being implemented as per the time schedule; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) The number of Gram Panchayat villages in Jharkhand and Maharashtra where post offices are not available is given below:

Jharkhand	1073
Maharashtra	15967

District-wise number of such Gram Panchayats in Jharkhand and Maharashtra is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

However, postal facilities for delivery of dak and sale of stamps and stationery through postmen are available in all villages.

The information regarding telegraph facilities is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(b) to (e) The information regarding number of Panchayat Sanchar Services and telegraph offices set up during the last two years or proposed to be set up in Jharkhand and Maharashtra and details of time bound programme formulated by the Government in this regard is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

Indo-Israel Cooperation on High Technology Areas

993. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and Israel have decided to set up a joint project for enhancing cooperation in high technology areas;

(b) if so, whether the two countries are likely to take up projects for development of products and processes that can be commercialized in the global market; 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) India and Israel have expressed their intent to establish the India-Israel Industrial R&D Cooperation initiative (IIRDCI) with the main objective of providing support for approved joint industrial R&D projects between entities of India and Israel, involving at least one industrial partner from each side, aimed at the development of products or processes to be commercialized in the global market.

A Statement of Intent on IIRDCI was signed on 8th December 2004, by Shri Kapil Sibal, Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science & Technology and Ocean Development from the Indian side and His Excellency Mr. Ehud Olmert, Vice Prime Minister and Minister of Industry, Trade and Labour, Israel, from the Israeli side.

CGHS Facilities

994. SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that retired employees of the Employee's Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) are not eligible for medical facilities provided under the Central Government Health Scheme;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the action taken/proposed to be taken to extend CGHS facilities to retired employees of the EPF organisation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) As per the Department of Health's Memorandum dated 1.5.1954 under which the CGHS was constituted, the CGHS facilities are available to such

employees/pensioners who get their salary/pension from the Civil Estimates of the Central Government.

The Employee's Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) is an autonomous body and the salary of its employees is not debited/given from the Civil Estimates of the Central Govt. and as such their employees/retired employees are not automatically eligible for coverage under the CGHS. However, in the past when there was fever load on the infrastructure of CGHS, the serving employees of EPFO in Delhi were extended CGHS facilities on a cost-to-cost basis.

Due to constraints infrastructure and manpower, it will not be possible at present for the CGHS to extend its facilities to any new/additional categories of employees including retire employees of EPFO who are otherwise ineligible for obtaining facilities under the CGHS.

[Translation]

Removal of Hindi Sign Boards

995. SHRI BALESHWAR YADAV: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether some southern States have written to the Union Government for removal of direction sign boards/strips written in Hindi on highways passing through these States;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the decision taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) No, Sir. No such communication has been received in this Ministry.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[English]

Rubberised Road Projects

996. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to use natural rubber with far combination for maintenance of roads in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any State Government has expressed its willingness to co-operate with the Central Government for implementing the Rubberised Road Projects; and

(d) if so, the time by which the Government is likely to take initiative for implementing such projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) Government have formulated policy to use modified bitumen with rubber/polymer including natural rubber as modifier, in surfacing for whole length of National Highways and other centrally sponsored schemes, subject to its availability. Presently, provision of rubber/polymer modified bitumen surfacing have been sanctioned in 12251 kilometer length of National Highways in various States, out of which works on 10865 kilometer length have been completed as per statement enclosed.

(c) and (d) In pursuance of the Government's policy, the States have also been advised to use rubber/polymer modified bitumen for road works in State Sector. However, time frame cannot be ascertained, as the action lies on the part of State Governments.

Statement

Sl.No.	Name of State/UT	Length (in Kms.) approved, so far	Length (in Kms.) completed, so far
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1440	1410
2.	Assam	353	332
3.	Bihar	68.5	68.5
4.	Chhattisgarh	34.2	34.2
5.	Chandigarh	5.43	5.43
6.	Delhi	17.3	15.0
7.	Gujarat	552	511
8.	Haryana	606	506
9.	Himachal Pradesh	456	413
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	18.65	18.65

1	2	3	4
11.	Jharkhand	102.5	83.0
12.	Karnataka	898	678
13.	Kerala	344	244
14.	Maharashtra	784.62	752.62
15.	Madhya Pradesh	627	457
16.	Manipur	31.0	3.5
17.	Meghalaya	51.63	49.0
18.	Mizoram	16	16
19.	Nagaland	2	2
20.	Orissa	194.76	151.66
21.	Pondicherry	55.68	55.68
22.	Punjab	636	536
23.	Rajasthan	1193	1143
24.	Tamil Nadu	1760	1678
25.	Uttaranchal	133.4	108
26.	Uttar Pradesh	894	867
27.	West Bengal	124	37
28.	NHAI	793.38	645.67
29.	BRO	59.13	43.6
Total		12251.18	10864.51
		say 12251	say 10865

Guwahati in Danger Zone of Earthquake

997. SHRI M.K. SUBBA: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Guwahati has been identified by Union Government as one of the Most Earthquake Prone Area in the North-East and has been selected for launching an Urban Earthquake Vulnerability Reduction Project;

(b) if so, the details of the project and the estimated cost thereof; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to implement the same?

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) As per the seismic zoning map of the India, published by Bureau of Indian Standards, the country has been divided into four seismic zones *i.e.* Zone-II to V. While zone-V is considered to be the most vulnerable to earthquakes, zone-II is the least. Guwahati falls in zone-V. The Department of Science & Technology is not aware of any programme by the name "Urban Earthquake Vulnerability Reduction Project".

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[*Translation*]

Research Centers for Cancer

998. SHRI RAGHUVVEER SINGH KOSHAL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any proposal to open more research centers on the lines of Tata Memorial Cancer Research Center and Hospital, Mumbai; and

(b) if so, the decision of the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) There are at present 20 Regional Cancer Centres (RCCs) recognized under the National Cancer Control Programme (NCCP) in different parts of the country. In addition this Ministry has recently approved recognition of the Post Graduate Institute of Medical Education and Research PGIMER, Chandigarh as RCC for Punjab and the U.T., of Chandigarh. It has been envisaged to recognize new Regional Cancer Centres in uncovered areas and additional RCCs in populous States with a view to fill up the geographical gaps in the availability of specialized cancer treatment and research facilities in the country.

[*English*]

Bus Service between Srinagar and Muzaffarabad

999. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:
SHRI HARIBHAU RATHOD:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Pakistan has recently given a green signal for a bus service between Srinagar and Muzaffarabad across the Line of Control;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether both the countries have also decided to start rail service between Munnabao and Khokrapar and a new bus service linking Amritsar and Lahore; and

(d) if so, the time by when these services are likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED): (a) to (d) During the recent visit of the External Affairs Minister to Pakistan from February 15-17, 2005, agreements were reached with Pakistan to start bus services between Srinagar and Muzaffarabad, and between Amritsar and Lahore, including to religious places such as Nankana Sahib. Pakistan also agreed to work towards early restoration of Khokrapar-Munnabao rail link. The Srinagar Muzaffarabad bus service is expected to commence on 7 April 2005. Dates for the Amritsar-Lahore bus service and the Khokrapar-Munnabao rail link would be finalized in consultation with the Government of Pakistan.

[*Translation*]

Public Awareness about AIDS

1000. SHRI RAKESH SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to make use of Government owned audio visual media to create public awareness about AIDS;

(b) if so the value of the time slot proposed to be used for such campaign;

(c) whether the Government is making use of private media too for this purpose;

(d) if so, the amount spent for this purpose so far, and

(e) the budgetary allocation made for this purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government is

already using Doordarshan and All India Radio to create public awareness about HIV/AIDS. In the current financial year, an amount of Rs. 5.45 crores has already been spent on Doordarshan and All India Radio for awareness generation about HIV/AIDS.

(c) to (e) Private media are to be used for awareness generation on HIV/AIDS, keeping in mind their increasing reach and popularity. Many private media houses have been approached to air the software for free in public interest. The Prime Minister also recently addressed a summit of media leaders for this purpose.

This year so far, no expenditure has been incurred by National Aids Control Organisation on the use of private media.

[English]

Reservation to Women in Port Sector

1001. SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to provide reservation to women for employment in the port sector;

(b) if so the details thereof;

(c) whether the women employees in the port sector are facing economic and social problems; and

(d) if so, the steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) The major ports are generally following the policy of the Government on reservation. There is no proposal to provide reservation exclusively to women for employment in the port sector.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) So far as major ports are concerned, no instances of women employees facing economic and social problems have been reported.

(d) Does not arise.

National Council on AIDS

1002. SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any proposal to form a National Council on AIDS; and

(b) if so the details and the guidelines thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government is setting up a National Council on AIDS, under the Chairmanship of Prime Minister to mainstream HIV/AIDS issues in all Ministries and Departments by considering it as a development challenge and not merely public health problem. The Union Health Minister would be Co-Chairman and the Members would include Ministers of several Ministries of Government of India, some Chief Ministers and few representatives from Civil Society. AS&DG NACO is proposed as Member Secretary. Detailed terms of reference/guidelines are being formulated.

CGHS Dispensary in Bhubaneswar

1003. SHRI B. MAHTAB: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether all major States of the country have CGHS Hospital/Dispensary in their State Capitals;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the CGHS dispensary is planned to be opened in Bhubaneswar; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) The details of the CGHS covered cities in the country is given in the enclosed statement.

(d) and (e) At present, one dispensary is functioning under CGHS Bhubaneswar and providing services exclusively to the employees of AG's office, Bhubaneswar. For catering to the needs of the remaining Central Govt. employees/pensioners, another CGHS dispensary has already been sanctioned at Bhubaneswar but the said dispensary has not become functional as yet.

Statement

Sl.No.	Name of the State	Name of the City
1.	Gujarat	Ahmedabad
2.	Uttar Pradesh	Allahabad
3.	Karnataka	Bangalore
4.	Madhya Pradesh	Bhopal
5.	Orissa	Bhubaneshwar
6.	Punjab & Haryana	Chandigarh
7.	Tamil Nadu	Chennai
8.	Delhi	Delhi
9.	Uttaranchal	Dehradun
10.	Assam	Guwahati
11.	Andhra Pradesh	Hyderabad
12.	Madhya Pradesh	Jabalpur
13.	Rajasthan	Jaipur
14.	Uttar Pradesh	Kanpur
15.	West Bengal	Kolkata
16.	Uttar Pradesh	Lucknow
17.	Uttar Pradesh	Meerut
18.	Maharashtra	Nagpur
19.	Maharashtra	Mumbai
20.	Bihar	Patna
21.	Maharashtra	Pune
22.	Jharkhand	Ranchi
23.	Meghalaya	Shillong
24.	Kerala	Trivandrum

*[Translation]***Employment in IT Sector**

1004. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN':
SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA:

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

(a) whether the information technology industry is estimated to offer 10,45,000 job opportunities by the end of 2004-05;

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

(c) the number of IT industries where these prospective employees are likely to be employed; and

(d) the State-wise number of these industries functioning at present and the names of those 20 industries out of them which earn the maximum income?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) As per NASCOM, the total number of IT professional employed in India is estimated to be 10,45,000 by the end of 2004-05.

(c) The total number of companies (including SEMs) in the Indian IT services and software industry are nearly 3000 as per NASSCOM studies.

(d) Statewise number of companies registered with Electronics and Computer Software Export Promotion Council are given in the enclosed statement. Following are the 20 Indian IT services and software exporting companies in 2003-04 in revenue terms:

1. Tata Consultancy Services
2. Infosys Technologies Ltd.
3. Wipro Technologies
4. Satyam Computer Services Ltd.
5. HCL Technologies Ltd.
6. Patni Computer Systems Ltd.
7. iFlex Solutions
8. Mahindra British Telecom Ltd.
9. Polaris Software
10. Perot Systems TSI (HCL Perot Systems Ltd.)
11. Digital Globalsoft Ltd.
12. NIIT Ltd.
13. iGate Global Solutions Ltd. (Mascost Systems Ltd.)
14. Birlasoft Ltd.

15. Mphasis BFL Ltd.
16. Mastek Ltd.
17. Hexaware Technologies Ltd.
18. Larsen and Toubro Infotech Ltd.
19. Tata Infotech Ltd.
20. Huges Software Systems

Statement*Regional Breakup for Software & Services Members*

Major States	Software/Services Members
1	2
SOUTHERN REGION	
Karnataka	198
Tamil Nadu	184
Andhra Pradesh	46
Kerala	7
Others	27
Regional Total	462
NORTHERN REGION	
Delhi	230
Haryana	37
UP	34
Punjab	13
Madhya Pradesh	8
Rajasthan	7
Others	18
Regional Total	347
WESTERN REGION	
Maharashtra	177
Gujarat	36
Others	15
Region Total	228

1	2
EASTERN REGION	
West Bengal	45
Orissa	4
Others	6
Region Total	55
Grand Total	1092

*[English]***Indiscriminate use of Medical Stents**

1005. SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT "BACHDA": Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has received any report regarding indiscriminate use of medicated stents in heart patients with clogged arteries;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government to prevent/check the practice of indiscriminate use of medicated stents by Cardiologists?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) The use of drug coated stents began in India in June, 2001. Though there has been increase in the use of medicated stents in relation to non-medicated stents from about 8% in 2002 to 38% in 2003, there is no evidence to show indiscriminate use of these stents. However, evidence based, context specific, resource sensitive guidelines are being developed in consultation with eminent experts in the field.

Technology Vision Project 2020

1006. SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has accorded its approval for the implementation of the "Technology Vision

Project 2020" to bring the country at par with the developed countries;

(b) if so, the areas identified and the amount allocated for this project; and

(c) the sectors/areas on which the said amount is likely to be spent?

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) The Six Broad areas identified in which the amount allocated is likely to be spent are as follows:

Sl.No.	Broad Areas/Sectors identified in which allocated amount to be spent
1.	Agriculture & Agro Food Processing
2.	Road Construction & Transportation Equipment
3.	Upgradation of Textile Machinery/Textile Industry
4.	Health Care Services and Herbal/Natural Products
5.	Upgradation of Science, Engineering & Technical Institutions relevant to Industries
6.	Targeted Programmes in other Important Areas

The Umbrella Scheme on Technology Vision 2020 Projects in Mission Mode in the above areas has been approved for Rs. 347.54 crores.

Express Way on NH-9

1007. SHRI M. RAJA MOHAN REDDY: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the progress made so far relating to construction of four lane express way on NH-9 from Hyderabad to Vijayawada;

(b) the total amount spent on the project so far; and

(c) by when the entire project is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) Four laning of NH-9 from Hyderabad to Vijayawada has been completed from km 0/0 to 31/0 (near Hyderabad) and from km 215/800 (Nandigama) to 265/0 (Vijayawada). Four laning from km. 31/0 to 41/0 is in progress.

(b) An amount of Rs. 215.54 crores has been spent so far on this project.

(c) The four laning from km. 41/0 to 225/500 of Hyderabad-Vijayawada section is proposed under NHDP Phase-III, which is yet to be approved by the Government. Hence, it is premature to indicate the time of completion.

Telecom Rental Charge

1008. SHRI J.M. AARON RASHID: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that in Tamil Nadu nearly 584 Corporations have been elevated to Town Panchayats;

(b) if so, whether the tariff for collecting telecommunication rental charge has been changed;

(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. However, Tamilnadu Government is stated to have re-classified about 563 Town Panchayats into Village Panchayats.

(b) No, Sir.

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

(d) Categorization of subscribers as Rural or Urban is based on classification done in the Census Report. Census Report 2001 has been used by BSNL for classifying the telephone subscribers as Urban or Rural and accordingly tariff is fixed.

Restructuring of Medical Council of India

1009. SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS:
SHRI JUAL ORAM:

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

(a) whether the Government is aware that the Medical Council of India (MIC) is functioning without a regular chairman;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the details of the methodology being worked out for the election of this council and its office bearers;

(d) whether the Government has a proposal to restructure the Medical Council of India; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (e) By an order of the Hon'ble High Court of Delhi the president of the Medical Council of India has been removed from the office. Presently, the Vice-President of the Council is acting as the President on the directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India. The government has a proposal to restructure the Medical Council of India and a final decision with regard to the details of the same has not been taken.

Tsunami Warning System

1010. SHRI MADHU GOUD YASKHI:
SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA:
SHRI MOHAN SINGH:
SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU:
DR. RAJESH MISHRA:
PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR:
SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI:
SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI:
YOGI ADITYA NATH:
SHRI S.D. MANDLIK:
SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY:
SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH:
DR. M. JĀGANNATH:
SHRI PRABODH PANDA:
SHRI AJJOY CHAKRABORTY:
SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY:
SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI:
SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL:
SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN:
SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT:
SHRI D. VITTAL RAO:
SHRI K.C. PALANISAMY:
SHRI TUKARAM GANGADHAR GADAKH:
SHRI MUNSHI RAM:
SHRI K.S. RAO:

SHRI RAGHURAJ SINGH SHAKYA:
SHRI RAOSAHEB DANVE PATIL:
SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO:
SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR CHOUDHARY:
SHRI ARJUN SETHI:
SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH:
SHRI VIJOY KRISHNA:
SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR:
SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:
SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE:
SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA:
SHRI P. MOHAN:
SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY:
SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA:
SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:
DR. CHINTA MOHAN:
SHRI BADIGA RAMAKRISHNA:
SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR:
SHRI HARIBHAU RATHOD:
SHRI JAI PRAKASH (MOHANLALGANJ):

Will the Minister of OCEAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is installing Early tsunami Warning System;

(b) if so, the funds allocated for the purpose with sources of funds, geographical areas covered and the time by when the work is likely to be completed etc.;

(c) whether such technology is being indigenously developed or is being imported/developed with foreign assistance;

(d) if so, the details of the assistance offered by any foreign country or international institution *viz.* Japan and UNO and the reaction of the Government of India in this regard;

(e) whether any committee or Task Force has been constituted for this purpose;

(f) if so, the details thereof;

(g) whether any International Tsunami Warning System with common platform to share information on Tsunami and other calamities has been proposed;

(h) if so, the details thereof;

(i) the reasons for India not joining Pacific Tsunami Warning Centre earlier and its decision to join it now;

(j) the names of neighbouring countries having such warning system;

(k) whether the Ministry has declared year 2005 as "Disaster Awareness Year" and

(l) 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. It is proposed to set up a 'tsunami and storm surges warning system' in the country with the following components:

- Strengthening of the existing seismological network to indicate near real time occurrence of a tsunamigenic earthquake;
- Installation of tsunami warning sensors close to the ocean bottom at appropriate locales in the Indian Ocean, with real time connectivity.
- Tide gauge and data buoys networking.
- Modeling of the inundation scenario for the entire coast.
- The establishment of a center for collection of the information, analysis and generating status advisories.

(b) The warning system is proposed to be installed with Government funding at the total estimated cost of Rs. 125 crores. An allocation of Rs. 20.00 crores is proposed to be made in the year 2005-06. The system will be installed in about 2.5 years time. A dedicated (24 x 7) Tsunami Warning Centre is proposed at Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services, Hyderabad, an autonomous institute under Department of Ocean Development. However, a variety of sensors shall be deployed near the Tsunamigenic zones, high seas and along Indian coastline.

(c) The project proposes to develop the system indigenously.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

(g) No, Sir. The proposed Tsunami warning system will be established to deal with Tsunami waves generated in the India Ocean. The information will be shared with nations touching the Indian Ocean which are likely to be affected by Tsunami waves.

(h) Does not arise.

(i) Merely joining Pacific warning system will not help India because for forecasting of Tsunami waves in the Indian Ocean, we need to have in place sensors and related systems in the Indian Ocean, high seas and alongwith coast line.

(j) No neighbouring nation has Tsunami warning system in place.

(k) Yes, Sir.

(l) Details are yet to be worked out.

[*Translation*]

Measures to Save Pregnant Women after Tsunami

1011. SHRIMATI ANURADHA CHOUDHARY:
SHRI MUNSHI RAM:
SHRI MOHD. TAHIR:
PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR:

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

(a) the measures taken by the Government to save the pregnancy of women in the aftermath of the Tsunami waves hitting some Southern States of the country as reported in the *Rashtriya Sahara* dated January 4, 2005;

(b) whether the Government is aware that UN population and Food agency has stated in its report that the pregnant women are most vulnerable to miscarriages due to the shock of this natural calamity;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government has set up medical team for medical check up of such woman;

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

(f) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(g) the steps taken by the Government to save maternity in those areas hit by Tsunami?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (g) State specific detailed information is being collected and will be placed on the table of the House.

[English]

Recovery of Dues

1012. SHRI AKHILESH YADAV: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the cellular operators in the country owe a huge amount of licence fee and tariff plan migration fee to the Government and BSNL;

(b) if so, the details of amount outstanding against each company till date; and

(c) the efforts made/being made to recover the outstanding dues?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) The Cellular Operators owe about Rs. 7.04 crores of License Fee to the Government, as per following details:

Sl.No.	Name of Operator	Amount (in Rs. Crore)
1.	M/s BPL Mobile Communications Ltd.	0.40
2.	M/s Hutchison Essar Telecom Ltd.	4.10
3.	M/s. Hutchison Essar South Ltd.	0.32
4.	M/s. Fascal Ltd.	2.22
Total		7.04

The above excludes a sum of over Rs. 450 cores in respect of four terminated licenses of M/s Koshika Telecom Ltd., in respect of which the award of the Arbitrator is awaited.

As regards tariff plan migration fee, no such amounts are payable by the Cellular Operators to the Government.

Under the existing arrangement, BSNL do not receive any license fee or tariff plan migration fee either.

(c) The matter is being actively pursued with the four existing operators to recover the outstanding dues.

Mobile Service in Orissa

1013. SHRI JUAL ORAM: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) has started mobile service in Orissa;

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

(c) whether the mobile service started by the BSNL in some tribal districts and particularly undivided Koraput district has not been able to achieve the desired result;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps taken to review, revamp and improve the cellular service by the BSNL in the State?

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

(b) The district-wise details of BSNL Mobile Service in Orissa are given in the enclosed statement.

(c) The Cellular Mobile Service started by BSNL in the tribal districts of Orissa including undivided Koraput district which comprises of Koraput, Navrangpur, Malkangiri and Rayagada revenue districts, has been quit popular. 14,920 BSNL mobile connections are working in undivided Koraput district.

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

(e) BSNL has been augmenting its GSM network in Orissa continuously. To ensure good Quality of Service and to meet the overwhelming demand in the state, action has been taken to further augment the network capacity in Orissa by about 5 lakh lines by December 2005 progressively.

Statement**Status of BSNL Mobile Service in Orissa**

Sl.No.	Name of the Revenue District	Total Mobile Subscribers in the Districts
1	2	3
1.	Angul	14323
2.	Dhenkanal	5491
3.	Bolangir	5371
4.	Sonepur	2387
5.	Balasore	10861
6.	Bhadrak	7162
7.	Bargarh	4178
8.	Jharsuguda	3581
9.	Deogarh	1194
10.	Sambalpur	17367
11.	Boudh	1194
12.	Phulbani	1790
13.	Cuttack	38434
14.	Kendrapara	4775
15.	Jajpur	8952
16.	Jagatsinghpur	8356
17.	Gajpati	13965
18.	Ganjam	2984
19.	Kalahandi	10861
20.	Nowpara	1194
21.	Keonjhar	14442
22.	Khurda	58247
23.	Nayagarh	1194
24.	Puri	5968
25.	Koraput	10145

1	2	3
26.	Nawarangapur	1194
27.	Malkangiri	1194
28.	Raygada	2387
29.	Sundergarh	23454
30.	Mayurbhanj	9668
Total		292313

*[Translation]***Recovery of Dues**

1014. SHRI JAI PRAKASH (MOHANLAL GANJ):
SHRI GANESH PRASAD SINGH:
SHRI ALOK KUMAR MEHTA:

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

(a) whether various State Governments owe to BSNL a huge amount of arrears on account of telephone services provided to various Departments of the State Governments;

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

(c) the efforts made or being made for recovery of the dues?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) An amount of Rs. 172.51 crores is outstanding as on 31.12.2004 on account of telephone services provided to various Departments of the State Governments.

(b) The State-wise details of outstanding as on 31.12.2004 are given in the enclosed statement.

(c) The following steps are taken to recover the outstanding dues:

(i) Written/Telephonic reminders are issued regularly to clear the outstanding dues.

(ii) Heads of Circles take up the matter with Chief Secretary/Heads of Departments of respective State Governments.

- (iii) Visits by officers of BSNL are made to the concerned Departments, for recovery of outstanding dues.

Statement

State-wise details of outstanding amount as on 31.12.2004 on account of Telephone Services provided to various Departments of State Governments

Name of the State	Amount outstanding (Rs. in Crore)
1	2
Andaman & Nicobar Islands	1.53
Andhra Pradesh	13.07
Arunachal Pradesh	15.76
Assam	10.47
Bihar	19.42
Chhattisgarh	0.56
Goa	0.39
Gujarat	1.31
Haryana	0.90
Himachal Pradesh	0.01
Jammu & Kashmir	15.60
Jharkhand	12.88
Karnataka	2.55
Kerala	0.69
Madhya Pradesh	8.38
Maharashtra	3.87
Manipur	4.72
Meghalaya	1.77
Mizoram	0.41
Nagaland	9.22
Orissa	12.45
Pondicherry	0.01

1	2
Punjab	2.68
Rajasthan	0.82
Sikkim	1.38
Tamil Nadu	1.41
Tripura	1.28
Uttar Pradesh	18.85
Uttaranchal	1.05
West Bengal	9.07
Total	172.51

Opening of Post Offices in Gram Panchayats

1015. SHRI MOHD. TAHIR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to open post offices in all the gram panchayats in the country;

(b) if so, the number of gram panchayats having post offices at present;

(c) whether all the post offices in gram panchayats are having postmen;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the Government has opened post offices in different States during the current year;

(f) if so, the names of districts of States where post offices have been opened; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Post Offices are opened subject to fulfillment of distance, population and income norms fixed for this purpose. Hence, post offices can be opened in those Gram Panchayats that fulfil these norms, subject to availability of resources.

(b) 1,20,048 Gram Panchayat villages in the country have the facility of at least one post office.

(c) All post offices in Gram Panchayats provide delivery services through either postmen or through Gramin Dak Sevaks.

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

(e) Yes, Sir. Some Post Offices have been opened, where justified, during the current year, by relocating existing post offices.

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

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

[English]

Overhaul of Indian Meteorological Department

1016. SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government's attention has been drawn to an article appearing in the *Times of India* dated January 3, 2005 wherein a strong case has been made out for a thorough overhaul of the Indian Meteorological Department in the wake of Tsunami disaster; and

(b) if so, the Government's reaction thereto?

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, Madam.

(b) Overhaul of the India Meteorological Department both by way of further training of personnel and upgradation of equipment has been under discussion even before Tsunami. The Ministry of Science & Technology is in the process of finalizing a detailed action plan, which will be taken up for implementation shortly.

Amount for Upgradation of Medical Colleges

1017. SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any amount has been released for the upgradation of medical colleges in India during each of the last three years; and

(b) if so, the names of the medical colleges which have received the amount of upgradation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir, Funds were released to Assam Medical College, Dibrugarh, (Rs. 150 lakhs), Pt. B.D. Sharma Post Graduate Institute of Medical Sciences, Rohtak (Rs. 148.76 lakhs), Govt. Medical College, Thiruvananthapuram (Rs. 150 lakhs), Govt. M.K. Medical College, Salem (Rs. 150 lakhs) and North Bengal Medical College, Susratnagar, Darjeeling (Rs. 148.85 lakhs) for strengthening the Diagnostic facilities under the Scheme "Assistance for Capacity Building" during the years 2001-02 & 2002-03.

Link Road between Bhutan and India

1018. SHRI SANSUMA KHUNGGUR BWISWMUTHIARY: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has contemplated to construct a new National Highway starting from Lalai in Bhutan to NH-31, Bijnai (eastern side to Aie river bridge) via Amteka, Kailamaila, Subhaijhar, Dogorpara and Mongolian Bazaar as a measure of opening a new link road between Bhutan and India through tribal and backward areas of Assam;

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

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Government also proposes to convert the link roads, viz. Gaylegphu-Samtaibari, Shorbhang-Bismuri, Sandrupjunker-Rangia and Bhairakhunda-Udaiguri into National Highways so as to help facilitate the counter-insurgency measure in the Indo-Bhutan border areas and also to improve bilateral trade and commerce between Bhutan and India;

(e) if so, the steps taken so far in this regard; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (d) No, Sir.

(b) and (e) Do not arise.

(c) and (f) In February, 2004 the Ministry has declared 7457 kms. of State Roads as National Highways. Due to financial and other constraints, at present, emphasis is being given for development of roads already declared as National Highways instead of declaring more roads as National Highways.

Setting up of Knowledge Commission

1019. SHRI RAVICHANDRAN SIPPIPARAI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has recently decided to set up a "Knowledge Commission";

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the aims and objectives of the proposed Commission?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) The Prime Minister has announced the intention of the Government to set up a National Knowledge Commission. This is currently under finalisation.

(b) Would be detailed when finalized.

(c) Would be detailed when finalized.

Authorising Kendriya Bhandar to Supply Medicines

1020. SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN:
SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA:

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

(a) whether the Kendriya Bhandar has been authorised to supply medicines to CGHS beneficiaries attached to different dispensaries in Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government is aware that the Kendriya Bhandar does not have the stock of medicines with them and procures medicines from private chemists; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Kendriya Bhandar has been authorised to supply medicines to the following dispensaries under CGHS Delhi:

- (1) R.K. Puram, Sector-4.
- (2) R.K. Puram, Sector-6.
- (3) R.K. Puram, Sector-8.
- (4) Hauz Khas
- (5) Munirka
- (6) South Avenue
- (7) Parliament House Annexe
- (8) Parliament house
- (9) CGHS Medical Store Depot, Udyan Marg, Gole Market.

(c) The Kendriya Bhandar have informed that it is having a well-managed retail chemist shop at 23, Mahadev Road, New Delhi, and having its own authorised panel of chemists for procuring medicines from them.

(d) The details of chemists presently empanelled with Kendriya Bhandar are as under:

1. M/s. Walia Medical Corner
2. M/s Elawadi Medicos
3. M/s Chemist Inn
4. M/s Anupam Udyog
5. M/s Garga Medicos
6. M/s Deep Medicos
7. M/s Live Aid.

National Rural Health Mission

1021. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has approved the Launch of National Rural Health Mission with a Rs. 3,700 crore credit grants in aid from multilateral agencies;

(b) whether it has also approved a proposal to initiate negotiation with World Bank for credit support of Rs. 1,575 crore and grants in aid support from DFID for Rs. 2,125 crore for RCH-II programme to supplement the resources of National Rural Health Mission; and

(c) if so, the time by which a final decision for launching the mission is likely to be taken alongwith areas to be covered during 2005-06?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The financial support of the World Bank and the DFID to the RCH programme is likely to be finalized within the first quarter of 2005-06 and it will cover the Reproductive and Child Health components of the programme which will be taken up for implementation in all the States and Union Territories of the country.

[Translation]

Growth Rate in Tenth Five Year Plan

1022. SHRI MOHAN SINGH:
SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has set a target of 8 per cent growth rate during the Tenth Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, whether the achievement of growth rate during the first of the Tenth Plan was only 4 per cent of GDP and 8.3 per cent during 2003-04;

(c) if so, the reasons for low growth rate; and

(d) the steps taken or being taken by the Government to achieve the growth rate of 8 per cent during the remaining period of the Tenth Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) and (b) The targeted growth rate of GDP (at market prices) for

the Tenth Five Year Plan is 8.1 per cent. As against this, according to the Quick Estimates of National Income released by the Central Statistical Organisation (CSO) the growth rate of GDP at market prices (at 1993-94 prices) was 4.1 per cent for 2002-03 and 8.6 per cent in 2003-04.

(c) The main reasons for low growth rate during the year 2002-03 was a growth rate of (-) 8.0 per cent in the agriculture sector on account of poor monsoon in that year.

(d) The steps being taken by the Government to achieve the targeted growth rate during the remaining period of the Tenth Five Year Plan are being spelt out in the Mid-Term Appraisal of the Tenth Five Year Plan, which is currently under preparation.

[English]

Setting up of Advanced Medical Science Research and Treatment Centre

1023. SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received any proposal or proposes to set up an Advanced Medical Science Research and Treatment Centre in West Bengal;

(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) There is no proposal for setting up an Advanced Medical Sciences Research and Treatment Centre in West Bengal. However, there is a proposal to upgrade Kolkata Medical College to the level of AIIMS like Institution under Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana (PMSSY). The PMSSY scheme has been cleared by the Expenditure Finance Committee and will now be placed before the competent authority for approval.

[Translation]

Survey of Earthquake Prone Areas

1024. SHRI DEVIDAS PINGLE: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether a fresh survey has been conducted by the Department of Meteorology in order to identify the earthquake-prone areas and as also to ascertain the possibilities of occurrence of earthquake in the wake of recent Tsunami crisis;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Nasik district, which is surrounded by Sahyadri hills and which has a number of reservoirs is more prone to earthquake; and

(d) if so, the details of the measures taken or proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

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 fresh survey has been conducted by the Department of Meteorology to identify the earthquake prone areas and as also to ascertain the possibilities of occurrence of earthquake in the wake of recent Tsunami.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) As per the seismic zoning map of the India, published by Bureau of Indian Standards, the country has been divided into four seismic zones *i.e.* Zone-II to V. While zone-V is considered to be the most vulnerable to earthquakes, zone-II is the least. Nasik district falls in zone-III and can be expected to experience moderate intensity earthquakes. The occurrence of micro earthquakes around reservoir is a well known phenomena,

all over the world. The Maharashtra Engineering Research Institute and National Geophysical Research Institute are operating seismic stations in the region to monitor the seismic activity on regular basis.

Decline in MTNL Services

1025. SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD:
SHRI M. ANJAN KUMAR YADAV:

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

(a) whether there has been any decline in the quality of telephone services being provided by the Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL);

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) No, Sir. The quality of service has rather improved in most of the parameters which is evident from the comparative statement of last two surveys conducted by Telecom Regulatory Authority of India as given in enclosed statement-I.

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

(c) Various measures taken by Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited for improvement of services/retention of customers are given in enclosed statement-II.

Statement I

Comparative Statement of Achievements made by MTNL as per survey conducted by TRAI

Sl. No.	Parameter	Achievement during January to March 2004		Achievement during July to September 2004	
		Delhi	Mumbai	Delhi	Mumbai
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Provision of new connection within 7 days	60	8	86.58	26.95
2.	Fault incidence/100 subscriber/month*	23.91	12.6	21.76	16.83

1	2	3	4	5	6
3.	Fault repair by next working day (%)	71	61	81.11	77.45
4.	Grade of service	0.001	00	0.0006	0.0004
5.	Shifts executed within 3 days (%)	22	2	62.69	22.23
6.	Requested for additional facility hours (%)	90	8	100	67.70
7.	Request for additional facility within 24 hours (%)	49	95	88.35	80.69
8.	Percentage of repeat fault within 30 days (%)*	17	17	16.34	17.82
9.	Mean time to repair < 8 hours	11.6	25.48	12.80	34.16
10.	Call completion rate in local network > 65%	60	55	45	51.63
11.	Metering and billing credibility < 0.01%	0.14	0.1	0.11	0.16

*Fault incidences as well as Repeat faults as per DoT norms are to be measured w.r.t. No. of stations, while TRAI has been calculating these parameters w.r.t. DELs and No. of faults respectively.

Statement II

MTNL has undertaken various measures to improve the telephone services are as follows:

- (i) Replacement of E-10B Technology Switches, by state of art Digital exchanges.
- (ii) Replacement of telephone instruments, which are older than five years or repaired more than two times in a phased manner.
- (iii) Rehabilitation of External Plant and reduction of subscriber loop length by planning more remote switch units/Remote Line Units/Concentrated Line Equipments/Digital Loop Concentrator etc.
- (iv) Replacement of paper core underground cables by jelly filled cable/optical fibre cable.
- (v) Introduction of Wireless technology including Cordec, WLL etc.
- (vi) MTNL is also providing cellular mobile, WLL technology based services and broad band Internet Services at affordable price.

- (vii) MTNL has also taken several measures to improve customer satisfaction by opening Sanchar Haats/customer service centres, introduction of Interactive Voice Response Systems (IVRS), by organising telephone adalats to address speedily the grievance of customers.

[English]

Economic Package to Gujarat

1026. SHRI JASHUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Union Government proposes to grant special economic package to Gujarat;
- (b) if so, the details of assistance provided during each of the last two five year plans;
- (c) whether the Union Government is providing special economic package to the border district of Gujarat;

(d) if so, the details of such assistance provided during the above mentioned period; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) Do not arise.

(c) to (e) No special economic package is being provided to the border districts of Gujarat. However, the border districts of the state are covered under the Border Area Development Programme (BADP) under which allocations of Rs. 32.08 crore and Rs. 47.85 crore had been provided to Gujarat during the Eighth Plan and Ninth Plan respectively.

US Companies in IT Sector

1027. SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether many US Companies have shown keen interest in the Indian Information Technology Sector;

(b) if so, the number of US companies which ventured into the Indian Information Technology Infrastructure market; and

(c) the extent to which it is likely to boost the Indian IT market?

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

(b) As per the database maintained by National Association of Software and Services Companies there are over 3000 companies engaged in the export of Information Technology software and services from India. The database of the exact number of the US companies ventured in the Indian Information Technology Infrastructure sector is not available with them.

Government had approved Foreign Direct Investment of US\$ 1,083.27 million from US upto May 2003 in the Information Technology sector.

(c) India earned foreign exchange of US \$ 12.5 billion during 2003-04 from the export of Information Technology

software and Services including IT enabled Services (ITES) and the Business Process Outsourcing (BPO) and the same is expected to grow to US\$ 16.5 billion during 2004-05.

The share of the export of the Information Technology software and services from India to US is around 70% of the total export from the country. Therefore, outsourcing from US is playing major role in boosting the Indian IT market.

Inter University Debate Competition by ICWA

1028. DR. RAJESH MISHRA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Council of World Affairs had started annual Inter University Debate Competition in memory of Smt. Indira Gandhi to provide students a Centre for national integration;

(b) if so, the details in this regard alongwith the amount spent by the Government for organizing this Debate since its commencement;

(c) whether the Council has stopped conducting the Debate; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefore?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir, the Indian Council of World Affairs started an Inter-University Debate Competition in memory of Smt. Indira Gandhi.

(b) The event was started in 1986 and was last held in 1999.

Year	Number of Universities	Participation Status
1986	50	Universities participated
1987	60	-do-
1988	65	-do-
1989	70	-do-
1990	66	-do-
1991	52	-do-
1992	50	-do-
1993	45	-do-

1994	—	60	Universities participated
1995	—	50	-do-
1996	—	52	-do-
1997	—	43	-do-
1998	—	52	-do-
1999	—	70	-do-

Each University sent two participants. The event was financed through participation fees and the receipts of the Council. The Government had no financially commitment.

(c) and (d) Consequent upon the promulgation of the Indian Council of World Affairs Ordinance 2000, No. 3 of 2000, the Indian Council of World Affairs Ordinance, 2001, No.1 of 2001, the Indian Council of World Affairs (Second) Ordinance 2001, No. 3 of 2001, the Indian Council of World Affairs Act, 2001, Act No. 29 of 2001 and the Indian Council of World Affairs (Amendment) Act, 2003, No. 5 of 2004, and as per the defined objects of the Council, the Indian Council of World Affairs since the year 2000 stopped conducting the Inter-University Debate Competition.

[*Translation*]

Funds for Indian Council for Medical Research

1029. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY:
SHRI CHANDRA MANI TRIPATHI:

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

(a) whether the funds have been sanctioned for the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) under the Tenth Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the points selected by the ICMR to conduct research work thereon alongwith the details thereof?

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 been allocated Rs. 970 crores during the Tenth Plan period for implementation of on going & new research schemes/projects. The thrust areas of ICMR's

research work are in harmony with the priority areas identified in the National Health & Population Policy, cutting edge areas in health research, Central Sector schemes transferred to ICMR & neglected areas in medical research not addressed by other agencies. Major areas identified by ICMR for conducting Research are:

1. Complementing National Health Policy by formulating a Health Research Policy.
2. Project Development and Evaluation.
3. Conducting fundamental and strategic research.
4. Harness and use new and emerging technologies to find solutions to health issues.
5. Operationalisation of research outcomes.
6. Data bases/Registries.
7. Conducting studies related to environmental stability.
8. Tackling looming epidemic of life-style diseases.
9. Improving reproductive health and nutrition.
10. Addressing health issues of under privileged sections of society.

[*English*]

Speed Post Service

1030. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY:
SHRI PRAKASH BAPU V. PATIL:
SHRI KIRIP CHALIHA:
SHRI VIKRAMBHAI ARJANBHAI MADAM:

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

(a) whether speed post service has been introduced for fast delivery of posts;

(b) if so, the number of districts connected with speed post services so far in Karnataka and Gujarat, district-wise;

(c) whether any proposal is pending with the Union Government to introduce speed post service in some new districts;

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

(e) whether it is also a fact that introduction of speed post service has hampered the ordinary, registered posts and other postal services, and

(f) if so, the details thereto?

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

(b) In Karnataka all 27 districts and in Gujarat all the 25 districts are connected with speed post.

(c) No proposal is pending at present. Speed Post is a premium product. Expansion of its network is an ongoing process depending on business and operational parameters.

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

(e) No, Sir. The Department of Posts offers a continue of mail products each with distinctive features suitable for different customer segments.

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

Network of Developing/Underdeveloped Nations

1031. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a group of 10 developing and underdeveloped nations in the Asia Pacific Region has formed a "network" to find ways of generating sustainable livelihood for the vulnerable sections of society and launch major capacity-building initiative for identification of needs, access to information and negotiation;

(b) whether these nations felt that the problem being faced by the poor and weaker sections of society in these countries is almost of the same nature;

(c) if so, the effective steps taken by these developing and undeveloped countries on the various matters; and

(d) the time frame decided for the implementation of these programmes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED): (a) A regional workshop on generating sustainable livelihoods for human security was held at Taragram, India from November

4-8, 2004. The participants in the workshop included representatives from non-governmental organizations and government officials from some countries as well. The participants decided to create a network for sharing of best practices and experience.

(b) and (c) The participants in the workshop felt that the problems faced by the poor and weaker sections of society in their countries were similar and that it would be useful to share experiences. The participants agreed that human security should be integrated into ongoing poverty reduction programmes, that there should be a great exchange of ideas and experience, and that thematic training courses should be organized.

(d) The workshop was co-organized by the United National Centre for Regional Development, which would, presumably, take follow up action on the recommendations.

Encroachment of Government Land

1032. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether encroachments are being made on the land of the department of telecommunication in the capital as well as other states;

(b) if so, the number of cases that has come to the notice of the Government during the last three years and till date;

(c) the time likely to be taken to remove them; and

(d) the measures taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to prevent such encroachments?

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

(b) 38 cases.

(c) Since removal of encroachment involves coordination with various local bodies including Police machinery and involvement of judiciary, it is difficult to project the time frame.

(d) The following measures are taken to prevent encroachments:

- (i) Boundary wall/barbed wire fencing/chain linked fencing around the plots.
- (ii) Regular inspections.

Limitation of Job Opportunities for SCs/STs

1033. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware about the limitation of job opportunities for SCs/STs due to shrinkage of jobs in Government or in Public Sector;

(b) if so, the steps taken to address the growing problem; and

(c) 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) The Government has made all possible efforts to ensure that job opportunities for SCs/STs do not shrink.

(b) There is a provision of reservation for the scheduled castes and scheduled tribes in services under the Central Government including public sector undertakings, statutory, semi Government and autonomous bodies. The policy of reservation also covers voluntary agencies receiving grants-in-aid from the Government. In case of strategic sale of the public sector undertakings, the Government enters into transaction agreements, viz. share holder agreement/share purchase agreement with the prospective strategic partner. Protection of the interests of the employees is an integral part of these agreements and appropriate provisions are made in these agreements. The strategic partner, through recitals in these agreements, recognized that the Government in relation to its employment policies follows certain principles for the benefit of the members of the scheduled castes/scheduled tribes, physically handicapped persons and other socially disadvantaged categories of the society. The strategic partner also undertakes that it shall use its best efforts to cause the company to provide adequate job opportunities for such persons. Further, in the event of any reduction in the strength of the employees of the company, the strategic partner is expected to make efforts to ensure that the physically handicapped persons, scheduled castes/scheduled tribes are retrenched at the end.

A Bill on reservation in services has been introduced in the Raja Sabha which contains a provision that where posts in a cadre are to be abolished and the employees are required to be surrendered or their services are required to be terminated as a result thereof, a scheduled caste or scheduled tribe or an other backward class employee shall not be surrendered or his services shall not be terminated if it results in lowering the representation of the scheduled castes or the scheduled tribes or the other backward classes, as the case may be, in relation to percentage of reservation fixed for them.

(c) Does not arise.

Medical University in Rajasthan

1034. SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has a proposal to set up a Medical University in Rajasthan;

(b) if so, the assistance extended by the Union Government for the above purpose; and

(c) the steps taken to complete all formalities for the establishment of Medical University in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) There is no proposal with the Central Government to set up a Medical University in Rajasthan. It is for the State Government to take the necessary action for establishment of a medical university in the State. There is no scheme with the Government under which financial assistance can be provided for this purpose.

Dilapidated Condition of National Highway Nos. 6 and 41

1035. SHRI RUPCHAND MURMU: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Highway Nos. 6 and 41 are in dilapidated condition just after two days of heavy rain;

(b) if so, whether the matter has been inquired into and steps taken to ensure the use of good quality material as per the contractual obligations;

(c) whether there is any proposal to appoint an independent agency for conducting road audits; 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) The NH-6 is being maintained in traffic worthy condition.

Extensive damaged occurred in Haldia—Kolaghat section (km 0/500 to km 52/700) of NH-41 in about 12.5 km stretch of the existing two lane carriageway due to heavy rainfall during 10th to 17th September and 2nd to 7th October 2004.

(b) The damaged stretches were immediately restored to traffic worthy condition by way of temporary restoration. Strengthening of the existing weak two lane carriageway from km 0/500 to 52/700) of NH-41 is also envisaged under the on-going project of widening of four lane of the Haldia-Kolaghat section (km 0/500 to km 52/700) of NH-41 by the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI), under the programme of upgrading road connectivity to major ports. Hence, no enquiry has been conducted, as the damage is not due to other factors.

(c) and (d) The contracts of NHAI are being supervised by independent supervision consultants appointed through open bids.

Engineers India Ltd. has been appointed as an independent agency for quality audits of most of the on-going works being done by NHAI.

Alleged Corruption in Procuring Medicines

1036. SHRI SURESH KURUP: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of the alleged rampant corruption in procuring medicines for CGHS beneficiaries and the problem faced by the beneficiaries; and

(b) if so, the steps taken to improve the smooth supply of medicines to CGHS beneficiaries specially to pensioners?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) Some complaints have been received in this regard.

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.

[Translation]

Proposal from U.P.

1037. SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has received any proposal from the Government of Uttar Pradesh for the construction of Highway from the district Gorakhpur to Deoria via Dohrighat-Kapadwar alongwith the estimated cost thereof;

(b) if so, the date on which this proposal was received and the current status thereof;

(c) whether any funds have been allocated or proposed to be allocated by the Union Government for the construction of this highway; 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) to (d) No, Sir. No such proposal has been received during last two years from the State Government of Uttar Pradesh. The road from Gorakhpur to Dohrighat is National Highway No. 29 which is in traffic worthy condition. The road from Dohrighat-Kapadwar-Deoria is a state road. The responsibility for development and maintenance of this road lies on the State Government of Uttar Pradesh.

[English]

Flight Operation to Nepal

1038. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether after the declaration of emergency in Nepal, all the incoming and outgoing flights were cancelled by the Government of Nepal;

(b) if so, whether hundreds of Indian tourists and workers were stranded in Nepal;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED): (a) All flights, both domestic and international, were suspended in Kathmandu by His Majesty's Government of Nepal from 1030 hrs. on February 1, 2005. As a result flights, including those operated by Indian Airlines, Jet Airways, Air Sahara and Cosmic Air were cancelled. However, a Royal Nepal Airlines flight was able to take-off for Delhi, after the Kathmandu airport was opened late in the evening on February 1, 2005. Normal flights were permitted from February 2, 2005, onwards.

(b) and (c) It is estimated that about 350 India-bound passengers, including Indians, were stranded in Kathmandu;

(d) It is understood that the concerned airlines had made arrangements for accommodating stranded passengers. The Embassy of India in Kathmandu also made arrangements to provide all consular assistance to Indian nationals.

Reduction in Retirement Age

1039. SHRI M. SHIVANNA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has a proposal to reduce the retirement age of Central Government Employees from 60 to 58 years; and

(b) 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) No, Sir.

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

Lighthouse facility in Lakshadweep Islands

1040. DR. P.P. KOYA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to improve lighthouse facility in Lakshadweep Islands;

(b) if so, whether there is any proposal to construct a major lighthouse at Chetlat, the northern most Island;

(c) whether the Government has a proposal to introduce light buoys near the three reefs of Baliapani, Cheryapani and Perumulapar which are important fishing locations of the territory; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) Yes, Sir. A new Lighthouse is under construction at the southern most tip of Minocoy Island. Under the modernization plan, the range of Lighthouses at Amini, Kadamat, Chetlat, Agati, Bitra and Kiltan has been improved. New versions of Radar Trnasponder Beacons (Recons) have been established at Suhelipar and Minicoy and another is under establishment at Kavarati.

(b) No, Sir. However, the northern most Island is Bitra where a Lighthouse is already established. Even at Chetlat, a lighthouse is existing to cater to the needs of mariners. The range of Chetlat Lighthouse has been recently improved from 8 Nautical miles to 12 Nautical miles.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Inadequate Infrastructure

1041. SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that as per the population norms, the existing infrastructure is inadequate in many States even as per 1991 population; and

(b) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken to help the States improve their infrastructure?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) Yes, Sir. The Government is aware that as per the Population Norms, the existing rural health care infrastructure is inadequate in some of the States even as per 1991 population.

(b) The Government of India has sanctioned the establishment of 8669 new Sub-centres during 10th Plan to fill the infrastructure gaps as per 1991 Population Norm. The targets for filling up the gaps in rural health care infrastructure, during the 10th five year plan, have been communicated to the concerned states.

The Government of India provides funds for repair, renovation and expansion of existing health care infrastructure under Major Civil Works scheme of the Reproductive and Child Health (RCH) Programme. Under RCH-II, a lump sum financial assistance will be provided for construction of Sub-centres including ANM quarters.

Area projects are being implemented with the assistance of World Bank and other international donor agencies in selected states and backward districts in the country. One of the main activities of Area Project includes construction of buildings for Sub-centres, Primary Health Centres and Community Health Centres.

Strengthening of the infrastructure is also one of the important components under National Rural Health Mission.

Voluntary Retirement Scheme

1042. SHRI RAJESH VERMA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to introduce Voluntary Retirement Scheme for the employees of Central Government; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and 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 specific proposal is under consideration of the Government.

(b) Question does not arise in view of (a) above.

Development of Bio-Technology

1043. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of colleges in the country where the Bio-technology is being taught at Ph.D. level; and

(b) the funds earmarked for development of Bio-technology in the country during the Tenth Plan?

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) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

Comprehensive Policy Package for SSIs

1044. SHRI AJIT JOGI: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any comprehensive policy package for the small scale industries has been announced;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any time limit has been fixed for the implementation of the package; and

(d) if so, the details of thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND MINISTER OF RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHAVIR PRASAD): (a) to (d) A comprehensive promotional package, including policy initiatives, is under consideration of the Government.

Integrated Law for Checking Quality of Food Products

1045. SHRI PARAS NATH YADAV: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is contemplating to enact an integrated law to check the quality of food products; 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) A proposal for enacting an Integrated Food Law to do away with the multiplicity of food laws existing in the country is at present under consideration of a Group of Ministers (GOM) headed by the Hon'ble Minister of Agriculture (Shri Sharad Pawar). The Ministry of Food Processing Industries has prepared a draft Food Safety and Standards Bill and has circulated the same among all stake-holders for their comments.

[*English*]

Brahmaputra Waterway

1046. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of progress made by the Brahmaputra waterway after its take over as NW-II with specific achievements made on the navigability and port system;

(b) whether two dredgers have been pressed into action;

(c) if so, the details thereof with location-wise dredging performed and achievement made since its take over as NW-II.

(d) the target fixed for the current year to conduct dredging of the entire length of NW-II; and

(e) the details regarding earlier dredging conducted in Brahmaputra, if any, and the target fixed for placement of more dredgers?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) The following navigational infrastructure facilities have been provided:

- (i) Depth of 2 m between Dhubri and Neamatl and 1.5 m between Neamatl and Dibrugarh.
- (ii) Day navigation marks.
- (iii) Night navigation facility between Dhubri and Pandu.
- (iv) Construction of permanent terminal at Pandu is on and likely to be completed by September 2005.

(v) Floating terminals have been provided at Dhubri, Jogighopa and Pandu.

(vi) 5 pontoons have been constructed for use as floating jetties at various locations along the waterway.

(vii) 2 pontoon mounted with cranes have been constructed and deployed at Pandu.

(viii) Construction of 3 more pontoons with Grab crane is in progress and likely to be completed by 2005-06.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) One hydraulic surface dredger was deployed in February 2002 and one Cutter Suction Dredger was deployed in November, 2004. These dredgers have been used for clearing various shoals in Dhubri-Pandu stretch.

(d) In the current year, dredging will be carried out during the low water season at the shallow patches between Dhubri-Pandu stretch of waterway. Prior to February, 2002 when one hydraulic surface dredger was pressed into action, no dredging was done.

(e) One more hydraulic surface dredger is under construction and action has been initiated to acquire two more cutter suction dredging units.

Launch of NHDP PH-IV

1047. SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD:
SHRI K.S. RAO:
SHRI MADHU GOUD YASKHI;
SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:
SHRI VIJOY KRISHNA:
SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH:
SHRI S.D. MANDLIK:

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

(a) whether the Government has recently announced the fourth phase of the National Highway Development project targeting the broadening of 20,000 kms. of existing National Highways;

(b) if so, the detail thereof;

(c) the funds earmarked for the purpose;

(d) the details of work undertaken in their phase of National Highway Development Project, Highway-wise; and

(e) the funds earmarked for third phase and the funds actually utilized?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (c) The Planning Commission made a presentation on the highway upgradation programme before the Committee on Infrastructure, set up by the Government. The presentation included widening of 20,000 km. of existing National Highways under National Highways Development Project Phase-IV at an estimated cost of Rs. 25,000 crore.

(d) and (e) 4,000 km. of National Highways are to be upgraded under National Highways Development Project (NHDP) Phase IIIA, on Build Operate and Transfer (BOT) basis by December 2009. The work under NHDP Phase IIIA are yet to be awarded. Rs. 1,400 crore have been earmarked for NHDP Phase IIIA for the year 2005-06.

Ban on the Sale of Nimesulide

1048. SHRI K.S. RAO:
SHRI MADHU GOUD YAKSHI:

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

(a) whether the Government is aware that the medicine Nimesulide, banned in 176 countries as reported in the *Statesman* dated January 10, 2005 is still being used in the country;

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

(c) the reasons for its marketing allowed in India; and

(d) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to stop its marketing in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The news item is not based on facts. The drug Nimesulide is in use in large number of countries and its safety was examined by the European Agency for Evaluation of Medicinal Products also.

(c) and (d) The safety and continued use of Nimesulide in the country was examined by the Drugs Technical Advisory Board, a statutory body under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1945 on the directions of the Hon'ble High Court of Delhi and it was found to be safe for use. The recommendations of the Board were accepted by the Hon'ble Court.

[Translation]

Funds to Maharashtra under PMRY

1049. SHRI BAPU HARI CHAURE: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the funds allocated to Maharashtra under the Pradhan Mantri Rojgar Yojana during each of the last three years; and

(b) the details of the funds actually utilized out of the total funds allocated to the State?

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND MINISTER OF RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHAVIR PRASAD): (a) and (b) The details of funds released/authorized for expenditure for entrepreneurial development training, contingencies, etc., to the Government of Maharashtra and the utilization of these funds as reported by the State Government during the last three years under the Pradhan Mantri Rozgar Yojana (PMRY) are as under:

Year	Amount (Rs. in lakh)	
	Total funds released to the State Government	Total funds utilized by the State Government
2001-02	72.28	120.91*
2002-03	29.15	105.04*
2003-04	191.31	78.09

*Funds made available in the past years were utilized during the year.

In addition, the Central funds for subsidy are routed through the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) which, in turn, passes them on to the implementing banks for crediting the amounts to the loan accounts of the individual beneficiaries.

Jobs to Educated Youth

1050. SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the city of Gurgaon in Haryana has been declared ahead of other cities in Information Technology and in infrastructure;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the extent to which it is likely to provide jobs to the educated youth and the procedure adopted for giving such employment?

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Post Office Recurring Deposit Account

1051. SHRI P. MOHAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Postal Department provides 7.5% interest for the amount deposited in Post Office Recurring Deposit Account and collects 15% interest for the withdrawal;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether there is a proposal for the upward revision of interest on PORD account; and

(d) if so, by when is it likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) The rate of interest admissible for the deposits made in 5 year Recurring Deposit account is 7.5%. Prior to 1st January 2005, the rate of interest for withdrawals made on or after 1st April 1993 to 31st December 2004 was 15% per annum.

For withdrawals made on or after 1st January 2005, a 2 percent interest over and above the Recurring Deposit interest rate, as on the date of withdrawal, is applicable under the Post Office Recurring Deposit Rules, 1981.

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

Organ Donation

1052. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that there is large scale exploitation of poor people in the country in the name of organ donation;

(b) if so, the action taken by the Government thereon;

(c) whether the Government has proposed for the creation of a fund to give incentive to the honest donors and various measures providing for stringent punishment to the offenders; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) Some cases of alleged illegal transplantation of kidneys have come to the notice of the Government of India. Sale and purchase of human organs is banned under the provisions of the Transplantation of Human Organs Act, 1994. The Act contains stringent provisions for punishing any one who commits such offences. Under Section 13 of the Transplantation of Human Organs Act, 1994, the Central and State Governments are empowered to appoint Appropriate Authorities for the purpose of the Act who are empowered to investigate any complaints of breach of provisions of the Act including those pertaining to sale and purchase of human organs. The Director General of Health Services is the Appropriate Authority appointed by the Central Government in respect of Union Territories. In respect of States, action under the Transplantation of Human Organs Act, 1994 has to be taken by the concerned Appropriate Authority.

(c) and (d) A Committee has been constituted by the Hon'ble Delhi High Court (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 creation of such a fund is, *inter-alia*, included under the terms of reference of the said Committee. The recommendations of the said Committee are awaited. However, as regards stringent punishment to the offenders, as already stated, the Act contains stringent

provisions for punishing any one who commits such offences.

[Translation]

Plan Allocation to U.P.

1053. SHRI MUNNAWAR HASSAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the annual plan allocation for Uttar Pradesh is far less than the allocation proposed by the State Government;

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

(c) whether the Government proposes to allocate more fund to meet the planned expenditure;

(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) No Sir, the Annual Plan of Uttar Pradesh for 2005-06 was finalized at Rs. 13,500 crore against the State Government's proposed outlay of Rs. 13,000 crore.

(b) to (e) Does not arise.

[English]

Commissioning of Research Vessels

1054. SHRI KULDEEP BISHNOI:
SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU:
SHRI CHENGARA SURENDRAN:
SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN:

Will the Minister of OCEAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Department of Ocean Development has commissioned the research vessels Sagar Purvi and Sagar Sampada to assess the impact of Tsunami on the marine life and water quality;

(b) if so details thereof;

(c) whether these vessels are equipped with enough sophisticated machines to carry on the research work on marine plants etc.; 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, FORV (Fisheries Oceanographic Research Vessel) Sagar Sampada and the Coastal Research Vessel (CRV) Sagar Purvi were deployed for assessment of the effect of Tsunami on the marine life.

(b) FORV Sagar Sampada was deployed to understand the nature of the sediment and quality and quantity of benthos inhabiting the sediments in the Tsunami affected areas. This study was conducted in two phases between 5th January and 19th January 2005 and 23 January to 16 February 2005. hydrographic conditions viz. dissolved oxygen, temperature, salinity, nutrients; Chlorophyll particulate organic carbon; phytoplankton and zooplankton were studied. During the 2nd phase which covered the Andaman Sea, environment and productivity, plankton diversity, survey of marine mammals, marine benthos and demersal fishery was studied. The studies on Sagar Purvi (5 January to 19 January, 2005) revealed that the marine ecology is affected by the Tsunami in the seas off Vizhinjam and Thiruvananthapuram where depleted fish stock was also observed. However, the tidal surge has largely spared the marine life in the near shore regions of Kollam and Tamilnadu coast.

(c) Yes Sir, both these vessels are equipped with sophisticated equipments to carry out these studies.

(d) FORV Sagar Sampada and CRV Sagar Purvi are equipped with state-of-the art scientific equipments like—CTD (Conductivity, Temperature and Depth Profiler), Rosette, Niskin bottles, Multiple Plankton Nets, Oxygen Analyser, Multi-channel Autoanalyser, various echosounders, fishing gears, grabs, cores, Spectrophotometer, Spectrofluorimeter, Nutrient Profiler, Plankton nets etc.

[Translation]

Cases assigned to CBI by U.P. Govt.

1055. SHRI BALESHWAR YADAV: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases assigned to the Central Bureau of Investigation by the State Government of Uttar

Pradesh during the last three years including the current year as on date, date-wise and subject-wise;

(b) the number of cases in which the CBI has completed its inquiry and submitted reports to the courts; and

(c) the names of persons and the number of cases in which the CBI has recommended for exoneration after completing its enquiry?

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) During last 3 years i.e. 2002, 2003, 2004 and upto 28.2.2005, CBI has registered 7 cases, referred by Government of Uttar Pradesh. Details of the cases are given in the enclosed statement.

(c) Out of the 7 cases, four are under investigation and in the remaining 3 cases charge sheets have been filed in the Courts of law. No case has been recommended for closure.

Statement

Cases Referred by Uttar Pradesh Government during last 3 years

Sl. No.	Case No. and dt. of regn. and subject	Allegation in brief	Present status
1	2	3	4
1.	RC-9(2)/2002/SEC-IV/LKO dt. 4/9/2002	Relating of Shri Inder Dev Singh Advocate	Chargesheet filed on 7.8.2003 in Court of Special Magistrate of Lucknow and now fixed for arguments on charges.
2.	RC-7(S)/2002/SIC-IV/LKO dt. 8.5.2003	Relating to murder of Dr. I.G. Khan, Reader Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh	After investigation a charge sheet was filled on 27/9/2003 against Prabhat Kumar, Gambhir Singh, Lalit Kumar Singh, Tej Vir Singh and Harender u/s 120-Br/w 302, 394 and 201 IPC and substantive offence u/s 302 and 394 IPC was filled before Spl. JM for CBI cases, Gaziabad (for offence of committing murder). Trial of this case is in progress.
3.	RC-7(S)/2003/SIC-IV/ND dt. 24/6/2003	Relating to Murder of Miss Madhumita Shukla.	Chargesheet filed on 19/12/2003 in court of Special Magistrate Lucknow.
4.	RC-4(S)/05-SCB/LKO dt. 18/1/2005	This case relates to receiving an amount of Rs. 3,72,46,736 by Shri Brijesh Tewari, MD, Kanpur Clonizers Pvt. Ltd. Kanpur on the basis of a forged order dated 24/5/03 purportedly passed by VIII ADJ, Kanpur.	Under investigation
5.	RC-5(S)/2005-SCB/LKO dt. 18/1/2005	This case is related to RC.4(S)/05-SCB/Lko. In this case the Executive Engineer, Awas and Vikas Parishad has alleged that on the basis of forged order dated 24/5/03 of VIII ADJ, Kanpur S/Shri Brijesh Gupta and his partners in connivance with Shri S.K. Gupta, Chief Manager, PNB, Kanpur had misappropriated the sum of Rs. 3,72,56,984 which has been deposited by Awas Vikas Parishad	Under investigation

1	2	3	4
6.	RC-6(S)/2005-SCB/LKO dt. 25/1/2005	Death of Shri Ghanshyam Shukla, MLA, BJP, Gonda on 26/4/04 due to collision between Qualis No. Up 32AY 2525 in which he was travelling and truck No. UP43B1605 which was parked along the road.	Under Investigation
7.	RC-1(S)/2005-SCR-III/ND dt. 25/1/2005	Cheating of a Japanese National by an owner of a Jewellery Shop in Agra	Under Investigation

[English]

Small Scale Pharma Units

1056. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received representations from small scale pharma units;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken to protect the survival of genuine small scale pharma units?

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND MINISTER OF RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHAVIR PRASAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Representations have been received from several small scale pharma units and associations regarding:

(i) Difficulties faced by them in implementing the revised Schedule-M to the Drugs & Cosmetics Rules, 1945 and seeking extension of time for implementation thereof and also for reconsideration of the norms;

(ii) Ministry of Finance, Department of Revenue notification No. 2/2004-Central Excise (N.T.) dated 7.1.2005 subjecting drugs to maximum retail price (MRP) based levy of Central excise duty with 35 per cent abatement.

(c) The following steps have been taken in this context:

(i) Considering the representations, the Government of India in the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has extended the date of implementation

of revised Schedule-M relating to Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP) from 31.12.2003 to 30.6.2005 under notification No. H-11014/7/2003-DMS & PFA dated 4/6 January, 2005.

(ii) Financial assistance for technology upgradation is available to small scale pharma units under the Credit Linked Capital Subsidy Scheme of the Central Government, Ministry of Small Scale Industries;

(iii) The Central Government has increased the abatement rate for levy of MRP based central excise duty on drugs from 35 percent to 40 percent of MRP under notification No. 4/2005-Central Excise (N.T.) dated 23rd February, 2005.

Motels around NRI Cities

1057. SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIANS AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to dot the landscapes surrounding NRI cities with super. efficient motels;

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

(c) the details regarding lands earmarked on highways near NRI cities in Kerala for the said purpose and the time by when a final decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF OVERSEAS INDIANS AFFAIRS (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Question do not arise.

Permanent Seat in UNSC

1058. SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH:
SHRI M. SHIVANNA:
SHRI HARISHCHANDRA CHAVAN:
SHRIMATI KIRAN MAHESHWARI:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is true that it is unlikely that India may get permanent seat with VETO rights in the Security Council;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of nations who have pledged their support for India for a permanent seat in the Security Council;

(d) the number of countries whose support is needed for India to obtain permanent membership in the Security Council of UN; and

(e) the details of impediments in the way of getting permanent seat for India in the Security Council?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) to (e) The issue of the reform and restructuring of the UN Security Council has been under discussion at the United Nations for several years. There are several complex issues involved in the question of restructuring the UN Security Council as well as the question concerning new permanent members. In view of the complexities and the diverse perceptions on the specifics of such reforms among member States, a decision on this issue has not been reached as yet.

There is a steady accretion of support for India's candidature for permanent membership of the UN Security Council. Several countries—permanent members as well as others—have expressed support for India's candidature either in the UN or in the context of bilateral exchanges. Such support is expressed in different forums and forms and it is, therefore, difficult to give a definitive number on countries which have specifically supported India.

Any expansion of the UN Security Council would require support of two-thirds of the members of the UN including that of all permanent members of the UN Security Council.

Funds for Telecom Network in Orissa

1059. SHRI B. MAHTAB: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the amount allocated for development of telecommunications network in Orissa during the last three years;

(b) whether the development works have been completed as per the targets set in the State;

(c) if so, the expenditure incurred on the development works, work-wise during the last three years and till date; and

(d) the number of new telephone connections allotted in the State during the last three years and till date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) The amount allocated for the development of telecommunication network in Orissa for the year 2001-02, 2002-03 and 2003-04 is 427.16, 232.14 and 180.51 crore respectively.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The expenditure incurred on the development works during the last three years *i.e.* 2001-02, 2002-03, 2003-04 and in current year (upto 31.12.2004) is 408.34, 361.06, 151.34 and 33.91 crore respectively.

(d) The number of new telephone connections provided in the State during the last three years *i.e.* 2001-02, 2002-03 and 2003-04 was 5,79,366 and that during 2004-05 (upto 31.1.2005) was 2,99,331 (this figure does not include number of mobile telephones added in 2004-05).

[Translation]

Violation of Code of Conduct

1060. DR. DHIRENDRA AGARWAL:
SHRI TUKARAM GANPATRAO RENGE
PATIL:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of civil servants found guilty of violating the code of conduct during the last three years; and

(b) the procedure laid down for taking action against such civil servants?

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 term "civil servants" include all Government employees of all ranks belonging to AIS, CCS and the employees of various State Governments, autonomous bodies etc. They are governed by different set of rules of Code of Conduct depending upon the service to which they belong. The procedure to deal with the violations of the Code of Conduct by the civil servants is also laid down in the respective disciplinary rules of the service to which they belong. Various disciplinary authorities are responsible for implementing the code of conduct. The information relating to the number of civil servants guilty of code of conduct, therefore, is not centrally maintained at one place.

[English]

Problem in VM Medical College

1061. SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT "BACHDA": Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of the students, apprehension due to absence of basic facilities including acute shortage of teaching staff, ill-equipped library and inadequate hostel facilities in Vardman Mahavir Medical College in Safdarjung Hospital as reported in the Times of India dated February 1, 2005;

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

(c) 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 (c) The Vardhman Mahavir Medical College and Safdarjung Hospital has been established by the Central Government as per the provisions of the Indian Medical Council Act, 1956. The permission is renewed on annual basis for admission of fresh batch of Students. This process would continue until the college becomes due for grant of recognition for which inspection is conducted at the time when the first batch of students

admitted in the college appears in their final year examination, *i.e.* sometime in the middle of the year 2006. The grant of recognition would be subject to fulfillment of all the requisite facilities in terms of infrastructure, teaching and non-teaching staff etc. The Government have already initiated the necessary steps for creations of all the requisite facilities in the college.

Hypertension Threat

1062. SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that an epidemic of hypertension threat has invited the concern of scientists;

(b) whether the Government is of the opinion that there is a need to accord priority to the prevention, detection and treatment of high blood pressure;

(c) whether the number of people suffering from hypertension is increasing in big cities;

(d) whether Mumbai has been identified as a place having maximum number of persons suffering from hypertension; and

(e) if so, the steps being taken by the Government to combat it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (e) According to Indian Council of Medical Research, epidemiologic studies on hypertension carried out in the country from 1960 onwards have reported that the prevalence of hypertension has an increasing trend over a period of time. The prevalence of hypertension was approximately 23% of the population with urban prevalence rates of 25-30% and rural prevalence rates 10-15% in the year 2000 A.D. The cross sectional studies carried out in different cities show an increasing trend in number of people suffering from hypertension. The study by P.C. Gupta *et al.* of a large cohort in Mumbai, has revealed that the prevalence of hypertension was around 48% in the age of group of 35 years and above. Since hypertension is related to life style practices, the government is creating health awareness amongst the people through the media including electronic media.

*[Translation]***Damage to National Highways**

1063. SHRIMATI ANURADHA CHOUDHARY:
SHRI MUNSHI RAM:
SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR KUSHWAHA:
SHRI UDAY SINGH:

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

(a) the estimated loss suffered on account of the damage to the National Highways connecting the Tsunami hit States in the country as reported in the *Dainik Jagaran* dated January 6, 2005;

(b) the total length of road in Kilometres damaged in these States;

(c) whether the repair work of these roads has been completed;

(d) whether cases of damages to the culverts over the roads and over-bridges have also been reported;

(e) if so, the total number of the culverts damaged;

(f) the names of the States in which the maximum number of roads, culverts and overbridges have been damaged;

(g) whether the Government has constructed alternative culverts and over-bridges for movement in such areas; and

(h) if so, the time by when construction and repair of culverts is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD AND TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) The estimated cost of restoration of damages to National Highways caused due to Tsunami attack is Rs. 35.90 crore.

(b) 242 km. length of National Highways has been damaged.

(c) Repair works on the National Highways have been taken up in a phased manner.

(d) and (e) Damages to 7 bridges and culverts have been reported. No damage to over-bridges has been reported.

(f) Damages to National Highways have been reported from the following States:

(i) Andaman & Nicobar Islands;

(ii) Tamil Nadu,

(iii) Andhra Pradesh,

(iv) Pondicherry.

(g) Bailey bridge has been installed on Arasalar Bridge on NH-45A in Pondicherry.

(h) Reconstruction of seven damaged bridges and culverts on National Highways would take about two years.

*[English]***Two Child Norm for Panchayat Polls**

1064. SHRI AKHILESH YADAV: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that some States like Haryana, Rajasthan, Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Orissa have adopted the "two child" norm for Panchayat polls;

(b) whether it is a fact that 79th Constitution Bill introduced in the Rajya Sabha in 1992 on the subject is pending for consideration and passing; and

(c) if so, the reasons for not taking up this Bill for considering and passing by the Parliament?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The Constitution (79th Amendment Bill, 1992) has been pending in the Parliament due to lack of consensus among Political Parties in favour of the Bill.

Establishment of Medical Colleges

1065. SHRI JUAL ORAM:
SHRI W. WANGYUH KONYAK:

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

(a) the number of medical colleges in the country, State-wise;

(b) the number of states having no medical colleges;

(c) whether the Medical Council of India (MCI) has received any proposals from the State Governments for the establishment of Medical Colleges;

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

(e) the details of the proposals pending with the MCI; and

(f) the time by which the proposals are likely to be approved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) Information is given in enclosed statement.

(b) The states of Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland and Tripura are having no medical College.

(c) to (e) Proposals have been received from the following State Governments:

1. Karnataka—For opening new medical college at Raichur, Hassan, Mandya, Belgaum and Bidar, received within the stipulated time have been forwarded to Medical Council of India (MCI) evaluation.
2. Tamil Nadu—For Opening new medical college at Theni and Vellore.
3. Tripura—For opening new medical college at Agartala.

(f) On the recommendations of the Medical Council of India, Letter of Internet have already been issued by the Central Government for establishment of new medical colleges at Theni, Vellore and Agartala with intake of 100 students each. Clearance of remaining proposals depend on availability of infrastructural facilities as per the prescribed norms and recommendations of the MCI thereon.

Statement

*Number of Medical Colleges in the Country
State-wise as on 4.3.2005*

Sl.No.	Name of the State	Number of Medical Colleges
1.	Andhra Pradesh	27
2.	Assam	3
3.	Bihar	8
4.	Chandigarh	1
5.	Chhattisgarh	2
6.	Delhi	5
7.	Goa	1
8.	Gujarat	14
9.	Haryana	3
10.	Himachal Pradesh	2
11.	Jammu and Kashmir	4
12.	Jharkhand	3
13.	Karnataka	31
14.	Kerala	14
15.	Madhya Pradesh	7
16.	Maharashtra	38
17.	Manipur	1
18.	Orissa	3
19.	Pondicherry	5
20.	Punjab	6
21.	Rajasthan	8
22.	Sikkim	1
23.	Tamil Nadu	19
24.	Uttar Pradesh	12
25.	Uttaranchal	2
26.	West Bengal	9
	Total	229

*[Translation]***GQ Project**

1066. SHRI JAI PRAKASH (MOHANLAL GANJ):
SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN:

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

(a) whether the Government has decided to make any changes in the decisions taken by the previous Government with regard to the construction work under the Golden Quadrilateral Road Project and the construction of the North-South, East-West corridors or make some modifications in the targets fixed for the same;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has decided to reorganise the National Highways Authority in this context; and

(d) if so, details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Waiting List in Uttar Pradesh

1067. SHRI MOHD. TAHIR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the year of the registration upto which telephone connections have been provided to the applicants enlisted in the waiting list in the State of Uttar Pradesh;

(b) the year of registration upto which waiting list has been cleared in Sultanpur district of Uttar Pradesh;

(c) the number of applicants enlisted in the waiting list of the above district till date;

(d) the time by which telephone connections would be made available to the remaining applications in the waiting list; and

(e) the reasons for delay?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) In Uttar Pradesh clearance of waiting list is upto date wherever feasible. However, in some rural areas the oldest waiting list is with effect from 1999 onwards.

(b) In Sultanpur District of Uttar Pradesh waiting list has been cleared upto February, 2005 in urban areas, and in rural areas where connections are planned on WLL, Waiting List has been cleared upto 29.12.1999 on customer's acceptance of WLL phones.

(c) No. of applicants enlisted in the waiting list in Sultanpur District is 5303 as on 31.1.2005.

(d) This Waiting List in Sultanpur is planned to be cleared progressively by March, 2007.

(e) As the waiting list is due to scattered demand and economically unviable, the WLL equipment is planned to cover these areas over a period of time progressively by BSNL.

*[English]***Study on Geriatric Problem**

1068. SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a WHO—sponsored study conducted by Doctors of Maulana Azad Medical College, Delhi, on the geriatric problem has revealed the high incidence of diabetes, hypertension and heart trouble among old people;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the preventive 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) to (c) The Government of India—WHO Collaborative Programme has carried out a study in 10 sites in India, including Delhi, to identify the health problems of the elderly. The Delhi site study was carried out by Maulana Azad Medical College. The study indicates

that for 60 years and above, the average prevalence of diabetes was 19%, heart diseases 30.3% and hypertension 15.6%. Since these diseases are related to life style practices, the government is creating health awareness amongst the people through the media including electronic media.

Nursing Colleges

1069. SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether approval has been given to any Nursing Colleges during the last two years; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) According to the information available from the Indian Nursing Council, 200 institutions were approved by them for starting Graduate Nursing Courses during last two years. The number of institutions approved, State-wise, is given in the enclosed statement.

Statement

List of Nursing Colleges approved by Indian Nursing Council during the last two years

Sl.No.	State	Number of Institutions
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	41
2.	Chhattisgarh	4
3.	Delhi	1
4.	Gujarat	2
5.	Haryana	2
6.	Karnataka	102
7.	Kerala	6
8.	Madhya Pradesh	11
9.	Maharashtra	3
10.	Orissa	3
11.	Pondicherry	5

1	2	3
12.	Punjab	8
13.	Rajasthan	1
14.	Tamil Nadu	7
15.	Uttar Pradesh	2
16.	Uttaranchal	1
17.	West Bengal	1

World Banks Study

1070. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the recent study on social progress and outlook made by the World Banks shows that health indicators in India have not exactly improved and shows a mixed bag to results;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor as mentioned in the study; and

(c) the main steps being considered to improve the health programmes as suggested by the study?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) According to recent study on social progress and outlook made by the World Bank, there has been a progressive improvement in certain health indicators, viz., life expectancy at birth, infant mortality rate (IMR) and malnourished children, over last two decades. However, there is a slight downward trend in health indicators like maternal mortality rate (MMR) and prevalence of HIV. The Report has, however, qualified that there are problems with the data for the indicator on MMR in some of the largest States that raised questions regarding data at the national level. The report of the National Family Health Survey-II also acknowledges that the difference in the estimates of MMR of NFHS-I and NFHS-II is not statistically significant due to various reasons such as large sampling errors etc. The Sample Registration System (SRS) of the Registrar General of India have estimated the MMR for the country as 407 per 1,00,000 live births in 1998 which is the same period when NFHS-II have estimated the MMR as 540 per 1,00,000 live births. It is thus not correct to say that the maternal mortality rate has worsened.

It is true that the estimated number of HIV infections in the country has risen from 3.5 million infections in 1998 to 5.1 million infections in 2003. Reasons for rise in HIV positive persons are low awareness of people about HIV/AIDS in the country especially rural and female partners in the highly vulnerable states; high proportion of migrant population; inadequate safe sex practices; and large number of vulnerable population.

(c) In order to accelerate decline of Maternal Mortality Rate, provision has been made for upgrading Primary Health Centres for providing 24-hour delivery services, operationalising the First Referral units for providing Emergency Obsteric Care and training the health staff for providing Skilled Birth Attendance at delivery, under the Second Phase of Reproductive & Child Health Programme.

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

- Preventive interventions for high-risk populations through targeted interventions adopting a multi-pronged strategy including peer counseling and behaviour change;
- Preventive interventions for the general population through programmes for blood safety, voluntary counseling and testing services, Prevention of Parent of Child, Transmission (PPTCT), Information Education and Communication (IEC);
- Provision of low cost care and support services by providing community care services, treatment of opportunistic infections and prevention of occupational exposure;
- Collaborative efforts to promote inter-sectoral programme activities including workplace interventions and public private partnerships;
- Building technical and managerial capacities for programme implementation through surveillance, training, monitoring and evaluation, technical resource groups, operational research and programme management.

Committee on Organ Donation

1071. SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE:
SHRI CHANDRABHAN SINGH:

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

(a) whether any high level committee was set up to submit its report regarding the exploitation of the poor in organ donation;

(b) if so, the details regarding its composition and functions along with the time frame to submit its report to the Government;

(c) the details regarding its recommendations; and

(d) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) A Committee has been constituted by the Hon'ble Delhi High Court (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.

(b) The details of composition of the Committee and terms of reference are enclosed as statement. The time limit initially set by the Hon'ble Delhi High Court for submission of the report by the said Committee was upto 5.1.2005. The Hon'ble Delhi High Court has since granted extension of time limit upto 30.4.2005 to the Committee to submit its report.

(c) The recommendations of the said Committee are awaited.

(d) Does not arise.

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. Sr. 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

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" or 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 upto 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 methods to reduce, control and ultimately eradicate such malpractices. Recommend programmes for dissemination of correct information ethical, legal and devising procedure concerning organ donation so that a conducive atmosphere is generated and disinformation and misgivings are dispelled.
9. Any other matter relevant to the subject.

Software Technology Parks

1072. SHRI JASHUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD:
SHRI THAWARCHAND GEHLOT:

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

- (a) the details of Software Technology Parks scheme;
- (b) the number of software parks established during the last three years and till date, State-wise and Location-wise;
- (c) the assistance provided by the Government for the said purpose during the said period;
- (d) whether the Government proposes to set up more software parks during the Tenth Plan period; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) The details are given in the enclosed statement-I.

(b) and (c) The details are given in the enclosed statement-II.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) During the remaining period of Tenth Plan, the following STPI (Software Technology Park of India) Centres have been identified :

Sl.No.	State	Location
1.	Bihar	Patna
2.	Goa	Goa
3.	Madhya Pradesh	Bhopal Gwalior
4.	Meghalaya	Shillong
5.	Uttar Pradesh	Agra
6.	Uttaranchal	Pantnagar
7.	Rajasthan	Jodhpur
8.	Jammu & Kashmir	Jammu
9.	West Bengal	Haldia Siliguri

Statement I

Software Technology Park (STP) Scheme

Software Technology Park (STP) scheme is a 100% Export Oriented Scheme (100% EOU) for the development and export of computer software using data communication links or in the form of physical media including export of professional services. STP can be a virtual software development unit or can be infrastructural complex set-up for providing necessary support for the STP units. The following are the salient features of the scheme:

1. The Software Technology Park (STP) may be set up by the Central Government, State Government, Public or Private Sector undertaking or any combination thereof. A STP unit may be a stand-alone unit or one of the units located in any STP complex.
2. STP/STP units may be set up anywhere in India.
3. An organization setting up a STP complex for development and export of Software through STP scheme may import, free of duty, the requisite infrastructural equipments with no export obligation.
4. STP may import without payment of duty all types of goods for creating a central facility for use by software development units in STP. The central facility for software development can also be accessed by units in the DTA for export of software.
5. STP unit in a duty free and bonded area under section 65 of the Customs Act, 1962.
6. All the imports to STP units are duty free.
7. STP units are exempted from payment of Income Tax upto March 2010 under section 10A and 10B of Income Tax Act.
8. STP units are entitled to sell the computer software in Domestic Tariff Area (DTA) upto 50% of the software exported in value terms.
9. The capital goods purchased from the Domestic Tariff Area (DTA) are entitled to the benefits like levy of excise duty and re-imbursment of Central Sales Tax (CST).
10. 100% Foreign equity is permissible.
11. Computer System in STP units are allowed for training purposes within the premises of STP unit.

Statement II

(Amount Rs. in Lakhs)

Sl.No.	State	Name of Centre	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Andhra Pradesh	Thriupati	—	50.00	—	NIL
2.	Andhra Pradesh	Vijayawada	—	50.00	—	NIL
3.	Andhra Pradesh	Warrangal	—	50.00	—	NIL

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
4.	Chhattisgarh	Bhillai	50.00	—	—	NIL
5.	Himachal Pradesh	Shimla	50.00	—	—	NIL
6.	Jharkhand	Ranchi	—	50.00	—	NIL
7.	Karnataka	Mangalore	—	50.00	—	NIL
8.	Maharashtra	Kolhapur	50.00	—	—	NIL
9.	Maharashtra	Nasik	50.00	—	—	NIL
10.	Manipur	Imphal	—	—	50.00	NIL
11.	Orissa	Rourkela	50.00	—	—	NIL
12.	Rajasthan	Jodhpur	—	50.00	—	NIL
13.	Tamilnadu	Madurai	50.00	—	—	NIL
14.	Tamil Nadu	Pondicherry	50.00	—	—	NIL
15.	Tamil Nadu	Triuchy	50.00	—	—	NIL
16.	Uttar Pradesh	Allahabad	50.00	—	—	NIL
17.	Uttar Pradesh	Dehradun	50.00	—	—	NIL
18.	Uttar Pradesh	Kanpur	—	50.00	—	NIL
19.	Uttar Pradesh	Lucknow	50.00	—	—	NIL
20.	West Bengal	Durgapur	—	50.00	—	NIL
21.	West Bengal	Kharagpur	—	50.00	—	NIL
22.	West Bengal	Kolkatta	50.00	—	—	NIL
Total			600.00	450.00	50.00	

Opening of Medical Hospitals and Dispensaries

1073. SHRI KARUNAKARA REDDY:
SHRIMATI KIRAN MAHESHWARI:

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

(a) whether the Union Government has received any requests from certain states especially Karnataka for opening of new Medical Hospitals and Medical Dispensaries during the last three years and the current year;

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

(c) the total number of such Hospitals/Dispensaries approved so far in urban and rural areas separately, State-wise, particularly in Karnataka;

(d) whether the work has started for their construction;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) if not, the main reasons for the delay;

(g) the time by which this hospitals are to become functional particularly in Karnataka; and

(h) the details of funds allocated for setting up new hospitals in the Tenth Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (h) Health being a state subject under the Constitution of India, it is primarily for the state government to open new medical hospitals and medical dispensaries.

Even though, the Central Government supplements the efforts of the state governments through its various National Health Programme/schemes by providing grants and assistance for Infrastructure Development of Health Sectors, the Central Govt. does not have any general scheme under which new medical hospital and medical dispensaries can be set up in the states.

Nutritious Food and Self Employment Opportunities to AIDS Patients

1074. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that the National AIDS Control Organisation has a proposal to launch a programme to provide nutritious food and also self-employment opportunities to those infected with HIV/AIDS; and

(b) if so, the contribution of the Union Government in this programme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) Yes, Sir. NACO in partnership with the World Food Programme is developing a proposal to provide nutritional support to People Living with HIV/AIDS (PLHAs). WFP will provide technical assistance on how food can be integrated into livelihood opportunities. Jointly with NACO, WFP will identify activities, which require decreased levels of energy in order to improve and maintain human capital through food-based programmes.

(b) The Union Government has made no contribution in this programme up till now since a detailed project and operational plan is being developed.

[Translation]

Private Telephone Connections in Uttar Pradesh

1075. SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the consumers are preferring private telephone connections in Uttar Pradesh Telecommunications Zone (East);

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether CCB and PCO are not working properly particularly in Uttar Pradesh Telecommunications Zone (East);

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) No, Sir. There has been overwhelming response of the consumers towards Cellular Mobile Service of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd. (BSNL) in Uttar Pradesh (U.P.). BSNL launched its cellular mobile services in October, 2002 and within a short span of two years and 4 months BSNL has about 7,14,664 cellular subscribers in UP (East) service area. Thus, BSNL with about 43% subscriber base has become second largest GSM (Global System for Mobile communication) based cellular service provider in U.P. (East) in January, 2005. BSNL has further plan to augment the network capacity by 6.5 lakhs lines in U.P. (East) cellular service area in the year 2005 to ensure good quality of serve and also to meet overwhelming demand of the consumers.

(c) and (d) While most of the Coin Collection Box (CCB) and Public Call Offices (PCOs) provided by BSNL in Uttar Pradesh are functioning properly, 99 PCOs in U.P. (East) Telecom Circle are reported faulty mainly on account of damage to the underground cable due to ongoing road widening work of National Highway.

(e) BSNL has already initiated action for seeking road cutting permission from National Highway Authority of India to lay the new cable for restoration of faulty PCOs. In addition, action has been initiated to procure FWTs (Fixed Wireless Terminals) to restore PCOs using WLL (Wireless in Local Loop) System.

[English]

Medical Seats for PG Courses

1076. DR. P.P. KOYA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that the posts of specialists in Health Department of Lakshadweep are lying vacant;

(b) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken in this regard;

(c) whether the Government has earmarked few seats for PG Courses in Government Medical Colleges for the students of small Union Territories/States where there is no medical colleges; and

(d) if so, the details of the status of the admission in the medical colleges?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) Out of the 10 sanctioned posts of specialists in Lakshadweep 3 are filled on regular basis. In order to man the vacant posts, specialists belonging to the non-teaching specialists sub-cadre of CHS are being posted at Lakshadweep on rotation basis for 90 days each. 16 specialists belonging to various specialities *i.e.* Gynaecology, Paediatrics, Anaesthesia, Orthopaedics and Surgery have been deputed so far. Necessary steps to fill up vacant posts on regular basis have also been initiated.

(c) and (d) The Government has not earmarked any seats for PG Courses in Govt. Medical Colleges for students of small Union Territories/States where there is no medical college.

Formation of Subsidiary Company

1077. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the MTNL has formed any subsidiary company;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the status of that company and the reasons for its establishment;

(c) the number of employees working in the said company; and

(d) the profit made by the company since its inception?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Two subsidiary companies namely Mahanagar Telephone Mauritius Limited (MTML) and Millennium Telecom Limited (MTL) have been formed. The details are as follows:

MTML : It is wholly owned subsidiary company of MTNL registered in Mauritius on 14-11-2003 to provide basic and mobile services in accordance with terms and conditions of license awarded by Govt. of Mauritius. It has authorized and paid up capital of Rs. 100 crores and Rs. 50 crores respectively. The services rollout is scheduled to start in phased manner w.e.f. mid 2005.

MTL: It is also wholly owned subsidiary of MTNL incorporated on 17.2.2000. The company has obtained category A/ISP (Internet Service Provider) license from the DOT for providing Internet services throughout India.

(c) The MTML has a total of nine (9) employees on deputation from MTNL. The MTL, has its no full time employee but four employees of MTNL are looking after statutory activities as an additional charge.

(d) MTML : Services are yet to start.

MTL: Profit earned since its inception is as follows:

Year	Profit (Rs. in lacs)
2001-02	(-) 19.52
2002-03	93.04
2003-04	91.38

UNFPA Programmes on Population Stabilisation

1078. SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Nations Framework for Development Assistance (UNFPA) programmes on population stabilization are being delayed; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) The United National Population Fund (UNFPA) has been assisting the Government of India in their national efforts on population stabilization since 1974 through its five-year Country Programmes. There was a delay of about two years in starting the process of implementation of the 5th Country Programme (1997-2002) due to procedural requirements.

However, the current UNFPA 6th Country Programme (2003-07) came into implementation immediately after the

approval of the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, in June, 2003.

Small Industries Service Institutes

1079. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Small Industries Service Institutes set up in the country so far and especially in West Bengal;

(b) whether the Students who undergo training in these institutes gain employment through campus interview, etc.; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the number of students who got employment after completing their courses in these Service Institutes, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND MINISTER OF RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHAVIR PRASAD): (a) Thirty Small Industries Service Institutes (SISIs) and 28 Branch Small Industries Service Institutes (Br. SISIs) have been set up in the country. Out of these, SISI, Kolkata and Br. SISI, Birbhum, Siliguri and Durgapur are situated in West Bengal;

(b) The SISIs conduct Entrepreneurship Development Programmes, Management Development Programmes, Skill Development Programmes, etc., for educated unemployed youth and potential SSI entrepreneurs with a view to equipping the trainees to set up self-employment enterprises. The question of campus interview of such trainees for their employment in other enterprises thus does not arise.

(c) The State-wise details of the training programmes conducted by the SISIs during 2004-05 (upto 31st January, 2005) are given in the enclosed statement.

Statement

State-wise details of training programmes

Sl.No.	State/UTs	No. of training programmes conducted by SISIs during 2004-05 (till 31st January, 2005)
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	30
2.	Assam, Arunachal Pradesh & Meghalaya	19

1	2	3
3.	Bihar	35
4.	Chhattisgarh	17
5.	Delhi	21
6.	Goa	4
7.	Gujarat, Dadra & Nagar Haveli	16
8.	Haryana	31
9.	Himachal Pradesh	9
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	5
11.	Jharkhand	18
12.	Karnataka	23
13.	Kerala, Lakshadweep	16
14.	Madhya Pradesh	23
15.	Maharashtra	52
16.	Manipur, Nagaland	17
17.	Orissa	27
18.	Punjab	22
19.	Rajasthan	21
20.	Sikkim	7
21.	Tamil Nadu	49
22.	Tripura, Mizoram	11
23.	Uttar Pradesh	63
24.	Uttaranchal	28
25.	West Bengal, A&N Islands	45

[*Translation*]

Lacunae in Developmental Projects

1080. SHRI AJIT JOGI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether major lacunae have been noticed in the present system of approval and implementation of developmental projects;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has decided to bring in major changes in the present system after removing the said lacunae; and

(d) if so, the time by which it is likely to be implemented?

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

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

Court's Directives on Admission of Poor Patients

1081. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Delhi High Court had issued any directives on November 14, 2002 regarding admission of 20 per cent poor patients in hospitals;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of the hospitals complying with the directives and those not complying with the directives; and

(d) the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government against the hospitals not complying with the Court's directives?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (d) The Land & Development Office, Ministry of Urban Development has informed that the Delhi High Court *vide* their order dated 15.11.2002 directed the Government of India and the Government of NCT of Delhi to appoint a Joint Committee to go into the records of the hospitals so that they are able to know as to how many patients were treated free of cost in accordance with the stipulations contained in the letters of allotment of land to them.

Out of the land allotted for hospitals by the Land & Development Office, the condition of free beds was imposed in case of two hospitals namely VIMHANS & Veerawali International Hospital. The VIMHANS has not been complying with the conditions of free treatment and the allotment of land in favour of VIMHANS has been cancelled against which the VIMHANS submitted a representation for reconsideration of the matter.

The Delhi Development Authority has informed that the Committee headed by Secretary, Urban Development, pointed out names of 10 hospitals found violating terms and conditions of allotment which were allotted land by

Delhi Development Authority. Subsequently, Delhi Development Authority issued show cause notices to all the ten hospitals and their replies were sent to Directorate of Health, Government of NCT of Delhi for detailed examination as the sponsoring department is responsible for monitoring day-to-day conduct of the hospitals. The matter is *sub judice*.

[English]

Task Force on Tsunami

1082. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Society of Indian Ocean Studies has called upon the Government to institute a high power Task Force to coordinate a study on all aspects relating to Tsunami in the Indian Ocean;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by when a final decision in this regard is likely to be taken?

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. Society of Indian Ocean Studies in association with Vastu Kala Academy organized a seminar on Tsunami Disaster. The resolution issued subsequently calls upon the Government to institute a high power task force to carry out a systematic and coordinated study of Tsunami.

(c) Concerned agencies of the Government have already initiated studies covering various aspects relating to Tsunamis in the Indian Ocean. Since the studies are underway a high powered task force to coordinate the studies is not required at this stage.

No Second ACP to Government Employees

1083. SHRI M. SHIVANNA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that Second Assured Career Progression (ACP) has not been given to the Government Employees as per the Fifth Pay Commission recommendations;

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

(c) whether the Government is also aware that rules regarding ACP are not being followed by the Ministries/Departments in letter and spirit; and

(d) if so the action taken proposed to be taken 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 ACP Scheme introduced by the Government allows for grants of second financial upgradation on completion of 24 years' regular service subject to certain conditions.

(c) and (d) There are inbuilt checks and balances in the system to ensure that the ACP Scheme is followed by the Ministries/Departments in letter and spirit.

[*Translation*]

Waiting List of Sim Cards in Maharashtra

1084. SHRI DEVIDAS PINGLE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the district-wise number of persons in the country particularly in Maharashtra provided with the BSNL mobile Sim Cards;

(b) whether there is a huge demand of these cards in the country;

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

(d) the number of persons is waiting list in Nasik district seeking the above connections; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to clear the above waiting list?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) As on 31.1.2005, Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) has provided 8699352 Cellular connections in country including Maharashtra. District-wise number of persons provided with the BSNL Mobile connections in the State of Maharashtra are given

in the enclosed statement. The district-wise details of mobile connections in other states are being collected.

(b) and (c) Due to countrywide coverage and good quality of service, there has been a demand of BSNL's mobile Service in the country as can be seen from the fact that capacities added are translated into subscriber and as on 31.1.2005, 8699352 subscribers are availing the service fully loading the existing capacity.

(d) As a policy, no waiting list is being maintained for cellular connections particularly in a highly competitive environment in the State of Maharashtra including Nasik district.

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

Statement

District-wise Information of Cellular Connections in Maharashtra

Sl.No.	Name of the District	Total Connections
1	2	3
1.	Ahmednagar	29050
2.	Akola	9499
3.	Washim	1396
4.	Amravati	9837
5.	Aurangabad	21824
6.	Beed	10208
7.	Bhandara	4036
8.	Gondia	5004
9.	Buldhana	7990
10.	Chandrapur	9780
11.	Dhule	9354
12.	Nandurbar	1841
13.	Gadchiroli	3802
14.	North goa	19268
15.	South Goa	24929
16.	Jalgaon	17435

1	2	3
17.	Jalna	8083
18.	Kalyan	61288
19.	Kolhapur	33935
20.	Latur	12500
21.	Nagpur	46478
22.	Nanded	13565
23.	Nasik	43449
24.	Osmanabad	8431
25.	Parbhani	7205
26.	Hingoli	2045
27.	Pune	157465
28.	Raigad	16331
29.	Ratnagiri	12801
30.	Sangli	15550
31.	Satara	13670
32.	Sindhudurg	11394
33.	Solapur	21934
34.	Wardha	9027
35.	Yeotmal	10075
Total		690277

[English]

Package/Grant to States

1085. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of special programmes, financial package and incentives granted to State Governments as announced by Prime Minister while visiting various States during July and November, 2004;

(b) whether the Government is contemplating to launch an unorthodox scheme for generating self-employment avenues in Border State and special package

for Tea Industry as published in *Sentineel*, November 30, 2004 captioned "self employment: central plan on anvil" Guwahati edition; and

(c) if so, the facts of the matter reported therein?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) Details of special programmes, financial package and incentives granted to State Governments following announcement of such packages by the Prime Minister during his visit to the States during July and November, 2004 are as under:

(i) Special Plan Assistance of Rs. 22 crore and one-time Additional Central Assistance of Rs. 218 crores have been allocated to the State of Assam during the Annual Plan 2004-05.

(ii) Special Plan Assistance of Rs. 40 crores and Additional Central Assistance of Rs. 200 crores have been allocated to the State of Manipur for their reconstruction plan for Annual Plan 2004-05.

(iii) Special Plan Assistance of Rs. 1,250 crores and Additional Central Assistance of Rs. 300 crores have been allocated to the state of Jammu & Kashmir for their re-construction plan for Annual Plan 2004-05.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Four Laning of National Highways

1086. SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the total KMs of National Highways proposed for four laning under the Pradhan Mantri Bharat Jodo Pariyojana;

(b) the target set for the completion of the four laning work; and

(c) the details of the National Highways identified for four laning, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) Pradhan Mantri Bharat

Jodo Pariyojana has been renamed as National Highways Development Project (NHDP) Phase III. About 10,000 km. of existing National Highways are proposed to be four-laned in 2 phases under NHDP Phase III. About 4,000 km. will be four-laned under NHDP Phase IIIA targeted

to be completed by December 2009. The balance 6,000 km. will be undertaken under NHDP Phase IIIB targeted to be completed by December 2012.

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

Statement

Stretches proposed to be upgraded under NHDP Phase-III

Stretch/ Corridor No.	NH No.	Stretch/Corridor	Length (km)	States involved
1	2	3	4	5
1	1	Jalandhar-Amritsar	49	Punjab
2	1A	Srinagar-Baramula-Uri	101	J&K
3	3	Guna Bypass	14	MP
4	3	Indore-Khalghat-MP/ Maharashtra Border-Dhule- Pimpalgaon-Nasik-Gonde- Vadape (Thane)	546	MP/Maharashtra
5	4	Neelamangala-Bangalore -Hoskote-Kolar-Mudbagal	105	Karnataka
6	4	Kalamboli-Mumbra (6 laning)	20	Maharashtra
7	4A	Balgaum-Panji	153	Goa/Karnataka
8	6	Sambalpur-Baragarh- Chattisgarh/Orissa Border	88	Orissa
9	6	Aurang-Raipur	45	Chattisgarh
10	6	Nagpur-Maharashtra/ Chattisgarh Border-Durg	226	Maharashtra/ Chattisgarh
11	6	Nagpur-Talegaon-Amravati	148	Maharashtra
12	6	Gujarat/Maharashtra Border- Surat	84	Gujarat
13	7	Bangalore-Hosur	25	Karnataka
14	8	Kishangarh-Ajmer-Beawar	82	Rajasthan
15	8D	Jetpur-Somnath	127	Gujarat
16	9	Pune-Sholapur	170	Maharashtra
17	9	Hyderabad-Vijayawada- Machhliapatnam	240.5	Andhra Pradesh

1	2	3	4	5
18	10	Delhi-Hissar	160	Delhi/Haryana
19	11	Agra-Bharatpur-Jaipur-Reengus	282	UP/Rajasthan
20	12	Bhopal-Deori-Jabalpur	297	MP
21	12	Jaipur-Tonk	86	Rajasthan
22	14	Beawar-Pali-Pindwara	246	Rajasthan
23	15	Amritsar-Pathankot	101	Punjab
24	17	Panvel-Indapur	84	Maharashtra
25	17	Maharashtra/Goa border-Panaji-Goa/KNT Border	139	Goa
26	17	Kundapur-Surathkal	71	Goa/Karnataka/Kerala
27	17	Mangalore-Khozikode-Eddapa'y	469	Karnataka/Kerala
28	18	Cuddapah-Mydukur-Kurnool	192.5	Andhra Pradesh
29	19 & 77	Patna-Muzzaffarpur-Sonbarsa	149	Bihar
30	19 & 85	Gopalganj-Chapra-Hajipur	153	Bihar
31	21	Chandigarh-Kiratpur	73	Chandigarh/Punjab
32	22	Abala-Kalka-Shimla	168	Haryana/Punjab/Himachal Pradesh
33	24	Muradabad-Sitapur-Lucknow	322	UP
34	28A	Motihari-Raxaul	67	Bihar
35	30	Patna-Bakhtiarpur	53	Bihar
36	31	Bakhtiarpur-Begusarai-Khagaria-Purnea	255	Bihar
37	33	Barhi-Ranchi-Jamshedpur	265	Jharkhand
38	35	Barasat-Bangaon	60	West Bengal
39	36, 39	Doboka-Dimapur	124	Assam, Nagaland
40	31, 52 & 52A	Baihata Chariali (on EW corridor)-Itanagar	345	Assam/Arunachal Pradesh
41	39	Kohima-Imphal	140	Nagaland/Manipur
42	43	Kumud-Dhamtari	23	Chhattisgarh
43	44, 53	Shillong-Agartala (excluding Shillong Bypass)	447	Meghalaya/Assam/Tripura
44	45	Dindigul-Trichy	80	Tamil Nadu

1	2	3	4	5
45	45B	Madurai-Arupukottai-Tuticorin	144	Tamil Nadu
46	45 Ex	Dindigul-Perigulam-Theni	73	Tamil Nadu
47	47	Cherthalai-Tiruvananthapuram-Kanyakumari	265	Kerala/Tamil Nadu
48	48	Neelamangala-Hassan	154	Karnataka
49	49	Madurai-Ramnathpuram-Rameshwaram-Dhanuskodi	186	Tamil Nadu
50	50	Pune-Khed	30	Maharashtra
51	54	Silchar (on E-W corridor)-Aizawl	190	Assam/Mizoram
52	57A	Forbesganj-Jogwani	13	Bihar
53	1, 24, 58, 72	Delhi-Dehradun	280	Delhi/UP/Uttaranchal
54	59	Indore-Jhabua-Ahmedabad	379	MP/Gujarat
55	66	Krishnagiri-Thiruvannamalai-Tindivanam-Pondicherry	210	Tamil Nadu/Pondicherry
56	67	Nagapatnam-Thanjavar-Trichy-Karur	180	Tamil Nadu
57	67 Ex	Coimbatore-Mettupalayam	45	Tamil Nadu
58	68	Salem-Ulundrupet	134	Tamil Nadu
59	69	Obaidullaganj-Beeembekta	13	MP
60	75	Jhansi-Khajuraho	100	MP
61	80	Mokama-Munger	70	Bihar
62	84	Patna-Buxar	130	Bihar
63	86 (Ext.)	Bhopal-Sanchi	40	MP
64	91	Ghazlabad-Aligarh	106	UP
65	200	Raipur-Simga	28	Chhattisgarh
66	200	Chandikhole-Duburi	39	Orissa
67	202	Hyderabad-Yadgiri	30	AP
68	203	Bhubaneshwar-Puri	59	Orissa
69	205	Tirupati-Tiruthani-Chennai	138	AP/Tamil Nadu
70	215	Panikholi-Keonjhar-Roxy	249	Orissa
71	220	Theni-Kumli	57	Tamil Nadu
Total			10417	

Central Legislation on Medical Admission

1087. SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that there is no Central Legislation regarding Medical Admission;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government has received any proposals from the States in this regard;

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

(e) the time by which the Legislation is likely to be brought in?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (e) There is no Central Legislation at present with regard to admissions in courses of medicine. Presently, the policy with regard to admission in medical institutions, other than those under the control of the Central Governments, is determined by the respective State Governments. Further, the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India has issued various directions with regard to admissions and charging of fee in the medical institutions, contained in its judgments dated 31.10.2002 in the T.M.A. Pai Foundation case and dated 14.8.2003 in the case of Islamic Academy of Education.

Pursuant to the directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court dated 31.10.2002 in the T.M.A. Pai Foundation case the Central Government had issued broad policy guidelines dated 14.5.2003 to the State Governments and the Universities in the matter of admission and charging of fee by the private unaided medical and dental institutions. The Central Government has also decided to frame an appropriate legislation in this regard after eliciting the views of the concerned Departments and the stakeholders including the State Governments.

[Translation]

Verification for Prepaid Connections

1088. SHRI BALESHWAR YADAV: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether telecom companies are not carrying out proper verification before providing prepaid connections to the customers; and

(b) if so, the action being taken by the Government against such mobile service providers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Yes, Sir. Such instances have come to the notice of the Department of Telecommunications.

(b) Instructions regarding proper verifications of the bonafides and addresses of the customers before providing mobile telephone connections have been reiterated. Action also has been taken within the framework of terms and conditions of the Licence Agreement.

[English]

Laboratories for Testing of Bacteria

1089. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether various laboratories set up by the Government to test bacteria etc. are ill-equipped to produce quick and accurate analysis;

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

(c) whether such labs are functioning below the international specifications and are unable to give correct and prompt results; and

(d) if so, the steps the Government proposes to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (d) Laboratories under the Central Government are well equipped to test bacteria etc. and to produce quality results. State Govt. laboratories are also strengthened under various disease control programmes. Under National Surveillance Programme on Communicable Diseases (NCPCD) which was initiated in 1998 and is operational in 101 districts of different States/UTs., strengthening of laboratories is also taken up. In addition, Govt. of India has launched, in a phased manner, the Integrated Disease Surveillance Project, to strengthen and equip all the laboratories for disease surveillance activity.

Constitution of Core Group for Tsunami Hit Areas

1090. SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJI RAO:
SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Planning Commission has set up a Core group to coordinate the reconstruction work in the Tsunami hit areas and also explore areas where external assistance was desirable;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has approached the World Bank, Asian Development Bank and Japanese Government for reconstruction of devastated infrastructure and for developing disaster prevention and management system for the future; and

(d) if so, the response of the foreign agencies thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) and (b) Yes Sir, Planning Commission has set up a Core Group to monitor re-construction of Tsunami hit areas. The Group comprises of a Chief Coordinator as Chairman of the Group along with the nodal officials nominated by the concerned Ministries responsible for implementation of the Tsunami Rehabilitation Programme. The Group is empowered to invite experts and specialists for any assistance/advice. The Group has started functioning from January, 2005.

(c) and (d) The Government of India has approached the World Bank, ADB and UNDP for seeking assistance for reconstruction and rehabilitation of the Tsunami affected areas. The Joint Assessment Mission (JAM) of World Bank, ADB and UNDP had visited Tsunami affected areas of Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Kerala and Pondicherry during February, 2005.

Law to Regulate ART Clinics

1091. SHRI KULDEEP BISHNOI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any law to regulate the functioning of Assisted Reproductive Technology (ART) clinics;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to check unethical practices by ART clinics regarding procuring, storing, selling and indiscriminate issuing of donor ova or donor sperm or donor embryo?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) Currently, there is no Central Legislation to regulate the functioning of Assisted Reproductive Technology (ART) clinics. State Governments are the appropriate authority for enacting such laws since public health is a State subject as per State List in the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution.

(d) Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has prepared Guidelines for Accreditation, Supervision and Regulation of ART Clinics in India, after detailed discussions and debate by expert groups of the ICMR and the National Academy of Medical Sciences and then by practitioners of ART and the general public. Guidelines have been examined by the Directorate General of Health Services and is under active consideration of the Ministry. These Guidelines make detailed provisions for regulating the functioning of ART Clinics.

[Translation]

Review of HIV (AIDS) Programme

1092. SHRIMATI ANURADHA CHOUDHARY:
SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR KUSHAWAHA:

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

(a) whether the Government is considering any scheme to get the HIV (AIDS) programme reviewed by any outside agency as reported in the *Rashtriya Sahara* dated 8.1.2005;

(b) if so, the details of the facts reported therein and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the International Institutions have termed the data collected by the Government as not correct;

(d) whether the Government has noticed any shortcomings in AIDS detection programmes at village and district levels in the states;

(e) if so, whether the Government has invited tenders for conducting AIDS detection programmes at district and village level; 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) Government of India is considering independent assessment of National AIDS Control Programme with the objective to review and make overall assessment of all the components of the programme. The expression of interest has been invited from both external and internal agencies by an open advertisement so that a competent agency is selected to ensure quality in assessment.

(c) No Sir.

(d) Yes Sir. Government has noticed that AIDS detection programmes (Voluntary Counselling & Testing Centres) are not available below district level. At present, such facilities have been established only at all medical college hospitals and most of the district level hospitals in the country. These facilities will be extended to remaining 108 district level hospitals, all Community Health Centres and all Primary Health Centre level in a phased manner.

(e) No Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

[English]

Herbal Drug for Diabetics

1093. SHRI AKHILESH YADAV: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has about 40 million diabetics;

(b) if so, whether a Herbal drug by the name 'Vijaysar' has been tested and recommended by the Indian Council of Medical Research for curing the diabetics;

(c) if so, whether the Government proposed to manufacture this herbal drug; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA

LAKSHMI): (a) According to the revised estimates of WHO, there are 32 million diabetics in India and the WHO has projected that India would have the largest number of diabetics (80 million) in the world by 2030.

(b) to (d) Vijaysar (*Pterocarpus marsupium*) was evaluated for validation of efficacy in diabetics by ICMR in multicentric clinical trials. The trial in newly diagnostic cases proved its efficacy in controlling the disease. Further multicentric trial was conducted in chronic diabetics in two groups uncontrolled diabetics and those controlled by single oral hypoglycaemic drug, but opting for Vijaysar. The data generated in this regard are under analysis. Standardised formulation of the extract of Vijaysar for use in the Council's trial was prepared by ICMR's Centre for Advanced Research at Regional Research Laboratories, Jammu. The Advance centre has also isolated active principles from the drug some of which have been patented. The Council is presently on the process of transferring technology to the Pharma industry on drug from Vijaysar.

National Sea Waterways

1094. SHRI JUAL ORAM: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to set up National Sea Waterways;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether some major ports are to be deepened for the said purpose;

(d) if so, the major ports where dredging is to be undertaken for the purpose; and

(e) the steps taken/being taken to develop the National Sea Waterways alongwith the financial implications in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (e) Declaration of port channels as National Sea Waterways in a phased manner beginning with major ports and their development and maintenance through Central Government funding is envisaged in the draft Policy for the Maritime Sector (Ports, Merchant Shipping and Inland Water Transport).

Capital dredging for deepening of port basins and channels is undertaken by the major ports from time to time to keep pace with the draught requirements of vessels calling at these ports. This is a part of an on-

going process to improve port infrastructure.

A list of capital dredging projects included in the Tenth Plan is in the enclosed statement.

Statement

Capital Dredging Projects during Tenth Plan

Name of the Port	Scheme
Kolkata	River Regulatory Measures
Mumbai	Deepening of Approach Channel to Indira Dock and New Offshore container berths
Jawaharlal Nehru	Deepening of Channel
Chennai	Deepening of the Dr. Ambedkar Basin and Entrance
Cochin	Capital Dredging for Vallarpadam International Container Terminal Project and LNG/LPG Terminal at Puthuvypen
Visakhapatnam	(i) Deepening of Port Waterways, including slope protection (i) Strengthening the East Quay berths to accommodate vessels of deeper draught upto (-) 12 mtrs. dredging depth of inner harbour including dredging of harbour basin entrance channel.
Kandla	(i) Deepening & Widening of Sogal Channel (ii) Deepening of Approaches to Sogal Channel (iii) Deepening of Navigational Channel in the northern portion of Kandla Creek. (iv) Deepening alongside cargo jetties by capital dredging (v) Deepening of navigational channel in the southern portion of Kandla Creek
Mormugao	Deepening of approach channel, basin area and Berth No. 9
Paradip	Deepening of Channel
New Mangalore	(i) Capital Dredging for Deepening the Channel and Lagoon (ii) Improvement, Strengthening and Deepening of General Cargo Berths
Tuticorin	(i) Dredging in front of cargo berth (ii) Improvement of draught in Approach channel and port basin
Ennore	Deepening of the Approach Channel and Port basin to handle VLCCs and super cape size vessels
Tuticorin (Nodal Agency)	Sethusamudram Ship Channel Project

Contamination of Water

1095. SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that incidents of arsenic contamination of water are increasingly coming to light since quite some time;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the year-wise details of incidents since 1994-95 together with names of districts/villages most affected;

(d) whether any special facility of medical treatment has been arranged for the victims and for elimination of arsenic contamination in the affected districts and villages of Uttar Pradesh; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (e) The information is not centrally maintained. However, the same is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Additional Funds for Health Schemes

1096. SHRI JASHUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD:
SHRI M. RAJA MOHAN REDDY:

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

(a) the details of the Centrally Sponsored Health Schemes formulated and being implemented in the country during the last three years;

(b) the details of achievements made in this regard;

(c) whether the State Government have sought additional funds for these health related Centrally sponsored Schemes;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the steps proposed to be taken by the Union Government in this regard; and

(f) by when the additional funds are likely to be released?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) The major Centrally Sponsored Health Schemes/Programmes being implemented in the country include National Vector Borne Disease Control Programme (earlier known as National Malaria Eradication Programme), National Leprosy Eradication Programme, National Programme for Control of Blindness, Revised National T.B. Control Programme and National AIDS Control Programme.

(b) A statement on the physical achievements made during the last three years is enclosed.

(c) to (f) The allocation of funds are made to the States based on their annual action plans in respect of individual disease control programme, their technical feasibility and availability of resources.

Statement*Physical Achievements made during the last three years***1. National Anti Malarial Programme**

	2001	2002	2003*
ABER	8.71	8.93	9.65
API	1.96	1.80	1.82

ABER: Annual Blood Examination Rate

API: Annual Parasite Incidence

*Provisional

2. National T.B. Control Programme

(in lakhs)

	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04
Number of TB Cases detected and put on treatment	11.18	11.29	11.47

3. National Programme for Control of Blindness

(in lakhs)

	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04
No. of cataract operation performed	37.55	38.57	41.97

4. National Leprosy Eradication Programme

Number of cases detected, treated and discharged (in lakhs)

	Detected		Discharge	
2001-02	6.17		5.63	
2002-03	4.76		5.71	
2003-04	3.67		4.45	

5. National AIDS Control Programme : Utilization of services under various parameters are given below:*Voluntary Counselling and Testing Centres (VCTC)—No. of persons counselled and tested*

(in lakhs)

2002-03		2003-04		2004-05*	
Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
2.55	1.87	3.25	2.68	2.62	2.50

Blood Bank—No. of donors

(in lakhs)

2002-03		2003-04		2004-05*	
Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
27.20	1.78	33.45	2.12	19.87	1.24

Old Bridges on N.Hs.

1097. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of old bridges on national highways in Karnataka whose life span has expired;

(b) whether the Union Government proposes to widen the old bridges to reduce traffic congestion;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the time by which the work on it is likely to be started and completed; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) All the bridges on National Highways in Karnataka are being maintained in traffic worthy condition.

(b) to (e) Yes, Sir. 29 proposals for widening and reconstruction of the existing narrow and old bridges on National Highways costing Rs. 13.07 crore have been sanctioned during the current year, 2004-05. These works are under various stages of progress and are scheduled to be completed by June, 2006.

[Translation]

Setting up of Industrial Unit Group/Cluster

1098. SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any scheme to set up industrial unit group/cluster in Uttar Pradesh;

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

(c) the funds allocated for this purpose; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND MINISTER OF RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHAVIR PRASAD): (a) to (c) Setting up small scale industries is an activity of individual entrepreneurs. However, the Central Government's Integrated Infrastructural Development (IID) Scheme includes establishment of eight centres, one each in the districts of Unnao, Mathura, Etah, Bhadohi, Ghaziabad, Barabanki, Baghpat, and Chandauli in Uttar Pradesh. Central grant of Rs. 11.46 crore has been released for these centres. Further, under the Small Industry Cluster Development Programme of the Central Government, an amount of Rs. 6.62 crore has been released for over-all development of the following seven clusters of small scale industries in Uttar Pradesh.

- (i) Pottery industry cluster, Khurja,
 - (ii) Neem project cluster, Kannauj,
 - (iii) Development of low cost gas fired coupola, Agra,
 - (iv) Cotton hosiery cluster, Kanpur,
 - (v) Pottery cluster, Chunar,
 - (vi) National programme for development of lock industry (activity mainly concentrated at Aligarh),
 - (vii) National programme for development of toy industry (activity concentrated in NOIDA),
- (d) Does not arise.

National Highways Projects in Chhattisgarh

1099. SHRI AJIT JOGI: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the National Highways Projects being implemented in Chhattisgarh;

(b) the progress of these projects in the State;

(c) the expenditure incurred on each of these projects till date;

(d) the time by when these are likely to be completed;

(e) whether any new national highways are being declared in the State; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) The details of National Highways Project being implemented in the State of Chhattisgarh is as under:

Sl.No.	Work Head	No. of projects	Cost of work (Rs. in crore)
1.	National Highways (Original) Road Works	61	109.70
2.	National Highways (Original) Bridge Works	13	13.81
3.	Build Operate Transfer (BOT) Works	1	50.00
Total		75	173.51

(b) and (c) A Statement giving details of the progress and expenditure incurred for these projects is enclosed.

(d) All these projects are likely to be completed by September, 2007, except for unforeseen events.

(e) and (f) No, Sir. During February, 2004, Government has taken a decision to convert 7457 km. of State Roads in different states as National Highways including Jagadapur-Konta Road (172 km) and Bilaspur-Ambikapur road (223 km) in Chhattisgarh. The total length

of National Highway network in the country presently is about 65,569 km and huge investments will have to be made to upgrade these roads to National Highways standards. At present, there is a need to concentrate on the development of the existing National Highways instead of further expansion of the network. Considering the extent of investment required for upgrading the Highways already declared National Highways and their maintenance, it is not feasible to declare more roads as National highways at present.

Statement

National Highways Projects in Chhattisgarh

Sl.No.	NH No.	Name of works	Length in Km	Sanctioned cost (Rs. in crores)	Expenditure till 2/05 (Rs. in crores)	Physical progress in %
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
A. Road works						
1.	43	Reconstruction of culvert in Km. 164/2	0	0.14	0.02	13%
2.	78	Improvement & widening of single lane road to two lane road in Km. 502 to 511 of NH-78	10	4.21	2.77	85%
3.	200	Reconstruction of 16 Nos. culverts from km 8/10 to 77/6 of NH-200	0	0.38	0.18	75%
4.	200	Const. of paved shoulder in km 117/6 to 118/10	0	0.48	0	10%
5.	12A	Widening Single lane and intermediate lane to two lane in Km. 275/6 to 317/2	23.75	2.42	0	0
6.	200	Widening of intermediate lane to two lane in Km. 37/6 to 43/2, 62, 63/6 to 64/6	8.2	0.68	0	0
7.	78	Widening of single lane to two lane in Km. 266/10 to 271	5.2	1.9	0	0
8.	216	Widening from Km. 11 to 25	15	3.42	0	0
9.	78	Widening of Single lane to two lane in Km. 588/8 to 597	9.4	2.94	0	0

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
10.	217	Widening and raising of single lane to two lane from Km. 15/4 to 20	5.7	3.13	0	0
11.	200	Widening from Km. 103 to 113 and 185 to 186	13	1.22	0	
12.	217	Plaved shoulder and side drain in Km. 9/6 to 11/6	0	0.29	0	0
13.	200	Paved shoulder and side drain in Km. 193/8-10, 195/2		0.34	0	0
14.	200	Paved shoulder and side drain in Km. 5 to 9/4	0	0.64	0	0
15.	78	Protection work in Km. 417/10 to 418/2, 422/8 to 423/6	0	0.49	0	0
16.	6	IRQP in Km. 241-245, 261, 264 and 265 of NH-6	8	1.43	0.65	60%
17.	6	IRQP in Km 346 to 353 to NH-6	6	2.69	1.37	70%
18.	6	IRQP in km 396 to 405/8 of NH-6	9.8	2.36	0	0%
19.	12A	IRQP in Km. 224 to 231	8	2.07	0	0%
20.	12A	IRQP in Km. 232 to 231/7	9.7	1.83	0	0%
21.	16	IRQP in Km. 493 to 498	6	1.16	0	0%
22.	43	IRQP in Km. 76 to 81	6	1.88	0.88	70%
23.	43	IRQP in Km. 82 to 91	10	1.88	1.62	95%
24.	43	IRQP in Km. 261 to 271 on NH-43	11	2	0.21	11%
25.	43	IRQP in Km. 279 to 287	9	2.1	0	0%
26.	43	IRQP in Km. 301 to 306	6	1.43	0	0%
27.	43	IRQP in Km. 307 to 317/8	10.8	2.25	0	0%
28.	200	IRQP in KM 1 to 9/2 of NH-200	8.2	2.68	1.63	90%
29.	200	IRQP in KM 116/10 to 127.6 of NH-200	10.8	2.04	1.45	90%
30.	200	IRQP in KM 140 to 150/8 & 176 to 178 of NH-200	13.8	2.04	0	0%
31.	200	IRQP in KM 150/10 to 164/2 to NH-200	14.8	1.35	0.97	100%

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
32.	200	IRQP in KM 207/4 to 216 (old) of NH-200	9.8	1.88	1.1	55%
33.	200	IRQP in KM 217 to 226 of NH-200	10	1.92	0.81	80%
34.	200	IRQP in KM 227 to 236/4 to NH-200	9.4	1.31	0.8	60%
35.	200	IRQP in KM 243/6 to 258/4 of NH-200	14.8	3.42	1.72	63%
36.	78	IRQP in Km. 288 to 296	9	1.38	0	0%
37.	78	IRQP in Km. 297 to 303 on NH-78	7	1.46	0.66	90%
38.	78	IRQP in Km. 314 to 321	8	1.68	0.55	60%
39.	78	IRQP in Km. 322 to 331	10	1.62	0.99	90%
40.	78	IRQP & widening in Km. 332 to 339	8	2.21	0	10%
41.	78	IRQP in Km. 340 to 346	7	1.52	0.97	90%
42.	78	IRQP in Km. 347 to 354	8	1.33	0.84	90%
43.	78	IRQP in Km. 375/5 to 377/5	3	0.78	0.53	90%
44.	78	IRQP in Km. 391/8 to 400	9.4	1.56	0.42	40%
45.	78	IRQP & widening in Km. 443 to 452	10	2.91	0.14	10%
46.	78	IRQP in Km. 453 to 462	10	1.05	0	0
47.	78	IRQP in Km. 514 to 517 & 556 to 560/4	8.4	1.12	0	0
48.	78	IRQP in Km. 543 to 555	13	1.79	0	0
49.	78	IRQP in Km. 557 to 566	10	1.55	0	0
50.	78	IRQP & widening in Km. 567 to 576	10	2.82	0	0
51.	78	IRQP in Km. 577 to 584	8	1.31	0.51	50%
52.	78	IRQP in Km. 472/8 to 489/8	17.4	3.22	0	0
53.	78	424, 427, 428 and 431 including widening single lane to two lane from Km. 423 to 431	9	1.86	0	0
54.	216	IRQP in Km. 32 to 40	9.2	1.47	0.58	100%
55.	216	IRQP in Km. 41 to 50	10	1.62	0.84	60%
56.	216	IRQP in Km. 51 to 66	16	2.7	0.57	63%
57.	216	IRQP & widening in Km. 76/8 to 83	7.21	1.79	0.22	30%

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
58.	216	IRQP & widening in Km. 84 to 91/6	7.42	1.88	0	30%
59.	217	IRQP & widening in Km. 36 to 46	11	2.42	0.06	20%
60.	217	IRQP & widening in Km. 47 to 55	9	2.09	0.08	20%
61.	217	IRQP & widening in Km. 56 to 66/6	10.45	2.16	0.07	20%
Total A			527.63	109.7	24.21	

B. Bridge works

1.	43	Reconstruction of H.L. Bridge in Km 109/10 on NH-43		2.36	1.99	85%
2.	43	Reconstruction of minor bridge in Km. 160/8		0.87	0	0
3.	43	Reconstruction of minor bridge in Km. 190/6		0.2	0.12	60%
4.	43	Reconstruction of H.L. Bridge in Km 207/10 on NH-43		8	0.78	10%
5.	216	Reconstruction of minor bridge in Km. 5/6 & 7/4		0.61	0.19	40%
6.	200	Survey and investigation of Nandghat HL Bridge Km. 66/2-8		0.16	0	0
7.	200	Feasibility study and detail engineering ROB at level crossing Km. 189/2		0.11	0	0
8.	200	Feasibility study and detail engineering ROB at level crossing Km. 114/2		0.11	0	0
9.	43	Reconstruction of minor Bridge in Km. 105/2		0.45	0	0
10.	12A	Rehabilitation of existing Sheonath Brige in Km. 317/2-4		0.11	0	0
11.	43	Rehabilitation of HL Bridge in Km. 134/2		0.2	0	0
12.	78	Rehabilitation of HL Bridge (Shri Nallah Bridge) in Km. 551/10		0.29	0	0
13.	200	Rehabilitation of HL Bridgeover Hasdeo River in Km. 193/2-6		0.34	0	0
Total B				13.81	3.08	

C. Built Operate and Transfer (BOT) Work

Sl.No.	NH No.	Name of works	Length in km	Cost of Project in Cr.	Expenditure	Physical Progress
1.	6	Four laning of Raipur-Durg	26.6	50	Under BOT	33%

Accidents due to overtaking

(f) if so, the details thereof?

1100. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the number of road accidents has increased rapidly in the country due to uncontrolled overtaking;

(b) if so, the year-wise and state-wise details thereof during the last three years till date;

(c) whether the Hon'ble Supreme Court had issued any directives to check overtaking by city buses on November 20, 1997;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government has taken any steps in compliance with the directives of the Supreme Court; and

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) The data regarding number of road accidents due to uncontrolled over-taking is not compiled by this Ministry. However, the data containing details of road accidents on year-wise as well as state-wise basis is given in the enclosed statement.

(c) to (f) Hon'ble Supreme Court in course of hearing of Writ Petition (Civil) No. 13029 of 1985 (M.C. Mehta vs. Union of India & Others), I.A. Nos. 7, 8, 9 & 10 had directed the police and other authorities of NCR and NCT of Delhi entrusted with administration and enforcement of Motor Vehicles Act and generally in control of traffic to *inter-alia*, ensure that transport vehicles are not permitted to overtake any other four-wheeled motorized vehicles. Enforcement and compliance of this direction is the responsibility of the State authorities of NCR and NCT of Delhi.

Statement*State-wise Road Accidents in India during last three years 2000 to 2002*

All India/States/UTs	2000	2001	2002
1	2	3	4
Andhra Pradesh	25398	30031	27634
Arunachal Pradesh	252	264	244
Assam	2492	2516	2625
Bihar	4397	2873	5339
Chhattisgarh	6913	8751	8664
Goa	2961	2818	3419
Gujarat	36029	32523	31735
Haryana	8206	8393	8748
Himachal Pradesh	2039	2371	2525
Jammu & Kashmir	4598	4610	5394

1	2	3	4
Jharkhand	3783	4028	4711
Karnataka	32397	33000	35784
Kerala	37072	38361	38762
Madhya Pradesh	23805	26239	26929
Maharashtra	71550	74521	66876
Manipur	506	409	520
Meghalaya	392	600	172
Mizoram	72	83	96
Nagaland	79	102	84
Orissa	6611	6405	6848
Punjab	3876	4171	4962
Rajasthan	19932	19999	20571
Sikkim	94	109	228
Tamil Nadu	48923	51978	53503
Tripura	524	544	624
Uttaranchal	877	1061	1117
Uttar Pradesh	16644	20473	20684
West Bengal	18979	16954	17974
Andaman and Nicobar Islands	158	181	168
Chandigarh	455	492	494
Dadra and Nagar Haveli	84	88	80
Daman & Diu	66	53	68
Delhi	10245	9344	8699
Lakshadweep	6	6	3
Pondicherry	1054	1286	1484
Total	391449	405637	407497

*[English]***Media Lab Asia****Assistance by U.S. for Tsunami Disaster**

1101. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a delegation of U.S. congressmen led by Senate majority leader Bill Frist, who is also part of the India caucus, took stock of Indo-U.S. relations and the extent of cooperation to deal with the aftermath of the Tsunami disaster during a meeting with the Indian Leaders;

(b) if so, the main points discussed therein and the outcome thereof;

(c) the extent to which both India and U.S. have agreed to work jointly to meet the situation that has arisen out of the Tsunami disaster in various countries; and

(d) the extent of U.S. help and assistance agreed to for all the countries including India to meet the situation that has arisen out of the damage caused in various parts of the country due to Tsunami?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) Yes Sir. A U.S. Senate delegation led by Majority Leader Senator Bill Frist visited New Delhi on 10 January 2005. The delegation called on the Prime Minister, External Affairs Minister and Health Minister.

(b) Issues discussed during various meetings included the expansion of the emerging strategic partnership between India and the United States and our converging interests on various regional and global issues. Relief efforts in the aftermath of the Tsunami disaster were also a subject of exchange of views.

(c) India and the United States coordinated closely to respond to the Tsunami disaster. Along with Japan and Australia, and later Canada and the Netherlands, they comprised a Core Group to coordinate disaster relief efforts, prioritise needs, avoid duplication and complement each other's capabilities.

(d) The US Government has committed itself to an assistance programme of \$ 950 million covering Tsunami-affected countries. In addition, it is reported that \$ 337 million was raised by charity organisations in the US for such relief efforts.

1102. SHRI B. MAHTAB: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether establishing Media Lab Asia has been delayed; and

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

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

(b) Does not arise.

WB and JBIC Loans for Road Sector

1103. KUNWAR JITIN PRASAD:
SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH:

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

(a) whether the World Bank and Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC) have approved loans to upgrade the stretch of National Highway No. 28 and roads in Orissa;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the names and other details of the projects under the National Highway Development Programme supported by the World Bank and the JBIC loan, State-wise; and

(d) the details of terms and conditions fixed with these banks in this regard with regard to above mentioned projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) The World Bank has agreed in principle to approve a loan for an amount of US\$ 620.00 Million to the Government of India for upgrading the stretch of Lucknow-Muzaffarpur section of National Highway No. 28 (km. 9.00 to km. 520.00 except Gorakhpur Bypass).

Jagatpur—Chandikhole section of National Highway No. 5 in Orissa has already been four laned with the help of JBIC assistance in the State of Orissa.

(c) Details of World Bank and JBIC projects are given in enclosed Statement-I and Statement-II respectively.

(d) The Terms and Conditions fixed with World Bank & JBIC are given in the enclosed statement-III.

Statement I

Details of Projects under World Bank Loan

Sl.No.	Stretches	NH No.	Length (km)	Start date	Completion date	Category	Present status
World Bank							
State	Bihar						
1.	Aurangabad-Barachatti	2	60	Sep-01	Mar-05	GQ	Under implementation
2.	Dehri-on-Sone-Aurangabad	2	40	Feb-01	Feb-04	GQ	Under implementation
3.	Raigang-Barakata	2	80	Mar-02	Mar-05	GQ	Under implementation
4.	Mohania-Sasaram	2	45	Feb-01	Feb-04	GQ	Under implementation
5.	Sasaram-Dehri-on-sona	2	30	Mar-02	Mar-05	GQ	Under implementation
State	Jharkhand						
6.	Gorhar-Barwa Adda	2	76.75	Sep-01	Mar-05	GQ	Under implementation
State	Uttar Pradesh						
7.	Allahabad Bypass Contract-I (Bridge)	2	1.02	Sep-03	Mar-06	GQ	Under implementation
8.	Allahabad Bypass Contract-II	2	38.987	Jun-04	Dec-06	GQ	Under implementation
9.	Allahabad Bypass Contract-III	2	44.708	Nov. 04	May-07	GQ	Under implementation
10.	Etawah-Rajpur	2	72.825	Mar-02	Mar-05	GQ	Under implementation
11.	Haldia-Varanasi	2	72	Mar-01	Mar-05	GQ	Under implementation
12.	Fatehpur-Khaga	2	77	Mar-01	Oct.-04	GQ	Under implementation
13.	Kanpur-Fatehpur	2	51.5	Mar-02	Mar-05	GQ	Under implementation
14.	Khaga-Kokhraj	2	43	Feb-01	Jun-04	GQ	Four laned
15.	Shikohabad-Etawah	2	59.02	Mar-02	Mar-05	GQ	Under implementation
16.	Sikandara-Bhaunti	2	62	Feb 01	Aug. 04	GQ	Under implementation
17.	Varanasi-Mohania	2	76	Mar-02	Mar-05	GQ	
18.	Agra-Shikohabad	2	50.83	Mar-02	Mar-05	GQ	Under implementation
Total			982.64				

Statement II*Details of Projects under JBIC Loan*

Sl.No.	Stretches	NH No.	Length (km)	Start date	Completion date	Category	Present status
JBIC							
State	Andhra Pradesh						
1.	Vijayawada-Chilikaluripet Package I	5	25	Mar-99	Mar-02	GQ	Four laned
2.	Vijayawada-Chikaluripet Package II	5	32	Mar-99	Mar-02	GQ	Four laned
3.	Vijayawada-Chilikaluripet Package III	5	23.78	Mar-99	Mar-02	GQ	Four laned
4.	Vijayawada-Chikaluripet Package IV	5	2.88	May-99	May-02	GQ	Four laned
State	Uttar Pradesh						
4.	Ghaziabad-Hapur & Hapur Bypass	24	33	Apr-99	Apr-02	Others	Four laned
5.	Cable Stayed bridge on river Yamuna near Naini	27	6	Oct-00	Feb-04	Others	Four laned
State	Orissa						
6.	Chandikhole-Jagatpur	5	27.8	Feb-00	Feb-03	GQ	Four laned
Total			150.46				

Statement III*Terms and Conditions*

from time to time, at rate for each interest period equal to LIBOR (London Inter Bank Offered Rate) base rate plus LIBOR total spread.

World Bank

As per the Loan agreement with World Bank

- (a) The Borrower shall pay to the bank a front end fee in an amount equal to 1% of the amount of the loan
- (b) The Borrower shall pay to the bank a commitment charge at the rate of 3/4 of 1% per annum on the principal amount of the loan not withdrawn from time to time.
- (c) The Borrower shall pay interest on the principal amount of the loan withdrawn and outstanding

Japan Bank for International Corporation (JBIC)

As per the Loan Agreement with JBIC

- (a) The Borrower shall repay the principal of the loan to the fund in accordance with the Amortization schedule (20 years which start 10 years after the loan agreement)
- (b) The Borrower shall pay interest to the fund semi-annually at the rate of two and six-tenths percent (2.6%) per annum on the principal disbursed and outstanding.

- (c) The Borrower shall pay to the fund in Japanese Yen an amount equal to one-tenth percent (0.1%) of the amount of the Letter of Commitment as the service charge thereof on the issuing date of the relative Letter of Commitment. The Fund shall issue to the Japanese Bank, the Letter of Commitment upon receipt of the service charge from the Borrower.

Toxic Free Ayurvedic Drugs

1104. SHRI UDAY SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether most of the Ayurvedic drugs sold in the country contain dangerous level of lead, mercury and arsenic;
- (b) if so, the facts thereof;
- (c) whether such Ayurvedic drugs are even exported to other countries and bringing bad name to the nation;
- (d) if so, the facts thereof; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Government to ensure that the firms manufacturing Ayurvedic drugs are toxic free?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (d) Manufacturing of Ayurvedic drugs is regulated by the provisions of Drugs & Cosmetics Act and the Rules framed thereunder. The drugs are required to be produced in accordance with the pharmacopoeial standards and the Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP). There are provisions for punishment if the drugs are found toxic.

(e) Government have taken following steps to ensure safety of Ayurvedic Medicines:

- (i) Manufacturing Licenses is mandatory wherein the medicines are prepared under the supervision of qualified persons, following proper procedures.
- (ii) The medicines should be prepared as per Ayurvedic Formulary of India by following the Pharmacopoeial standards.
- (iii) Medicines are prepared under Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP) under Schedule

'T' of the Drugs and Cosmetic Rules. This is mandatory.

- (iv) The Schedule E I of Drugs & Cosmetics Rules provides guidelines to use toxic ingredients after proper purification etc.
- (v) Government have initiated studies through Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR) Laboratories and Central Council of Research in Ayurveda and Siddha (CCRAS) to estimate the heavy metals, pesticides and microbial load in the drugs.
- (vi) CCRAS is also working to study the safety profile of Ayurvedic medicines.

Funds for Highway Projects

1105. MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Prime Minister's Committee on infrastructure has given approval for an investment of Rs. 1,70,000 crores for highways project as reported in the *Financial Express* dated January, 14, 2005;
- (b) whether the Government has accepted expenditure of Rs. 1,70,000 crores for the development of the National Highways during the next seven years;
- (c) if so, the plan for generation of required funds;
- (d) whether the specific projects to be undertaken, year-wise, have been identified and worked out;
- (e) if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) if not, the time schedule for working this out?

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 a proposed cost of Rs. 1,72,000 crore (including Rs. 77,000 crore from Private Participation). The Committee observed that feasibility of the programme needed to be examined in the light of funding constraints.

(c) to (f) The programme is in proposal stage. It is too early to give the details.

Treating Roads with Plastic Waste Materials

1106. SHRI BADIGA RAMAKRISHNA: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Bangalore based firm has offered to treat Delhi roads with plastic waste materials;

(b) if so, whether the Central Road Research Institute has received any proposal in this regard;

(c) if so, the status of the said proposal;

(d) whether the CRRI has examined the said proposal keeping in view the viability and durability of such roads; 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) and (b) No Sir, Central Road Research Institute (CRRI) has not received any proposal in this regard.

(c) to (e) Question does not arise.

National Bamboo Mission

1107. SHRI NARAYAN CHANDRA BORKATAKY: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether bamboo cultivation has been promoted in Assam under National Bamboo Mission; and

(b) if so, the details of the funds released so far 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) and (b) The Ministry of Science and Technology has established a Technology Mission, the National Mission on Bamboo Applications (NMBA). The NMBA has developed technologies and packages of practices for intensively

managed cultivation of bamboo, which have been disseminated to State Governments, including the Government of Assam. A demonstrative plantation for soil stabilisation and riverbank erosion control on Majul island has been taken up in 2004-05 by the NMBA, along with the Rain Forest Research Institute, Jorhat and the State Government, for which Rs. 5 lakhs have been released so far. A hardening facility for tissue cultured plant material has been established at Jagi Road, in collaboration with the Hindustan Paper Corporation, for which Rs. 1.08 lakhs have been released so far.

Illegal Routing of International Calls

1108. SHRI SUGRIB SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Reliance Infocomm has requested the Government to reconsider the penalty imposed on it on charges of illegal routing of international calls;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

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

(b) and (c) The request of M/s Reliance Infocomm Ltd. was rejected in January, 2005. Further, M/s Reliance Infocomm Ltd. filed a petition in Telecom. Disputes Settlement and Appellate Tribunal (TDSAT) against the order of the Government and the petition has been dismissed on 4th March, 2005.

Committee on Coastal Regulation

1109. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Committee headed by agriculture scientist, Shri M.S. Swaminathan, has submitted its report regarding the review of the existing Coastal Regulation Zone;

(b) if so, the findings of the Committee thereon;

(c) whether the recommendations of the committee are proposed to be implemented in view of the recent Tsunami tragedy in the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) 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) Yes, Sir. The Committee submitted the report on 14th February, 2005.

(b) The salient findings of the Committee are as under:

- the Coastal Regulation Zone Notification, 1991 has brought greater awareness of the coastal issues,
- to a large extent the Coastal Regulation Zone Notification has been responsible for protecting and conserving the coastal environment by regulating developmental activities,
- while there have been large scale violations of the Coastal Regulation Zone Notification the State Government have insufficient infrastructural facilities to take action against such violations,
- the coastal issues are highly complex and multidisciplinary in nature which requires a multidisciplinary approach for managing the coastal environment in an integrated manner,
- in order to protect the coastal communities and property a setback zone based on vulnerability line should be prepared, and
- an institutional structure should be put in place for addressing the issues of policy, law and conflict resolution relating to coastal problems.

(c) and (d) A rapid assessment of the environmental damages caused by recent Tsunami has been commissioned by Ministry of Environment & Forests by engaging nine specialised agencies in the country. This is to be followed by the detailed field studies for the preparation of eco-restoration and environmental management plans for the protection of the coastal areas.

(e) Does not arise.

12.00 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI LALU PRASAD): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the

Railways (Opening for Public Carriage of Passengers) (Amendment) Rules, 2005 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 44 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 28th January, 2005 under section 199 of the Railways Act, 1989, together with a Corrigendum thereto published in Notification No. G.S.R. 76 (E) dated the 16th February, 2005.

[Placed in Library *See* No. LT 1614/2005]

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): On behalf of Shri Shivraj V. Patil, I beg to lay on the Table-

- (1) A copy of the Proclamation (Hindi and English versions) dated the 4th March, 2005 issued by the President under article 356 of the Constitution in relation to the State of Goa published in Notification No. G.S.R. 156 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 4th March, 2005 under article 356 (3) of the Constitution.
- (2) A copy of the Order (Hindi and English versions) dated the 4th March, 2005 made by the President in pursuance of sub-clause (i) of clause (c) of the above proclamation published in Notification No. G.S.R. 157 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 4th March, 2005.

[Placed in Library *See* No. LT 1615/2005]

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): I beg to lay on the Table-

- (1)
 - (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Culture Fund 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 National Culture Fund for the year 2002-2003.
- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library *See* No. LT 1616/2005]

- (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Sahitya Akademi, New Delhi, 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 Sahitya Akademi, New Delhi, 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 1617/2005]

- (5) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Lalit Kala Akademi, New Delhi, 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 Lalit Kala Akademi, New Delhi, for the year 2002-2003.
- (6) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (5) above.

[Placed in Library *See* No. LT 1618/2005]

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI SIS RAM OLA):
Sir, I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 28 of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957:
- (i) The Mineral Concession (Amendment) Rules, 2005 published in the Notification No. G.S.R. 49 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 28th January, 2005.
- (ii) S.O. 1416 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 27th December, 2004 containing Order specifying the further time till 31st December, 2005 within which all mining leases, granted before the commencement of the Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Amendment Act, 1972 shall be brought in conformity with the provisions of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957.

[Placed in Library *See* No. LT 1619/2005]

- (2) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:

(i) Review by the Government of the working of the Hindustan Copper Limited, Kolkata, for the year 2003-2004.

(ii) Annual Report of the Hindustan Copper Limited, Kolkata, for the year 2003-2004, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

- (3) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (2) above.

[Placed in Library *See* No. LT 1620/2005]

[English]

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Administration Report (Hindi and English versions) of the erstwhile Bombay Dock Labour Board, Mumbai, 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 erstwhile Bombay Dock Labour Board, 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 1621/2005]

- (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Administration Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Calcutta Dock Labour Board, Kolkata, 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 Calcutta Dock Labour Board, Kolkata, 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 1622/2005]

- (5) (i) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Mormugao Port Trust, Goa, for the year 2003-2004, together with Audit Report thereon, under sub-section (2) of section 103 of the Major Port Trusts Act, 1963.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government on the Audited Accounts of the Mormugao Port Trust, Goa, 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 1623/2005]

- (7) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under section 36 of the Inland Waterways Authority of India Act, 1985:
- (i) The Prevention of Collision on National Waterways Regulations, 2002 published in Notification No. 182 in Gazette of India dated the 1st December, 2004.
- (ii) The National Waterway, Safety of Navigation and Shipping Regulations, 2002 published in Notification No. 182 in Gazette of India dated the 1st December, 2004.

[Placed in Library *See* No. LT 1624/2005]

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): I beg to lay on the Table-

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Judicial Academy, 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 National Judicial Academy, 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 1625/2005]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI BIJOY HANDIQUE): On behalf of Shri Praful Patel, I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under section 43 of the Airports Authority of India Act, 1994:

- (1) The Airports Authority of India (Form of Eviction of Unauthorized Occupants Appeal) Rules, 2004 published in Notification No. S.O. 1124 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 14th October, 2004, together with an Explanatory Note.
- (2) The Airports Authority of India (Eviction of Unauthorized Occupants Assessment of Damages) Rules, 2004 published in Notification No. S.O. 1125 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 14th October, 2004, together with an Explanatory Note.
- (3) The Airport Appellate Tribunal (Salaries, Allowances and other terms and conditions of service of Chairperson) Rules, 2004 published in Notification No. S.O. 1126 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 14th October, 2004, together with an Explanatory Note.
- (4) The Airport Appellate Tribunal (Procedure for investigation of misbehaviour or incapacity of Chairperson) Rules, 2004 published in Notification No. S.O. 1127 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 14th October, 2004, together with an Explanatory Note.
- (5) The Airports Authority of India (Manner of Service of Notice on Unauthorized Occupant) Rules, 2004 published in Notification No. S.O. 673 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 14th October, 2004, together with an Explanatory Note.

[Placed in Library *See* No. LT 1626/2005]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA): I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (3) of section 620 A of the Companies Act, 1956:

- (1) G.S.R. 14 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 12th January, 2005 declaring certain companies mentioned therein to be Nidhis subject to certain directions.

- (2) G.S.R. 655 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 4th October, 2004 rescinding the declaration granted to M/s Singh Mutual Benefit Company Limited, Haldwani, Nainital, company as Nidhi with effect from the 4th October, 2004.

[Placed in Library *See* No. LT 1627/2005]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED): I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Research and Information System for the Non-Aligned and Other Developing Countries, New Delhi, for the year 2003-2004, along with Audited Accounts.

[Placed in Library *See* No. LT 1628/2005]

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): On behalf of Shrimati Panabaka Lakshmi, I beg to lay on the Table-

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Institute of Post Graduate Teaching and Research in Ayurveda, Jamnagar, for the year 2003-2004, along with Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Institute of Post Graduate Teaching and Research in Ayurveda, Jamnagar, for the year 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 1629/2005]

- (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Central Council of Indian Medicine, 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 Central Council of Indian Medicine, New Delhi, 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 1630/2005]

- (5) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Central Council for Research in Ayurveda and Siddha, New Delhi, for the year 2002-2003.

- (ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Central Council for Research in Ayurveda and Siddha, New Delhi, for the year 2002-2003, together with Audit Report thereon.

- (iii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Central Council for Research in Ayurveda and Siddha, New Delhi, for the year 2002-2003.

- (6) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (5) above.

[Placed in Library *See* No. LT 1631/2005]

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN): On behalf of Dr. Shakeel Ahmad, I beg to lay on the Table-

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Telecom Regulatory Authority 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 Telecom Regulatory Authority 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 1632/2005]

- (3) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (5) of section 7 of the Indian Telegraph Act, 1885:

- (i) The Use of low power Equipment in the frequency band 2.4 GHz to 2.4835 GHz (Exemption from Licensing Requirement) Rules, 2005 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 45 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 28th January, 2005.

- (ii) The Indoor Use of low power wireless equipment in the frequency band 5 GHz (Exemption from Licensing Requirement) Rules, 2005 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 46 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 28th January, 2005.

[Placed in Library *See* No. LT 1633/2005]

- (4) A copy of the Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India—Union Government (No. 5 of 2005) (Commercial)—Public Sector Undertakings (Telecommunications Sector) for the year ended March, 2004 under article 151 (1) of the Constitution.

[Placed in Library *See* No. LT 1634/2005]

- (5) A copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Department of Information Technology for the year 2005-2006.

[Placed in Library *See* No. LT 1635/2005]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Interim Report* of the High Level Committee (Hindi version in two volumes) submitted by Hon'ble Justice Umesh C. Banerjee, former Judge, Supreme Court of India.

[Placed in Library *See* No. LT 1636/2005]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): I beg to lay on the Table-

- (1) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (7) of section 9A of the Customs Tariff Act, 1975:
- (i) G.S.R. 823 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 21st December, 2004 together with an Explanatory Memorandum seeking to provide for the imposition of anti-dumping duty on specified acrylic fibres originating in or exported from Japan.
- (ii) G.S.R. 824 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 21st December, 2004 together with an Explanatory Memorandum seeking to rescind the Notification No. 08/1999-Cus., dated the 22nd January, 1999.

- (iii) G.S.R. 836 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 24th December, 2004 together with an Explanatory Memorandum seeking to extend the validity of anti-dumping duty levied on Sodium Cyanide, originating in or exported from the United States of America, Czech Republic, the European Union and Korea RP by six months.

- (iv) G.S.R. 844 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 30th December, 2004 together with an Explanatory Memorandum seeking to provide for the imposition of definitive anti-dumping duty on acrylic fibres originating in or exported from Belarus.

- (v) G.S.R. 7 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 4th January, 2005 together with an Explanatory Memorandum seeking to rescind the Notification No. 01/2002-Cus., dated the 2nd January, 2002.

- (vi) G.S.R. 30(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 19th January, 2005 together with an Explanatory Memorandum seeking to rescind the Notification No. 116/2004-Cus., dated the 24th December, 2004.

- (vii) G.S.R. 31 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 19th January, 2005 together with an Explanatory Memorandum seeking to extend the validity of anti-dumping duty on Sodium Cyanide, originating in or exported from the United States of America, Czech Republic, the European Union and Korea RP.

- (viii) G.S.R. 40 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 24th January, 2005 together with an Explanatory Memorandum seeking to impose final anti-dumping duty on Flexible Stabstock Polyol, originating in or exported from the People's Republic of China, Republic of Korea, Taiwan and Brazil at the rates recommended by the designated authority.

- (ix) G.S.R. 42 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 27th January, 2005 together with an Explanatory Memorandum seeking to re-impose provisional anti-dumping duty on hexamine, originating in or exported from the Iran.

- (x) G.S.R. 43 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 27th January, 2005 together with

*English version was laid on 26.2.2005.

an Explanatory Memorandum seeking to rescind the Notification No. 63/2003-Cus., dated the 2nd April, 2003.

- (xi) G.S.R. 72 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 14th February, 2005 together with an Explanatory Memorandum seeking to impose provisional anti-dumping duty on narrow woven fabrics originating in or exported from Peoples Republic of China and Chinese Taipei for a period of six months.

[Placed in Library *See* No. LT 1637/2005]

- (2) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (2) of section 38 of the Central Excise Act, 1944:

- (i) G.S.R. 850 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 31st December, 2004 together with an Explanatory Memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 6/2002-CE, dated the 1st March, 2002.
- (ii) G.S.R. 851 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 31st December, 2004 together with an Explanatory Memorandum providing 50 per cent exemption from excise duty on paper and paperboard manufactured by units of Hindustan Paper Corporation in North East Region i.e. with effect from the 1st January, 2005 to 31st December, 2005.
- (iii) G.S.R. 10 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 7th January, 2005 together with an Explanatory Memorandum seeking to extend the provisions of section 4A of the Central Excise Act, 1944 to drugs and medicines mentioned therein with effect from 8th January, 2005 and also to provide 35 per cent of the retail prices as abatement for the purposes of determining the assessable value on which excise duty is payable.
- (iv) The CENVAT Credit (First Amendment) Rules, 2005 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 47 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 28th January, 2005.

[Placed in Library *See* No. LT 1638/2005]

- (3) A copy of the Notification No. G.S.R. 6 (E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 4th January, 2005 together with an Explanatory Memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 14/2002-CE (NT) dated 8th March, 2002, issued under sub-section (2) of section (3) of the Central Excise Rules, 2002.

[Placed in Library *See* No. LT 1639/2005]

- (4) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (4) of section 94 of the Finance Act, 1994:

- (i) G.S.R. 849 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 31st December, 2004 together with an Explanatory Memorandum notifying the taxable services mentioned therein in respect of which the liability for payment of service tax has been shifted to a person other than the service provider.
- (ii) The Service Tax (Amendment) Rules, 2005 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 25 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 14th January, 2005 together with an Explanatory Memorandum.
- (iii) G.S.R. 601 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 10th September, 2004 together with an Explanatory Memorandum fixing the rate of interest at thirteen per cent per annum for the purpose of section 75 of the Finance Act, 1994.

- (5) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at item No. (iii) of (4) above.

[Placed in Library *See* No. LT 1640/2005]

- (6) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under section 296 of the Income-tax Act, 1961:

- (i) The Income-tax (20th Amendment) Rules, 2004 published in the Notification No. S.O. 1340 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 8th December, 2004, together with an Explanatory Memorandum.
- (ii) The Income-tax (Third Amendment) Rules, 2005 published in Notification No. S.O. 167

(E) in Gazette of India dated the 4th February, 2005, together with an Explanatory Memorandum.

- (iii) The Income-tax (Fourth Amendment) Rules, 2005 published in Notification No. S.O. 185 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 9th February, 2005, together with an Explanatory Memorandum.

[Placed in Library *See* No. LT 1641/2005]

(7) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under section 159 of the Customs Act, 1962:

- (i) G.S.R. 847 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 31st December, 2004 together with an Explanatory Memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 5/2004-Cus., dated the 8th January, 2004.
- (ii) G.S.R. 848 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 31st December, 2004 together with an Explanatory Memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 21/2002-Cus., dated the 1st March, 2002.
- (iii) G.S.R. 59 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 4th February, 2005 together with an Explanatory Memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 21/2002-Cus., dated the 1st March, 2002.
- (iv) G.S.R. 74 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 15th February, 2005 together with an Explanatory Memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 21/2002-Cus., dated the 1st March, 2002.
- (v) S.O. 1405 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 23rd December, 2004 together with an Explanatory Memorandum regarding revised rate of exchange for conversion of certain foreign currencies into Indian currency or vice-versa for purpose of assessment of import.
- (vi) S.O. 1406 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 23rd December, 2004 together with an Explanatory Memorandum regarding revised rate of exchange for conversion of certain foreign currencies into Indian currency or vice-versa for purpose of assessment of export.

(vii) S.O. 1419 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 28th December, 2004 together with an Explanatory Memorandum regarding revised rate of exchange for conversion of certain foreign currencies into Indian currency or vice-versa for purpose of assessment of import.

(viii) S.O. 1420 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 28th December, 2004 together with an Explanatory Memorandum regarding revised rate of exchange for conversion of certain foreign currencies into Indian currency or vice-versa for purpose of assessment of export.

(ix) S.O. 83 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 25th January, 2005 together with an Explanatory Memorandum regarding revised rate of exchange for conversion of certain foreign currencies into Indian currency or vice-versa for purpose of assessment of import.

(x) S.O. 84 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 25th January, 2005 together with an Explanatory Memorandum regarding revised rate of exchange for conversion of certain foreign currencies into Indian currency or vice-versa for purpose of assessment of export.

(xi) S.O. 102 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 31st January, 2005 together with an Explanatory Memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 36/2001-Cus (NT) dated 3rd August, 2001.

[Placed in Library *See* No. LT 1642/2005]

(8) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) issued under Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999:

(i) G.S.R. 793 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 7th December, 2004 containing corrigendum to the Notification No. G.S.R. 847 (E) dated 29th October, 2003.

(ii) G.S.R. 794 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 7th December, 2004 containing corrigendum to the Notification No. G.S.R. 848 (E) dated 29th October, 2003.

- (iii) G.S.R. 795 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 7th December, 2004 containing corrigendum to the Notification No. G.S.R. 880 (E) dated 11th November, 2003.
- (iv) G.S.R. 796 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 7th December, 2004 containing corrigendum to the Notification No. G.S.R. 881 (E) dated 11th November, 2003.
- (v) G.S.R. 797 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 7th December, 2004 containing corrigendum to the Notification No. G.S.R. 899 (E) dated 22nd November, 2003.
- (vi) G.S.R. 798 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 7th December, 2004 containing corrigendum to the Notification No. G.S.R. 900 (E) dated 22nd November, 2003.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 1643/2005]

(9) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under section 48 of the Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999:

- (i) The Foreign Exchange Management (Transfer or Issue of Security by a Person Resident outside India) (Fifth Amendment) Regulations, 2004 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 799 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 8th December, 2004.
- (ii) The Foreign Exchange Management (Borrowing or Lending in Foreign Exchange) (Second Amendment) Regulations, 2004 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 825 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 22nd December, 2004.
- (iii) The Foreign Exchange Management (Manner of Receipt and Payment) (Amendment) Regulations, 2005 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 53 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 2nd February, 2005.
- (iv) The Foreign Exchange Management (Borrowing or Lending in Foreign Exchange) (Amendment) Regulations, 2005 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 60 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 9th February, 2005.
- (v) The Foreign Exchange Management (Guarantees) (Amendment) Regulations, 2005 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 61 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 9th February, 2005.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 1644/2005]

(10) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Securities and Exchange Board of India for the year 2003-2004, together with Audit Report thereon under sub-section (4) of section 15 of the Securities and Exchange Board of India Act, 1992.

(11) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (10) above.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 1645/2005]

(12) A copy of the Notification No. S.O. 2861 (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 13th November, 2004 specifying certain activities mentioned therein for the purposes of sub-clause (xvii) of clause (h) of the Small Industries Development Bank of India Act, 1989, issued under section 2 of the said Act.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 1646/2005]

(13) A copy of the Consolidated Report (Hindi and English versions) on the working of public sector banks for the year ended the 31st March, 2004.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 1647/2005]

12.01 hrs.

COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Sixth Report

[*English*]

SHRI CHARNJIT SINGH ATWAL (Phillaur): Sir, I beg to present the Sixth Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions.

12.02 hrs.

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

Statements

[*Translation*]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi): I beg to lay on the Table (Hindi and English versions) of

[Prof. Vijay Kumar Malhotra]

the Statements showing further follow up action taken on the recommendations contained in the following Action Taken Reports of Public Accounts Committee:

- (1) 20th Report (10th Lok Sabha) on "Construction of 1296 Dwelling Units at Kishangarh by Delhi Development Authority";
- (2) 34th Report (10th Lok Sabha) on "Crash Housing Programme for Construction of General Pool Accommodation";
- (3) 3rd Report (13th Lok Sabha) on "Irregular expenditure on local Insulation of G.I. Wire";
- (4) 10th Report (13th Lok Sabha) on "Union Government Appropriation Accounts—Telecommunication Services (1996-97)";
- (5) 13th Report (13th Lok Sabha) on "Infructuous expenditure on purchase of water coolers and filters";
- (6) 32nd Report (13th Lok Sabha) on "Union Excise Duties—Different classification for similar products";
- (7) 35th Report (13th Lok Sabha) on "Excesses over Voted Grants and charged Appropriation (1997-98)";
- (8) 37th Report (13th Lok Sabha) on "Working of Circle Stamp Depots";
- (9) 41st Report (13th Lok Sabha) on "Export incentives and deductions in respect of profit-retained for export business";
- (10) 52nd Report (13th Lok Sabha) on "Undermining of Parliamentary Financial Control";
- (11) 53rd Report (13th Lok Sabha) on "Cases of M/s. PILCOM"; and
- (12) 57th Report (13th Lok Sabha) on "Design and Development of Main Battle Tank-Arjun".

12.03 hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Eleventh, Twelfth, Thirteenth & Fourteenth Reports

[English]

SHRI M.M. PALLAM RAJU (Kakinada): I beg to present the following Reports (Hindi and English versions)

of the Standing Committee on Information Technology:

- (1) Eleventh Report on Action Taken by the Government on the Recommendations/Observations of the Committee contained in their First Report (Fourteenth Lok Sabha) on Demands for Grants (2004-2005) relating to the Department of Information Technology;
- (2) Twelfth Report on Action Taken by the Government on the Recommendations/Observations of the Committee contained in their Second Report (Fourteenth Lok Sabha) on Demands for Grants (2004-2005) relating to the Department of Posts;
- (3) Thirteenth Report on Action Taken by the Government on the Recommendations/Observations of the Committee contained in their Third Report (Fourteenth Lok Sabha) on Demands for Grants (2004-2005) relating to the Department of Telecommunications; and
- (4) Fourteenth Report on Action Taken by the Government on the Recommendations/Observations of the Committee contained in their Fourth Report (Fourteenth Lok Sabha) on Demands for Grants (2004-2005) relating to the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.

12.04 hrs.

STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS

- (I) **Status of Implementation of Recommendations Contained in the Second Report of Standing Committee on Agriculture***

[English]

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): Sir, I am making this statement on the status of implementation of recommendations contained in the Second Report of Standing Committee on Agriculture in pursuance of Direction 73 A of the hon. Speaker, Lok Sabha issued *vide* Lok Sabha Bulletin Part-II, dated September 01, 2004.

The Standing Committee on Agriculture examined the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Agriculture.

*Also placed in Library *See* No. LT 1648/2005.

Department of Agricultural Research and Education (DARE) for the year 2004-05 and presented their second report in this regard to the Lok Sabha on 17th August, 2004. The report contains eleven recommendations. These recommendations of the said Committee mainly relate to need for increasing DARE's allocation to at least one per cent of AGDP; insufficient Tenth Plan public funding for DARE/ICAR; inadequate allocation to DARE in 2004-05; requirement of one time Catch Up Grant; budgetary process requires some reformative changes; urgent need to fill all vacancies in ICAR; plan schemes suffer owing to time taken in SFC/EFC/CCEA approval; urgent need for minimizing huge post harvest losses of agrarian and allied sectors produces; need to check malfunctioning in Krishi Vigyan Kendras; vague, non-specific and inconclusive replies by the Department and need to popularize R&D support from ICAR to identify synthetic milk.

All the eleven recommendations of the Committee have been considered in the Ministry of Agriculture. The action as proposed by the Committee has already been taken and initiated on all recommendations except one for which the implementation is dependent on Department of Personnel and Training as the restriction has been imposed to fill-up the vacancies. The enhancement in allocations to DARE/ICAR is also dependent on Planning Commission. The action on other recommendations is under process and the action taken replies have been sent to the Committee.

12.05 hrs.

(ii) Developments in Nepal and Present Status of Bilateral Relations with Pakistan and Afghanistan

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Now, Item No. 19.

MD. SALIM (Calcutta-North East): Sir, I have a small submission to make on this.

MR. SPEAKER: You have not given any notice.

MD. SALIM: Sir, the hon. Minister is going to lay a statement on the current situation on Nepal and on the bilateral relations between Afghanistan and Pakistan. This is very important and so the Lok Sabha should find some time to discuss this matter.

MR. SPEAKER: I agree with you. I am sure the Government will provide an opportunity for this.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED): Sir, on behalf of Shri K. Natwar Singh, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the statement (Hindi and English versions) regarding developments in Nepal and the present status of bilateral relations with Pakistan and Afghanistan.

*Sir, there has been a broad national consensus on our foreign policy since independence. This consensus has enabled our country to play an influential and effective role in world affairs. Our Government shall continue to nurture this precious legacy and build upon it as we face a rapidly transforming international environment.

As the Hon'ble Members are aware, the UPA Government has laid great stress on our relations with our neighbours. Hence, I would like to take the House into confidence and make a statement on recent developments in the neighbourhood, specifically developments in Nepal and my recent visits to Afghanistan and Pakistan.

As close friends and neighbours, India and Nepal share a unique relationship of friendship and cooperation underpinned by ties of language, culture and kinship. It is inevitable that developments in one country affect the other. We are committed to supporting all efforts aimed at restoring political stability and economic prosperity in Nepal.

Hence India is deeply concerned at the recent developments in Nepal following the dismissal of the multiparty government by His Majesty King Gyanendra on 1 February. An emergency has been imposed in that country, fundamental rights have been suspended and several political leaders, journalists, human rights activists and intellectuals have been detained. Some leaders have crossed over into India.

Media censorship continues. Telecom services have been curtailed. Indian television news channels are not being carried by Nepalese cable service providers. M/s United Telecom Ltd., an Indian joint venture company providing telephone services has not been allowed to operate since the imposition of the emergency.

*Laid on the Table and also placed in Library See No. LT 1648 A/2005.

[Shri E. Ahamed]

The prolonged Maoist-sponsored bandh since 12 February has disrupted normal life causing enormous hardships to the people of Nepal. It also affected industrial activity. It was called off only on 26 February. Political parties have decided to launch a joint agitation against the actions of the King from 8 March.

The developments in Nepal constitute a serious setback to democracy and bring the monarchy and mainstream political parties in direct confrontation with each other. This can only benefit the forces that not only wish to undermine democracy in Nepal but the institution of monarchy as well. As a result, the task of both India and Nepal to address their shared security concerns has become difficult and complicated. We continue to believe that the principles of multi-party democracy and constitutional monarchy, enshrined in the country's constitution will be adhered to in order to ensure political stability in the country.

The Government of India responded promptly and unambiguously to the developments in Nepal. We have in a fraternal spirit called for the early restoration of multiparty democracy, immediate release of political leaders and lifting of restrictions on their constitutional rights and removal of media censorship. We have stressed the need and importance of forging a national consensus between the two constitutional forces, namely political parties and constitutional monarchy, to effectively deal with the political and economic challenges facing the country. Our views have been conveyed by our Ambassador to H.M. the King of Nepal.

Following the developments in Nepal, we recalled our Ambassador in Kathmandu to New Delhi for consultations. He has since returned to Kathmandu and will reiterate our views to the Nepalese leadership.

We are also in touch with other countries, to exchange views and share assessments in order to evolve a coordinated response of the international community to the developments in Nepal.

In view of the current disturbed conditions in Nepal, the question of military supplies to Nepal is under constant review.

India is concerned that a further deterioration of the situation in Nepal will result in spill-over effects across the open border, particularly in the neighbouring States. We have taken steps to strengthen security in border

areas. The Sashastra Seema Bal which is responsible for guarding India-Nepal border has been asked to step up vigilance and patrolling along the border.

Our links with Afghanistan go back many centuries. India-Afghanistan relations are underpinned by historical ties, cultural commonalities and continuous contacts between the peoples of the two countries.

I visited Kabul on 15 February 2005. I met President Karzai, Baba-e-Millat Ex-King Zahir Shah and Foreign Minister Dr. Abdullah. The Ministers of Health and Defence were also separately present at the ceremonial events organized in connection with the inauguration of the new surgical block of the Indira Gandhi Hospital which has been reconstructed with our assistance and handing over of 49 vehicles to the Afghan National Army respectively.

We welcomed President Karzai's re-election in the presidential election held in October 2004. The people of Afghanistan, especially women, defied the threat the terrorism and turned out in large numbers to exercise their vote.

As Hon'ble Members are aware, we are running several projects in virtually all parts of Afghanistan. These sectors include hydro-electricity, road construction, agriculture, industry, telecommunications, information & broadcasting, education and health.

In my discussions with the Afghan leaders, they expressed keen desire for further deepening of relations in every field and were generously appreciative of our assistance programmes. President Karzai described these as among the most effective.

Subsequently President Karzai came on a working visit from 23-25 February 2005. He called on the President and had talks with the Prime Minister. During the discussions, the two sides reviewed bilateral ties in a comprehensive and cordial manner. President Karzai was accompanied by eight Cabinet Ministers, who had bilateral meetings with their Indian counterparts. Raksha Mantri, Minister of Information and Broadcasting, Minister of State for Civil Aviation and I separately called on President Karzai.

Two MoUs were signed during the visit. These included an MoU on Cooperation in the field of Civil Aviation. This is aimed at building capacity and strengthening the institutional structure of Afghan civil aviation sector. The MoU on cooperation in the field of

Media and Information calls for greater interaction between media persons and radio and TV organizations of the two countries.

India announced its commitment to fund and execute the construction of a power transmission line from Pul-e-Khumri to Kabul and a sub-station at Kabul, which has been described as a foremost priority project by President Karzai himself. It will bring electricity all the way from Uzbekistan to Kabul and a segment within Afghanistan, a distance of 200 kms., over some of the most difficult terrain, would be undertaken by India. This will take India's commitment for Afghanistan's reconstruction to US\$ 500 million.

Afghanistan today suffers from acute shortage of skilled and semi-skilled manpower. In the coming period, we also intend to focus on vocational training.

The situation in Afghanistan is gradually stabilizing. We have also been able to consolidate further our relations with the people and Government of Afghanistan.

I visited Pakistan from February 15 to 17, 2005. It was the first visit of an Indian Foreign Minister to Pakistan in almost 16 years. I met President Musharraf, Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz, and held extensive discussions with my counterpart, Foreign Minister Khurshid M. Kasuri.

During my visit, agreement was reached with Pakistan to commence a bus service between Srinagar and Muzaffarabad. Honourable members would recall that the proposal for the Srinagar-Muzaffarabad bus was first announced on October 22, 2003 by Shri Yashwant Sinha, the then External Affairs Minister.

Agreement was also reached on starting a bus service between Lahore and Amritsar, including the religious places such as Nankana Sahib. Pakistan also agreed to work towards the early restoration of the Khokrapar-Munnabao rail link. These links would significantly enhance people-to-people contacts, which have provided palpable support to the present process.

The Srinagar-Muzaffarabad bus service is expected to commence on 7th April 2005. Dates for the Amritsar-Lahore bus service and the Khokrapar-Munnabao rail link will also be finalized.

On the Srinagar-Muzaffarabad bus service, let me clarify that all Indian and Pakistani nationals would be permitted to use this route across the LoC. Each side

will designate its authority for receiving application forms for travel and for issue of travel permits at the checkpoint. On the Indian side, the designated authority is the Regional Passport Officer, Srinagar. The procedure adopted is without prejudice to our stated position on the issue of Jammu & Kashmir. The display of mutual flexibility has enabled the two sides to take a significant step in responding to humanitarian considerations, particularly the opportunity for divided families to meet each other with relative ease and convenience.

We have also agreed to look at a pipeline through Pakistan subject to satisfaction of our concerns related to security and assured supplies. This would also contribute to widening of our economic inter-linkages.

During my visit to Islamabad, following additional agreements were reached:

- (i) Between now and July, agreements will be finalized on Pre-notification of Missile Tests, MOU between Indian Coastguards and Pakistan's Maritime Security Agency, and MOU between Narcotics Control Authorities.
- (ii) Discussion would be initiated on agreements on reducing Risk of Nuclear Accidents or Unauthorized Use of Nuclear Weapons Preventing Incidents at Sea.
- (iii) Further measures to alleviate the situation of civilian prisoners and apprehended fishermen would be taken. I impressed upon the Foreign Minister of Pakistan the need to release the apprehended fishermen along with their boats, and to expedite their return.
- (iv) It was agreed to continue with efforts for early re-establishment of our respective Consulates General in Karachi and Mumbai.

The issue of Baglihar Hydroelectric Power Project in J&K was raised by Pakistani leaders. We pointed out to them that the project was fully in consonance with the Indus Waters Treaty of 1960, to which we remain committed. I also conveyed that the last round of bilateral technical discussions had registered progress in our view, and if the discussion had been continued there could have been even greater convergence of views. While expressing our willingness to return to bilateral discussions, I said that Pakistan's reference to the World Bank to seek the services of a neutral expert was premature. Members are aware that the project is of great significance

[Shri E. Ahamed]

for the economic development of J&K, and we intend to continue with the project.

On my way back, I visited Lahore where I addressed a group of media persons and prominent citizens at a meeting organised through SAFMA (South Asia Free Media Association). I called on the Governor of Punjab, Lt. Gen. (Rtd) Khalid Maqbool, while the Chief Minister Chaudhary Pervez Elahi graciously hosted a lunch for me. At the lunch, I had a useful discussion with Chaudhary Shujaat Hussain, President of Pakistan Muslim League.

The atmosphere in all these meetings was relaxed, friendly and positive, with emphasis on commonalities, and importance of people to people contacts.

My visit took place in the overall context of improving bilateral relations with Pakistan. We intend to impart further momentum to the present process.

As Honourable Members are aware, significant developments have taken place in India-Pakistan relations since April 2003. Relations have been restored at the level of High Commissioners, transport and communication links have resumed, one round of the Composite Dialogue has been completed. As a series of technical level and Composite Dialogue related meetings have been held on schedule. Another round was initiated during the Foreign Secretary level talks in December 2004 in Islamabad.

People to people exchanges are taking place across the spectrum in large numbers. There has been a resumption of visits by pilgrim groups. Our High Commission is currently issuing close to 7,000 visas per month. This month, we expect to issue an additional 8,000 visas, over and above this number to cater to the requirements of those coming to watch the India-Pakistan cricket series in India.

The ceasefire has held for more than a year. The bilateral process has been given impetus through maintenance of high level contacts: PM met President Musharraf in New York in September 2004; Pakistan PM Shaukat Aziz visited New Delhi on November 23-24, 2004.

Some progress has also been achieved on the humanitarian issue of fishermen and civilian detainees. During the Foreign Secretary level talks in December 2004, it was *inter-alia* agreed that both sides would give consular access to all prisoners under their custody. Following the visit, Pakistan has provided consular access to approximately 100 civilian prisoners and 650 fishermen

in January and February 2005. We are continuing to press Pakistan on the issue of 54 mission defence personnel.

On the Sir Creek issue, a Joint Survey of the boundary pillars in the horizontal segment of the international boundary in the Sir Creek area has also been successfully concluded in January 2005.

Thus meaningful progress has been achieved and the Government intends to continue with the present process in an atmosphere free from terrorism and violence. Government have made it clear that the process is critically dependent on the fulfilment of January 6, 2004 commitment of President Musharraf not to permit any territory under Pakistan's control to be used to support terrorism in any manner.

12.07 hrs.

ELECTIONS TO COMMITTEES

(1) Committee on Public Accounts

[English]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi): I beg to move:

"That the Members of this House do proceed to elect in the manner required by sub-rule (1) of Rule 309 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha, fifteen members from among themselves to serve as members of the Committee on Public Accounts for the term beginning on the 1st May, 2005 and ending on the 30th April, 2006."

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Members of this House do proceed to elect in the manner required by sub-rule (1) of Rule 309 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha, fifteen members from among themselves to serve as members of the Committee on Public Accounts for the term beginning on the 1st May, 2005 and ending on the 30th April, 2006."

The motion was adopted.

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi): I beg to move:

"That this House do recommend to Rajya Sabha that Rajya Sabha do agree to nominate seven Members from Rajya Sabha to associate with the Committee on Public Accounts of the House for the term beginning on the 1st May, 2005 and ending on the 30th April, 2006 and do communicate to this House the names of the Members so nominated by Rajya Sabha."

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That this House do recommend to Rajya Sabha that Rajya Sabha do agree to nominate seven Members from Rajya Sabha to associate with the Committee on Public Accounts of the House for the term beginning on the 1st May, 2005 and ending on the 30th April, 2006 and do communicate to this House the names of the Members so nominated by Rajya Sabha."

The motion was adopted.

(II) Committee on Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes

[*Translation*]

DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA (Ujjain): Sir, I beg to move:

"That the members of this House do proceed to elect in the manner required by sub-rule (1) of Rule 331B of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha, twenty members from among themselves to serve as members of the Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes for the term beginning on the 1st May, 2005 and ending on the 30th April, 2006."

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the members of this House do proceed to elect in the manner required by sub-rule (1) of Rule 331B of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha, twenty members from among themselves to serve as members of the Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes for the term beginning on the 1st May, 2005 and ending on the 30th April, 2006."

The motion was adopted.

[*Translation*]

DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA (Ujjain): Sir, I beg to move:

"That this House do recommend to Rajya Sabha that Rajya Sabha do agree to nominate ten members from Rajya Sabha to associate with the Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes of the House for the term beginning on the 1st May, 2005 and ending on the 30th April, 2006 and do communicate to this House the names of the members so nominated by Rajya Sabha."

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That this House do recommend to Rajya Sabha that Rajya Sabha do agree to nominate ten members from Rajya Sabha to associate with the Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes of the House for the term beginning on the 1st May, 2005 and ending on the 30th April, 2006 and do communicate to this House the names of the members so nominated by Rajya Sabha."

The motion was adopted.

12.09 hrs.

DEMANDS FOR SUPPLEMENTARY GRANTS—RAILWAYS, 2004-2005

[*English*]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): Sir, I beg to present a statement (Hindi and English versions) showing the Supplementary Demands for Grants in respect of the Budget (Railways) for 2004-2005.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 1648 B/2005]

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: I am very happy and thankful to all the hon. Members for their kind co-operation. Now we have got a very important item of business which has to be disposed of, namely, the Motion of Thanks to the Rashtrapati for his address.

[Mr. Speaker]

Now, the motion was moved and seconded. I hope we shall have a very constructive discussion on the Motion of Thanks. I seek the cooperation of all sections of the House in this regard. I shall try to cooperate with every hon. Member to the extent possible. If time permits, we can sit longer for which I have no objection. I seek your kind co-operation. But the debate has to be completed today and the hon. Prime Minister is due to speak tomorrow. There is a request which we shall look into later on.

But before we come to that, Matters under Rule 377 listed for the day may be treated as laid on the Table of the House.

12.10 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377*

- (i) **Need to construct a Road Over Bridge at LC-371 near Tadepalligudem in Andhra Pradesh**

[English]

SHRI K.S. RAO (Eluru): Tadepalligudem is an important commercial town on Chennai-Kolkata NH-5 and serves a large hinterland in the district which is popularly known as Rice Bowl of the State. There is a constant demand from all the circles for construction of ROB over LIC 371 near Tadepalligudem which connects the National Highways and the State Highway to Aswarapet. Due to lack of ROB facility at LC 371, existing ROB nearly a kilometer away is over pressed and congested and unable to serve the traffic with more than 2 lakh TUVs and its equivalents. Hence, there is an immediate need for construction of ROB at LC 371. The State Government is willing to commit its share of 50%. I, therefore, strongly recommend the Union Government to issue necessary orders for the construction of ROB.

- (ii) **Need to formulate a comprehensive plan to save the lives of children suffering from congenital disease**

[English]

SHRI L. RAJAGOPAL (Vijayawada): One of the important priorities of the National Common Minimum Programme is to raise public spending on health from

0.9% of GDP at present to minimum 2-3% of GDP over the next five years. I take this opportunity to say that lives of lakhs of children suffering from congenital diseases and such other diseases can be saved with operations, but in majority of cases, the parents are from BPL and they cannot meet such costly treatment. Ultimately the children die. According to my survey, in my own constituency more than 5000 children are suffering from such ailments. In my own constituency, the cost would be around Rs. 50 crores and nation wide it would be Rs. 25,000 crores. National Illness Assistance Fund provides financial relief to BPL patients suffering from life threatening diseases to receive treatment at any Super-Speciality or other Government hospitals. Total fund availability of the Society during the year 2004-05 is Rs. 2.48 crore including Government of India grant of Rs. 1.30 crore. During 2003-04, financial assistance of Rs. 78.54 lakh was granted to patients. This is very meagre amount. I am of the view that a system could be devised with the participation of insurance companies, Government hospitals, corporate hospitals, State Governments and Central Government. The funds on the above lines should be set up in all the States and districts with the Central participation/funding. It is, therefore, necessary that Government make matching grants to the States and districts for starting such funds. Provision can also be made for enabling Members of Parliament to contribute to such funds from their MPLAD fund.

- (iii) **Need to set up a Post graduate Institute of Medical Sciences and Research Centre at Jalandhar, Punjab**

SHRI GURJEET SINGH RANA (Jalandhar): At present, there is only one Post Graduate Institute of Medical Sciences & Research Centre known as PGI at Chandigarh, which is providing medical facilities to the people of Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, Haryana, Western U.P., Jammu and Kashmir, and Chandigarh. PGI Chandigarh hardly meets the dire and immediate needs of the people of these areas and is breaking down under tremendous load it is carrying.

Jalandhar is located in the heart of Punjab and is the best location for setting up an institution like PGI in association with the local Medical College. This will be convenient to the people of Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Haryana; and would reduce the pressure at PGI Chandigarh, besides lead time for patients suffering from accidents, epidemic and disasters would be reduced.

*Treated as laid on the Table of the House.

The Government has already cleared the proposal for setting up six AIIMS like hospitals in the States of Bihar, Orissa, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Uttaranchal. Apart from this, the Expenditure Finance Committee has also given clearance to invest Rs. 120 crores in one hospital each in six States to upgrade them to the level of AIIMS. These States are Tamil Nadu, West Bengal, Andhra Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir and Jharkhand. But unfortunately Punjab is nowhere in picture.

It is requested that one such facility be also approved for Punjab based at Jalandhar. With the setting up of a Green Field International Airport between Jalandhar and Ludhiana, there is a Rs. 10,000 crores market for medical outsourcing.

(iv) Need to withdraw the move to privatize the electricity department in Daman and Diu and Dadra and Nagar Haveli

[Translation]

SHRI DAHYABHAI VALLABHBHAI PATEL (Daman and Diu): Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is a move to privatize and corporatize electricity in Daman and Diu and Dadra and Nagar Haveli. We earn a profit of Rs. 240 crores annually from electricity department in Daman—Diu and Dadra-Nagar Haveli and hand it over to the Central Government. What is the need to prepare the blue-print for the privatization and corporatization of electricity in Daman—Diu and Dadra—Nagar Haveli by the Ministry of Home Affairs and the Administration of Daman? The Administration of Daman has paid an amount of Rs. 70 lakhs as consultation charges to a company namely Power Grid for the privatization and corporatization of electricity. What is the need to incur this expenditure? As per the Electricity Act the Electricity Board which earns profit is not required to be privatized and Corporatized. Our electricity board earns annual profit of Rs. 240 crores. While electricity has not been privatized and corporatized in Andaman and Nicobar Islands, what is the need to do so in Daman-Diu and Dadra-Nagar Haveli. The Ministry of Home Affairs and the Administration of Daman intend to privatise electricity but the general public of Daman-Diu and Dadra-Nagar Haveli, the labour class, the political and employee organisations, the industrialists and the public representatives—all of them are against the privatisation of electricity distribution.

I would, therefore, request the Government to immediately reject the proposal and issue orders to the Administration forthwith in this regard so that the general public of this Union Territory could heave a sigh of relief.

(v) Need to review the norms of the National Crop Insurance Policy with a view to protecting the interests of farmers

SHRI RAGHUVVEER SINGH KOSHAL (Kota): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the National Crop Insurance Policy is turning out to be impractical. As per the rules and procedures of the crop insurance policy, survey of crops would be conducted and the damage be compensated for accordingly only on damage of crops in the entire Tehsil. The Insurance officials say that they have made insurance of the crops taking in account the Tehsil as a unit. The farmer cannot be benefited from it individually.

I myself am a farmer and I am fully aware of that. What to speak of the crop damage in the entire Tehsil, sometimes even the whole crop of a village is not damaged at a time. For instance, sometimes, the damage to the crops is caused by hailstorms and frost in some areas of a village and some other area thereof remain unaffected. The problems like the outbreak of diseases and insects-attack or non-germination due to inferior quality of seeds do not destroy all the crops of an entire Tehsil simultaneously. In the same way the floods in the rivers and rivulets destroy the crops in the embankment areas. Therefore, making of risk assessment of crop insurance by taking into account the Tehsil as a unit would be highly impractical.

Due to crop insurance the farmers are faced with a serious problem while taking loans from the Banks. The lending banks deduct the amount of premium from the amount of loan. If a farmer borrows from two financial institutions, both of them deduct the premium of insurance. Premia are deducted even from the non-crop loans. Certain crops have been covered under the crop insurance and the amount of premium has been fixed category-wise. The insurance companies deduct the premium amount without consulting with the farmers and without giving any receipt to them.

(vi) Need to retain the B-2 status accorded to Ajmer city in Rajasthan

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer): Mr. Speaker Sir, Ajmer, the Centre place of Rajasthan and an important city from the point of view of history, tourism, education, religion and geography has a unique place in the country. This city was categorised as B-2 class city on the basis of the census 1991 by the Union Government and on this ground thousands of employees of the Central Government as well as of the State Government were

[Prof. Rasa Singh Rawat]

getting H.R.A. and the C.C.A. as per B-2 classification of the cities. But almost 2-3 months ago the Ministry of Finance has degraded the status of this city from B-2 to C on the basis of the census-2001 vide its notification taking the population of the Ajmer Municipality below 5 lakh. Consequently thousands of employees belonging to the Central as well as the State Government are agitated.

Thousands of people visit Ajmer and stay there as the famous 'dargah' of Khwaja Sahib is situated there and also situated in its vicinity is the important pilgrim place of 'Pushkar'. Many offices of the Central and the State Governments are situated in Ajmer region and restrictions have been imposed on the sale and purchase of lands in many surrounding villages by the Town Improvement Trust, Ajmer. If the entire area is included, the population of this town goes above 5 lakh. As per the census-2001 the population of Ajmer city was 4,85,575. Taking into account annual population growth rate of 2.7% this number has increased to 5,60,000 in 2005.

The Government of India is therefore, requested to restore the earlier status of B-2 to the city of Ajmer as a special case in view of the larger interest of thousands of the Central and State Government employees working there and not to reduce or recover the amount of H.R.A. and C.C.A. from them in any event.

(vii) Need to provide air connectivity linking Neemuch district in Madhya Pradesh

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY (Mandsaur): Mr. Speaker Sir, Neemuch a neighbouring district of Rajasthan is an important place. It has the historically and archaeologically important Fort of Chittor in its vicinity. Neemuch which has previously been the headquarters of the C.R.P.F. is at present a very large C.R.P.F. training centre from where trained C.R.P.F. men are immediately sent as and when required in various parts of the country. Neemuch and its surrounding areas have large cement factories and there is an alkaloid factory at Neemuch itself. The district of Neemuch is commercially linked to Rajasthan and Gujarat but this region lacks air connectivity. Though a large tract of land has been acquired for Airport and lakhs of rupees have been spent by the Government of India, there exists only a large runway for small and big aircraft. The Hon'ble Governor, the Chief Ministers of various States and the Central Ministers land and take flights from here time to time. There has been a demand for providing air connectivity

to this place from the entrepreneurs, businessmen, public at large of this area and even at the administrative level. A request has also been made by the State Government in this regard.

I would therefore like to request the Minister of Civil Aviation to take necessary action to provide facility of air-connectivity to the citizens of Neemuch district and of the entire region by converting the present runway developed for air travel into an air-port.

(viii) Need to undertake timely revision of royalty payable on coal

[English]

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO (Kalahandi): There are disparities in the rate of revision of coal royalty on different grades. As per the revision of royalty on coal in August, 2002, the royalty on super grade coal (A, B, C and D) has increased only by 38 times since 1971. Due to large variation in the sale of prices of same F and G grade coal at pit mouth fixed for different coal subsidiaries, for which Orissa loses substantial sales tax. The sale price of F & G grade coal at pit mouth for Singaneri Collieries Company Limited (SCCL) is Rs. 618/-and Rs. 485/-per tonne w.e.f. 19.9.1999 but in case of Mahanadi Coal Limited for the same grades was Rs. 341/-and Rs. 243/-per tonne w.e.f. 31.5.1999 but even after increase w.e.f. 1.1.2002 the price is as low as Rs. 351/-and Rs. 250/-per tonne. The Eleventh Finance Commission had recommended that if the rate of revision of royalty is not effected in time, the State should be compensated to grant-in-aid. So, there should be timely revision of royalty on coal and other urban minerals on "Ad-valerom" basis and in case of delay the States should be compensated through grant-in-aid.

(ix) Need to implement the decision to take over the township and water treatment plant of HFCL by the Asansol Durgapur Development Authorities (ADDA) without causing any financial burden to the ex-employees of HFCL

SHRI SUNIL KHAN (Durgapur): On 31.12.2002, it was decided in a Joint meeting of respective authorities that Asansol Durgapur Development Authorities would submit an expression of interest to Department of Fertilizer, Government of India to purchase entire township and water treatment plant of H.F.C.L. But thereafter, no decision could be achieved as there was difference of opinion on the value of township and water treatment plant. On 3rd August, 2004, it was decided that ADDA

will pay Rupees 13.73 crores to Department of Fertilizers for the entire property. But in the month of January, 2005, it has been made known that 400 quarters would be handed over to Ministry of Home, which was not a part of negotiation in any stage. Since December, 2003, the ex-employees of HFCL were forced to deposit Security Deposit ranging from Rs. 2 to 8.5 lakhs and requisite charges for the rental lease upto 30th November, 2004. Now the ex-employees have been asked to deposit further advance on account of rental, electric and civil amenities for the period of 1.12.2004 to 30.12.2005.

I request the Government to follow the decision taken on 3rd August, 2004 in toto without imposing any further financial burden on the ex-employees of HFCL.

- (x) Need to conduct a survey for laying new rail lines linking Hamirpur Road (U.P.)-Harpalpur (M.P.) and Ural-Mahoba in Uttar Pradesh**

[Translation]

SHRI RAJNARAYAN BUDHOLIA (Hamirpur, U.P.): Mr. Speaker Sir, in my constituency, the are Rath, Charkhari Tehsil headquarters and Hamirpur District headquarters, which are completely deprived of train facility. There is a long standing demand of the people of the area that from Hamirpur Road to Harpalpur, Madhya Pradesh via Hamirpur, Vivar, Muskra-Rath and from Ural to Mahoba via Rath-Charkhari, there is an immediate need of laying a new rail line.

Therefore, I would like to request the hon'ble Minister of Railways to give sanction for laying new rail line linking above places by conducting surveys immediately so that the people of the region, businessmen and tourists could get the benefits of train facility.

- (xi) Need to develop an express highway from Cuttack to Paradeep by Indian Oil Corporation by drawing up a 'Special Purpose Vehicle'**

[English]

SHRI B. MAHTAB (Cuttack): For the construction of an Oil Refinery of Oil India Corporation at Paradeep an agreement was signed between IOC and Government of Orissa on 16th February, 2004 for completion of the project by 2009-2010. The production capacity of the proposed refinery has been increased from 9 MTPA to 15 MTPA with projected investment enhanced to Rs. 20,000 to Rs. 25,000 crores in order to improve its viability. This would generate employment opportunity to

around 10,000 persons in direct and ancillary industries. Now, it has become necessary on the part of IOCL to re-assess the capacity of water supply keeping in view the enhanced scope of the project and to cater the requirement of ancillary industries in the area.

I urge upon the Government to impress upon IOCL to form a SPV or participate in a SPV for development of Express Highway road from Cuttack to Paradeep. Keeping in view the heavy traffic on the road during the time of development of the project, this road needs to be developed by IOCL as an infrastructure to the Mega Project and this could be implemented through a SPV by IOCL immediately. I would also request the Government to instruct the authorities to complete the project within the agreed time frame.

- (xii) Need to open Medical and Engineering colleges in Hazaribagh district, Jharkhand**

[Translation]

SHRI BHUVANESHWAR PRASAD MEHTA (Hazaribagh): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Hazaribagh district headquarters of North Chhotanagpur in Jharkhand has been famous worldwide for 'MICA'. The country receives the maximum quantum of Coal from Jharkhand. Six out of Eight Damodar Valley Corporation Projects are in the North Chhotanagpur district. Both the Union and the State Governments earn billions of rupees from this place.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, even after 57 years of freedom there is not a single medical and engineering college in this district headquarters. There is no institute for doing even a Diploma Course. In the absence of any higher level educational institution thousands of students of the district, whose economic condition is poor, have to migrate to other States. The brilliant students of our district are deprived of higher education.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you I would like to urge the Union Government to propose to open Medical, Engineering and Diploma colleges in the Hazaribagh District headquarters immediately.

- (xiii) Need to set up a 'Nature Park' at Gureghar in Satara district of Maharashtra**

[English]

SHRI SHRINIWAS DADASAHEB PATIL (Karad): There is utmost need to develop 200 hectares of forest

[Shri Shriniwas Dadasaheb Patil]

land to create nature park at Gureghar in Tehsil Mahabaleshwar in Satara district of Maharashtra which is a eco-sensitive Zone and a tourist destination. Nature park will create awareness for preservation of nature amongst the masses coming to the place as a tourist and would also preserve the bio-diversity of the area. Further, rare species which are under threat of extinction can also be preserved.

- (xiv) **Need to formulate a comprehensive plan to check the inundation caused in Bihar in the rainy seasons due to flow of river waters originating from Nepal**

[Translation]

SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN' (Begusarai): Mr. Speaker Sir, Bihar is a State situated on the Ganga basin and the river Ganga is a source of life for the people of this country, however Bihar is backward inspite of being situated on its banks. There are misconceptions about the resources available within State and these are not being utilised properly. National Water Development Agency has planned to divert the Ganga water elsewhere by formulating some canal projects. They, infact, seem to believe that the Ganga has plenty of water more than required by the State of Bihar. Thus, it has to be diverted elsewhere, however the reality is not so. The water of Ganga is available is less than the requirement of Bihar. However the water brought about by the rivers flowing from Nepal in the rainy season certainly becomes a cause of devastation. I would like to suggest to the Government to get a detailed analysis done in respect of the water of these rivers in the rainy season and make a plan to divert the surplus water as a result of which not only Bihar would be benefited but the country also would gain certainly. In this way like, Punjab and Haryana, Bihar would also become a State in fulfilling the foodgrains requirement of the country.

- (xv) **Need to build and repair roads in Muzaffarnagar, U.P. under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana**

[Translation]

SHRIMATI ANURADHA CHOUDHARY (Kairana): Mr. Speaker Sir, under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana started by the Government in the country the roads of various regions of Muzaffarnagar in Uttar Pradesh are in dilapidated condition and the roads of these regions

mainly connect to the National Highway. However, during the year 2004-2005, the construction and repair work of these roads have not been carried out properly. The Central Government has not done the repair work of the roads of these regions in a planned manner. The Government spends crores of rupees every year for the development of roads. Funds should be allocated for the roads of the Muzaffarnagar. Those schemes, which were started by the Government during the last year, should be completed at the earliest.

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have stated with your permission that there is a convention to make the senior most member, the Protem Speaker. This convention has not been broken anywhere till now, however in Jharkhand, the member coming fourth in seniority has been made the Protem Speaker. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: We have nothing to do with it. This House has nothing to do with it.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, a Christian member is also being nominated there ...*(Interruptions)*. We would like the leader of the House to give an assurance here that this would not happen. ...*(Interruptions)* Sir, effort are being made to convert the minority into majority there ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: The Central Government has nothing to do with it. You have raised it and it is entirely for them to decide. I cannot compel them. I cannot compel anybody.

...*(Interruptions)*

12.11 hrs.

MOTION OF THANKS ON THE PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS—*Contd.*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, let us now come to item No. 26, namely, further consideration of the Motion

of Thanks on the President's Address moved by Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal and seconded by Shri Ajay Maken.

Hon. Members whose amendments to the Motion of Thanks have been circulated, may, if they desire to move their amendments, send slips to the Table within 15 minutes indicating the serial numbers of the amendments they would like to move. Those amendments only will be treated as moved.

A list showing the serial numbers of amendments treated as moved will be put up on the Notice Board shortly thereafter. In case any Member finds any discrepancy in the list, he may kindly bring it to the notice of the Officer at the Table immediately.

Motion moved:

"That an Address be presented to the President in the following terms:

"That the Members of the Lok Sabha assembled in this Session are deeply grateful to the President for the Address which he has been pleased to deliver to both Houses of Parliament assembled together on February 25, 2005."

Now, Shri George Fernandes may speak.

[*Translation*]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir.

On listening to and going through the President's Address, it appeared to me that there are so many things we can agree with but there are various other things which are not possible to accept. In the beginning of his Address, the President has stated that

[*English*]

"In the span of three quarters of a year that the United Progressive Alliance Government has been in office, considerable time and energy has already been devoted to the implementation of the National Common Minimum Programme."

[*Translation*]

This is only one-third of the fact. It is so because it is being stated by the persons in the government's allies

and I would like to state that Shri Prakash Karat of CPI (M), has publically declared that

[*English*]

"Nine month have passed but there is no proof that it is taking steps to fulfil the commitments made in the CLP."

[*Translation*]

Why this wrong fact has been made to be declared through the President is beyond my comprehension

...(Interruptions)

Mr. Speaker Sir, the President speaks one more thing that all the people are prosperous and everything is going smoothly. It is also not possible to take it for granted because nothing of this sort seems to happen. He says that the Congress is like a leopard that won't change spots.

The member of the party, with the support of which the Congress party is running its Government, is saying that it is such an animal which would never change. Mr. Karat might be having some reasons for saying this because he is not only supporting the Government but also giving them guidance, however, the foremost thing which I would like to place before you and the House is that the various things which are not correct, are contained in it. This is the fact spoken straightway by the then Mahamantri of the Congress party. He says

"The Congress will publish booklets after November 17th on the use of *panchayati raj* funds, industry, agriculture, law and order and the deaths of 11,000 political workers."

[*English*]

He further says:

"The ruling Marxists have been using the *panchayati raj* funds for party work, building party offices in the State. The Congress wanted to give them sleepless nights in the coming days."

[*Translation*]

In this background, it is wishful thinking that all of them are striving to provide a stable government by showing a great deal of comradeship and affectionate

[Shri George Fernandes]

relation. I had told that only one third of it was true. But it is the complete truth.

Mr. Speaker, Sir if the beginning is like that, then how can one believe their tall claims. Their published manifesto gives much emphasis on employment generation. But, that declaration changed a lot in their budget and it became quite different in President's Address. What should we believe? You have said in the manifesto:

[English]

"The UPA Government will immediately enact a National Employment Guarantee Act."

[Translation]

Where is that immediate enactment and where is that Act? If it has been published, then what is the reason for its non-implementation?

[English]

"This will provide a legal guarantee for at least 100 days of employment to begin with on asset-creating public works programmes every year at minimum wages for at least one able-bodied person in every rural and middle class family."

[Translation]

The above mentioned quotation is from the manifesto.

[English]

I now refer to the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme mentioned in this year's Budget. I quote:

"After the National Food for Work programme was launched in November 2004, provision was made for the cash component and the foodgrain component. In overall terms, the expenditure in the current year is estimated at Rs. 4,020 crore. For 2005-06, a provision of Rs. 5,400 crore for the cash component and 50 lakh MT of foodgrains have been made and, in overall terms, the allocation will increase to Rs. 11,000 crore. It is Government's intention to convert this programme into the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme. When fully rolled out, the Scheme will provide livelihood security for crores of poor families, and I promise to find the money for the programme."

I repeat the sentence "I promise to find the money for the programme."

[Translation]

It means that no money has been allotted till date. But, the matter does not end here. There is something else in the President's Address which is as follows:

[English]

"To take care of those who are likely to be left behind by development processes and to ensure that there is a safety net, especially in some of the more backward regions of the country, my Government has come forward with a National Employment Guarantee Bill. This Bill before Parliament will provide legal guarantee for at least 100 days of employment to at least one person in every poor household initially in some of the most backward districts of the country."

[Translation]

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am unable to understand why this Government can-not reach a consensus on such an important issue of employment. I would like the Prime Minister to clarify all the aspects of this issue while delivering his speech. Another issue related to this one is the issue 'Bharat Mahaan'. While elaborating the concept of 'Bharat Mahaan', the Hon. President has said in his speech. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: No whisperings please!

[Translation]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Mr. Speaker, Sir, he has raised a point in the last part of his speech and in it he framed a concept that,

[English]

"Rural India should be seen as a growth engine and public investment is required in the area of rural infrastructure to unleash its growth potential. My Government proposes to undertake a major plan for rebuilding rural India called 'Bharat Nirman'. This will

be a time-bound business plan for building rural infrastructure..." He says these things and at the end, he says: "The details of this programme will be outlined by the Union Finance Minister in his Budget Speech." And what does the Union Finance Minister, in his Budget Speech, has to assure and fulfil the point made by the President? It is a very long statement that he has made which I do not want to read here. All that he has conveyed is: 'Bharat Nirman' will require huge resources. Government believes that 'Bharat Nirman' is an achievable project and it is our intention to give rural India a new deal fully involving Panchayati Raj Institutions in the planning and implementation."

[Translation]

The issues raised by the Hon. President and the contents of his vision for India were kept in such a situation that one cannot believe whether they would be implemented or not.

It has been stated through the Hon. President's speech that our democracy is strong and also that it should not follow the path of violence. One should prefer ballot to bullet. The effect of the ballot is evident. The extent to which this government is committed to democracy is also evident. They have started this process in Goa and extended it upto Jharkhand. Now they are exploring the possibility of extending it upto some other States. The veteran and new cadres of Congress have been piloting this system. Uttar Pradesh is mentioned again and again. So, we are witnessing truth in the points raised by Shri Karat ji during his speech that they are not going to change their views and we are also seeing that they do not pay attention to the issues which are expressed in the Address of the Hon. President. It is necessary to say this thing here.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the issues about communal harmony were expressed in the hon. President's Speech
...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: The total time of his Party is over.

...*(Interruptions)*

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi): He is speaking on behalf of the NDA. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please, you make your submissions. Why I put the bell was that his time was ten minutes for the entire debate. Nobody has considered time to him, therefore, I have rung the bell after 14 minutes.

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: He may be given time from our Party.

MR. SPEAKER: You should say that. How much time? Your Party's time is also limited.

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: He may be given time from our Party till he finishes his submission.

MR. SPEAKER: Very well, it will be deducted from your Party.

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR (Bangalore South): It should strictly apply to others also.

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Then, in that case it will apply to other Parties also. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please do not impute any motives to me, Shri Ananth Kumar.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: Sir, I am not imputing any motives. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You should mention that. I have said that you know very well that so much hours we are not having with us. So many hours we could have devoted to this discussion are not longer available.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Any time we have to restrict, we have to restrict the number of speakers. We have allotted three-four days.

Therefore, instead of that, we have to do that. I am prepared to allow the House to run till 12 o'clock in the midnight. I do not mind. But his Party's time for the entire debate was 10 minutes. I have given the bell after 14 minutes. You are saying this assuming that I shall be unfair. This is not proper. You have said that whatever time he takes should be deducted from your Party. Very well, let him carry on. Please do not impute.

[Translation]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: You need not get annoyed. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: No, you can take it now. There is time available. I do not mind now.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please do not interrupt each other. This is an important debate. We have lost a lot of time. Let us utilize this time.

Yes, Mr. George Fernandes, please go on.

[Translation]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: The issue of communal harmony was expressed through the speech of the hon. President. We have been experiencing communal harmony not only today but for decades and many hon. members from this House have also experienced this. It is a fact that 'secular' and 'communal' are our coinage. If a member of Bhartiya Janta Party leaves his party and joins another he will become secular and conversely, if a member of another party joins the BJP, he will become communal. We cannot expect anything from them because they do not know the meaning of the words communal or secular. During the last election of Lok Sabha, we had intended to have a common programme of NDA. In that manifesto, among other things, it was also stated that

[English]

"The NDA Government shall continue to strengthen the ideal of secularism enshrined in India's Constitution. The NDA believes that an early and an amicable resolution of the Ayodhya issue will strengthen national integration. We continue to hold that the judiciary's verdict in this matter should be accepted by all. At the same time, efforts should be intensified for dialogue and a negotiated settlement in an atmosphere of mutual trust and goodwill."

[Translation]

When the matter was made public, it was claimed as if we had done something very unusual. We tried to

explain our point of view, but they refused to hear us and labelled us as communal. As far as the issue of Ayodhya is concerned. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Please do not disturb him.

[Translation]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: As far as the issues of social harmony and welfare of minorities as mentioned in the President's speech are concerned

[English]

the UPA is committed to the implementation of the Protection of Places of Worship Act, 1992. ...*(Interruptions)* It also says that on the Ayodhya issue, it would await the verdict of the Courts while encouraging negotiations between parties to the dispute for an amicable settlement which, in turn, must receive legal sanction. ...*(Interruptions)* I had said the same thing. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV (Patna): I have seen your CD ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI HARIN PATHAK (Ahmedabad): I have also seen your CD ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: What is happening.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: When others write about us. They become secular, but when we write about it and implement it, we are termed as communal. This is their interpretation of the word 'communal' and 'secular' ...*(Interruptions)*

MD. SALIM (Kolkata-North East): Was the Hindi version of Justice Banerjee's report not given to him. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members from all parties would get a chance to speak. So, why are you interrupting him? You can make your submissions when you speak.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I object to this view point of many of the hon. members

belonging to the ruling party that defence budget should be curtailed. Only those people say so who have little knowledge about defence matters like the living and working conditions of the defence personnel, there needs and transportation problems. This Government has just shown its real intention. I would like to say that there should be no injustice as far as the requirements of the defence forces are concerned. ...(*Interruptions*)

In the end, I would like to tell something about women's reservation. For a long time, this issue has been made a matter of joke. Many excuses are put forward to show it as impractical. We should do away with this mistaken notion that only men can handle the parliamentary business with efficiency and women cannot do it properly. I demand that this bill should be included in the List of Business of the House in this session and it should also be passed. The whole world celebrated Women's Day yesterday and we should pass the bill keeping the Women's Day in our mind. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. George Fernandes, you address the Chair. Please ignore them. You have already taken half-an-hour.

...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Two issues were raised in this House. They want a discussion on the coffin scam. This is their scam ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: No notice has been given on this. I would look into it.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: You have not given any notice. I would look into it.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: You have not given any notice. It cannot go on record. The name cannot go on record.

...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: It is a fact that I did not raise that issue, you have raised that issue ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: I have already given a ruling. There is no notice given under the rule. Therefore, the name will not go in the record.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri George Fernandes, you have already taken half-an-hour. How long will you take? Please conclude.

...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: They will know the truth ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI HARIN PATHAK: You should know the facts ...(*Interruptions*). At first, you differ, but later on you do not want to listen to our views. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: One of you leaders is speaking. Please take your seats.

...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: This is the letter addressed to the Prime Minister. ...(*Interruptions*) Please, get it investigated. ...(*Interruptions*) Why don't you get it investigated? ...(*Interruptions*) Who is being protected? ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: What is this?

...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record. Please take your seats. What is this going on?

...(*Interruptions*)

* Not recorded.

* Not recorded.

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.*

...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: May I appeal to all of you? Please take your seats. Why are you getting agitated? Let him conclude. Shri Ram Kripal Ji, Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Fatmi, please sit down. Please take your seats. What is happening inside the House? Please take your seats.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: All of you please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: This is not right.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seats. I would not allow this. I am regulating the House. Nothing will go on record.

...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER; Shri George Fernandes is one of the senior most Members. He can look after himself. Let him speak. I have allowed him to speak. When you get a chance, you can reply. What are you doing?

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: What is this going on? This is very unfair.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: This is not the way.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record except the speech of Shri George Fernandes.

...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down. I request all the hon. Members to sit down. Laluj, please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down. What is all this?

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing is being recorded.

...(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Let the whole country see what is happening here.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Let the whole country see what is happening inside the Lok Sabha. We have started functioning today. I will request Shri George Fernandes to please conclude his speech.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: You are not the Chair. You are not the authority.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I will do that. Please sit down. I must have the freedom.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

* Not recorded.

* Not recorded.

MR. SPEAKER: Everybody must sit down. When I am on my legs, everybody must sit down.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

CHAUDHARY LAL SINGH (Udhampur): He should withdraw his words. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down. I will not allow this.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri, George Fernandes, please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: When I am on my legs, you must sit down.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Harin Pathak, I am noticing everything as to who is instigating what. I am noticing it.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I am saying it is on all sides.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I will warn you. I will have to name somebody in this House.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down.

[Translation]

SHRI MADAN LAL SHARMA (Jammu): Mr. Speaker, Sir, first, he must apologize. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri George Fernandes, you have taken more than half-an-hour.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: I am on my legs. Please sit down. A drama is being enacted in the House. Fernandesji, please conclude.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I am requesting every Party, every side. When you speak, you deal with whatever points that are taken up. I have been requesting you, Mr. George Fernandes can very well look after himself. Why everybody is standing? Why all this?

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I have already said to them. Mr. Malhotra, do not be unfair to me. I have been asking them. I am warning them in your presence. Even then you are accusing.

...(Interruptions)

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Sir, every Minister is speaking. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing has been recorded.

...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I am appealing to every section. This is the Parliament of India. After so many days, we are sitting today. I will express my great satisfaction and thank you for your cooperation.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Is this the way the House will function? I am requesting Shri Fernandes. Please do not take names for which you have not given notice. Please do not do it. The rules are extremely clear. You know very well. You cannot just name somebody without proper

* Not recorded.

[Mr. Speaker]
notice. Please conclude your speech. You said about your last sentence.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please allow him. When you will speak, you can reply to him.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Let there be no cross-talks.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I was concluding my statement, but points that were mentioned here ... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing has been recorded. Do not worry.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Recording is not the point. It has to be clarified once. As soon as the new Government was made, I wrote a letter to the Prime Minister in the new Government that his party president has been indulging in false publicity and she knows that it is not true ... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Do not record it. This is not a parliamentary word. Bring it to my notice.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I have said it.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: When you do not need a Speaker, you do not need anybody in the Chair. I am myself interjecting.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Do you not want a Speaker then? Then you decide it by fisticuffs.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You are not allowing the House to function.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: What is this?

...(Interruptions)

SHRI L.K. ADVANI (Gandhinagar): Mr. Speaker Sir, as we know that Mr. George Fernandes was the Defence Minister in the previous Government, all of us are aware of the type of treatment meted out to him from the opposition on the basis of this charge. When he tried to explain it Mr. Prime Minister in writing that it was a false allegation they did not allow him to exercise this right and restrict him now to explaining it.

[English]

There is nothing objectionable in what he is saying. He has been maligned for so many years continuously and he was not allowed even to answer questions on this ground. If he is clarifying his position on the basis of a letter he has written to the Prime Minister, why should he be prevented? ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Advani, you know very well that the word is not parliamentary.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: He has said that the Prime Minister will reply.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You can use any other word signifying the same meaning. You know that very well.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Mr. Speaker, Sir, though I had sent that letter to Mr. Prime Minister yet I am also ready to submit it on the Table of the House. ... (Interruptions) I am ready to lay this letter but also the documents relating to the proof revealing the person at

whose house it was all prepared and who were assisting in this, so that the truth is revealed before the country and also to the world ...(*Interruptions*). There is need for your suggestions in that matter.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

[English]

SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN (Baramulla): I beg to move:

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about giving autonomy to the State of Jammu and Kashmir." (1)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about concrete steps to be taken by the Government about the rehabilitation of displaced Kashmiri Pandits and Muslim migrants, who were compelled by the security situation and threat to their lives, to leave the valley in J&K." (2)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about setting up of IIM (Indian Institute of Management) in J&K State and also provision of special grant to the "Sher-e-Kashmir Agricultural University, Srinagar" which is a long pending demand." (3)

[Translation]

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY (Mandaur): Sir, I beg to move:

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the effective steps to be taken to check exploitation and atrocities against women." (4)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the steps to be taken to prevent starvation deaths". (5)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about any economic package for Madhya Pradesh." (6)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about any action plan to make naxalite affected areas free from violence." (7)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the closure of anti-India terrorist camps being run across the border." (8)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about any action plan to recharge the continuously depleting ground water level in the country." (9)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about doing away with the existing dual education policy in the country." (10)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the completion of the Pradhan Mantri Gamin Sadak Yojana in a time bound programme." (11)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the increasing tendency of commercialisation of education system in the country." (12)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the steps to be taken to provide job opportunities to the educated unemployed youth." (13)

[Dr. Laxminarayan Pandey]

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the need for speedy rural electrification." (215)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about conversion of 'Van Grams' into Rajaswa Grams as recommended by Madhya Pradesh Government." (422)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the steps to be taken to change the structure of education to make it employment oriented and providing equal opportunities to all for higher education." (423)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about making proper arrangement for allround improvement in the medical facilities being provided in rural areas." (424)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the need to formulate a well planned scheme for providing drinking water in rural areas." (425)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the need to revive closed cement plants like Nayagaon unit in Neemach district even after becoming a profit making unit." (426)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the need to strengthen the defence forces." (427)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the need to promote friendly relations with neighbouring countries alongwith European Union based on global politics." (428)

SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA': Sir, I beg to move:

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the formation of separate Madhya Himalayan Region Development Council for development of Middle Himalayan Region on the pattern of North east-council." (160)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about making available mobile, WLL, basic and telephone services in the backward and remote rural areas in hilly regions." (161)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about making special provision for providing employment to the unemployed youths of the remote hilly regions specially of Uttaranchal, in the industries, Central Services and Armed Forces." (162)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about concrete steps to be taken for overcoming the severe shortage of drinking water in the country, specially in the hilly regions." (163)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about opening of new educational institutions on the pattern of Navodaya Vidyalaya and Kendriya Vidyalaya by the Government in the Himalayan region, specially in Uttaranchal." (164)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about increasing the rate of interest for Small Savings and Provident Fund." (165)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about taking effective and meaningful steps to end cross border terrorism." (166)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the effort to develop an effective mechanism to check the rise in prices of petrol and petroleum products." (167)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about making the right to work a Fundamental Right." (168)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about providing reservation in the Armed Forces for the people living in the State of Uttaranchal." (169)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about any special financial package for the allround development of Uttaranchal." (170)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the need to launch a time bound comprehensive scheme to provide housing to all." (171)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about promoting tourism in the State of Uttaranchal which has several places of tourist interest." (172)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about reorganisation and revamping of the loss making Public Sector Undertakings." (173)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the steps to be taken by the Government to curb wasteful expenditure." (174)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the need to stop the increasing drug addiction among the youth and their involvement in the criminal activities." (175)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the need to reduce the fee of Public Schools, Engineering Colleges, Management Institutes and Medical Colleges." (176)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about effective steps to be taken for eradication of beggary." (177)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about need to formulate a time bound programme for the eradication of bounded labour, specially child labour, in various parts of the country." (178)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the need to set up new industries in Uttaranchal with Central assistance." (179)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about need to declare Dharchula and Munsyari

[Shri Bachi Singh Rawat Bachda]

regions of Piththoragarh district of Uttaranchal as Scheduled Tribe Areas." (180)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the need to declare the Saklona Patti, Garhwal district, Uttaranchal as Scheduled Tribe area." (181)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about formulation of a uniform civil code." (182)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the launching a credit card scheme for providing loan facility to artisans/sculptors for the purchase of raw materials." (183)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about taking measures for meeting the future energy requirements of the country." (184)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about granting the status of municipality to the Ranikhet cantonment area in Uttaranchal." (185)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the steps to be taken to introduce Air services by extending Naini-Saini airstrip in Piththoragarh, Uttaranchal." (186)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about providing cent per cent subsidy on cooking gas, as alternative fuel, consequent upon the ban on the cutting of tress to protect the environment in the Himalayan States especially in Uttaranchal." (187)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the measures to be taken to save the life of people and their crops from wild animals living near the forests." (188)

[English]

SHRI ARJUN SETHI (Bhadrak): Sir, I beg to move:

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about any assurance for commissioning of Paradeep oil refinery in Orissa." (508)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about declaring Orissa as a special category State in the Union of States." (509)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about giving remunerative price to the farmers for wheat and paddy." (510)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about inter-linking of rivers in the country in a time bound manner." (511)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the implementation of Crop Insurance Scheme by taking village as an unit." (512)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the steps to be taken for providing 33% reservation for women in State Legislatures and Parliament." (513)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about guaranteeing hundred days of employment throughout the country in a year." (514)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about setting up of Regional Institute of All India Medical Sciences in Bhubaneswar and elsewhere in the country, as declared by the Government." (515)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about economic backwardness of the different regions in the country and the steps to be taken to develop these regions in a time bound way." (516)

[Translation]

SHRI GANESH SINGH (Satna): Sir, I beg to move:

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the steps to check commercialization of education in the country." (517)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the need for bringing uniformity in education and promoting especially the technical and value based education." (518)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about any time bound programme to check the increasing unemployment among educated and uneducated people." (519)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about taking effective steps to check increasing incidents of suicide by farmers due to burden of heavy debts." (520)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about any time bound programme to provide basic amenities in rural areas." (521)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about any effective steps to check the deterioration in the services of BSNL mobile phones." (522)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about providing reservation to other backward classes in the private sector on the lines of that to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes." (523)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about putting a ban on indecent and obscene scenes being shown on various T.V. channels." (524)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about imparting training to youths in the rural areas to overcome the problem of rural unemployment." (525)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about any proposal to implement the model development by Deendayal Research Institute, Chitrakoot for Rural Development in the country." (526)

[Shri Ganesh Singh]

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about initiating time bound programmes to complete the pending irrigation schemes in the country." (527)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about providing any central assistance to States especially Madhya Pradesh to overcome power crisis." (528)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about launching a time bound programme to improve the condition of loss making public undertakings." (529)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about setting up a cement factory with central assistance in Satna district of Madhya Pradesh to boost the industrial development." (530)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about any time bound programme for improving the condition of the national highways passing through the State of Madhya Pradesh." (531)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about any launching any plan for developing Khajuraho, Panna, Satna, Chitrakoot, Vansagar, Bandhavgarh, Amarkantak in order to promote tourism in Madhya Pradesh." (532)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the steps to be taken to inter-link the rivers to overcome the problems of flood, drought." (533)

[English]

SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY (Dhenkanal): I beg to move:

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the steps to be taken a create a new company to explore/exploit new coal fields in Chendipada Block of Angul district of Orissa." (560)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about giving special economic package to Orissa for developing its irrigation facilities." (561)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about concrete measures to be undertaken to save the already depleted wildlife in the country." (562)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about any tangible steps to be taken to recreate the forest wealth of the country destroyed by the wood mafia." (563)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about setting up of a Fruit and Vegetable Research Institute with central assistance in Angul district of Orissa." (564)

SHRI B. MAHTAB (Cuttack): I beg to move:

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about setting up an IIT in Orissa." (565)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about providing electricity duty to the State of Orissa on the electricity that is being sold by NTPC to other States." (566)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the steps to be taken for revival of the closed industrial/small scale units in the country." (567)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about giving of special central assistance to improve the irrigation potential in Orissa." (568)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the steps to be taken to provide minimum support price to farmers for their produce in Orissa." (569)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the steps to be taken to increase the forest cover in Orissa." (570)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about giving special status to the State of Orissa." (571)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about any action plan to make naxalite affected areas free from violence." (572)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about steps to be taken to prevent migration of population from villages of Orissa." (573)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about concrete steps to be taken by the Government about removal of poverty in the scheduled areas of the State of Orissa." (574)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the effective steps to be taken to check child labour." (575)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about any special economic package for Orissa." (576)

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO (Kalahandi): I beg to move:

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about upgrading the Disaster Management, in the East-Coast and Orissa in particular to meet emergent situation." (623)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about installation of a proper Cyclone warning system on the Orissa Coast." (624)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about a long term strategy to regarded the Mangrove forest and start a programme for maintenance and development of mangrove forests in Coastal Regulatory Zone I, II and III." (625)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about continuing the Regulation laid down for Coastal Regulatory Zone I, II and III." (626)

[Shri Bikram Keshari Deo]

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about setting up of an institution to measure earthquakes in the State of Orissa, and take remedial measures in places having a history of earthquake." (627)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:

"but regret that the Address does not spell out adequate steps to upgrade and devise a National Policy on Disaster Management in the country and create a security shield for the affected persons." (628)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about how to see for the welfare of socially and economically backward sections of the population in the country particularly in Orissa and Rajasthan." (629)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about creating a Mission or special programme to settle SC/ST living in forest area R.F. and V.F. since time immemorial." (630)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about reviewing and amending the Forest Conservation Act, 1980, which is, more than 20 years old and is impeding development of various projects in the country." (631)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about shifting agriculture from State List to Concurrent List." (632)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about agreement of Agriculture in the WTO proposals as envisaged by developing countries and lowering of subsidies on agriculture produce by developed countries." (633)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address regarding the dumping of Indian textiles in the European Market and the suffering of our textiles mills and cotton growers particularly in the poor State of Orissa." (634)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the proposal of the Government to launch a National Horticulture Mission." (635)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about creating proper infrastructure in the field of Food Preservation and food processing and has not been able to balance the stability of prices of vegetable and perishable items like seafood in the country and in particular, Orissa." (636)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about developing the packaging industry which is below standard in comparison to other Asian countries specially in packaging of prawn and other sea products." (637)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about a scheme for water management for harnessing the billions of cusecs of rain water and melting ice." (638)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about a plan for treatment of catchment reservoirs

and water bodies which have been devastated by lack of proper management of forest and soil conservation." (639)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:

"but regret that the Address falls to give proper thrust on Agriculture extension, particularly crop insurance to horticultural crops and cotton cultivation and vegetable crops." (640)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about a comprehensive rural electrification strategy for Eastern and North-eastern sector to bring down transmission and distribution loss which in turn is a national loss." (641)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about in setting up of the Paradip Refinery on schedule nor about the revision of coal royalty." (642)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about giving early clearance for mining Bauxite project which is delaying the process of Development in Kalahandi District and KBK as a whole." (643)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the lack of health care programmes and health services in rural India particularly the Malaria Eradication Programme, control of sickle cell disease in the district of Kalahandi and KBK as a whole." (644)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about revamping PDS and deploying mobile PDS

units to tribal pockets in Kalahandi district and KBK district of Orissa." (645)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about giving fresh BPL cards after re-survey in the State of Orissa." (646)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about converting the Sambalpur University as a Central University and setting up of a new IIT and IIM in the State of Orissa." (647)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about preservation of ancient archaeological sites in the State of Orissa and taking up archaeological survey in newly unearthed sites where ancient material of Buddhist and ancient Indian potteries and utensils have been found." (648)

SHRI JUAL ORAM (Sundergarh) Sir, I beg to move:

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about providing special financial package to Orissa." (699)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about declaring the Sambalpur University as central university." (700)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the need to curb naxalite activity in the State of Orissa." (701)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about providing adequate funds for the development of NH-215 & NH-23 in the State of Orissa." (702)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about providing jobs to unemployed youth displaced by the setting up of Rourkela Steel Plant of Steel Authority of India Ltd. located in Orissa." (703)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the steps to be taken by the Government to regularise the NMR/DLR staff working for more than 12 years in the National Institute of Technology (NIT) Rourkela, Orissa." (704)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about bringing forward a suitable legislation to ban cow slaughter in the country." (705)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the need to have a Common Civil Code for all the citizens of India." (706)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the need to abrogate Article 370 of the Constitution of India." (707)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about early completion of the National Highway No. 215 from Rajumunda to Panikoilli in Orissa." (708)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the action to be taken against the industrial units responsible for pollution of Brahmani and other major rivers in Orissa." (709)

[Translation]

SHRI PRADEEP GANDHI (Rajnandgaon): Sir, I beg to move:

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about giving any special financial package to the State of Chhattisgarh." (738)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about any plan for providing jobs to the educated unemployed." (739)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about any plan to develop 'Vana Grams' recommended by the Government of Chhattisgarh as revenue villages." (740)

[Translation]

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY (Sabarkantha): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I thank you for the chance you provided me to speak on Mr. President's Address. I will start my speech with two points.

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI LALU PRASAD): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the question raised by the honourable member on our behalf is a different matter. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: You can only raise a point of order, but not now. Nothing will be recorded. Nothing is being recorded.

...*(Interruptions)**

* Not recorded.

MR. SPEAKER: Okay. All right.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI LALU PRASAD: In a T.V. interview he has stated that Mrs. Gandhi will meet the same end Mrs. Indira Gandhi did ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Let him speak. I have called Shri Madhusudan Mistry. Sit down. Nothing is being recorded.

...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I have called Shri Madhusudan Mistry. Please sit down.

SHRI A. KRISHNASWAMY (Sriperumbudur): Sir, I am on a point of information. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: No, there is no point of information.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: This is not the way to raise a matter. It is not that any time you can do anything you like. Sit down. Send a slip. Try to behave in a responsible manner. You are elected, it does not mean that you have become King of India. You do not bother for the people you are representing.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF OVERSEAS INDIANS AFFAIRS (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): Sir, what Shri Lalu Prasad has said is that he has threatened Shrimati Sonia Gandhi. That is not a small thing. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I am here and I am watching.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER: We are not questioning him on what he said. He has openly threatened that what had happened to late Indira Gandhi will happen to Shrimati Sonia Gandhi.

MR. SPEAKER: I have noticed what he has done. I shall look into it.

SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER: Is that not important? He has threatened that whatever happened to late Indira Gandhi will happen to Shrimati Sonia Gandhi. Is that a small thing? ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I am there. I shall look into it and decide.

Shri Madhusudan Mistry.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL (Chandigarh): Such a thing has been said. We should find out what is there in his mind ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: It is very very unfortunate. An hon. Member of your own party has been called to speak on the Motion of Thanks to the President's Address, and you are interrupting.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Do you want the House to run or not?

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: What conspiracy is being made against the Government. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Let me know from the Government Do you want the House to run or not? I am asking all the hon. Members either belonging to this side or the other side. Let us know it first. This *tamasha* should stop.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI A. KRISHNASWAMY: Sir, I am on a Point of Information. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI C. KUPPUSAMI (Madras North): Sir, they were not given permission to reply on the issue. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down. I will name all of you. Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

* Not recorded.

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing is being recorded. Nothing will be recorded except the speech made by Shri Mistry.

...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You may go on shouting till the end, and I will not hear you. Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: What is happening, it is a matter of sorrow and shame. We are talking of people, and people are not under our consideration.

...(Interruptions)

AN HON. MEMBER: Kindly try to make Mr. George understand.

MR. SPEAKER: I am asking those who do not understand or apply their mind. You please sit down and listen peacefully. We haven't worked since five days. Shri Mistry, you continue your speech.

SHRI MADHSUDAN MISTRY: Mr. Speaker Sir, I would like to read out our or two extracts from the address of honourable President. He said in his address.

[English]

"My Government is committed to an inclusive society, a caring polity, and a sharing economy."

MR. SPEAKER: Please, no cross-talks. If you want to raise an issue, then there is a method of raising it. You must learn it if you do to know it. Mr. Mistry, please carry on.

[Translation]

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY: I would like to read out one or two extracts from his Address in the House. He had said.

[English]

"My Government is committed to an inclusive society, a caring polity, and a sharing economy."

[Translation]

Furthermore he said, I am telling this for his kind information.

* Not recorded.

[English]

"My Government wants India to shine, but it must shine for all!"

[Translation]

Just now members sitting in the front line have said something. This party is committed towards communal harmony, women reservation bill and employment guarantee act. I have been listening about women reservation from them since they used to sit at their side. At that time communal riots had taken place in Gujarat. They were discussing those riots, women had been raped in Gujarat and then they had said if one or two women have been raped, then it is not a big issue, it is very common. ...(Interruptions) They have dual standard about women.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Total lie, what rubbish they are telling. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: Sir, what is this? ...(Interruptions) This should not be allowed. Can they speak anything in the House? ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I will look into it. If there is anything un-parliamentary, then I will delete it.

[Translation]

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY: I want to remind them ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I do not understand it. All the hon. Members want every matter to be sorted out immediately.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: If he is telling a lie then he has told it, now let him speak. The judgement has been passed, now let him speak.

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY: They are talking about communal harmony, it does not sound nice from their mouth. Because of their patronage two thousand people were killed in Gujarat. They had the support of

the Chief Minister there. For eight days no compensation could be given to them. These people are not talking about Supreme Court's stricture in Jharkhand and here regarding the tainted ministers. They must remember and say something about the stricture passed by the Supreme Court against the Gujarat Government, about the communal violence there. I want to remind this to them. But they will not say anything about that because we know their double standards. *...(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, it is 1 o'clock. What does the House propose to do?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): Sir, we do not have much time at our disposal, and we have to finish this today. So, I would request the hon. Members, and also request the hon. Speaker to skip the lunch today.

MR. SPEAKER: If all the hon. Members are agreeable, then there will be no lunch hour.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: Thank you, Sir.

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR (Nalanda): Please declare lunch hour, even if it is for half an hour.

13.00 hrs.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Nobody is prevented from going out and replenish himself or herself.

[Translation]

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY: The hon. President and this Government are committed to keep people of all sections united. They are now in an embarrassing position since the Banerjee Commission report has come *...(Interruptions)* You cannot listen to criticism. Have a bit of patience. You have the attitude and mind-set of a fascist, you only want to hear appraisals. You are not ready to listen to criticism. What is happening in Gujarat? Phones are being tapped. Our Government has done the

job of linking each and every village by road. *...(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: You rightly objected when Shri George Fernandes was speaking. You rightly objected and I also asked them to keep quite. Now, when they are speaking, you are doing the same thing. You have to set some example.

[Translation]

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (Balasore): Please speak about the President's Address.

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY: I am speaking about the President's Address only.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Phone tapping is a Central matter.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: He is not to provoke the other side. Kindly ask him not to provoke the Opposition. He is making a provocative speech.

MR. SPEAKER: I did not know that each only has to congratulate the other.

[Translation]

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: We can also provoke. *...(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I am only saying, within the norms of parliamentary behaviour, if you raise any issue, I shall allow it. I am requesting all sides, all hon. Members, to please allow others to speak. Please develop the art of listening also. That is also important. In a parliamentary democracy, we should be ready to listen to others viewpoint. That is the crux of democracy. I am saying this from whatever little I know, subject to Mr. Swain's understanding and decision.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: Art of speaking should also be developed; that is also very important.

MR. SPEAKER: Everyone is not so articulate as you are.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I am appealing to all of you that when your turn will come—the Leader of Opposition will also speak and others will speak—you can give a fitting reply, a more strong reply.

[Translation]

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY: Sir, I would like to remind him that this Government is committed to maintain communal harmony in this country. We have not tried to divide the country on the lines of casteism and communalism which you have been trying as yet. You invited religious leaders in the party to come in power. We respect them who wear saffron cloth. Saffron cloth is a symbol of sacrifice but you adopted it to come into power. Sex CD's of sadhus from the largest community in Gujarat being patronized by you are being sold. ... (Interruptions) You are losing the ground after presentation of Banerjee Commission report. ... (Interruptions) You can not justify it. ... (Interruptions) A number of people have been displaced in Gujarat, I would like to ask whether you have given even a single yard of land to the displaced and poor people to construct their houses. Did you leaders visit any of the camps? I would like to ask the then opposition leaders, ministers whether they visited any camp and asked the people about their loss and suffering.

13.05 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

[English]

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY: We are committed to communal harmony in this country. That is why I am telling you.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Please address the Chair.

[Translation]

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY: Did you understand or not? Please come and tell us what is going on. Go to Gujarat and Rajasthan and take stock of the situation prevailing therein. ... (Interruptions) please keep mission. He is talking about commitment. I would like to remind him. Just now matter of Employment Guarantee Act was

raised. The honourable Member may be not aware of the situation in this regard. such a Bill has been introduced. That Bill will in this session itself for the first time in the President's Address. Four-five-six, minimum requirements in the villages of the entire country as well as for "Bharat Nirman" have been elaborated and the Government are committed to meet them. Provision has also been made in budget. It is not a easy thing to provide wage of hundred days to a villager. Today there are crores of houses whose income is not more than five rupees. The UPA Government have said to provide wage of hundred working days to a home on minimum wage rate. It is a good revolution. Every body knows about villagers income. It is a right steps towards the fund which should flow to the villages.

He does not like this thing we are seeing termed as adopting double statement. You have double standard. You talk about Hindu here. A minister of his party was caught red handed while accepting bribe and he was swearing. They will talk about Ram out side but he was saying that money is not all in all but if me the swear by God money is not less than God. It has been stated by your minister. It is your double standard. On the one hand you have hatred feelings about the religion but you send your children to their school. You may have abstinence from it. Their houses are from quota but they are attacked. Most of the children of your party go to the educational institutions of that community. I would like to remind you and entire nation that you have double standard. The Banerjee Commission will expose that how incident occurred. Still their is some apprehension in this regard. The doubt has been arising. ... (Interruptions)

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: That is not Banerjee Commission it is Banerjee Committee.

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY: It will become commission also. You do not worry. It is not a matter of committee or commission. It is a matter that how railway compartment having Kar Sevaks therein, caught fire... (Interruptions) . You want to forget it and you want to insist that there was a conspiracy behind it. There was no conspiracy ... (Interruptions).

[English]

I have not yielded. Why is he standing up and speaking, Sir? ... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Swain, please do not speak without the permission of the Chair. ... (Interruptions)

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY: there is an allegation by a senior police officer on the Government of Gujarat that he was tutored as to what to speak and what not to speak before the Nanavati Commission.

[Translation]

These all have been published in newspaper. They managed with these people. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO: Sir, I am on a point of order.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Under what Rule?

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO: We are supposed to move our amendments to the Motion of Thanks to President's Address within fifteen minutes of the debate being taken up. We have given a lot of amendments to be moved. When can we move these amendments, Sir?

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: It has been submitted by the chair.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO: No announcement has been made in the House.

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Announcement has been made. Mistryji now you continue your speech.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: No running commentary please.

[Translation]

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I would like to draw your attention towards this point that an influx revolution has been initiated in the entire nation. The UPA Government have accomplished the providing

work of money in each house. Honourable President has put this point in his address: we are going in this direction to fulfil the commitment, our manifesto is for five years and we were continued for five years.

This Government will continue for full five years. The Government have implemented what has been written in this manifesto and the Government are trying to make all the provisions which may come under the budget through the implementation of the National Common Minimum Programme. The Government have linked all villages of this country to road, drinking water, communication so that the villages could get all facilities like cities. I would like to remind that honourable President has said in his address that

[English]

India should shine and it should shine of all.

[Translation]

It is our intention and commitment. It is a matter of "Bharat Nirman", the result of the policies made by NDA Government is in front of their eyes and due to this there are sitting in opposition.

As far as matter of defence budget is concerned, it is the tune of 83000 crore of rupees which is too large. First time the Government have presented such budget by keeping view the provision of the fiscal responsibility and Budget Management Bill and in this way fiscal deficit will be less. After all any prime responsibility has not been shirked or avoided in it. Every thing has been done according to National Common Minimum Programme.

We would like to connect the villages with communication. We would like to bring telephone in each and every village. We would remove all the difficulties and obstacles involved in it. This Government is also committed to democratic values even today.

[Translation]

It is none but this very Government that conduct elections at regular intervals, Government are formed in the States and the government business is transacted in smooth way. But, what is happening today? We have connected every part of the country with the help of telephone. But, in my own States itself a Member of Parliament of Rajya Sabha of their party has levelled allegation against the Chief Minister, who is of their party,

[Shri Madhusudan Mistry]

that his and his fellow MP's and MLA's telephones are tapped in Gujarat. You don't have answer to this wrongdoing. I am going to give notice for conducting a probe in this regard. The MP's of Gujarat have leelled allegation that the phones of MP's and MLA's are tapped in Gujarat. On the basis of the record they have written a letter to the President of the ruling party asking to conduct a probe in this regard. I shall also write to the concerned Ministry. These MP's who talk about phone tapping are trying to teach us today that we have not adhered to democratic values in states. We have observed your attitude in all the three States namely Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Gujarat. Your uniform design there is to foment riot and rule. Development is not in your mindset, therefore, you can never go for development. By chance you came to power there please continue to sit on the place here where you are sitting now. When we were in the opposition, you people used to complain. At that time, you people stifled the democracy and stalled the proceedings of the House. I would also like to submit that the President has stated in the last paragraph of his address that every MP should inform the Parliament about the work to be done in his constituency and also given time to accomplish the work. But, the proceedings of the House are stalled on petty issues and the House is held to ransom. These people put their signature on the attendance register and feel complacent by stalling the proceedings of the House.

I would like to point out the discrepancies in your statement and your working because when the elected representatives of the entire country rise to express their views in the House, they are interrupted. The principle of the Government regarding disaster situation, drinking water, agriculture growth, prosperity in the country and upliftment of the tribals, dalits and women have been reflected in the President's Address. Therefore, a blueprint is reflected in the President's Address. The priorities of the Government have also been reflected in the Budget. I will put forward my points during discussion on the Budget.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I express y gratitude to the President who have listed the priorities of the Government in his Address. With these words, I conclude and pray to the God that good sense prevail upon the people sitting on the opposition benches so that these people do not disturb those good people who raise questions for the welfare of the public. I claim that this Government will complete its five years term. The dream of these people will not come true and they would have to sit in the same position for a period of five years where they are sitting now.

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address. The President's Address was made at the back-drop of a national disaster Tsunami. I congratulate this Government the way it has taken prompt action in regard to providing rehabilitation and relief to the thousands and thousands of affected people. I also congratulate this Government for not allowing foreigners to intervene in our relief and rehabilitation activities. The entire country was shaken and the entire country stood as a rock at the time of disaster.

The mandate of the people in the last Lok Sabha elections was a mandate for change. Our Finance Minister started his Budget speech referring to this change. He has said that the Government has chartered a new path that is more acceptable to the people of this country and that will bring greatest good to the people. He has also referred to the change in the policy. The people of our country in the last Lok Sabha elections not only wanted a change in the ruling formation but also wanted a change in the policy. The people of our country feel that here is a Government that would take care of 80 to 90 per cent people of our country who are farmers, agricultural labourers, working class and middle class people. That is why, we, the Left parties have been asking and demanding that there should be a change in the policy of this Government. We endorse the Common Minimum Programme that was formulated because a number of issues and programmes have been included in it.

They have all been included in the National Common Minimum Programme, which are for the welfare of the majority of the people of our country.

Sir, hon. Rashtrapatiji has referred to our Rural India. India lives in villages. In his Address, he said: 'My Government is committed to giving a new deal to Rural India. This new deal involves, among other things: reversing the declining trend in investment in agriculture; stepping up credit flow to farmers; enhancing public investment in irrigation and wasteland development; increasing funds for agricultural research and extension; creation a single market for agricultural produce; investing in rural healthcare and education; promoting rural electrification and rural roads; setting up commodities futures markets and insuring against risk in farming and rural business'. ...*(Interruptions)*

Sir, the situation is worsening. There has been decline in the agricultural growth in the last consecutive three years. It is less than the growth in population. The food grain production has fallen below the rate of population growth. During Nineties, it was leading to an absolute decline in the *per capita* of Indian output.

Sir, the average number of days work for agricultural workers has declined all over the country. The rural development expenditure, which was 14 per cent in the Eighth Five Year Plan, has come down to only five per cent in the Ninth Five Year Plan. There has been a drastic cut, and it is because of the decline in investment in the rural areas. In case of agriculture, in case of healthcare, in case of education and in case of employment, it has caused great distress among the rural poor. This distress is not confined to only the rural poor, it is also confined to a large section of the peasantry. There is a wide gap between the higher input price and lower output price.

What have we seen during the last six years of the NDA regime? They had gradually reduced the Government support to the agriculture. As a result of this, there has been an increase in the production cost of the agricultural commodities and the farmers did not get the fair remunerative price. It is because of the switching over from the foodgrains to cash crop, commercial crop, that there has been decline in the foodgrain production.

As a result of this, in the past, we have seen a number of starvation deaths in many parts of our country. We have not heard, in the past, about thousands and thousands of farmers committing suicide. But we have seen that in the last few years? Why do farmers commit suicide? Farmers are today also committing suicide because farmers are not getting fair price or remunerative price for their produce. The Government gradually has reduced subsidy on fertiliser, subsidy on agricultural inputs, subsidy on electricity tariffs, etc. As a result of this, there had been an increase in the production cost and this had adversely affected agricultural inputs.

What we have seen in the past is that there is growing unemployment among agricultural labourers which constitute 22 crore out of 40 crore workers. Rashtrapatiji has correctly referred to the condition of the people living in the rural areas.

Institutional funding or institutional credit to agriculture and capital formation in agriculture have been gradually

reduced. There has not been any extension of irrigated areas in the last several years. He has correctly mentioned about the enhancement of public investment in irrigation and wasteland development, which is the need of the hour, if we want to protect the interest of the farmers of our country.

This is because of the wrong policy which was being pursued by the earlier Government. LPG, the policy of Liberalisation, Privatisation and Globalisation has resulted in disaster; it has an adverse effect on our economy, on our employment growth, on poverty levels, on agricultural production and on the condition in which our farmers live today.

The growth in employment in rural areas is only 0.58 per cent whereas in the urban areas, it is 1.58 per cent. That is why, the main thrust of Rashtrapatiji in his Address was on agriculture which is the mainstay of our rural people, the people living in villages.

Rashtrapatiji in his Address has also referred about the labourers belonging to unorganised sector. We have a 40-crore workforce in our country. Out of that 40-crore, we have 37.5 crore in the unorganised sector. They are agricultural labourers, the labourers engaged in beedi industry, in construction work and in such other industry in the unorganised or informal sector. What is the condition of these workers?

The social security, which these workers used to enjoy, has been gradually reduced. Although in the National Common Minimum Programme it has been stated that the UPA Government will bring legislation for agricultural workers, there has been no mention of it in the President's Address. There is no law for the agricultural labour, which constitutes 22 crore of our population. We have been asking for a comprehensive legislation for agricultural workers, legislation for their job security, minimum wages, social security, provident fund and pension but there is no such law. There is an urgent need to have a comprehensive legislation for 22 crore of agricultural labour.

Our handloom sector is in great crisis and this is because of the policy of liberalisation. We have opened our doors and lakhs and lakhs of our workers engaged in the handloom sector, the weavers, are in great crisis. In the Address there has been a mention of modernisation of handloom sector but unless their interests are protected and the problems of marketing and unemployment which they are facing today are resolved, lakhs and lakhs of

[Shri Basu Deb Acharia]

workers, the weavers who are engaged in the handloom sector will suffer. They will face greater crisis in future. These problems have to be resolved.

Rashtrapatiiji has also referred to in his Address about the National Electricity Policy saying that, 'The National Electricity Policy adopted by my Government will encourage new investment in the sector while ensuring that the interests of the consumers, including rural consumers, are also served'. It has been mentioned in the National Common Minimum Programme that there will be a review of the Electricity Act of 2003. Why have we been demanding and asking for it? In the Electricity Act, 2003 it has been stated that the cross subsidy will be gradually phased out. Today, there has been cross subsidy. The poorer section of our people—agricultural labour, farmers, middle class people and workers—get electricity at a subsidised, lower tariff and if this is removed a majority of the people of our country belonging to this section will not be able to purchase electricity. We made it very clear that there are a number of provisions which are not in the interest of the people of our country and they are required to be amended. Review means the provisions which are not in the interest of the people of our country should be taken care of but without amending those provisions a National Electricity Policy, without making any change in the policy which was formulated by the earlier Government, has been declared. This will not serve the purpose.

That was not the demand of the people of our country. Rashtrapatiiji has also made a mention in his Address about socio-economic empowerment of our people. But he has not mentioned anything about empowerment of women. We have been asking 33 per cent reservation for women. A Bill was introduced in 1996 when there was United Front Government and that Bill is still pending. We are still discussing it. The atrocities on women are increasing day-by-day. Women constitute 50 per cent of our population. Therefore, empowerment of women is urgently required but it has not been mentioned in the Rashtrapatiiji's Address.

He has stated in paragraph 50:

"My Government is also firmly committed to ensuring communal harmony."

I was listening to the speech of Shri George Fernandes. He was explaining who is secular and who is not secular. He said that if any member goes from the

BJP to other party, he becomes non-communal and if any member joins BJP, he becomes communal. Secularism or communalism does not depend on any individual but it depends on the policy of a political party. We cannot forget what happened in Gujarat. We cannot justify the incident that took place in Gujarat in 2002 by referring something which happened some 20 years back in Delhi. We condemned that incident also. Our Party, the Communist Party of India (Marxist) condemned what happened in 1984. In order to justify what happened in Gujarat, if we refer to what happened in 1984, it is not correct. If there are only riots, then we would say that it is communal. We have seen during six years of NDA regime how our educational system was saffronised, how their ideology was cleverly and clandestinely infiltrated into all the aspects of our society, and how many thousand crores of rupees came from foreign countries for all these things. What is the need of the hour today? The mandate of the last Lok Sabha election was against communal ideology of Bharatiya Janata Party and their hidden agenda. There is a need for detoxification of the wrong that had been done during the six years of NDA regime.

It has been mentioned very appropriately in the Common Minimum Programme of the UPA Government that this Government will bring a suitable legislation to tackle communal problem in our country. India is a secular country. We cannot compare ourselves with Pakistan. This ideology of secularism was maligned and distorted during the six years rule of the previous NDA Government. There is a need to restore it back to its earlier position.

Sir, same is the case with regard to our foreign policy. The concept of non-alignment had been integrated in our foreign policy since our early days of independence. We have seen how this policy of non-alignment, which had been pursued for long, was distorted in the past few years. We expressed ourselves during the Korean war of 1952; we expressed ourselves when Vietnam was attacked, but we did not express ourselves strongly enough when Iraq was attacked in 2002. We had to wait for long seven days to express our views. We had to stall the proceedings of the House for three days. When the Resolution on this issue was adopted, it was adopted in Hindi and the word 'condemn' was not used in that Resolution. What we have seen in the last six year of the NDA rule is how this age-old concept of non-alignment was distorted. There is a need to restore that to its earlier position. How can we support the cause of the people of Palestine who are struggling for a separate

motherland by having a good relation with Israel? Can we really extend our support to the cause of the Palestinians by improving our relations with Israel who are occupying a portion of Palestine? Can these two things—supporting the cause of the Palestinians on the one hand and also improving our relations with Israel—go together? I would like to request this Government to have a re-think on our relations with Israel.

Sir, the earlier Government pursued the policy of disinvestment. It is good that it has been mentioned specifically in the Common Minimum Programme of the UPA Government that profit-making public sector undertaking would be neither privatised nor disinvested.

Sir, our Party is extending support to this Government from outside. Shri George Fernandes had referred to a statement made by Shri Prakash Karat about the policy of the Congress Government. We have to fight the Congress Party in our State. There would be elections to the State Assembly in the year 2006 in our State and we will have to fight the Congress Party politically. There is no existence of BJP in our State. Their representation is nil. We do not support the policies of the Congress. But why are we then supporting the Government at the Centre? It is because we do not want a fascist party like the BJP to come to power at the Centre. After the incidents in Gujarat and at Manoharpur in Orissa, which George Saheb termed as an international conspiracy, they could only be called a fascist party.

Under the leadership of Bajrang Dal, he said that it was an international conspiracy to malign them. Today, that party is not only communal but a fascist party also after the Gujarat incident. We will not allow a fascist party to come to power. We are supporting the National Common Minimum Programme and our support is confined to this Programme. We have been asking this Government to always stick to this Programme. We have been telling them that whenever we find that their action or policy is outside this one, then we will not support them. But that does not mean that we will allow a fascist party to come to power again. We will not allow them to come to power. Sir, there are other issues also. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO: Sir, the hon. Member is going away from the actual subject of Motion of Thanks to President's Address. ...(*Interruptions*) The results in Bihar and Jharkhand have proved it. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: This is not to be recorded.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: I will come to Bihar and Jharkhand. I know that as I have mentioned about Manoharpur, you are speaking like this ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO: Manoharpur is *sub judice*.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: It is not *sub judice*. How can you say that it is *sub judice*? How can you support it? How can you say that it was an international conspiracy? ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please sit down.

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO: The Government of Naveen Patnaik there has condemned this incident. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Why should a profit-making public sector undertaking be disinvested? ...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: You have taken half an hour.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Listen to me.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: No Sir, my 2-3 important points are yet to be explained. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I would like to know from you as to whether you will take the whole time given for your party. 42 minutes have been given to your party, whether you. ...

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: I will conclude it in five minutes allot 10-10, 20-20 minutes to those people.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: 2 or 3 other members of your party are to speak here. If you need not call them then I have no objection. You can continue then.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: You will call them to express their views. You give 5-10 minutes more time to us. You are my old friend. In 1984 these people were

*Not recorded.

[Shri Basu Deb Acharia]

not in the Parliament. I and you were in the Parliament in 1984. You know that there were only two members of BJP at that time.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I know very well.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: There were two members of BJP. You are my old friend.

(English)

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO: Will the hon. Member yield for a minute?

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: No, I am not yielding. Why is NTPC, a public sector undertaking, now being proposed to be disinvested may be by 5 per cent? ...*(Interruptions)* Why is there a proposal for disinvestment of Bharat Heavy Electricals which is a *Nava Ratna*? ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.

...*(Interruptions)**

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: They wanted to disinvest it. His Government wanted to disinvest and privatise NALCO, and we protested against it. We told that Government to back out from that decision. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: This is not to be recorded.

...*(Interruptions)**

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, there are some decisions which we feel are not in the interest of our country like allowing foreign banks. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Nothing will be recorded.

...*(Interruptions)**

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Only the speech of Mr. Basudeb Acharia should be recorded.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: There are some decisions like allowing foreign banks to grab the share of the private sector banks of our country upto 74 per cent. We are opposing FDI in the case of telecom, civil aviation

and insurance. They allowed insurance opening upto 26 per cent. When Mr. George Fernandes was in the Government, they allowed it. Now, when they are in the Opposition, they are opposing it. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Why are you making noise? Please sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: But we were consistent when we were supporting the United Front Government. We opposed the opening up of insurance sector. Why were we opposing it? Our opposition is not only for the sake of opposition. Why should we allow more than 49 per cent in the telecom sector? Even when there is 49 per cent cap, they have violated in a number of foreign banks. Is it that in order to legalise it that this cap is being enhanced? We are not against FDI.

FDI to West Bengal from Japan is the highest in comparison to other States. If FDI helps us to increase our productivity, employment, and bring new technology, then we have no objection. But when our own companies are capable of doing things, why should we privatise? Why should we privatise two airports, Delhi and Mumbai? We have submitted an alternative proposal to the hon. Prime Minister. Airports Authority of India's Union has prepared a proposal. The Government of India need not spend a single paisa. They can spend money and they can upgrade the Delhi and Mumbai airports to the international standards from the profit being earned by the Airports Authority of India. We have that proposal.

We are discussing on Patents Bill. Our concern is about the concerns of the common people of our country. What will happen after the enactment of the law? What will happen after amending the Patent law for the third time? What will happen to the prices of essential drugs? What will happen to our farmers? ...*(Interruptions)* Our farmers are already committing suicide.

Similarly, coming to pension, which is only a social security scheme, why is there a need for FDI in pension? Why is it being converted into a Contributory Pension Scheme? We are opposing that. We cannot support this move of this Government. It is because our support is for the change in the policies. If this Government follows the same path that the earlier Government used to follow, then the result will be the same.

Now, the role of Governors is being debated. ...*(Interruptions)* Mr. George Fernandes devoted fifty

* Not recorded.

per cent of his speech to this. My party, the CPI (M) is very clear on this issue. On our demand, the Sarkaria Commission was constituted in 1983. We have been demanding that the recommendations of the Sarkaria Commission should be implemented. We are not justifying what has been done in Jharkhand. But the Opposition has no moral right to raise this issue. Mr. George Fernandes has no moral right to raise this issue. They did the same thing in Bihar some years back. They installed Mr. Nitish Kumar for thirteen days when there was no majority for his Government. They removed the RJD Government in Bihar. The President's rule was imposed, I think, in 1999. They have no moral right to raise this issue. President's rule was imposed at that time. It was passed in this House. But there was no majority for NDA in Rajya Sabha. So, they could not do that in Rajya Sabha. Hence, that Government was restored back to power. They tried to intervene by using article 355, not 356, in West Bengal. Did you not send your officers to West Bengal when you received a complaint from your colleague? What will happen to the Centre-State relations? They have jeopardised the federal structure of our country. That is the ideology of the BJP. They are not for the federal structure. They are for the unitary structure. They have weakened and destroyed the federal structure of our country. We had to put the UPA Government in power. We are supporting this Government for charting an alternative path.

Today, millions and millions of the people of our country are suffering.

Coming to the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme, I would like to say that there are a number of lacunae. Our proposal is not only for the rural areas but also for the urban areas. Lakhs and lakhs of unemployed youth are there in the urban areas. We have a large number of slums. I know that people are residing in the slums for the last thirty years. If the Government today removes them from there, where will they go? So, there is a need for a Slum Policy. At present, there is no such Slum Policy in our country. Today, lakhs and lakhs of people are living in the slums. Mr. Minister, you cannot throw away those people today saying that you need the land or saying that they are residing in a land which belongs to some Department of the Government—say the Railways.

About the Railways, I know about Malegaon in Assam where 10,000 families are residing in a Railway land since Partition. When will they go now if you evict them? So, lakhs and lakhs of such people are residing in the slums. Therefore, there should be a policy for rehabilitation

of such people. At present, there is no such national policy for rehabilitation of such people. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Shri Acharia. Now, you conclude.

[*Translation*]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, this issue pertains to the tribals. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You have to conclude now.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: I will finish my speech within two minutes. He has referred to the adivasis. It is good. The adivasis and the tribal people are there. These tribals are residing in the forest land for years together. Shri Baalu was the Forest Minister at that time. Because of the Supreme Court's order, some State Governments started evicting the adivasis from the forest land. But West Bengal and some two or three States said that they would not evict any adivasi because the tribal people are living there for years together, for generations together. He has referred to that. Therefore, I demand that the UPA Government should bring forward a suitable legislation to legitimise the stay of the people who are living in the forest land.

Next, I come to right to strike. This issue is being debated. Shri George Fernandes has not mentioned about it because he is already a changed man now. He is not the man of 1974 when he spearheaded the railway strike. So, right to strike should be there.

[*Translation*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The time allotted to your party is over.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Time is not over, ten minutes remaining now. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please conclude.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: So, the Government should bring forward a legislation to include the right to strike of the workers and employees. That should be included in the Fundamental Rights of our Constitution. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, Prof. Ram Gopal Yadav to speak.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: I will conclude now. I hope that the Government will think over the issues that we are raising and will try to have an alternate policy for the protection of the interests of the millions and millions of the people of our country.

With these words, I thank you for giving me this opportunity.

SHRI C. KUPPUSAMI: Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, in Tamil Nadu, all the MLAs belonging to the Opposition have been arrested. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI A.K.S. VIJAYAN (Nagapattinam): Sir, in Tamil Nadu, all the MLAs belonging to the Opposition have been arrested. They have been thrown away. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will give you time. Whatever you may like to say, you can say at your own time allotted to you.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI A. KRISHNASWAMY: All the MLAs belonging to the Opposition have been evicted from the Legislative Assembly. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: When your time comes, you can say anything.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: When your Member speaks, he can say about it.

SHRI A. KRISHNASWAMY: They are criticising the Central Government also. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please listen to me. When your Member speaks, at that time, he can say whatever he likes to say but not now. This is not the 'Zero Hour.'

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, let one Member speak on this issue. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: First of all, you should all take your seats.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have said that when the turn of your member comes, then speak. But, it is not good to disturb the House in this way.

...*(Interruptions)*

14.00 hrs.

[English]

SHRI C. KUPPUSAMI: Sir, all the leaders of Opposition have been arrested. All the MLAs belonging to Opposition Parties have been thrown out of the Assembly. There is no democracy at all in the State of Tamil Nadu. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Take your seat. After Prof. Ram Gopal Yadav I will give you an opportunity to express your views. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI A. KRISHNASWAMY: Sir, not only the Members belonging to DMK Party, but Members belonging to Congress and other Parties have also been thrown out of the Assembly. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, all the leaders of Opposition have been arrested and all the MLAs belonging to Opposition Parties have been thrown out of the Assembly. Please allow them to speak for two minutes. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER After Prof. Ram Gopal Yadav, I will give them time.

PROF. RAM GOPAL YADAV (Sambhal): Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, I am thankful to you for giving me permission to speak on the motion of thanks to the Hon'ble President for his address.

The Hon'ble President has touched upon many issues with regard to the policies of this Government. I would like to confine myself to a few important points. We have been observing during the last several years that whenever any important announcement is made, either through the Presidential Address or through any other agency tall claims are made regarding agriculture, villages and farmers but the reality is totally different.

In 1950 the agricultural sector constituted 50% of the total G.D.P. of the country which has now come down to less than 24%. The Department of Agriculture had sought an allocation of Rs. 25000 crores but it has been allocated only Rs. 13000 crores. An allocation of Rs. 13000 crores against the required allocation of Rs. 25000 crores to the agriculture sector is quite meagre as it provides employment to about 65% population of the country at present. The agricultural sector alone contributes 65% of the total employment in the country. Even now 72 to 74% population of the country is dependent on agriculture. The allocation for it has been decreasing constantly. In 2004-05 the Department of Agriculture had made a demand of Rs. 4513 crores while it was allocated Rs. 2670 crores only. Not only this, the investment in agriculture is invariably declining. In 1990 the investment in agriculture was 1.9% of the A.G.D.P. which has come down to 1.3% till the last year. On the one hand, you don't make any allocation, make lesser investments, on the other you will say that you are going to give a new deal to the villages in India. When these people from the N.D.A. were in power, they used to say that the country would shine. These people were making the country shine and now these people belonging to the (U.P.A.) have been talking of making a new India but nothing happens. On the one hand, it is said that farmers would be given loans at a large scale. However, loans and advances are of no avail. The shape or the condition of the villages cannot be changed by merely giving the toy of loans with the claim that they are going to advance loans to the farmers for agriculture. The Reserve Bank of India has stipulated that at least 18% of the total credit should be given to the farmers but how much are they being given? More than 60% of the Nationalised Banks have not complied with that directive of the Reserve Bank of India and the Banks which give loans do so after causing a lot of persistent harassment to the people. The farmer or the poor man is compelled to approach the money lenders for loans. Regarding interest on loans the committee on agriculture has recommended time and again that it should be in single digit. The Co-operative Banks etc. which are the largest lender to the farmers pay interest to the NABARD at the rates ranging from 5%, 5 $\frac{1}{4}$ % to 5 $\frac{3}{4}$ %. The interest rates ranging between 9% to 15% are charged from the farmers by such Co-operatives on the credit which they receive from the NABARD at the interest rates from 5% to 6% *i.e.* They are getting at the rate of 5% and giving at 9% to 15%. The Committee on Agriculture had recommended that the rate of interest should not cross 9% but the Government have stipulated that the interest at the rate of 9% would

be charged from those who take loans upto Rs. 50,000 but that too for those areas where farmers have committed suicides. For instance, we went to Kolar and Several other areas. We came to know from the people that the rates of interest is too high and the banks are reluctant to give loans. Then the farmers approach the money lenders. It is also one of the major causes of the suicides. Neither the flow of credit has grown nor the trend of investment has been reversed as the Hon'ble President has stated. The rate of interest is not coming down and the farmers are not being given remunerative prices as per the cost of production.

I would like to cite an example. The different agricultural universities in Uttar Pradesh and the agricultural experts had undertaken survey and on the basis of this survey they have brought out that last year the cost of production in respect of paddy was Rs. 680 per quintal. The Government of Uttar Pradesh recommended to the Union Government that the prices of paddy should be fixed at Rs. 750 per quintal but the Minimum Support Price was fixed at Rs. 560 per quintal. If this scenario continues how will you make a new 'Bharat'.

You are not able to give anything where the two-thirds to three fourths of the population of the country are dependent on agriculture and the farmer's plight is that he is not getting the cost of whatever he has invested. You can only make tall claims. There has also been reference to the issue of agricultural research. I would not go into detail but I would like to point out only this that there are 3700 vacancies in Indian Council of Agricultural Research and Department of Agricultural Research and Education alone. Pawar Sahib has also admitted that one recommendation which is related to vacancies has not been accepted. There are 1400 vacancies of scientists only. Sir, can a non-technical person act as a scientist? In the I.C.A.R. 1400 vacancies in the scientific category have been lying vacant for years? How will you be able to have new research? You can see daily in newspapers that such and such seed is the best and of superior quality. All produce their seeds and there is no new research. Krishi Vigyan Kendras are vacant. There is no arrangement for the prevention of diseases. Such is the set up.

I would like to say something about Animal Husbandry which is an important department as has been mentioned therein. Out of the total revenue receipts during 2003-2004 the receipts from paddy, Wheat and Sugarcane were

[Prof. Ram Gopal Yadav]

worth Rs. 74000, 44000 and 28000 crores respectively but the revenue from dairy alone was Rs. 1,03,000 crores. Completed negligence is being shown with regard to live-stocks and nothing is happening worth while.

Hon'ble Ola Sahib is sitting here. Cows and Oxen of very good pedigree are found in his State but we cannot bring any cow of good pedigree from there for milk. Our farmers dealt in Cows and calves. They used to go to Jhunjhunu and Parbatsar in his area. The excellent species of Cow are found in Parbatsar. I would like to cite an example. Two years ago our leader Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav had sent for two cows from Parbatsar. These cows were coming in a truck. They were intercepted at Alwar and there was trouble. These cows could only be brought when Shri Mulayam Singhji himself talked telephonically to the S.S.P., Alwar and Senior Officers of the State Government of Rajasthan. There is no movement of the livestock from anywhere and whole of the live stock is disappearing. In spite of this revenue has been earned at such a large scale from the live stock. It is extremely neglected sector. Nobody cares for it and there is no research. The Committee on Agriculture had recommended that the I.C.V.R. should be set up along the lines of the I.C.A.R. What are the reasons, why is it not being done? The treatment for various fatal diseases like foot and mouth has not yet been possible.

Sir, food processing has also been mentioned in the Hon'ble President's Address. In Brazil, processing of food is upto 80% and it is upto 60-70% in the U.K. and the U.S.A. but we have this percentage merely 2% in our country. Every year, fruits and vegetables worth Rs. 50,000 crores get perished in our country. What action has been taken by the Government in this regard so far?

Water conservation is becoming an alarming challenge. The water level is decreasing every year. After a period of ten years, people in various parts of the country will be having no water. I was pleased to hear the previous budget presented by the Finance Minister in the House in which it was mentioned that programmes would be launched in a large scale, ponds would be dug out, but these have not been mentioned in the present budget. A big project should be made for the purpose of water conservation otherwise it is not a good omen for the country. A major part of Bihar State gets ruined every year due to occurrence of devastating floods there. Every year we have a point of discussion that floods in Bihar are brought by the revers flowing from Nepal. In this

regard, discussion should be held with the Government of Nepal and some dam should be constructed. Floods are likely to occur again. I would like to know from the Government of the arrangements made by them in this regard. We hold discussions over floods but no care and concern is seen for the victims of floods who get ruined every year. After the floods, committee visits the affected area. Department of Agriculture sends the committee and the Home Ministry helps in sending the relief.

Sir, there is a mention of electrification in the budget. There are about 1.25 lacs villages in the country which are yet to be electrified. Of these, 82 thousand villages are in Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Jharkhand only. Uttar Pradesh is in the worst condition, where only 19 per cent houses have the facility of electricity. In respect of Bihar & Jharkhand, this percentage is 9 and 10 respectively. I urge upon the Government that Bihar, Jharkhand and Uttar Pradesh should also be treated on equal footing in terms of providing assistance to them, which is provided in the ratio of 90 and 10 as is the case of other States of the country *i.e.* Union Government and State Government' bear the expenditure 90 per cent and 10 per cent respectively. For the programmes to be implemented in these States, 25 per cent of amount is provided as assistance, 25 per cent as loan whereas the rest 50 per cent is incurred by the State Government itself. Electrification of the entire county cannot be claimed to have been achieved if these three States are not electrified. I submit that as the weaker section of the society is provided reservation, similarly, assistance should be provided to Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Jharkhand for carrying out the work of electrification there as it is done in the case of Uttaranchal, North Eastern region and Jammu-Kashmir.

I would like to say two-three points more. There is also a mention of our relations with the neighbouring countries in the Presidential Address. I regret to say that whoever we may claim in the House, the reality is something else. Our relations with our neighbouring countries are not such as they ought to be. A successful foreign policy is that which enables a country to increase the number of its friendly-countries and reduces the number of its hostile-countries. Unfortunately, instead of increasing the number of our friendly-countries it is decreasing. This is a testimony to the failure of our foreign policy.

Hon. President has stated in his Address that the fiftieth anniversary of the Bandung Conference is at hand.

I am telling a very important thing here and the responsible people of the Government sitting here are not listening to me. We had also attended the Bandung Conference 50 years ago. At that time India led the Third World. Nehru, Nasir and Tito were considered the frontline leaders of the Third World. While celebrating the fiftieth anniversary of the Bbandung Conference, we should also think over our position that time and the present position. We will have to think over this too. There has been a lot of discussion over a point. The hon'ble members from both the sides make much noise over that. We sit in the middle and hence do not make much noise. Discussion was held over communalism. I would like to draw the attention of the House to two incidents in this regard. I mean to say that communal powers are dangerous to the country no matter whether they are active directly or indirectly. If the fellowmen sitting this side are openly communal then those sitting that side are communal in disguise. It is known to everyone what happened in Delhi and its surrounding areas after Indira Gandhi was assassinated. Sikh community has had its separate identity. This community has contributed significantly at the time of war for independence or at the time of threat at borders in the country. This community has contributed a lot despite having been in minority in terms of population and its bravery is beyond doubt. But the way they were tortured, demoralised and killed at that time, is heart-rending. Such incident has never taken place before. Such incidents took place before my eyes and I saw how the Congress Party and the BJP people were looting them. We had to take up terms to save the Sikh community in Kanpur and Itava.

DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA (Ujjain): Don't say that we were also involved.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Dr. Satyanarayan Jatiya, please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

PROF. RAM GOPAL YADAV: I myself have seen that these people were with them.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You please speak when you are allowed to do so.

PROF. RAM GOPAL YADAV: It is completely true.
...(Interruptions)

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: We were not involved in the Sikh riots *...(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Kharabela Swain, please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record except the speech of Prof. Ram Gopal Yadav.

*...(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

PROF. RAM GOPAL YADAV: I was saying that whenever we talk of dispensing with the communal powers, the wind always starts blowing in the opposite direction. What has happened in Gujarat is a slur on the country. Only the Union Government and the State Government were responsible for that. At that very time, the Union Government should have dismissed the Government of Gujarat. But whenever there is a need of eliminating or weakening these communal powers, where these can be eliminated, the Congress and these people then become one at that time. At the time of Assembly election in Uttar Pradesh, Atalji spoke about defeating Mulayam Singhji politically. Sonaiji also followed Atalji.

If Mulayam Singh Yadavji were politically out, you could not be here. It is Mulayam Singhji who made these people get 10 seats only instead of their usual 50-60 seats. Now they have their those candidates only there who are not in position to secure their security deposit. But you both were one. Many parties agree with us on this point but they can't take up this point. Hon'ble Basudeb Da has left the House. I also want to caution him against them. The Congress people try to eat into the roots of those people from whom they get support. And they are trying to gradually eat into the roots of Laluji. This is the policy of the Congress. This point should be understood *...(Interruptions)*.

[English]

SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN (Dindigul): Sir, he has no right to talk about the Congress. *...(Interruptions)* How can you allow this? *...(Interruptions)*

* Not recorded.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Prof. Yadav, please conclude.

[Translation]

SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: Prof. Saheb, you have also taken his side. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please you conclude.

PROF. RAM GOPAL YADAV: I am concluding. There should be a sincere effort to finish the BJP. Mr. Azad, you indeed want to finish them. ...*(Interruptions)*

Your whole family is victimized by the terrorists. However, those people giving direction, do not work sincerely. They are at work in Uttar Pradesh in connivance with the BJP. Those Congress people may be important for you but they are not important for us. They, indeed, are doing all this. The issue of communalism is obtain raised ...*(Interruptions)* who is conniving with the BJP, everybody knows it. I don't want to say all this. I have all the facts ...*(Interruptions)*

Be it the issue of farmer or farms or electrification of villages, we would have to think seriously about them. It is true that during the recent natural calamity, the whole country and the Government of India have done a commendable job and the whole country and the Government deserves commendation for the same. The task which has been accomplished properly should be acknowledged accordingly. However today the farmers are constantly neglected. The farmers do not get the remunerative prices of their produce. If the farmers get less money than the cost, you cannot stop them from committing suicides. You should lower the interest rates for them and provide water which is not available today, for the irrigation of one-third of unirrigated land. There should be an arrangement for water-conservation in the villages and to ensure that the farmers do not face any hardship in taking loan from the banks on a large scale.

With these words, I support the Vote of thanks on the President's Address.

[English]

SHRI C. KUPPUSAMI (Madras North): Sir, I am thankful to you for giving me time to raise a very important issue about Tamil Nadu. Not only the parliamentary democracy but the entire democracy has been murdered in Tamil Nadu. No Opposition Party MLA is allowed to

raise any issue in the Assembly ...*(Interruptions)* Today the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Ms. Jayalithaa raised an issue under Rule 110 in which she accused the Party MLA Shri Arcot Veeraswamy, former Minister of Tamil Nadu. ...*(Interruptions)*

When he rose to reply to the allegation he was not allowed. Unfortunately, all the MLAs of DMK party were forcibly evicted from the House. Protesting against the attitude of the Speaker, all Opposition MLAs staged a walk-out and protested in front of the Assembly. They have been arrested now. They have been kept under custody now. So, there is no rule of law and there is no democracy. Constitutional functioning and democratic norms have been miserably failed in Tamil Nadu. We demand that the hon. Home Minister should come forward with a statement before the House. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY (Chidambaram): Sir, the Minister should respond to it. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI A. KRISHNASWAMY: Sir, the Home Minister should intervene in the matter. The Central Government should intervene in this matter. All the MLAs have been arrested and kept in the police state.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Please listen to me.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY: We want a statement from the Home Minister. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI A. KRISHNASWAMY: Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs is here right now and he can respond to the matter. Sir, all the MLAs have been arrested. They have been brutally attacked. They have been kept in the police station. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: At this stage, I can only say that we share the anxiety of the hon. Members. I do not know whether we can do anything, but I can only tell the Home Minister. Under such circumstances, I do not think much can be done from here. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI A. KRISHNASWAMY: No, Sir. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY: All the MLAs have been arrested and kept in the police station. The leader of the alliance, Dr. Kalaignar, is also there in the police station. We request for an intervention from the Centre. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI A. KRISHNASWAMY: We request that the Prime Minister should intervene in the matter and the Home Minister should respond. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs is giving you an assurance. I think, now the matter should be settled.

[*Translation*]

SHRI ALOK KUMAR MEHTA (Samastipur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to thank you for the time you have given me to speak on Vote of Thanks on the President's Address. Just now my predecessors have presented their views in detail on the President's Address. On behalf of the Rashtriya Janta Dal, I would like to highlight most of the points covered in the President's Address one by one. In the President's Address, the Tsunami incident was mentioned and it was stated that no aid of any nature had been taken from the countries. I would like to thank the Government for keeping its promise.

I would like to thank that in the President's Address it has been discussed to bring the inflation down and maintain it. We hope that if the declaration made in the rural sector and agricultural sector, are complied with, it would prove to be a great step in the making of a new India. In the President's Address, special initiatives have been stated to be taken in the agricultural sector. India is an agricultural nation and we have been parroting this thing for a very long time. The allocations made in the agricultural sector by the previous government have not been enough at all. Meagre funds have been allocated in agriculture. The highest requirement in Agriculture is the natural resources and its next requirement is human resources. The previous Governments have been doing injustice by allocating meagre amount of funds. We would like to emphasise over the allocation and giving priority there to which have been talked about in the President's Address.

In our country, 75 per cent people depend on agriculture. The small and big farmers, labourers, agricultural farmers and various other people are dependent on agriculture and the remaining 25 per cent people in the country are dependent on the foodgrains produced by the farmers. We would like to emphasise over the fact that the Government should pay special attention towards agriculture. It has, indeed, been given weightage in the President's Address, however, we would

like to say that though there has been a long series of slogans for the rural India yet when it actually came to do work, to do research and development, to provide loans to the farmers at lower rates and to make available resources at the ground level, we have come a cropper. In the time to come our government should certainly focus on it taking into account the farmers, agriculture and agricultural products. Attention should be paid to allocations towards the areas having high productivity, and large quantity of natural resources and those areas of production in which agriculture is the most important task.

In agriculture, we must pay special attention to fruits, vegetables, milk production, agricultural fields, fisheries and various other areas which have been elaborately discussed in the President's Address. By increasing the productivity of such areas, we can contribute towards national productivity. In the recent past, the agricultural research institutes could not be decentralised. During the tenure of previous governments, there was no effort to make the output of Research and Development institutions available to the small, medium and big farmers of the villages.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to request the Government that under "A new initiative of rural India towards villages" in the President's Address, it should take a new step towards agricultural production by making the output of agricultural research in the rural areas available to the small farmers.

Just now, Prof. Ram Gopal Yadav was talking about the fruit and vegetable production. In our country, the farmers producing fruits, vegetables and milk have a lot of problems. In our country the vegetable and fruits worth of 50 thousand crores of rupees get perished every year. The farmers do not get the entire price of their produce. In the backward States like Bihar and Orissa, there is a vast scope for horticulture and therefore, the production is also large there. In Bihar, other industries are very low in numbers. The people mostly depend on agriculture. The farmers are under the reel of flood and drought every year. There is a lot of production of fruits and vegetables due to the fertile land. Therefore, agriculture based industry is required to be established in that area. Minimum support price is required to be introduced in allied agricultural products along with the agricultural production. Since, there is no arrangement of support price for fruits and vegetables and also Government do not procure them officially the farmers do not get the

[Shri Alok Kumar Mehta]

profit. Fruits and vegetables based industry should be established under it. Research and Development institutions should be set up in large numbers in this sector. Public Sector Undertakings are required to be set up in the State of Bihar. The situation of Bihar is almost serious after its bifurcation and there is no industry there in this sector.

I would like to thank the President for talking about social security in his Address. I would like to say that hardly the intention and policy had gone simultaneously before. If our Government is really serious about this issue, it has to move ahead with both the intention and policy. A provision of reservation has been made in our Constitution. In the reservation, Social Justice and Secularism are talked about however, the intentions of those implementing the provisions given in our constitution do not reflect much candidness. That is why these games of inequality are being played for a long time. Under the social fabric justice should be meted out to all of them through clear policies whether it is a question of women reservation or downtrodden economically weaker sections of society. But at the same time we must keep in mind that while giving justice to one section injustice is not rendered to other sections of the society. So I wish to warn the government that we support the women reservation issue whenever raised on this House but within the purview of this reservation, there should also be a provision of reservations for very backward, scheduled caste, scheduled tribe and backward cast women. Similarly minorities should also get reservation. I feel that we will be able to do justice with them by means of such provisions.

Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, reservation in private sector has been talked about in President's address I want to thank him very much. Such matters have been discussed in the Lok Sabha and on roads too. Keeping it in mind this issue he has taken up this matter in his address.

But simultaneously, I want to add that people of backward and most backward castes should also get the benefit of reservation in private sector. It is a part of the step towards social justice. We talk of social justice everywhere, so these people should also get justice.

Just now Shri George Fernandes was speaking in this House. I know him since my childhood as a socialist. Also I have been listening to Bhagwa socialists type of words for last few years. Now I have been listening to his language and watching his activities since last few

days. I feel that the language of staunch socialists people changes only in the greed for authority and chair. We have seen this in this House. I am surprised to see the supporter of R.S.S. and Bajrang Dal, the double face and dual character of the people whose names were symbol of respectful socialism in India. Lecture of secularism does not suit from the mouth of Mr. Fernandes. Only those people who have a sensitive heart for minorities of the country, whether they are Sikh, Christians and Muslims, or whichever of linguistic or religious minorities they are, can understand the problems and suffering of the common people as a whole.

Those, who have signed "Gujarat model of Development" talk about secularism, I think the country's soul may have cursed them. We have to come out of the narrow boundaries of our own interest and work together to safeguard the secular structure and the basic instinct of our Constitution.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now you please conclude. There is another speaker from your party.

SHRI ALOK KUMAR MEHTA: I am concluding within two minutes. In the last elections they propagated the slogan of development. But the people of States like Bihar and Jharkhand did not like Gujarat model of development so they failed utterly. But such people change this definition of development when they attend the House. Through this house I want to say that those people are talking about secularism who have done their best to burn the country in communalism for the last six years. They have made Gujarat a flame of fire. Secularism seems awkward from the mouth of these people. Our U.P.A. Government is stepping forward towards secularism. We wish to thank our Government for taking initiative in this direction.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, another thing I wish to point out is that environment issue should be taken seriously as it is a matter of global importance. Ground water level is receding steadily and ozone layer in atmosphere is continuously thinning down and the holes in it has posed to the human life. Therefore, we should emphasize research and development activities to be taken up in this field. We should work with full zeal and vigour in the field. We should take up this matter seriously rising above party politics and various other emotions.

With these words, I support the vote of thanks on the President's address.

SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK (Unnao): Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, I thank you very much for giving me opportunity to take part and speak on the vote of thanks on the President's address.

I would like to specify my view on some important points taken up by the honourable President in his address. Honourable President has talked about taking a fresh initiatives in the direction of improving their relationships with neighbouring country. We should try that our neighbouring countries, whether it is Pakistan or Nepal do not feel insecure because of us, rather they should have a feeling that their neighbours are powerful and will help them. Our relationships with our neighbouring countries should enhance the feeling of security in them. The way the democracy is being strangled in Nepal. We cannot turn of our eyes from that and sit passively as it can also be a danger sign for India.

Today many honourable Members have expressed their views in the House. The way Indian Government, Indian people and our forces have strategically helped overcome Tsunami tragedy, they are worthy of our grateful thanks and the whole India and this House thanked them all. Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, I want to put up a question to you in this House which has been, left untouched by the honourable President and the Government. During Tsunami Tragedy there was a news in the papers that Dalits and untouchables were not allowed to enter relief camps. We had emphatically presented this point in the consultative committee meeting of Home Affairs that our Tsunami hit untouchable brothers should also have been given place in relief camps. What to say about providing food, they were not allowed even to enter the toilets. Even the water bottles provided by UNISEF were not given to them. Even today our head bows down with shame. 57 years have passed since independence but Government has not taken any steps against those who did such shameful act, nor did the Government promise any such thing as taking strict action against them.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the incidence of violence in India has been taking place either it is in Jammu and Kashmir or it may be naxal violence or in north eastern States where young friends of India had been deviated. The hon. President has taken up three main problem in his address on which we have to concentrate. I would like to thank the hon. President that he has tried to take up three main issues which disturb the youth of India most, in his address. We fully hope that the Government will take stern action in order to tackle these problems.

It has also been stated by the Government to bring white paper on condition of minorities. We would like to thank the hon. President and request him to the Government to bring out white paper on the condition of the minorities of India whether they are Muslim, Sikh or Christian and provision for reservation in job and upliftment of their economical and social status may be clearly stated therein.

The ratio of development between villages and towns is changing today. We will have to connect villages as well and bring them in mainstream of development. If we cannot bring villages in mainstream of development then our India cannot move ahead in progressive way. It has been stated in address to enact law separately in order to tackle communal and violence. We welcome government's initiatives. At present, the Government have said to provide at least hundred days of employment to family. We would like to thank the Government and hope that the Government will take strong step in this direction.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, "Food for Work", Annapoorna Yojana and Mid-day Meal in schools like many schemes have been introduced in our Uttar Pradesh for which the Central Government have been sending money and foodgrain but it is a matter of regret that with the nexus between touts and middlemen, the wheat, rice and foodgrains worth of twenty five thousand crores of rupees of the Central Government which had been sent to entire Uttar Pradesh, have been sold by making bogus BPL cards and setting up fake organisation. This fact is not unknown to anyone. The Government should pay attention on it and such a arrangement should be made so that the fund released to the States by the Central Government be properly utilised in the interest of poor and dalit people and its misappropriation could be checked. Then only we can really provide better facilities to the people of India. There are so many issues on which we would like to say prominently today.

Our hon. Rail Minister had said while presenting Rail Budget on 26th that eight factories would be set up across India. But it pinches me that four factories out of eight will be set up in Bihar itself and rest of four in other parts of India. I am not against Bihar. Bihar is a very backward State of India. But I request that hon. Minister through you that there are also so many backward districts in Uttar Pradesh. If railway wheel factory or coal factories is set up in our district (Janpad), our backward area will get opportunity for development. I daily read newspaper and fortunately I come from such a district (Janpad) where

[Shri Brajesh Pathak]

present ruler of the Government of India are sitting left aide and in the right side they are sitting who were in the Government earlier. Simultaneously, if you cross the Ganga, the Home Minister of India hails from there. It is matter of sorrow and grief that we cry like the sons of step mother. The Member of Parliament from Rai Bareilly says that you may take 400 crores of rupees. She provided 235 crores of rupees for development of canals. 111 crores of rupees for development of roads and 35 crores of rupees for development of hospitals. Whatever hon. Atalji liked he gave to his constituency. At that time, he was in Government. Shri Shriprakash Jaiswal gave a special package to Kanpur. We are also elected voters. The same voters cast me their votes who cast for Rai Bareilly or Kanpur's candidates or Lucknow candidate. Then why is step motherly treatment is done with the people of Unnao. The voters of Unnao may be categorically told that if this type of indecent things happens to them, the voters of Unnao will not exercise their franchise. There is no need of the Member of Parliament from Unnao in Lok Sabha.

Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I urge that special package may also be provided to Unnao so that we could face the people in our constituency assuring them that they will get their due. Their Member of Parliament also has fighting spirit. If we are born in poor family and we do not have political background then our voters are forced to be left in lurch. We regret on it.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, at last on behalf of the Bahujan Samaj Party, I support Hon'ble President Address and I assure that the Bahujan Samaj Party will always stand with you on the issue of development of India, minorities and farmers.

DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA (Ujjain): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we are having a discussion on the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address. The Address begins with the reference to the sufferings of thousands of our countrymen and the lakhs of people worldwide due to the natural calamity. The cooperation and assistance provided during the relief and rescue work reflects the sympathy and sensibility of our country. Of course, still much has to be done for the rehabilitation of the people. As far as the construction of infrastructure is concerned constant attention would have to be paid for a pretty long period. Proper arrangement is prerequisite for rehabilitation of those people and also to provide employment opportunities so that they can lead their life

smoothly. Ours is a country which is a reservoir of immense powers.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir,

"Desh ki Prachhaan kshamta par mujhe vishvas hai, Nabhi me iske amarta ka anashvar vaas hai, Shakatiyan Samhar ke kehelen bhale hi natak kase, Rashtra ki sanjiwani shakti men chhipe Saamar they par mujhe vishvas hai"

I have faith that the inherent capability of the nation would act as sanjivani shakti to give new life to these people and for their rehabilitation also.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is mentioned in the eighth paragraph of the President Address that—

"The UPA's vital contribution to the Nation has been the return of the polity to mainstream political values of pluralism, inclusiveness, secularism and economic growth with equity and social justice.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, all these things are mentioned in the Constitution and if the Government resolve for the same, it should tell as to how it will do it. The Government need financial resource to take steps for the same.

Sir, I have also gone through the budget provision, wherein there is no mention of labourers, agricultural labourers and labourers of unorganised sector which constitute a big chunk of the population of the country. Their population is about 40 crore in the country. Of what significance is the President's Address when no mention has been made of 40 crore people of the country?

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the terms Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribe, weaker section, economically weaker section, minorities, linguistic minorities, other backward classes, women, physically handicapped, youth etc. are used in the speech. Be it the message on the occasion of the Independence Day or any other message, the speech of the Government remains incomplete if all these terms are not included therein. No mention has been made as to what the Government is going to do for these people and also how assistance would be provided to them.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we have made provisions for employment in the Budget. We are going to introduce

100 days' Employment Guarantee Bill. But, there is no guarantee of employment in that bill. There is a proposal to provide employment to one person from each family. If the income of that person increase, then you will withdraw his name from that category. If that person goes to some other place where he gets better employment opportunity, he will cease to claim his previous employment. The wage to be given to him is also not fixed. You have left issue of wage to the State Governments. You have said that the State Governments will provide minimum wage. The Central Government have fixed minimum wage for the labourers. It should be increased.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, labour class constitutes a big part of the population in our country. No mention has been made in the Address about the welfare of the labourers. It is stated in the Address that the roots of the tenets of democracy would be fixed firmly. Definitely, there is need to make efforts in this direction.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the text of the Preamble of the Constitution reads, 'We, the People of India having solemnly resolved to constitute India into a Sovereign Socialist Secular Democratic Republic and to secure to all its citizens: Justice, social economic and political, liberty of thought, expression, belief faith and worship.' We talk about all these things but it is not mentioned as to how we will provide all these things. You are going to provide justice, liberty, equality, cordiality, brotherhood, social and economic equality. But by when? ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri Ram Kripal Yadav ji, please do not disturb him. Express your views when you have your own term only. When you will be expressing your views they won't disturb you also. Please do not disturb.

DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: All these things are justice, liberty, equality and brotherhood. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Dr. Satyanarayan Jatiyaji please address the Chair.

DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: I am talking about agricultural workers. How will you provide employment, bread, cloth and shelter to them? ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Jatiya, please address the Chair.

DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: We have introduced pension and insurance scheme for the agricultural

labourers. If you are interested to know it, I can tell. I do not like to say as to what we have done.

15.00 hrs.

Under the said scheme the contribution of the labourer and the Government will be Re. 1 each. He will have to contribute it till he attains the age of 60 years. Thereafter, he will get a pension of Rs. 1800 and Rs. 1,50,000 as insurance amount. We have introduced this scheme. Now there is need to extend the scheme. I did not like to tell all these things myself. We have taken measures for imparting education to the people belonging to the Scheduled Castes. We have introduced scholarship scheme for the meritorious students who do not have adequate resources but aspire to continue their study after passing the matric exam. For want of resources they often discontinue their studies. Under the said scheme a scholarship of Rs. 60,000, 50,000 and 40,000 respectively would be provided to the student who secure first, second and third position respectively in the examinations and the remaining students will get scholarship of Rs. 10,000 each. The Government introduced the scheme by granting more than Rs. one crore for the same. Now there is need to extend it. We had introduced medical scheme to provide assistance to the sick people belonging to Scheduled Castes. There is a provision for proving an assistance of Rs. 50,000 for medical treatment. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please sit down. It is not to be recorded.

...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to put-forth all my points through you, since all these people are shrewd enough to put-forth their points in their desired manner. I do not want to be shrewd in such a way as I may not be able to put-forth my point of view. The President's Address includes everything, it favours secularism. but it is not just to give importance to a specific class and forget others, while talking of secularism. A major part of the country consists of very poor and scheduled caste and scheduled tribe people. Their population is 25 per cent at present. Certainly, there is a need to benefit these people by providing them those facilities for which provisions have

* Not recorded.

[Shri Satyanarayan Jatiya]

been made. There are such provisions in the Constitution of India also. In the directive principles of state policy under article 46 of Indian Constitution it has been mentioned that the interests of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and other weaker sections of the country, related to their education and economic position shall be furthered. The State shall with special care develop the interests of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and other weaker sections, pertaining to their education and economic position and protect them against social injustice and all kinds of exploitations. It is the responsibility of the Government to implement what has been mentioned in the Constitution of India and the directive principles of state policy. Governments do come and go; but the interests of the poor should be protected in this system. The saints like Ravi Dasji have said, 'Aiso chahoon raaj main, mile saban ko anna, chhoto-badon sam basein, Ravi Das rahein prasanna'. If there is no way to cater to the needs of these people, what kind of situation then it would be. The whole budgetary speech lacks the endeavours to explore the possibilities of growth, development and employment of the poor, the Scheduled Castes and weaker sections of the society. The address contained seventy three paragraphs which were read out in about seventy-five minutes. It should have covered the aforesaid things also.

I know that there is a mention about the physically challenged persons in the budgetary speech. The fact is that there were Rs. 225 crore 54 lac till 14 January as a budgetary provision for them, but out of that only 57 crore 37 lac rupees were spent. There is no obstacle in the way of spending the funds allocated to them in the budget. All these things should be done completely. There was only a little mention about the 'handicap'. The Government should take measures to enable those who are facing handicap; but such thing is not mentioned in the budgetary speech. There is also no mention in it about the old aged persons. There is nothing about their safety and security in the Budgetary speech. They usually constitute about seven percent of the country's total population. It has been said that the Government have formed a group of Ministers to interact with the industries to explore the modes of increasing the employment opportunities in the private sector for the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. The Government are going to give reservation in the private sector. How will this group of Minister act and how the reservation measures would be implemented?

Nothing would be achieved worth-while by pushing back things and neglecting all these things. All the

available measures should certainly be implemented with the force of law, only then the desired results could be achieved.

There has been made a commitment to give a new initiative to the rural India and it has been mentioned therein that emphasis would be given on rural electrification and rural roads extension and other things. You can extend electric wires to the villages for the purpose of rural electrification but from where is so much electricity going to be generated? What are the modes of promoting the required resources of generating electricity? There is a huge shortfall of power in the country. I find that lack of electricity, which is the major source of energy, becomes a big hurdle in all-round development of the country, snatching opportunities to do all the desired things for the country.

All these things have generally been mentioned in paragraphs 20 to 28 which are pertaining to agriculture. There is a mention of agricultural research in them but how are the farmers going to be benefited from this? There is no mention of any measure for the welfare of the farmers. In those paragraphs, there is a mention of giving loans to the farmers. But if the farmers do not get the support price, market price on the basis of cost of production of their produce, they will be forced to commit suicide as is being seen by us presently. Hence, there is undoubtedly a mention of giving loans to the farmers but there is no mention of any guarantee of giving remunerative prices of their produce to them. From this point of view, this year's budget is anti-farmers budget and contains nothing for the benefit of the farmers. A lot of things have been said about the development of villages.

Much has been said to enhance the water resources. There was certainly an opportunity to do so during the first and second five-year plans when steps were taken to enhance the water resources. But, later on, this point was neglected. As a result, we have to face a lot of difficulties at present due to shortfall of water resources. About agriculture sector and its produce, production of fruits, vegetables in the horticulture sector, it has been stated that people do not have the enough purchasing power to buy the produce of horticulture sector. There is a need of nutrition. The poor section of the country which constitute generally 60 percent of country's total population, cannot get the required nutrition to maintain their health for want of money. There is no mention of any kind of measure to meet this requirement for them.

So many things have been neglected about labour force. In paragraph 50, it has been said that their

Government is committed to ensure communal harmony. Everyone loves communal harmony, it is good. But what are we doing to abide by what has been mentioned in the Constitution? We are trying to divide the country over trifles. What would be the condition of the country then? We all are the citizens of one country, still we remain divided. We are caught in the grip of the net of caste and race. We may become 'EK Jana-Ek Rashtra' by keeping such silly things aside. Our union is our strength. From this point of view, there is a need of thinking over this aspect unitedly. We have to think over mobilising the resources in order to comply with the provisions made in this regard. We are not disappointed despite being in such a situation. But, what do we want to convey to the people by raising loudly the issue of communalism and creating a situation of illusion and uncertainty amongst them? What is the hurdle that comes in the way of our becoming one nation and one society? The obstacle or weakness in the way of country's development should be removed. It is of no use to clamour all the time the fear of communalism etc. This will not help in the advancement of the nation. We are not going to be afraid of such misleading things. We should not fear anyone except God. He is the Supreme and His blessings are with us.

In the Atharvaveda a very good saying is there:

"Yatha dhoushchi prithivi, cha na bibhito na rishyatah
Eva me prana ma vibheh
Yathashcha ratri cha nab bibheto ne rishyatah
Eva me parana ma vibhe
Yatha suryash cha chandrashah na bibheto na
rishyatah
Eva me prana ma vibhe"

My Prana! you move ahead without ever fearing. These things have been mentioned citing examples from the nature, there is no fear in any of the constituents of nature and hence if we work towards joining this country and society, doing all the jobs without any fear of anyone and if we are able to do this we will be heading towards nation building.

I believe that our country will become developed and strong one. May my country move ahead on the path of progress and achieve world fame.

"Kkhshiti tak pratyek disha mein, ham uthen nav
prana bhame,
Navsrijan ki sadh lein, ham uthen nirman karane,
Sadhna ke deep shubh hon, gyan ka alok chhaye
Nashta trishna ke timir hon, desh mera jagmagaye"

We are determined to develop the country properly. We represent parties of different ideologies in the House. But in order to take the country ahead and for executing a good task we need to come together.

"Sangacchadvam sam vo manansi jantam
Saman mantra samiti smani"

It has been visualised that together we move ahead. Let us make it purposeful.

Sarvebhavantu Sukhinah, sarvey santu nirmayah
Sarve bhadrani pashyantu ma kashchid dukhbhag
bhavet.

Everyone should be happy, everyone should work for each other's welfare. No one should suffer from anything.

Although I opine differently from the hon. President's Address, still I thank him.

[English]

DR. CHINTA MOHAN (Tirupati): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, thank you for giving me this opportunity to speak on the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address.

Before I get into the main debate I would like to respond to what Shri George Fernandes mentioned about Shri Prakash Karat and his statements. I am also going through the statements made by Shri Karat. The Left Parties are a constituent of this UPA Government. They have the right to say something on the affairs of this Government. But with all humility I would like to submit that the constituent parties of this Government, particularly the Left Parties have never tried to interfere in the matters of the Government. They are a very respectable party. They have only said about the Common Minimum Programme and they have a right to comment on that. Shri Fernandes mentioned about the manifesto, the address of the hon. President and about the Budget speech delivered by the hon. Finance Minister. He always finds faults with others. But there is no substantial reason for him to say that the UPA Government is not working in accordance with its manifesto or the Common Minimum Programme.

Sir, another hon. Member, Shri Jatiya mentioned about democracy. Congress is the party that brought freedom to this country; Congress is the party that gave a good Constitution to this country; and Congress is the party that brought democracy to this country. Countries like Russia and China do not have good democracies in

[Dr. Chinta Mohan]

their own countries. Coming to holding of elections etc., I would like to submit that advanced countries like the United States do not have an Electronic Voting System even today, but India today has got a full Electronic Voting System. This is where the Congress Party has made a contribution to the growth of this country. My party has got a 115 years of national history. The leaders of this party had participated in the freedom struggle. There were other leaders from other parties, like Shri B.T. Ranadive, who were also involved in the struggle for India's Independence. Congress is the only party that has taken more trouble for bringing freedom to this country.

Sir, Shri Jatiya also mentioned about the problems of the farmers. The problems of the farmers are being fully attended to in the Congress regime. During the time of the late Indira Gandhi in 1979 the concept of giving subsidy to the farmers was brought in. Fertilizer subsidy was first introduced under the signature of the late Indira Gandhi in 1979.

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU (Srikakulam): At that time the Janata Party was in power at the Centre.

DR. CHINTA MOHAN: It happened after the fall of that Government. I was the Minister of Fertilizers at that time and I saw the file also. It was during her time and under her signature that fertilizer subsidy to farmers was introduced.

Coming to the question of giving 100 days of employment I would like to submit that that this UPA Government is fully committed to giving employment to the poor people, particularly in the rural areas. The 'Food for Work' programme has already been started. there is no unemployment problem particularly in the rural areas.

I have gone through all the speeches delivered by the first President of India, Dr. Rajendra Prasad till the President of today. The speech is very lengthy. The President gave his speech for one hour and fifteen minutes. It was very illustrative. It has got its own meaning. He mentioned a few things which are resounding and he has used high sounding words in his speech. He has said about the share of economy. Yes, the UPA Government is fully committed to sharing with the poor. We have cross subsidisation. The money that is collected from the rich people is shared with the poor people. And there is harmony between the rich and the poor.

Coming to caring quality, there is a special word which is not found in any of the speeches of earlier

Presidents. Caring quality was not used earlier in other speeches. Ideologically, the Congress and the Left Parties are different. But we are together today to form this Government and the Government is going on in full harmony. This type of a Government was never seen earlier. The Congress Party had formed Governments with 400 Lok Sabha Members. Today, we are reduced to 145 Members. Yet we share power with other political parties, we respect each other and very good development is seen in the President's Address.

Another point is about equity with growth. The speeches of the past Presidents also fully mentioned about equity. We are sharing whatever we have in the budget with the poor people, particularly the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, women and everyone. Equity with growth is a special word which Rashtrapatiiji has mentioned.

Finally, regarding social justice, it is there in the Preamble of the Constitution. This was fully debated in the Constituent Assembly and the party in power is fully committed for social justice.

Coming to the Common Minimum Programme, we are committed to it. I have a few points to mention. Particularly for education, we have allotted more than Rs. 18,000 crore and an amount of Rs. 18,000 crore has been allotted for health and Rs. 16,000 crore for fertilizers this year. For agriculture, Rs. 10,000 crore has been allotted. These amounts have been earmarked for these areas.

I would not like to quote everything from the budget but I will cull out a few points from it. The Congress Party has done something substantial about science. We all know that before and after Independence, people used to travel by bullock carts. Where are we now? We are travelling in aeroplanes, launching rockets and we see missiles and atom bombs everywhere. This is a positive development which the Congress Party has brought to this nation. Such a thing had not been done by any other political party in India. No political party can dare to say that, in the field of science, they have made this much development. Earlier, people used to die due to malaria and cholera but now, they are going in for heart transplantation. It is the Congress Party which has contributed more to the nation particularly in the field of science which no other political party can say that they have done. I will say that even BJP or other political parties cannot dare to say that they have contributed this much to the nation. The Congress Party has contributed so much to the nation in the field of science.

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: You should praise our scientists and others concerned.

DR. CHINTA MOHAN: Of course, it is always there. Their contribution is always there and we all admire them.

Coming to education, earlier, there were no schools. Primary schools were missing in every village. Today, in about six lakh villages, primary schools and high schools are there.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: But does every school have four or five teachers? You are going into the details of six lakh villages. Does every school have teachers?

DR. CHINTA MOHAN: Today, so many colleges are there. Many universities were brought in now. The policy of education was brought by late Shrimati Indiraji in 1968.

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO: Would you yield for a minute? ...(*Interruptions*)

DR. CHINTA MOHAN: No, I am not yielding.

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO: Sir, through you, I would like to ask one thing.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: This is not the Question Hour. Please listen to me.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: This is not to be recorded.

...(*Interruptions*)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: This is not Question Hour. Please sit down.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record except the speech of Dr. Chinta Mohan.

...(*Interruptions*)*

DR. CHINTA MOHAN: Before the hon. Member joined politics, the Congress Party, particularly the late Indira Gandhi, brought an education policy in 1968. In 1968, the Congress Party gave an education policy. It was intended that fruits of development should go to all. Today, in the field of education, everybody is enjoying the fruits

of development. In 1986, the late Rajiv Gandhi brought a policy on education. After that, in 1992, the Congress Party brought another revised education policy. Due to these policies, we have so many educational institutions, universities and colleges and there is no problem for education. Compared to what it was 57 years back, today, since the Congress Party was in power and also behaved responsibly in the Opposition, changes have been brought in education. Today, the literacy rate has gone up. These are the positive contributions of the Congress Party.

I now come to the subject of health. Health is an issue about which everybody is bothered. Previously, in villages, when there used to be cholera or small pox, people used to die. Today, there is no such thing. Now, people are going for heart transplantation, liver transplantation, stem cell transplantation etc. So much of research is being done in AIIMS. This is the positive contribution of the Congress Party. There is a proposal to build AIIMS-like hospitals. People who belong to middle class are going below the poverty line. To bring them back above the poverty line and to help those who belong to middle class, the Congress Party and the UPA Government is committed to set up 13 AIIMS-like hospitals at the tertiary levels. It will be set up in States where there is a problem of health. This is a positive development. The money has also been allocated for setting up of these institutions. These would come up within next two or three years' time. We are all aware of All India Institute of Medical Sciences. These AIIMS-like hospitals are going to come up all over the country, in South, in North, in West, including Srinagar. This is a positive sign. This is the achievement of the UPA Government.

Coming to railways, we all are aware that railways got their own history. They used to run on coal and fire. But today there is so much of advancement in railways. Sixty-three thousand kilometres length of railway lines are there; 11,000 trains are running everyday; and they are not having even one minute rest. Sir, 7,000 railway stations are there all over the country. There are about 15.5 lakh employees in Railways, who work with discipline and harmony. This is the achievement of the UPA Government and the Congress Party.

Let me now come to telephone. That used to be a big thing. Nobody used to know what is a telephone. I myself saw it when I was studying in Pre-University Course. Today, telephone is there everywhere. They are not ordinary telephones, but cell phones. Everybody has

* Not recorded.

[Dr. Chinta Mohan]

got two or three telephones. This is the achievement of the Congress Party and the UPA Government.

Coming to food, before Independence, we used to import foodgrains from Burma and other countries. During Indira Gandhi's regime, when late Jagjivan Ram was the Agriculture Minister, green revolution was brought.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Dr. Chinta Mohan, there are seven more Members to speak from your Party. So, please conclude.

DR. CHINTA MOHAN: The Congress Party brought Green Revolution to the country. There is no problem for food now. Everybody is having food now. In fact, food grains are available in surplus now.

Coming to the Public Distribution System, I would like to say that this is an important thing which the Congress Party brought into this country. Now, food is distributed to every village. Subsidy is given to the food grains like rice, wheat and kerosene also, it is given. This is the positive achievement of the Congress Party.

Coming to drinking water, I would say that drinking water is available everywhere. In the name of Rajiv Gandhi Drinking Water Mission, clean drinking water is supplied. This is the achievement of the Congress Party.

Coming to the farmers, my friend Shri Jatiya has said that farmer's name has not been mentioned. Actually, farmers are looked after by the Government today. The State Governments and the Central Government all put together are spending Rs. 50,000 crore on farmers. ...*(Interruptions)* A sum of Rs. 50,000 crore is being spent on the farmers. In the name of providing seed, we are giving good variety of seeds. Farmers are able to produce foodgrains. We have a surplus amount of foodgrains today.

Coming to the breed and milch cattle, I would like to say that now we are able to get milk in abundant quantity. Even a one-litre bottle of water, which we are drinking, costs Rs. 12 whereas actually milk costs Rs. 8 per litre. This is the revolution which the Congress Party has brought about in this country. This is the achievement of the Congress Party.

Coming to fertilizers, anywhere outside the country, fertilizers are very much costlier. In this country, fertilizer is available at a reasonable price. It is reaching every farmer. There is no shortage of fertilizer now.

I now come to the Panchayat Raj System. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: One litre of bottled water costs Rs. 12. Whose contribution is it? ...*(Interruptions)*

DR. CHINTA MOHAN: It is your contribution! ...*(Interruptions)*

I now come to the Panchayat Raj System. When Shri Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru was the Prime Minister in 1956, the Asoka Mehta Committee was formed. After that, we brought the reservations for the women, for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes by bringing an amendment in Parliament 1992. This is the achievement of the Congress party. Today, everywhere, there are Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe *sarpanches*. There are women *sarpanches*. This is the positive contribution which has been made by the Congress Party.

Coming to the Mid-Day Meal Scheme, I would like to say that this is one of the important schemes.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please conclude.

DR. CHINTA MOHAN: Sir, I am taking my Party's time. Please allow me.

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: It has been 20 minutes since you started speaking some other Members of your party also wish to speak. If you want to continue entire time of your party please take their consent. I do not have any objection.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have no objection to that.

DR. CHINTA MOHAN: My Party is with me.

The Mid-Day Meal Scheme is a very important scheme where Poor children in this country studying in the primary schools are getting mid-day meals. This Scheme has been brought by our Party.

Coming to unemployment, this is a very important thing. There are four crore educated unemployed people in this country. In 2001, Shri Yashwant Sinha was the

Finance Minister. He brought the rule of Recruitment Optimisation. We have 40 lakh Central Government direct civil employees in this country. Every year, three per cent of them are retiring. That goes to show that 1,20,000 jobs are falling vacant. But now, they cut 80,000 jobs every year. I would request the hon. Prime Minister and the Chairman of the UPA to remove the words "Recruitment Optimisation" The Government should go in for providing massive employment and see that the poor people who are educated are given jobs.

Coming to the issue of equity, it has been mentioned in the President's Address. In the Common Minimum Programme, particularly for Health, Education and Rural Development, they have set apart Rs. 18,000 crore, Rs. 18,000 crore and Rs. 10,000 crore respectively. In this, I would request the hon. Prime Minister and the Chairman of the UPA that money should be earmarked for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. Of course, the Special Component Plan was there. In the same way, in the Common Minimum Programme, the money that is allotted is Rs. 70,000 crore. This sum of Rs. 70,000 crore equitable portion should be allotted exclusively for the upliftment of Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and the poorer sections. That way, it will be helpful.

The last point which I will mention is a very important point. It is about Indo-Pakistan relationship.

Recently, I happened to go through the newspapers and found that the Left leaders Shri Harkishen Singh Surjeet and Shri A.B. Bardhan had gone to Pakistan. They were there for more than nine days. Never has it happened after partition that Indian leaders had gone to Pakistan and addressed public meetings. They had been addressing public meetings. This is a positive achievement of the UPA Government. Many public meetings were addressed by Comrade Surjeet and Comrade Bardhan. It was allowed by the Government of Pakistan. I was told, they travelled for sixteen hour a day. Comrade Bardhan and Comrade Surjeet travelled sixteen hours a day from Lahore to Islamabad to address public meetings and people attended those meetings in large numbers, to hear them. This is a positive achievement of the UPA Government. This has never happened earlier in these 57 years.

There were also talks between General Musharraf and Comrade Harkishen Singh Surjeet over three rounds. Probably hon. Members sitting on the other side are not aware that three rounds of discussions took place and

they were very cordial. General Musharraf had asked Comrade Surjeet what he wanted. This type of a thing has happened for the first time in 57 years of Independence. I would say that this is an achievement of the UPA Government. Earlier, we used to fight. When General Musharraf came to Agra, they fought with him, he saw the Taj Mahal and went back. Now, when Comrade Surjeet and Comrade Bardhan went there, there was a rousing reception for them. There was a red carpet welcome for them. When Comrade Surjeet was asked what he wanted, he asked for the release of 200 prisoners from his State who were in the prisons of Punjab (Pakistan) and General Musharraf readily agreed to it. This is the achievement. This is the relationship between Pakistan and India today. Sitting in Congress benches, I congratulate the Left leaders. They have given a positive sign and they have brought about friendly relations between India and Pakistan.

With this, I conclude my speech by thanking the hon. President for giving us, in the Central Hall of Parliament, for one hour and fifteen minutes a beautiful Address. I thank the mover and the seconder of the Motion of Thanks and I also thank the Chair for giving me this opportunity.

[Translation]

SHRI SURESH PRABHAKAR PRABHU (Rajapur): Honourable President delivered a long speech. We are here to pass the Motion of Thanks on the same. Our honourable President is one of those for whom we have utmost respect. He had presented an action plan to change the complete scenario of the country. I had hoped his speech would reflect the same and under it we would be able to convert our country into a developed country within 15 years. The present condition of the poor should change, the problem of water should be solved, road should be constructed and we would be capable to link the whole country from one place to another. But unfortunately, there is no such mention in the Address. We know that honourable President Address all the MPs in the beginning of the new year. Honourable Prime Minister Address, the country from Red Fort on the 15th of August. The hon. Finance Minister expresses his views through Budget from their speeches it seems that now all these problems will be solved. But unless there is provision for it in the budget, those words become meaningless. Therefore, first we should think that the head of the State or the head of the Government honourable President or honourable Prime Minister should deliver a

[Shri Suresh Prabhakar Prabhu]

consolidated single speech about the way the Government describe the problems of the country and the plan to deal with them in future. I think this is important.

In this address, 'millennium development goal' is not mentioned, which the Government have signed. The largest number of poor people of the world are living in our country. It is necessary to think over the steps to be taken to eradicate their poverty. After reading the speech one may have the idea that there is nothing like millennium development goal. It also needs to be discussed. We have said that we will seek to solve the problem of water in an integrated way. The assurance given by the honourable Finance Minister in the last budget and as honourable Chinta Maniji said that in 90 per cent of villages water crises did not exist. If all the honourable Members sitting over here also say that there is not any problem of water in 90 per cent of villages then its O.K. If we plan to solve the problem in a similar way in future also even then it is O.K. But the greatest problem in future would be the crisis of water. In village farmers are worried about irrigation of crops. In urban areas people are suffering due to scarcity of drinking water. Women are facing such odds. If we are able to solve the water crisis in near future it will be a great success.

In the Government of India eight Ministries are related to water and they will have to focus on the water crisis. If we wish to solve water problem in an integrated way we need to evolve a single Ministry. It has also been mentioned in the address that flood is causing huge losses in many parts of the country. Rajiv Gandhi research foundation has told that flood affected districts in our country are most backward hence this problem is also related to water. On one hand there is scarcity of water and on the other hand we face the horror of flood. We should formulate a rule with regard to quality of water and decide the standard quality of water.

When we presented the economic survey of the current year, we found that the share of agriculture in GDP has declined by three and a half percent. By this fact we can understand to what extent the income of the farmers has come down. We need to discuss it in detail. Water and agriculture are directly related to each other so we should concentrate more on the problem of water and agriculture.

Some points are not mentioned in the President's address. The hon. Prime Minister has expressed his

concern over the danger to wild life. But in the address it has not been taken up. Previously the number of tigers in our country was 3500. We do not have the updated figures. Environment and wildlife need to be given more attention. The economist magazine has conducted a survey comparing India and China. Previously the comparison was made on the basis of number of elephants. Now it is on the basis of reduced number of tigers in India. Today the country faces the challenge to wild life conservation. Some campaign should be launched for their conservation in the country the Project Tiger was chalked out 26 years back, now it again needs attention. We have made maximum outlay for health and education.

Mr. Chidambaram while talking to a TV channel has stated that outcome is more important than outlay. We agree to it. But measures need to be taken to bring forth the outcome. There is a difference between the funds given and the funds that reach people. This difference will not be reduced unless we make reforms in the delivery mechanism of our bureaucracy. So, this aspect should be accorded top priority. A white paper should be brought out about it. It is necessary to think about entire bureaucracy in the coming months and years. We want to keep it in perspective when we talk about bureaucracy. The percentage of bureaucracy is very small in comparison with population of the country. It is very small even in comparison with any country or any other Asian country. But, what is the need for bringing about change in it? The present trend to promote bureaucracy is based on their batches, which has been categorised according to the year of their induction. It means that their promotion is not based on their good work and performances. But on the length of their service to the nation. So, there is a need a change it by introducing a provision. There is something interconnected with it which I want to elaborate. Regarding Science and Technology sector, it is said that future of India is very bright. We are seeing the result of our investment made in the sector of Science and Technology. The Department of Science and Technology of the Government is not making provisions to attract fresh talents and scientists. The people who joined these departments 15-20 years ago, were technically trained by some different methods that existed that time. At present, they are promoted on the basis of the skill acquired by them when they were university students. This is a dangerous situation for the country. Our hon. President is an eminent international scientist and as far as the subjects mentioned in his speech are concerned, I believe that many provisions are needed and emphasis should

be given to increase the manpower as well as the facilities for them.

No concern has been shown on our ever increasing population. Perhaps we are thinking that the rate of increase of population is a good omen for our country. When we possess only 4 per cent of available fresh water resources and 17 per cent of world's population, it will naturally create water problem and the key to solve the water problem lies in checking population. So, I want to ask whether we give priority to anything or not? If priority is to be given to an important issue, it should be reflected in President's Address.

The issue of the promotion of incentives and disincentives is being discussed in the country for a very long time. We expect from the Government to initiate debate about the plan for advancing it in his direction.

The whole country is worried over the serious condition of farmers in the country and the House has also expressed its concerns. It has declined by three and a half percent. I do not believe in the theory that one can solve the problems of farmers by increasing the number of loans being provided to them. One should pay attention to the means by which the earnings of farmers can be increased. We are not paying attention to that. That plan of the Ministry of Agriculture in this regard should be more extensive and their outlay should be increased. I had read about the action plans in the newspapers. It should also be changed and provision should be made in the budget. There is outlay in the budget provided by the Finance Minister. But, the speech delivered by the Prime Minister and the President does not incorporate budget provisions. It will be beneficial if all these three speeches are integrated to solve this problem.

In the Economic Survey released just after the President's Speech, concern has been expressed on various other issues. We cannot expand business and provide employment to the people unless we change the entry and exit route for business.

It is necessary to provide more and more employment in the country. These concerns should be addressed in such a way that manufacturing activities are increased. Entry-Exit Rule has been discussed but it finds no mention in policy. I want it to be addressed. Footwear, soft toys, electronic goods and textiles—these sectors have the highest employment potential. The Government has told

about creating special economic zone. An economic zone for a particular product should be created in the entire country so that lakhs of employment opportunities can be provided. We should follow the example of China which has made progress in low value added manufacturing so that value addition is made only through labour and which can lead to an increase in the number of employees. If the Government sincerely wants to implement the points made in the President's Address, it should provide an action plan on all the issues.

Energy security is an area of grave concern for us. It will be crude joke for a poor country like us if one has to buy petroleum at the rate of 53 or 54 dollars per barrel. A great deal of action is needed in this regard. It is appreciable that we are exploring other countries for oil. We should raise the component of our renewable energy at the rate of ten per cent. The issue of energy security should be the top priority for us. In future, the component of renewable energy will be more than 25 per cent. It should get first priority in execution so that prices are reduced. For this purpose, investment in R&D is necessary. Hydro system is also necessary for the smooth functioning of solar system and wind system during day and night respectively. It will need a lot of investment.

Nuclear energy also needs a great deal of advancement in the near future. We have made a target of producing 20,000 megawatt of nuclear energy up to year 2020. We can adopt fast breeder reactor technology to address energy security in our country. We should pay attention to energy mix for security. Only then, we can keep ourselves focused about energy security and we shall be able to make changes therein.

[English]

*SARDAR SUKHDEV SINGH DHINDSA (Sangrur): Honourable Deputy Speaker Sir, I thank you for the opportunity given to me to speak on the Motion of Thanks on the President's address to Parliament. First of all, I would like to talk about a positive aspect of the address. I would like to associate myself with Honourable member who talked about improvement in India's relations with her neighbours. Sir, India's relations with her neighbours have never been good. So much so that although we played a major part in the creation of Bangladesh and shed our blood for that cause, still we do not have friendly relations even with Bangladesh. And it further spoiled our relations with Pakistan. So, any improvement in our

*Translation of the speech originally delivered in Punjabi.

[Sardar Sukhdev Singh Dhindsa]

relations with Pakistan is a step in the right direction. My Party, the Shiromani Akali Dal has always been in favour of friendly relations between India and Pakistan. First of all, this matter was initiated by Shri I.K. Gujral. Later on, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee continued with this process and he started the 'Bus-Diplomacy' to Lahore. I congratulate the Prime Minister Sardar Manmohan Singh that his Government has tried to further improve our relations with Pakistan. It should be commended. Today, we can see that the love and affection of people of Indian Punjab and Pakistani Punjab for each other is increasing and sports like Cricket, Hockey, Kabaddi and cultural exchanges are playing a major role in it. It will exert further pressure of the Governments of both the countries to further improve relations between both the countries.

Secondly, Sir, I want to highlight the saga of injustice that was meted out to Punjab. Prime Minister Manmohan Singh is present here today. Deputy Speaker Sir, Punjabis, especially Sikhs have played a pivotal role during the pre-independence era in the struggle for gaining independence for India. It is a record in itself. I would like to quote some figures. In the struggle for gaining independence, 121 people were hanged. Out of them, 93 were Sikhs. 2646 people got life-imprisonment. Out of them, 2147 were Sikhs. In the Jallianwallah Bagh massacre, 1300 people were shot dead. Out of them, 799 were Sikhs. During the Kuka agitation, 91 people were martyred. All 91 of them were Sikhs. During the Akali movement for getting freed the Gurudwaras, 500 people attained martyrdom. All 500 of them were Sikhs. And in 1925, Mahatma Gandhi had congratulated the then Akali Chief Baba Kharak Singh when the Gurudwara Act was passed that you have won India's first war. But, unfortunately, injustice was meted out to Punjab ever since independence. Punjab and Andhra had to fight for their rights to get a language-based state. Only after a lot of struggle could we get the Punjabi-Speaking State. But, another injustice was meted out to Punjab. Many Punjabi Speaking areas remained outside Punjab. Chandigarh, which rightly belonged to Punjab, was not given to Punjab. Unfortunately, Punjab is the only State whose capital is a Union Territory.

Another point that has been emphasised in the President's address is water. It has been called a national resource. As far as the river-water of Punjab is concerned, Haryana and Rajasthan are not riparian States and hence, they have no right over the river-water of Punjab. But, in 1955, an agreement was signed. At that time, the World Bank was breathing down our neck. I want to quote this

instance. Shri Kanwar Sen, was the architect of this agreement. I want to quote a Statement given by him in 1982:

"Shri Kanwar Sen, former Chairman of the Central Water and Power Commission, feels that the Akali demand for the reopening of the river water issue is fully justified as the State was not given its due share. Mr. Sen was the architect of the 1955 Agreement reached between Punjab and Rajasthan on the utilisation of surplus water of Ravi and Beas rivers. He had drafted the Agreement. Mr. Sen was consulted by the Union Minister of State for Irrigation, Mr. R.N. Murad, on Wednesday on this issue. He told ENS that though he had a soft corner towards Rajasthan and Haryana, he felt that the Akalis demand was justified. He said that the entire issue should now be referred to the Inter-State River Water Tribunal for their view. Even the 1955 Agreement should be reopened, he said. Mr. Sen said, the 1955 Agreement was done in a hurry because of certain pressures. A World Bank term was to come for inspection of the areas. The Project of the Rajasthan Canal was also prepared in a hurry to overcome certain issues, Mr. Sen said in the 1955 Agreement. He had given a note stating that the realities about the assessment of the requirement may be different. This was done because decisions had to be taken before the arrival of the World Bank team, therefore, this Agreement should be reopened."

So, this statement was given by a person who had drafted this agreement.

Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, I want to give two more instances. When Madras was divided between Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu, then the water of rivers Krishna, Godavari and Cauveri was not divided between these two States. The riparian principle was followed when Bombay was divided between Gujarat and Maharashtra, then also, the water of rivers Narmada, Mahi, Tapti and Sabarnati was not divided. So, only Punjab suffered injustice in the matter of river water.

An honourable member talked about the condition of the farmers. Sir, what is happening to the farmers of Punjab? Prior to 1966, foodgrains were imported from Australia and U.S.A. Then the Punjabi farmers rose to the occasion and ushered in the Green Revolution. Sir, Punjab comprises of just 1.5% land of India but we provide more than 50% foodgrains in the Central Pool.

Earlier, we were begging for foodgrains from foreign countries. Later on, our granaries were over-flowing with foodgrains. Instead of providing facilities to Punjabi farmers, even his share of river water was snatched away from him. So, honourable Prime Minister Sir, kindly put an end to the injustice that has been meted out to Punjab.

Honourable Shri Ram Gopalji has rightly pointed out that after the assassination of Shrimati Indira Gandhi, thousands of Sikhs were killed in riots but none was punished for this crime. For three days continuously, this massacre of Sikhs continued. Army was called in but it was not given orders to control mob-violence. Police officials were asked not to lodge any F.I.R. Sir, over 4000 innocent Sikhs were butchered in Delhi alone. These were not riots. These were beastly and barbaric killings and nobody was punished. How can the Sikhs think about justice in such circumstances? The earlier Government did nothing. Later on, the NDA Government constituted the Nanavati Commission to give justice to Sikhs. Sir, the report of the Commission probing the Gujarat riots was published and made public the day it was submitted. I do not oppose it. But the Nanavati Commission report has not seen the light of the day, Why? I demand that this report be made public, so that justice is done to the Sikhs. Prime Minister Manmohan Singh is a Sikh. So, we hope that he will put an end to this injustice and provide justice to Sikhs.

Sir, how much time is left for me?

16.00 hrs.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please wind up. Please conclude within two-three minutes.

SARDAR SUKHDEV SINGH DHINDSA: Sir, recently, elections were held in Punjab. The State Government indulged in booth-capturing, and rigging with the help of its muscle-men. When Sardar Parkash Singh Badal, accompanied by his MLAs, wanted to meet the Honourable Governor to lodge a complaint, the Punjab Government ordered the police to resort to water-cannons and lathi-charge. These responsible people were insulted. Their turbans fell down. Such was the state of affair. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Ranaji, take your seat. Please conclude.

SARDAR SUKHDEV SINGH DHINDSA: Sir, another point I want to raise in regarding the young men of

Punjab. They want to migrate to foreign countries for employment. The miserable condition of Punjab is before all of us. Economy is in shambles. Sir, hundreds of our young men are rotting in the jails of Pakistan. They should be released. The Government should talk to Pakistan. Some time ago, the Chief Minister of Pakistani Punjab was here. He had said in my presence that the Pakistan Government is ready to run a bus from Nankana Sahib to Amritsar. Our Government should talk to Pakistan on this issue. If a bus can ply to Muzaffarabad, it should run for Nankana Sahib also.

Sir, another important matter is the issue of ban on wearing of turbans imposed on Sikhs in France. A law has been passed in France forbidding Sikh students from wearing turbans. Sir, turbans are an integral part of Sikh religion. We have brought this issue to the notice of our Prime Minister also. We should raise this matter with the French Government.

Sir, in 1984, when Blue-Star Operation took place, the sentiments of Sikhs were hurt. A lot of young men gave inflammatory speeches. They were incited by others. Many of them were blacklisted. They were residing in foreign countries. We want that this list should be reviewed. Many young men were not even Khalistanis. Those who are innocent should be dropped from this list.

I want to make another request. We want that the Rs. 8500 crore burden on Punjab that was waived off by Shri I.K. Gujral in principle, should be implemented. The Centre is responsible for implementing this. Centre should bear this entire cost, not Punjab. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI GURJEET SINGH RANA: I agree to what he has stated just now only regarding waiver of Rs. 8500 crore.

(Translation)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record except the speech of Dhindsaji.

...(*Interruptions*)*

(English)

SARDAR SUKHDEV SINGH DHINDSA: We welcome all steps taken in this direction. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is our good fortune that the Prime Minister is present here today. Injustice that was done to Punjab should be removed. Justice should be done to Punjab. Our demands should be met. This is my humble request.

* Not recorded.

[*Translation*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon'ble Members, have to attend the meeting of the Business Advisory Committee right now. No one is present here from the panel of chairmen. I therefore, request Shri Kinjarapu Yerrannaaidu to conduct the House.

1608 hrs.

[SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU *in the Chair*]

SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY (Basirhat): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. After losing some valuable time, we are now resuming our discussion on the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address. Sir, I convey my gratitude to the hon. *Mahamahim Rashtrapatiji* for his Address before the Joint Session of Parliament in the new year.

Hon. President in his speech has expressed his view that this Government is determined to maintain peace and communal harmony. He also expressed his view in his speech that his Government would maintain secularism and secular fabric of our country. Secularism is the basis of our country. Secularism and secular fabric are in our culture and heritage. We, Indians, are all proud of it. But I am sorry to say that during the rule of the NDA Government headed by the BJP Party, they had destroyed and demolished our culture, heritage of our country and the secular fabric of our Constitution. The best instance is Gujarat. I do not want to narrate all the incidents of Gujarat because all of us are very much acquainted with the Gujarat incidents.

Taking the plea of Godhra incident, they started massacre in Gujarat under the leadership of the Chief Minister of Gujarat. I would not call it a situation of riot. I would say that they resorted to genocide in Gujarat. As per the Report of Justice Banerji, what happened in Godhra is a clear and transparent incident.

Our hon. Rashtrapatiji has mentioned in his speech that his Government is determined to extend a good relationship with the neighbouring countries like Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Nepal and other countries. He has also expressed that the UPA Government will continue the foreign policy of peaceful co-existence in the world started by the earlier Government headed by Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru. Just now, my distinguished colleague Dr. Chinta Mohan mentioned during the course of his speech about the two great leaders, that is, the CPI General Secretary Shri A.B. Bardhan and the CPM

General Secretary Comrade Harkishan Singh Surjeet. They had visited Pakistan and met the President Pervez Musharraf, the External Affairs Minister and other Pakistani leaders. They had a very good deliberation and fruitful discussion with them. As a result of that, a large number of Indian prisoners were released. We welcome this type of peaceful mission with the neighbouring countries.

After the Independence, when the Government was formed under the leadership of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, we, the Communist Party of India, had certain differences with the Congress Government. We had fought in the streets against the misdeeds and misrule of the then Congress rule. But we wholeheartedly supported the foreign policy of the then Government, the policy that was initiated by Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru. He was the leader of the world peace movement along with President Sukharno and President Nasser. We salute Pandit Nehru because he was the leader of peace movement of the world. We are proud of his policy as a nation and as a citizen of India. It is not only that. When the British and the French imperialism attacked Egypt taking the plea of Suez Canal, our Indian Government took the bold stand against this attack when the Americans attacked Vietnam. They tried to destroy the mankind of Vietnam. The Indian Government took the bold stand and protested against the barbarism of the American imperialism. But, I am sorry to say that during the regime of the NDA Government headed by Shri Atalji, when the Iraq was attacked by American imperialism headed by President Bush, our Government did not raise any protest against this barbarism, against this attack. I am sorry to say that our Prime Minister always bowed down and was always ready to appease the American imperialism. He always bowed down before President Bush. Mr. Chairman, Sir, you can recollect from your memory that we failed to adopt any resolution unanimously condemning the American attack on Iraq. This was the role played by the NDA Government headed by the BJP and its leader Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee.

Sir, we are supporting this Government. We are not part and parcel of this Government. We, the Communist Party of India and other Left parties are supporting this Government on the basis of some Common Minimum Programme. This UPA Government will implement and execute the Common Minimum Programme. If they fail to implement the Common Minimum Programme or shift from the Common Minimum Programme, certainly, we shall protest both within the House and outside the House.

In his Address, hon. Rashtrapatiji has mentioned so many aspects of our country, from Rural India to the cities, from the farmers to the workers. He has mentioned different aspects of lives in our country. But I am sorry to say that some matters have still been left out in his Address. For example, he did not mention a single word about the agricultural workers, who are the most downtrodden people of the country. Thirty-seven per cent of the total population of the country is the agriculture workers. But they do not have their own land, they are working on others' land and, they are not getting their remunerative wages. They are not getting jobs throughout the year. They are very much deprived even after 50 years of our Independence.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, we observe our Independence very gloriously but I am sorry to say that we have failed to bring any comprehensive legislation for the welfare of the agricultural workers, for the downtrodden people of our country. Not only that, there is not a slightest mention about the workers in the unorganised sector, about the persons who are working as bidi workers, who are working as construction workers and who are working as rickshaw pullers. In his Address, the workers of the unorganised sector have been totally neglected.

Sir, there is one more thing which has been totally left in the Address of the hon. Rashtrapatiji. It is about the 33 per cent reservation for women, that is Women Reservation Bill. Insofar as I recollect my memory, I have gone through 60-page long Address of the hon. Rashtrapatiji, and there is not a slightest mention about the Women Reservation Bill. Yesterday, we all observed the Internal women's Day. We, the Left parties, even the Congress party, even the BJP, and even, Mr. Chairman, Sir, your party have expressed giving the unconditional support to the passing of the Women Reservation Bill giving 33 per cent reservation to women. But I am very sorry to say that, we have not been able to pass this Bill up till now. I am really very sorry that there is no mention about the Women Reservation Bill in the Address of the hon. Rashtrapatiji.

Now, I come to another very important point, which has not been covered in the Address of the hon. Rashtrapatiji. It is the jute industry. The jute industry is one of the age-old and the biggest industries of our country. It is not only the West Bengal, but there are many States, namely, Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Jharkhand, Tripura, Orissa, which are the major jute growing States of our country. But I am sorry to say that

the jute growers of our country are not getting any remunerative prices.

Sir, there are a large number of jute industries in West Bengal at both the banks of the Ganges near Kolkata where thousands of workers are coming for employment from various parties of the country including Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Assam, Tripura and Andhra Pradesh. But all these jute industries are closed now, and due to their closure, thousands and thousands of workers have been thrown out of their jobs. They are living under a blue sky. Even some of them have committed suicides due to frustration and due to hunger. They cannot provide food to their children and their inmates. But I am sorry to say that nothing about the jute industries has been mentioned in the Address of the hon. Rashtrapatiji.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am happy that the hon. Prime Minister is also present in the House. As we have told earlier, we are supporting this UPA Government on the basis of the National Common Minimum Programme. But if this Government invites the FDI, we are strongly opposed to this move. Our viewpoint may differ with some others viewpoints, I do not know. But we oppose it.

Sir, our telecom sector, our banking sector and our oils sector are the pride of our nation. BSNL is the largest telecom sector of India. It has the largest network in comparison to other telecom sectors of the country. It is earning huge profits also. Similarly, our public sector banks and the oil sectors are also earning huge profits. We are all proud of all these sectors and they are the pride of our nation. But in spite of all this, this UPA Government, I am sorry to say, is violating and defying the National Common Minimum Programme. They are trying to invite the FDI in these sectors. About the FDI, we the left parties—and I hope many other like-minded parties—will oppose this move on the floor and outside the floor of the House.

The working class of this country, the employees of this country in different sectors have decided to launch movements against this anti-people policy. In spite of my very many reservations, I convey my gratitude to the hon. Rashtrapatiji, and with reservations, I support the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address.

SHRI B. MAHTAB (Cuttack): Respected Sir, it is for the first time perhaps in Indian parliamentary democracy that we are discussing the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address after the General Budget has been read out to us in this House. Seldom this has happened earlier.

What led to the exigency is not left to anybody's imagination. A mini referendum has been conducted after

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the UPA Government has come to occupy the seat of power here at the Centre, and that reflects the situation that is at hand. However, I am reminded about the centuries old colourful evolution of the Westminster, where the Joint Session of two Houses of Parliament is a defining parliamentary event and it has been enshrined in Article 87 of the Constitution of India. Through this Article 87, the President of India addresses both the Houses of Parliament assembled together and informs the Parliament of the causes of the summons.

More importantly, Article 87 (2) provides that the Parliament shall discuss the matters referred to in the President's Address and it entitles us to discuss what is referred to in the Address by the President. The Joint Session of two Houses of Parliament is conventionally the only occasion when the President is in the Parliament and the President's Address is a substantive document, a blueprint of the plan and programmes of the UPA Government. But I am disappointed and I am sad. I will give you my reasons.

First is the tsunami tragedy which struck us like a thunderbolt. Tragic losses of human lives and destruction of property have left a scar. Despite advancement of science, flow of information was so slow that thousands of people perished in the mainland hours after it had struck the islands of Andaman and Nicobar and the coastal areas of South East Asian countries.

There is no mention about the human error that occurred in deciphering the little information that trickled in, nor was there any attempt to understand the impact of the earthquake which was followed by tsunami, which occurred nearly four hours after the quake. There is a mention to convert this tragedy into an opportunity and to modernise the maritime economy and to protect the coastal ecology. But how? There is no direction to that purpose. Rather, it seems to me, it is just a wishful thinking. A Central legislation on disaster management is mooted, and an Authority is to be formed through that legislation. Creating another Authority, to my mind, will not serve the purpose. Rather empowering the State apparatus and better coordination at the Union level would be more helpful.

If the Meteorological Department, Science and Technology plus Ocean Development Ministry could not coordinate among themselves, how would one authority serve that purpose? Does the Government intend to bring a Disaster Management Authority which would directly

deal with the affected people overriding the States? If it can only function with the cooperation of the State apparatus, then what is the meaning of a Central Authority? My apprehension is, there is a tendency to encroach upon the basic aspects of the State and thereby weaken the federal structure of the country. Different States, no doubt, ask for help, support from the Centre when calamity strikes. But this should not become an excuse to trample upon the right of the States that are enshrined by our forefathers in the Constitution.

I would like to raise another point and this refers to the fiscal position of my State and also to other States which are weak financially. In Para eight of hon. President's speech, he has mentioned that the Government is committed to a caring polity and a sharing economy. It is further mentioned that this is the essence of National Common Minimum Programme of the UPA, which is also supported by the Left. During last nine months, my State Orissa has been neglected in all spheres. In case of Orissa, this Government has maintained an excluding policy, neither it has cared during our need, nor it has shared our agony. The loan outstanding by last March was Rs. 31,634 crore which constitutes 61 per cent of the GSDP. For your information, I may mention that the interest payment in 2003-04 amounts to Rs. 2860 crore which constitutes as high as 30 per cent of the revenue receipt. The huge debt stock and consequently the unsustainable debt servicing liabilities are the stumbling blocks for attaining the fiscal sustainability. Therefore, the Union Government should restructure its huge debt stock. Already, different States, including Orissa, have swapped high cost loans. The interest relief on account of such swap should be calculated from the date of swapping and not at the commencement of the next financial year. This amounts to double payment of interest. Further, I may mention that for States like Orissa, mere debt swapping will not help because out of the total loan outstanding of Rs. 31,634 crore by last March end, the Government of India loans amount to Rs. 12,462 crore. Of total Central Government loans, Rs. 7,556 crore consists of loan with a high rate of interest varying from 12 per cent to 14 per cent. Therefore, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the Prime Minister that 50 per cent of such high cost loan should be written off and balance 50 per cent be swapped with interest rate of around seven to eight per cent per annum. At the same time, I would also demand for the high indebted States like Orissa, the ratio of grant and loan for the State Plan assistance be changed from 30:70 to 50:50 at least for five years and

the existing rate of interest of nine per cent on loans should be reduced to align with the present market rate of seven to eight per cent.

I would also like to draw the attention of this House to another anomaly that is being meted out by the Centre. Last year, hon. Finance Minister in his Budget Speech, 2004-05 had announced considering passing on external assistance to States on back to back basis. When there is stocktaking of the situation and a balance sheet is being drawn through hon. President's Address, can anyone say from the Treasury Benches what has happened towards this assurance? There is no mention of it in the President's Address. This is the case of all the States. In the case of Orissa, I may say, at present, the rate of interest on loan portion of additional Central Assistance for the externally aided project is 9 per cent with effect from last fiscal. The Government is receiving IDA money at a nominal rate of 0.75 per cent. In the case of IBRD money, the market rate of interest is 5 to 6 per cent. The rate of interest on market borrowing varies from 5.6 per cent in April last to 7.3 per cent in December. Is there not a justification to reduce the existing rate of interest on loan portion of the Central Assistance and other State plan assistance from 6 per cent to 7 per cent?

Now I come to the most oft repeated slogan which has been repeatedly done by the Finance Minister later on which is about 'Bharat Nirman'. The makers of the Constitution, in their wisdom, had proclaimed 'India that is Bharat' and here in this Speech Bharat means the Rural India. Since when has Bharat been identified with poverty and backwardness? It is only a western concept, if not Sicilian, which has a tendency to look down upon us. Should we also be influenced by that propaganda? We have built a resurgent India where there is no distinction between India and Bharat. During the last six years of NDA rule, the investment in rural India has been manifold and around 65 per cent of the budgetary allocation has been spent in rural areas. Telecommunication, roads, electricity, housing and water supply had been properly looked into. Rather it is under the UPA Government, it has gone haywire. Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana has virtually stopped in midway and expansion of landline telephones is not progressing at all. There is no direction in increasing the irrigation potentiality.

The Employment Guarantee Scheme which was touted provide large scale employment to the rural poor,

has been confined to only 150 districts that too in making provision of providing employment to one person of a family for 100 days only. Is it not a joke?

1634 hrs.

(SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN *in the Chair*)

At the same time, I would like to mention here how others view us. India is emerging as a center of knowledge and international magazine of repute like, *New Scientists* are publishing cover stories on India's advances in science and technology. There has been a dramatic change in the way India is perceived. One still comes across reports which states immunization kills infants because due to lack of fire-wood or electricity, sterilisation of needles was not done.

Yet India's achievements have changed the Westerner's concept about us. It was decades ago that Indian scientists and medical doctors exposed the West to our skills in universities, hospitals and key institutions, ranging from NASA to the National Institute of Health.

When India exploded the nuclear bomb for the second time, we attracted serious attention. When five year ago, the then ISRO Chairman, Dr. K. Kasturirangan talked about India's moon mission, some in the West saw it as an ill-advised foray by an uppity developing country that cannot provide clean drinking water to its people.

But should we forget that the UK developed the bomb when Britons were queuing up for breads and eggs and America took up even more expensive scientific projects when the high infant mortality in Harlem could have been brought down with one-millionth of that money? But one is amused not to find a single reference to India's moon mission in the President's speech. Has *Chandrayan* been abandoned or is it intentionally not mentioned? When there is a marked attitudinal change in the Western media, what is happening to the Government? Does the Government intend to build *Bharat* by this type of selected insomnia?

Madam, Chairman, I would conclude in two to three minutes time. Orissa has been neglected for last many decades. The BJD Government in the State is striving hard with the whole-hearted support from others to improve the situation. Our contention is that we have all the criteria to get a special category status. The basic idea of Five Year Plan and yearly budgetary allocation is

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to provide adequate support to the weak States in order to enable them to come forward and be developed. But what special steps have been taken for States like Orissa where people living below the poverty line is 47 per cent as compared to the nation-wide average of 26 per cent? I do not feel elated to mention these figures, rather I am ashamed and so also, I believe, all the other Members who are sitting on the other side. The rate at which poverty has been decreasing is also one of the slowest across the Indian States. The per capita income in real terms is roughly half the national average. The incidence of chronic poverty is also pathetic. Close to 40 per cent of poor come under the 'very poor category'—below three-fourths of the poverty line—while close to 50 per cent of the 'non-poor' have incomes that place them marginally above the poverty line. I do not find any reference in his Address about how to tackle this problem.

Madam, Chairman, I would like to draw the attention of the House, through you, about spending of Government money. I say this with full responsibility. The KBK region has been a recipient of aid from bilateral agencies for development work and so also the North-Eastern States and the State of Jammu and Kashmir. A lot of money has been provided and is being provided but this has little impact on poverty rates. Is it not necessary to identify wasteful expenditures in a sound and analytical way before spending this money? But there does not seem to be any urgency in this. Nobel prize winning Economist Ed Prescott recently said that good Government policies come from experience and experience comes from poor policy.

When will this Government recognize their policy? Unless they do that, they can never get experience and, without experience, we cannot have good policies.

With these words, I conclude my speech.

[Translation]

SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA' (Almora): I have submitted Motion from Sr. No. 160 to 189 for amendments in the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address. Several things have been mentioned in the President's Address and generally it dwells on the programmes of the Central Government. A matter of grave concern emerges when the latest data of census are analysed from various angles.

The population control is the most formidable task before the country. But there is no trace of it in this

Address as to what measures are being taken by the Government to control the increasing population. The intellectuals and economists of this country are of the view that how so much ever development programmes or the schemes for housing and employment generation we may chalk out, control on population is a must for their success. Many a Members bring in their Private Member's Bill. I also think that measures aiming at population control should be taken, but I am not aware of any initiative being taken by the Government in this direction. In this connection, the Supreme Court of India have issued a directive and I being a Member of the BJP also of the opinion that a uniform Civil Code is essential for population control. The BJP had made a reference of it in its manifesto and the vision document during the elections of 2004.

The framers of the Constitution of our country have made a reference under Article 44 of the Constitution or formulation of a uniform Civil Code. That is in the national interest and the Supreme Court of India have issued directions on various occasions on this very issue. The Supreme Court have expressed its serious concern over this matter in Sarla Mudgal case. Unless we have uniform Civil Code, especially uniform laws regarding inheritance and marriage in the country, it would not be possible to make the population control a complete success. We talk of the China model and adopting the ideal of the one family one child norm. But it would not be possible to do without uniform Civil Code. It is not possible that you have four wives and have one or two children. Since it is the Supreme House of the country it is therefore, the only appropriate place where this matter can be discussed and I hope that U.P.A. Government will take some definite steps in this direction. The concrete programmes and policies in this direction can materialize only when there is profound political thinking over the issue. There is nothing new in the programmes you have mentioned.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Please, do not discuss with each other. The mutual discussion will not go on record.

*...(Interruptions)**

SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA': None of the Schemes is new which are being implemented at present by the Government.

It could be 'Pradhanmatri Gramodya, Yojana'. Golden Quadrilateral Yojana', North-South-East-West Corridor Yojana' or the Schemes envisaged by the NDA Government for farmers and the poor people as well as

* Not recorded.

the Schemes for the upliftment of the villages, rural electrification and the Gram Sadak Yojana for construction of roads. Had your Government furthered all these schemes, the development in the country would have been seen taking place. But, unfortunately that is not in sight.

Recently a serious matter has come to our notice. Some of the State Governments got published advertisements on the birth anniversary of late Shri Rajiv Gandhi ji and the Supreme Court of India have served notices to State Governments to explain as to why they have spent the funds from the exchequer on it. The hearing in the case is going on and it has been posted for the next hearing.

There has been a reference to inflation being in control. But the retail prices in the market do not show any such trend. The commodities of daily use are available at double prices. The prices of sugar have doubled. The kersone oil is not available. 'Gur' is a commodity of mass consumption for the farmer. It's prices have also shot up. During the nine months regime of this Government the prices of commodities have doubled. We fail to appreciate their claim that they have controlled the price rise.

Antyodya Swasthya Yojana and 'Antyodya Anna Yojana were introduced by the NDA Government. It seems that the present Government is trying to continue the old programmes by renaming the old schemes.

I have moved a motion of amendment that Jammu and Kashmir has been granted a status of special category state under Article 370. There is a separate Council for the development of the North-East States. 10 per cent of the country's total budget is being spent there. Only two states remain—Uttaranchal and Himachal Pradesh, which have been called the Mid-Himalayan region. But no funds have been provided for them and neither they have been given any special economic package. I demand that the Government should think in this regard and devise a separate programme for their development.

A mention of bio-fuel has also been made in this Address. But it is not known what would be the contours of the Programme in that direction. The NDA Government had recommended a scheme of Rs. 1430 crores to the Planning Commission for this programme. But the present Government has scuttled the whole programme. My demand is that something needs to be done in the direction of developing alternative sources of energy in the country.

The topic of National Horticulture has also been touched. But, no policy has been finalised for this. The National horticulture Technology Mission is already there, which also requires attention. The NDA Government had started programme of interlinking of rivers. Our Government had started this programme for the purposes of irrigation, power, tourism and for getting rid of the problems of floods and drought in the country. That too has been discontinued. I think that the present Government have impeded the progress to be made in that regard in the times to come.

A mention of Rural electrification has also been made. But instead of increasing, the funds earmarked earlier for it are being reduced. The target of achieving electrification of all villages till 2007 fixed by the previous Government is also being extended by 2 years till 2009. It seems that funds are not being honestly allocated for that.

The non Banking Financial Companies are operating in the country with the guarantee of the Reserve Bank of India. Money deposited with these companies by the people particularly those living in the rural areas. Subsequently, these companies also disappear after collecting the hard earned money of the people like the chit fund companies. The Government are not providing relief to those people who have invested their money and do not get the return. The Finance Minister has categorically stated that the Government of India cannot do anything in this regard.

I demand that the Government should consider in this regard and the interest of rural people making small saving should be protected.

The words communalism and secularism have been mentioned in the President's Address. The amendment regarding concept of secular state is the outcome of the emergency. The people with communist ideology moved motion for amending the Constitution and as a result of the motion the term 'secular' is added in the preamble of the Constitution. Had the country not been a secular or it became secular only after formation of the Government. We people believe in cultural nationalism and as far as the term 'Hindutva' is concerned I would like to say that at the main gate of the Parliament House it is inscribed:

"Ayyam Nijjah Parovati Ganana Laghu Chetsam,
Udar Charitanam Tu Vasudhev Kutumbkam"

We believe in 'Sarve Bhavantu Sukhin'. *i.e.* be all happy. Our country is five thousand years old. You say

[Shri Bachi Singh Rawat 'Bachda']

that we are communal but it does not mean that we are really communal. Our idea of Hindutva is secularism itself. But, you people discuss at your own level, indulge in horse—trading, appease a particular community to get their votes. Divide and rule is the policy of the Congress. It is the responsibility of the House to strengthen the democracy ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Rawatji, please do not listen to all these things.

[English]

Please address the Chair. Do not listen to all these things.

...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM CHAIRMAN: There should be no cross-talk in the House.

...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record except the speech of Shri Bachi Singh Rawat 'Bachda'.

...*(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA': The Supreme Court have directed that nominated Anglo-Indian Member cannot cast his vote in the Jharkhand assembly ...*(Interruptions)*. The Supreme Court have intervened because democracy was going to be murdered. Therefore, the Judiciary has given protection ...*(Interruptions)*. The NDA Government had announced an industrial package for Uttaranchal and Himachal Pradesh. There are three types of donor. The UPA Government instead of providing further assistance has brought down the package period from 10 years to 6 years. Gross injustice has been meted out to the people of Uttaranchal and Himachal Pradesh. I have demanded that the Government should amend its policy. It is sensitive area and it is adjacent to Nepal. Maoist activities are taking place there. It is injustice to cut down the industrial package of that area. There are Government of Congress Party both at Uttaranchal as well as at the Centre. The NDA Government take care of the interest of the whole country but you have cut down this package for your own interest. The public of that area demand that the package should be restored.

I have mentioned that cultural nationalism is our motto and Unitarianism is our political thought. A motley of

divergent principle-parties of alliance does not have any specific thought, philosophy, policy and direction. May good sense prevail on them and they may be imbibed with the feeling that "Idam Na Mamah Rashtrayya Savaha" and do work for the nation. There should be good communication system in the country. I wish your all success continuing and in proceeding the activities introduced by the NDA Government. Thank you, I also stress upon the amendments suggested by me on the President's Address.

CHAUDHARY LAL SINGH (Udhampur): Hon. Madam Chairman, with your permission, I support the President's Address and I rise to support it. I would like to give some suggestions. The whole country, the countrymen and the politicians cutting across party lines extended their assistance for relief and rehabilitation of the Tsunami victims. I congratulate all those people who have done this commendable work of relief and rehabilitation. We had not forgotten this tragedy and an abnormal situation emerged in Jammu and Kashmir. It witnessed snowfall and rain. I would like to tell about the recent situation. Even today, it has been raining there. Some parts of the Jammu-Kashmir and Doda are witnessing snowfall. The situation has deteriorated, the snowfall and rain have caused severe damage there. I thank the Army personnel, the para-military forces, the air force and the civil Government officials who put their lives at stake and saved the lives of many people. By providing connectivity they helped many people to reach their own homes. All these activities took place under the prime leadership of Shrimati Sonia Gandhi, She is the Chairperson of the UPA Government. The hon. Prime Minister, Home Minister, Defence Minister and Urban Development Minister worked under her Chairmanship. All the leaders of our state reached there and took stock of the situation there. They provided relief to the people of that area. Even today, the people of our State are thankful to them. I would like to remind you that whether it is Chhatisinghpura incident or Pathankot incident or incident of attacks on Gujjars, Sikhs and Hindus, whenever the situation worsened and there was loss of lives and poverty in our state Jammu and Kashmir, Madam Sonia Gandhi and her team helped us and gave us her blessings. It would be injustice if I do not thank her today in this House. I would like to thank the hon. Prime Minister Shri Manmohan Singh and his entire team.

We have our disaster management. Whenever any problem arises in Hindustan, whether it is natural unnatural at that time we contemplate as to how to tackle the

* Not recorded.

situation. We ought to have disaster management committee so that we can cope with the situation as and when it deteriorates. There should be disaster management committee of army, police and civil authorities also. There should be three or four such core groups so that we can overcome these situations.

My constituency is the largest constituency of India, Doda is a district spread in the area of 12 thousand square kilometers. There are two other districts. I want to talk about Doda only. Funds issued by the Government never reach the people here. Funds given to other districts are not for our use while there are districts of only 4 thousand kilometer area. Doda district should be extended two three more districts so that it can get justice. It should be included in the other districts that will be made. One of my colleagues said Jammu-Kashmir has been given package. He felt bad about it without considering that our 70 thousand brave young men have died. You know the large scale devastation and destruction that took place. Some patriots died and also some traitors but we are not sorry for the death of traitors.

17.00 hrs.

It is our duty to safeguard patriotism. It should be taken in the same way they had taken it. It is strange that still the three generations of refugees who came from West Pakistan and are settled in Jammu-Kashmir do not have the right to vote in the assembly. Till date they do not enjoy the right to purchase land or have the job. Hon. President has raised the problem of adjusting tribals living in jungles of Jammu-Kashmir whose generations are born there. Today the burning question is that of adjusting refugees from West Pakistan in Jammu-Kashmir, it should also be included in that. I thank you for opening the Pak occupied Muzaffarabad. There should never be any slackness when the question is about the integrity and patriotism of country. Incoming and outgoing of people should be under strict vigil since we have to move ahead while taking care of the whole country. Muzaffarabad is 500 kms and R.S. Pura is 20 kms from Syalkot, we demand that the safe distance of 20 kms should be included in it and opened.

We request that lacs of Kashmiri Pandits who have come here have not been rehabilitated yet. Kashmiri Pandits are losing their Kashmiriness. It was a learned community and pride of Kashmir. By evacuating them from there, the democratic field there is abolished. We talk about communal and secular. A person is an exact

reflection of where he is born. A person born in RSS can never be secular ... (*Interruptions*). So it is not graceful for you to say like that. Congress has Indian culture and the culture is secular.

One of my bretheren said about Hindutava. Do you know when did Hindutav come into existence? Om Survey Rigved does not this Hindutav exist in Geeta or in Rigved. They were Aryans and Sanatanis. First you have to understand this. You think yourself to be a Sanatani and that you respect your religion, Congress respects Hindu, Muslim, Sikh and Christian every religion. You sometimes do one thing and at the other time you do other thing and do not let the working of the house go smooth. You are undemocratic. I want to request that many people have sacrificed themselves for the country. Shastriji had raised slogan for the farmers:

"Jai Jawan, Jai Kisan".

He imported ration for farmers from abroad and provided subsidised seeds and fertilizers.

You might remember that Congress Government, Indira Gandhi Government and Rajiv Government, every one of them gave benefits to farmers. Farmers did not give education to their children, they sacrificed and worked thus bringing green revolution. But when these people came into power and made the Government; there were Lalas, businessmen and capitalists and never farmers. That is why farmers were compelled to commit suicides in their time. Not a single farmer committed suicide in Indiraji time. Whatever happened was in the time of these capitalists. They found the graineries full and instead of getting appreciation the farmers were given death, poison and execution. These sins have resulted in their fall and today they sit in opposition. It is their own doing not ours. What hurts is that they talk about Madam Sonia Gandhi* Does it cost 1 lac 21 thousand for shrouds, it takes only three wooden plates. This matter should be enquired into properly ... (*Interruptions*). What are you talking about, please have patience. ... (*Interruptions*)

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Unparliamentary words will not be recorded.

SHRI JUAL ORAM (Sundergarh): Lal Singhji if you dare, then get the challenges made by Mr. George Fernandes in his speech, investigated. Madam Speaker, honourable Member is speaking unparliamentary words, please make them out of record.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: I have already told to take them out of record. Lal Singhji you kindly address the Chair and be brief and concise.

* Not recorded.

CHOUHDARY LAL SINGH: Madam Speaker, I am speaking facing you only.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: But kindly use proper words.

CHOUHDARY LAL SINGH: Madam Chairman I am not repeating anything abusive that could be termed as unparliamentary I have a book wherein the unparliamentary words are given and I have read them. So, please do not worry. I will speak in my limits. I was saying that our Government was quite wise for our farmers. Only now they talked about mid day meal. I too am not interested in it. I tell you about two teachers in Jammu. One was sent to bring 'dal' and other went to purchase rice. Will the school be able to run properly. It will become mess. A person who is unable to send his children to school. What type of help is this? I request my Government not to do this. Give birth to strong children and do not beget them for begging on roads. Do not do it anywhere nor in the Jammu-Kashmir. We have great self respect.

Madam Chairman, I have seen that they make plans and say great things in budget. Every year states get funds amounting not in lacs but in crores and thousands of crores. But is there any check point to see where does the money go? How to check corruption? I request that if the corruption is checked capitalism will also get checked. What is it that sometimes you are expected to become a Hindu and some other time they expect you to be a Mohamdani. ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Please conclude now.

CHOUHDARY LAL SINGH: You become one of the Parliamentarians, come as a Hindu and a patriot. Kindly give a thought and attention to my words.

To conclude I wish to say some more things. We have widow pension scheme, old age pension scheme and also the scheme for handicaps. I wish to request that they need to be enhanced. A lot many houses are damaged in our state due to downfall. Government has accepted the count of 15000 houses in my constituency and the complete data have not come yet. Twenty thousand houses have collapsed in Kathua and Udhampur. I request that an IAY package should be formulated and given to the area to save it.

Horticulture and the crops have been completely wiped off. Government needs to give attention there. In our State many hydel projects are pending. We had

entered into a treaty with Pakistan that needs to be cancelled. Government should pay attention to that also. I thank you for giving me time to speak.

[English]

SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS (Paighat): Madam, I rise to support the Motion. At the outset, I would mention a sentence from para 28 of the speech of the hon. President. He said:

"My Government wants India to shine, but it must shine for all."

This indicates the vision of this Government. I and my party support this Government to implement the national Common Minimum Programme. This national Common Minimum Programme is the agenda for the governance of this Government. In the National Common Minimum Programme, it is declared that the main thrust is not to disinvest the public sector of our country. The soul of our democracy and the existence of our country is secularism. That is our soul.

People of our country are very much vigilant. They are so vigilant that they have not allowed the communal forces to come back to power. That is their main task and the people are very much vigilant on that area. At the same time, the spirit and the contents of the national Common Minimum Programme should be highlighted. It is said that my party is blindly opposing the FDI, but we have certain opinion on that area. We are not blindly opposing it. We say that if FDI is coming and is needed for the development of infrastructure of our country, it should be creating new job opportunities, and it should be for the new ventures and not to purchase our existing public sector. If it is purchasing the existing public sector, then it is only the change of ownership. It is not creating any new job opportunities and it will not be a new venture. So, I want to make this also clear.

Madam Chairperson, if we go into the details of the policy declared by the hon. President for the Government, the main thrust is on the rural empowerment of our country.

I would like to mention another very important point, namely, with regard to the unemployment situation in our country. Everybody is aware about the problem of unemployment nowadays being faced in our country.

I would like to draw the attention of this august House, and the hon. Members on a news item, which

was published in a few national news dailies 10 or 15 days back. In my opinion it was a pathetic news item. In Maharashtra, a Police Commissioner in Thane office invited applications for the recruitment of Police Constables. Thousands of applications were received for the same. Hundreds of applicants were Engineering Graduates, and more than 22 applicants were MBBS Graduates for the post of Police Constables. This news item appeared 15 days back in a few important news dailies of our country. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI CHANDRA MANI TRIPATHI (Rewa): This is the handwork of UPA only ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS: No, it was done during the time of NDA Government. In the last 6 years you have spoiled this country.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Please, no cross talking in the House. Please address the Chair.

SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS: Madam, I am addressing the Chair only.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: It is a good practice.

SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS: This news item indicates the pathetic situation of unemployment in our country. The main thrust of the Government in our country should be to look at the serious issue of unemployment in our country.

We welcome the Employment Guarantee Scheme in our country, but our demand is that it should not be limited to 150 selected districts only. It should be extended to all the rural areas in our country.

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: It was a promise in the manifesto.

SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS: Yes, it is, Thank you for reminding me about it.

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: It is in our manifesto.

SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS: Now, it has been decided to implement the Employment Guarantee Scheme in 150

selected and identified districts only. I come from Kerala, and, unfortunately, not even a single district from Kerala has been included in this list of 150 districts. ...(*Interruptions*)

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN): The people there are not poor, and are employed. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS: Thank you for the compliments, but the feeling in Kerala is that it has been neglected as a result of this measure. Madam, through you, I would like to demand from the Government that, at least, three backward districts of Kerala, namely, Palakkad, Wayanad, and Idukki should be included in the Employment Guarantee Scheme.

The Government also gave sufficient thrust to the issue of water conservation. Madam, I will only take another 10 minutes or so.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: No, I cannot give you 10 minutes, but only 2 minutes. I think, another hon. Member of your party has already taken more than 45 minutes.

SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS: Okay, Madam. Water conservation is another very important issue. Madam, I would like to mention that there is a serious lack of laws to prevent ground water exploitation in our country.

Therefore, a powerful law should be there to check and protect our groundwater resources from exploitation.

As I mentioned earlier, I come from Kerala. In my State, today, the Assembly is in Session, and the Opposition is on a hunger strike.

DR. CHINTA MOHAN: You should not mention about Assembly here.

SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS: I am referring to a very serious situation.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: You should mention only the points and conclude your speech in two minutes.

SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS: The demand is about procurement of paddy. The farmers who are harvesting paddy—what is not produced in our State and paddy is the main food grain in our State—are not getting any profits because nobody is there to procure paddy from

[Shri N.N. Krishnadas]

them. Therefore, I strongly demand the Capital Government, through the Chair, to see that FCI takes care of the procurement in the State of Kerala, as is the case all over the country.

One more thing that I would like to mention is ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM CHAIRMAN: I think, you have finished your points. Please conclude now.

SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS: I shall obey your direction and conclude my speech now.

[Translation]

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR (Chail): Hon'ble Madam Chairperson, I would like to thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak on the President's Address. Just now, all the learned Members of the ruling party and opposition have presented their views. In the President's Address, I observed that all the issues, be it the problems of the farmers or the poor people or the Scheduled Castes and Tribes, backward classes and minorities, have been highlighted. There are some points, which are raised in the general speech or at other forum. There is a detailed mention of the Tsunami tragedy in the President's Address and we have expressed our grief in both the Houses for the same. But today, speaking on the Address we would like to thank our forces, the foreign countries, the State Governments, the Union Government and the voluntary organizations for providing their help. However, we have to see that all those people who were poor and earning everyday for their living, have suffered a heavy loss. In a way they have lost both their life and livelihood. They have suffered a heavy loss. Some of our hon. Members have stated that these people have not received any relief, which should have been given to them. Particularly, it is the responsibility of the Government to provide employment, food and shelter to them. We would like to thank the Hon'ble Lok Sabha Speaker, who has made the provision of money from the MPLAD budget to solve the problems of the victims. Hon. Members of Parliament have given their maximum support. The victims should be provided full relief.

The second important thing I would like to say is that the welfare and social and economic upliftment of Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, backward Classes and particularly the minorities have been mentioned here.

Madam Chairman, we see even today that although various commissions have been constituted on the level

of the Union Government to the level of State Governments particularly for their welfare yet they do not have constitutional rights. There are various posts, which remain vacant, however, these are not filled up under reservation. People have to struggle even for promotions.

Madam, recently I have read it in the newspapers that the Director General, National Archives, Dr. Sheetal Parsad, who hails from my State Uttar Pradesh and belongs to Scheduled Castes, was deliberately stripped of the charge and it was given to someone junior to him. He is a great scholar. He still has a pretty long period of service left, however, he was retired from his post on account of his being a Scheduled Caste. Today, we met the hon. Shri S. Jaipal Reddy and told him that such things should not take place. Now the situation is that if they approach the commission, its instructions may not be complied with in case of either promotion or reservation, since the Commission does not have any such constitutional right. Through you, we would like to demand from the Government that if the Heads of department are responsible for filling up the reserved posts, the punitive action should be taken against them.

Madam, there should be a provisions of reservation in the private sector also. There was a discussion on this issue in the last budget session. This issue was discussed in detail at the time of discussion on the Ministry of Smt. Meira Kumar, the Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment. The Government also intend to provide the maximum facility of reservation in the private sector for the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and backward classes. But I fail to understand why undue delay is taking place in this regard. I would like that immediate action be taken in this regard.

Madam, the issue of reservation for women has been raised vehemently during the discussion on the vote of thanks on the President's Address. Madam, today you are in the Chair. I would like to tell you that the Samajwadi Party supports the reservation for women and they do not oppose it at all. But we would like to bring amendment in the Women Reservation Bill because the women belonging to Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, backward classes and minority section should also be given reservation. Through you I would like to request the august House that the women Reservation Bill should be passed here. Our party would give full support in the process of getting it passed.

Madam, the condition of the farmers of the country is very poor today. They are not getting the remunerative prices of their produce. I would like to talk particularly about the region from Farrukhabad to Allahabad in Uttar Pradesh and the districts of Poorvanchal. There is a very good farming in the whole region. The farmers work here very hard due to which a large quantity of potatoes is produced there. A large quantity of Guava is produced in the Allahabad region, however, there is no arrangement of keeping them in cold storage. There is no research Centre for carrying out research work of fruits. If a research centre is set up there, there can be a proper arrangement of exporting the fruits produced in that region to foreign countries and sending them wherever it is required in the country.

Today, we see that the packets of Uncle Chipps, being sold in the market, not at the rate of less than Rs. 20 or 25, but the farmer producing the potatoes does not get anything. The whole money is usurped by the mediator or those big industrialists, who establish the factories of these type of products. The farmer does not even get the cost of his produce which he has produced with hard labour. The Members sitting in the House must give a serious thinking on this issue. India is an agricultural country and if the farmer here is happy, the whole country would develop.

Madam, I am not speaking from my seat. I had left some written points in my seat, however, since the time is short, therefore, through you, I have mentioned in the House about those important points and something about my own district. On the occasion of discussion on vote of thanks on the President's Address, I would like to draw special attention towards the State of Uttar Pradesh and say that today the situation of Uttar Pradesh is very grim. Nothing worthwhile is taking place there in the name of development because it is not being given adequate financial assistance by the Union Government. Hence, I would like to request the hon. Minister of State for Home Affairs to specifically consider the development of Uttar Pradesh. He understands the plight of Uttar Pradesh because he hails from Kanpur. Kanpur is an industrial area and all the industries there are lying closed. Therefore, I would like to request you that a special package for the development of Uttar Pradesh may be given by the Union Government so that the State can develop. The development of Uttar Pradesh would lead to the development of the whole country. With these words, I support the vote of thanks presented in the House on the President's Address.

[*English*]

L.T. COL. (RETD.) MANABENDRA SHAH (Tehri Garhwal): Madam Chairperson, the need for National Disaster Management Authority is a very welcome proposal made by the President in his Address. But it is little disappointing to me because he has confined himself to the coastal areas and Jammu and Kashmir. Uttaranchal is an area which has been receiving repeated damages annually, not only in one aspect but also in many aspects. We face heavy rains; we face avalanches; we face landslides; we face floods; and we face umpteen types of disasters. It is true that we are very well aware of the damages and the human lives are saved to a great extent but nevertheless, disaster is there also. Therefore, I am little disappointed that the Address is confined to coastal areas and Jammu and Kashmir and has ignored the damages that have been taking place in the mid-Himalayan region. Mid-Himalayan region is a very important part in India's economy. We are the watershed of Western Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, part of Orissa and West Bengal. If this watershed is not protected, then it can affect directly or indirectly this big northern India. Therefore, I earnestly hope that the Government would bear in mind this and that they include them as one of the priority areas as Jammu and Kashmir and the coastal areas.

The other matter which was mentioned by the President about the security. He has expressed his concern about the security of the country. Here, again the President has confined himself to border terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir and insurgency in North-Eastern Region. But I am sure the Government is aware of the insurgency or inflow of Maos from Nepal into India, mostly in Uttaranchal, which is the top item which should concern the Government but has been ignored by the Government. Maos have now infiltrated into northern India and especially in Uttaranchal. What has happened in Nepal is that the King has tried three Prime Ministers but he failed to contain the movement of Maos and he was forced to take over. Maos have got another master plan which they call a Greater Nepal. They claim that Greater Nepal, according to their map, is from Sikkim to Kangra in the whole of northern Himalayas and mid-Himalayan region, inflow of Maos within this Greater Nepal is a very dangerous sign which the Government should take cognisance of this inflow of Maos into India as it is a matter of worry. It is high time that the Nepalese Government and the Indian Government jointly prepare a plan to contain the movement of Maos.

[Lt. Col. (Retd.) Manabendra Shah]

A new deal has been announced for the backward regions. But, here again, the Government has confined itself to specific regions. I am sure, they must be aware, they should be aware that the mid-Himalayan region is also a backward region. It is economically backward. The question of caste does not arise. The people of hill areas of Uttaranchal, the mid-Himalayan regions are all economically backward. Therefore, there is no provision, that I could clearly understand that they have prepared any plan for the removal of economic backwardness of Uttaranchal. Our factories are closing down. People are leaving the region and going to other places for survival. This sort of a thing should be put to stop. That can only be done if the Government takes the question of economic development of the backward region of Uttaranchal seriously.

Another aspect I would like to talk about is tourism. Tourism is planned in a well-beaten path, which has been done in Uttaranchal. All the pilgrim centres are being concentrated for tourism. That is pilgrim tourism. But the real tourism is not that. The real pilgrimage is the development of beautiful areas of Uttaranchal. I feel so because I am a local person of that area. We have got many more potential areas in the hill region. They are being neglected. There is no infrastructure available there. Everything is still on paper. With this short observation, I thank you for giving me the opportunity.

[Translation]

DR. RAJESH MISHRA (Varanasi): Madam Chairman, I am very grateful to you for giving me an opportunity to speak on the President's Address. I rise to speak in favour of the President's Address.

After going through his excellency President's address thoroughly and particularly after listening to the responses from opposition bench, I feel that the main role of opposition parties in democracy of India is not only to oppose something just for the sake of opposition. When opposition party opposes the Government in a creative way and advises them positively definitely the Government and the country get benefited. But it is unfortunate that a new practice has evolved that opposition means to in for the sake of opposition only after hearing the negative character of opposition parties, it is felt it is not good practice for democracy.

A massive tragedy took place in India after formation of this Government and nobody in India would ever imagined that such a severe sea storm Tsunami strike here causing devastation and death of more than one thousand people in just few minutes. I would like to congratulate the Government and the people of the entire country have also thanked the Government that it not only managed the crisis but also assisted the millions of people in restoring their lost occupation like fishing for their livelihood.

The Government had promptly taken initiatives for them. The Government provided financial assistance through schemes and loan so that they could be able to get employment within week or ten days. This was a very commendable work of the Government. The Government not only discharged its duty by managing the crisis but also constituted a crisis management body and conducted all research thereon so that we have the fore knowledge of any such Tsunami in future and it be managed properly after we have such information well in advance. The initiative and efforts made by the Government are really praiseworthy. But it is unfortunate that the question on this issue were being raised by opposition benches and efforts made by the Government were criticised. Think a debate can be initiated on this issue in the House as to whether the management was satisfactory or not. I am sure that majority of the people of India would not complaint against the Government's management. The message sent to the people is really commendable.

The Common Minimum Programme of the UPA Government envisaged in the President's address is very commendable. It has aptly chalked out the road map for the implementation of this programme. This Government has shown commitment towards mixed economy. It is certainly praiseworthy for the UPA Government for its efforts made in three months for weaker section, Scheduled Castes and Schedule Tribes.

Madam, this Government said that a Commission would be constituted for socially and economically backward people of religious and linguistic minorities. Probably in past no any other Government has taken such an initiative. Efforts have been made for backward and most backward people of minorities in India so that they could be happy and prosperous in coming days. This Government has taken initiative for them. I think that the Government has definitely taken a positive steps as to how the backward people of minorities could be benefited more and more.

Madam, since when this Government has come in power, our foreign trade has increased. As a result of it, our country has entered the twenty-first century not only as per calendar but also in reality. I was hearing George Sahib speech. He is a very senior Member but after listening to him I felt that perhaps George Sahib has written his own definition during ten years on socialism.

We people have gone through the writings of Acharaya Narendra Deb's and Shri Ram Manohar Lohia but the way George Sahib is describing socialism as on date, this definition does not match with that written in the books by the other stalwarts of socialism. Shri George Sahib was explaining that when a person quits the NDA we become secular and when a person joins the NDA he becomes communal. While speaking today, Shri George Sahib had also passed comment on Smt. Sonia Gandhi, Chairperson of the UPA. He has said that she is telling a lie. If we, new Members use unparliamentary language, it is understandable but when a senior Member like him talks like that in the House it is really unfortunate. I would like to inform the entire House through you that George Sahib had said in TV interview some days ago that Shrimati Sonia Gandhi would meet the same fate as Shrimati Indira Gandhi did.

Madam, through you I would like to tell the present Government that we were a students of the university when Shrimati Indira Gandhi was assassinated when we and the people of India went through the newspapers it appeared in our people's mind that external forces were not involved in the conspiracy of assassination of Shrimati Indira Gandhi. If Shrimati Sonia Gandhi will meet the same fate as Shrimati Indira Gandhi did, as told by George Sahib, I would like to tell that the Government through you that if any external forces has been involved in the assassination of Shrimati Indira Gandhi and if Shrimati Sonia Gandhi may also meet the same fate, it should be get enquired by present UPA Government, as to whether this type of external forces exist in India and whether they are such people as are giving interview on TV in this manner. We cannot term it a prediction. It may happen that he has joined that party. *...(Interruptions)*

MADAM CHAIRMAN: You please come on today's subject. Now you conclude please.

...(Interruptions)

DR. RAJESH MISHRA: Madam, I am saying so because a debate has taken place on this issue in the

House today *...(Interruptions)*. Today he has discussed on the president address. So, it is natural. I said that he is a very senior Member. I was a university student at that time when an allegation was made on him in dynamite case. *...(Interruptions)*

MADAM CHAIRMAN: You raise your point. Now you conclude please.

...(Interruptions)

DR. RAJESH MISHRA: I would like to say that this type of allegation were made against him for which he had to go to prison. If he is making such prediction today then I have doubt that definitely who knows it. I demand the Government through you that it should be enquired as to why he used this type of sentence. Is there any fact behind it and whether he knows it? *...(Interruptions)*. I am not telling you. I am addressing the Chair *...(Interruptions)*. You are not the Chair. *...(Interruptions)* You, sit down please. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI KHARBELA SWAIN: Why are you speaking like that? *...(Interruptions)*

DR. RAJESH MISHRA: I am addressing the Chair. *...(Interruptions)* I know more than you. *...(Interruptions)* Why are you feeling hurt? *...(Interruptions)* You did not feel hurt when they said so at television. Now when I say it feel hurt. *...(Interruptions)*

MADAM CHAIRMAN: If it will be like this only, nothing will go in record.

...(Interruptions)

DR. RAJESH MISHRA: Madam, I am addressing you, why is he feeling bad. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI KHARBELA SWAIN: "Hal" does not mean murder, it means losing the elections. *...(Interruptions)*

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Now you conclude please.

...(Interruptions)

DR. RAJESH MISHRA: They make allegations against Mrs. Sonia Gandhi in this House. *...(Interruptions)*

MADAM CHAIRMAN: You please conclude within a minute. It has been quite a long time. Many of the honourable Members still have to take part in the discussion.

...(Interruptions)

DR. RAJESH MISHRA: A apologise that everyone is taking 20-25 minutes. I will take only 10 minutes. Such people allege U.P.A. Chairperson. ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Some more members are yet to speak.

...*(Interruptions)*

DR. RAJESH MISHRA: These people make allegations against those who have set an example renunciation and sacrifice. Madam Chairperson such people make allegation against there. People who, with the support of RSS, have renunciated their life long policies and philosophy for the sake of a Chair. Such people allege against the Chairperson of U.P.A. who has set an example of abnegation and sacrifice not only in India but also in whole world. The people who level allegations against her are those who, while they were in power, allegations has been leveled openly against them whether it was coffin scam or the Tehlaka exposure. ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Other colleagues of your party will also speak. Every one has to speak.

DR. RAJESH MISHRA: I am speaking within the time allotted to my party itself. It was the first time in India that 'Tehlaka' case of corruption was broadcast and seen on television all over the world. It was based at and from Mr. Fernandes' house and he levels allegations against Mrs. Sonia Gandhi Madam I would like to say that before making such allegations such persons should think that the persons who themselves are vulnerable should not point figures at others. ...*(Interruptions)* Such persons living in glass houses when throw stones at others, will find the panes of their own windows and doors broken. Such people talk about democracy. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MADAM CHAIRMAN: You will have to conclude now.

[Translation]

DR. RAJESH MISHRA: Madam Chairman, I will conclude after saying one or two more things. Many people give example of Goa. People give example of democracy. Many people give example of Goa and Jharkhand. But I want to say, through You, Madam that Union Government had not yet received the report from

the honourable Governor of Goa when it dissolved Goa legislative assembly and enforced President's rule there. Perhaps there never had been a precedent to it. People talk about Jharkhand. Five independent MLA's there, since the day of Mr. Shibu Soren's coronation as Chief Minister, I will not say that they are being given the tour of Jaipur after being kidnapped but the fact is that though they haven't been kidnapped but have been given all types of allurement and temptations to make them stay with and are being given the tour of Jaipur and then they talk about democracy. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Please conclude now.

[Translation]

DR. RAJESH MISHRA: Madam I want to say that the present U.P.A. Government is coming true to the hopes of the people and trying to give practical form to the common minimum programme. We would request all the parties to co-operate. I want to request the regional Governments that it is their duty to honestly implement the schemes of Union Government. If the funds released under a head are not spent for that purpose, the corruption will prevail there. If all the funds are given to a district or a village then development cannot take place. I would request the other State Governments also that they make the proper use of the funds issued under various heads. With these words I thank you again and support the address of the honourable President.

[English]

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: Madam Chairperson, we have been discussing the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address. Our Party has a lot of respect for Rashtrapatiji. I would say that respected Rashtrapatiji has fulfilled his Constitutional duty in reading out a lengthy President's Address which was lacking in depth. In fact, the President's Address is a policy document of the UPA Government. The hon. President in his Address has every now and then referred to the National Common Minimum Programme. The present UPA coalition is a post-poll alliance characterized by a lot of confusion, contradiction and conflict.

Many political parties have formed the UPA Government for governance. But in the recent elections, they have contested against each other and they have propagated against each other. Bihar is the best example.

There are a lot of conflicts. So, this Government will not give good governance to this country.

The basic priority of this country is the farming community as it constitutes 70 per cent population of this country. Now many farmers are committing suicide throughout the country particularly in Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka. After the new Government came into power, 2500 farmers have committed suicide and 300 weavers have committed suicide. This is the state of farmers in Andhra Pradesh.

Hon. Prime Minister after assuming office went to Andhra Pradesh to console the farmers there. The Prime Minister doled out some sops in his visit to Andhra Pradesh. He stated in Andhra Pradesh:

"I know the predicament of the farmers because I am also a son of a farmer. That is the reason for choosing Andhra Pradesh for my first trip. The purpose of my visit is to instill confidence among the poor farmers. The bankers should assist one member of each affected family for self-employment. I myself would monitor the delivery of the banks assistance. From this day, no one will commit suicide."

But what happened thereafter? After his visit, 2000 farmers have, committed suicide. Is it not a shame for this country? Is it not a shame for all of us? Even now every day ten farmers are committing suicide. Why has this happened? This is the most important issue. Now they are talking about 'Bharat Nirman' and new deal for rural development. When the farmers are committing suicide, how can he achieve 'Bharat Nirman' and how can he achieve rural development in this country? I am asking this to the UPA Government.

The second aspect is internal security and law and order. When is the internal security and law and order in the country? So many things are happening in Jammu and Kashmir. There are many problems in North-Eastern States. Even in Andhra Pradesh, so far 45 TDP leaders have been killed in Andhra Pradesh alone. State sponsored murders are going on in Andhra Pradesh. There is no law and order in Andhra Pradesh. There are no human rights in Andhra Pradesh. There are no fundamental rights. What are the fundamental rights of a citizen? The elected State Government and the elected Government of India should protect the life and property of the citizens. That is the fundamental right of a citizen. The fundamental rights and human rights are being violated.

...(Interruptions). I am speaking within the purview of the Constitution. There are no fundamental rights and there are no human rights in Andhra Pradesh. ...(Interruptions). Is it a sin to say this on the floor of this House? We have approached the Human Rights Commission, the Home Minister and also the hon. Prime Minister. But there is no stoppage of killings in Andhra Pradesh. ...(Interruptions)

MADAM CHAIRMAN: He is not yielding.

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: I am not yielding ...(Interruptions). I have not taken any name ...(Interruptions). I am not yielding.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: He is not yielding. How can I allow you?

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: Madam, I am talking about internal security. The fundamental right is the subject of Government of India.

18.00 hrs.

Fundamental Rights have been enshrined in our Constitution. This is a matter of right of our citizens. I am talking about my rights. ...(Interruptions)

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Please wait for one minute. It is six o'clock now.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY: Madam, law and order is a State subject. ...(Interruptions)

MADAM CHAIRMAN: You please listen to me. I am on my legs. It is already six o'clock and we have to extend the time of the House. If you all agree, then we may extend the time of the House.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI BIJOY HANDIQUE): Madam, we have to complete the discussion on this Motion according to the list of speakers that has already been submitted to the Chair. The reply to this debate would be tomorrow.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: So we may extend the time of the House till the discussion on this Motion is completed.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: Madam, I know that law and order is a State subject. ...*(Interruptions)* From 1951 till this date. ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Shri Swain, please do not interrupt. He is capable enough to put forward his views.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: From 1951 till this day, 114 times article 356 had been applied on the State of Andhra Pradesh dismissing popular Governments on the pretext of failure of law and order in the State. ...*(Interruptions)* The Congress Party was in power and if law and order is a State subject then why a article 356 was imposed for over 100 times in the State on the pretext of failure of law and order in the State? ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Are you yielding to Shri Janradhana Reddy?

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: No, Madam. I am not yielding to him. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI N. JANARADHANA REDDY (Visakhapatnam): Madam, you should not allow him to raise this matter here. Law and order is a State subject. The Andhra Pradesh Assembly is in Session. Enough discussion on it has already taken place there. The Leader of the Opposition, Shri Chandrababu Naidu himself has said in the House. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: I am not contradicting anything. ...*(Interruptions)* It is my duty to mention it on the floor of the House. ...*(Interruptions)* The State Government has failed to protect the rights of the people in the State. ...*(Interruptions)* The Central Government should intervene in the matter. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI N. JANARADHANA REDDY: When Ramanna Reddy was killed, what noise did he make? ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: A sitting MLA of our party, Peritala Ravi has been killed. ...*(Interruptions)* This is a State-sponsored murder. ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM CHAIRMAN: I will not allow you to go on like this.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: Madam, we should not kill people. The Government should not take the law in its own hand. The Government should not sponsor all this. ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record.

...*(Interruptions)**

MADAM CHAIRMAN: You can reply when your turn comes. Shri Yerrannaaidu, you may please conclude now.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: Madam, that is why I am urging through you that there is no law and order in the State. Party workers are being killed everyday in the State and that is why the Centre should intervene in this matter.

Madam, before the elections, the UPA Chairperson, Shrimati Sonia Gandhi visited the State of Andhra Pradesh to console the families of the farmers who committed suicide. After the UPA Government came to power, in the last ten months around 2500 farmers have committed suicide, but not once she visited the State to console their families. Before the elections, she did not go to Karnataka but she went to Andhra Pradesh to politicise the issue. What has happened in the last ten months? She has not visited Andhra Pradesh to console the families who have suffered during this period. ...*(Interruptions)*

18.04 hrs.

(SHRI ARJUN SETHI *in the Chair*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, please take your seats.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: The Chairperson of the UPA has not visited Andhra Pradesh to console the families who have suffered. This is Congress party. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI N. JANARADHANA REDDY: Farmers' suicide is not because of the policies of the present Government. ...*(Interruptions)* This is because of the policies pursued by the previous NDA Government. ...*(Interruptions)*

* Not recorded.

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: No. This is not because of the policies of the NDA Government.

MR. CHAIRMAN: He is not yielding. Please sit down.

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: Why don't you prevent all these things? Why have they not prevented these suicidal deaths for the last ten months? Sir, I am asking a straight question to them. Now he is saying about the NDA Government and the Telugu Desam Party. After the Government came to power, they criticised for one or two months. But even for ten months, you are criticising them. They are saying that they are doubling credit to the farming community and they are issuing Kisan Cards. They are talking all these things. But why have they not stopped suicidal deaths in our country? This is my question. This Government is ineffective in controlling suicidal deaths in the country. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Chinta Mohan, please sit down. You have already spoken.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: He is speaking for the last ten minutes and he will conclude now. Please sit down.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: Sir, the third point is scrutiny of the manifesto. What do any political party give in their manifesto? They have mentioned about free power in their manifesto. It has been endorsed by the Prime Minister and the UPA Chairperson. What have they promised in Punjab and Maharashtra and what has happened after they have come to power? They have withdrawn all these things. The Chief Minister of Maharashtra told the media, "Normally they put all these things in the manifesto but after coming to power, who will take cognizance of the manifesto?"

My Party is demanding that the manifesto should be legalised. If any political party issues a manifesto, there should be a legal sanctity for it. If any violation occurs, then that party should be recalled. The Congress Party has made all these promises everywhere. But after they came to power, they cheated the people. This has happened in Punjab, this has happened in Maharashtra, and now, it is happening in Andhra Pradesh also.

The fourth point is about categorisation of the Scheduled Castes. Among the Scheduled Castes, there

are 59 sub-communities. The Andhra Pradesh Government has categorised them as 'A', 'B', and 'C'. After two years, the Supreme Court struck down the GO. Then, the Legislative Assembly of Andhra Pradesh passed a resolution unanimously to make a new legislation in the Parliament. So, through you, I urge the Union Government to overcome the Supreme Court judgement and bring a new legislation in this Session itself.

DR. CHINTA MOHAN: What about the Constitution? ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: This Resolution has been passed unanimously by the Andhra Pradesh Legislative Assembly ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing will be recorded except the speech of Mr. Yerrannaaidu.

...(*Interruptions*)*

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: The Chief Minister and all political parties have endorsed it. The Supreme Court has also given its judgement. You have to amend the Constitution. That is why, I am demanding this Government to do it. This is the promise of the Congress Government and other political parties. We have to amend the law in the ensuing Session. Sir, there are other issues also. ...(*Interruptions*) How can you control me when the hon. Chairman has allowed me to speak?

I would mention about major issues as regards the Address of the President to the Parliament. Everywhere, they are talking about women reservation. This is the policy of the Government. On the eve of the International Women's Day, the Chairperson told the media that this is their prime concern. But where is it mentioned in the President's Address? Fifty per cent of our population constitute women but there is no empowerment. They are saying something and putting it in their manifesto but they are not doing anything.

When Mr. Chandrababu Naidu was the Chief Minister, the Andhra Pradesh Government passed a resolution thrice. ...(*Interruptions*) We have given 33-1/3 per cent reservation for women in the local bodies even before the 73rd and 74th amendment of the Constitution. The Andhra Pradesh Government has given reservation for women. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude now.

* Not recorded.

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: For *Bharat Nirman* and development of rural India, interlinking of rivers is important and is a major issue. The NDA Government had taken it as a prestige, appointed a Task Force and did some work on it. They had put it in the Common Minimum Programme of the NDA. They have mentioned about the interlinking of rivers there.

There is no mention about it in the President's Address. Then, how can we achieve the aim of *Bharat nirman*? How can we achieve the objective of poverty eradication? How can we generate more power for this country? They have failed in this respect.

There is a mention about OBCs in the President's Address. But in the Budget speech of Mr. P. Chidambaram, there is no mention about OBCs. OBCs constitute more than fifty per cent of the population, but there is no mention about OBCs. It is shameful for the OBC communities of this country. I demand that Budget should be allocated for the OBCs according to their population ratio. The same privilege that has been extended to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes should be extended to the OBCs also in the reservation policies.

[*Translation*]

SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR (Sagar): Generally, honourable President's address is actually the reflection of Government's works, thought and future plans. In the last nine months the Government have made more propaganda than the actual work done on the schemes. As far as Tsunami tragedy is concerned the whole country unanimously stand with it all the people of the country have conjoined their feelings with the grief stricken sufferers of Tsunami. People did their best. Government has said to constitute national crisis management authority. But why have not they sought to link themselves with the countries where they have developed technologies to get the premonition of such happenings and why have not they made a mention of it.

In the line 5 of para 9 of the address of the honourable President it has been said that all economic signals are getting better. This is not true Economic condition of the country is not sound at this time. As far as it is the question of inflation the Government has been unable to curb it. Unemployment has increased in this duration as well as the prices too. People are dying with hunger while the results of the efforts made by NDA Government are clear before us. NDA Government had

made efforts to reduce the foreign debt. Its progress has been hindered.

Our Prime Minister made a tour of Jammu Kashmir with a view to make social harmony but infiltration is still continued in Kashmir Valley. People are being killed there and terrorist activities still continue.

[*English*]

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: Sir, no Minister is present now in this House. There should be at least one Minister to take note of what the Members say. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: Mr. Chairman, there is no Cabinet Minister. ...(*Interruptions*) We are discussing the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address, but there is no Cabinet Minister. This shows how serious the Government is about the President's Address!

MR. CHAIRMAN: I have taken notice of it. The hon. Minister is coming.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: At least one Cabinet Minister should be present. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: The hon. Minister is coming.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: Mr. Chairman, Sir, without any Cabinet Minister, we are discussing the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address. This is the respect we are showing to the President! ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: The hon. Minister is coming.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Minister, please note down the Members' views.

[*Translation*]

SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR: Mr. Chairman, Sir, infiltration is still continuing in the Kashmir Valley. Murders are taking place. The terrorists activities are going on. Curbing these activities needs to be emphasised. Besides this an atmosphere conducive to the return of Kashmir Pandits is required to be created in the Kashmir Valley. They are still living in Delhi and other areas like refugees. The sense of confidence will be instilled in the people of the country that our Government has succeeded in

creating an atmosphere of good will in Kashmir only when the Kashmiri Pandits will be able to return their homes and till and cultivate their lands. It would be a matter of happiness for the whole of the country. The Government have made reference to bring out a White Paper on the status of minorities but in our country backward classes also exist. The Government have not thought of bringing a white paper on the conditions of those classes in view of social harmony while the Government have always been harping on the theme of secularism.

There is always a reference to secularism whenever someone from the opposition rises to speak. I would like to point out that the Government should think of issuing such White Papers on all Communities. There has been a mention that tribals are leading a life of insecurity in a number of areas. This has been admitted in the President's Address but there is no reference to conversion of the forest villages into the revenue villages and giving the right of ownership to the tribals. Even now the rate of literacy is low in tribals as a result of which the tribals are being kept as bonded labour in villages. Loans are taken against their names from banks which is not known to them. They come to know of it only when the notice of recovery is served on them from the bank. There is no mention regarding this in the President's Address to save them from this harassment.

Even today, the practice of scavenging continues in several States. The target for eliminating this practice was to be achieved by 2005 but no action has been mentioned in this Address which was to be taken by the Union Government against those States which are indifferent and fail to achieve this target by 2005.

A group of Ministers has been constituted to suggest ways for increasing employment opportunities for the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes in the private sector but the Group of Ministers has done precious little. In the same way a Group of Ministers was constituted on Dalit affairs. Though, the Government constituted the Group of Ministers and formed Committees on many occasions but the Group of Ministers and the Committees failed to yield any results.

My friends have made reference to the National Common Minimum Programme. The Government have made tall claims and the alliance partners have also stated that they would work for providing irrigation education, industry and health facilities in the country under the Common Minimum Programme. But they have not been

able to achieve even one fourth of the target prescribed in these announcements. The National Common Minimum Programme has been reduced to sheer assurance. As my friend Shri Naidu has made a mention regarding farmers, the NDA Government had introduced the Credit Card Scheme. It raised hopes of the farmers. The Government is silent regarding this scheme. The pace of implementation of this scheme has come down. Due to the wrong policies and non-cooperation by the Government farmers are committing suicides in several States. It is not merely the case of Andhra Pradesh, it has happened in many States. The farmers have been compelled to commit suicide.

The NDA Government had decided to evolve 6 AIIMS like and 12 other hospitals throughout the country with a view to expanding medical facilities. The UPA Government have not made any reference to the six hospitals announced by the then NDA Government that a time frame would be fixed in this regard and the above hospitals would be completed. One thing more has also been mentioned that the rural India was promised a new initiative but the 'Pradhan Mantri Sadak Yojana' which is like a lifeline to the villages has also slowed down. Construction of the road had instilled confidence in the people that they would now be able to lift commodities directly from the market, reach the health centers and district headquarters thereby developing the village. The confidence of the villagers have shaken.

There has been a mention of economic development of the States backward in the irrigation facilities. There is no mention as to how it will be done. Golden Quadrilateral Highway Project is an ambitious project for the development of the nation. There is no reference to it in this regard. The Government is silent on it. Shri Suresh Prabhu and his friends have stated elaborately about the inter-linking of rivers. At present we have several States where drought like situations prevail due to the failure of monsoon. There are some States like Bihar which experience floods due to heavy rains. The NDA Government had visualised the scheme of inter-linking of rivers to utilize the waters in such States. The Government are silent on the inter-linking of rivers.

With regards to the Employment Guarantee Bill it has been stated that 100 days employment would be given. Recently it was off for four days. I had gone to the village where a simple fellow told me that the Government are providing employment for 100 days out of 365 days in a year. He sought to know what would

[Shri Virendra Kumar]

be villager do in 265 days in a year after getting employment for 100 days? Should he remain hungry for 3 days after taking food only one day? I was not able to give any reply to him. It was worth thinking that an ordinary person was raising such a weighty question.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, about 26-27 crore people are living below poverty line in our country but the Government have issued only 50 lakh Antyodaya Cards. Only 50 lakh cards out of the population of crores? What is this? The number of cards should be increased.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, there has been a mention of providing Central University status to the Allahabad University and the Manipur University. I hail from Sagar, Madhya Pradesh. Nalanda and Aligarh are counted among the oldest universities of the country but the Sagar University is also one of them. There has been a long standing demand for giving Central University status to the Sagar University, I would request the Government to take favourable action while receiving application for according Central University status to such universities.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the labourers working in the unorganized sector in bidi, powerloom, weaving, leather industries and those engaged in plantation constitute 93 per cent of the total number of labourers. Due consideration should be given to their social security, health insurance and pension. It is a must. Ours is a country with large population. Unless population is controlled, it would not be possible to attain targets in the areas of irrigation, education health. I think it would not be possible to achieve these targets unless all political parties cutting across party lines and rising above the limitations of caste, creed, language and sex agree in one voice to control population. From this point of view this document of the Government would be reduced to a mere political document and the development would be a dream only as it shows lack of vision.

[English]

SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN (Palani): Sir, I am thankful to you for giving me this opportunity to support the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address.

On 26.12.2004, it was a shock and surprise to the entire nation, particularly to the people of Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Pondicherry and Andaman & Nicobar Islands, due to Tsunami. The UPA Chairperson, Respected Madam Sonia Gandhi, our hon. Prime Minister

Dr. Manmohan Singh and other hon. Ministers visited the entire area and immediately took all the measures to safeguard the interests of the affected people and other victims.

The hon. Prime Minister also announced that we would not accept any foreign assistance in any way, either in kind or cash. This was a bold and welcome able step taken by this Government. This Government also took immediate steps for the benefit of those people who are affected in Jammu & Kashmir due to recent avalanches.

The Government has also decided to constitute a National Disaster Management Authority. In this regard, the Government has also decided to bring forward a Central legislation. This was announced by our hon. President in his Address to the nation.

Sir, in this country lakhs of youths are not getting any jobs, particularly youths belonging to SC/STs and OBCs. The Government has already decided to constitute a Group of Ministers to have a dialogue with the industry in this regard, particularly with the private sector for giving job opportunities to these youths. With regard to SC/STs it has also been mentioned in the President's Address, but I would request the Government to consider OBCs also in this regard. The present Reservation Bill is under consideration of the Committee on Home Affairs for giving reservations to SC/STs and OBCs in the civil services. I would request the Government to expedite the matter.

Now, the Government has decided to give a new deal to rural India to expand health care, education, promoting rural electrification and rural roads. The hon. President has also announced setting up of a North-East Valley Authority to find out permanent solution to the problem of seasonal rains in the Brahmaputra Valley.

India have to divide the southern part and the northern part. The entire northern part is affected due to water. The southern part is suffering due to without water. So, the Government has to take steps for inter-linking, at least, the peninsular rivers in southern States and solve the problem of the people of the southern part of the country.

Also, to develop the Panchayati Raj institutions, to give more powers to the Panchayati Raj institutions and to solve the problems in the rural areas, the UPA Government has created a new Ministry of Panchayati Raj. The Ministry has drawn up a 150-point Action plan covering 18 aspects of Panchayati Raj.

I want to mention another important thing. The UPA Government is committed to providing electricity to all the villages by the year 2009.

Another particular important aspect is that our hon. Prime Minister had inaugurated the National Food-for-Work Programme in 150 backward districts. It was launched in Andhra Pradesh on the birthday of our hon. former Prime Minister, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru. The Government had decided to issue Antyodaya Cards to benefit two crore people and 50 lakh additional families.

With respect to education, during his Address, our hon. President announced the policies of this Government, particularly about the Education Cess which will form the *Prarambhik Shiksha Kosh*. This will enable better funding of the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya, the Mid-day Meal Scheme and Nutrition Programme for Adolescent Girls. Also, the National Mission for Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan has been constituted for the first time. Further, a very important scheme announced is EDUSAT, an educational satellite, and Doordarshan's Direct-to-Home television facility to develop education. In this regard, I want to mention that in all the Kendriya Vidyalayas throughout the country, the student and teacher ratio is 1:30. The student and teacher ratio in thousands of schools in the villages, at the panchayat level, is 1:40. Like in Kendriya Vidyalayas, this has to be modified to 1:30 in all the panchayat schools to develop rural education. Also, the teachers who are working in the rural areas, in primary schools throughout the country, want to travel from the southern part to northern part and from the northern part to southern part of India for Education Tour. But they are getting concession in the Railways only up to 25 per cent. The Government has to increase this to 50 per cent for those teachers who are attending seminars or going on education tours.

Also, based on the Report of the Commission headed by Prof. D.B. Chattopadhyaya, the Indian Education Service is to be constituted to develop education in this country. I want to mention particularly about the minority institutions, unaided and self-financed institutions where the teachers are not paid salary. They are giving them only Rs. 500 or Rs. 1000. That malady has to be removed. A Tribunal has to be constituted to hear the grievances of the teacher working in the minority, unaided and self-financed institutions. Then only the problem of those teachers who are suffering in the rural areas will be solved.

Also, the minority educational institutions in this country are misusing article 30 (1) of the Constitution. That provision has to be suitably amended to protect the interests of the students as well as the teachers. Those who are running the minority institutions, the owners from the linguistic minorities or minority community, are admitting our other than minority students. They are not giving importance to the minority students. Also, the students will have to pay huge money. So, this provision has to be amended.

Also, our Government has decided to launch a National Rural Health Mission involving Panchayati Raj institutions to take health care to villages, to reach the goal of 'Health for All'. So, all the Gram Panchayats have to be given power. At least, the Primary Health Centres should be under the control of the Panchayati Raj institutions. Particularly in Tamil Nadu and even in my constituency, if we go to the Government hospitals, no Government hospital is having.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please wind up.

SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: I will conclude in two minutes. Not a single doctor is available in the Government hospitals. The Government is not appointing any doctor in the Government hospitals. There is no staff. There is no medicine. No doctor is attending the Primary Health Centres. In the morning, even if 150 patients are waiting outside the hospital, doctors are not coming.

In my constituency, there is a 52-bed hospital at Natham and another 52-bed hospital at Kangeyam. For a number of years, there are no doctors in these hospitals. So, to achieve this goal, the Government has to allocate funds and appoint doctors to solve the problems.

With respect to the issue of farmers, I would like to mention that the Government had announced in the last Budget also that in respect of those who received loans from co-operative institutions up to 2004, the interest and capital amount would be added and they would be given further five year's time for repayment. For example, if a person takes a loan of Rs. 1 lakh, he has to pay an interest of Rs. 48,000. In this case, Rs. 1.48 lakh would be treated as capital for two years and then interest would be added and payable within 3 years after 2 years period. So, after three years, he has to pay Rs. 2,10,000. How it will help the poor farmers? At least the interest and penal interest have to be waived in respect of farmers who have received loans from the co-operative institutions.

[Shri S.K. Kharventhan]

For the people residing in hilly areas, there are no road facilities. In Tamil Nadu, in Natham taluk, there are hilly areas in L. Malaiyur and P. Malaiyur where thousands of people are living but there are no roads. Sometimes when pregnant women from these hilly areas are taken to hospitals in carts, they feel it very dangerous and a number of people have died. A lot of people have died because there are no road facilities to reach hospitals in these hilly areas. The Ministry of Environment and Forests must take steps to get roads built for the benefit of people living in these areas.

The Government is implementing the RSYV and SGRY schemes. These schemes are now in a pathetic situation. In the implementation of these schemes our hon. Members of Parliament are not at all consulted. The officers are allocating work, particularly of digging tanks, canals, etc., according to their whims and fancies and the money is given out by the State Government. The implementation of these schemes has to be regulated by the Union Government so that the benefits reach the people living in the villages.

With these words, I support the Motion thanking the hon. President for his Address to both Houses of Parliament.

SHRI A.V. BELLARMIN (Nagercoil): Sir, I rise to thank the President. I also thank the Chair for this opportunity to speak on this occasion.

His Excellency the President of India began his Address with a poetic expression, reminding us to listen to the call of the people. He said that the people want us to enrich their lives and lead them to a bright future.

The President has mentioned that the UPA's vital contribution to the nation has taken us back to the path of secularism and economic growth with equity and social justice. We, the Left Forces, want to believe that the Government has spelt out these through the President. We hope, equity and social justice would be the watchwords to give social security and protection even to the last man in the social ladder. I think, this is what the President said when he said that caring policy and sharing economy are the need of the hour.

"Where are we?" was the question mooted by the President when he started his Address. We must be on the righteous path to safeguard the voiceless masses which are left behind in the era of globalisation.

The very first concern of the President was the Tsunami tragedy. I come from Tamil Nadu, which had larger number of casualties in the tragedy. My constituency, Nagercoil, is amongst the worst hit. Let me record in this august House that rescue and relief operations were 'nil' or negligible in the first two or three days in that part of our country. The immediacy was not at all there in rushing help to the affected. The Government of India might have that there is a State Government in place but unfortunately the State administration did not make its presence felt immediately.

The fishermen are looking for immediate grants to rebuild their lives. They are not in a position to take loans or subsidies. Their livelihood stands shattered now. Grants to buy catamarans, *vallams*, boats and nets could be an effective assistance. That could be an immediate and also a long-term benefit.

There are many NGOs that come forward to help people to rebuild their washed away houses but there is a lack of co-ordination. Before the initial enthusiasm could wane, the Government must ensure their participation. So, I urge upon the Centre to formulate an effective co-ordination mechanism to avoid delay, to avoid misuse of funds and to avoid duplication of rehabilitation work. Corruption sharks are more dangerous than even the Tsunami. Further, permanent rehabilitation measures must be taken up with farsightedness to be both productive and employment generative.

Agriculture is the mainstay of our economy, but irrigation is still a problem in many parts of our country. Do we pay enough attention to water required for agriculture? The hon. President in his Address says water is a national resource. There are water sharing problems and disputes even in small rivers and canals running through neighbouring States. Neyyar Idadhukarai canal issue is a very simple example in my constituency. So, the sources for irrigation have to be renovated considering the increased need. Proposed irrigation projects, small and big, must be taken up.

The land reforms that were carried out in the Left-ruled States like West Bengal and Kerala are yet to be carried out in many other States. There must be a vigorous approach. Or else, we may not be able to uplift the poor and downtrodden, especially the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribes masses.

The hon. President's observation about rejuvenating the cooperative sector is welcome. This must be pursued to strengthen the cooperative societies. This will also help village industries.

Public sector needs to be strengthened. The number of unemployed is on the increase and this fact cannot be ignored at a time when consumerism spreads fast.

I would also like to make an important point about the plight of Indian migrant workers. This is an area which needs to be looked into. Our Indian labour who earn foreign exchange reserves for the country through their remittances are not taken care of. Especially in the Middle-East, our Indian workers suffer a lot even with valid visas and work permits. Proper health care and work conditions are not there. The death rate of such workers is increasing. Even after death, their ordeal is not over. There is enormous delay in sending dead bodies to India. Even now there are many bodies lying in the mortuaries of the Arabian countries for months. Why do both countries ignore them when they render their sweat and labour to benefit the economy of both the countries?

The health care in India is far from being satisfactory. Increase in private sector medicare suggests the failure of the Government agencies. We need to strengthen research facilities to fight diseases like diabetes and cancer. The increase in such killer diseases must be controlled. If it is due to modern pesticides and fertilisers, there must be an effective monitoring mechanism to control them. As an alternative, Indian traditional medicine systems must be given a boost. Time-tested herbal treatment to diseases like cancer and diabetes must be pepped up.

Education system must be uniform throughout the country with stress on mother tongue in every region. The importance of mother tongue was well emphasized by the Father of our Nation. Ensuring quality higher education to the under-privileged is a step in the right direction. This is an essential investment to enhance skilled manpower.

At this juncture, I would like to urge upon the Union Government to start a Minorities' University in Negercoil constituency on the pattern of Aligarh Muslim University. This can be a Central University that can be nodal to all minority institutions in that part of the country, which is considered as 'Cradle of Education.'

With this, I conclude my speech, expressing our support to the Motion of Thanks to the President for his Address.

*SHRI A.K.S. VIJAYAN (Nagapattinam): Hon. Chairman, let me thank the Chair for giving me an opportunity to speak on the occasion when the house is deliberating on the Motion of Thanks the President for his Address to the House.

Our President in his address has enlisted several welfare schemes meant for the betterment of the people especially the underprivileged sections. I would like to point out that the address incorporates almost all that has been stated in our election manifesto brought out by our leader Dr. Kalaignar Karunanidhi. We welcome this on behalf of DMK.

Our President unfailingly expressed his deep concern for the huge loss of life and property due to tsunami tragedy. My Nagapattinam constituency has got the worst affected coastal areas devastated by the tsunami. More than ten thousand people have been found missing of which 8000 have been found to have been dead in my constituency alone. Our President referred to this tragedy and appreciated the role of the armed forces and paramilitary forces like army, navy, airforce and coastal guards for their extending timely help. I also want to express my gratitude to their service at the hour of need. I was a witness myself who saw these selfless soldiers carrying dead bodies from the debris, removing petrified bodies from the muds and rescuing the last of the survivors in that tragedy. But to the contrary, in going their invaluable service, the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu has misrepresented the fact in the Legislative Assembly of Tamil Nadu that the army did not extend timely help to the affected people and failed to protect people. It reflects the arrogance of those who have made the irresponsible travesty of truth.

Union Government has set apart and put at the disposal of State Administration huge funds aiming at the relief and rehabilitation of the affected people. Immediately after the tsunami tragedy, our Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh and UPA leader Smt. Sonia Gandhi must ahead of their personal visits took steps to send our Communications Minister Mr. Dayanidhi Maran and Petroleum Minister Mr. Mani Shankar Aiyar to the affected areas. Till then no Minister from the TN Council of Ministers visited those areas. As a follow up of the visit of Union Ministers of the UPA Government, many of the public sector undertakings of the Union Government rushed to the affected areas and extended a helping hand along with the personnel of the defence forces and security forces. The funds that have been released are not reaching the really affected people. Even in this relief

*Translation of the speech originally delivered in Tamil.

[Shri A.K.S. Vijayan]

work corruption had shown its ugly head in Tamil Nadu. I can cite an instance to prove my point. In a village called Kodiakkarai in my constituency Rs. 3.5 lakhs was reported to have been disbursed to people who have never lived there and were not affected by tsunami. Our leader Dr. Kalaignar also pointed out this. As a result of which the District Administration work up and has announced two days back that the money disbursed there would be collected back. Not only this, in a neighbouring village called Vellapallam four thousand rupees was reported to have been given on record to one Pethannaswamy son of Siva Rao. If we verify that address we could only find a worship place there. Thus we find rampant corruption resorted to by the State Government led by the Chief Minister Jayalalitha. In another village called Pushpavanam a beneficiary's name is given as Manikandan son of Dhanapal. It is reported that he was paid Rs. 2000 as relief assistance. On verification we find that the child who has been recorded as a beneficiary has not even completed 3 years of age.

While referring to tsunami tragedy our President has appreciated the role of all those who come forward to help the affected. Not only the armed and security forces but also the local people have been appreciated for their valiant role in rescue and relief measures.

Even when he was indisposed and was admitted in the hospital our leader Dr. Kalaignar handed over one crore of rupees on behalf of DMK party to Smt. Sonia Gandhi. Thus our party took part in the efforts of the Government to wipe out the tears and ease the sufferings of thousands of tsunami hit people. Donation towards tsunami relief on behalf of DMK was handed over to hon. Prime Minister also.

In the President's Address it has been stated that a National Disaster Management Authority would be set up soon. This is an essential one. Our tropical country is always subject to the vagaries of weather. On one side you will find floods on the other you will find drought conditions. Uniform climatic condition is alien to our country. Had there been an authority already in place, it might have given forewarning at least in advance. Better late than never. At least after the tsunami disaster we must ensure that this authority is established at the earliest.

Our President has dwelt upon secularism and social harmony. I would like to point out here that at least a hundred 'social harmony colonies' styled as Samathuva

Parrams were constructed by our leader Dr. Kalaignar Karunanidhi when he was the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu between 1996-2002. In order to promote brotherhood and social harmony and above all equality, he had constructed about hundred residential colonies called 'Samathuva Puram' in many rural and urban towns. Through this unique visionary project he enabled people from various communities to live together in harmony in such residential clusters. He had stated in our election manifesto that we would create a new history of communal harmony and ensure the return of secularism. This address fulfils those social ambitions for a good social ambience. 'Food for work' is another effective scheme that is sought to be implemented in selected 150 districts all over the country before it could be spread all across the country. I urge upon the Government to set right the lacunae in implementing that scheme. Nagapattinam district in my constituency has also been selected to implement that scheme. Though it is a Central scheme fully funded by the Union Government, the MPs of the local area are in no way involved in overseeing the implementation of the scheme. There is no transparency in identifying the beneficiaries. It is not clear as to who is implementing. Hence I urge upon the Union Government to issue proper guidelines in this regard because there is corruption even in identifying the beneficiaries and implementing this scheme.

Our President has mentioned that water is a national resource. At this juncture I would like to urge upon the Centre to resolve vexing inter-state river water disputes and find viable means to implement the Cauvery water tribunal award at the earliest.

The President of India has also spelt out that reservations in jobs in the private sector for the people from SC and ST communities would be ensured through deliberations. It is a step in the right direction. I welcome this move. To establish an egalitarian society it is essential. Spreading midday meals scheme has been pointed out in the President's Address. I would like to point out that real nutritious noon meal scheme was in place during the tenure of our leader Dr. Kalaignar Karunanidhi as our Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu. I wish Government of India takes this right message all over the country providing nutrient food to our needy children who are the future of our country.

Before I could conclude, while welcoming the increased allocation for public health, I would like to refer to the inadequate short supply of Rabbits vaccine in many

parts of the country especially in Tamil Nadu. Arrangements must be made in this regard. People from the underprivileged sections of the society need effective financial assistance for surgical treatments for terminal ills like heart ailment. I urge upon the Government to ensure that the really needy people get financial help when they need it the most.

I would like to put on record my appreciations to the encouraging growth pace and new strides witnessed in the IT sector of which portfolio is held by hon. Minister for Communications and Information Technology Shri Dayanidhi Maran. His dynamic handling of the affairs of IT sector ensures a quality service comparable to models set by countries like the US in the field. He introduced recently on Pongal Day the Broadband Internet Connectivity to the subscribers. It is a welcome step.

The President in his address has mentioned about the creation of a body for the welfare of workers in the informal and unorganised sector. I would like to point out that a Board was constituted by the Tamil Nadu Government when Dr. Kalaignar Karunanidhi was at the helm of affairs as Chief Minister for workers in the unorganised sector. Washermen, construction workers, hair dressers, hawkers, were all benefited after his forming a body for agricultural workers who could get Rs. 1 lakh on death by paying Rs. 10 as annual premium like. This scheme has been done away with in Tamil Nadu in the new regime.

Now, the Government of India is to take it up again all over the country and I heartily welcome and thank the President for his Address to the Parliament. Expressing my support to the Motion of Thanks, let me conclude.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you. Now, Shri Paras Nath Yadav. Kindly try to conclude your speech in less than five minutes.

[Translation]

SHRI PARAS NATH YADAV (Jaunpur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to express my views when the House is deliberating on the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address. The President's Address is a document as well as a mirror of the Government's policy and its activities.

In the 57 years of independence it was dreamt as to how its all round development would take place, Hindustan

is a country living in villages and having various castes and creeds and religions. Therefore, the Constitution of the world's largest democracy was prepared. It is mentioned in the Constitution that the elected representatives of the public will make law in the assemblies and the Parliament and the various laws made thereby in the public interest, in the public welfare would pave the way for the all round development of the country. I have no apprehension in saying that in 57 years of independence, the country of villages, the country of agriculture could not have its all round development because without development of agriculture the country cannot progress. This fact is also clearly mentioned in our Constitution too. It is also stated that agriculture would be the major means of development of the country. But, whosoever party in the Government ruled the country they have done a little for the development of the agriculture. Whenever assessment is made in this regard, it remains less in comparison to other countries. America is a developed nation and its four per cent population is engaged in agriculture. But America provide subsidy of 31 thousand dollar to its farmers annually. Either the farmer is small or big, subsidy is provided to him. Being an agriculture based country we are not in a position to improve the condition of the farmers.

What to talk of providing water, manure and pesticides to the farmers, we have not been able to make arrangement for drinking water for them. At the time of independence, the population of the country was 35 crore and today the population of the country is hundred million and five crore. In 1963 when the population of the country was 35 crore, the then Prime Minister was making law for upliftment of the people living below poverty line and poverty alleviation in this Parliament, Dr. Lohia said that Sir, you want to make law for poverty alleviation, first of all you root out unemployment because unemployment causes poverty. Poverty does not increase unemployment but unemployment causes poverty. Therefore, first of all unemployment should be rooted out. To remove poverty, a law for rooting out unemployment should be made.

Sir, the data reveal that poverty has been removed from the country. My submission is that had the law for rooting out unemployment been made as suggested by Shri Lohia, these would have been no poverty today. Had the condition of the farmers been improved and the people were imparted education, today Hindustan would have been a powerful country of the world. We are resident of that country which was called as golden sparrow. The foreigners were longing for having a look of it. It had prosperity and dreamt of world fraternity. But,

today's India is the same India. But we debate on the 57 years independence of the country. We criticise the treasury benches as well as opposition. Many of our scholar colleagues were speaking that the people who ruled the country for a period of more than four decade in the last 57 years speak that earlier even a needle was not manufactured in the country but now we are manufacturing aeroplanes. All these things are mere imagination. Even we have not fulfilled the basic needs of the people. Education and health are the basic needs of the people. Many countries of the world have made developments in the field of education and they are at the apex of the development but are standing on same platform. We have not educated more than 58 per cent people of our country. We have not spent our budget on education and agriculture. I have no hesitation in saying it. There should be a positive debate on this issue. Discussion takes places as to who have done wrong and who have done right. But whosoever party came to power should have thought as to what policies and programmes were formulated by those who ruled the country for four decades. It is clear that our Constitution is a secular document. By fomenting racial and religious frenziness they have grabbed power. Either they are sitting on the opposition benches or on the treasury benches, one is responsible for opening the lock of the temple the other is responsible for installing the idol therein. I am elected from Uttar Pradesh, which is called as heart of the country. The largest populated state is the most backward state. The head of the Government there wants development of the country on the basis of a socialist set up as the learned people, particularly Dr. Lohia Ji had said that until socialism downed in the country we can not achieve all round development of the country. Chaudhary Charan Singh had said that the path of prosperity of the country crosses from the agricultural fields. If drought takes place for one month, what to talk of irrigation, the government cannot make arrangement for drinking water. Drainage arrangement cannot be made if incessant rain takes place for three days.

Sir, a number of people lost their lives in Tsunami. The Government deserve appreciation for their help. Our public also deserve appreciation. I appreciate the foreigners for providing assistance. But what are our schemes in 57 years? Which direction are we giving to our country? How do we want to develop it? Policies should be formulated for its development.

19.00 hrs.

That is why, our scholars have said that we are criticised. The previous governments and our leaders

formulated good policies but intention was not good. Until we have good intention, the country cannot progress.

The Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh have dreamt of development of Uttar Pradesh. Today, electricity has become our basic need The power generation capacity of the power houses is decreasing or they are lying closed. The Government of Uttar Pradesh is setting up a power station for generation of 4000 MW of power and it wants to put the state on the path of progress. But, the Central Government is not providing any package for this purpose. The intention of the Government is not good. By working in revengeful manner, the village and the agriculture can not progress. President's Address which reflects the policies of the Government and details their programmes, does not contain any scheme for the development of Uttar Pradesh. Therefore, we want that whatever Government be formed in the country, it must be the government of the country not the government of any particular party. The Congress Party has ruled over this country for 42 years with two third majority in Parliament. Their claim of manufacturing aeroplanes in the country, which did not produce even a niddle, is not satisfactory. We cannot make progress in this country unless the poor of the poorest get justice and feel happy, so, while expressing thanks on the President's address, I want that the Government should work sincerely for the development of backward states and for the prosperity of the people residing there.

With these words, I thank you very much.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am very thankful to you for giving me an opportunity to speak. I am constrained to strongly oppose the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address. Sir, I think that the claims made by the UPA Government through the President's Address is totally against the facts. People are deciphering the abbreviation of UPA as something topsy-turvy and functioning at a leisurely pace. They do not have any other work. The Government is not following the principle of collective responsibility, as the hon. Prime Minister, Smt. Sonia Gandhi, Laluji and Paswanji all of these are expressing quite contradictory views on the same issue. The Left Parties, which act as yesman to the Government, by adopting double standard and express different views inside the House and outside it in the public. The Government are supposed to adopt one policy, one momentum, one mentality and one methodology, but it has none of these qualities. It is practising the policy of enjoying the powers of topping the duly elected Government arbitrarily and does not care at all for the

public. This is the plight of the Government and because of this I strongly oppose the claims made by the Government through the President's Address.

There was all-round peace and communal harmony during the six years regime of the NDA under the leadership of Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee. Nowhere in the country any incident of communal riot was reported during that period. But, the dispute among Siya and Sunni community erupted in Lucknow, the capital of Uttar Pradesh when this Government came into power. They are claiming to constitute a minority Commission and a separate University for the minorities elsewhere in the President's Address. In other words, this Government is trying to divide the whole country into the groups of majority and minority communities. The NDA Government, during its regime had also held negotiations with the terrorists and the separatists. But, the them the nation's interest was the supreme. But, the present UPA Government had granted permission to hold talks with the Naxalites without the precondition of laying down their arms under the pressure of Telangana Samiti and the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh. It cannot be described proper in national interest.

The Chief Ministers of Naxal affected states may it be Orissa, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka or Jharkhand were unanimous in their view that before having any talks with the Naxalites, it should be a precondition that they should surrender and lay down their arms. But the present Government surrendered before the Naxalites in order to get their votes and to form Congress Government in Andhra Pradesh. Although the crimes committed by the Maoists in Nepal is their internal matter, but the ongoing atmosphere of routine incidents of murder of policemen and innocent people in various States of our country is not proper from the angle of national integrity.

Sir, there was no price-rise during the NDA regime. They had increased foreign exchange reserve so much that there was no scarcity in the country. But since the present Government have taken over the prices as well as inflation has increased. The slogan, "Congress kaa Dekho khel, kha gayi shakkar pee gayi tel" is often heard in rural areas. The sugar, which is being consumed both by the rich and the poor, is scarcely available at fair price shops and its market price has increased. The Central Government have decreased the kerosene quota of the States, which is used by the poor people to light their huts. Likewise, the prices of edible oils, being

consumed by the poor people for cooking etc. have also been increased by this Government. This is the outcome of the dual policy adopted by this Government in the country.

Sir, the Government have distorted the history of this country in the name of education. Our NDA Government, during its regime had tried to keep history in right perspective by consisting a group of eminent scholars. But, the UPA Government got enlarged like a bull and hypersensitive when it heard about saffronization. Saffronization is an embodiment of sacrifice in this country. The NDA Government had rectified all those wrong facts incorporated in the history books by previous Government about our national leaders, freedom struggle and other national values. This Government have changed all the above mentioned facts and has implanted people from communist background in educational institutions.

Sir, the UPA Government have also done the job of destabilizing the non-Congress Governments through the Governors of those states. It has tried to murder the democracy in Jharkhand. The way in which it tried to stifle democracy in Goa is known to one and all. Their mentality is reflected by the comments of their supporters when they lost power in Bihar.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, it is this UPA Government which has tried to reduce the powers of a constitutional head like the Governor. By changing the Governors of various states, it has weakened the democratic institutions. Apart from it, for securing minority votes, this Government, has also tried to prove wrong any of the good works done by the majority community and to justify the wrong deeds of minority community. They have hurt the feelings of the people by taking action against a two thousand years old institution like Kanchi-Kamkoti Peeth in Tamilnadu. In that particular case, the Court could have taken action, but they involved politics of vote in it. The people in the entire country are getting agitated. When the Central Government was informed about the incident, it tried to escape from its responsibility by terming it as a state-subject. They try to interpret constitution according to their own interest. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: It is a matter pending in the Court. Where is the question of raising it here? ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: You can refer to it when your turn comes.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI A.V. BELLARMIN: The AIADMK is their alliance partner. The Central Government is nowhere connected. Law and order is a State subject. ...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: Mr. Chairman, Sir, this Government have not made any commitment in the President's Address about deporting the crores of Bangladesh intruders to Bangladesh. Why is it so?

Because of the Left Wing the largest party in this Government who are supporting it and the manner in which the Prime Minister takes advice several times in a day from the Chairperson of National Advisory Council, Smt. Sonia Gandhi, the post of the Prime Minister has been degraded. I think that it is not a matter of pride and self-respect for India, the largest democracy in the world.

Through you I would like to say the last thing. Since the formation of this government, policy of discrimination is being adopted with my state of Rajasthan. The state of Rajasthan was about to have a refinery, however the government has betrayed our interests by getting the refinery established in Punjab.

The NDA Government, considering the rivers as a national property, had tried to formulate a plan for inter-linking the rivers so as to make the water available in those areas, which are drought prone. But this government has forgotten this work after coming to power and consequently the drought like situation has occurred. The government does not have any programme as to how it would be tackled. The UPA Government has withheld the funds meant for Pradhan Mantri Gram Sampark Sadak Yojna. The government is adopting the policy of discrimination in supplying the electricity to the states being ruled by non-Congress governments. Therefore, I would like to strongly oppose the motion of thanks introduced by the government on the President's address.

[English]

DR. THOKCHOM MEINYA (Inner Manipur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I stand before you to support the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address moved by Shri

Pawan Kumar Bansal. Actually, we are very grateful to the hon. President for his Address, which he has been pleased to deliver to both the Houses of Parliament.

Just now, we heard our friends. It looks like a good debate. I would propose to put it this way that the Address given by His Excellency in the Central Hall is one of the best Addresses we have heard in the history of Indian Parliament because it has covered almost all the aspects that this UPA Government wants to do. He had mentioned about Tsunami tragedy. I will add to Tsunami, cyclone, earthquake, flood, famine and all sorts of natural calamities. We are going to have the National Disaster Management Authority for this. Last month when we toured Gujarat, we met the authorities of the Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad. I myself had proposed that we could start a course on Disaster Management. We have done very well in the field of management. We propose that we should have a permanent authority to look into all these natural calamities because in India, there are very big rivers. We have recently come across floods in Assam, cyclone in Gujarat and earthquake in many places.

We require to have such an authority, which is a must.

Coming down to the sense of humanity in the President's Address, I would like to quote a few lines of para 10, which, of course, belongs to the State of Manipur as well as the State of North-Eastern India and Jammu and Kashmir. Para 10 says:

"My Government has infused a new sense of belonging among various disaffected groups, especially in the North-Eastern States and among the tribal communities across the country. The handing over of the historic Kangla Fort to the people of Manipur was not just a glorious moment in the history of the Manipuri people, it also symbolised my Government's commitment to all segments of our society that they have a right to live a life of dignity and self respect."

Here, I emphasis because this Kangla Fort is the place where on April, 27 that the Union Jack was hoisted replacing the Manipur flag when Manipur lost its independence in 189. This has been the bone of contention for many years. It is in this particular time, and we are very fortunate under the leadership of the UPA leader, Madam Sonia Gandhi and the hon. Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh, that this fort has been

handed over to the people of Manipur. We are very much grateful for that. I will be failing in my duty unless I rise and mention this in this august House.

Coming to other points, there have been a good number of good things going on. I would try to be very brief because of paucity of time. The hon. Members must be remembering the moment when the President of India stood up and delivered his Address. He started with a poem, a poem, which he had himself written. That shows his humanity.

At the same time, the National Common Minimum Programme has seven priority areas. The first priority area, very rightly so, is the Agriculture. It is because a very large section of India belongs to agriculture. Next priority area is Education. Education is the one area where the investment we do today do not give its result immediately. We have to wait long years. It is a very long-term investment. Since I belong to the community of teaching for many years, we feel that education should be given top priority next to agriculture. It is quite fine, because ours is a land of agriculture, which we have to develop side by side.

The next priority areas are: Employment, Healthcare, Infrastructure—Urban Renewal, and Water. I would come to that. We have a "New Deal to the Rural India". Of course, that is a very important area.

Regarding water management, of course, I do fully agree with my hon. friends of the Treasury Benches that we have to have an integrated water management for the entire country because this is an area where a lot of thought is required to be given. A scientific temperament is to be meted out.

Sir, one interesting thing is that Manipur, of course this time, has been given all the privileges. Our Manipur University has been made a Central University. It was a long standing demand because we do not have enough money even to pay to our faculty members. During my time as the education Minister of the State, we proposed to the then NDA Government to make Manipur University a Central University but we could not succeed. But now with the change of Government here, with the new Government here, we could convince them, and the hon. Prime Minister has very rightly declared it as a Central University. He has very graciously fulfilled our demand.

Sir, here I would like to mention one more point. It was mentioned by one hon. Member on the other side

that there was no mention in the President's Address about the development of the National Highway Authorities of India, about the greater autonomy being given to it. But let me remind my friend that it was mentioned in the President's Address. It is there at Para 37. My friend also said that there was no mention about the Golden Quadrilateral. But it is very much mentioned there that 'the rate of completion of road construction under the national highways programmes, especially the Golden Quadrilateral and the North-South and East-West corridors, has been speeded up.' I am sorry, we have to go through the entire speech very minutely, otherwise we may be misleading the people.

Now, I would come to the development of khadi and village industries in the country...

Manipur is one of the States where we have a history of handloom and handicraft, and everyone, knew it well. We were having a lot of cotton growing areas, but now it has come to such a bad shape that not a single seed of cotton is available. We are now selling clothes purchased from other markets, and living on marginal profits.

At the same time, I would like to draw your attention to the fact that the three main areas of challenge to our national security have been identified as cross border terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir, insurgency in the North Eastern Region, naxalite violence in some States. Of course, we have addressed the problems quite rightly and it is right time that the Government of India initiate talks with our insurgent-friends in the North Eastern India. They are ready to come and perhaps with this, we have a political solution to the longstanding problems. ...(*Interruptions*) I would request you to give me some more time to speak.

We have the DONER, the Department of North Eastern Region, being made a Ministry now and we are very-very thankful for that.

I would like to quote paragraph no. 49, at page 17 of the Address where it has been mentioned that there is no issue or problem which we cannot solve through a patient and constructive dialogue. It says:

"In the final analysis, power in India can only flow from the ballot box, never from the barrel of a gun."

I would now come to the last point by quoting the last but one paragraph of his Address. It is very important.

[Dr. Thokchom Meinya]

President is very humane in telling this. I will quote that. Since I am a first-timer in this Parliament, I am keenly observing the proceedings of the House very painfully and here, this paragraph is very relevant. It says in para 72:

"Honourable Members, you have the heavy burden of legislative work pending before you. This session will discuss the Union Budget and other Legislative business. There are several important bills at various stages of deliberation awaiting your consideration. The people of India anxiously await your views and your decisions on these crucial economic and social legislation. I urge you, Honourable Members, to repay the trust and confidence that the people have reposed in you by dedicating yourselves to the orderly consideration of these Bills. Every minute of Parliament's time is precious and every citizen and taxpayer values it greatly. I sincerely hope you will make the most effective use of the time at your disposal and meet the citizens' expectations and fulfil their aspirations."

We have to remember this. With these words, I thank you very much for having given me some time to speak and support the motion.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAVINDER NAIK DHARAVATH (Warangal): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to thank you for giving me the opportunity to take part in the discussion taking place on the motion of thanks on the president's address. I had thought that after getting elected to the 14th Lok Sabha, I would learn something. Here, I would get opportunity to speak on the problems like hunger, unemployment, unrest and drinking water. However, it is unfortunate that even after elapsing the period of ten months, I have not got the opportunity to deliberate on these issues. Besides, I have got very less time to speak about the conditions of those people who have elected me. I would also like to thank you on behalf of my Telangana Rashtra Samiti Party for giving me the opportunity to take part in this discussion.

The President has highlighted a lot of things in his address. He also focussed on the progress achieved and the shortcomings experienced in the path of progress in the country in the last 57 years and the measures to remove them. I would like to thank the President of Telangana Rashtra Samiti Party, Sh. Chandrashekhar Rao

for giving me the opportunity to contest election on the general seat despite myself being from the reserve category. I have been elected to the Lok Sabha from that seat and today I have received the opportunity to speak on the motion of thanks on the President's address.

I would like to thank the Hon'ble Mr. Chandra Shekhar Rao. I would also like to thank our Hon'ble Prime Minister and Chairperson of UPA, Hon'ble Sonia Gandhiji for the reason that the UPA Government has paid attention to Telangana. Telangana is a backward region where there is a population of three and a half crores. Taking their problems into consideration, creation of a separate Telangana State has been included in the agenda of UPA. For this, I would like to thank the Union Government.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am the only Member from the TRS party. What is the reason for the unrest taking place in India today? The Government have to think about removing the poverty, unemployment and suppression. The portion of the budget which should have reached these people in the last 57 years is yet to reach. This system needs to be improved. Hon'ble President has included in his address his thinking about the women, backward classes, youth, minorities tribal people, scheduled castes and weavers. After ten years, a very fine budget has been presented before us and we should work towards giving it a right direction. Where the State Governments do not succeed in this task, the Union Government should come forward to do something. Whatever the Hon'ble President has stated about the tribal people in the Para 12 of his address, is very distressing. Till now, thousands of crores of rupees have been spent on the tribal people, however there has been no change in their condition. Though, there is a commitment of Hon'ble President, yet their problems persist because they have not been given their rights. It is very distressing. They should have been given seven and a half percent reservation in the last 57 years, however only one percent has been given. This is also a question connected with the unrest and problems of the tribal people. This thing has to be considered by the Government and the bureaucracy. This is not a problem of law and order, rather this is a question concerned with the social and economic problem. We can move forward in this direction only after taking the tribal people into confidence. The Schemes for them are made sitting in the air conditioned rooms, therefore, those schemes turn infructuous and these are taken advantage of by the mediators. In the Telangana region, the tribal people are selling their

children and killing them and the government must think and pay attention towards it. The poor people migrate to other cities for their livelihood and there the middlemen exploit them and their women and the women become victim of various accidents and illnesses and die. It is happening more at the places like Rayal Seema and the government should pay attention to it. In our system, policy and bureaucracy, the governor has the power under Fifth Schedule that the hon'ble President can directly deal with him. If the State Governments overlook the programmes meant for the development of tribal people, the concerned governor under the provision can set right the system and provide them the facility. With these words, I conclude my speech.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Ganesh Prasad Singh—Not Present.

[English]

DR. R. SENTHIL (Dharmapuri): Hon. Chairman, Sir, on behalf of my Party—Pattali Makkal Katchi and the beloved founder leader, Dr. Ramadoss, I support the Motion of Thanks to the President's Address. As mentioned by the hon. Members, the President's Address has never been so good. It has comprehensively approached and addressed every sphere of developmental activity. It is a blue-print of the new Government for governance.

Tsunami had been a very big tragedy. The Government did extremely well with regard to handling the crisis. But there are a few things which I would like to say with regard to the disaster that hit our shores. Disaster was managed reasonably well. I went to the area affected by Tsunami immediately after the Tsunami struck the coast. What I found was, there were people from the Department of Revenue like Tehsildars, RDOs and even some clerks from the Collectorate. Were there any technical person present there who was exclusively trained for disaster management and rescue work? There were none. There was a miserable failure with regard to having a technically professional body to tackle any disaster. It was very surprising. When I went through the web, I found that there is a Disaster management Team constituted under the leadership of the Collector and it was supposed to do the mock drills, etc. But I do not think that it had every happened and it was a failure. Let us admit that there was a failure in tackling a disaster. We do not have a technical disaster management team. We have disaster administrative team but we do not have

a disaster management technical group. It is our duty to constitute such a team.

Our hon. President has congratulated the local people for taking immediate action at the time of disaster. They had been extremely helpful. I know this because I saw that local people have been of great help but what I found was that those people were not trained in disaster management. They were unorganised. So, there was a lot of wastage of energy and resources. At the time of any disaster, the first responder is the local community. The Government proposes to have a Disaster Management Authority. It is a welcome step. But there are two things in that. One is the Disaster Management Authority. The Government is committed to a scientific approach. Therefore, the Disaster Management Authority must be headed by a scientific person and not by an IAS officer whose basic degree is something like an MA (History) or who had been working in the archaeological department for 10 years therefore he is made the Head of the Disaster Management Group. Disaster management is a science. Therefore, it must be headed by a scientist. Then, the disaster management must be cultivated to the common man because common man is the first one to respond to disaster and also it must be a curriculum in every school and college.

This Government has again and again stressed that it is committed to OBCs. As a representative of the OBC, I wholeheartedly believe that this Government will really do some good work for the OBCs. The Government had said that it will initiate a dialogue with the private industry owners for providing reservation for the Dalits. I would only request that the reservation for OBCs should be extended to private industries also. The private industries must be made to realise that when they are using the resources of the land, they should have some commitment to serve the people of the land at any cost.

With regard to the development of the rural areas, the Government proposes to introduce so many schemes. But I want to say that there are only two very important things that are essential for the development of rural areas and they are water and education. Of all the things, these are the most important things. The Government had mentioned about various schemes for promoting intensive crops and methods to conserve water. What I want to say is that there must be a National Ground Water Policy and the ground water must be nationalised. The ground water should be preserved at any cost. Likewise, nationalisation of the rivers should be done to

[Dr. R. Senthil]

prevent things such as what we saw in Tamil Nadu because of Cauvery. The Karnataka Government does not seem to heed to either the Supreme Court or the Tribunals or any other body. In this situation, we must seriously start a dialogue to nationalise all the rivers.

If water is provided to the rural areas, then the rural areas will automatically develop.

The second aspect is education. The *Sarvasikhsha Abhiyan* scheme has been extremely helpful for rural education. Buildings have been put up. But at the end of the day, education is a State subject. Are the States really providing sufficient teachers? Are they really committed to the education of rural people? That is the moot question. In this regard I would like to request this UPA Government to commit themselves to rural education and provide financial assistance to the States in order to provide education to the rural poor.

Sir, the beauty of India lies in its unity in diversity. This has to be understood. In India we have hundreds of languages and thousands of cultural identities. That is the beauty of India. There was a time when there was a deliberate attempt to unify India by making one language and one religion for all. It was an attempt like in a class if there was one tall boy and one short boy, then chopping off the legs of the tall boy to bring about an uniformity. Such a deliberate attempt was made by some people. But now people of this country have very clearly said that they do not want such unity. They want unity in diversity. This environment of encouraging all cultures and all languages to flourish should be allowed to continue and this has to be done. Our hon. President has started this talk by citing a poem in Tamil. That is the spirit of the mother tongue. Everybody should be allowed to develop their own mother tongue. Tamil is one of the most beautiful languages in the world and is believed to be one of the most ancient languages as well. It has a history of more than 300 years. It is a classic language and it should be given all the benefits of being a classic language.

Sir, rural health is a big priority of the Government. This Government has given a mission approach to rural health. This is a very welcome step. The hon. President in his Address has mentioned that this Government is committed to developing a scientific temper. He even mentioned that this is the hundredth birth anniversary of Albert Einstein who gave the world the theory of relativity and from this year we should make an attempt to make

our administration scientific in its approach. I would like to request the Government to make the administration scientific in its outlook and approach.

Time has come when we should try and train our scientists to be managers rather than creating a set of managers who are anti-people and this gap between the bureaucrats and the technocrats should be bridged. Time also has come to introduce the Indian Medical Service where doctors could be trained for managerial tasks and they can be managers by themselves. Likewise, an All India Education Service should be introduced. They should be trained in a manner so that they could be able to make our administration scientific and sympathetic to the cause of the scientists. Such a step would help our Scientific Institutions to grow.

Sir, with these words, I once again support the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address.

[*Translation*]

SHRI PRADEEP GANDHI (Rajnandgaon): There is a lack of facts in the President's Address. The Address beats about the bush alongwith the facts following therein the proverb "Vachnam kim daritram". There is a mention of Tsunami tragedy in the Address. Assistance came from across the country whole-heartedly for the victims of Tsunami. There have been coalition Governments in the country during the last six-seven years. Till date, there have been a mention as to what steps would be taken and what arrangements would be made in this regard. But the Government have not taken any concrete initiative in this direction. Under the declarations made by the Government, Schemes for particular sections of the society with a view to attract the vote bank have been formulated by them. Certainly, it would create the feeling of struggle amongst different sections of the society and it has been done in a well-planned way. The Government have made a mention through President's Address that they would bring political stability in the country. The UPA Government led by the Congress Party, on one hand, emphasises on bringing political stability while on the other, by murdering democracy in Goa and Jharkhand, they are trying to convey it to the whole country that they do not believe in democracy and are trying to repeat history. The work to cause to happen same things is being indirectly done under the guidance of Smt. Sonia Gandhi, as had been happening during the emergency imposed by Smt. Indira Gandhi in the past. But it is not a good thing. I do not agree to their view point of bringing political stability in the country. Not only this country but the whole world has witnessed as to how the Congress Party and the

UPA Government have very shamefully allowed this to happen by showing difference in their 'saying' and 'doing'.

19.41 hrs.

(MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*)

It is very shameful. Emphasising on political stability through this Address is cent percent a cheating.
...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing to be recorded except the speech of Mr. Pradeep Gandhi.

...(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI PRADEEP GANDHI: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Government have claimed about ensuring communal harmony in the country. Through you, I would like to say that hon. Atal Bihari Vajpayeeji has ruled over this country for six years. Nothing adverse had happened during his tenure except for one incident. If we go through the history of last 40-45 years of the country, it would come to know that there have been many communal riots in the country during that period. Which Government is to be blamed for those riots? Thus, to discuss this point is just an endeavour to move to the politics of benefiting only some particular sections of the country. It has been said keeping in view all these things.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, there is a mention of reservation for the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes in the private sector. This has been done under the pressure of a particular party supporting this alliance. But nothing concrete would come out of that. The Government are not able to make positive efforts in that direction. The Government have constituted a group of Ministers and action is being taken by that group. But they are making no efforts in that direction.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, there is a mention of keeping the prices stable through this Address.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Whatever he says is not to be recorded.

...(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI PRADEEP GANDHI: Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, the Government are not able to take positive steps in that direction.

They are only shouting in the wilderness. Ask the poor, slum-dwellers of the country as to what has been their condition during the last nine months. The price-rise during the regime of the UPA Government have reached at its peak and they are making a mention of it in the President's Address. In this regard, I would like to explain that there has been price-rise across the country. The 'Food for Work' scheme has been implemented in 150 backward districts. This scheme should also be implemented in other backward districts of the country. But in it also, somewhere the thinking from political angle can be seen behind it.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, there has been a mention of abolishing the POTA Act. The rationale given behind abolishing this Act is not sufficient when proper law and order system was already there in existence to fight terrorism, why the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967 had to be amended? It means that the Government's intention is not good.

Hon. Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, there has been a mention of the Common Wealth Games in the Address. There is nothing new in claiming to organise the Common Wealth Games in the year 2010 and the Olympic Games in the year 2018 in the country. The previous Governments have also mentioned the same. The previous Governments had been mentioning about it and the previous Government had taken decision in this regard an its credit goes to them. What the Government want to prove by mentioning all such things, is not clear.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI C. KUPPUSAMI: Sir, he is misleading the House.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: No, please sit down.

[Translation]

SHRI PRADEEP GANDHI: Sir, I would like to mention that whatever the Government have mentioned through this Address, also includes the mention of a big name such as 'Bharat Nirman'.

* Not recorded.

[Shri Pradeep Gandhi]

Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, mentioning of 'Bharat Nirman' is like presenting old priorities by giving them new names. Like this, the country is not going to trust the UPA Government offering old wine in new bottle before the country. Whatever has been mentioned through this document, reflects the hidden agenda of the attitude of people of those parties who are in the present Government. I, through you, would like to mention that there has been a mention of giving a special package to Bihar. As you are aware that the Government of hon. Atal Bihari Vajpayeeji had constituted three new States including Chhattisgarh. The objective behind constitution of these three States was that their proper development had not taken place. As compared to the other States of the country, 44 per cent territory of Chhattisgarh is covered with forests. There is 32 per cent tribal population and 12 per cent of the Scheduled Castes. The Harijan and Tribals constitute 44 per cent population of this State. For ensuring speedy industrialisation there, the Government have passed a resolution and made a mention for providing special package to it. There was a mention of providing a special package to Uttaranchal. Keeping in view the geographical condition, prevailing circumstances, majority of the scheduled castes and scheduled tribes categories population in these newly constituted states within the country, whether the Union Government's would give a separate treatment to Chhattisgarh, where there is BJP led Government and whether it would differ than other States where there are other parties Governments. The Union Government do not have any right to follow such a dual policy. Therefore, through you, I would like to say that there should be similar treatment with the Chhattisgarh and the people of that State should also be given equal opportunities of development. Industries located in Chhattisgarh should also be given relaxation alike to the relaxation given to the industries in Uttaranchal. The resolution associating all types of people unanimously passed and forwarded by the State Government to the Union Government, is a testimony of the will of all the political parties. It does not specifically relate to the Congress Party or the BJP. Thus, the UPA Government must follow a uniform policy with regard to the unanimous resolution received by it from this state. The Government should take further steps for the constant development of the small States like Chhattisgarh.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the President's Address has been put forth as a document of the Government. It lacks the mention of many a thing. Therefore, I strongly oppose it.

SHRI MADAN LAL SHARMA (Jammu): Hon'ble Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am thankful to you that you gave me the opportunity to make a speech on the President's Address. Before me, right from the morning hon. Members have expressed their views on the President's Address encapsulated in 24 pages which contain 73 points. I would like to appreciate this address. It incorporates all the classes, all the sectors and it mentions in totality the overall perspective of India and the actions intended to be taken by the UPA Government in the coming year 2005-06. If I make merely a traditional speech it would not serve the purpose of my people and the people of the country. The hon. Members on the other side have made their speeches in this House from the morning and have mentioned many political points indicating towards our side which I require to respond to.

I am proud that I am the worker of such a party as the Indian National Congress which has been a nurtured by the great leaders of our country such as Mahatma Gandhi, Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru, Maulana Abul Kalam Azad. Late Smt. Indira Gandhi and Shri Rajiv Gandhi. These leaders made this country independent after years of struggle and after the attainment of independence 56 years back initiated a planned method for nation building. Some of our colleagues from the opposition benches say that Congress has ruled over this country for 45 years. we are fortunate that the poor people of this country were though misled by your fold only after 45 years yet they brought about a change giving you an opportunity for the last eight years. This is right that the person who works may also commit some mistakes. 45 years is a long period and a party has ruled over this country for forty-five years. A country that has a population of over 100 crores today and having so many provinces in the different parts of the country. This country has inhabitants with diversity in food habits, languages, colours and clothes. It is not a simple thing to safeguard the unity of this country. But on the other hand there are our opponents with their communal speeches which disturb peace and create turbulence, hamper security, integrity and secularism of the country. The credit goes to the Congress Party for combating such a divisive approach. They raise their accusing fingers towards the Congress Party. I want to know whether they have played any role in the freedom struggle, whether it was the erstwhile Praja Parishad, Jansangh or the present Bharatiya Janata Party, none of their leaders have made sacrifices in the freedom struggle of this country and so none can claim to be proud of any of their leaders who made any sacrifice in the freedom struggle. I do not want to involve

myself in the debate as to who fought the freedom struggle and made the country independent and who acted as an informer, as this would agitate my colleagues. But how can this be forgotten that the Congress Party has done too much for this country and you raise accusing fingers to the family which has made sacrifices one after another for safeguarding the unity of this country. Today, in the morning itself, I was sitting to hear the speech of an hon. Member who has been a very senior Member of the House and has remained a Minister as well. There was a time when George Saheb used to deliver speeches for two hours at a stretch. Many in the country used to eagerly hear this speech. All people do not have the gift of the gab, but he has had. But I was hurt today to hear what he said. Age might be telling upon him. This could be with me as well. I respect his age and I have less experience. But he has said and another Member has said just now that today the UPA Government of this country is not being run without the advice of Smt. Sonia Gandhi. How can you forget that you too ran in this country during the last few years a coalition of 26 parties and you have your work before the people of the country also. Today we also got a fractured mandate, not a clear majority whereupon the leaders of all the coalition parties chose our able Sonia Gandhi as the head of the UPA.

This address has been framed by the Government today for the poor people of this country, for the backward people, for the people of the remote areas, for the backward provinces, and for the downtrodden. Budget is also a similar exercise, you give your suggestion for that. Like us you people too have given assurances to the people through your manifestoes. I would be proud if you accept in your response that the Congress Party has never canvassed during the last 56 years in the name of region, language, religion or say in the name of temple and mosque. Let us recall any of the manifestoes of our Congress, you tell us. ...(*Interruptions*)*

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Interruptions not to be recorded. Please take your seat.

...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI MADAN LAL SHARMA: I am not talking about the State Governments. I am talking about the Central

Government which rule over the entire country. What does the State Governments say. You know and I also know that parties come in power with what issues and how they provoke people and make promises. I am saying that the Congress has never ever canvassed in the name of religion, language, temple or mosque, whether it came to power or not. I belong to the Jammu-Kashmir State. I did not mention it. The senior leaders of the Bharatiya Janata Party must have shared the governments in the states also. I have also an experience of 25 years, but through you I am getting the opportunity for the first time to give a speech in this august House. Therefore, I would like to say a lot of things. Had I got half an hours I would have exposed them completely. I want to submit that we have never done so and have never made such a speech. A lot of things have been incorporated in this Presidential address.

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You have taken more than 15 minutes.

[*Translation*]

SHRI MADAN LAL SHARMA: I will take only two minutes more. I would like to say that if I continued to speak much about them, they would continue to interrupt and I will not be able to complete my points. It appears to me that there are two or three points lacking in this address. I am thankful to the hon. President. The hon. President had made a mention in his address about the ex-serviceman. Promise has been given to create a separate department for them in the Defence service. For that I would like to thank the hon. President because the ex-servicemen sacrifice the best part of their lives for the country and they protect our borders. But when they retire after an age of 35-40 years, they do not get rehabilitated again. I think that the ex-servicemen all over the country should feel proud that our UPA Government have provided honour and dignity to them and I thank the government for the decision they have taken to make a separate department for them. Similarly, my hon. Colleague Chaudhary Lal Singh has raised the issue of the 1947 refugees. One thing is certain that I belong to the party in power.

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please wind up your speech now.

* Not recorded.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please wind up your speech now.

[Translation]

SHRI MADAN LAL SHARMA: I have not mentioned about the refugees of 1947 who continue to reside for the last 56 years in Punjab, Haryana and Delhi. They have not got the rights which the people of the other parts of the country enjoy. Therefore, I would like to submit that our government should accord top priority to this issue as well.

20.00 hrs.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, saying these last lines, I would now wind up my speech. At present, Indian border touches Pakistan's border at Gujarat and Kargil. Hundred kilometers of Indian border touches Pakistan's border. Lacs of our countrymen are living at borders. They have to face firing being done from Pakistani side after every five or seven years. They are forced to go away from border leaving their houses and belongings. Many of our people are living in refugee camps in Jammu-Kashmir. Our relations with Pakistan are improving. But service from Srinagar to Muzaffarabad has started and bus service from R.S. Pura to Suchetgarh is also going to start very soon. Ambassadors from Indian side and Pakistani side have also taken over in each other's country. But the Government have not made any efforts for rehabilitation of those people who are forced to face firing from Pakistani side and run away from their houses at borders. I request the Government to make arrangements of their rehabilitation. At last, I heartily support the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: Sharmaji, you have asked in your speech to tell the name of any one leader of the Bharatiya Janata Party (previously called Bharatiya Jansangh) who had been a freedom fighter. I would like to tell that many volunteers of the Rashtriya Swayam Sevak Sangh fought the struggle of Jammu-Kashmir. Can you deny this fact? ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon'ble Minister, Sir, do you want to say anything?

[English]

SHRI BIJOY HANDIQU: Sir, I would like to announce that dinner is now ready. I would request all

the hon. Members to come. Sir, I would request you also, and the Members of the press and staff also to come.

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I would like to tell the hon. Members that I still have a list of 17-18 Members who are yet to speak. Members have taken a lot of time to speak and have made their speech as per their desire. I think it would not finish till 12 at night if it goes on in this way. So, I would like every hon. Member to conclude within five minutes.

Shri Ravichandran Sippiparai, you please speak.

[English]

Please wind up your speech within five minutes.

*SHRI A. RAVICHANDRAN SIPPIPARAI (Sivakasi): Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, encompassing priorities like welfare of the farmers, boost to rural development, creating job opportunities, providing for public health and establishing the rights of the oppressed sections of the society, our President of India spelt out the UPA Government's plan of action in the Central Hall of Parliament interspersed with his poetic expressions in Tamil tinged with concern for the downtrodden masses. I welcome wholeheartedly on my behalf and on behalf of my party Marumalarchi Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam and especially on behalf of our beloved leader Vaiko and thank H.E. the President of India and support the Motion of Thanks to the President for his Address to the members of the Parliament.

When tsunami tragedy engulfed the nation hitting hard our southern coastal areas, when thousands of people lost their lives, when hundreds of thousands of fishermen lost their property and livelihood, we witnessed a solidarity among all the people of this country rushing a helping hand to the affected people. The nation stood as one man behind the aggrieved people.

I only express my wish that such a deep sense of brotherhood and camaraderie is there in all of us in resolving several issues like inter-state river disputes pending for long in many parts of the country affecting our people in many ways. Agriculture is the basis of our economy with 60% of the people depending on agriculture as their occupation and livelihood. But their future appears to be bleak. As far as Tamil Nadu is concerned the

*Translation of the speech originally delivered in Tamil.

disbursement of loan through co-op societies have been stopped forthwith. They have been showing on records as through new loans have been disbursed. But in reality, the existing debts are adjusted against the new disbursements. So in effect there is no loan available to be spent on cultivation. In Tamil Nadu the rural co-op societies are being choke to death. They are dying slowly. In Tamil Nadu the public sector banks are extending loans to the farmers as jewel mortgage loans though they are shown in their accounts as agricultural loans. This must be looked into and it must be ensured that the required loans for agricultural activities must reach the needy farmers in time.

Sir, at this juncture I would like to lay stress on agricultural research. There must be an effort to get on a time bound basis the research report from all the organisations. New strides have not been made in agriculture for many years now due to inadequate extension of research developments in the field. Such research reports must come before this House and effective method should be evolved to discuss them here in the House because agriculture development is necessary. Sir, in our President's Address it has been stated that in the next 5 years 2% of our GDP would be allocated to public health. I urge upon the Government to take care of the physically and mentally challenged people who are left to fend for themselves. Cancer, heat ailments, kidney failures are some of the dangerous terminal ills that afflict our society. Many in India especially in Tamil Nadu could not get adequate medical assistance due to heavy expenditure involved. Financial assistance that was coming to such patients from the PM's Relief Fund was a solacing one. But recently it is seen that number of such recommendations from the Members of Parliament to the Prime Minister's office are kept pending. May be the requests are on the increase. Some request have also been turned down. I urge upon the Government to make viable arrangements to ensure that all such deserving cases are extended with financial assistance from the PM's Relief Fund. It has been estimated that there are about ten thousand handicapped people in our Sivakasi constituency. Of them more than a thousand people have got surgical treatment while many of them have been given medical consultancy and needed treatment and good many of them have got necessary equipments needed by the physically challenged. Single handedly our leader Vaiko take efforts to arrange rehabilitation camps for them to bring about a revival in the lives of such hapless people.

When we deal with a Budget for more than 5 lakh crores of rupees, we must ensure that our deserving handicapped people get a better deal and proper care. Our Government must carefully monitor whether 3% reservation is available to our physically challenged brethren.

In order to forge an alliance through a clandestine relationship for political motives, the erstwhile rulers here were turning a Nelson's eye to the actions taken by the present rulers of Tamil Nadu who went about misusing POTA to confine our leaders Vaiko for more than 550 days in prison. It is another matter that they had political set back as retribution to their double standards and that is why they find themselves on the other side of the House now. They were washed out in Tamil Nadu and they are in the opposition now. This is the lesson we obtain from history and this is how the ungrateful ones are dealt with.

I urge upon the Union Government to have proper watch on crores of rupees spent on employment generation programme. For instance the funds allocated for paying manual labour under 'food for work' scheme is spent on machines. That way the deserving poor labour could not get what is due to them. We must ensure that underdeveloped rural areas with people below poverty line must be gainfully employed to stir up the minimum required economic activity there. Such funds must reach rural labour as rightful wages. This Government accords priority to higher education. I would like to urge upon the Government that primary education in rural areas also must get the same priority or even much more.

Now we have a Government that has people and their welfare as a foremost thing in its action plan. We have a scientist at the helm of affairs as our President. We have a renowned economist as our Prime Minister. Under their able stewardship our country marches ahead towards a bright future. Hence I reiterate my support to the Motion of Thanks to the President for his Address to the Parliament.

With this, I conclude my speech.

*SHRI M. SHIVANNA (Chamarajanagar): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak on the Motion of Thanks to the hon. President of India. The President addressed the Joint Session of the Parliament and expressed his concern over 73 important items including the ghastly tragedy, tsunami. He expressed his views for one and a half hour while giving importance to relief measures taken up by the Centre.

*Translation of speech originally delivered in Kannada.

[Shri M. Shivanna]

The hon. President was kind enough to mention about reservation of vacancies to the SC and ST in private organisations. In fact, the Centre is keen to pass a Bill in the Parliament to provide reservation to the SC and ST in private organisations and I thank the President for this.

Panchayati Raj is functioning successfully throughout the country. Panchayat institutions have been given freedom and funds worth lakhs of rupees are being allocated to perform their duties.

I urge upon the Centre to give priority to the problems of farmers. They are committing suicide especially in my State, Karnataka. They have various problems related to sprinkling irrigation, marketing facilities etc. Agriculture is the backbone of India's economy and about 70% of our population are farmers.

Karnataka Government has an ambitious programme of providing midday meals to the school students studying upto 10th standard. So far, this facility was available to students who are studying in class upto 5th standard. Therefore, Karnataka Government has urged the Centre to increase its contribution to provide midday meals to school students. The present ratio of contribution between Centre and State is 50 : 50. Karnataka has already approached the Planning Commission to this ratio as 85 : 15 in favour of the Centre. I hope the Centre will come forward to help my State.

Sir, for the first time ISRO is involving the students of 800 school to impart education through satellite. I am proud to mention this educational programme has started in my constituency, Chamarajanagar. A number of classes were held by ISRO during the first week of March 2005. I request the Centre to adopt this method to educate the children throughout the country.

The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment is helping the patients who are suffering from various diseases like cancer, kidney problems, etc. About 75% of the treatment expenditure is provided by this Ministry through Dr. Ambedkar Foundation which has its office in New Delhi. Unfortunately under this scheme only 9 States are eligible for this financial benefit. I request the hon. Prime Minister to intervene in this matter and to include all the States such that there will be no discrimination among States.

Karnataka is reeling under severe drought for the last 4 years. There are no rivers in my constituency.

There are no irrigational facilities. Hence my humble request to the Centre is to link major rivers of our country. That is the only and ultimate solution for the problems of our farmers.

Nusi and Rootwilt are the diseases which have destroyed lakhs of coconut trees in Karnataka. Removal of these disease infected trees is another problem of farmers. The coconut grower gets a meagre Rs. 25 to cut such trees. There should be a package for the coconut growers such that they can come out of this crisis.

Another major problem of the farmers of Karnataka is lack of marketing facilities for the agricultural produce. At present tomato growers are throwing tomatoes on the roads as there are no takers. It is being sold at Rs. 2 per kg. Therefore, I request the hon. Minister of Agriculture to provide at least one cold storage to each district in Karnataka and save the lives of poor farmers.

Sir, I thank you once again and with these words, I conclude my speech.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Ganesh Singh, you may speak for five minutes only. You have to give suggestions only.

[*Translation*]

SHRI GANESH SINGH (Satna): I have put up some amendments from 517 to 533 in the list No. 24 in the President's Address. I would like to request through you that these may be accepted. Hon'ble Deputy Speaker, Sir, India at present seems to be divided into two parts because of unequal development in various parts of the country. One part is urban India and second is rural India. There are about 60 per cent people of the country who have not been provided basic facilities even after 56 years of Independence. A number of schemes have been formulate but the poor in rural areas of the country have not been benefited by them so far. If the above mentioned thing were included in the Presidential Address of the UPA Government, it would certainly deserve my appreciation. But it can be said that if the trend of unequal development in the parts of the country continues to go on in the same way, the country is likely to be divided. In rural areas of the country, people are facing severe shortage of water. We could not have been able to provide water to all. Unemployment in the country has rapidly increased and the youth today has become directionless and he has nothing to do. Farmers work hard in the fields day and night. Still they are not able

to earn their bread sufficiently. The situation has become so bad that in case of death of farmer, his wards have to lend money for their coffin and other ritual activities after death. A large number of farmers is compelled to commit suicide. What are the reasons that we are not able to remove this problem of committing suicides by the farmers? Every year, the budget contains provisions of thousands of crores of rupees. But we are not able to provide help to those who are the real founders of this country and have given an identity to the nation. It is a matter of serious concern.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to say that no country can become strong without educating its people. But there are a lot of disparities in the present education system of the country. Present system of education has made a wide gap between the poor and the rich in the country. We have not had a discussion over this issue at national level till date. If we do not implement same educational system and provide technical education, which is very important and necessary today, in the country through a fixed programme and also do not have a discussion over that, I think making such programme is of no use.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, today the developmental activities are being performed in the rural areas of the country. In this regard, it has been announced that out of 365 days, 100 days employment would be provided to the people there. I would like to say that it is not an employment rather it is a work on daily wages. If we ask the educated youth to accept 100 days' employment only, they would never accept it. But wagers could accept that. Can any educated young man accept the offer of 'food for work' and get ready to do work? We cannot call it employment.

I would like to tell that it is a great cheating to the unemployed youth of the country. At present, there are no jobs in Government as well as private sector. Where should the youth go in such an embarrassing situation. There are some opportunities of employment in urban areas but in rural areas, there is hardly any opportunity, whereas 70 per cent population of the country is living in rural areas. You may ask the youth as to what kind of situation they are facing. Today, they have not any programme so as to earn their livelihood. whether the Ministry of Rural Development cannot impart any training to the youth regarding employment? Whether there is any problem being faced by the ministry in introducing such programmes through which technical education can

be provided in each and every village of the country and the people can be inspired towards having self-employment and the small scale, rural as well as agro-based industries can be promoted? Why such an attitude is not being considered? Years are gone since the nation got freedom. The Congress Party has had its regime in the country for about 40-42 years, even then people are losing their faith in the Government. In 40-42 years, we might have brought the country on well developed path. But we did not give right direction to the country. When Vajpayee ji was the Prime Minister in the previous NDA Government, many time-bound programmes were made by him. For example, I would like to tell that he has announced that they would link every village of the country to the pucca road. He also announced that they would arrange to supply pure drinking water in each and every village of the country during the year 2005-2006. But, why do the present Government not have any such time-bound programme? I think this Government do not have a right attitude. How long shall we mislead the country? Our country is thickly populated. If we are not in a position to give right direction to the country with the implementation of satisfactory and beneficial programmes, the people of the country would then get disappointed. An atmosphere of truce was created among the people during the regime of the Vajpayee Government. However, today we are again going back to pessimism. The feeling of disappointment has prevailed rapidly in the people again because it seems that the Government is unable to fulfill our aspirations and sort our problems. Why this situation has emerged? I would like to say that the Government should take up such programmes so as to bring happiness to the people of the country, who are feeling desperation.

Social Justice has been talked about in the President's Address. How can we have social Justice? How can there be the development of the people of the 52 per cent of the population of the country who belong to backward caste and are kept away from all the programmes, be it the question of women's reservation or reservation to provide jobs in the private sector? It would be possible to give the social justice only when the 52 per cent people are included in all such programmes, whether it is the case of giving reservations to women or providing reservation in the private sector.

In our Lok Sabha constituency, a scheme has been started for the development of the rural sector. Congress people say that Mahatma Gandhi is our leader. He envisaged that the villages be prosperous, self reliant and self esteemed. The country would become strong, if

[Shri Ganesh Singh]

the villages are strong and the funds meant for villages remain there only. Why the Government has not included such schemes in its programme?

Shri Nanaji Deshmukh is a very great social worker. He has been working for the last two years in Chitrakoot, Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh border through Deendayal Research Institute. He has elevated the institute to such a level that today no person in the 80 villages there is leaving the village in search of job. Each and every person is engaged in some work. The farms who could not produce two crops earlier are now having them today. The sources of irrigation have increased. There is hardly any house without employment. In the area of education, health, employment, the money meant for villages should be spent in the villages themselves and each family of the village can open its account in the banks. I would like to say that if someone running an NGO with a firm resolve can turn some villages into a model village, why we can't run a time-bound programme on the same pattern taking it as a model? We can decide that in the ten years we would take the country to this direction. Today more than 40 per cent population of this country lives below the poverty line. It is a different thing that we are saying 29 crore families, however if a survey is conducted, there would be more than 40 present such people. In our country, the number of people living below the poverty line is increasing. We should be concerned. We should be concerned over the increasing unemployment. We should be worried over the farmers committing suicide and the fact that there are no schools or hospitals in the villages. Even today the telephone facility in the villages is inadequate. The mobile phones are being used in the cities. Whereas a villager still has to travel for a distance of 40 kilometers to make a call. I would like to state that mobile sets have reached here but where the signals have gone. It seems as if the network of BSNL is not working efficiently. One may aptly expand the abbreviation BSNL as *Bhitar se Nahin Lagta Hai*. This is the situation today. Why does BSNL not set up its network? It appears as if there is some connivance with the private companies so that the BSNL become defunct and the monopoly of the private companies continue here all over the country. I would like to ask as to which direction the present atmosphere of the country would lead us? I would like that the UPA Government come out with a time bound programme so that both the country as well as the Government are benefited. The programmes which we had launched under the leadership of the Hon'ble Atal Bihari Vajpayee, need to be given emphasis and given impetus thereto. With this a better

India could be in the making in the coming 10-15 years. They are talking about India of their own imagination which will be without any direction. However the India whose making the NDA Government had proposed, is the real India under which it can progress. I would like to thank you for giving me the time to speak here.

[English]

SHRI FRANCIS FANTHOME (Nominated): Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am extremely grateful for allowing me to speak on the Motion of Thanks to His Excellency the President of India for his Address to Parliament.

Examining the Address, one finds that the Address bridges the agrarian economy with the knowledge economy, and the aspirations of the hon. Members on the other side, which he has just illustrated. If we read the hon. President's Address, we would find that his aspiration have been addressed in the Address of the President of India.

The Address is visionary, is foresightful, is optimistic and is outcome-driven, and that is the beauty of the Address of the President of India. The Address links a new vision of rural India bridging the divides that have ridden the social order and it is this element of the Address of the President that is particularly significant.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the UPA Government and the Prime Minister in particular for the manner in which the nation has been linked to one common striving consequent to the tragedies that took place in the South of the nation and in Kashmir. Never before has the nation exhibited one common commitment to a common striving so as to alleviate the hardships of the people of this nation. We have all contributed to the welfare that we want this nation to have. And it is the leadership of the hon. Prime Minister that has made this possible.

I would also like to mention that there is a new kind of politics that the Address of the hon. President of India defines: It is the politics of inclusion. Never before has the President of India spoken of the politics of inclusion—the politics of integrating people to a common striving for togetherness, for participation on a common platform. He has very succinctly outlined that it is pluralism, diversity, flexibility and secularism that is going to make this nation move forward consequent to equity and social justice.

Never before has the President's Address outlined with such clarity the platform that the minorities, Schedules

Castes and Scheduled Tribes would like to have as components of the common participative platform. Belonging to a minority community myself, I would like to emphasize that participation is what all sections of the nation need in order to define that nationhood that we had envisioned when we had our 'Tryst with Destiny'.

It is this new paradigm of the nation we want to have that the Address of the President define with such clarity and with such succinct boldness that we now require.

It is said in the Address that we would like all people to participate. It says that we would like a caring and sharing mechanism to operate in this nation. For this very purposeful intent, I would particularly like to thank His Excellency the President for his Address.

There is one more area, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, that I would like to particularly focus on. The kind of vision that the nation would like to have for the education of children of this country is of very great significance in the Address of His Excellency.

There is talk of social upliftment of Scheduled Tribes, Scheduled Castes and the *Dalits*. There is talk that the Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalyayas would be located in those areas where normally there is no access for quality educational participation. This is an extremely important element of enabling the girl child in our country to raise the participation level above the present prevalent percentage of nearly 23.

I would also like to mention that there is a beginning to define, what the President called, the "National Knowledge Commission" which is proposed to be established. This is again an extremely important step and it is consequent to this that we will be able to see the benefits for the nation that we would like to have.

I would also like to endorse the agenda for 'Modernisation' that has been stated in the Address of His Excellency. A new code for governance is proposed. There is also a new facet of involvement in upgradation of the Armed Forces, an Administrative Reforms Commission is suggested. There is also the important dimension of public-private partnerships in promoting the goodness of this country.

These are extremely important elements to enhance the success-oriented nationhood developmental platforms.

Having said this, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, let me mention that we are extremely upbeat with this Address. We would like to say a great thank you to his Excellency.

With these words, I would like to support the Motion of Thanks to the president.

*SHRI HITEN BERMAN (Cooch Behar): Hon. Deputy Speaker Sir, I rise to support the Presidential Address on behalf of my party All India Forward Bloc. Through you Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the UPA Government towards certain issues. In the Common Minimum Programme of the Government, it was said that there would be uniform development in the entire country. I would like to mention that there is an area which is highly underdeveloped—it is the northern part of West Bengal. In 6 districts of North Bengal approximately 2 crores of people live. But in this year's Budget speech, North Bengal has been totally overlooked. Sir, the entire stretch of North Bengal is surrounded by three neighbouring countries viz. Nepal, Bhutan and Bangladesh. People in this part of the State mostly belong to the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe communities. Even after 57 years of independence, there is no adequate irrigation facility in the area. The Teesta Irrigation Project is still pending and the Budget has not mentioned it. Agro-based industries have not developed properly. There is an acute problem of unemployment among the educated youths. Thus they are easily attracted towards various terrorist organisations like the Maoist groups, KLO, Bodo outfits, etc. Soil erosion and flood are the two major problems of this part of the State. Most of the rivers have originated from Bhutan. To check soil erosion and flood, India-Bhutan Joint River Commission should be set up. But nothing has been said in this regard.

There is also no mention of a separate board which was to be set up to control flood.

The length of the area bordering Bangladesh is about 2200 kms. Wire fencing has been done here at a distance of 150 yards as a result of which 3 lakh acres of land has been encroached by Bangladesh. Therefore the farmers are facing problems. The Home Ministry of Government of India has given the direction to keep the gate open for 12 hours but the BSF is opening it for not more than 3 hours. Through you Sir, I appeal to the Government that all these problems must be solved as soon as possible.

At the end, I would like to raise a very important issue. Cooch Behar is my constituency. In Shaitalkuchi block of Cooch Behar, since 2 PM this afternoon, firings are taking place between BDR and BSF. People are deserting the area out of fear. This is a very serious problem. I urge upon the Government to take some steps immediately before the situation deteriorates.

I thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak.

*Translation of the speech originally delivered in Bengali.

SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN (Baramulla): Hon. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I have tabled many regrets which I will plead that the same be associated with the Motion of Thanks tabled by our hon. colleague, Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal. But before I talk about the regrets I have about the Address, I have some words of felicitation for the present Government for their achievement which they have made in succeeding to get through the agreement for opening the Baramullah-Rawalpindi Road, which falls in my area—as they have mentioned in the President's Address, that is, Srinagar-Muzaffarabad Road.

History is irrelevant in this debate but I have no hesitation in accepting that this is a historical event which they have succeeded, by sheer luck I will say, of course, to get it through. They deserve congratulations, especially, the External Affairs Minister, who has been magnanimous in getting this deed through because I am personally aware of the reluctance of the leaders in the top echelons of power in Pakistan.

There was a big resistance and a big reluctance across the spectrum in politics for opening this road after more than half a century. I will be failing in my duty if I do not place on record my gratitude to the former Prime Minister Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee who is the propounder and supporter of this theory known as 'People of People Contact'. I am grateful to him that he started it without any imposition or intervention from the Government and let it to be successful with the support of some of the Gandhians and some stalwart leaders and some amongst us who are associated with this struggle right from the childhood.

We went across the border to Pakistan. Shri Bansal, who is the Mover of this Motion of Thanks, was also with us and we could see the hostile atmosphere because of separation for the last half a century. Now with the grace of God, we have succeeded to that extent especially in opening of Baramulla Rawalpindi Road in Kashmir. We are expecting that the Khokhrapar-Munnabao rail link will also be opening shortly. That is a bigger success. These are the windows of friendship of sovereign states which can help to melt down the animosity which has piled up for the last half a century between the two countries who are neighbours and who are responsible. If they go jointly for the welfare and for the bigger role in South Asia which we are expecting, it would be possible with the mutual cooperation of both the countries. I hope, this Government will keep it up and be able to get through with this.

But my regrets are about many things. We are happy that a mention has been made about Jammu and Kashmir in many paras in this Address. That can probably make us happy that they remember us, the Government remembers the problems of J&K. But there is no concrete proposal in any para as to how these problems which we are facing because of intense pressures of militancy for the last 15 years and because of the circumventing course of the invaders in 1947, will be solved. We had to go a long way for stabilizing our economy. What shall happen to that area which is now in a land-locked situation with bigger force of unemployed youths? There are only paras and very good words saying that we would address to the economic problems and development.

A mention has been made about the concern of the Government about violation of human rights and economic development of the State. Violation of human rights has taken place so many times. Violation of human rights especially had been done by ingressing mercenaries who have killed political persons who have killed the civilized citizens of Jammu and Kashmir especially from Kashmir, their families are suffering and waiting for the support of the Government. It is very unfortunate that the coalition Government in Jammu and Kashmir in which the Congress is a partner, has stopped the support which the Governor of Kashmir had assured them under 43 SRO. They have stopped giving employment to the families of those who suffered. They are scrambling around the offices. There is nobody to listen to them. How do we address the concerns of civil rights violation.

They are talking about ailing tourism industry of J&K. There is nothing concrete in this proposal or in this Address as to how they shall address to those problems. I have regrets that they have made no mention about opening of an IIM in Srinagar. They have made no mention about one time grant to Sher-e-Kashmir Agriculture University in Srinagar. They have made no mention about the suffering of the people who have suffered recently under 'Snownami'.

It was a disaster. Most of the areas of my constituency, like Gruez, Kamah, Karen, Muchil and other places are still cut off. I have to accept that unless we had the support of the Army there, people would have died in bigger numbers.

Our State Government is still collecting the facts as to how many people have died in the snow disaster. But still there is no comprehensive support to those people, and no mention has been made in this Address about their rehabilitation.

So, my humble request is that the first considerations should be given to the disastrous hit area. It is because of the present disaster that people have suffered and they are still in problems. There is no mention about the healthcare problems the people are generally facing, and especially the areas which are militancy ridden areas, where people suffer from heart diseases, where people are with neurotic diseases and where people suffer from cancers. They are begging for support, but we do not get support from anywhere. From the Prime Minister's Officer our applications are returned that 'you do not have so many formalities done.' The bureaucratisation of the Government will not help this Government to get, to achieve what they have put in their common minimum programme.

*SHRI SARBANANDA SONOWAL (Dibrugarh): Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, I would like to say a few words on the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address. Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, India is a subcontinent. More than one hundred crores of people belonging to various communities and religions are living in the subcontinent. And the subcontinent has a glorious history. India's freedom struggle was led by the Father of the Nation Mahatma Gandhi, and in the freedom struggle people from all parts of our country took part and sacrificed their lives. Many lost their lives in this freedom movement. Gandhiji dreamt of a democratic India. He dreamt of a strong India. But we are yet to see such an India. Gandhiji's dream has not been fulfilled till now. As an example, I would like to state that although the Government of India under its Common Minimum Programme has spelt out certain welfare measures for rural development, for the development of backward communities, for the SCs and STs, for the minorities, and for women, yet these measures have not been successfully implemented till now. That is why our villages are still backward. The conditions of roads and other means of transport and communication system are in a very bad shape for which even in the 21st century villages have remained underdeveloped. As a representative of the north-east region I would like to say a few words about the region. The people of Assam also made valuable contribution in the country's freedom struggle.

They joined in this freedom movement. But even after 57 years of independence the people of Assam have not enjoyed the fruit of independence the way they should have enjoyed. They have not enjoyed the fruit of freedom so far as the State's development is concerned. We have observed that the Central Government has completely betrayed Assam and the entire north-east region. The Central Government has neglected the whole of north-east region for which we have not got good roads. The bridges and roads remains unconstructed and proper academic and other institutions based on modern science and technology have not been set up in the State. While the Central Government has given all the modern facilities to other States, it has not given such facilities to our States for which we are still backward. Moreover, politically also we are not secured. Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, you are aware that a movement to deport the illegal migrants started in Assam in 1979. The Central Government was also aware of the fact that Assamese people felt insecure politically, culturally and economically. It was because of the influx of lakhs of foreigners, that the people of Assam felt insecure, and to deport these foreigners, they struggled for long six years. After 6 years of agitation an accord was signed in 1985. On 15th August 1985, the then Prime Minister of India, Mr. Rajiv Gandhi announced that as per the provisions of Assam accord, the illegal migrants would be detected, and their names would be deleted from voters' list and they would be deported from our country so as to ensure the safety and security of Assamese people. But unfortunately that had never happened. Lakhs of foreign nationals are still residing illegally in the State. The border between the north-east region and Bangladesh is still open. The foreigners may come and occupy our land at anytime. That is why we still feel insecure. We demand security. In this connection, Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, I would like to mention that our Hon. Prime Minister Shri Manmohan Singh, during his recent visit to Assam assured the people of Assam and all Assam Students' Union that under the Chairmanship of the Prime Minister a meeting would be called to take steps to implement Assam accord. But no such steps have been taken so far. I would like to request the hon. Prime Minister that as per his assurance he had given to all Assam Students' Union, an arrangement should be made for a tripartite talks for the speedy implementation of Assam accord. Another burning problem which Assam is facing at present is the problem of ULFA and NDFB. Since the people of Assam want a peaceful political solution to this problem, this should not be treated as a problem of mere insurgency. This problem should be solved by peaceful negotiations. Through you Sir, I would

*Translation of the speech originally delivered in Assamese.

[Shri Sarbananda Sonowal]

like to request the Central Government to hold talks with ULFA and NDFB so that a political and meaningful solution could be arrived at. Moreover, Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, you are aware of the tea industry in Assam. The British India and also the independent India came to the limelight of the industrial scenario through this tea industry.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you.

SHRI SARBANANDA SONOWAL: But the conditions of the tea labourers are very very pathetic. They are yet to get proper housing facilities, they have not got pure drinking water, education, etc

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Please sit down.

SHRI SARBANANDA SONOWAL: They have been deprived of bare necessities of life. The Assam Plantation Act of 1951 has not been implemented so far. The Government of India and also the State Government must ensure security to the tea labourers. I strongly demand that Central Government should incorporate these issues in its Common Minimum Programme.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Please sit down.

SHRI SARBANANDA SONOWAL: Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, just one more minute. Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, I would like to say that as per the assurance given in the Assam accord the Bogibeel bridge should be constructed and Assam Gas cracker project should be set up as soon as possible. Thank you.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Chandra Mani Tripathi, please give your suggestions only. Four hon. Members belonging to your Party are there to speak; and so, please give only the suggestions. If there are only two Members, then, we appreciate it. You may please give only the suggestions; I want to finish it soon.

Now, you may speak.

[*Translation*]

SHRI CHANDRA MANI TRIPATHI (Reewa): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I rise to oppose the Motion of 'Thanks on Presidents' Address. The President's Address is a document of the future plans and programmes of

the Union Government. On the basis of it, I can say that it is only a jugglery of words and an address without any direction. There is no concrete programme in it. It only reflects the phrase that "Great Boast Little Roast." In Page 8, the government, highlighting its commitment, has stated that it is committed to an integrated society, welfare state and mixed economy. Without taking time any more, I would like to focus on these three points only. This government talks of an integrated society, but it is engrossed in the policy of appeasement of minorities. Earlier, there was another category of minorities. Since, the emergence of Mrs. Sonia Gandhi in politics, the propagation of Christianity is in its full swing. The religious conversion of the tribal people is taking place on a large scale. This government is silent on this. As long as ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI BIJOY HANDIQUE: How can you connect it with ...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI CHANDRA MANI TRIPATHI: Since the emergence of Sonia Gandhi. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Tripathi, you should address to the chair.

...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI CHANDRA MANI TRIPATHI: Sonia Gandhi is the Chairperson of the UPA. Why are you feeling so bad? ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Sir, the way he is speaking is quite objectionable. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI CHANDRA MANI TRIPATHI: Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, I don't intend to insult Sonia Gandhi. Soniaji is the Chairperson of the UPA. Since the emergence of Sonia Gandhiji, there is a religious conversion of tribal people on a large scale. ...(*Interruptions*)

[English]

What is objectionable in it? ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: What is he saying, Sir? ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRA MANI TRIPATHI: Soniaji is the Chairperson of the UPA. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: What does he want to make of this country?

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRA MANI TRIPATHI: I have the right to say. If there is any discrepancy in it. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: What do you want to make this country. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI CHANDRA MANI TRIPATHI: Religious conversions are taking place.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Bansal, you are a senior Member.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRA MANI TRIPATHI: There is no reference to prevent religious conversions in the President's Address. On the one hand there is the talk of making a harmonious society, on the other certain sections of the society are being promoted by violating uniform civil code. I, however, agree that nobody should be subjected to injustice and discrimination but there should not be any kind of appeasement also. Minority Commission has been set up in the educational sector which is fatal. It will destroy the educational set up of this country. This is the programme of the UPA Government towards making a harmonious society.

The second point relates to the system of the welfare state. For whose welfare? It is not the system of welfare

state of the country. It is the Congress Party's version of the welfare State. The decorum of the Prime Minister office has been devalued. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: It is not to be recorded.

...*(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRA MANI TRIPATHI: The non Congress Governments at the States are being blatantly dismissed through foul play despite their being in majority. Is it the political welfare? The third point is regarding the mixed economy. The Congress Party had started with Congress mixed economy. Subsequently the Congress Party raised the slogan of socialistic pattern of society in its Awadhi Congress. Then the society became socialists. Today, we have mixed economy. What is this? The President Address speaks of stabilising the prices. Sugar was available for sale at Rs. 12 per kilogram when the Government headed by hon. Shri Vajpayeeji was in power.

21.00 hrs.

But at present the same sugar is being sold at Rs. 22 per kilogram. Prices of every commodity have gone up. Iron is dearer, prices of cement have been increased and the Hon'ble President Address refers to. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Why are you giving a running commentary? You are the most responsible person and the most hon. Member of this House.

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRA MANI TRIPATHI: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I was saying that in the hon. President's Address it has been mentioned that the rate of inflation was 8 per cent in 2004 which at present is 7.5 per cent. I would like to say that the level of price rise has increased. The country is at the verge of instability and it has been thrown into a situation of chaos and confusion. I would like to add further that the UPA Government is

* Not recorded.

[Shri Chandra Mani Tripathi]

bent upon under mining all the democratic institutions and there are no time bound programmes for all schemes. I would like to emphasise this.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I strongly oppose the motion of thanks on the Hon'ble President's Address.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon'ble Members are requested that Shri J.M. Aaron Rashid is not feeling well. He would like to speak first. Therefore, I am asking him to speak first.

[English]

SHRI J.M. AARON RASHID (Periyakulam): Respected Deputy Speaker, Sir, our hon. Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh has protected India's pride by not taking the foreign contributions at the time of Tsunami disaster. He has said that we do not want foreign contribution. He has told America that we do not want your help as we are self-sufficient. So, India's pride has been kept by our hon. Prime Minister under the able guidance of our leader, Madam Sonia Gandhi.

The UPA Government has given thousands of crores of rupees for the Tsunami victims. More than Rs. 1400 crore has been given to Tamil Nadu alone. I would only request that the help should go directly to the needy people. If a person is missing, he should be declared as dead. If the head of the family is missing for 60 days, the family is under starvation. So, I would request that the persons who are missing should be declared as dead and compensation should be given to them. According to the law, if they want to take compensation, it will take 5 to 7 years' time. Why should they have to wait 5 to 7 years for getting compensation? They should get the due compensation. Therefore, I would request the Government to see that compensation is given to the Tsunami victims.

I welcome the concern shown by the UPA Government for the welfare of Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and minorities.

21.03 hrs.

[SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL *in the Chair*]

The NDA Government did not care the minorities. During its regime, the Scheduled Castes were deprived of their dues. But the UPA Government under the

guidance of our CPP Leader, Shrimati Sonia Gandhi has given very good schemes to the nation. During UPA Government's regime, the inflation rate has come down from 8 per cent to 4 per cent. The NDA had forgotten the grievances of the minorities. ...*(Interruptions)* When I speak in Tamil, I can reply to you but when I speak in English, I cannot reply to you. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please carry on. Please do not be distracted by him. Otherwise, you will lose your own time.

Sir, this Government has allocated rupees one lakh crore to the agriculture sector. We have spent around Rs. 93,000 crore for the welfare of the agriculturists. The people associated with farming and other related aspects in the rural areas and in the far-flung tribal areas have been protected by the new Act. They have been given importance. ...*(Interruptions)*

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Sir, there is no translation.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have to give notice if you have to speak in any language other than Hindi and English.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please continue your speech. We have to conclude the debate today itself.

SHRI J.M. AARON RASHID: Their rights have been guaranteed by this. For years together these people have been engaged in agriculture. Some forest officials are denying their rights. Now, the UPA Government have assured the tribal people, the villagers their rights. They are actually the poor people of this country. They have been given full support by this Government. I welcome it.

This Government has taken initiative to help the rural poor by launching schemes like the *Sarvasikha Abhiyan* scheme, the Mid-day meal scheme, the Kasturba Gandhi *Balika* Nutrition scheme and the Direct to Home television educational satellite. This launching of the educational satellite will enlighten the rural poor and help in their education. The rural youth, women and people belonging to the backward classes will come under this hi-tech educational policy of the Government. This UPA Government is doing whatever they can for the poor people of this country. I welcome the decision of the Government for constituting the Minority Commission in matters of education to safeguard the interests of the minority institutions. In the name of minority, the linguistic

minorities are taking advantage of these institutions with the help of those people who are representing the NDA. When NDA was in power, they included linguistic minority as well. For instance, if any Tamil speaking person goes to Karnataka, then they become a linguistic minority and the same old persons continue to enjoy the status of being a minority. In the institutions meant for minorities, the Christians, the Muslims, the *dalits* should be given 50 per cent reservation for admission in the minority institutions. Now, in the name of being a linguistic minority, the people who are having more money are enjoying the benefits of this reservation. So, the Government should bring in a strict legislation to curb this practice.

Sir, Congress Party has brought freedom to this country. Now, under the leadership of Shrimati Sonia Gandhi the party is planning a *Dandi Yatra* to remember our Father of the Nation who led our struggle for Independence. By this *Yatra* the Party also wishes to remember those people who participated in the famous Salt *Satyagraha*. The people who represent the NDA never did any such thing. They only speak against the Congress but they did not do any good.

Sir, in my constituency the weavers are suffering. This Government has come up with a plan to encourage and modernise the handloom sector. According to the UPA Government's time-bound programme, it is two years in respect of weavers. Under this programme, all the old handlooms will be replaced. It is really a good programme as it will boost up the economy of the poor weavers.

With these words, I thank the President for his Address to Parliament.

[Translation]

SHRI ASADUDDIN OWASI (Hyderabad): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am thankful to you for giving me the opportunity to speak on the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address.

First of all, I would like to express my desire to support the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address. Here, a question arises that many good things have been stated in the Presidential Address. For instance a Commission will be constituted for the linguistic and religious minorities of India whose population accounts for 19 per cent of the total population. I would like the Government to fix a time frame for submission of report as two-two and a half months have passed since the Commission was constituted and the term of the same

expires on March 31. They have just set up their office. I would like term of the Commission be extended and a time frame fixed by which it was to submit its report.

Secondly I would like to point out that the Government had promised to issue a White Paper on minorities. In this regard, the Government should fix a time frame for issuing the White Paper and after doing so, it should issue the same forthwith.

The third point which has been mentioned in the President's Address is that the 15 point programme would again be implemented *de novo*. I am given to understand that at present the Central Government are now talking of the 15 point programme after a long gap of 16 years. If the Congress Party really wishes to pay a tribute to the late Prime Minister Shri Rajiv Gandhi, it should rigorously implement the 15 point programme. Now, the time has come for this alliance to translate their promises in reality. It should not be a mere appeasement of minorities especially Muslims through sweet words. They should bear one thing in mind that Muslims have witnessed many riots, injustice and excesses. They have seen their houses being plundered and themselves being eliminated. But no State or Government could succeed in fully eliminating the Muslims. We have learnt to navigate our boat braving all tempests. You cannot make us constantly afraid of arrival of the lion. Instead this community itself has become a lion. Therefore, I would like you to keep your promises. Look at the conditions of the Muslims of the country. Most of the Muslims in India work at 'Bandis' and also perform sanitary work on roads. Please take concrete measures for them.

I thank you for abolishing the POTA. You have set up a Commission for the minority educational institutions. But so far as the education is concerned, I would like to tell you that in its recent verdict, the Supreme Court has kept aside the section 30 of the Constitution, which is an important thing of the Constitution and also a fundamental right. At present, 50 per cent seats in the minority educational institutions are filled by non-minority candidates. When the Constitution was formed and section 30 was included in it, it aimed at allowing the minorities to set up educational institutions of their own choice and run them. If this decision is based on right and truth. I would like to request the Government to reserve 50 per cent seats for the minorities in the Government professional colleges also. Otherwise you should introduce a Bill in this regard so that the minorities which are setting up educational institutions by virtue of their hard

[Shri Asaduddin Owaisi]

work and wealth, could give admissions to the minorities in these educational institutions. I am aware of the percentage of educated people among the minorities. Particularly, literacy rate of the Muslim minority has decreased very much. I would like to know as to what is the policy behind relating Telangana in the President's Address. I am people's representative from Hyderabad city. We are losing investment of crores of rupees because the Union Government do not have any concrete policy before the public. I would like to urge upon the Government to declare their policy on Telangana. In Hyderabad and Telangana, there are 45 per cent Muslim minority people. You should have consulted us. You cannot take any decision on the basis of thoughts and opinion of just seven Members of Parliament. We might accept it. But, the people of Telangana would not accept it. You will have to make your policy clear. You will have to take particularly the Muslims into confidence. Taking us into confidence, you call us, have dialogue with us. You should take all the parties concerned into confidence. You should make your policy clear keeping in view this fact.

My Sixth point relates to naxalite. In the President's Address, it has also been mentioned that the State Governments have been allowed to have dialogue in the manner they desire. I request the Union Government to frame their policy in this regard so that the issue of naxalite may be resolved in a right manner. You can have a dialogue with the leaders in Hurriyat Conference in Jammu-Kashmir and also with other great Marxist leaders. So, please have a dialogue with Naxalites. In my State, ten naxalites were encountered two days ago. The newspapers report that these ten naxalites were arrested somewhere at a place. Intoxicants were added to their food. And they were shot dead in a jungle. Please tell us whether it is any solution to the problem. It would further increase the problem adversely. And the problem will continue to aggravate. I request the Government through you to declare a clear policy on this issue. Undoubtedly, it is true that secularists of the country, particularly the Muslim minorities are feeling happy since the present Government came into power but I know as to what has been done has not been done during the last six years. They had tried to suppress the issue in one way or the other. They tried to ruin them. People cite the example of Gujarat only. I would like to say that such people have been involved in every community of our society where intention is to thwart secularism in the country. Now we have this Government today. Its work

is to give orders only. But this work should also accompany justice. How much funds have the present Government allocated to the Maulana Azad Education Foundation during a year? This Maulana Azad Foundation has been set up by the Congress regime itself. Your Government have set up the National Minority Finance Corporation. What have you done? I would like to know as to what would the Government do?

A CD related to the Babri Masjid has been released. It was only two days before the demolition of the Babri Masjid that Ex-Prime Minister in his speech was provoking the people saying that he did not know about the fate of the Babri Masjid? I would like to urge upon the Government to look into the matter personally on the basis of that CD. The Librahan Commission and the CBI are there. File a case against the Ex-Prime Minister through the CBI blaming that these people are responsible for the demolition of the Barbi Masjid. It was their conspiracy that the Babri Masjid had to meet that fate. All these things are before you. So, I hope when the Prime Minister would make his speech on the President's Address or in this regard clearly in future, he would not only take the Indian Muslim Community into confidence but also he himself would say, "yes, we shall act upon these things".

I thank you, Sir, for giving me the time to speak here.

[English]

SHRI W. WANGYUH KONYAK (Nagaland): Mr. Chairman, thank you very much. I got the opportunity to speak after waiting for many hours. I want to make a remark before I start my speech. We have 33 political parties and leaders in the present House. We are not getting opportunity to speak. Only when some problems arise, you call us. Otherwise, it is from BJP to Congress and from Congress to BJP. You please give us time to speak. I am the lone Member from Nagaland.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please start your speech now.

SHRI W. WANGYUH KONYAK: If you cannot give me time even to speak, can I get money for development of Nagaland?

MR. CHAIRMAN: My request would be, please do not take your time on preliminaries. Please get down to your speech. You have got time now. Please start.

SHRI W. WANGYUH KONYAK: Now, I rise to participate on the Motion of Thanks on the President's

Address delivered on 25th February. I am happy that the Government has come out with a comprehensive policy statement on various important issues faced by the country.

And I congratulate the Government for its vision though there is no time frame to implement the declared policies. Yes, amongst the many issues, the Government has declared the setting up of Committees and Commission in respect of 21 cases but no time frame has been given in any subject matter. I have got a copy of it. I have collected it. But the question is when they are going to submit their report and when they are going to implement the policies. We do not have any idea about this. Therefore, I urge upon the Government of India to implement the declared policies during 2005-06.

Let me come to page number 16, special number 47. I am happy that two senior Ministers—the Leader of the House and also the Parliamentary Affairs Minister Shri Azad—are here when I am speaking. The Government has laid emphasis on a meaningful dialogue with various groups in the North-Eastern States. But it is very unfortunate to note that the Government has not differentiated the various groups in the North-Eastern Region. The Government is fully aware that the Naga political issue is the longest pending issue in the country. It started in the year 1932. This has been debated in this august House since 1957. We have got the Statehood through bloodshed. Nagaland is the only State which has got its Statehood with bloodshed. But in this President's Address not a single word of the Naga political issue has been mentioned. Please see the record. In this august House, it was debated in 1957.

The Government is fully aware that a ceasefire agreement was signed between the Government of India and the NSCN (IN) in 1997 and later a similar agreement was signed with the NSCN (K) in 2001. But in the President's Address it has not differentiated the various groups anywhere. There are many groups demanding State autonomy. This is the booklet containing the Government's policy but nowhere it has been mentioned.

Two years ago, the Government of India invited the NSCN (IM) collective leadership to visit India. They were here. They are here at present also to have a dialogue with the Government of India. They are here in Delhi. They were invited by the hon. Prime Minister of India Dr. Manmohan Singh saying that they should come to India. The Government of India has formed a Ministerial

Committee. I am happy for that. The condition laid down was to hold the talk in a third, neutral country between the NSCN and the Prime Minister. That was the condition made. The other conditions were that talk highest level, at the Prime Minister's level and that the talk would be held in the third, neutral country. That was the agreement made between the Government of India and the NSCN.

Now, I am happy that Delhi has started showing signs of sincerity and earnestness by declaring its recognition of the unique history and situation of the Nagas. The NSCN leadership promptly reciprocated it by even accepting the invitation to visit India.

The decision to accept the invitation of the Prime Minister to visit India has benefited the peace in many ways. Here are two such noteworthy points, which I want to point: The Prime Minister of India is easily available for talks; the NSCN leadership had easy access to cross-section of Indian political leaders and parliamentarians, including the Leader of the House, who is sitting here tonight.

Therefore, it is the Nagas who are the masters; we have started many things. We do not want development, we do not want anything. We said, 'Nagas of Manipur, Nagas of Assam, Nagas of Arunachal Pradesh'. We are not talking about that. We do not want even an inch of land from any State but Naga's birth right.

As here, in the President's Address, on page 16 it is clearly mentioned, 'legitimate aspirations'. Mr. Chairman, please see this House. Out of 543 Members, how many Members are present here this evening. Is that the way to function?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please carry on and try to conclude.

SHRI W. WANGYUH KONYAK: Therefore, my point is that the slogans of the Nagas in 1950s and 1960s were: "Nothing short of absolute sovereignty, nothing short of complete independence, and nothing to do with the Indians". But today the Nagas are talking of closeness with India because of the importance of interdependence everywhere in the world and pragmatic basis of coming closer to the point that would be acceptable to both the parties. When the Nagas are prepared to come as close as possible with Delhi, is Delhi prepared to reciprocate?

It is high time for the Indian leadership to give the much needed, much awaited healing touch to the bitter wounds inflicted on every heart of the Nagas by keeping

[Shri W. Wangyuh Konyak]

them arbitrarily divided and sub-divided. The Nagas feel there is nothing wrong with their aspirations to live together because brothers and sisters on earth naturally have every right to desire to live together and they know that they have every right to live together whether for the better or for the worse; for the richer or for the poorer.

It may be a great mistake on the part of the Central Government to send back the NSCN leadership without any sight of resolution of the conflict.

Sir, I repeat that kindly give time to the 9 (nine) single MPs belong to the smaller parties to speak first before giving chance to Congress-BJP. When you are in trouble, you invite us and when you are not in trouble you do not give us time. This is wrong. You call us back-benchers. We are not back-benchers. This needs to be rectified. I am sorry to say this. The Leader of the House is here. So, this needs to be rectified immediately.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I have given you more time than was allotted to you. Please conclude now.

SHRI W. WANGYUH KONYAK: There are 80 Members from Uttar Pradesh and about 40 to 50 Members can speak from the State.

I am the lone MP from Nagaland. I do not get the time to speak. What does it mean? I think it is bitter enough to say it in this House. This is wrong. This needs to be rectified immediately.

SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thank you for giving me this opportunity to put in a few words at the near end of the discussion.

I have had the opportunity to give certain amendments to the President's Address to Members of both the Houses of Parliament assembled together. Though a few in numbers, I think they hold very special relevance since I have been listening to all the speeches today. Somehow, unfortunately most of the very revered and hon. Members of Parliament have not bothered to mention certain vital and important matters which should concern all of us who claim ourselves to be the law makers of this nation.

Sir, the UPA Government, whose mouthpiece the President, has given in his Address, has kept before it certain priority areas such as agriculture, education, employment, health care, infrastructure, urban renewal and

water. But unfortunately, two very important facts of life, which have been completely ignored throughout this Address, sadden me. The first is preservation of forest wealth which somehow nobody in India seems to bother about. There is complete ignorance. I would not say that there is complete antipathy. Or, there is complete 'I do not care' attitude of the Government towards preservation of our forest wealth.

Sir, I would like to know how much time I have got.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have actually five minutes' time.

SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY: I will try to complete within that time Today, if you see the map of India, all along the East Coast, whether it is the land of the bandit Veerappan or in the Nepal border and beyond that where the MCC is operating, there used to be a rich forest belt. But today that belt is depleted. Economically it is one of the worst and the most backward stretches of this country. If you see that belt, if you see the map of India, in about 150 to 160 districts which lie all along that belt, and that is where the naxalites are active today. Naxalites are not anti-social. Naxalism is a political movement. It is a movement born where the poor man is living. This is where the *aam admi* is living. The Government is always beating the drums of the *aam admi*. Yet that is the most neglected area of this country.

I come from the land of Lord Jagannath and from the land of Kalinga of Ashoka's transformation, Orissa. A major patch of that belt is within our State. What we see in our State is unfortunate. If you come to realise or even if you would have seen that area just 15 or 20 years ago, it is amazing. I am not talking about half a century. I was not born during Independence. But we, are the generation of post-Independence. If you see the depletion in the forest wealth, the kind of damage that has occurred there, it is amazing.

The President's Address mentions about 'forest villages', where it is said that people have been practising agriculture on these lands for several generations but have not been given due recognition of their rights. It says that their problems are engaging the attention of the Government and that the Government would try to settle the issue of land rights of tribals. As I had mentioned, this is where the Naxalities have been active. This is a major concern for the Supreme Court. This is where all our forest wealth is but we have not tried to

preserve our forests and nor are we trying for the economic uplift of people living in those areas. In the very basic sense of land ownership, we have not bothered to have the land given to the tiller. Landlords and moneylenders still rule the roost in these areas. There is no Government whether it is of NDA or of UPA that has done it. It is still the landlords and moneylenders who are active but this Address does not mention that in any way. So, it is a pity.

The extinction of wildlife is something that should concern all of us, human beings. As we all know, we have the blessings of the Lord. We have had the fruits of education. We all know and the whole world today is aware about the wildlife, how to preserve wildlife and also how by preserving wildlife we could help ourselves to be preserved but India is one country where we are completely callous towards wildlife that exists in this country. We have been merciless in the extinction of wildlife.

Having talked about forest wealth and wildlife extinction, before I conclude I would like to just mention two points. In this Address, there is no mention about last year's Budget under which special huge amounts of money were to be spent for creating water bodies. In the seven points of priority of the UPA, water comes at the very last. Unfortunately, the President did not think it necessary to mention what happened to that huge sum of money which was to be spent for creating water bodies in the rural belt of India. As far as I know, in my constituency and in a few other areas I have seen in the neighbouring States, nothing has actually trickled down. Forget preservation of water, no money is trickling down. Out of the money that has been spent by the Union Government, nothing has actually reached the people.

We have a very honest State Government in Orissa but unfortunately it has been constantly neglected by the Central Government. The Congress, which has ruled this country for several years after Independence, has made it a point that although Orissa had always been supporting the Congress the Congress has always purposefully and very consciously tried to keep Orissa behind every other State in the country. We have the largest amount of mineral wealth in this country. We have the capacity to hold on to industry. But unfortunately we do not get the benefits of any of these minerals. So, eventually, you would see, a time would come when our money, our wealth, and our minerals would enrich other States and other parts of this country but we would go the way that

many South American and Central American countries have gone, into depravity and abject poverty, and we would be destroyed while this country would sit and laugh at Orissa. Fortunately, we have the blessings of Lord Jagannatha. We have an able and honest leader in Mr. Naveen Patnaik. In the case of the UPA Government, they have several leaders whose names have to be taken. For instance, the Prime Minister's name and the UPA Chairperson's name have to be taken. In our case, we have only one name to take. I would like to conclude by saying that like Orissa, India should also be protected from all the vagaries of opportunism and politics of convenience.

Lastly, it is of interest to know that when the Pope came to India a few years ago, he said that proselytisation of India is high on the list of papal activities. I am not a communal person but I would like to state here very categorically that India is a tolerant country. Today, if you sit on a high chair and if you look around you will find that all the high posts in this country are occupied by people who are from the Minority Community or who are from the Backward Class. They get the respect that they deserve from the rest of the country.

I am sure that in spite of all the failures of this Government, in spite of a very lackadaisical, uninterested and haphazard Address by the hon. President, this country will shine, India will shine and nobody can stop India from shining.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Haribhau Rathod. I will give the bell after four minutes and you have to complete your speech within five minutes.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI HARIBHAU RATHOD (Yavatmal): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am unable to support the Motion of Thanks on President's Address. It has been stated on page No. 8, column No. 8 of the speech that the Government is secular. Every political party or Government should be secular. As per constitution's directions action can be taken against it if it is not secular. Needless to repeat it, our Government believes in secularism. But, they do so in the House. I have seen that the good deeds done by the Government of hon. Atalji have even surpassed the work done by the Congress in past 50 years. We sought the votes of the public on the basis of the development

[Shri Haribhau Rathod]

work done by our Government, but the Congress wanted voted on the basis of the incident of Godhra. They tried to mislead the public repeatedly by talking about the minorities. They want to widen the gap between the majority and minority community. I have gone through the statement of the ex-president* about some misdeeds committed in the past during the tenure. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is the practice of the House that we do not name those persons who are not Members of the House. You can express your views without naming any person.

SHRI HARIBHAU RATHOD: I was quoting the statement of ex-President of India in which it was said that both the Bhartiya Janata Party and Atalji were responsible for it. If he was aware of the facts, he should have taken action at that time. It seems that he did not discharge his duties in right earnest. I would like to say that among the MPs of Bhartiya Janata Party, there are 17 each from Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes communities and 62 Members are from OBC communities. In total about 92 Members have come from countryside. We have witnessed a great deal of development related work done by the Government of Atal Bihari Vajpayee during the last five years. During the general election in Maharashtra, there was a situation where it was felt that the formation of Shiv Sena—Bhartiya Janata Party Government was inevitable due to the problem of cotton and electricity. But, the supporters of Congress were able to mislead the people, an act in which they are well versed and have been continuing it for the last fifty years. They seek votes in the name of religion. As far as the issue of reservation for the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes is concerned, the Government of Atal Bihari Vajpayee extended reservation benefits for them for the next 10 years. The reservation benefits were stopped due to the judgements of Supreme Court and High Court. For example, I would like to quote Sabharwal issue. At that time, the Government of Atal Bihari Vajpayeeji got a Constitutional Amendment Bill passed and provided reservation of the S.C. and S.T. Communities. The population of Anti or Vimukta Caste, Bhaktiya Jamat is 15 crore out of total population of 100 crores. Shri Gulam Nabi Azad knows it very well that the population of Banjara Samaj is six crore and the population of Bhatkiya Jamat is eight crore in the country. Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee had provided justice to those

15 crore people. That Government had constituted a Commission named Rashtriya Pichharti Banjara VJ Anti Commission, denotified and seminomadic Commission. Why did the Congress make that Commission null and void. The above mentioned communities are not getting justice. A development corporation was constituted with a provision of one thousand crore rupees to help people in goat and sheep breeding, but the Congress does not mention it any more, but we talk about the poor.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, please conclude. You have been speaking for ten minutes.

SHRI HARIBHAU RATHOD: I shall conclude it in two minutes. The issue of Women's Reservation is being discussed for a long time. As the Supreme Court has given a judgement that the ceiling of reservation will be 50 per cent. Women constitute 50 per cent of the total population. So, I want to suggest that a bill to provide 25 per cent reservation to women should be brought before the House. I think that it will be passed by the House and no one will try to create obstacle on its path. The Government of Atalji had made a grand plan to provide employment to every Indian and water to every piece of land, so it had talked about linking all the rivers. But, the Congress Government and the leftists are not making a commitment in this regard. The Green Revolution will usher in only when everyone gets employment and all the farmland is irrigated. This is my suggestion.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, Shri Bikram Keshari Deo will speak. He is the last speaker.

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO (Kalahandi): After a long wait, I got my turn; I thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I would like to quote Article 74(1) of the Constitution. It reads:

"There shall be a Council of Ministers with the Prime Minister at the head to aid and advise the President who shall, in the exercise of his functions, act in accordance with such advice:

Provided that the President may require the Council of Ministers to reconsider such advice, either generally or otherwise, and the President shall act in accordance with the advice tendered after such reconsideration."

Sir, I am sure the President must have applied himself when the speech was being prepared for addressing Members of both the Houses assembled together. I respect his intelligence because he is basically

* Not recorded.

a thinker, and one of the leading scientists of our country. Our country was not even capable to launch its own satellite, and had to take it on hire from different countries to launch our satellites. I give credit to this great man, who is our President today for breaking the ice in launching the first Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) in the country. Today, we have been able to save thousands of crores by doing this.

I was going through the hon. President's address. It is nothing, but a reflection of the rural revolution development work, which the NDA Government started under the leadership of Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee. It is just a reflection of it. Therefore, through you, I would request the UPA Government to implement the path of progress with utter sincerity like in the case of Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY).

There was a Rajiv Gandhi Foundation for drinking water, and they were doing a very good job. There is no doubt it, but I am very sorry to say that you named the entire 'Swajal Dhara' Yojana under his name. 'Swajal Dhara' means potable drinking water, and you should not have done this.

The personality cult persists so much in the Congress, and the UPA. It becomes, virtually, an autocratic type of system, and it is the NDA where the actual democratic system persisted. In the last six years, under the able leadership of Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, we could take the country forward in foreign policy, in defence policy, in rural development policy, etc. In all the policies we were ahead of the Congress Government, which it could not do in the last 50 years. If you want to show the country something new, then get agriculture into the Concurrent List, create the disaster management institute, etc.

Sir, it is an irony of fate. When the NDA Government took power, the super cyclone hit Orissa, and today, when the UPA Government is in power Tsunami hit us, and thousands of lives were lost. So, it goes to show—for both these sides—that we can be taken unaware by any disaster. The creation of a disaster management institute has become highly essential with the present climatic changes, with the present ecological imbalance, etc. The things have to be thought anew.

Today, the relief codes of the States with the help of which the disaster mitigation takes place are outdated British law. It was formulated during the British time. It was meant for flood, drought, and famine. There have been modifications done in them, but there must be a

central comprehensive law for relief to the drought-affected people. They must create a security shield for those affected by disasters. Today, who knew beforehand that Tsunami would hit us. It hit us and it hit us badly, and you were not prepared for it. The same thing happened during the super cyclone days, when Orissa coast was hit by the super cyclone. The Government in Orissa, at that time, was also the Congress. They were completely lost. They could not manage the super cyclone. The blankets and relief materials, which were coming from abroad, were being sold in the market. The hero of the 1998 Parliament or the 12th Lok Sabha—I should not name him—was the former Chief Minister of Orissa. He masterminded the toppling of the 13-month old Government of Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, and the NDA.

That was the kind of Government which was there in Orissa then. We have to come out with a concrete policy on disaster management. The programme regarding National Horticulture Mission was announced long time back, and you have reviewed, it which is a welcome step. However, do you have food preservation facilities for this purpose? Today, 80 per cent of the horticulture produce, like vegetables and other crops, are being destroyed because of lack of proper storage facilities resulting in shortages everywhere.

Before I conclude my speech, I would like to refer to WTO because the hon. Leader of the House, Shri Pranab Mukherjee, is sitting in front of me. He was the Commerce Minister in 1993, when he signed the WTO Agreement in the Uruguay Round of talks. I am a Member of Parliament for the third time and, during this tenure, I have been going through various reports on WTO. I am sorry to say that the developing countries are not being looked after at all, and the developed countries are not reducing subsidies on agriculture. When Shri Mukherjee, who was the Commerce Minister in 1993, signed the Agreement in the Uruguay Round of talks, the Agreement on Agriculture was left blank. Today, the agriculturists of this country are suffering because there is nothing on record relating to agriculture.

I have given to a lot of amendments from serial numbers 623 to 648. If I start speaking on all those points. I will not be able to complete my speech in time. However, I want the same to be recorded because they are valid points. They are not there to score political points, they are all points for the development and for the betterment of this country, this great democracy of ours, which is the biggest democracy in the world today.

[Shri Bikram Keshari Deo]

I am sorry to say that the democratic set up in Jharkhand has been destroyed. I would not like to repeat it because other hon. Members have already mentioned it. What has happened in Goa is a rape of democracy because horse-trading was going on. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please do not disturb him. Let him continue.

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO: In Jharkhand, as per the Constitution and as per the election laws, the largest party should have been invited to form the Government and asked to prove its majority. However, I am sorry to say that a party with the least number of MLAs had been invited to form the Government in Jharkhand. What a sorry state of affairs it is!

Sir, I have got another minute to speak. You said that you would give me four minutes.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have already taken nine minutes.

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO: Sir, you have said that after the bell is rung, I would get another minute. Please give me one more minute.

Now, I come to anti-dumping measures because of which this country has been losing a lot.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please just state your point. You have taken nine minutes. Within one minute, you will have to conclude. Please just state your point. I will let you do that. Please just state your point and do not take more time on this.

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO: The Crop Insurance Scheme was initiated by the NDA for the first time, but

it was not a very comprehensive scheme. To make it more comprehensive and more effective, village as a unit should be taken for insurance purposes. Besides, paddy, wheat, and cereals, other horticulture crops like vegetables should also be covered under this Scheme.

Sir, as you know, the credit given by the banks to agriculturists has been increased by about 50 per cent. I will speak on these things in the Budget discussion, if I get a chance.

Lastly, I would like to say that electricity is a very vital thing for any country. I am sorry to say that there is no mention of producing more electricity, special nuclear energy, which is the order of the day. To make us self-sufficient, we have to produce more nuclear energy. Today, of the total capacity of the electricity generated, we are generating only 2.4 per cent from nuclear energy sources.

With these words, I thank you and conclude my speech. I do not feel like opposing the Address of the hon. President of India because he not only belongs to a minority community, but is also a great Scientist, who had been installed in his seat of power, the Rashtrapathi Bhawan, by the NDA Government.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, the list of speakers is exhausted. The Prime Minister would reply to the debate tomorrow.

22.00 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Thursday, March 10, 2005/Phalgun 19, 1926 (Saka)

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106.	Shri Patil, Prakash Bapu V.	569, 582
107.	Shri Patil, Raosaheb Danve	579, 671
108.	Shri Patil, Shrinivas Dadasaheb	522, 642
109.	Shri Pingle, Devidas	487, 584, 641
110.	Shri Ponnuswamy, E.	473, 573
111.	Shri Prakash, Jai	454, 619
112.	Shri Prasad, Harikewal	501
113.	Shri Prasada, Kunwar Jitin	484, 635
114.	Shri Rajbhar, Chandra Dev Prasad	461, 593
115.	Prof. Ramadass, M.	468, 578
116.	Shri Ramakrishna, Badiga	569
117.	Shri Rana, Kashiram	501, 514, 582
118.	Shri Rao, K.S.	451, 489, 569
119.	Shri Rao, Rayapati Sambasiva	493, 507, 573, 594, 601
120.	Shri Rao, D. Vittal	547, 625, 668

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121.	Shri Rathod, Haribhau	555
122.	Shri Ravichandran, Sippiparai	496, 538
123.	Shri Rawat, Dhansingh	480
124.	Shri Reddy, G. Karunakara	446
125.	Shri Reddy, Magunta Sreenivasulu	500
126.	Shri Reddy, N. Janardhana	573
127.	Shri Renge Patil, Tukaram Ganpatrao	460, 582, 611
128.	Shri Rijiju, Khiren	457, 572
129.	Shri Saradgi, Iqbal Ahmed	580, 585, 594, 649
130.	Dr. Sarma, Arun Kumar	548
131.	Shri Scidia, Jyotiraditya M.	491, 569, 608, 655
132.	Shri Sethi, Arjun	485, 489, 569
133.	Shri Shaheen, Abdul Rashid	519, 609, 657
134.	Shri Shakya, Raghuraj Singh	587, 671
135.	Shri Sharma, Madan Lal	530
136.	Shri Shivajirao, Adhalrao Patil	564, 573, 589, 638
137.	Shri Shivanna, M.	527, 612, 659
138.	Prof. Shiwankar, Mahadeorao	483, 509, 591, 647
139.	Shri Siddeswara, G.M.	517, 651
140.	Shri Sidhu, Navjot Singh	546
141.	Shri Singh, Ramsevak	549
142.	Shri Singh, Chandra Bhushan	503, 596, 650
143.	Shri Singh, Chandrabhan	534
144.	Shri Singh, Dushyant	505, 583, 598, 652

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145.	Shri Singh, Ganesh	465
146.	Shri Singh, Kirti Vardhan	577, 635
147.	Shri Singh, Mohan	642
148.	Shri Singh, Prabhunath	464, 571, 632
149.	Shrimati Singh, Pratibha	537
150.	Shri Singh, Sugrib	540, 603, 618, 619
151.	Shri Singh, Uday	532, 615, 662
152.	Shri Solanki, Bharatsinh Madhavsinh	482
153.	Shri Solanki, Bhupendrasinh	484, 515
154.	Shri Sonowal, Sarbananda	535, 591
155.	Shri Subba, M.K.	444, 554, 573
156.	Shrimati Sujatha, C.S.	479, 570
157.	Shri Suman, Ramji Lal	579, 639
158.	Shri Surendran, Chengara	642
159.	Shri Thomas, P.C.	569
160.	Shri Thummar, V.K.	580, 667
161.	Shri Tripathi, Chandra Mani	492, 572
162.	Shri Tripathy, Braja Kishore	471, 573, 579, 589, 618
163.	Shri Varma, Ratilal Kalidas	493, 555, 652
164.	Shri Vasava, Mansukhbhai D.	486
165.	Shri Veerendrakumar, M.P.	448, 592, 602, 654
166.	Shri Verma, Rajesh	575, 634
167.	Shri Yadav, Anjan Kumar M.	445, 607, 611
168.	Shri Yadav, Baleshwar	449, 558, 573, 648

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169.	Shri Yadav, Giridhari	607
170.	Dr. Yadav, Karan Singh	450, 652
171.	Shri Yaskhi, Madhu Goud	451, 489, 569
172.	Shri Yerrannaidu, Kinjarapu	573, 583, 640
173.	Shri Yogi, Aditya Nath	473

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2.	Shri Aaron Rasid, J.M.	699, 827
3.	Shri Acharia, Basudeb	805, 841
4.	Shri Adsul, Anandrao V.	767, 785, 831, 856
5.	Dr. Agarwal, Dharendra	794
6.	Shri Ahamad, Atiq	700, 701
7.	Shri Ahir, Hansraj G.	770, 837
8.	Shri Ajay Kumar, S.	698
9.	Shri Ananth Kumar	700, 717
10.	Shri Athawale, Ramdas	717, 744, 809, 835, 843
11.	Shri Azmi, Ilyas	709
12.	Shri Bansal, Pawan Kumar	703
13.	Shri Barad, Jashubhai Dhanabhai	709, 710, 826
14.	Shri Barman, Hiten	794
15.	Shri Barman, Ranen	794
16.	Shri Baxla, Joachim	784, 794
17.	Shri Bhadana, Avtar Singh	741
18.	Shri Bishnoi, Kuldeep	684, 852
19.	Shri Borkataky, Narayan Chandra	837
20.	Shri Bose, Subrata	784, 794

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21.	Shri Budholiya, Rajnarayan	770
22.	Shri Chaliha, Kirip	763, 820
23.	Shri Chandel, Suresh	837, 862
24.	Shri Chandrappan, C.K.	700, 735
25.	Shri Chatterjee, Santasri	685, 764
26.	Shri Chaure, Bapu Hari	681, 693, 778, 835
27.	Shri Chavan, Harishchandra	791, 796, 837
28.	Dr. Chinta Mohan	738, 796, 801, 803
29.	Shri Chitthan, N.S.V.	734
30.	Shrimati Choudhary, Anuradha	775, 827, 854, 868
31.	Shri Choudhary, Nikhil Kumar	795, 861
32.	Shri Chouhan, Shivraj Singh	872
33.	Shri Chowdhary, Pankaj	745, 810
34.	Shri Chowdhury, Adhir	674, 727, 801, 802, 875
35.	Shri Dangawas, Bhanwar Singh	720
36.	Shri Dasgupta, Gurudas	873
37.	Shri Dhindsa, Sukhdev Singh	725
38.	Dr. Dome, Ram Chandra	873
39.	Shri Gadakh, Tukaram Gangadhar	792, 872
40.	Shri Gaikwad, Eknath M.	708, 727, 816, 871, 879
41.	Shri Gandhi, Pradeep	693
42.	Shri Gangwar, Santosh	773, 823
43.	Shri Gao, Tapir	700, 837
44.	Shri Gehlot, Thawarchand	835
45.	Shri Gohain, Rajen	835
46.	Shri Gowda, D.V. Sadananda	700, 878

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47.	Shri Goyal, Surendra Prakash	741, 749, 827
48.	Shri Gudhe, Anant	799
49.	Shri Hassan, Munawar	712, 772, 793
50.	Shri Hedge, Anantkumar	873
51.	Dr. Jagannath, M.	736
52.	Dr. Jatiya, Satyanarayan	709, 814
53.	Shrimati Jayaprada	719, 796
54.	Shri Jha, Raghunath	742, 808
55.	Shri Jogi, Ajit	710, 754, 814, 848
56.	Shri Joshi, Pralhad	739, 823
57.	Shri Kalmadi, Suresh	675, 759
58.	Shri Kamat, Gurudas	694
59.	Shri Kanodia, Mahesh	840, 862
60.	Shri Karunakaran, P.	860, 866
61.	Shrimati Kaur, Preneet	753
62.	Shri Khaire, Chandrakant	852
63.	Shri Kharventhan, S.K.	769, 821, 852, 866
64.	Shri Koshal, Raghuv eer Singh	686
65.	Shri Krishna, Vijoy	708, 776
66.	Shri Kumar, B. Vinod	704, 705, 787, 846
67.	Shri Kumar, Nikhil	875
68.	Shri Kurup, Suresh	721
69.	Shri Kushawaha, Narendra Kumar	772, 822
70.	Shri Madam, Vikrambhai Arjanbhai	685
71.	Shri Mahajan, Y.G.	770, 837
72.	Shri Mahato, Bir Singh	700, 780, 829
73.	Shri Mahato, Sunil Kumar	794, 874

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74.	Shrimati Maheshwari, Kiran	693, 700, 770
75.	Shri Mahtab, Bhartruhari	726
76.	Shri Mahto, Tek Lal	716
77.	Prof. Malhotra, Vijay Kumar	823
78.	Shri Mandal, Sanat Kumar	696, 794, 837, 860
79.	Shri Mandlik, S.D.	776, 824, 828, 872
80.	Shrimati Mane, Nivedita	708, 788, 816
81.	Dr. Manoj, K.S.	748
82.	Shri Meghwal, Kailash	720, 835
83.	Shri Mehta, Alok Kumar	751, 826, 837
84.	Dr. Mishra, Rajesh	827
85.	Shri Mohan, P.	872
86.	Shri Mohd., Tahir	772, 775, 822, 827
87.	Shri Munshi Ram	772, 775, 822, 827, 854
88.	Shri Murmu, Hemlal	704, 706, 789, 834, 858
89.	Shri Murmu, Rupchand	679, 772, 792, 836, 866
90.	Shri Naik, Shripad Yesso	702, 782
91.	Shri Nair, P.K. Vasudevan	873
92.	Shrimati Narhire, (Saw.) Kalpana Ramesh	673, 758, 838, 861
93.	Shri Nayak, Ananta	745
94.	Shri Oram, Jual	682, 762, 818, 851, 870

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95.	Shri Owaisi, Asaduddin	761, 826, 853, 867
96.	Shri Palanisamy, K.C.	688
97.	Shri Panda, Prabodh	704, 786, 833, 872
98.	Dr. Pandey, Laxminarayan	724, 796
99.	Shri Patel, Dahyabhai Vallabhbai	687
100.	Shri Pathak, Brajesh	700, 746, 811, 844, 864
101.	Shri Patil, Balasaheb Vikhe	731, 796, 867, 868
102.	Shri Patil, D.B.	711
103.	Shri Patil, Prakash Babu V.	704, 873
104.	Shri Patil, Raosaheb Danve	861
105.	Shri Patil, Shrinivas Dadasaheb	779
106.	Shri Pingle, Devidas	709, 835
107.	Shri Prabhu, Suresh Prabhakar	796, 837
108.	Shri Prakash, Jai	677
109.	Shri Prasad, Harikewal	780, 798, 829
110.	Shri Prasada, Kunwar Jitin	824, 828
111.	Shrimati Purandeswari, D.	868, 877
112.	Shri Rajender Kumar	691
113.	Shri Rajendran, P.	804
114.	Prof. Ramadass, M.	690, 766, 819, 850, 877
115.	Shri Ramakrishna, Badiga	737, 826, 833
116.	Shri Rana, Kashiram	783
117.	Shri Rao, K.S.	788, 872
118.	Shri Rao, Rayapati Sambasiva	692, 699, 708, 774, 807

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119.	Shri Rao, D. Vittal	752, 755, 815, 849
120.	Shri Rathod, Haribhau	693, 707, 791, 847, 865
121.	Shri Ravichandran, Sippiparai	750, 787, 813
122.	Shri Rawat, Dhansingh	783
123.	Shri Reddy, G. Karunakara	732
124.	Shri Renge Patil, Tukaram Ganpatrao	774, 825
125.	Shri Rijju, Khiren	781, 830, 855
126.	Shri Sai Prathap, A.	676, 700, 768, 824
127.	Shri Saradgi, Iqbal Ahmed	699, 707, 718, 774, 795
128.	Dr. Sarma, Arun Kumar	714
129.	Adv. Satheedevi, (Shrimati) P.	733
130.	Shri Scindia, Jyotiraditya M.	723, 795
131.	Shrimati Sen, Minati	784
132.	Shri Sethi, Lakshman	689, 739, 764, 765
133.	Shri Sethi, Arjun	722, 797
134.	Shri Shakya, Raghuraj Singh	795
135.	Dr. Shandil, Col. (Retd.) Dhani Ram	700, 837
136.	Shri Sharma, Madan Lal	799, 839
137.	Shri Shivajirao, Adhalrao Patil	784, 832, 857, 869
138.	Prof. Shiwankar, Mahadeorao	772, 775, 822, 827
139.	Shrimati Shukla, Karuna	770
140.	Shri Siddeswara, G.M.	729, 800, 837
141.	Shri Sidhu, Navjot Singh	752, 860

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142.	Shri Singh, Lakshman	743
143.	Shri Singh, Chandra Bhushan	704
144.	Shri Singh, Chandrabhan	747, 812, 845
145.	Shri Singh, Dushyant	693, 777
146.	Shri Singh, Ganesh	814
147.	Shri Singh, Kirti Vardhan	776, 824, 828, 872
148.	Shri Singh, Mohan	740
149.	Shri Singh, Prabhunath	715
150.	Shrimati Singh, Pratibha	728, 858
151.	Shri Singh, Rakesh	713, 772
152.	Shri Singh, Sugrib	806, 842, 863, 876
153.	Shri Singh, Uday	727
154.	Shri Singh, Rajiv Ranjan "Lalan"	719, 730, 801
155.	Shri Solanki, Bhupendrasinh	695, 804, 840, 862
156.	Shri Sonowal, Sarbananda	709, 785
157.	Shri Subba, M.K.	678, 760, 817
158.	Shrimati Sujatha, C.S.	698
159.	Shri Suman, Ramji Lal	730, 738, 803
160.	Shri Thummar, V.K.	683, 697, 774, 825, 874
161.	Shri Tripathi, Chandra Mani	724, 796, 855
162.	Shri Tripathy, Braja Kishore	767, 785, 826, 833
163.	Shri Varma, Ratilal Kalidas	700, 770
164.	Shri Vasava, Mansukhbhai D.	798
165.	Shri Veerendrakumar, M.P.	749

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166.	Shri Verma, Rajesh	771, 790, 835, 859
167.	Shri Yadav, Anjan Kumar M.	700
168.	Shri Yadav, Baleshwar	680, 868
169.	Shri Yadav, Giridhari	697, 826
170.	Dr. Yadav, Karan Singh	700, 837
171.	Shri Yadav, Mitrasen	860
172.	Shri Yadav, Paras Nath	757
173.	Shri Yaskhi, Madhu Goud	788, 872
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1.	Shri "Bachda", Bachi Singh Rawat	1005, 1061
2.	Shri Aaron Rasid, J.M.	1008
3.	Shri Acharia, Basudeb	957, 1010, 1033
4.	Shri Adsul, Anandrao V.	883, 972, 999, 1010, 1077
5.	Dr. Agarwal, Dharendra	992, 1060
6.	Shri Ananth Kumar	914
7.	Shri Appadurai, M.	947, 966
8.	Shri Athawale, Ramdas	910, 1032, 1081, 1100
9.	Shri Azmi, Ilyas	882
10.	Shri Badal, Sukhbir Singh	970
11.	Shri Barad, Jashubhai Dhanabhai	940, 1026, 1072, 1096
12.	Shri Barman, Hiten	903
13.	Shri Bhadana, Avtar Singh	974
14.	Shri Bhagora, Mahavir	943
15.	Shri Bishnoi, Jaswant Singh	952
16.	Shri Bishnoi, Kuldeep	919, 989, 1054, 1091
17.	Shri Borkataky, Narayan Chandra	885, 1107

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18.	Shri Budholiya, Rajnarayan	951
19.	Shri Bwiswmuthiary, Sansuma Khunggar	930, 1018
20.	Shri Chakraborty, Ajoy	1010
21.	Shri Chaliha, Kirip	971, 1030
22.	Prof. Chander Kumar	950
23.	Shri Chandrappan, C.K.	933, 1020, 1054
24.	Shri Chaure, Bapu Hari	902, 1049
25.	Shri Chavan, Harishchandra	951, 953, 1058
26.	Dr. Chinta Mohan	928, 1010
27.	Shrimati Choudhary, Anuradha	890, 919, 1011, 1063, 1092
28.	Shri Choudhary, Nikhil Kumar	1010
29.	Shri Chouhan, Shivraj Singh	946, 1027
30.	Shri Chowdhary, Pankaj	937, 1010
31.	Shri Chowdhury, Adhir	943, 996, 1056, 1089
32.	Shri Dangawas, Bhanwar Singh	955
33.	Shri Dasgupta, Gurudas	933, 1020
34.	Shri Dhotre, Sanjay	917
35.	Shri Fernandes, George	965
36.	Shri Gadakh, Tukaram Gangadhar	948, 1010
37.	Shri Gadhavi, P.S.	912
38.	Shri Gaikwad, Eknath M.	894, 936, 947, 1047, 1087
39.	Shrimati Gandhi, Maneka	927, 1017, 1069, 1095
40.	Shrimati Gawali, Bhavana P.	945
41.	Shri Gehlot, Thawarchand	1072
42.	Shri Gowda, D.V. Sadananda	947, 963
43.	Shri Hassan, Munawar	883, 924, 1053

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44.	Dr. Jagannath, M.	1010
45.	Dr. Jatiya, Satyanarayan	983
46.	Shrimati Jayaprada	915, 928, 1004, 1010
47.	Shri Jha, Raghunath	892
48.	Shri Jogi, Ajit	977, 1044, 1080, 1099
49.	Shri Kalmadi, Suresh	993, 1074
50.	Shri Kamat, Gurudas	1001, 1010
51.	Shri Kanodia, Mahesh	912
52.	Shri Karunakaran, P.	938
53.	Shrimati Kaur, Preneet	925
54.	Shri Khanduri, AVSM, Maj. Gen. (Retd.)	898, 1105
55.	Shri Khanna, Vinod	979
56.	Shri Kharventhan, S.K.	984, 1010, 1052, 1109, 1066
57.	Shri Konyak, W. Wangyuh	1065
58.	Shri Koshal, Raghuvèer Singh	886, 998
59.	Dr. Koya, P.P.	969, 1040, 1076
60.	Shri Krishna, Vijoy	947, 1010, 1047
61.	Shri Krishnadas, N.N.	918, 1009
62.	Shri Kumar, B. Vinod	968, 981
63.	Shri Kumar, Nikhil	1010
64.	Shri Kurup, Suresh	908, 1036
65.	Shri Kushawaha, Narendra Kumar	919, 1063, 1092
66.	Shri Madam, Vikrambhai Arjanbhai	881, 904, 924, 1030
67.	Shri Mahato, Sunil Kumar	992
68.	Shrimati Maheshwari, Kiran	893, 1058, 1073

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69.	Shri Mahtab, Bhartruhari	1003, 1059, 1102
70.	Shri Mahto, Tek Lal	954
71.	Shri Maken, Ajay	942
72.	Shri Mandal, Sanat Kumar	976, 1043, 1079
73.	Shri Mandlik, S.D.	894, 929, 947, 1010, 1047
74.	Shrimati Mane, Nivedita	894, 947, 1010, 1047
75.	Dr. Manoj, K.S.	934
76.	Shri Meghwal, Kailash	935, 955
77.	Shri Mehta, Alok Kumar	975, 988, 1014
78.	Dr. Mishra, Rajesh	947, 1010, 1028
79.	Shri Mohan, P.	947, 982, 1010, 1051
80.	Shri Mohd., Tahir	890, 919, 1011, 1015, 1067
81.	Shri Mollah, Hannan	900, 1023
82.	Shri Moorthy, A.K.	895
83.	Shri Munshi Ram	890, 919, 1010, 1011, 1063
84.	Shri Murmu, Hemlal	913
85.	Shri Murmu, Rupchand	962, 1035
86.	Shri Naik, Shripad Yesso	907
87.	Shri Nair, P.K. Vasudevan	926
88.	Shrimati Narhire, (Saw.) Kalpana Ramesh	916
89.	Shri Oram, Jual	1009, 1013, 1065, 1094
90.	Shri Owaisi, Asaduddin	894, 1010, 1022, 1038

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91.	Shri Pal, Rajaram	920
92.	Shri Palanisamy, K.C.	910, 1010
93.	Shri Panda, Prabodh	941, 1010
94.	Dr. Pandey, Laxminarayan	949, 1029
95.	Shri Parste, Dalpat Singh	884, 990, 1010, 1071
96.	Shri Paswan, Sukdeo	958
97.	Shri Pathak, Brajesh	894, 906, 1037, 1075, 1098
98.	Shri Patil, Annasaheb M.K.	953
99.	Shri Patil, Balasaheb Vikhe	944, 1010
100.	Shri Patil, Prakash Babu V.	1030
101.	Shri Patil, Raosaheb Danve	1010
102.	Shri Patil, Shrinivas Dadasaheb	959
103.	Shri Pingle, Devidas	938, 1024, 1084
104.	Shri Prakash, Jai	896, 1010, 1014, 1066
105.	Shri Prasad, Harikewal	882, 1025
106.	Shri Prasada, Kunwar Jitin	929, 1103
107.	Shrimati Purandeswari, D.	909, 1010, 1016, 1068
108.	Shri Radhakrishnan, Varkala	964
109.	Prof. Ramadass, M.	905
110.	Shri Ramakrishna, Badiga	886, 960, 968, 1010, 1106
111.	Shri Rana, Kashiram	887, 985
112.	Shri Rao, K.S.	1010, 1047, 1048
113.	Shri Rao, Rayapati Sambasiva	1010, 1031, 1082, 1101
114.	Shri Rao, D. Vittal	987, 1010
115.	Shri Rathod, Haribhau	986, 999, 1010

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116.	Shri Ravichandran, Sippiparai	931, 1019
117.	Shri Reddy, G. Karunakara	905, 924, 1030, 1073, 1097
118.	Shri Reddy, M. Raja Mohan	1007, 1096
119.	Shri Reddy, N. Janaradhana	1010
120.	Shri Renge Patil, Tukaram Ganpatrao	891, 985, 992, 1060
121.	Shri Saradgi, Iqbal Ahmed	889, 1010, 1021, 1070
122.	Dr. Sarma, Arun Kumar	921, 1046, 1085
123.	Adv. Satheedevi, (Shrimati) P.	922
124.	Shri Scindia, Jyotiraditya M.	1010
125.	Shri Sethi, Arjun	932, 1010
126.	Shri Shaheen, Abdul Rashid	980
127.	Shri Shakya, Raghuraj Singh	1010
128.	Shri Shivajirao, Adhalrao Patil	919, 1006, 1062, 1090
129.	Shri Shivanna, M.	967, 1039, 1058, 1083
130.	Prof. Shiwankar, Mahadeorao	890, 919, 956, 1010, 1011
131.	Shri Siddeswara, G.M.	935
132.	Shri Singh, Lakshman	1041, 1078, 973
133.	Shri Singh, Chandra Bhushan	1002, 1010, 1058
134.	Shri Singh, Chandrabhan	938, 1071
135.	Shri Singh, Dushyant	960, 1034, 1086
136.	Shri Singh, Ganesh Prasad	1014
137.	Shri Singh, Kirti Vardhan	929, 947, 1010, 1047, 1103

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138.	Shri Singh, Mohan	947, 1010, 1022
139.	Shri Singh, Prabhunath	961
140.	Shri Singh, Rakesh	947, 1000
141.	Shri Singh, Rewati Raman	933
142.	Shri Singh, Sugrib	888, 960, 968, 991, 1108
143.	Shri Singh, Uday	1063, 1104
144.	Shri Singh, Rajiv Ranjan "Lalan"	1004
145.	Shri Solanki, Bhupendrasinh	912, 923
146.	Shri Subba, M.K.	897, 997
147.	Shrimati Sujatha, C.S.	947
148.	Shri Suman, Ramji Lal	915
149.	Shri Surendran, Chengara	1054
150.	Shri Thomas, P.C.	911, 947
151.	Shri Thummar, V.K.	887
152.	Shri Tripathi, Chandra Mani	1029
153.	Shri Tripathy, Braja Kishore	972, 1010, 1090
154.	Shri Varma, Ratilal Kalidas	912
155.	Shri Veerendrakumar, M.P.	994, 1010, 1057
156.	Shri Verma, Rajesh	899, 1042
157.	Shri Yadav, Akhilesh	1012, 1064, 1093
158.	Shri Yadav, Anjan Kumar M.	891, 1025
159.	Shri Yadav, Baleshwar	880, 995, 1055, 1088
160.	Shri Yadav, Paras Nath	978, 1045
161.	Shri Yadav, Sita Ram	988
162.	Shri Yaskhi, Madhu Goud	1010, 1047, 1048
163.	Shri Yerrannaidu, Kinjarapu	939, 1010, 1050, 1054
164.	Shri Yogi, Aditya Nath	1010

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<i>Civil Aviation</i>	454, 464, 467, 494, 502, 504, 507, 510, 514, 518, 527, 528, 569, 609, 614, 625, 632, 644, 651, 667, 671
<i>Culture</i>	443, 451, 475, 477, 524, 525, 548, 558, 627, 660
<i>Defence</i>	452, 466, 472, 489, 499, 500, 511, 530, 540, 547, 562, 565, 605, 618, 622, 648, 649, 650, 655, 656, 659, 672
<i>Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises</i>	559, 564, 578, 581, 594, 603, 663
<i>Information and Broadcasting</i>	450, 455, 471, 474, 482, 508, 517, 519, 520, 531, 534, 537, 555, 560, 563, 593, 602, 607, 611, 624, 628, 630, 634
<i>Panchayati Raj</i>	483, 522, 535
<i>Petroleum and Natural Gas</i>	445, 446, 447, 448, 453, 457, 458, 462, 469, 484, 485, 486, 487, 491, 492, 493, 497, 498, 506, 513, 515, 516, 521, 532, 533, 543, 546, 551, 554, 557, 572, 573, 574, 577, 582, 583, 585, 588, 590, 592, 595, 597, 598, 600, 601, 606, 608, 612, 615, 616, 619, 629, 633, 638, 639, 640, 641, 643, 645, 646, 652, 653, 662, 668
<i>Railways</i>	444, 459, 460, 461, 465, 470, 478, 479, 481, 488, 490, 495, 496, 501, 503, 505, 509, 512, 526, 529, 539, 541, 542, 544, 545, 549, 550, 552, 553, 556, 561, 566, 568, 570, 575, 579, 580, 584, 586, 587, 591, 596, 599, 604, 620, 621, 626, 631, 635, 637, 642, 647, 654, 664, 665, 666, 669, 670
<i>Social Justice and Empowerment</i>	449, 456, 463, 468, 473, 476, 480, 523, 538, 567, 571, 576, 590, 610, 613, 623, 636, 657, 658, 661

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<i>Coal</i>	716, 841
<i>Company Affairs</i>	721, 734, 742, 791
<i>Finance</i>	673, 674, 676, 680, 681, 684, 687, 690, 692, 694, 695, 697, 698, 701, 702, 703, 704, 705, 706, 712, 715, 719, 720, 723, 725, 730, 731, 732, 733, 736, 737, 738, 739, 749, 750, 751, 753, 755, 756, 757, 759, 761, 764, 767, 771, 775, 776, 778, 780, 782, 784, 785, 786, 788, 789, 792, 793, 798, 799, 801, 802, 803, 805, 806, 807, 808, 809, 810, 811, 815, 816, 817, 819, 820, 821, 822, 824, 825, 828, 830, 831, 833, 836, 838, 840, 844, 848, 852, 853, 857, 859, 860, 862, 865, 866, 868, 869, 871, 872, 873, 874, 875, 876, 877, 879
<i>Law and Justice</i>	677, 679, 688, 691, 766, 804, 823, 849, 858, 878
<i>Mines</i>	746, 762, 800, 818, 851
<i>Non-Conventional Energy Sources</i>	713, 743, 765, 769, 787, 813, 814, 845, 864

<i>Power</i>	675, 678, 682, 686, 689, 711, 718, 722, 724, 726, 727, 740, 741, 747, 748, 754, 777, 781, 796, 797, 812, 834, 842, 843, 847, 854, 855, 863, 870
<i>Rural Development</i>	683, 699, 700, 707, 709, 714, 717, 728, 729, 735, 758, 768, 770, 772, 773, 779, 790, 794, 837 846, 861, 867
<i>Textiles</i>	685, 693, 696, 708, 710, 744, 745, 752, 760, 763, 774, 783, 795, 826, 827, 829, 835, 839, 850, 856

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<i>Prime Ministers</i>	
<i>Agro and Rural Industries</i>	890, 910, 934, 984, 1049
<i>Atomic Energy</i>	886
<i>Communications and Information Technology</i>	881, 882, 883, 885, 887, 891, 899, 901, 908, 913, 915, 918, 920, 924, 939, 954, 956, 959, 967, 969, 975, 976, 978, 982, 983, 984, 987, 992, 1004, 1008, 1012, 1013, 1014, 1015, 1019, 1025, 1027, 1030, 1032, 1050, 1051, 1059, 1067, 1072, 1075, 1077, 1084, 1088, 1102, 1108
<i>External Affairs</i>	900, 946, 958, 964, 993, 999, 1028, 1031, 1038, 1058, 1101
<i>Health and Family Welfare</i>	884, 896, 897, 898, 916, 923, 926, 927, 932, 933, 940, 941, 948, 949, 950, 951, 953, 957, 963, 965, 968, 971, 972, 973, 974, 977, 979, 985, 988, 989, 990, 994, 998, 1000, 1002, 1003, 1005, 1009, 1011, 1017, 1020, 1021, 1023, 1029, 1034, 1036, 1041, 1045, 1048, 1052, 1061, 1062, 1064, 1065, 1068, 1069, 1070, 1071, 1073, 1074, 1076, 1078, 1081, 1087, 1089, 1091, 1092, 1093, 1095, 1096, 1104
<i>Ocean Development</i>	1010, 1054, 1082
<i>Overseas Indian Affairs</i>	1057
<i>Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions</i>	893, 906, 907, 909, 922, 942, 945, 955, 1033, 1039, 1042, 1055, 1060, 1083
<i>Planning</i>	888, 905, 914, 980, 986, 991, 1022, 1026, 1053, 1080, 1085, 1090
<i>Science and Technology</i>	895, 912, 931, 947, 961, 997, 1006, 1016, 1024, 1043, 1106, 1107, 1109
<i>Shipping, Road Transport and Highways</i>	880, 889, 892, 894, 903, 904, 911, 917, 919, 921, 925, 929, 930, 935, 936, 937, 938, 943, 944, 952, 960, 962, 966, 970, 995, 996, 1001, 1007, 1018, 1035, 1037, 1040, 1046, 1047, 1063, 1066, 1086, 1094, 1097, 1099, 1100, 1103, 1105
<i>Small Scale Industries</i>	902, 1044, 1056, 1079, 1098
<i>Space</i>	
<i>Statistics and Programme Implementation</i>	928
